



June 2010 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
Directors at Large: Larry Vierheilg, Scott St. Clair and Kathy Phelan	
Newsletter Editor: Anne Bachmann	

Our Next Meeting (Eric Holenda)

Our June meeting will be our traditional Silent Auction and Potluck. Bring a salad, main or side dish, or a dessert, plus a plate, utensils for yourself, and an appetite. For the silent auction, bring any plants or orchid related items you wish to donate to the club. Then, bring lots of money to bid on the donated items. This is a chance to pick up your dream orchid, often at a bargain.

June is also when we take suggestions for the theme for next year's show. If your theme is selected, you win a \$50 gift certificate from SLO Gardens Orchids in Arroyo Grande. Remember we like themes we can dress up to (or down to) at the Friday night Preview Party. PLUS, keep in mind next year's show will start on April Fool's day. Write your theme suggestion on a piece of paper with your name, and give to president Danny. See you June 10!

April Meeting Summary (Chris Ehrler)

FCOS was pleased to co-host Harry Phillips of Andy's Orchids at the joint May meeting. He stated that there are about 35,000 orchid species with new ones being found every year. Their nursery has about 7,000 species with about _ million plants. His brother Andy has been growing orchids for 41 years. The main thing you need to know to successfully grow an orchid is the environment they need and you need to be a good innkeeper. You can grow any orchid as long as you are willing to adapt your growing conditions to what they need. Do not be afraid to make mistakes, and all good growers have killed many orchids trying to figure out how to grow them under the conditions you can supply to them. If you have an orchid that is growing well but will not bloom, first adjust the amount of light you give it. If it still does not bloom, try changing its growing temperature. If that does not make it bloom, try adjusting the amount of water you give it. If it still does not bloom, give it to someone else (Chris's comment). Andy's Orchids is known for its 'Orchids on a Stick' (mounted). Harry stated that the duration of watering is very important for orchids that are growing mounted instead of in a pot. When you water a mounted orchid you need to drench the orchid and the entire mount many times to make sure the roots have absorbed as much water as they can hold. He referred to this as filling the orchid's gas tank. When roots get wet they actively transport water into the plant. If the leaf is turgid, the orchid probably has enough water. If they are soft, check the roots. If they look OK (fat and plump) then water more, but if they look bad (thin) you should decrease the amount of water you give that orchid. Generally you should water your orchids in the morning so they are dry by evening, but you can water your orchids

in the late afternoon or evening if the air temperature will stay above 55 F. It is best to use rain water or reverse osmosis (RO) water as the orchids will grow and bloom better. They mount orchids on cork bark, tree fern, manzanita, melaluca, cedar shake shingles, and baskets. He suggests trying any type of material. If the roots grow into the material then the plant likes it. He likes using either a Fogg or Water Breaker nozzle when watering. They use 12 pound fishing line for holding the orchid onto the mount when attaching it. They use single edge razor blades for trimming orchids and do not trust any of the techniques for sterilizing cutting implements to kill viruses. Says it is cheap insurance. They use New Zealand moss instead of Chilean for mounting most orchids and uses green moss for those that like to dry out between watering (such as *Laelia anceps*). When using RO water, he suggested adding a small amount of street water to add some buffering capability to the water you will use when fertilizing. Harry stated that, if you trim orchid roots, it basically tells the plant to grow more roots. When adding an orchid to a mount put a small amount of damp moss on the mount, then position the orchid so it will root towards the mounting material, then add more moss over the roots and then carefully wrap the fishing line around the roots and bulbs and make it very secure. It should not move when you are done. IMPORTANT NOTE: You can get respiratory problems if you breathe dry sphagnum moss so always keep it damp when working with it.

President's Message (Danny Stocks)

I would like to say to all the new members and others that attended our last meeting - welcome! It was exciting to see so many new faces. I hope everyone had a good time and is planning on coming to our next meeting which is the summer potluck silent auction. The potluck will start an hour earlier than our normal meeting at 6:30 pm. Last year, if I remember correctly, I forgot to tell everyone it starts earlier so this year I'll say it twice. The potluck starts at 6:30. The potluck works like this: The society provides the meat which is barbecued tri-tip and everyone else brings a potluck item. There is no order to the potluck just bring something you like and would like to share. For most potlucks you are assigned something to bring, but not ours, just bring something you like. It seems there is always a good variety of food so why change the way we do it. It is always fun to see the variety. If everyone brings vegetables, we all have vegetables. If everyone brings desserts, then we all have desserts. You do have to bring your own place settings and drinks. So far there is no one able to help me at the BBQ pit. If anyone would like to help, please give me a call at 481-7511. I can do it myself but it is

easier with two people. Also, ask my family, I am notorious for having the dinner later than planned so some help at the pit will help me stay on schedule.

The second part of the night is the silent auction. This is one of our two annual club fund raisers. Bring plants you no longer want or have divided and enter them in the silent auction. All the money raised by the auction goes into the club's account. The money is then used throughout the year, as well as the membership dues, to provide speakers and plant tables for our meetings. Even if you do not have any plants to donate, bring your money or checkbook because there are always some very nice plants to bid on.

The potlucks are always great meetings to attend because often our regular meetings are so packed with things that we don't get to socialize. The potlucks on the other hand are all about socializing. So bring your questions as well as your appetite. I'll be there about 4:00 pm to get the BBQ going so feel free to come by early. I look forward to seeing you all there.

Upcoming Events

June 12th— 13th Maplethorpe Orchids "Open House Event"
3300 Maplethorpe Lane, Soquel CA. 95076, 10AM - 3 PM. All plants at discounted prices. For information phone 831-462-0257 or email sctagi@yahoo.com

June 23rd – 27th 58th Annual Lompoc Flower Festival - 88th Alpha Club Flower show
June 26, 12-6pm, June 27, 10am-4pm at the Veteran's Memorial Hall located at 100 E Locust. Awards Ceremony, Sunday, June 27,

3:30pm. Ticket prices \$5.00 pre-sale until June 25, \$7.00 at door. Pre-sale tickets through June 25 at Lompoc CofC and Lompoc Valley Festival Association offices, or by reserving with Maxine Scanlon, 736-1645.

July 9th – 11th Annual Santa Barbara Orchid Estate International Orchid Fair

Earl Warren Showground's, 3400 Calle Real, Santa Barbara, CA. (Highway 101 at Las Positas Road). For more information, visit the website: <http://orchidfair.com/>, email to sboe@sborchid.com or call 1-800-553-3387.

More than thirty vendors from around the world, selling orchids, sharing their orchid expertise and telling tall tales about the orchid world. Guest author Rudolf Jenny chatting with visitors and selling his new *Stanhopea* book. Public AOS judging on Friday. 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 Las Positas Roads. Admission is free, parking is \$5.

Orchid Calendar

Date	Event	Location	Comments
06/10/10	FCOS Annual BBQ and silent auction	Arroyo Grande Women's Club	06:30:00 PM
6/23-27/10	Lompoc Flower Festival	Veteran's Memorial Hall 100 E Locust	12-6 pm
7/9-11/10	Santa Barbara Orchid Estate Show	Earl Warren Showgrounds Santa Barbara Fair Grounds	For more info: www.orchidfair.com (800) 553-3387