



August 2006

Newsletter

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

Our Next Meeting

Our regular meeting will be held on Thursday July 10th starts at 7:30 PM and will feature guest speaker Michael Glickbarg from Orchids of Los Osos. Michael has operated his nursery in the same Los Osos location for years, raising a wide variety of different genera and in the process winning a number of AOS awards, including at least one coveted First Class Certificate.

Eric remembers attending the Santa Barbara Show and seeing these long, arching spikes of slipper orchids, each one carrying several flowers of gargantuan size in purple, green, and black, far outshining the nearest competition. Michael was the grower, and this type of orchid--Multifloral Paphiopedilums--is the subject of a new program he has recently put together. He will be showing slides of the array of species and hybrids available, and discussing which ones make good choices for the hobby grower. Cultural tips will be included-- so we can produce the next ribbon winners.

Michael will be supplying the plant table and promises to bring a wide variety of orchid types for the plant table, with a minimum half in bloom or spike.

Our volunteer Treat Fairies for July will be Edie Schneider and Betsy Ehrler

President's Corner - Chris Ehrler

The show committee recently met and after a lot of discussions decided on the 2007 FCOS Show Theme. The name and the person who suggested the winning name will be announced at the August meeting. That person will receive a \$50 gift certificate supplied by SLO Gardens Orchids in AG. The owner Rudy Bachmann an FCOS member donated this certificate for the second year in a row. THANKS AGAIN RUDY. If you are interested in visiting his nursery give him a call at 489-3319 or at least check out his website at www.slogardens.com to get an idea of his wide selection of great plants. The show committee also has begun to figure out how to make our next show better and the 2006 show.

The leaders of the 2007 show committee are: the overall show coordinator is Eric Holenda, the operations coordinator is Rosemary Bradshaw, and the preview event coordinator is Bonnie Werring. If you are interested in learning more about the show and are willing to help in the planning, please contact Eric.

Thanks to Ann Bachmann for taking over the task of raffle ticket sales at our meeting. As you might recall I asked for someone to take over this job in our last newsletter and Anne was gracious enough to lend a hand.

Membership Renewal Notice

June was our annual membership renewal month. If you have not already paid for your membership renewal please bring a check or cash (\$20 per family) to cover your annual membership dues and give it to Peggy Bozem or Christina Holenda at our next meeting. If you can't attend, please mail in your dues to the society's PO Box. If you joined FCOS at this year's show, your dues are current until June 2007.

Editor's Corner - Chris Ehrler

FCOS is still looking for someone to become the new newsletter editor so if you have some expertise with the compute and are willing to help please contact Chris. It is actually easy but we need someone that has some time to help the society out.

Orchids 101 - Danny Stocks

Orchids 101 will begin in September with a discussion of planting mixes. Danny Stocks has volunteered to coordinate this program and will be trying to set up the next few months classes during our August meeting so if you have topics you would like discussed make sure you talk with Danny.

Summary of the FCOS July meeting - Chris Ehrler

At the July meeting we co-hosted Brian and Phena Gerhard from Down Under Native Orchids with the Cabrillo Orchid Society. Brian discussed the genus *Sarcochilus*. The following is a short summary of some of the items I found most interesting. This group grows better in a pot than as a mounted plant. They are difficult to hybridize as the pollen and stigmatic surfaces are very small. Some will form pods but will not have any seeds develop. The leaves are the plants water storage units so do not let *Sarcochilus* dry out, as it will damage the plant. Brian grows his under about 80% shade. They need good air circulation. They can take morning sun but no direct sun after about 1PM. He uses a treated pine bark as the main ingredient for this genus. If you are using bark, he suggested treating it prior to use. Add 1 cup dolomite of lime and 1 cup 30-10-10 fertilizer to about 10-15 gallons of water and then submerges the bark in this mix for about 3-7 days. Then dump out the water the let it dry before use. He treats his bark in a similar fashion and it turns black in color. Brian says the treated bark will last for 8-10 years. The treatment is to help remove the tannins that are in the bark. He uses pots that have good drainage plus they have a cone in the center so the mix does not stay too wet. Brian does not suggest using charcoal in your mix as it tends to hold salts that can damage your orchid roots. He uses a mixture of treated pine bark and pebbles. He does not use diatomite as it holds too

much water. Brian suggested that you sieve out the fine material before using the bark. He uses an 8-5-25 fertilizer with no urea. The native Australian orchids do not need high nitrogen content and stated that orchids grown with a high nitrogen concentration will have thinner leaves and be more prone to bacterial infection. In summer he waters every 23

days and then in the winter every 7-10 days. If you cut off part of a leaf due to bacterial infection he suggests dipping a Q-tip into Listerine and rubbing the Listerine Q-tip along the cut edge of the leaf. Listerine is an astringent and will effectively seal off the cut edge.

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Orchid Calendar

Dates	Event	Location	Comments
Thursday August 10th 7:30pm	FCOS Meeting	AG Woman's Club 211 Vernon Street Arroyo Grande	Michael Glickbarg who owns Orchid of Los Osos will be discussing Multifloral Paphiopedilums. He will be showing slides of many species and hybrids, including which ones make good choices for the hobby grower. Cultural tips will be included.
Sat., Sept 18, 2006	The ABC of Orchids.	Lompoc, CA	The first Orchid Expo on the Central Coast. Learn about what AOS judges are looking for during their judging process.
Fri - Sun Oct 20 -22, 2006	All Hallowed Orchids, the Southland Orchid Show	Huntington Library and Botanical Gardens, San Marino, CA	Exhibits by southern California orchid societies and international orchid growers displaying tropical collections. Lectures and show and tell on Saturday and Sunday included with Huntington admission. For information: at www.orchidshow.org