



# January 2007

# Newsletter

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

## Our Next Meeting

**Orchids 101.** This month Eric Holenda will discuss plant fertilizers. As you have probably seen there are lots of different types on the market and Eric will try to give us the info we need to make informed decisions of the what, where, how (often) and why's of fertilizers. Do not forget that this class will start at 7 pm.

**Regular Meeting:** Our regular meeting will be on January 11th at 7:30 pm. Our speaker will be Nick Tannaci who is a professional grower from the SF Bay Area specializing in growing *Brachypetalum Paphiopedilums*. For those not up on the lingo, they are those compact, round little ladyslippers, usually whites or yellow, often with maroon to purple spots, dots, or speckles. They grow easily and are quick to mature and bloom.

Nick spoke to us two years ago on general Paph culture and this time he promises a new topic. He will be providing the plant table. Dinner is unconfirmed at this time. We will send an email if we are having one, or call Eric at 929-5749 as we get closer to the meeting.

The meeting treat fairies are Laurie Vierheilg and Ann Bachmann.

## President Corner – Chris Ehrler

I would like to start off on a sad note. Nancy Asbell, the wife of FCOS member Bob Asbell recently passed away. Many members of the local orchid societies will miss Nancy. Our hearts and thoughts are with Bob and his family.

I hope that during 2007 we will all be able to improve our skills at growing the fantastic plants know as orchids. Do not forget to attend our meetings and shows as you can always learn new information that hopefully will allow you to refine your growing techniques.

I would personally like to thank Eric, Christina, Larry, and Laurie for setting up and taking down the FCOS display at the Orchid Society of Santa Barbara's recent show. Although this show is small in size there were many beautiful plants on display. FCOS is looking for folks that would be interested in helping with show setup and take down for our upcoming display at the mid-March 2007 Santa Barbara International Orchid show. We will probably be setting up the display on Wednesday March 14, 2007, so if you are available to help please let one of the board members know.

Thanks to everyone who brought along the great food to our December potluck. I am sure no one went home hungry. I am very thankful to those that donated plants and other

items to the silent auction. There was some spirited bidding on a number of the plants. We generated a total of \$567 that evening from the auction.

If you have not attended a LARGE first class orchid show, there are two upcoming ones that I recommend you try to attend. The 55th Annual San Francisco Orchid Society's Pacific Orchid Exposition (POE) will be held February 15-18 at the Fort Mason Center's Festival Pavilion in San Francisco. It is estimated that there will be 100,000 orchids in many colors, shapes and sizes showcased at this show, and promises one of the most diverse selections of orchids in the country. More than 50 orchid nurseries will display and sell orchids from around the world. In addition, hundreds of award winning orchids, judged by the American Orchid Society (AOS), will be on display. Named one of the top three orchid shows in the country, the POE offers something for everyone. They have a Gala Benefit Preview, Thursday, February 15, 2007, 6:30–10:00 pm (cost \$35) with normal show hours being Friday, February 16, 10 am–6 pm, Saturday, February 17, 9 am –6 pm, and Sunday, February 18, 10:00 am–5:00 pm. General admission is \$12.00, seniors (65+), disabled are \$8.00, with children 12 and under being free when accompanied by an adult, except at the Gala Benefit Preview.

The second LARGE show I would like to highlight is the 62<sup>nd</sup> Santa Barbara International Orchid Show that will be held from March 16-18, 2007 (two weeks before our FCOS show). The show will take place at the Earl Warren Showgrounds in Santa Barbara. The show will be open to the public from 9 am until 5 pm on Friday through Sunday, with admission cost being about \$10. The show theme is "ORCHID'S GONE WILD". The overall size of this show is smaller than the San Francisco show, but it is also a lot closer to home, and FCOS will have a display in the SB show. Many of the orchid vendors will be at both the SF and SB shows. If you are interested in helping with either setting up or taking down the FCOS display you will get to see the show early and will also receive a pass that allows you to get into the show for free on any day.

## Orchid Judging

Some of you are relatively new to growing orchids and might be interested in knowing something about orchid judging. Ribbon judges or American Orchid Society judges generally judge the orchids on display at a show. There might also be judging by the Cymbidium Society of America (CSA) judges. This month I would like to discuss some of

the awards given by AOS judges. You might have seen some letters followed by “/AOS” on some of your plant tags and wondered what they meant. AOS judges have given an award or certificate to that plant or its parents at either a show or judging center. They are looking for outstanding plants that they compare to a hypothetical standard of perfection. Each judged plant is given a point score. Any orchid species or hybrid given a score of 90 point or more is awarded a First Class Certificate (FCC). If it receives 80-89

points it is awarded an Award of Merit (AM) and a plant with a score of 75-79 is awarded a Highly Commended Certificate (HCC). There are a variety of other awards and certificates given by AOS judges, and they will be discussed in future newsletters. Next time you are buying an orchid, check the tag to see if the plant’s parents might have received an award from the AOS. Ribbon judging will be discussed in next month’s newsletter.

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### Orchid Calendar

Dates	Event	Location	Comments
Thursday January 11, 2007	FCOS Monthly Meeting	AG Woman’s Club 211 Vernon Street Arroyo Grande	Orchids 101: Eric Holanda will talk on fertilizers starting at 7 pm.. Our regular meeting will begin at 7:30 pm and we will be hosting Nick Tannaci who will discuss various aspects of Paphiopedilum culture.
Friday-Sunday February 15-18 2007.	55th Annual San Francisco Orchid Society’s POE	Fort Mason Center’s Festival Pavilion in San Francisco	Named one of the top three orchid shows in the country. A large number of orchids will be on display and there will be a wide variety of orchids and supplies being sold by many US and international vendors.
Friday-Sunday March 16-18, 2007.	62 <sup>nd</sup> Santa Barbara International Orchid Show	Earl Warren Showgrounds in Santa Barbara	FCOS will have display at this show. Lots of plants will be on display and many US and international vendors will be selling a wide variety of orchids and supplies.
Saturday-Sunday March 30-April 1 2007	FCOS 2007 Show	South County Regional Center, Arroyo Grande	The show theme is “Orchid Treasures”. Show will be judged by judges from the American Orchid Society (AOS) and the Cymbidium Society of America (CSA)