



November 2006

Newsletter

<u>Affiliations</u> American Orchid Society The Orchid Digest	<u>Proud Supporter of</u> Alzheimer's Association of the Central Coast
President: Chris Ehrler	Vice President: Eric Holenda
Secretary: Linda Kipe	Treasurer: Christina Holenda
Directors at Large: Frank Madrid, Scott St. Clair and Danny Stocks	
Newsletter Editor: Chris Ehrler	

Our Next Meeting

Orchids 101 - Danny Stocks

Orchids 101 will begin again at 7PM at our November 9th meeting. Jeffrey Thompson will discuss watering of your orchids. In case you did not know, 90% of orchids are made up of water, so it is important to them that you give them the best possible water, with the right amount of fertilizer and at the right time. So come and I can guarantee you will learn something that will help you grow your orchids better. One key aspect of the water you use that affects your orchid growth is the water's total dissolved solids (TDS). Jeffrey will be bringing along his TDS meter so to test your water. So bring along a sample of the water you use on your orchids both with and without fertilizer (you do need a large amount of water) and see how "good or bad" it is.

The main presentation of this meeting will be by our very own Christina and Eric Holenda. They have traveled to many different locations in the world, and this presentation is entitled NEW GUINEA, PART II: INTO THE LAND OF THE HEADHUNTERS (good topic for the Halloween season). Their earlier trip explored Papua New Guinea-- Part II is a circumnavigation of Irian Jaya, or as it is now known West New Guinea. Although orchid diversity was low, the program will be rich with native culture-- lots of spear shaking and drum beating. The Asmat people are one of the few relatively intact native cultures in the world, and they will present slides showing their costumes, homeland, and world-renowned woodcarving. They will also slides of *Paphiopedilum wilhelminiae*, found only on the extreme western trip of New Guinea. There will be no speaker dinner this month.

Our Treat Fairies for November will be Gate Peltzman and Laura Fraser.

President Corner - Chris Ehrler

WOW. 2006 is almost over. Hope you have had a great year. Have you liked the treats during our meetings? Well, thank Alice Swope when you see her as she continues to tirelessly make sure the coffee is ready and that at least two folks have signed up to bring along goodies for use to eat. THANKS, ALICE.

I would like to thank Eric Holenda for setting up our speakers over the past 2 ½ years he has been vice president. I hope you have learned something from the speakers that has made you a better orchid grower. If you have enjoyed the variety of speakers, remember to thank him for the time he has spent in setting up a group of excellent speakers. I hope

you do not miss this next meeting as the slides that he and Christina will present about New Guinea as excellent and you will get to see a area of the world that most of us will never get the opportunity to visit and explore. THANKS, ERIC.

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The December meeting will be our annual end of the year potluck and silent auction. FCOS will supply the ham, so all you need to bring along is a side dish or dessert to share, your place setting, and something to drink. If there is someone that could cook the ham and slice it before the meeting I will not need to take time off work to do it myself. Please let me know at or before the November meeting. The other important part of the December will be the silent auction. As you might know this is a major fundraiser for FCOS that helps keep our annual dues low. So if you have plants that have not grown well for you or have made divisions of ones that have grown great for you and you want to share, please plan to bring them along s a donation to the club. Also, so not forget to bring along your checkbook so you can pay for the plants and orchid related items you want to take home with you.

FCOS October meeting summary - Chris Ehrler

Our main speaker for the October meeting was Ron Parsons of the SF Bay Area, who presenting slides on and discussed orchids and assorted plants of Southwest Australia. He mentioned that there are about 70 species of native ground orchids in this area, including some that are considered endangered species. There area also many proteas, cycads, and carnivorous plants in this area. The common names included rabbit orchids, donkey orchids, fire orchids, onion orchids, bird orchids, leek orchids and the hammer orchids. He also showed a plant he referred to as the Bart Simpson plant. Definitely an odd but very beautiful group of plants were seen by those in attendance at the October meeting.

Five Cities Orchid Society
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Orchid Calendar

Dates	Event	Location	Comments
Thursday November 9 7:00pm	FCOS Meeting	AG Woman's Club 211 Vernon Street Arroyo Grande	Jeffrey Thompson will discuss on water at Orchids 101 starting at 7PM. Eric and Christina Holenda will a slide show about New Guinea, Land of the Headhunters.
November 4-5, 2006	Santa Barbara Orchid Estate Fall Open House	1250 Orchid Drive, Santa Barbara, CA (805) 967-1284	The sale will include their traditional \$7.50 specials, <i>Laelia anceps</i> parade, Cymbidiums in spike for \$15, and a silent auction.
March 30-April 1 2007	FCOS 2007 Show	South County Regional Center, Arroyo Grande	The show theme is "Orchid Treasures".