

# The BackBulb

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

June 2025

The next meeting is on **Monday June 2nd, 7PM** at the Church



## June Program:

### Lessons in Orchid Growing

We all want to learn how to successfully grow Orchids, but some are more difficult than others, and June's meeting will feature three members who will talk about some techniques and plants that are a bit beyond your typical Phalaenopsis or Cattleya. Deric Wenzler will demonstrate how to pot and grow Stanhopeas (an incredibly fragrant and strange flower). Carolyn Salmon will share her growing tips for the Australian orchid Sarcochilus (The "other" Australian hardy orchid). And Irene Patton will show us how to propagate back bulbs in water, and give us some tips on growing your orchids in semi hydroponically.

The Plant table will come from Brookside Orchids, a few are blooming and all are larger than we usually have on a plant table.



**Right:** Some of the plant table.

**Left:** A *Stanhopia* in Dan Newman's greenhouse



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Your Board

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  
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## BackBulb Editor

John OConnell

## Membership

Peter Janik

## 2025 COS Events

### Meetings:

Monday June 2nd, 7 pm  
Monday August 4th, 7 pm  
Saturday October 4th, 2 pm

### Social Events

July Greenhouse tour: TBD  
BBQ: Sat. Sep. 13th, 1-4pm  
Fall Market: Friday, Sat. Nov. 7-8  
Holiday Party: Sat. Dec. 6th

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



## Upcoming Events

### June

6/2 Monday 7pm COS June Meeting

### Shows

7/26-27 Orchids in the Park.  
County Fair Building, Golden Gate Park San Francisco



**Orchid Happy Hour, May 24.** Several members and spouses showed up to admire the orchids (**Encyclia [Enc. Cynthia 'Black Arts' X Enc. randii 'Best']** upper right), eat the food (upper left), see the greenhouse (bottom) and have a good time. Photos by Cammie except the flower, that's John's

## The Happy Hobbyist

If you attend some of the Carmel Orchid Society meetings, listen to the expert presentations, look at the thriving “Show & Tell” plants and silently think, ‘Whoa – I might be in over my head here,’ this column is for you.

Even after growing orchids more than 20 years, I still consider myself a hobbyist, and always will. I’m never going to be a judge at an orchid show. I don’t feel a burning need to hybridize orchids or grow them from flasks. I’m thoroughly annoyed when the American Orchid Society (ed. Kew Royal Botanical Gardens changes the names, the AOS just recognizes their changes) announces they’ve changed the name of one – just when I finally remembered the previous name! To me, *Gastrochilus retrocallus* will always be *Haraella*



*Gastrochilus retrocallus*, photo by Chris Thomas

*retrocalla*, thank you very much. (It’s one of the cutest mini orchids ever.)

So, in this newsletter, I’ve offered to write the occasional column for folks like myself. We don’t love orchids any

less than the experts, but we’re content to keep the darn things alive and

blooming! We’re happy to learn more, and maybe make some friends who share our enthusiasm for these amazing plants. And just like the experts, we feel like rock stars when we can get something to rebloom!

As for the orchid name change mentioned above, the research is entitled: *Plastome Evolution, Phylogenomics, and DNA Barcoding Investigation of Gastrochilus (Aeridinae, Orchidaceae), with a Focus on the Systematic Position of Haraella Retrocalla*. Lest you think I’m kidding, here’s a (shortened) link: <https://shorturl.at/WhqVg>

OK, I will never actually read this research, but I’m glad someone cared enough to do it. It takes all kinds to love orchids – the scientists, the professional growers, the serious orchidophiles. And I’m convinced there’ll be a place in orchid heaven for us hobbyists, too. See you there?

**Chris Thomas**



*Cymbidium Medicated Guru, Cymbidium Tigrinum* hybrid

## **COS BOD Meeting Minutes May 21, 2025**

Carolyn Salmon, VP, called the meeting to order at 6 pm at her house. Attending were: John O'Connell, Kathy Ritter, Irene Patton, Carolyn Salmon, Janette Ford, Cathy Walmsley, Sonya Weininger, Anna Narvarez-Helms. A quorum was established.

The minutes from April's board meeting were read and approved.

Janette gave the treasurer's report and said we have 3 new members. She said we had 23 people attending the May meeting and that we made \$140 on the plant table. Amanda, John and Irene provided plants. She sent a check to John for his contribution of plants. She has filed with the Sec. of State for the Society which is an every two-year requirement. She mentioned renewing the CD's at just under 4%.

We discussed membership glitches in the BB mailout and membership list. We are trying to avoid typos and wrong email addresses for John to mail the Back Bulb so all members are included.

The VP report was given by Carolyn who said she was unable to get Tim Cuthbertson for the June meeting and suggested we do a member presentation of 15 minutes each by several members. Deric will do Stanhopeas, Carolyn will do Sarcochylus and Irene will do rooting back bulbs in water and an update on some semi-hydros started with Sherry Wagner's presentation last April. Carolyn will call Vicki Smith in SC to see if we can visit their greenhouses in July. Carolyn is

trying for a plant table from Brookside, estimating \$250 plus shipping.

John mentioned the AOS website and the members info. Irene suggested we do a review for our members on the benefits of AOS membership.

Sonya suggested we have an extra special plant table for the Holiday Meeting. She gave us several sources of plants (Sorella and the Cymbidium Society through Audrey).

Kathie discussed the Fall Market and said she wants to meet in early June with the chairmen of the event. She said we may be down 2-3 vendors this year. She, Irene and Cathy W. told about the SC Orchid Society Show on May 3rd. We thought we might be able to include a stop at Gro Generation during the SC July Greenhouse tour. Kathie has also ordered some supplies for members.

Irene thanked all members who worked the Carmel Valley Flower Show where we had a tent and orchid info for 2 days. Special thanks to Rudy and Albert who put up the tent and stayed extra hours. Irene hopes we can sell orchids next year (making May and November our two sale times). Many people asked us for orchids. Comments were that we would have to pay a booth fee and that it might be difficult to get plants. Irene said she hoped members would be growing plants to sell similarly to the CV Garden Club's sale table. Kathie and Irene met prospective Fall Market vendors at this show as well as at the Santa Cruz Orchid Show.

The next meeting will be June 18 at Pattons at 4 pm.

**Irene Patton, Secretary**

## Your Board of Directors:

The 12 people on the board keep this society running, we all play our part, some of us have specific jobs like: arranging for meeting programs (VP's), keeping track of our money, writing and editing the BackBulb, maintaining the web site, keeping track of membership and organizing our annual show. If you have any problems (like not getting your BB), or have any comments just let the person responsible know.

### President

**Amanda**, 5 years on the board.  
Pyromanda2@aol.com

I joined the Heart of Dixie Orchid Society in the early 2000's. After moving to CA I joined the Carmel Orchid Society in 2007 and joined the board in 2021. Currently I am in my last year as President. I have killed 100s of orchids, but not on purpose.

**Vice President**, responsible for the monthly meetings.

**Carolyn**, 18 years on the board (and probably more my records only go back to 2002) cargie@yahoo.com

I joined the Carmel Orchid Society in 1981. I am currently a Vice President who helps plan our general meetings and obtain the plant tables.

**John**, 16 years on the board,  
johnoconnell19@gmail.com

I started my orchid experience with the Atlanta Orchid Society, and when I moved in 2007 joined the COS. I have been editing the BackBulb since 2009 and have served as President and Vice

President. If you want anything put in the BackBulb like orchid related items for sale, or have an idea for something you would like to see or want to write something... let me know.

**Treasurer**, takes care of our money, keeps the Franchise Tax Board off our backs.

**Janette Ford**, 16 years on the board,  
jandpford@comcast.net

**Secretary**, takes the board meeting notes.

**Irene Patton**, 5 years on the board,  
irenepatton@gmail.com

Rudy and I joined in 2019. I am the Recording Secretary and my interests are in promoting orchids to our community and in helping the Society grow and thrive.



Irene's pot  
luck estate  
sale  
Cymbidium

### Directors

**Kathie**, 10 years on the board,  
mine7233@comcast.net

I bought my first orchid at Mayfair, the early iteration of our present Fall Orchid

Market. Now I am the Chair of that show.

**Cathy**, 3 years on the board, [catherine.walmsley@yahoo.com](mailto:catherine.walmsley@yahoo.com)

I became a member in 2022. The learning experience in COS has been amazing. With the advice and help of new orchid growing friends. I continue to call my membership one of the best Christmas presents I've ever given myself.

**Chris**, 2 years on the board, [christhomasco@gmail.com](mailto:christhomasco@gmail.com)

I joined COS even before I actually moved to California (in 2023) and am happy to be on the board! I'm also a member of the Treasure Valley Orchid Society in Boise, Idaho, where I was the board secretary, newsletter and website editor. I've been growing orchids for more than 20 years, and love to encourage folks who are new to them. Note: Chris also maintains our web site and contributes to the BackBulb

**Albert**, 2 years on the board, [albertmsatterfield@gmail.com](mailto:albertmsatterfield@gmail.com)

I have been a member of the COS for 2 1/2 years and have been serving on the BOD for the past 1 1/2 years and have volunteered for several COS outreach events and the Orchid show. I have been living on the Monterey Peninsula for 53 years and have worked as a horticulturist for most of those years. My experience at COS has been very enjoyable and have made many new friends.

**Sonya**, 2 years on the board.

**Peter**, 1 year on the board, [pajpublic@comcast.net](mailto:pajpublic@comcast.net)

Although new to the board Peter has taken up the crucial membership role. If you are not getting the Backbulb send a note to Peter to be sure we have you listed as a member and that your email address is correct.



A Paph from the Scott Collins estate, grown by and photo by Irene



## 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	<b>\$35</b> _____
Couple	<b>\$50</b> _____
Vendor	<b>\$50</b> _____
Student	<b>\$15</b> _____
Add an additional <b>\$10</b> to receive the newsletter via USPS	