



# May 2009 Newsletter

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| <b>Affiliations</b><br>American Orchid Society<br>The Orchid Digest       | <b>Proud Supporter of</b><br>Alzheimer's Association<br>of the Central Coast |
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| <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)**

Our May speaker will be Mike Glikbarg of Orchids of Los Osos. The title of his talk yet to be determined. Mike has grown orchids in Los Osos for decades, and grows everything from Amesiella to Zygopetalum. He tends to concentrate on cool growing orchids, many of which will grow outside on the Central Coast. Mike will supply the plant table from his greenhouse. At this time there will not be a dinner before the meeting. We welcome everyone at our meetings. We would like to invite all the people who attended our April orchid show to come to our meetings and learn more about growing orchids.

## **President's Message (Danny Stocks)**

Well the 14<sup>th</sup> annual show is in the books. It was a great show with six AOS awards given out. The displays were marvelous. It was so much fun and I look forward every year for the show weekend. Thanks to everyone who helped made it happen! It is a lot work and cannot be done without everyone's help. On the down side, attendance was down this year and costs were way up. We ended up losing over a thousand dollars this year. That may not sound like very much but for a small club like ours it is huge. Luckily, this year is the only year we have lost money so we do have a little extra money in the bank to cover our loss. Next year we will have to work on increasing attendance or figuring out other ways to generate revenue.

June is fast approaching and with it comes a potluck and silent auction. The other thing that happens in June is officer elections. We have been rather lax when it comes to electing new officers. This June we will looking to elect a Vice President, Treasurer, and two members at large. Eric and Christina have been in their positions for as long as I have been coming to meetings. It is time to give them a break. According to our bylaws, I am supposed to appoint an election committee to handle nominations so that the membership can vote on the nominees. I will be asking for volunteers to be on the election committee at the May meeting.

My family spent spring break this year in the Bahamas. I read that when Columbus came to the Bahamas he discovered over 60 species of orchids. I was really looking forward to seeing orchids in the wild, in yards and at nurseries. Sadly, I did not see one on my visit. I tried to do what Chris talked about and look for clubs and nurseries before I left. I could not find any orchid clubs on the web. Once there, I looked in the phone

book but came up empty again. I asked at the hotel that we were staying at and several taxi drivers where I could go to see orchids. They said they did not know. You would think if anyone would know where things were it would be taxi drivers. On the way to the airport going home, the taxi driver pointed out this tree covered with yellow flowers. He said it was the Bahamas national flower. I thought wow this guy knows about flowers. It is too late go anywhere to see them, but I will ask him about orchids. He said he has never seen any except at a florist. There you go, a perfect business opportunity for some one. Move to the Bahamas and open an orchid nursery. We had a great time even though I did not get to see any orchids.

See you at the May meeting.

## **News from the Show Chair – Eric Holenda**

First of all, I'd like to thank everyone who pitched in to make our Show happen. There is so much to do each year, it really requires many, many, people to do a multitude of tasks. You all seem to understand what we're up against and how important the particular contribution you make is for our event to be a reality. It's that enthusiasm that makes it worthwhile for all of us to do this thing. GREAT JOB -- THANKS EVERYONE!!

On a more sobering note, the show did not break even this year. We all anticipated a tough go with the present economic conditions, so to do as well as we did was an accomplishment.

Next matter: I have been Program Chairman (Vice President) for four years now. I enjoy the task but in fairness to the group it would be good to get a fresh perspective on programs. I hope one of you will want to assume the rewards and challenges of this position. Think about it.

## **April Meeting Summary – Chris Ehrler**

Marni Turkel's presentation at the April FCOS meeting was titled "Show me the plant". She feels it is important to be able to see the entire plant and not just the bloom as you are buying the entire plant and not just the bloom. She enjoys growing small plants to specimen size. Many of the slides showed well-grown orchids that had large numbers of blooms. She grows her *Masdevallias* in ½ bark and ½ pumice and waters them with reverse osmosis water with 1/8 to 1/6 teaspoon of

MSU type fertilizer every time she waters. Other groups she grows in ½ bark with a mixture of pumice and charcoal and others she grows attached to tree bark. She showed a large

**Five Cities Orchid Society**

number of different orchid species during her slide show and give descriptions of their blooming season and cultural requirements. For plants that grow in monsoon area such as Mexico, they need a dry rest from Thanksgiving through about Valentine’s Day. She said they would get better bloom if they get this rest period. She recommended the following two

website for information on where the species grow in nature (<http://orchidculture.com/> and <http://www.orchidspecies.com/>). The closer you can simulate the orchid’s natural environment the better they will grow for you. She also stated that orchids that grow in high elevations grow cool, with bright light and need pure water.

**Orchid Calendar**

| <b>Dates</b> | <b>Event</b>                                      | <b>Location</b>  | <b>Comments</b>   |
|--------------|---|--|---|
| May 8-10     | Orchid Society of CA Mother’s Day Weekend Show    | Lake Merritt Garden Center<br>666 Bellevue, Oakland              | Hours 10 am to 5 pm, Admission is free  |
| May 14       | FCOS Monthly Meeting                              | AG Women’s Club, Arroyo Grande                                   |   |
| May 17       | Carmel Orchid Society Annual MayFaire Show & Sale | Hidden Valley Music Seminars<br>88 W. Carmel Valley Rd<br>Carmel | Sunday 9am – 5 pm, Admission free<br>For more information contact Carolyn Salmon 831-375-3748 or <a href="mailto:cargie@yahoo.com">cargie@yahoo.com</a> |
| May 19       | Cabrillo Orchid Society meeting                   |  | 7:00 p.m. Eric Holenda will be the speaker.   |
| July 10-12   | Santa Barbara Orchid Estate Show                  | Earl Warren Showgrounds  | July 10 & 11 – 9 am to 5 pm<br>July 12 – 10 am – 4 pm   |