



# July 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

Thursday July 12th is the date for our annual FCOS BBQ Potluck and Silent Auction. Setup is at 6:30pm with dining commencing at 7:00pm. FCOS will provide Chicken and Beef Tri-Tip BBQ'd to perfection (hopefully). Members should bring a salad, hors d'oeuvre, side dish, or dessert to share. Attendees should provide their own table service and beverages. We do not have alcohol insurance so please leave it at home.

After dinner and prior to the silent auction we will have our elections for key FCOS board positions. Remember it is not too late to get your name on the ballot for President or Vice President.

After the elections, we will have our silent auction. This is a major fundraiser for FCOS and helps keep the cost of our dues low. Please make donation of extra orchids or ones that have not grown well for you or orchid related items. It is also a good time to divide and repot your healthy plants, bringing the divisions for sale. It's also an excellent time to expand your orchid collection by being the highest bidder on choice plants you don't currently own. Remember if you bid on items, you should stick around for the close of bidding, so you can collect and pay for all plants or items where you are the successful bidder.

## President Corner – Chris Ehrler

It's time to pay your dues! Yes, bring along a check for \$20 and help FCOS have another year of great speakers and entertainment.

Don't forget to get Chris your suggested theme names for next year's orchid show. Deadline for theme names is 9 PM on Friday, July 13th. The person that comes up with the winning name will receive a \$50 gift certificate to SLO Gardens Orchids in Arroyo Grande. The nursery owners, FCOS members Rudy and Anne Bachmann, volunteered this certificate again this year. Don't forget to thank them for this great contribution.

## Summary of the June meeting presentation

Our presentation was by our own Larry, Eric and Jeffrey. We found out that they combined have been growing orchids for over 80 years. During the presentation and discussion period they passed on a variety of good suggestions and hints that should help us all grow our orchids more successfully. I have included some of the main point of interest.

When transplanting use smaller bark/coconut husk and perlite with orchids that have thin diameter roots and larger

grade bark/coconut husk and perlite with orchids that have larger diameter roots. Plus after transplanting your orchids they need more TLC in the way of misting more often until they are re-established.

During transplanting if you separate the plant into two or more plants by cutting the growths apart you should treat the cut areas. If the cut is below the new level of your growing medium, dust on a thin layer of Rootone to stimulate new root growth. If the cut will be above the medium level, you should spray on a thin layer of regular cinnamon. A thick layer of cinnamon can cause rotting of the area near the cut. Cinnamon decreases the chance of bacterial infection. It was suggested that if you have a large number of orchids you should plan on buying a large container of cinnamon.

When transplanting, cut or pull off all the dead black to grey mushy roots. It was suggested that you transplant your Paphs every six months. Paphs will continue to produce new roots even if you transplant when they are in bloom. Paphs like to have a moist but not soggy wet medium. Miltoniopsis also respond well to transplanting by putting out many new roots.

A plant that is growing well should have a good roots structure. If you un-pot your orchid and there are lots of roots and they hold the growing medium together your orchid is happy, so just slip it back into the pot. But, if the medium falls away from the roots and the roots are not whitish you should think about transplanting ASAP and attempt to get some healthy roots, as your orchid will grow well without a healthy root system.

A cymbidium with Orchid Fleck Virus was brought in so that everyone could see how it changes the leaf color. If you have this or any other virus you should discard the plant right away as it can be transferred between the orchids in your collection by either insects or by you. Suggested methods to eliminate the possible transfer of virus between orchids were either use a new clean single blade on an individual plant and then throw the blade away or to sterilize your cutting tool between cutting on different plants. As you cut a leaf or bloom from a virused orchid, the juice from this plant can be transferred to the next orchid you cut with this tool if it is not sterilized first. Ways to sterilize your cutting implements include soaking in a concentrated solution of TSP (trisodium phosphate – can be purchased at the hardware store), or a 1:10 solution of household bleach, or use the heat of the flame from a propane torch. The use of

household 70% rubbing alcohol will not kill plant viruses. It was also noted that bleach has a shelf life of only about 6 months so if you do not use it often do not buy the large size as it might have lost its potency by the time you use it.

If you think you have a spider mite infestation, use a magnifying lens to see if they are living on the underside of the leaf. You can also rub the underside of the possible infected leaf on a white sheet of paper and if you see red streaks on the paper you can be sure you have an infection.

To kill the offending bugs, it was suggested to spray with neem oil every seven days over a three-week period to kill the mites. Neem oil makes the plant distasteful to any sucking bugs. Neem oil has a unique smell so if you want to treat orchids you have growing inside your house you should spray them outside in the shade and then let the spray dry before bringing them back into the house.

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### Orchid Calendar

Dates	Event	Location	Comments
Thursday July 12, 2007	FCOS Monthly Meeting	AG Woman's Club 211 Vernon Street, AG	Annual FCOS BBQ Potluck and Silent Auction. Setup is at 6:30pm with dining commencing at 7:00pm,
July 13-15, 2007	Santa Barbara Orchid Estate Orchid Fair	Earl Warren Show Grounds Santa Barbara	Over 50 orchid vendors from around the world. Admission is FREE but parking costs \$5/vehicle. Fri-Sat from 9AM-5PM and Sun from 10AM-4PM. More info at <a href="http://www.orchidfair.com">www.orchidfair.com</a> or call 1-800-553-3387.