



## February 2010 Newsletter

<b>Affiliations</b> American Orchid Society The Orchid Digest	<b>Proud Supporter of</b> Alzheimer's Association 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: Larry Vierheilig, Scott St. Clair and Kathy Phelan</b>	
<b>Newsletter Editor: Anne Bachmann</b>	

### **Our Next Meeting (Eric Holenda)**

Our February meeting will be our annual Show Organizing meeting. STEP 1: We will have stacks of our 2010 poster and quarter sheet handouts on hand. Your help is needed to distribute them. STEP 2: Bonnie will have tickets available for the Friday Night Preview. Take some, sell them to friends, neighbors, and those who owe you Big Time. A limited number of discount Friday Night worker tickets will also be available. STEP 3: We will be passing around the volunteer worker signup sheet to help with the show on Saturday or Sunday. Put your name in the time slot you can help us.

The Show is, after all, about orchids, so we'll spend some time covering what you will need to do to get your orchids ready to display in the Show. I know this is not the most entertaining event we offer, but this meeting is what makes the show work, so take the time to come out and help make the show happen.

Bring your blooming plants for Show and Tell.

**EXTRA! -- For a little fun, we'll be raffling off a gorgeous pink and white pendulous Cymbidium in a 6" pot with SIX spikes in bloom. The only way to get tickets? Sign up on the volunteer sheet.**

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

I hope the new year is bringing everyone happiness. This is the time of year that I enjoy the most because of two things: my orchids are in bloom and there are orchid shows to go to. Our next meeting will be at the Arroyo Grande Fire Station. For the month of February every year there is a talent show at the Women's Club so the building is unavailable. The meeting will be at the regular time 7:30. The address for the fire station is 130 Station Way, Arroyo Grande. It is across the street from Miner's Hardware. I hope to see everyone there at this important meeting. Eric's part of the newsletter will explain why it is important to attend.

If you haven't paid your dues for the year, it is time. We are going to try to produce an address book similar to the one produced in 2005 with the member's names and numbers in it. It will have only the names of the members that have paid by the March meeting. We will try to have it out by the April meeting.

### **January Meeting Summary (Chris Ehrler)**

FCOS hosted Nick and Cathy Tannaci at the January 2010 meeting. Nick has been growing *Brachypetalum* and *Parvisepalum* sections of the Lady Slipper family for the last 36 years and is the owner of Nick Tannaci Orchids in Watsonville. *Brachys* are compact plants with very roundish flowers on short stems, usually white to yellow, often overlaid with various patterns of maroon spots or stripes. *Parvis* includes many of the amazing new species that were discovered in China in the 1980's. Among other professionals, Nick is regarded as the best in the country in his field. His website is [www.tannaci.com](http://www.tannaci.com). He showed a large number of slides of the various species and hybrids that make up these groups. There was interesting discussion about what is a complex hybrid with the final definition for the evening being that they were plants that were 2-3 generations away from the species parents. Nick stated that making a new successful hybrid is about 5% science and 95% luck. He also stated that before the Chinese species were found, that most of these orchids only had white blooms. The Japanese are breeding in these groups mainly for color and not for size.

He said that it takes about 6 month for the seed pods to mature with the first blooms showing up after 5-7 years later. He grows his plants between 65-85 °F, with humidity between 65 and 100. He fertilizes with 30-10-10 one out of every three watering at 50-75% of the recommended dose. When he fertilizes, he first waters with regular water, then 30 minutes later he re-waters using his fertilizer solution. His next watering will be before the roots dry out so that the fertilizer salts will not flushed from the pot before they dry on the roots. He waters with 68 °F temperature water. He always finishes his water before 10AM so that the orchids will be dry at night to decrease the risk of bacterial infections. His planting media is composed of 70% fine fir bark, 10% #20 sand, 10% charcoal, and 10% #3 perlite or lava rock. He says this media last 2 years for him before it is time to transplant. Prior to using this mix he puts the bark into hot water and then adds the sand so the bark is coated with it before he plants the orchids.

### **Upcoming Events (Eric Holenda)**

The Santa Barbara Show is March 12 - 14, " Nature in Harmony ". FCOS will again be putting in a 10' x 10' display jointly with Santa Maria. If you have ideas for a display utilizing this theme or would like to help setup in Santa Barbara, contact Eric at 929-5749

[Dan](#)). [Spend some time there and then call it a day. It would be a good idea to carpool as much as possible due to parking limitations at Bob and Dan's place. Additionally, an invitation has been extended to Santa Maria Orchid Society as well as Five Cities Orchid Society members to join the event.](#)

The Santa Maria Society has organized a tour of the Cymbidium grower in Los Alamos, Chisan Orchid Company. The tour is Thursday, April 1, 1:00 pm. Again contact Eric if you're interested.

[Lompoc Orchid Society has planned a field trip to SLO Gardens and to Asbell Orchids, Saturday, February 20. The current plan is to arrive at SLO Gardens \(Rudy and Anne\) around 9:30 – 10:00 am. Checkout Rudy's place and see what is growing and blooming. Brown bag lunch \(bring your own lunch\) at Rudy's and then head to Asbell Orchids \(Bob and](#)

### Orchid Calendar

Dates	Event	Location	Comments
02/11/10	FCOS Monthly Meeting	Arroyo Grande Fire Station 130 Station Way Across from Miner's Hardware	07:30:00 PM
02/20/10	Lompoc Field Trip	SLO Gardens & Asbell Orchids	Starting at 9:30 – Details above
02/26-28/10	2010 Pacific Orchid Exposition	Fort Mason San Francisco	<a href="http://www.orchidssanfrancisco.org">www.orchidssanfrancisco.org</a>
03/12-14/10	Santa Barbara Int'l Orchid Show	Santa Barbara Fair Grounds	9-5 pm <a href="http://www.sborchidshow.com">www.sborchidshow.com</a>
03/26-28/10	Five Cities Orchid Society 2010 Orchid Show	South County Regional Center 800 West Branch, AG	Fri, 26 <sup>th</sup> Preview Reception Sat 27 <sup>th</sup> 9-5pm Sun 28 <sup>th</sup> 10-5pm
04/01/10	Santa Maria Society Tour	Chisan Orchid Company Lompoc	01:00:00 PM
07/10-11/10			