



June 2009 Newsletter

Affiliations American Orchid Society The Orchid Digest	Proud Supporter of Alzheimer's Association of the Central Coast
President: Danny Stocks	Vice President: Eric Holenda
Secretary: Anne Bachmann	Treasurer: Christina Holenda
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Our Next Meeting (by Eric Holenda)

Our June meeting will be a joint meeting with the Cabrillo Orchid Society. Our speaker will be Fred Clarke, owner of Sunset Valley Orchids in Vista, San Diego county. Fred has been growing orchids for 32 years and has been hybridizing for 24 of those years. With over 26 years as a professional grower and manager in the horticultural industry, Fred applies these skills at his orchid nursery; Sunset Valley Orchids, located in San Diego, California.

He is a passionate orchid grower whose curiosity in orchids is broad and varied. Although developing Cattleya hybrids has been his sustaining interest, he is also actively creating new Bulbophyllum and Paphiopedilum hybrids plus some others to be named if they work out! His pioneering work in Catasetum intergeneric hybrids led to the development of several notable hybrids, most recently the grex, Fredclarkeara After Dark, which produced "*the closest flower color to black ever witnessed*". This grex received eight FCC's and four AM's on the first flowers shown for judging. See his website for photos.

Fred is an Accredited Judge in the Pacific South Region. His plants have received hundreds of quality awards from the American Orchid Society.

His talk will cover Bulbophyllums, one of the more unusual groups of orchids. What an amazing group of orchids. Although not widely popular this group deserves some notice. They make good companion plants with Phalaenopsis and Paphiopedilum. They grow fast and the hybrids are outstanding. Want to try something different? Here they are.

He will supply the plant table and also bring any specific plants you wish to buy off his website. Google Sunset Valley Orchids. Fred is one of our "big dollar" speakers, so we urge you all to come out and hear him. He'll also be bringing a high quality plant table.

Call Larry Vierheilg for dinner reservations at the Quarterdeck 5:30p.m. 929-6710.

President's Message (Danny Stocks)

I hope everyone has enjoyed the May flowers because June is all about business. As stated in last months message and at the May meeting we need to elect some new officers. The positions that are up for election are Vice-president, Treasurer, and two members at large. At the last meeting a nominating committee was formed. Thank you Laurie, Bonnie and Chris for taking on the job. If you are interested in any of the positions give me a call or email or get in touch with the nominating committee. We appreciate any help we can get. Elections will be held at the July potluck so mark July 9 on your calendars.

The next item of business is selecting a theme for next year's show. As of today I have not received any suggestions. If you have a suggestion, email it to me by July 4 so that I can compile all the suggestions and give them to the show committee at their July 6 meeting. To make the selection fair, I will list all the suggestions and put them in a list without any names attached. When the show committee selects the theme, I will make an announcement of the show theme and the winners name at the July meeting. The person that suggests the winning theme will receive a gift certificate for SLO Gardens.

We are changing the cycle for membership dues from July through June to January through December. **Membership dues of \$10 are now due for the remaining part this term.** I used the word term because instead of a year we are going to pay \$10 for 6 months. Ours dues will still be \$20 a year. If you want to pay dues for 18 months we will accept a \$30 dollar payment.

The Mid State Fair in Paso has a floriculture competition every year. There is a blooming orchid category. The

plants have to be taken to the fair on July 21 and picked up on August 3. There is no entry fee. The catch is the entry paperwork has to be in by June 15. This would be another way to get the name of our club out into the public. You can get the entry forms online or I will have them at the June meeting. I will have more information at the June meeting so I hope to see everyone there.

May Meeting Summary – Chris Ehrler

The FCOS May speaker was Michael Glikbarg from Orchids of Los Osos. He has won a large number of AOS awards during his years of growing orchids. He spoke about fragrant orchids including *Zygopetalums*, *Sedirea japonica*, *Maxillaria tenuifolia*, and *Miltoniopsis*. *Zygopetalums* that grow well outside in our area along side Cymbidiums.

Zygos are the exception and need less light and are not as tolerant of cold weather (will survive to at least 40 degrees and possibly lower if they are healthy. After they finish blooming in late summer give them a 2-3 week dry rest as this will help in inducing the next inflorescences. They like lots of water during the growing season. Potting mix needs to hold moisture and have good drainage. Michael suggested using equal part of fine and coarse Douglas Fir bark with about 10-15% coarse perlite added. The roots do not like to be disturbed, so try to only repot every other year if needed. Make sure the foliage is dry at night or you could get leaf spots caused by bacteria. If you get them, he suggested cutting off the infected leaf (unless it is the only one or they all are infected then leave them on)

spraying the leaves with Cooke’s Copper fungicide spray for roses. Only use ¼ to ½ teaspoon per gallon of water and spray 2-3 times at 10-14 day intervals. The copper will stop the growth of the bacteria. Can also use tetracycline (purchase at the aquarium store) at the rate of 1 capsule/gallon of water, but he has found this to not be as effective as the fungicide spray. In nature they are found at higher elevations from Mexico into South America.

Sedirea japonica also need cool growing conditions but needs low light. The blooms smell like lemon. Small keikis form after blooming and they can be taken off and planted. They will begin to bloom in 2-3 years. They grow better in pots than mounted as they like to have moist roots. Eric Holenda and Michael suggested watering every 3 days or so depending on the temperature and humidity in your growing area. *Maxillaria tenuifolia* can also be grown with cymbidiums outside in our area. They are fragrant 24 hours/day and smell like coconut. They are native to Belize. If you give them lots of water (within reason) they will grow fast and have larger bulbs. They will grow OK mounted instead of in a pot. Some *Miltoniopsis* are fragrant. They are native to higher elevation in Columbia. They like to be grown in cool condition and have their roots moist especially when they are in bloom. He said that if the blooms wilt due to lack of moisture, that if you then water the plant well the blooms fill not come back, so do not let them dry out.

Orchid Calendar

Dates	Event	Location	Comments
June 11	FCOS Monthly Meeting	AG Women’s Club, Arroyo Grande	7:30 p.m. A joint meeting with Cabrillo Orchid Society
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

