



## December 2009 Newsletter

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

### **Our Next Meeting**

Our December meeting will be the now famous or infamous potluck and silent auction. The society will be providing Christmas ham and it is up to us, the members, to supply the rest of our Christmas feast. Bring your favorite potluck dish. As is the tradition, we do not assign what you bring. If everyone brings salads then we eat salad. If everyone brings desserts, we eat dessert. Just bring something you like. Besides a potluck item, everyone needs to bring their own place setting and something to drink. We do not have alcohol insurance so please leave it at home. If you have a flowering plant you want to use as a table centerpiece, please bring it. We will make sure it does not get put in the auction. I really enjoy our potlucks because it gives everyone a chance to talk and get to know each other a little better. Our regular meetings are usually so rushed trying to get everything done by 10pm that we do not get to socialize. If you haven't attended a meeting for a while, this is your invitation. Please come. The potluck will start at 6:30 pm on December 10, which is an hour earlier than our regular meetings.

The other part of the meeting, and just as exciting, is the silent auction. This is one of our major fundraisers for the year so please partake. If you have too many orchids for your growing area, want to reduce your orchid collection, or have divisions that you want to donate to FCOS, bring them to the meeting and we will auction them off. All we ask is that you fill out a bid sheet, which we will have at the dinner and leave the rest to us. It won't be an auction if no one bids so bring your checkbook and bid high and often.

### **President's Message (Danny Stocks)**

This is my favorite time of the year. Not because of the holidays but because the days are getting shorter and my orchids start blooming. The work that was put in during the spring and summer is paying off now with flowers. Feeding and watering in the long summer days added the new growths that are now producing flowers. Every year I get a little better at growing. This year I have many different types of orchids blooming all at the same time. Right now I have a Bulbophyllum, a Pluerothallis, a Zygopetalum, several Vandas, Cattleyas, Masdevallias, Epidendrums and of course Cymbidiums blooming all at the same time. It is the first time I have had so many different varieties of orchids blooming at once. I am in heaven. Thank you to everyone in the Five Cities

Orchid Society because my success is due to you. The things I have learned from our meetings and from the people in the club are direct reflections of my success.

The show committee has been working hard all year for this years show. For the first time we will have preview tickets available for purchase at the potluck as well. They make the perfect Christmas gift for that orchid lover in your family. And, if you are the only orchid lover in your family, treat yourself. You deserve it.

Lastly, dues are due. Our annual dues are due January 1. They can be paid at the meeting or through the FCOS web sight.

### **November Meeting Summary**

Ron Parsons showed slides from his April 2009 trip to Crete to the FCOS members at the November meeting. Crete is the largest of the Greek islands being 120 miles long by only 15 miles wide at its narrowest. The island has a large number of habitat types, from low coastal areas to high snow capped mountains. There is chaparral area similar to areas in California that have large numbers of orchids, which is not similar to what we see in California. They were able to see 33 different species in 10 days and did this all by traveling without a guide. Christina Holenda stated that Crete is recognized as having the cleanest atmosphere in the world. Ron showed many slides of the orchids and other local plants growing on Crete, including bee orchids, man-bearing orchids, tongue orchids, and pyramid orchids. A few of the orchids are only found on Crete but most have a wider distribution, living in many area of Europe. The ones with wider distributions are genetically similar to each other.

### **AOS Corner**

The **American Orchid Society** has Members Meetings twice a year, once in the spring and then in the fall. These events are open to any orchid lover to attend. Think about going to the next one, which is in Oklahoma City from April 28 – May 2, 2010. You can obtain information under "Events" at the AOS web site or at <http://www.2010aosshow.oosorchids.org/> At each of these meetings the AOS has been hosting Town Hall meetings where they have been answering questions from membership in a public setting. Let me share a couple of the questions and answers from the recent California town hall meeting.

**Q. How is the AOS doing financially?** Answer: The organization is struggling and has cut its expenses in every instance that it can. The staff has been dramatically cut back. Also several fundraising campaigns have been initiated including the Garden Committee's "Save the Garden" campaign and the Development Committee has asked for donations from Trustees, Committee Chairs and Committee Members. Also the Development Committee, along with the Affiliated Society Committee, has asked for financial assistance from Affiliated Orchid Societies. If we all pull together we can make it through this difficult financial time.

**Q. Have we absolutely concluded we can't unload the headquarters?** Answer: If AOS can attract enough people to the facility we are better off having it open. It provides positive cash flow. It also provides the means for AOS members to have reciprocal membership to over 200 other gardens around the world. The headquarters was paid for by donations from several generous AOS supporters.

If you have a burning question for the AOS leadership, come to a Town Hall meeting—you're sure to get your answers there! Or you can email me and I will get an answer to you: [affiliated\\_societies@aos.org](mailto:affiliated_societies@aos.org)

**AOS is on Facebook!**

If you're an avid user of Facebook or a newbie, just getting started, be sure to join the American Orchid Society's Facebook Membership Page. It was set up to create a forum for discussion, questions and news all about the national

headquarters and affiliate organizations of AOS. People from New Hampshire to Florida are already members, sharing their orchid-related news.

Just log-on to your Face book account (or create one at [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com); it's free and easy!), then in the Search box, type in "American Orchid Society.." Click on the icon with two, blue people on it, indicating a **Membership** page. Once you're in, become a Member and join the conversation.

If you have any questions about how to join Facebook or the AOS Membership page, please contact the Page Administrators Carol Holdren of AOS.

**Orchid Calendar**

| <b>Dates</b>  | <b>Event</b>  | <b>Location</b>                                     | <b>Comments</b>   |
|---------------|---|---|---|
| December 2    | Santa Maria Orchid Society Potluck & Silent Auction | Santa Maria Vets Hall<br>313 Tunnel St              | 6:30 pm<br>Bring salad, vege or dessert along with place setting<br>Ham and drinks provided             |
| December 10   | FCOS Potluck & Silent Auction                       | AG Women's Club, Arroyo Grande                      | 6:30 pm<br>Bring salad, vege or dessert along with place setting and your drink<br>Ham will be provided |
| March 12-14   | Santa Barbara Int'l Orchid Show                     | Santa Barbara Fair Grounds                          |   |
| March 26 - 28 | Five Cities Orchid Society 2010 Orchid Show         | South County Regional Center<br>800 West Branch, AG | Fri, 26 <sup>th</sup> Preview Reception<br>Sat 27 <sup>th</sup> 9-5pm<br>Sun 28 <sup>th</sup> 10-5pm    |