

The BackBulb

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

February 2026

February Meeting: Saturday February 7th, 2PM at the Church

January Program

Orchid Show Season Is Here!

We want to introduce you to our two favorite orchid shows: February 26 – March 1 POE (Pacific Orchid Exposition) in San Francisco and on March 20-22, the International Santa Barbara Orchid Show in Santa Barbara. Orchid shows are the best place to see and buy a large variety of orchids (and other exotic plants), but they can be a bit overwhelming so the old hands of the society would like to give you guidelines to help you successfully plan and navigate attending these shows. John, Carolyn, Irene and Kathie will talk about:

- * What to look for in the exhibits
- * Some of our favorite vendors
- * A budget so you don't lose your mind.
- * Hints to helping you choose the right orchid for your growing conditions, and one that appears at its healthiest
- * Advice for novice growers to choose orchids for your best chance of success
- * Care of your new purchases

This is a round table discussion inviting anyone to participate with time for Q&A



The haul from John's trip to the Santa Barbara Orchid Fair, July 2005, he flew from Atlanta to attend and he still has one of the plants in the picture.

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Garden Windows

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

Cathy Walmsley

VP Program

Carolyn Salmon

Recording

Secretary

Irene Patton

Treasurer

Janette Ford

Directors

Peter Janick

Anna Narvaez-

Helms

Amanda Nixon

Kathie Ritter

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John OConnell

Membership

Peter Janik

Show Chairman

Kathie Ritter

Upcoming Events

February

**2/7 Saturday 2pm COS
February Meeting**

2/27-3/1 POE (Pacific
Orchid Exposition)
County Fair Building,
Golden Gate Park San
Francisco

March

3/20-22 Santa Barbara
International Orchid
Show, Earl Warren Fair
Grounds, Santa
Barbara



**Above: *Laelia anceps* 'Bright Eyes'
X *L. anceps* 'Marblehall Imperialis'**

**Left: *Laelia anceps* 'Pink Diamond'
X *L. anceps* 'Princess'**

Both blooming in John's greenhouse

Important Dates for COS 2026

January 31, Cymbidium Society Auction, San Mateo Garden Center

Feb 7, Monthly meeting at CCMP (Community Church of the Monterey Peninsula)

Feb 27-March 1, POE, San Francisco, County Fair Building

March 14, Cutting Day, Monterey

March 19-22, TBD possible trip to Santa Barbara including: SBOE, Cal-Orchid and the Orchid Show

March 20-22 Santa Barbara International Orchid Show, Earl Warren Fairgrounds Santa Barbara

April 4, Monthly meeting, CCMP

April 18-19, Gold Coast Cymbidium Society/POS joint show, San Mateo Garden Center

May 2, Monthly meeting, CCMP

May 2-3, Carmel Valley Flower Show, Hidden Valley Music Seminars Carmel Valley Village

May 9, MEarth Day

June 6, Monthly meeting, CCMP

July COS Greenhouse tour

July, TBD, Orchids in the Park, SF County Fair Building

August 1, Monthly meeting, CCMP

August 22-23, West End Celebration, Sand City

September 19, COS Annual Picnic, location TBD

October 8-10, COS Fall Market, CCMP

November 7, Monthly meeting, CCMP

December 5, COS Holiday Party, CCMP

Consider Growing Your Orchids in a Garden Window

A great way to grow and show off your collection is a garden window which replaces a window in your wall with a frame, glass and shelves that extend outside about 14" while also extending inside the window slightly for a total depth of 22". The size depends on your window opening and your budget. The cost of a garden window ranges



from \$700 to \$2500, approximately, plus the cost of labor for installation. The ideal windows have openings for cross ventilation although I rarely open mine, using a small fan 24 hours a day into the space.

If the window is too wide (mine over the kitchen sink is 46") it may not be possible to span the space with a glass shelf. I solved this problem by using glass blocks and putting "shelves" of glass jalousie to raise the orchids up.

Direction of light is a factor. I have one NE over the kitchen sink that is perfect for 16 Paphiopedilums. It never gets sunny enough to burn them and is enough light for blooming. The second, smaller window faces East and has good Cattleya light. But since those standard Catts can grow big, the new windowsill-size plants are perfect.

Mid-summer light can be fast and hot so I keep a shade cloth over the top of the glass and try to ventilate if we are having a heat wave but that would be a miracle in Pacific Grove!

Water is always at hand. I have an RO system in the kitchen for our drinking water and the Paphs like that. The extra humidity in the kitchen from cooking and dishwashing is nice and combined with the small fan is just about right. Rudy found a great toy: a ThermoPro (\$12.99) sensor that measure temp and humidity in the 2 windows and displays on my phone.

The second, smaller garden window that faces East has Bulbos, Cattleyas, Dendrobiums, Brassavola, Vanda and a Catasetum (fingers crossed on that one). Semi-hydro works well in these windows since you can keep a close

eye on them. Dimensions are 32" H x 27" wide x 19" deep. A glass shelf midway and a wood frame allow higher hanging for more light and heat.

Disadvantages? A few: ants, aphids and mealy bugs are always ready to pounce. Also, things are constantly changing with growth, bloom and dying out. Travel is a problem for someone to come in and water for you, as with any collection. Watering requires moving each plant.

Rewards are great. Sometimes a flower sneaks up on you, and I love being able to keep a day-to-day watch over progress and catch problems early. Watering can be done easily. And they are inside your home to enjoy.

Irene Patton



Minutes of the COS BOD Meeting Jan. 12, 2026

The meeting was called to order at 6:08 pm on ZOOM. Present were Cathy Walmsley, Carolyn Salmon, Amanda Nixon, Kathie Ritter, Sonya Weininger, Albert Satterfield, Irene Patton, Peter Janick, Janette Ford, Anna Navarez-Helms.

There was no secretary's report since there was no meeting in December.

Carolyn gave the VP report. She has not contacted Ken Culbertson for speaker for Feb/March but has a good idea for a member discussion of Orchid Shows. Tips and tricks for negotiating an orchid show would be presented by members with experience. Also, speakers might be obtained from the SC Orchid Society, specifically Audrey; Sonya agreed to contact her, discussing dates and speakers' fees and will get back in a couple days to Carolyn. Members will be asked to supply items for the plant table in case a speaker cannot be secured.

Sonya mentioned that we are searching for a special Cymbidium named after Cely Cruz's daughter to donate to her in appreciation for her membership in the Society.

We noted January 31st was the auction for Gold Coast Cymbidiums in San Mateo. There will be a regular meeting in November on the 7th.

The treasurer's report was given by Janette with spreadsheets organized by Peter. Janette said we made a nice amount of interest on the two CDs. Peter showed we ended the year 2025

in the black.

The Fall Market date has been changed to October 8-10, and the church will be notified. Kathie R. will check with the Southern CA vendors to be sure they can make the change.

We discussed in detail the important dates for events for our Society for 2026. We are hoping to get this published in the February Back Bulb. Dates will be firmed up by calling and reporting back to Cathy W. August 22 and 23rd are the dates for West End. Cutting Day in Monterey is March 14th. Cathy reminded us that we are interested in a Wild Orchid Walk and enlisted the help of Anna whose brother works for the Monterey Regional Park System.

Irene suggested we all look for ways to contribute to the Back Bulb, helping John with pictures and articles of interest. Email to John is best way to send these.

Amanda suggested we tour the Lavendar Farm in Carmel Valley as one of our July field trips. She secured an invitation from the owner. Also, it was suggested a possible trip to Santa Barbara Orchid Estates for our group in March.

The next Board meeting will be February 9th at 6 pm by ZOOM.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:09 pm.

Irene Patton Secretary

73rd Annual San Francisco Orchid Society Presents:
Pacific Orchid Exposition Show and Plant Sale

ORCHID OBSCURA

Feb 27 - Feb 28, 2026 10am - 5pm
March 1, 2026 10am - 4pm
Preview Night:
Feb 26, 2026 6-9pm
(Must be 21 and older)
County Fair Building
1199 9th Ave.
San Francisco, CA

www.orchidsanfrancisco.org
Discounted advance tickets available online

C A R M E L O R C H I D S O C I E T Y 2026 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

