



# July 2009 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: Frank Madrid, Scott St. Clair and Kathy Phelan</b>	
<b>Newsletter Editor: Anne Bachmann</b>	

## Our Next Meeting (by Eric Holenda)

Thursday July 9th is the date for our annual BBQ Potluck and Silent Auction. Setup is at 6:30pm with dinner beginning at 7:00pm. FCOS will provide tri-tip BBQ'd to perfection (hopefully). Members should bring a salad, 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 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's Message (Danny Stocks)

Hope everyone is looking forward to this month's potluck. The cooking crew is set and ready to prepare mouthwatering tri-tip. It is going to be up to everyone else to fill in the rest. Don't forget this is one of our two fundraisers for the year. We will be having a silent auction for orchid plants that you, the members of our society, donate. So please look at your plants and the ones that you feel like you could live without bring them so that they can find a new home. Also, if you have plants that you can't live without, you could divide them and bring a division so that some one else can have a piece that they can't live without. In any case don't forget to bring your checkbook or cash. And as Chris would say, bid high and bid often.

Dues are now due. Ten dollars for six months or thirty dollars for eighteen months. Peggy will be collecting. While we are enjoying our potluck, we will be holding elections for a new vice-president, treasurer, and 2 directors at large. Anyone willing to hold an office and help shape the direction of the club, feel free to volunteer your nomination at the potluck. The time commitment for these positions is minimal. It is a good chance to step up and help our club's success.

## June Meeting Summary (Chris Ehrler)

Our speaker for the June 2009 meeting was Fred Clarke, owner of Sunset Valley Orchids in Vista, California. His presentation was on *Bulbophyllums*, which is correctly pronounced as bulbo-FILL-um (you will hear this genus pronounced many ways). The media they are grown in must remain constantly moist as their roots absorb moisture very slowly. Their roots only have a thin layer of vellum that are the cells that pick up the water and have evolved to have roots that pick up moisture slowly. In nature, *bulbophyllums* only grow where there is a constant supply of moisture. Fred said that he has found that for his growing conditions they grow best in sphagnum moss, although if they are given enough water they will grow well in bark, coconut husk or even mounted. You will need to transplant about every 2-3 years, but after transplanting, they will undergo a shock for a period of time. They will grow best if they have summer daytime temperatures of 75-90 F and night temperatures of 65-75 F. During the winter it is best to grow them during the day at 70-85 F and at night at 55-60 F. He stated that if the temperature drops below 50 F they will stop growing. They grow best if they get between 1,000 and 1,500 foot candles of light, which is not as bright as *Cattleyas* need. If you grow them in moss, use about 1/8 teaspoon of fertilizer per gallon of water. If you start to get black algae growing on the moss, discontinue using fertilizer and just use water until the algae has died. Then begin fertilizing again. If you are growing your *bulbophyllums* in bark or coconut husk, you can use 1/4 teaspoon of fertilizer per gallon of water. During hot weather in summer, you can use up to 1/2 teaspoon per gallon if growing in bark or husk. Fred showed many photos of the different *bulbophyllum* species and a few hybrids. Some of the species smell good but others have a very bad odor. *Bulbopyllums* need to be large to bloom and generally will not bloom until they are at least 3 years of age. They will not bloom on the most recently developed growth but on the previous growths. The trigger to initiate a bloom spike might be cold nights.

## Santa Barbara Orchid Estate Int'l Orchid Fair

Friday July 10 & Saturday July 11, 2009, 9 AM to 5 PM  
 Sunday July 12, 2009, 10 AM to 4 PM. There will be thirty vendors from around the world, selling orchids and sharing their orchid expertise. Guest author Brazilian Lou Menezes with the world premier of the revised edition of her book "*Laelia purpurata*". A public AOS judging on Saturday. Enjoy the sights and smells of the summer blooming orchids

offered by Fair vendors. Potting and mounting demonstrations by the staff of Santa Barbara Orchid Estate. Held outdoors under shadecloth and canopies on the central lawn of Earl Warren Showgrounds at Highway 101 and Los Positas Road Admission is free, parking is \$5. The web site [www.orchidfair.com](http://www.orchidfair.com) will list 2009 vendors and have last minute updates. Questions? Please call Santa Barbara Orchid Estate at (800) 553-3387 or email [sboe@sborchid.com](mailto:sboe@sborchid.com). Santa Barbara Orchid Estate holds a concurrent open house.

The guest author this year, Lou Menezes, is from Brazil, a noted conservationist for the Brazilian government, and a prolific orchid writer on Brazilian orchids with more than 20 articles published in the Orchid Digest and five specialty books. July is the peak blooming time in Santa Barbara for many Brazilian species. Watch our "Orchid of the Day" ([www.sborchid.com](http://www.sborchid.com)) for pre-Fair offerings of Lou's books

New this year! Public AOS judging on Saturday. Observe how AOS judges screen and evaluate plants for awards. If you have a superior blooming plant you wish to have considered for judging, put it in a non-tippy container and bring it to the AOS booth on Saturday by 11:00 am, to officially register your plant. Plants may be left on display all day but must be picked up by 5 pm, Saturday. The public is invited to watch the judging beginning Saturday at 1:00 pm. Throughout the weekend, AOS representatives will be providing literature about AOS awards and requirements of becoming an AOS judge.

### **AOS Information and News – Susan Taylor**

If you are looking for orchid information - try the American Orchid Society web site at [WWW.AOS.org](http://WWW.AOS.org) Much of the web site, including the forum, is open to everyone. There is a

"Member's Only" section that has great information and we do want you to join the AOS and get our great magazine, *Orchids*, as well as access to that part of the web site, but if you aren't ready for that right now don't hesitate to visit the web site. At the web site under "Orchid Information" there is a place to sign up for a FREE Beginner's Newsletter. And there are also culture sheets. If you give an orchid as a gift it is nice to include a culture sheet with it. You can download those at no charge - FREE. Also your society can download them to give away at shows or at meetings.

The AOS web site lists upcoming shows which is great to check out when you are traveling. The web site also has all of the AOS Affiliated Societies listed along with when they meet and their contact information. If you are an orchid grower you have instant friends all over the world. FREE! Under "Shop" you will find the "Orchid Source Directory" which lists vendors according to area. Now that might cost you something!

One event in particular you might want to plan a trip around are the AOS Members Meetings. The AOS Fall Meeting will be held at the Huntington Botanical Garden outside Los Angeles, CA along with the Southland Orchid Show. The dates are October 15 – 19, 2009.

## **Orchid Calendar**

<b>Dates</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Comments</b>
July 9	FCOS Annual BBQ Potluck & Silent Auction	AG Women's Club, Arroyo Grande	6:30 pm – Dinner 7pm
July 10	Santa Barbara Cymbidium Society meeting	Louise Lowry Davis Center 1232 De la Vina St Santa Barbara	7:30 pm. Lou Menezes will be the speaker on orchids of the Central Brazilian Plateau. Speaker dinner at 5pm at State And a Bar & Grill. Menu – <a href="http://www.stateanda.com">www.stateanda.com</a>
July 10-12	Santa Barbara Orchid Estate Show	Earl Warren Showgrounds	July 10 & 11 – 9 am to 5 pm July 12 – 10 am – 4 pm
Sept 12-13	San Francisco Orchid Society Orchids in the Park	Hall of Flowers County Fair Bldg Golden Gate Park	
Sept 26-27	Fascination of Orchids Fall Show and Sale	South Coast Plaza (NE corner of Bear & Sunflower) Santa Ana	10 am – 5 pm <a href="http://ocorchidshow.com">http://ocorchidshow.com</a> For more info: 949-735-2930
Oct 15-19	AOS Fall Meeting	Huntington Botanical Garden, Los Angeles	