



February 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 February 21 at the Arroyo Grande Fire Station. The Women's Club is always unavailable for the month of February. The meeting agenda will focus on the final touches for the show. Our meeting will be in the upstairs meeting room of the fire station at 140 Traffic Way in Arroyo Grande. Parking is off of Station Way. We will not have a speaker. We will not have a plant table but if you have one or two in bloom that you want to share please bring them along.

President's Message

I love this time of year. This is the time of year that if my orchids are going to bloom, they spike. I love the anticipation of which ones are going to spike. Many of the orchids I have purchased were small to keep their cost down. So I have never seen them bloom. I have realized a couple of things by doing this. First you get what you pay for. Second the smaller the plant, the harder it is to take care of. And third the blossoms may not look like what is expected. I am a novice orchid grower. I feel I successful if I can get a plant to bloom. It really doesn't matter what the flower looks like, it is gratification to know that I got it to bloom. There are members of the club that are not novices they are past just trying to get a plant to bloom. They are trying to get many spikes per plant and many blooms per spike. They still watch their plants with anticipation. The reason I joined the club was I loved orchids and knew they could be difficult to grow. I needed a way to get advice from people that knew what they were doing. We are very fortunate to have members that will freely share their knowledge with anyone who asks. I really enjoyed our last meeting. Eric's presentation on how to better show your plants was great. I really do not plan on showing plants in the near future but the presentation gave me the opportunity to ask questions about how I could better grow the plants I have. One of the great things of this hobby is that it can be as simple or as complex

as you want. As you mature into the hobby, it does not get boring. No matter how much you know or how long you have grown orchids you can still challenge yourself. Everyone is at different places in their orchid growing experience. It was nice to have a forum where we could freely ask specific questions on how to improve our orchid growing. Orchids 101 was another forum where we could ask and learn about specific things to improve our growing ability. I really miss it. For the new members, Orchids 101 was a short 15-minute meeting before the regular meeting geared specifically towards novice growers addressing basic orchid growing. Things like temperature, light, growing mediums, and fertilizers were discussed. I am still looking for someone to schedule speakers for Orchids 101. It is not difficult. You could actually schedule 4 months of Orchids 101 by talking to the more experienced growers at a single meeting. If anyone is interested in taking this on please talk to me at one of our meetings. This would be a good thing for a new member because they could schedule the topics on subjects they had questions about.

The show is coming if you are ready or not. The show committee has worked hard since the last show to bring us the new show, Orchid Carnival. It is now up to us to help make the show a success. The planning is done and now manpower is needed to succeed. There will be something for everyone to do. Right now we need help selling tickets to the preview night. It is a fun night of wine, hors d'oeuvres, and first crack at what the vendors have to offer. Have your friends come and make it a party. Have your work buy tickets to reward outstanding employees. Use your imagination. The expenses have been paid and if we do not sell the tickets we may lose a bundle of money.

Hope to see you at the February meeting. Danny

Barb Walsh has completed the FCOS Interim Member Directory. You should have received it electronically with this newsletter. Hardcopies will be available at our meeting.



Trisetella hoejerei



Cymbidium Robert Pink Cloud x Regal Ruby
Pink Princess

Five Cities Orchid Society
P.O. Box 1066
Grover Beach, CA 93483-1066

Orchid Calendar

Dates	Event	Location	Comments
Thursday, February 21 7:30 PM	FCOS Monthly Meeting	Arroyo Grande Fire Station, 140 Traffic Way, Arroyo Grande	The meeting will focus on the final touches for the show. Please come and help with the final planning for our annual show.
Feb 29- Mar 2, 2008	Pacific Orchid Exposition	Fort Mason Center, San Francisco, CA	San Francisco Orchid Society - Show Theme is ORCHIDS GONE WILD show. More info at www.orchidsanfrancisco.org .
Feb 29- Mar 2, 2008	63rd Annual Santa Barbara International Orchid Show	Earl Warren Showgrounds, Santa Barbara, CA	Hours are 8:30-5 each day. Show Theme is ORCHID FEVER. More info at http://www.sborchidshow.com . Admission \$10.
March 8-9, 2008	FCOS Show and Sale	South County Regional Center	Our Show Theme is "Orchid Carnival". More details in the newsletter. Don't forget the Friday night preview with proceeds to the Alzheimer's Association of the Central Coast.
March 8-9, 2008	Golden Gate Cymbidium Society	Lakeside Garden Center, Oakland, CA	Show Theme is Kaleidoscope of Orchids. 19 th annual show and sale. Free Admission. For more info call 510-276-2851
March 7-9, 2008	Malihini Orchid Show and Sale	Cupertino Square, 10123 North Wolfe Rd., Cupertino, CA	2008 Annual Show and Sale. Free Admission. See www.malihini.org .