



April 2008 Newsletter

<u>Affiliations</u> American Orchid Society The Orchid Digest	<u>Proud Supporter of</u> Alzheimer's Association of the Central Coast
President: Danny Stocks	Vice President: Eric Holenda
Secretary: Anne Bachmann	Treasurer: Christina Holenda
Directors at Large: Frank Madrid, Scott St. Clair and Kathy Phelan	
Newsletter Editor: Chris Ehrler	

Our Next Meeting

Our next meeting will be held on April 10th at the Women's Club in Arroyo Grande. Our guest for the evening will be Jim Sloniker. Jim is an AOS judge and for the last number of years has been the head judge at our annual shows. At this point we are not sure what Jim's topic will be but he is very knowledgeable about orchids and their culture so we will all learn something.

If Jim can make it to our area in time we will take him to dinner at The Quarterdeck, 1500 W. Branch, AG, at 5:30pm. If you are interested in knowing more about going to dinner with the speaker please call Eric at 929-5749 by next Wednesday evening.

The teat fairies for the April meeting are Jeffrey Thompson and Ruth Hoskins.

President's Message

We did it! Another successful show. As everyone knows the cost of everything went up substantially this year. I was afraid we were going to lose lots of money putting on the show. My first year as president would be the last year we had a show because it lost so much money that we would never be able to do it again. I am sure glad that did not happen. We made \$300 profit. That is pretty close to breaking even. If we came that close every year I would be happy. The point of the show is not to see how much money the club can make but rather how to introduce as many people as possible to the fantastic hobby of growing orchids. That was the idea behind the first show and it is still the same today. The founders of the club felt that club membership could not be sustained without a way of introducing the public to orchids and our club. We had several interested new faces at the last meeting as a direct result of the show. That is what makes the show a success. A few AOS awards do not hurt either.

To our new friends WELCOME! To our old friends that we have not seen for awhile WELCOME it was good to see you all again.

The first several years of the show it was held at the Women's Club. When it out grew the Women's Club it was moved to the Regional Center. If anyone knows of a larger building the Regional Center in the Five Cities

area let me know. Then the benefit night was added so we could raise money for charity and to enjoy one another's company. This year we raised just a few cents shy of \$3000 for the Alzheimer's Association of the Central Coast. Thank you to everyone who donated time, items and money for the benefit night.

I need to thank the show committee for the hours they devoted to putting together this thirteenth show. They all spent many hours planning and organizing to have another fabulous show. And each year the show committee does an amazing job. It is not too early to start thinking about next year's show. I know there are people on the committee that are not going to be able to be on it again next year so we will be looking for some new committee members. There will be more to follow in the coming months on that.

I would also like to thank all the members of the club for stepping up and helping. If you think about how small our club is, it is amazing that we can pull off a large show each year. It definitely would not happen without everyone's help.

I look forward to seeing everyone at our next meeting. Aloha, Danny

March meeting notes

At our March meeting we were pleased to have Joe Griener of Baron's Orchids in Morro Bay talk to use about "What is an Orchid?" He mentioned that there are over 25,000 orchid registered species that grow in the wild. This makes up about 10% of all the flowering plants in the world. There are also about 150,000 registered hybrids. Most are either epiphytes or lithophytes and are highly adaptable to different environments. They are found on every continent except Antarctica. One species in Australia lives and blooms totally underground. He stated that there are a number of mechanisms that orchids in the wild pollination have to make certain they are pollinated. These include pseudoantagonism, pseudocopulation, fragrance and the promise of food. I thought it was interesting that he mentioned that during the first orchid shows women could not attend as the blooms were considered to erotic. Glad we are not doing that today or we would not have a

show. During hybridization, you get a large number of seeds produced, with each one being genetically unique. With cloning, each plant will be genetically identical. He suggests you watch your orchids for bugs (aphids, mealy bugs, scale and spider mites) and treat with 70% rubbing alcohol right from the bottle. You can either spray it on or put a Q-Tip in the alcohol and then touch the bug with the wet Q-Tip. After the alcohol has dried, spray the bugs off the plant and the water will also rehydrate the plant. You can also use Neem Oil and as a last resort use a systemic insecticide. If you see ants near you plants they might be carrying the bugs around to you need to

stop them He suggests putting a solution of boric acid and sugar water near where the ants are and they will take it back to the colony and the liquid will poison the other ants plus the queen of the colony. Only make a solution with about 10% boric acid because if it is too strong, the any will die before it gets back to the colony.

Orchid seeds are very light and can easily blow around in the wild. But, very few will germinate and survive in the wild. The orchid seed needs to gets all its nourishment from the surrounding environment.

Five Cities Orchid Society
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Orchid Calendar

Dates	Event	Location	Comments
Thursday, April 10 7:30 PM	FCOS Monthly Meeting	AG Women's Club, Arroyo Grande	We will be hosting Jim Sloniker who has been the head AOS judge at many of our annual shows. His topic has not yet been determined .
Saturday April 19	Gold Coast Cymbidium Growers Orchid Show and Sale	San Mateo Garden Center, 605 Parkside Way, San Mateo, CA	See some of the most beautiful cymbidiums in Northern California on display. Unique and rare orchids for sale for 1 day only. More info at www.geocities.com/GoldCoastCymbidium Growers .
May 3-4 (Saturday and Sunday)	Carmel Orchid Society MayFaire Orchid Show and Sale	American Tin Cannery, 125 Ocean View Blvd, Pacific Grove, CA	Across from the Monterey Bay Aquarium. Open 9am-5pm on Saturday and 10am-4pm on Sunday. Free admission. More info at their website www.carmelorchidsociety.org .
May 9-11 (Friday through Sunday) Mother's Day Weekend	Orchid Society of California Orchid Sale	Lakeside Garden Center (Lake Merritt), 666 Bellevue, Oakland, CA	Potting Demos, Plant Doctor, Educational Display. Free Admission. Friday noon-6pm, Saturday and Sunday 10am-5pm. More info at www.OrchidSocietyofCalifornia.com .