



October 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	

SPECIAL NOTICE: IF YOU HAVE BEEN RECEIVING THIS NEWSLETTER VIA REGULAR MAIL AND HAVE NOT YET PAID YOU DUES FOR THE NEW YEAR, THIS WILL BE YOUR LAST ISSUE OF THE NEWSLETTER UNLESS YOU PAY YOUR DUES!

Our Next Meeting

Orchids 101 - Danny Stocks

Orchids 101 will begin again at 7PM at our October 12th meeting. Jeffrey Thompson has will discuss growing media. I can assure you that no matter how many days, months, or years you have been growing orchids you will learn something new during Jeffrey's class.

Our October 12th meeting speaker will be Ron Parsons of the SF Bay Area, presenting slides on "Orchids of Southwest Australia". His presentation will start about 7:30PM. Australia is known to have some of the most bizarre animals on the planet, and the terrestrial orchids found here continue in the same vein, just really breaking the rules of what an orchid should look like. Ron took the photos during his Sept. 2005 trip to Australia. Ron's passion and enthusiasm for wild orchids has carried him to remote corners of California, the U.S., and South America. In his presentations he will convey his keen sense of interest and his great photographic skills.

Those of you who have seen Ron's programs know what an incredible photographer he is. His current collection is now up to 40,000 orchid and wildflower slides, many of which have been published in books and magazines. He recently co-authored a beautiful book on *Masdevallias*, which he will have signed copies of for sale at the meeting. Ron will be bringing a plant table and also some plants for sale from some of the better Bay Area growers. We can expect some choice and unusual things, leaning toward cool growers. There will be no speaker dinner this month.

Our volunteer Treat Fairies for October will be Pat Avotins and Diane Cotter.

President Wife's Corner - Betsy Ehrler

Yes, you read it correctly. Chris's wife Betsy wrote the following.

Chris and I recently returned from a great vacation in Hawaii. One of the most memorable days occurred when we spent time with some members of the Kona Orchid Society. Chris had emailed Carol, who is the society's AOS representative, asking if we could attend their meeting. They quickly decided their meeting would be boring for us to attend as they were preparing for their orchid show. Instead, society members invited us to tour their greenhouses and gardens. We

started with breakfast then toured 4 residences where we learned growing orchids, antheriums, several types of ginger plants and tropical fruit trees in Hawaii plus coffee and macadamia nut production. We were fed lunch, toured another residence and then had the pleasure of viewing an international Orchid Show Pin Collection. Carol, our social director for the day, also showed us the article she had written for the AOS magazine on the early cultivation of the Vanilla Orchid industry in Hawaii. We had heard a talk on that subject the day before when we had visited the Hilo Orchid society (we were also fed at that meeting).

You may be wondering why you are reading about our vacation in the FCOS newsletter. The point of this article is this: Reach out to your fellow orchid enthusiasts when you travel. You may not be treated to as nice a day as the one we experienced in Hawaii but it certainly is worth the effort of a quick email to the AOS representative to find out when and where the meeting is being held. The worst that could happen is that you could see more orchids, growing techniques, purchase a few new orchids, and encounter new friends.

NEWSLETTER EDITOR STILL NEEDED - Chris Ehrler

FCOS is still looking for someone to become the new newsletter editor so if you have some expertise with the computer and are willing to help please contact Chris. It is actually easy but we need someone is willing to help the society with this task.

Membership Renewal Notice

Hope have all paid you annual dues by now, but if no and you received this newsletter in the USPS mail, this will be the last newsletter you receive. June was our annual membership renewal month. If you have not already paid for your membership renewal please bring a check or cash (\$20 per family) to cover your annual membership dues and give it to Peggy Boze m or Christina Holenda at our next meeting. If you can't attend, please mail in your dues to the society's PO Box. If you joined FCOS at this year's show, your dues are current until June 2007.

FCOS September meeting summary - Jeffrey Thompson

Our speaker at the September meeting was Harry Phillips from Andy's Orchids in Encinitas, CA. His topic was Marvelous Miniatures. He gave a loose definition of miniatures as those where the plant and inflorescence is less than 12 inches in height. He suggested Rebecca Northen's book "Home Orchid Growing" as the best all around orchid book to have in your library. Harry suggested using a zip-top bag as a temporary humidity control housing. Also said you

could use a variety of plastic food containers including large ones that you might buy a layer cake in at the store, as an enclosure for growing orchids. He then suggested a number of ever increasing in size cases for your orchids. These included old fish tanks, reptile enclosures, custom made 'Wardian' cases, walk in coolers from a florist, then a vertical soft drink dispenser or storage cooler. Harry then set up a small 'greenhouse' about 8x15x10 inches high, with a tight fitting lid. He added moss around the orchids and if need could add a small sonic mist maker to increase humidity. Will need to watch the enclosure after setting it up to determine how often

to water based on the types of orchids you are going in it. Can add a 12-volt computer fan to add air movement. Can use either natural light or add aquarium light a top. Suggested using "RO" water for the miniatures. You might need to adjust the position of some of the orchids in you little greenhouse to get it into the correct microclimate.

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Orchid Calendar

Dates	Event	Location	Comments
Thursday October 12 7:30pm	FCOS Meeting	AG Woman's Club 211 Vernon Street Arroyo Grande	FCOS is hosting Ron Parsons who will speak on Orchids of Southwest Australia. Ron is a highly acclaimed photographer and has recently so-authored a book on <i>Masdevallia</i> . Orchids 101 will start at 7PM
Sat-Sun, Oct 7-8	5th Annual Orchid Fest San Francisco Orchid Society	Hall of Flowers, in the County Fair Building, Golden Gate Park	10 am to 5 pm, \$3 General Admission, \$2 Seniors (65 or older) and Disabled, Children 12 and under are free w/ an adult. SFOS Hotline, 415-665-2468 or visit www.orchidsanfrancisco.org
Fri - Sun Oct 13-15, 2006	San Diego International Orchid Fair	Quail Gardens, Encinitas, CA	Hundreds of species and hybrids, exhibits and sales, lectures and AOS and ribbon judging. Orchids from China, Peru, Colombia, Ecuador, Philippines, and Australia, will be on display and for sale.
Fri - Sun Oct 20 -22, 2006	All Hallowed Orchids, Southland Orchid Show	Huntington Library and Botanical Gardens, San Marino, CA	Exhibits by southern California orchid societies and international orchid growers. Lectures and show and tell on Saturday and Sunday included with Huntington admission. For information: at www.orchidshow.org
Friday, Oct 27, 2006	Peninsula Orchid Society Orchid Auction	San Mateo Garden Center 605 Parkside Way San Mateo, CA	Plant entry and bidder registration at 5PM with the auction starting at 7PM. Hundreds of specie sand hybrid orchid and related items will be auctioned.
March 30-April 1 2007	FCOS 2007 Show	South County Regional Center, Arroyo Grande	The show theme is "Orchid Treasures".