

The BackBulb

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

November 2025

Holiday Party: Saturday December 6th, 1PM at the Church

Annual COS Holiday party

What: Eating, revelry, and **orchids**

When: 1PM Saturday December 6th

Where: The Church (Community Church of the Monterey Peninsula)

Setup: Starts at 12:30pm

Bring:

- * A side dish, Terri Zabala will provide ham
- * Your preferred beverage, we will have hot water for tea.
- * \$\$ for the special holiday edition plant table.
- * White Elephant gift (entirely optional)

The Holiday season is here! Every year we celebrate each other with our Holiday Potluck and an extra special plant opportunity table.

Oh... the food is always wonderful and like last year we will hold a "White Elephant" Gift exchange, a Gift Exchange with a twist. Participation is optional but if you want to have a bit of fun just bring either a gift with a value of \$10 - \$20 OR a silly White Elephant Gift (in good condition). Gifts should be wrapped (or bagged) and without anyone's name on it. Place your



anonymous gift in the designated area and then draw a number.

When your number is called, you may either go pick a gift and unwrap it OR you may steal an already unwrapped gift from someone ahead of you. The person whose gift you stole will then either pick a new unwrapped gift or steal someone else's gift and so on.

This is really a lot of fun. Don't be afraid to channel your inner Grinch and steal away! The more participants the more fun to be had.

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Holiday Party

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Upcoming Events

COS Officers

President

Amanda Nixon

VP Program

John OConnell
Carolyn Salmon

Recording Secretary

Irene Patton

Treasurer

Janette Ford

Directors

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

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BackBulb Editor

John OConnell

Membership

Peter Janik

Upcoming Events

December

12/6 COS Holiday Party

January

1/3 COS January Meeting

Thank You!

It's the season to be thankful. The Carmel Orchid Society has a lot to be thankful for. Perhaps nothing more than the friendship and camaraderie that develops between members and leads to a lot of sharing: sharing of orchid knowledge, orchid divisions, orchid repotting, other plants and lots of fun social events.

The acts of "sharing the workload" are what this Society is most blessed with when it comes to making our annual Fall Orchid Market successfully come together. The 2025 Fall Orchid Market was hugely successful!

The public who came to view and shop went away telling their friends and neighbors they should pop into the show to see for themselves the fabulous array of plants. The vendors remarked on the number of knowledgeable attendees who were out to shop. We are grateful that both attendees and vendors were happy to have taken the time to "do the show".

The success of a show is usually evaluated through measures like the number of attendees and dollars and cents, which makes perfect sense. There is another measure which one could argue truly makes a show successful: Execution. In the case of the 2025 Carmel Orchid Society's Fall Orchid Market, the camaraderie of old and new members is what made the show come together. From those who labored with the nuances of marketing to those who brought food for vendor and volunteer lunches to those who gave talks and demonstrations to those who setup displays and sold plants to those who cleaned up and did the lighting, to those who housed vendors to those who coordinated all of that a big thank you is due! It cannot be said too many times, THANK YOU to all of you who gave of your time energy and insights.

Kathie Ritter, show chairperson

Scenes From the Fall Orchid Market



From top left, clockwise: Orchid vendors, succulent vendors, flora vendors, the societies information table, an overflowing member sales, and the society's orchid display.



Want to try something different?

I have three *Cynorkis fastigiata* (flowers at right) tubers that were volunteers in one of my Phrag pots (the parent of these plants was also a volunteer in another Phrag pot). One of them has leaves the other two do not. No guarantees that they will survive, but these seem to be quite tough, but I don't know if they will survive outside here.

Also available is this (lower left) pot of red Epidendrum volunteers that I removed from a pitcher plant I was repotting.

Each plant is a \$5 donation to the society.



Laelia Ian Woodhall [L. rubescens x L. aurea] growing in John's greenhouse

Minutes of the COS BOD meeting Nov. 17, 2025

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 with all 12 board members present.

The Secretary read the minutes from the last Board meeting and they were approved. The Secretary made a correction in a name spelling on the final copy.

The VP, Carolyn, said that Orchids 101 Power Point presentation by Chris Thomas would be a good topic to engage new members for January. Chris will write a note about her talk for the January Back Bulb. The plant table will be selected plants from Mitch's purchase in October along with other donations.

Carolyn is hoping to ask Tim Culbertson to speak in February and will get his contact from Cathy Walmsley.

The Treasurer gave a brief overview of the checkbook with a detail of the Market figures to follow later in the meeting. She will renew our AOS membership.

Kathie led the review of the Fall Market, held November 7-8 at the Church. She said it was "great", the vendors were happy, the talks were well attended and the worker shifts went well. She said the COS sales and receipt table caused a bottleneck at the entrance when people were trying to pay for their orchids. Irene said it was partly due to the closing of one side of the gate to keep Susan's table warmer. Saturday went better with both gates open. We agreed that attendance was high and more serious orchid growers

were there both days. We sold out of potting supplies early Saturday.

Janette gave the specifics of the sales numbers and will write checks to the members who sold at our plant table. Irene said we should break down the purchase of \$1200 to Mitch into Market Sales, Plant tables for December and January and plants to sell. Peter suggested we expense Mitch's plant purchase at the Market and not carry it over to the other uses for the remaining plants in the near future. Irene said it reflected on the sales of this year's Market, which were very high, to expense it all there.

Part of the success of the sales of the members' table was the slide show Peter put together of photos of the plants we purchased from Mitch. We sold 40 of the 107 plants, mostly on Saturday when he had the slide show up.

Carolyn, Irene and Peter have divided up the trays of plants to be the December plant table, a table to sell plants and some for the January meeting. Carolyn is exploring a connection with Orchid Works in Hawaii for future plant purchases.

Peter also said we got 10 new members and 3 renewals at the Market. We strategized how to welcome them at the Holiday Party and it was agreed that welcome letters, phone calls and the Back Bulb would be utilized. Rudy will make new name tags and mark the new members so that we can recognize them. Peter also said word of mouth, flyers and banners contributed to the other marketing we did: radio time, newspaper calendars, ads and articles.

For next year we agreed to more flyers and listing demonstrations in advance.

Many thanks to all who worked hard to bring a successful two days from the marketing efforts.

The new inventory system for the members' plant table worked well. It was contributed by the SCOS through Brandon. We agreed to adjust it to our personal use for next year. Irene reported we wrote 111 receipts and thanked Amanda and Chris for their hard work and all members who sold plants.

We agreed that more attention needs to be paid to John's table of blooming plants, possibly a volunteer guard who could talk about the plants and keep people from taking them down for purchase.

Chris reported that demonstrations were better attended than last year although there were some scheduling challenges. We talked about potential improvements to the timing and setup logistics, with a suggestion to move some indoors.

Cathy reported that the newer members provided the vendor's food this year. She said that Dennis posted food photos! As always, the food was a big hit.

Irene suggested 2 roving ambassadors from our Society for next year to walk among the attendees and visit with them, answer questions and encourage membership. New dates for the 2026 Market were discussed. Cathy W. will check with the church to see about September, October dates. We think the weather will be warmer and the orchid vendors may be more available

than in November.

Next we discussed plans for the Holiday Party at the church on Decemberr 6. The room is open at 12:30 for us to set up for the 1-3 event. Carolyn said Mitch's plants would comprise the plant table and there would be a few for sale as well. Terry Zabala volunteered to do the ham for the pot luck and the Society offered to pay for it Anna will be absent but will ask Cathy to do the Naughty Santa/White Elephant event. Carolyn suggested we bring flowering orchids for the centerpieces instead of Show and Tell and a BYOB if desired. Irene said to be sure to put your name in plants. Amanda will bring waters and Cathy will do coffee service.

Amanda said we would vote for officers at the party and thanked John and Chris for being on the Board. Peter said he would make sure new members got an invitation to the Holiday Party and know about Naughty Santa and Potluck.

Cathy W. told about attending the SCOS meeting with Sonya and about Tim Culbertson's talk on Lycaste.

Sonya asked if future meetings could be recorded and we discussed the problems with putting the recording on the webpage. Peter said he would look into it and would have to get permission of the speaker.

Chris and Irene are doing a presentation at the PB Community Room for Ikebana this week.

There will be no Board meeting in December. Irene reminded us we need to think of making a charitable contribution during the giving season. There was no time for discussion at this meeting and it will be taken up in

January. Carolyn said we made a contribution to AOS orchid conservancy in lieu of Roberta Fox's speaker's fee.

Cathy W. set January 12th for the Board meeting by Zoom at 6 pm.

Amanda closed the meeting at 7:40.

Irene Patton, Secretary



Laelia albida
blooming in John's greenhouse

2026 Board Nominations

President: Cathy Walmsley

VP Program: Carolyn Salmon

Recording Secretary: Irene Patton

Treasurer: Janette Ford

Directors:

Peter Janick (Membership)

Anna Narvaez-Helms

Amanda Nixon

Kathie Ritter (Show chairman)

Albert Satterfield

Sonya Weininger

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** _____

Student **\$15** _____

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