



November 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
Directors at Large: Frank Madrid, Scott St. Clair and Kathy Phelan	
Newsletter Editor: Anne Bachmann	

Our Next Meeting (by Eric Holenda)

Our November speaker will be Ron Parsons of San Francisco. Ron will be presenting slides from his recent trip to the Mediterranean island of Crete. Crete has an incredibly concentrated number of terrestrial orchid species, including the "Bee Orchids", which trick male wasps into pollinating them by looking like female wasps (you get the picture). Because of the stunning quality of his photos, Ron has become quite in demand as a lecturer, with engagements throughout the US, Europe and Australia. Ron co-authored a fine book on Masdevallias and one on Calochortus (California wildflowers) with Mary Gerritsen.

Ron will be joining us for dinner at the Quarterdeck beforehand, 5:30. Call Eric 929-5749 to join us, dutch treat. There's a good chance Mary will also make it -- she has just returned from a trip to Borneo.

Ron will bring a plant table from Dan Newman, a Bay Area grower. Ron also plans on bringing some divisions of some nifty species from his personal collection for sale.

I urge you all to make the meeting -- Ron's photos are not to be missed.

CENTRAL COAST ORCHID SHOW

Preparations are being made for our 15th annual show to be held Saturday- Sunday, March 27th and 28th, admission \$5. The Friday Nite Preview will be the 26th from 6:30 - 9:30 pm. Tickets are \$40 or if you wish to help serve, a limited number of \$25 worker tickets will be available. As our theme this year will be ORCHIDS GONE NATIVE, start planning your tribal-oriented attire for this special event.

As always, the show takes gobs of help to make happen, but there is nothing more fulfilling than participating in this larger than life event. Start preparing mentally for the part you wish to play in its creation.

President's Message (Danny Stocks)

This last month I met a lady that loves orchids. Once she found out that I grow orchids she had to show me her collection. She has a small collection of orchids she keeps on her dining room table. She has never been to an orchid society meeting or even knew orchid societies existed. Her collection consists of orchids in various stages of decline. Except for one

beautiful Phalaenopsis. She has obtained her collection from the local markets. As the plants at the markets start to die she buys them at a reduced price or gets them at no cost. Then she tries to nurse them back to health. I am not sure if she loves orchids or if she hates to see things die and be thrown away.

I totally can relate to that feeling of hating to admit a plant is not going to make it and throw it away. I have had my share of plants decline to the point of where I am thinking should I throw this away or can I nurse it back to health. I would have to say in every case the plants have died. I have plants like that now. Sometimes I think I should just throw this away now just to prevent the agony of watching slowly wither away, but I still hang on to every plant until the last green leaf falls off. Maybe someday I can get to the point of admitting that when a plant is sick it is going to die and pitch it.

Lets get back to that beautiful Phalaenopsis. She went on and on about that plant. It was obvious that it was her pride and joy. She told me how it has been blooming for months and months. How she waters it once a week and how it gets just the right amount of light from the window. At this point I had a dilemma. Should I compliment her plant and how she has taken care of it? Or should I tell her it is not a real plant? You know, I am the president of the Five Cities Orchid Society and I should know a silk plant from a real one so I opted for telling her it was not real. How do you do that tactfully? I am not good at telling people things they do not want to hear, so I am direct and just say it. My wife tells me it is one of my faults that at times I am too blunt. Oh my gosh! You would think I just killed her best friend. I felt so bad. She was crushed. Needless to say things were awkward until I left.

She lives in San Luis Obispo just a couple of blocks from the Vets Hall which is Cabrillo's meeting spot so I told her all about their club and their meeting times. She probably will not end up going because she does not drive and does not like going out after dark. I am planning on giving her a nice Phalaenopsis when I have one in bloom.

October Meeting Summary

The presentation at the FCOS October meeting was given by our own Eric Holenda, on his and Christina's trip to Ecuador in June 2009 with a group organized by the Orchid Conservation Alliance (OCA). The trip was partially sponsored by Ecugenera (an orchid nursery founded in 1950).

There are two high Andes ranges in Ecuador with Quito (the capital) being in the central valley between these two ranges. He showed a large number of slides of the many types of orchids that grow in the different habitats they visited including areas from lowlands where cactus and bromeliads were growing, up to about 11,000 feet in the windy, cold and foggy cloud forests. They also saw and photographed a wide variety of butterflies and lizards. They were able to visit a number of orchid preserves that have been purchased and run by a number of groups including the OCA.

Orchid Calendar

Dates	Event	Location	Comments
November 7-8	Santa Barbara Orchid Estate Open House	1250 Orchid Drive Santa Barbara, CA 93111 805-967-1284	Saturday, November 7 – 8am-5pm Sunday, November 8 – 9am-4pm sboc@sborchid.com
November 12	FCOS Monthly Meeting	AG Women's Club, Arroyo Grande	7:30 pm
November 28-29	Santa Barbara Orchid Society Fall Show and Sale	Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History	11/28 – 10am-5pm 11/29 – 10am-3pm www.orchidsb.net