



October 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)

Christina and Eric Holenda will present slides of their June trip to Ecuador. The trip was organized by the Orchid Conservation Alliance based in San Diego. The Alliance has identified and purchased some significant orchid habitat to be placed in preserves. We were able to visit a number of preserves and also travel to other significant orchid habitats, guided by staff of the local Ecuagenera Orchid Nursery. We had plenty of time to see both Ecuagenera's cool and warm growing nurseries, pick out plants, and have them delivered for pickup at the Santa Barbara Orchid Fair.

Highlights of the trip were experiencing the high altitude Paramo vegetation zone, seeing a number of really spectacular Masdevallias, and visiting two sites with Phragmipedium besseae. Come join us to experience the thrill of orchid hunting!

Local members will provide the plant table.

President's Message (Danny Stocks)

Things are blooming. This is a great time of year I have spikes popping out on plants that I have never had bloom before. It is so exciting waiting for the first flower to open. Every day I look for the first bit of color to show in the buds. I don't think I will ever get tired of the anticipation of buds opening. It is my favorite part of this hobby. It has to be the same feeling that orchid breeders, like the Asbels, feel when they make a new cross and bring it from a grain of pollen to a mature flowering plant. There is that feeling of exhilarating anticipation just before the buds pop. Is it going to be something spectacular or back to the drawing board? Whether we are professional growers or the novice with its first orchid, we all have that same feeling in common. That is the common ground between us. The reason we come to the meetings. That is why we have show and tell. I would like to encourage everyone to bring a plant to the next meeting. It does not matter that it might not be AOS award winner. All that matters is that it is your plant and it is blooming. Take, for example, that Cattleya I brought to the last meeting. The plant itself was awful looking but the flower was so beautiful I had to bring it to show everyone. If you do not like talking about your plant in front of your friends at the meeting let me know and I will talk about it for you.

I started a new adventure last week and will be sharing its progress with you in the newsletter. I started building a greenhouse. In Arroyo Grande you can build a structure under 120sq ft without permits. So guess what size my greenhouse is going to be? That's right 119' sq ft. I ran 220 wiring underground from my panel to the spot. Next, I dug and poured a footing. I wanted one row of concrete blocks around the bottom so I set them while the footing was still wet. I left one side without blocks where my door is going to be. Before this project was started, I thought 120 sq ft was huge. But now that the footing is poured it really doesn't look big enough. That is as far as it is for right now. Next step will be framing it up. I am looking for a used 5 foot sliding glass door and frame. If anyone has questions about what I have done so far or about what I am planning on doing call me (805) 481-7511. If you are interested, come on over and check out my progress. I am by no means an expert, but I do have a vision.

I look forward to seeing everyone at our next meeting. It is the highlight of my month.

Additional Information

FCOS members Christina and Eric Holenda are the new internet sensations by being caught in the act of doing one of the things they like to do the best. If you want to see them in action check out the header of the following website: <http://www.ecuagenera.com/>. If you do not have internet access, we will tell you about it in the next newsletter.

The FCOS site now has a PDF membership form (home page - "Become A Member") for people to download and mail in with their dues to the FCOS PO Box. We hope that this will be more convenient for potential members and renewals.

News from AOS - AOS now has a free newsletter for beginners which you can sign up for at the web site www.aos.org. It's fall and that often means nominating committee time for orchid societies! I have an orchid society talk, which is titled "Ten Orchid Tips", and tip number 10 is that you don't need to know about orchids to be involved in your society but you will become a better orchid grower when you are involved. Serving on your orchid society board often gives you the opportunity to be at another board member's home and see how they grow. Or if they come to your home they might have a helpful idea for your collection. You really

do get back more than you give and it is a great way to help grow your society as well as your orchid expertise.

The AOS nominating committee has just posted a call for nominations for the AOS Board of Trustees. You can find nominating information on the web site www.aos.org and in the magazine: *Orchids*. If you know of someone who would be an asset to the American Orchid Society please consider getting their permission to send their bio to the committee. Or you can send your own if you are so inclined. I feel it is an advantage to have a national organization like AOS working with orchid societies. You can have input into what goes on at AOS by serving on an AOS committee, being a trustee, communicating with AOS board members or speaking up at one of the town hall meetings at the AOS Members Meetings. The Fall 2009 Town Hall meeting is Saturday, October 17th at the Huntington Garden. See the registration schedule, under Events at the AOS web site, for details.

Think about being more involved both locally and nationally – you are sure to meet some terrific orchid people and learn a lot about orchid growing.

Carol Holdren, AOS Trustee

Orchid Calendar

Dates	Event	Location	Comments
October 2-4	San Diego Int'l Orchid Fair	Quail Botanical Gardens 230 Quail Gardens Drive Encinitas	Fri 1-5 pm Sat 9am – 5pm Sun 9am – 4pm
October 7	Santa Maria Orchid Society Meeting	Santa Maria Vets Hall 313 W.; Tunnell St. Santa Maria	7:00 p.m.
October 8	FCOS Monthly Meeting	AG Women's Club, Arroyo Grande	7:30 pm
October 16, 17 & 18	Southland Orchid Show	Huntington Botanical Gardens and Library	10:00 am – 5:00 pm
November 7 & 8	Santa Barbara Orchid Estate Open House	Santa Barbara Orchid Estate 1250 Orchid Drive Santa Barbara	Sat 8am – 5pm Sun 9am – 4pm
November 28-29	Santa Barbara Orchid Society Fall Show and Sale	Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History	