

The BackBulb

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

March 2025

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



March Webinar: Encyclia, a Look at the Species and Hybrids

with Mike Curtin

Encyclia is a genus of orchids from the tropical Americas. Generally smaller than the large Cattleyas with smaller, more numerous flowers. Many orchid people bypass Encyclias because greens and browns dominate most of their

flowers. But if you take a second look many of them have delightful flowers, many are fragrant, and if you can get them big enough they will put on a real show with huge numbers of blooms.

This webinar covers the most popular Encyclia species and the hybrids that have been made from them. Mike also goes into general Encyclia culture so you can grow these wonderful plants.

The plant table will be from Brookside Orchids (John needs to pick it up at POE on Friday).

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



Encyclia patens, not mentioned in the webinar, but a great plant nonetheless. Grown by John, photo by Cammie

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Orchid Division
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Upcoming Events

March

3/1 Saturday 2pm COS March Meeting

3/16 Monterey Cutting Day and Horticulture Faire

Shows

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

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

5/2-3 Santa Cruz Orchid Show, Details TBA

2025 COS Events

Meetings:

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

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

Cutting Day

The City of Monterey is hosting their annual Cutting Day & Horticulture Faire on Saturday March 15th from 9 to noon at Friendly plaza (in front of Colton Hall) at Pacific St between Madison St. and Jefferson St. from 9 to noon.

In addition to participants bringing yard clippings [sic] to share, local nurseries donate and distribute hundreds of plants and trees for residents to take home to plant and enjoy. Featured are free tree seedlings, native plant information, propagation, gardening best practices, and landscaping tips using drought resistant plants.

The Society will have a table set up for outreach.

2025 Dues Are Past Due!

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

The Orchid Experience

Lots of people grow a few orchids, they admire the pretty blooms and never think twice about the wider, wilder, world of orchids that waits just beyond those Phal's on the windowsill or the Cymbidiums on the porch. A few of these casual growers will have their curiosity tweaked, maybe by a friend, a show, or an exhibit. Once roused, the curious can immerse themselves in a wealth of information on the Internet, books, and at their friendly local orchid society. The board of your friendly local society tries to bring you a variety of activities to make your orchid experience as fulfilling as possible. But all of our meetings, speakers, raffle tables, social events, and outings are only part of the full orchid experience. So here are a few more things to add to your orchid bucket list that you can't find at a COS meeting, the orchid world is a very big and interesting place.

Go to some shows

- * POE (late February). The biggest and best show around. If you haven't been, you will be amazed.
- * Santa Barbara International Orchid Show (March).
- * Orchids in the Park (July) a large sale with a few exhibits.
- * Attend a show gala. POE has a good one with lots of wine.
- * Learn more about judging by volunteering to be a clerk at a show with AOS judging.
- * Volunteer at a show (Ours counts)
- * Attend a World Orchid Conference (WOC) at least once in your life. A WOC is held ever 3 years (March

2026 in, Dresden Germany) and makes POE look small.

Visit some Greenhouses

- * While in Santa Barbara, visit Santa Barbara Orchid Estate (SBOE) and Cal-Orchid (across the street from SBOE).
- * Get up to Pacifica to see Dan Newman or some of the other growers at the Shell Dance greenhouse complex.
- * Make a pilgrimage to Encinitas and Andy's Orchids. You will be amazed. Andy takes credit cards, but take cash, it's safer.
- * Visit some private greenhouses. Several of our members have greenhouses.
- * Visit an orchid collection at a botanical garden. The SF Conservatory of Flowers has a small collection and Huntington Gardens (LA area) has a much larger one.

Get Involved

- * Join the AOS.
- * Volunteer for your societies board (hint, hint...).

Kick your Hobby up a Notch

- * Build your own greenhouse and stock it with several hundred of your favorite plants.
- * Visit orchids where they live: Brazil, Peru, Ecuador, Indonesia...
- * Read some orchid literature: The Orchid Thief by Jane Orlean; Orchid Fever by Eric Hansen; Any of the Nero Wolf mysteries by Rex Stout; Orchid Territory by Mary Motes

There is of course more, If you have some thing you would like to add drop me an email, I may want to add it to my own list.

COS BOD Meeting Minutes February 19, 2025

The ZOOM meeting was called to order by President Amanda Nixon at 7 pm. Attending were: Sonya Weininger, Amanda Nixon, Irene Patton, Carolyn Salmon, John OConnell, Cathy Walmsley, Kathie Ritter, Albert Satterfield, Peter Janick, Chris Thomas.

The Treasurer's report included income from new members, dues and raffle plus a speaker's fund donation and church rent listed as expenses. The Secretary's minutes were approved as published in the January Back Bulb.

Carolyn gave the VP report with John weighing in. The March meeting will be an AOS webinar on Encyclias with a plant table hopefully provided by Brookside to be picked up by John at the POE in SF. Bruce Rogers, speaking on Sobralias, will hopefully be the April speaker. Amanda offered Ken's help to help set up for the webinar in March. Santa Cruz has announced their orchid event on May 2nd and 3rd along with the Bonsai Show. Carolyn asked if we

should continue in 2026 with our popular Saturday afternoon meetings; we agreed to ask members later on in the year.

It has been mentioned that 5 or 6 people inside our Society could have a round table discussion of their orchids. Albert suggested Q & A, using members inside our group; Chris has several Power Points developed; Sonya suggested we ask Santa Cruz for references for speakers and orchid tables.

Amanda and John explained the difference between the Mail Chimp group of several hundred (does not attach the Back Bulb, only lists meetings and topics) and the Back Bulb mail outs to members (posted on our website as well as sent to over 60 members plus a few others).

The committee to revise Bylaws led the discussion of proposed changes. We agreed to keep as is the dollar amount for the Treasurer spending limits. We did agree to add the change in Article II Section 9 to read "Guests cannot vote on Society business at meetings." All other changes proposed by the committee were unanimously approved.

We will present the revised Bylaws at the March meeting and the members will vote on them at the April meeting.

Cutting Day in Monterey is our next activity on Saturday, March 15th. Amanda, Cathy and Irene will host our table.

Chris asked for help with the Society website after speaking with Sam in December. Peter offered to help.



Epicyclia Memoria Norman Wood, grown by John

Irene mentioned contacting MPC to offer an orchid presentation to Horticulture Classes. Cathy told us about the one day classes they were offering. We are hoping to continue with this idea.

Amanda sent letters to people who had not renewed, asking them to re-join.

We all were reminded to send items to John for the Back Bulb. We want to mention the donations to the Carol Easton Speaker's Fund and a special note will be included to ask members to plan for leaving their orchid collections to the Society in their wills and estate planning.

The next meeting of the Board will be both on ZOOM and in person at Irene's

Right: *Oncidium kegeljanii* Equador, grown and photo by Irene

Bellow: *Potinara Apricot Circle*, grown and photo by Chris Thomas

home on March 19th at 4 pm. Peter will be in charge of the ZOOM connection.

The meeting closed at 8:20 pm.

Irene Patton, Secretary



Emergency Planning

Nobody likes planning for their own demise. Wills, trusts, life insurance, power of attorney, beneficiaries ... we don't want to think about it. Eventually most of us do the minimum we feel is necessary. If you have pets you probably take pains to be sure that they are taken care of when you are traveling, hospitalized, or otherwise are not around to take care of them. You should do the same for your plants, make sure that the people around you know who to contact if you can't care for them. You know the people close to you, but maybe they are not quite the people you want to be taking care of your precious plants, then tell them to call (text, email...) the Carmel Orchid Society. The members of the board will try their best to make sure that your plants are taken care of. Contact Irene Patton irenepatton@gmail.com or John OConnell johnoconnell19@gmail.com

Orchid Division Future Winners

Encyclia patens – John OConnell – Irene Patton \$30

Epicattleya Charlie Brown 'Hawaii' - John OConnell – Imogene Speiser \$25,
Jennie Horlii?? \$25, Carolyn Salmon \$22

Encyclia alata subsp. Virella – John OConnell - Denise Estrella 831-238-2768
\$30

Barkeria sp. – John OConnell – Carolyn Salmon \$15

Fredclarkeara After Dark – Carolyn Salmon – Denise Estrella 831-238-2768 \$25



Two different **Laelia anceps**, grown and photo by Carolyn

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