



November 2008 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: Chris Ehrler	

Our Next Meeting

Our next meeting will be held on Thursday November 13th at 7:30pm at the AG Women's Club. Our speaker will be Bob Hamilton who will talk about Cool Growing Orchids for Coastal California. The talk will include photos of species, natural habitats, a discussion on culture and on propagation. Bob is a lifelong resident of Berkeley, CA and is employed at the University of California where he manages the equipment and facilities of the Microlab, a semiconductor research lab serving the needs of about 350 researchers. Bob will be supplying the plants for the opportunity table.

His interest in orchids began in 1976. After a few years he began to grow and specialize in cool growing orchids with an emphasis on odontoglossums. He currently shares a commercial greenhouse in Pacifica, California with my partner John Leathers and a few colleagues. He grows a mixed collection of orchids many of which he has bred and propagated. Besides orchids, he is Chair of the Building Committee for the Berkeley City Club and likes to swim and play classical piano.

This will be another meeting you shouldn't miss. If you've kept up on orchid literature through the years, you will have noticed that Bob's name repeatedly comes up. His hybridization has not only been extensive, but he has been daring enough to delve into some areas of breeding that no one else has been willing to try, often with groundbreaking results.

The reports are that his talk at Cabrillo last month was lively and provocative. Bob will supply the plant table -- we'll send out an email if there will be a speaker's dinner, or call Eric a couple days before (929-5749) if you would like to attend. Everyone is invited.

President's Message

For those of you that did not attend the Coastal Valley Orchid Society's Orchid Expo 'Orchids for Everyone' this year you missed a good time. We had a great display. I brought a small orchid and there was barely enough room on the table for it. Thank you to everyone who brought plants for the display. It was nice to have time to talk to the members of the other local clubs. One of the great things about the Lompoc show is that the AOS judges are there. You can watch them judge and listen to their comments about each plant. I found it very informative. There were seven judges their and plants were brought to their judging table one at a time. Each judge carefully looked at the plant and made comments about it. One of the things I found most interesting is that they took time to talk at length about every plant they were asked to judge. They

gave out three awards. One of our members was in the group. Eric got an award for something we all already know. He got a Certificate of Cultural Merit (CCM) for a huge White Cattleya with a ton of flowers on it. A Certificate of Cultural Merit is for growing a plant well. The plant may not be of award quality but is grown to the plant's potential. Anyone that has seen Eric's plants knows he knows how to grow orchids to their potential. The other award that I knew about was to Gene Baum. Gene has been a member of the Lompoc club and growing orchids for years. He got a Highly Commended Certificate (HCC) for an orchid with a hard name to pronounce. The genus is *Guaraphidendrum*. It would be easier to call it by its common name which is volcano trick. This is his first award and I would like to give him a great big congratulations for it. I would like to personally like to thank Chris for the continued effort he is putting into the club to make it successful. He has been editing the monthly news letter and sending it to everyone every since I have been president of the club. He has gotten to busy and needs a break. He deserves a rest. We need someone else to be our newsletter editor. He has agreed to finish the year so we are actively recruiting a new editor. It would be a shame if the news letter was discontinued. Anyone interested in the position see me, Chris or Eric at the next meeting. Aloha, Danny

October meeting summary (by Chris Ehrler)

At our October meeting we had the privilege of listening to Eric Holenda and Larry Vierheilg talk about their experiences growing orchids on the central coast. They mentioned that bacterial infections will cause leaves and blooms to appear brown and mushy. They suggested cutting this bad material off as it is fast moving and contagious. If it is only on part of a leaf, cut at least 1 inch into the good tissue. They and others suggested sprinkling cinnamon onto the cut tissue edge, as cinnamon has both anti-bacterial and anti-fungal activity. They also suggested using Physan 20 to keep infections from starting. Mouthwash also shows some anti-bacterial activity but is not as effective for as long as cinnamon. Jeffrey Thompson stated that Alan Koch at Gold County Orchids adds hydrogen peroxide (consumer strength of 3%) into the pot of recently transplanted orchids for the first three waters instead of water. He has found the plants recover more quickly from transplant shock. Some people spray the 3% hydrogen peroxide onto the roots of bare root orchids. Do not get this strength hydrogen peroxide onto the leaves as you will probably damage the leaves. But, Andy's Orchids in Encinitas uses a lower strength hydrogen peroxide in their

normal watering to keep algae from growing on the plant leaves.

They suggested staking bloom spikes so that you can direct the spikes in the direction you want them to go.

Cymbidiums should be showing spike by now or soon if they will bloom this year. They will generally be darker in color and have a pointed end. Nobile-type Dendrobiums like a cool dry rest period this time of the year. The leaves will drop but do not worry. The dry period will help with flower production.

Larry uses 1/6 strength fertilizer for all his orchids. If you use too high of a fertilizer concentration your planting media will rot sooner. Good to flush your media with water without fertilizer so that any fertilizer salts that have been left behind will be rinsed away. If you fertilize Masdevallias with too high of a nitrogen concentration you will get leaf tip burn.

For Paphs, need to keep the conditions stable. If the temperature changes, blooms might fall off. Spotted leaf Paphs need more constant and warmer temperatures than the solid color leaved ones. Eric is trying to keep his Multi-floral

Paphs outside in a shaded area for 3-4 weeks every October to help with spike initiation.

For Phals, if you are having trouble getting them to spike, you might consider moving them into a dark garage for a short period. Also if you leave the old spike on the plant and it forms a side bloom spike off it, the blooms will be smaller. Suggested that it is better to cut off the spike and let the plant rest. You will get more larger blooms next year. Some growers will cut off any new spikes for a few years in a row and then when they finally let them bloom they have a large number of spikes and blooms because the plant has just had all its energy put into growth and then has more energy when you let the spike bloom.

Eric mentioned there is a new systemic insecticide on the market that is considered to have a low toxicity but be effective on many if not most orchid pest. The name is SAFARI. It is very expensive to purchase but you only use a small amount per gallon. If you are interested in more info search SAFARI pesticide on the internet or get in touch with Eric or Danny.

Orchid Calendar

Dates	Event	Location	Comments
Thursday, Nov 13, 7:30pm	FCOS Monthly Meeting	AG Women's Club, Arroyo Grande Arroyo Grande	Bob Hamilton who will talk about Cool Growing Orchids for Coastal California. The talk will include photos of species, natural habitats, a discussion on culture, and on propagation.
November 1 – 2, 2008	Santa Barbara Orchid Estates Fall Open House	Santa Barbara Orchid Estate	http://www.sborchid.com/events.php
November 8-9, 2008	Orchid Society of California Show and Sale	Lakeside Garden Center, 666 Bellevue, Oakland, CA	Theme: <i>Orchids on Parade</i> . Near Children Fairyland at Lake Merritt. Free admission. Open 9am-5pm each day. More information at OrchidSocietyofCalifornia.com .
November 22 - 23, 2008	Orchid Society of Santa Barbara Fall Show	Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History	This year's theme is " <i>Galaxies of Orchids</i> ".
March 5-8, 2009	The San Francisco Orchid Society (SFOS) - 57 th Annual Pacific Orchid Exposition	Fort Mason Center's Festival Pavillon, San Francisco	Theme: " <i>Green...With Envy</i> ". Show and sale will offer a unique look at the importance of respecting the environment in all aspects of horticulture and emphasizing the importance of conserving the varied natural habitats that orchids need to survive. For more info Call 415.665.2468 or visit www.orchidsanfrancisco.org
April 4 & 5, 2009	14 th Annual Five Cities Orchid Show and Sale	South County Regional Center, Arroyo Grande	This year's theme is " <i>Orchid Stampede</i> ". That right this is our show. Friday night wine and food Fund Raiser for the Central Coast Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association. Orchids will be judged by AOS judges. Seven vendors will be bringing along many great plants so bring along your checkbook.