



October 2007 Newsletter

<u>Affiliations</u> American Orchid Society The Orchid Digest	<u>Proud Supporter of</u> 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	

NOTICE FROM THE EDITOR

It's the time of the year to update the newsletter list and to purge those who are no longer members. SO, if you want to continue receiving the FCOS newsletter and have yet not paid your annual dues (only \$20 for the year) please get in contact with Peggy Bozem and give her a check. Those that have not paid by the end of October will not continue to receive the newsletter.

Our Next Meeting

Our next meeting will be on October 11 starting at 7:30PM. There will not be an ORCHIDS 101 that evening. Eric and Christina's program will be a slide presentation on the orchids of Borneo. The world's third largest island, Borneo straddles the equator just southwest of the Philippine archipelago, and is legendary in orchid lore as the home of many of the world's most incredible orchids. Christina and Eric traveled there in March 2007, and as always their program will also include native culture and wildlife: pythons, hornbills, orangutans, etc. plus lots of carnivorous plants. Great fun will be had by all. The plant table has been supplied by Jerry Burton of the Santa Maria Society. Jerry liquidated his personal collection prior to moving to Vancouver. Included will be several mature Cattleyas, many with flowers forming, and a generous amount of other stuff.

The treat fairies for the meeting will be Bonnie Werring and Kathi Phelen.

Greenhouse Tour

The Five Cities and Santa Maria Societies are planning a tour of three Nipomo greenhouses on Saturday, October 20. The schedule will be as follows: Larry and Laurie Vierheilig, 10-11AM; Richard and Peggy Ford, 11-noon; and Eric and Christina Holenda, noon-1. You may just show up to tour any or all of the three greenhouses at the appointed times. If there is interest, we will also have a tri-tip barbecue at the Holenda's after 1PM. Cost will probably be \$6.00/person. Notify master griller Chris Ehrler (489-9046) by Oct. 13 if you wish to partake in the BBQ. Directions at the November meeting.

President Corner - Danny Stocks

I was sorry that I could not attend last months meeting with the Cabrillo Orchid Society. I was really looking forward to hearing Fred Clarke speak. I am a firefighter and occasionally this time of year I will get a call to go to a fire. That was the case. I was called to go to the Bulter 2 Fire down in San Bernardino County near Big Bear Lake. I was down there for five days. I am happy to report that no houses were lost due to that fire. I heard Fred

gave an excellent presentation and the plant table was outstanding.

We are trying to wrap up this years membership drive. If you haven't paid your dues for this year please see Peggy at the next meeting. We want to get the directory out. Also we want to issue new name tags to all the paid members. The money that is raised from the dues enables us to get guest speakers and buy the plants on the plant table to raffle off. We rarely sell enough raffle tickets to cover the cost of the table. The dues are not that much so there is no excuse not pay them. People who do not pay dues will be dropped from the directory and the newsletter. We are going to have a greenhouse tour Saturday morning October 20. It should be really fun. It is going to end at Eric's house with a lunch BBQ. It will give us a chance to relax socialize and get to know one another. You can find more details in this newsletter.

We had an awesome table of plants at the CVOS show. We shared a table with Santa Maria Orchid Society and it was packed with plants. I did not think that there were very many orchids that bloom this time of year but the room was filled with many different types of beautiful blooming orchids. I did not get to stay for judging but I was told it was very interesting listening to the judges talk about the plants they were judging. If you want to what the judges look for in each plant this is an excellent show to go to. There were several AOS awards given. None for our two societies. Maybe next year.

This will be the last year I will have racks. There are 6 left at my house. They all have wheels. If anyone wants one or more let me know. I can fit 2 at a time in my truck and will be happy to drop them off any where between San Luis Obispo and Santa Maria. If anyone wants I will bring 2 to the next meeting so bring a truck. I also do not live far from the Women's Club and we can go to my house after the meeting to load them up. My wife has left her job at Kraft so this is the last year for racks. There will not be an Orchids 101 at the October meeting. I am sorry because I feel it is an important part of our club. I am looking for someone to take over the scheduling of speakers for Orchids 101. It does not take much time. I would usually ask one of our members at the meeting to speak for 15 minutes at the next meeting about basic orchid care. Then you tell Chris who is speaking and about what. If you are interested let me know.

The show committee met and the theme for this years show is..... You will have to come the next meeting to find out. Maybe you won the \$50 gift certificate donated by SLO

Gardens for the person who thought of the theme. Thank you Rudy for the donation! See everyone at the meeting.

Aloha, Danny

Summary of the September meeting presentation

At our September meeting we co-hosted Fred Clarke who owns Sunset Valley Orchids, which is located in San Diego, California. Fred is an Accredited Judge in the Pacific South Judging Region. His plants have received hundreds of quality awards from the American Orchid Society. Although developing *Cattleya* hybrids has been his sustaining interest, he is also actively creating new *Bulbophyllum* and *Paphiopedilum* hybrids. Fred's presentation was on *Cattleya mossiae*, the queen of Venezuelan *Cattleya*'s. It was first discovered in the wild in 1836 and is known as "Flor de Mayo" the Flower of May. In was a very important cut flower in the 1940-1960's due to the fact that it was in bloom in May of each year. It matures a growth in summer and another in the fall and then both growths will bloom. In nature it grows over a wide range mainly in the northern parts of the Andes. Generally grow at an elevation of

around 3,000 ft. in trees. They bloom at the height of the dry season after about three month with no rain. During this period, they get their moisture from the air. The plants can grow very large with each inflorescence producing 4-5 blooms and each large plant having at least 50 blooms open at the same time. Do not bloom as well in heavy shade. So he suggests that you give them a dry season, and you might end up with better bloom production. Also is they are not getting much light, you should move to a location where they will receive more light.

During his travel in Venezuela Fred said the people were very friendly. They all dressed well. They had money due to the oil trade.

A couple of other items of interest werethe folks in his group that drank Chichi got sick so he suggests you do not drink it if you travel to Venezuela. He also said that the capital Caracas is dangerous and has the highest murder rate of all large cities in the world. You will not find that on the travel posters. The county has 14 million residents and the president wants an army of one million.

Five Cities Orchid Society
P.O. Box 1066
Grover Beach, CA 93483-1066

Orchid Calendar

Dates	Event	Location	Comments
Thursday, October 11 7:30 PM	FCOS Monthly Meeting	AG Woman's Club 211 Vernon Street Arroyo Grande	Our very own Eric and Christina will present a slide show on their recent trip to Borneo. It is legendary in orchid lore as the home of many of the world's most incredible orchids. NO ORCHIDS 101.