

The BackBulb

C A R M E L O R C H I D S O C I E T Y

September 2024



September BBQ & Picnic

Rudy and Irene Patton will host the September BBQ at their home at 1188 Jewell Ave, Pacific Grove, on September 14th, from 1pm to 4pm. There will be an after party for wine drinkers around the fire pit.

Please bring your favorite veggie, salad or dessert to pass and your own beverage. The society will supply meat, water and iced tea.

Bring some cash for the plant table! Bring some warm clothes, this is PG after all. Please park in front on Jewell or Crocker. The patio is around the back and is easy to get around on for those with walking issues.



Acianthera recurva in John's greenhouse.

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COS Officers

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Recording Secretary

Irene Patton

Treasurer

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Anna Narvaez-Helms

Albert Satterfield

Chris Thomas

Cathy Walmsley

Sonya Weininger

P.O. Box 223462
Carmel, CA
93922-3462

BackBulb Editor

John OConnell

Membership

Amanda Nixon

Upcoming Events

September

There is no regular COS meeting in September

9/14 Saturday 1-4pm COS Fall BBQ

October

10/5 Saturday 2pm, October COS Meeting

November

There is no regular COS meeting in November

11/8-9 COS Fall Orchid Marketplace



Above: Exciting times at the West End Celebration

Left: Propetalum La Jolla Hilo grown by Carolyn

Show Time!

For all of you who are new to the Carmel Orchid Society and as a reminder to "old-timers", our Fall Orchid Market is scheduled for Friday and Saturday November 8th and 9th. This is an annual event which takes place the second Friday and Saturday of November. It is a show with a long history. Suffice to say, people still remember buying orchids for Mother's day at Mayfair in the 1980's.

The show has evolved over the years. Today we call it the Fall Orchid Market and hold it in the Breezeway entrance to the Community Church of the Monterey Peninsula. This year we will have 10 vendors plus a member sale table. Most of the vendors will be

selling orchids. Others will be selling succulents, cactus, tillandsia, carnivorous and companion plants. Plus potting supplies, containers appropriate for Ikebana arrangements, organic fertilizer and pesticides will be sold. If you are a member you may sell divisions of your plants at the member sale table. It is free to the public and open between 9am and 4pm on the 8th and 9th. We set up on Thursday the 7th.

The show is a huge undertaking. Its success depends on the participation of our members. Of course everyone is invited to come. And we hope all of you will invite your friends and neighbors. It is an opportunity for orchid lovers to add to their collections. It is a great chance to pick up a holiday gift. And, it

is a wonderful time to get to know each other better by volunteering to help out with set-up, welcoming attendees or providing a potluck lunch dish for vendors and volunteers.

Please Spread the word and prepare to enjoy the festivities which will include culture speakers and potting demonstrations.



COS Board Meeting Minutes 8-27-2024

The meeting was called to order by Amanda Nixon, president, on August 27, 2024, at the home of Rudy and Irene Patton. Attending were: Carolyn Salmon, John O'Connell, Kathie Ritter, Cathy Walmsley, Sonya Weininger, Anna Narvarez-Helms, Irene Patton.

We reviewed last month's board meeting and agreed on the topics covered. The treasurer's report was: expense in August for Peter Lin, \$425; plant table income \$264. Bank balance end of month, \$4,748.73

The Vice Presidents announced the October meeting would be on the 5th in the afternoon at the church at 2 pm. James Hale will speak on terrestrials.

Amanda thanked the volunteers who worked at the West End Celebration and we all agreed it

was a worthwhile even for our society. We had 50+ people sign up for Mail Chimp notices, gave out lots of cultural advice and tiny fertilizer packets that Amanda had made.

We discussed the Cuttings Fair for March 15, 2025. Anna will call and we will publish it in an email. Also we will get the dates for the Marina Tree and Garden Club event to put on our calendar.

We voted unanimously to have meetings Saturday afternoons at the church for January-April, October and December when there is more light and less night driving. May, June and August will remain on Monday evenings.

Amanda announced that James had linked our old Facebook page to our newer one so that all traffic would be sent to the new. Irene mentioned that if you show on Instagram, you can automatically have it go to FB.

We discussed at length the structure of our meetings and mentioned the importance of social connections, learning from each other and how much we benefitted from the Santa Cruz Society visit. We will ask them for a greenhouse tour for next summer. Cathy mentioned a mentor program would be helpful to new members.

Kathie discussed the Fall Market. We went over advertising, graphics and specifics for the two days of Market and the set-up day. We are reminding members to bring plants to sell on the Society table.

The September BBQ will be held at Rudy and Irene's house in Pacific Grove on the 14th from 1-4 pm. Members are asked to bring their favorite salad, dessert, pasta or snacks and their own beverage for pot luck. The club will provide the meat, water, tea and coffee and plates, etc. There will be wine after the party for those wanting to stay. Carolyn and Kathie will have an interesting plant table for us.



Holcoglossum Apple Blossum Robert, from last month's plant table, grown by Carolyn

We decided on the following schedule for 2025 (Unless noted all events are at the church):

January meeting Saturday afternoon, 11th, 2 pm

February meeting Saturday afternoon, 1st, 2 pm

March meeting, 1st, 2 pm.

March Cutting Fair, Monterey, 15-16.

April meeting Saturday afternoon, 5th, 2 pm

May meeting Monday evening, 5th, 7 pm

June meeting Monday evening, 2nd, 7 pm

July Greenhouse tour, mid-month, TBD

August meeting Monday evening, 4th, 7 pm

September BBQ Saturday afternoon, 13th, Patton home, 1-4pm

October meeting Saturday afternoon, 6th, 2 pm

November Fall Market, 7-8, 9am-4pm, set up on 6th

December Holiday Party, 6th, 1-3:30

The next BOD meeting will be at Carolyn's house, September 24th at 7 pm.

Irene Patton, Secretary

Free to a Good Home...

2 aquariums I have used to grow orchids. The larger one (on the left) is 36.5" wide X 15" deep X 20" high, with the stand it is 45" high. The smaller one (on the right) is 20" wide X 10.5" deep X 24" high.

Just add an ultrasonic mister of some sort, maybe a light or two (I have a light for the larger one you can have), some wire to hang plants on and supports to keep pots

out of the water that accumulates on the bottom and you have your own living room orchid growing environment.

John OConnell johnoconnell19@gmail.com or 770-617-1058 (text or voice)



Neofinetias

A report from the August meeting

If you've never thought much about growing a neofinetia (NEE-oh-fih-NEE-sha), listening to Southern California grower and AOS Judge Peter Lin will convince you – you've got to try it! Lin's informative presentation at our Aug. 5 meeting began with a bit of history about the species, first mentioned in Japanese writings from the 1600s.



Vanda falcata, grown by John

Many orchid-lovers are familiar with Neofinetia falcata and its white flowers. The plant is known in Japan as Furan (furan, according to AOS), or “wind orchid,” and also Fukiran (fuukiran) – “orchid of the rich and noble.” A Japanese society formed in the 1940s dedicated to this orchid, and it's still active today, as is the Fukiran Society of America (<https://fukiransoa.weebly.com/>).

Lin showed numerous photos of blooming plants, many from his own collection, to emphasize the variety of neofinetias now available. Today's hybrids can be pink, yellow and pale green. The root tips also are found in a variety of colors, from muddy tan to bright red and hot pink. Some individual flowers have no lips or spurs; others have three each. Some have slender leaves, others wider. Leaves may be variegated or have random yellow blotches. The rarest plants sell for \$10,000 – luckily, those are the exceptions!

Lin says plants don't have to be in bloom to be entered in a traditional Japanese orchid show. Instead, the plant, pot and presentation are equally admired. Neofinetia growers take great pride in their three-legged pots, many of which are more valuable than the plant. The traditional presentation involves carefully wrapping the plant's root ball in a mound of sphagnum

moss. The plant, moss mound and pot each comprise one-third of the total presentation.

These orchids will grow in a bark/perlite mix as well, and air circulation around the root ball is critical for them to thrive. Lin says they're very temperature tolerant and need only medium amounts of light (much like Cattleya and Dendrobium). They become semi-dormant in winter, when watering should be reduced – and if

grown outside, protect them from rainfall.

Lin also mentioned that Neofinetia orchids have been crossed with “just about every member of the Vanda family.” Hybrids include Ascofinetia (with Ascocentrums), Neostylis (with Rhyncostylis), and Vandofinetia (with Vanda), to name a few.

After the presentation, club members with “Opportunity Table” tickets were happy to scoop up the plants Peter Lin sent! You can learn more about him and his plants at www.diamondorchids.com

Chris Thomas

Editors note: Neofinetia falcata has officially been placed in the genus Vanda so it is now Vanda falcata.



A Paph on last months Show and Tell table, photo by Irene

C A R M E L O R C H I D S O C I E T Y

2024 Membership Application

Please make checks payable to the Carmel Orchid Society and mail to: Carmel Orchid Society - Membership, P.O. Box 223462 Carmel CA 93922-3462
Please print

Date _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ zip _____

Telephone _____

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If you were referred by a current member, please provide his/her name _____

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Membership	
Single	\$35 _____
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Add an additional **\$10** to receive the newsletter via USPS