

# The BackBulb

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

February 2025

The next meeting is on **Saturday February 1st, 2PM** at the Church



## February Speakers: John OConnell & Irene Patton

### Get Out of the House

Sooner or later most orchid addicts will outgrow their windowsills. Some will invest in some very bright lights and continue expanding inside, others will dream about getting out of the house. In most of the country this means spending a small fortune on heating and cooling a greenhouse, but in coastal California you have several options, including just putting plants outside year around or build a lath house, even the greenhouse option doesn't have to cost a fortune here. John and Irene will explore the options you have if need to "Get Out of the House".



John got his first orchid about thirty years ago and he still has that very first orchid (A big white Cattleya given to him by his sister from Florida as a house warming present)! He has been growing orchids outside, at least part time, since he started growing orchids more than twenty years ago.

Rudy got Irene started growing Orchids in the 1980s while they were living in the Virgin Islands. Hot climate. Hot growing.

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In order to provide a selection of treats at our meetings, we are asking members with last names that start with the letter **M thru R** to bring refreshments to the meeting.

## COS Officers

### President

Amanda Nixon

### VP Program

John OConnell  
Carolyn Salmon

### Recording Secretary

Irene Patton

### Treasurer

Janette Ford

### Directors

Peter Janik  
Anna Narvaez-Helms  
Kathie Ritter  
Albert Satterfield  
Chris Thomas  
Cathy Walmsley  
Sonya Weininger

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

### BackBulb Editor

John OConnell

### Membership

Amanda Nixon

Tropical conditions meaning lots of heat with some drought and copious rain, warm nights and lush tropical breezes. Temps never below 68 degrees.

Moving part time to Pacific Grove's Mediterranean climate in 1991 challenged them to learn about cool weather orchids. Thanks to the COS for instruction and mentoring which they have enjoyed since being full time residents almost a year ago. No more Vandas :-( !

**Note: The church is providing paid parking for the ATT golf tournament.** They have saved some spaces for us, so **tell the person taking the money that you are there for the orchid society meeting.** Also it might be a good idea to ride share if you can.

The plant table will be a little different this month. First, Janette has a bunch of rescue plants (Rescue dogs and cats are all the rage, so why not orchids?) that she has been tending for a while, she repotted them last year and they are all spiking. There will also be a silent auction for selected orchid division futures. See page 6 for more details.



**Oncidium** Pacific Pagan grown and photo by Chris Thomas

## Upcoming Events

### February

2/1 Saturday 2pm COS February Meeting

### March

3/1 Saturday 2pm COS March Meeting

### Shows

2/28-3/2 Pacific Orchid Exposition, San Francisco Golden Gate Park.

3/8-10 Santa Barbara International Orchid Show, Earl Warren Showgrounds

## 2025 Dues are Due!

Bring a check to the next meeting or send one to: COS P.O. Box 223462 Carmel CA 93922-3462

## 2025 COS Events

### Meetings:

Saturday February 1st, 2 pm

Saturday March 1st, 2 pm.

Saturday April 5th, 2 pm

Monday May 5th, 7 pm

Monday June 2nd, 7 pm

Monday August 4th, 7 pm

Saturday October 4th, 2 pm

### Social Events

July Greenhouse tour: TBD

BBQ: Saturday September 13th, 1-4pm

Fall Market: Friday, Saturday November 7-8

Holiday Party: Saturday December 6th



*Laelia anceps*, grown and photo by Carolyn

All meetings are at the Community Church of the Monterey Peninsula next to Palo Corona park, Carmel Valley Road

## **COS BOD Meeting Minutes January 13, 2025**

The meeting was called to order via Zoom by Amanda Nixon, President. Attending were: Irene Patton, Carolyn Salmon, John O'Connell, Anna Narvaez-Helms, Albert Satterfield, Cathy Walmsley, Janette Ford, Chris Thomas, and new member, Peter Janick. Sonya tried to get onto Zoom by phone and could not. Peter offered to help her for future meetings.

The minutes that Chris took at the Holiday Party were approved. At that party, the new officers were elected: President, Amanda Nixon; Vice Presidents, Carolyn Salmon and John O'Connell; Secretary, Irene Patton; treasurer Janette Ford. Peter Janick was added to the existing Board members. Everyone enjoyed the January meeting which was attended by 31 people. David Sorokowsky brought Paphs he had grown for the plant table and told us about his new plants and culture advice.



A NOID Cymbidium, grown and photo by Chris Thomas

The topic for February's meeting will be "Get Out of the House" presented by John with help from Irene. He says you don't run out of room in the house, but out of light. He wants to have a futures raffle for divisions he intends to make in the Spring with the winners being able to participate in the dividing as a learning experience for them. Peter offered to make bid sheets.

Amanda asked Anna about her donation sale table. We will use this later she said.

Carolyn reported that Vicki Smith from the Santa Cruz Society might be a good speaker for us and announced their April Bonsai meeting on 41st Ave. in SC. Carolyn will also follow up with Bruce Rogers for a talk on Sobralias.

The Treasurer reported we ended the year with a balanced income/expense report. After much discussion, the Board agreed that it would not publish the details of the amounts discussed at its meetings but would make them available to all members on request. This decision is in the interest of caution due internet publication.

Irene suggested we all be more active on the Society FB page and post Instagram photos of our blooming orchids.

We welcomed a new member Florio Fantelli who is a member of AOS. We will welcome him in the next BB, possibly with an interview.

We decided Amanda would send a letter to past members from 2022 and 2023 who have not currently paid dues saying we will drop their membership if there is no reply by end of March. They

will receive an invitation to join the bare bones Mail Chimp mailing list for brief reminders of events.

The website additions and corrections were mentioned. John is the webmaster and will make changes we send to him. He will receive help from Chris for updates after he lists her as a user.

Sonya suggested we sign up for

## Orchid Division Futures Silent Auction

So what is an orchid division future and why should you bid on one? What you are bidding on is a division of a large plant that will not be divided until later this year. Divisions of large plants are much sought after since they are larger and more robust than a seedling, they also frequently bloom the next year.

If you are the high bidder then you will get the bare root division and a chance to participate in the dividing process and learn about the plant and how the owner grows it. Bring a pot and media and you can pot it up on the spot, recommendations on pots and media will be provided by the owner.

So what you are getting is a division of a large plant, that should bloom next year not a seedling years from blooming and as much knowledge about the plant as the owner can provide. The society will keep 25% of the sale price, so you will probably get a great plant for less than it would cost you in November on the members sale table and the society will get a piece of the action same as at the show.

refreshments at the meetings and offered to organize this.

Three Board members will meet to discuss changes in the Bylaws: Chris, Irene and Janette.

February's Board meeting will be the 19th on Zoom.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:12 pm.

**Irene Patton, Secretary**

***Encyclia patens*** – John OConnell - This plant is 16 years old in an 8 inch pot. (Top left)

***Epicattleya Charlie Brown 'Hawaii'*** - John OConnell - 10 years old in an 8 inch pot. (Top right)

***Encyclia alata*** subsp. Virella – John OConnell - This is a division of a plant that I bought from Carolyn 10 years ago. (Middle Right)

***Barkeria sp.*** – John OConnell - originally a raffle plant several years ago, deciduous, will not survive a pot, must be mounted. (Middle left and center)

**Fredclarkeara After Dark** – Carolyn Salmon, This plant came from the Carol Easton estate. Many of the After Dark plants have won 67 AOS awards including a bunch of FCCs, the highest AOS flower award. (Bottom)

The Encyclias and Epc. Charlie Brown generally take bright Cattleya conditions and watering. The Barkaria and Fredclarkeara After Dark are deciduous and are sensitive to winter water, read up on them before you bid.



## New Member Profile: Florio Fantelli

I was born and raised near the steel mills in Cleveland where my family of Italian immigrants emigrated in 1906. After completing medical school and fellowship at the Cleveland Clinic, I practiced medicine in Idaho and Bozeman, Montana for 35 years. Upon retiring I spent some time on the consulting staff volunteering with a medical NGO in Kathmandu Nepal University Teaching Hospital. It was here that I became amazed by the Dendrobium and Cymbidium orchids of the Himalayas. After retirement my wife Leslie and I moved to Pebble Beach to be closer to our daughter and family. Shortly after moving here three years ago my wife Leslie developed an aggressive leukemia and died last year.

Orchids were some of the more common gifts during her illness and it rekindled an interest in caring for them as a way of honoring her and our friends and family who supported us and gave us these beautiful gifts. My favorites are Cymbidium and Paphiopedulum. I have a furniture building hobby that is now slowly morphing into building plant stands! I've felt very welcomed at the Orchid Society and am enjoying learning more about these amazing living beauties.



**Orchid Gems along The California Orchid Trail**

**1. Cal-Orchid, Inc.**  
1251 Orchid Drive, Santa Barbara  
805.967.1312  
www.calorchid.com  
Open Wednesday-Saturday by appointment only  
Special Show hours:  
Friday-Sunday 9am-4pm

**2. Santa Barbara Orchid Estate**  
1250 Orchid Drive, Santa Barbara  
805.967.1284  
www.sborchid.com  
Open Friday 10am-2pm  
Saturday 9am-3:30pm  
(extra open days around observed holidays)  
Special Show hours:  
Friday & Saturday 8am-5pm  
Sunday 9am-4pm

**3. Gallup & Stribling Orchids**  
3450 Via Real, Carpinteria  
805.684.9842  
www.gallup-stribling.com  
Open Monday-Saturday  
8:30am-5pm  
Sunday 11am-3pm  
Special Show hours:  
Friday-Saturday 8:30am-5pm  
Sunday 8:30am-4pm

**4. Westerlay Orchids**  
3504 Via Real, Carpinteria  
805.684.5411  
www.westerlay.com  
Open Monday-Friday 9am-4:30pm  
Saturday 10am-4pm  
Special Show hours:  
Friday-Sunday 10 am-4 pm

**5. Ambriz Kingdom of Plants**  
4998 Foothill RD, Carpinteria  
805.570.5792  
Open by appointment only

**6. Orchids Royale**  
5902 Via Real, Carpinteria  
805.684.8066  
Open by appointment only  
Special Show hours:  
Friday-Sunday 9 am-4 pm

If you go to the Santa Barbara International Orchid Show, There are several great vendors to visit, most of the vendors on the California Orchid Trail are open to the public during the show.



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

## 2025 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 \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_

If you were referred by a current member, please provide

his/her name \_\_\_\_\_

Renewal  New Member

Member of the American Orchid Society

Membership

Single **\$35** \_\_\_\_\_

Couple **\$50** \_\_\_\_\_

Vendor **\$50** \_\_\_\_\_

Add an additional **\$10** to receive the newsletter via USPS

**72nd**  
Annual

San Francisco Orchid Society Presents:  
Pacific Orchid Exposition Show and Plant Sale

**Save the Date:**  
Feb 28 - Mar 2, 2025

**Orchids  
In the  
Clouds**



[www.orchidsanfrancisco.org](http://www.orchidsanfrancisco.org)