



## FCOS February, 2017

### President's Corner

Hope you and your orchids are doing well after the rains and cold weather we have had recently. Plus it sounds like there is more of both in the near future. Remember that your orchids like rain water so if you have the chance to capture some and then use it to water them in the upcoming months they will appreciate it.

If you have not yet been to attend a large orchid show, there are two coming up soon. The San Francisco Orchid Society will be hosting the Pacific Orchid and Garden Exposition on February 24-26 and then the Santa Barbara International Orchid Exposition will take place on March 17-19. If you have the opportunity to see either or both of these shows, I believe you will appreciate them. FCOS will again have a display at the Santa Barbara show, so if you have orchids our society could use in the display, please contact either Eric Holanda or me and we will figure out how to take them on a road trip. BUT, of more importance, is the FCOS show which you all know will be held on March 31 through April 2. For that weekend we need both your orchids and YOU. We have many tasks (most of which involve sitting on a chair) to accomplish and when many people help the work will get completed easily. If you do not volunteer you will miss out on a great experience.

I hope to see you all at the February 2017 meeting. Chris

### February Program---Ron Parsons---Orchids of Western Australia

Ron Parsons has been growing orchids for more than 40 years, and has been interested in species orchids for most of that time. Ron loves to photograph orchids and most other flowers whenever he can, whether it is on trips to see them in nature or in collections. He loves to travel to see orchids in the wild, and does so as often as possible. Ron has close to 60,000 digital images, most of which are of orchids, and still retains a slide library that exceeds 100,000 botanical images. He has at least 3000 published photos that have appeared in magazines, periodicals, journals and books. Ron has co-authored three botanical books, all with Mary E. Gerritsen. The first two, published by Timber Press, are *Masdevallias*, *Gems of the Orchid World* and *Calochortus, Mariposa Lilies and their Relatives*. Most recently, the third book, a large, luxurious, two-volume set, *A Compendium of Miniature Orchid Species* was published by Redfern Natural History Productions in January of 2014. The latter has nearly 1200 pages, 1800 photographs, and features more than 500 species.

Our large plant table once again comes from our former member Bill Maidment.

## SPECIAL SUPPLIES NEEDED FOR OUR SHOW

I received a special request from our FCOS Show Committee-----

Michelle Ralston came up with the idea for children's activities during the show. We are commandeering the patio outside of the eating area and are trying to come up with ideas for the kids. One of the ideas is potting up little succulent gardens. We need any old bowls, pots, cups and saucers, pots, vases..... that the kids can use to create mini gardens. We are rooting succulents and would accept any donations. Michelle and I can collect these during the March meeting. Thanks for your help. We hope to make it fun for the kids. Bonnie

### Speaker notes from Jan meeting for Feb newsletter

FCOS was honored to have Larry Vierheilig with assistant Eric Holenda speak to us at the January meeting about tips for transplanting *Cattleya*. They worked on a *C. mendelii* that Larry had been growing and needed a new pot and media. Larry suggested beginning by washing your hands, removing the tag, and putting it in a safe place. Larry likes to use plastic pots into which he has burned more holes in the bottom and sides using a copper pipe he has heated with a propane torch. (Chris suggests this probably stinks so do it outside.) Prior to transplanting he waters the orchid well two days prior to this work so it will come out of the pot easily and the bark will come off easily. After removing the orchid from the pot, they removed all the old media. They strongly suggested not damaging the new growing orchid root tips. If the orchid is too large and you want to divide it, now is the time. Use a sterile cutting implement and separate it leaving at least four back bulbs in each part. Larry submerges the pieces into a bucket of water and after taking them out of the water, covers the cut areas with powdered cinnamon which helps keep bacteria and other bad stuff from entering the cut surfaces. He also suggests trimming the long root. He puts a fair amount of non-dissolving packing peanuts in the bottom of the pot. He then puts in the orchid with the older growth against the edge of the pot and the newer growth toward the center. He uses a 2:1 ratio of 1/2-3/4 inch bark and large perlite for the media. He holds the orchid in the pot and then works the new media carefully around the roots trying to minimize any air spaces between the media and roots without damaging the roots. He suggests not pushing the media down real hard on the roots as you finish filling the pot with media. He then inserts a stake into the media (might first attach the stake to the pot) and secures the orchid to the stake with a twist tie. He updates the label with the transplant date and then reinserts the label into the pot. This orchid is in dormancy at this point in time so Larry does not water the pot a lot until he sees new root growth beginning.



**ORCHIDS MAKE GREAT VALENTINE GIFTS.**



**THEY ARE ZERO CALORIES AND LAST A LONG TIME**

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## It's the Season for Shows

- San Diego Cymbidium Society Annual Auction\* February 4, 2017; 11 AM Preview, 12 PM Auction Lake San Marcos—Lake Pavilion Room, 1105 La Bonita Dr, San Marcos
- Newport Harbor Orchid Society Orchid Expo and Sale\* February 10-12, 2017; Friday 10 AM—9 PM, Saturday 10 AM—7 PM, Sunday 11 AM—6 PM Westminster Mall, Westminster Info: [www.nhosinfo.org/orchidshow](http://www.nhosinfo.org/orchidshow)
- Newport Harbor Orchid Society Annual Auction February 21, 2017: 7 PM Costa Mesa Senior Center, 695 W. 19th St, Costa Mesa Info: [www.nhosinfo.org](http://www.nhosinfo.org)
- Pacific Orchid and Garden Exposition\* February 24—26, 2017; Friday and Saturday 9 AM—6 PM, Sunday 10 AM—5 PM San Francisco County Fair Building, Hall of Flowers, 1199 9th Av., San Francisco — *NEW LOCATION!* Info: [www.orchidsanfrancisco.org](http://www.orchidsanfrancisco.org)
- Long Beach Amateurs Annual Auction\* March 13, 2017; 6 PM Preview, 6:30PM Auction begins St. Gregory's Episcopal Church Hall, 6201 E. Willow, Long Beach Info: [www.lbaos.com](http://www.lbaos.com), [info@lbaos.com](mailto:info@lbaos.com), 562-972-0450
- Santa Barbara International Orchid Show March 15-17, 2017; 9 AM—5 PM Earl Warren Showgrounds, Santa Barbara Info: [www.sborchidshow.com](http://www.sborchidshow.com)
- Santa Barbara Orchid Estate Open House Fri.—Sat. 8 AM—5 M, Sun. 9 AM—5 PM, 1250 Orchid Drive, Santa Barbara, Info: [www.sborchid.com](http://www.sborchid.com)
- Cal-Orchid Open House, 1251 Orchid Drive, Santa Barbara, Info: [www.calorchid.com](http://www.calorchid.com)
- San Diego County Orchid Society Show and Sale\* March 24-26, 2017; Friday 3—6 PM, Saturday 9 AM—6 PM, Sunday 10 AM—4 PM Scottish Rite Event Center, Mission Valley, 1895 Camino Del Rio South, San Diego Info: [www.sdorchids.com](http://www.sdorchids.com) or (619) 543-9078

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