



September 2007 Newsletter

<u>Affiliations</u> American Orchid Society The Orchid Digest	<u>Proud Supporter of</u> Alzheimer's Association of the Central Coast
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Secretary: Anne Bachmann	Treasurer: Christina Holenda
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Newsletter Editor: Chris Ehrler	

Our Next Meeting

Our next FCOS meeting will be a joint meeting with the Cabrillo Orchid Society. We will be co-hosting Fred Clarke who owns Sunset Valley Orchids, located in San Diego, California. The meeting will be Tuesday, Sept 18, 7pm, SLO Vet's Hall, corner Grand and Monterey, SLO (**NOTE DATE, TIME AND LOCATION DIFFERENCES**). You can join Fred and group for dinner before at the SLO Quarterdeck by just showing up at 5:30PM. No need to call in advance to make reservations. Members can also preorder plants from Fred at his website, www.sunsetvalleyorchids.com and receive a **10% discount**, plus there will be no shipping costs as Fred will bring them along to the meeting. Fred will be supplying a super-sized plant table to accommodate the two societies.

Fred's presentation will be on *Cattleya mossiae*, the queen of Venezuelan *Cattleya*'s. Once the most popular corsage flowers for Mothers day, it is now rarely seen in collections and cut flower trade. See the magnificent pictures of *C. mossiae* in the wild presented in PowerPoint presentation. Learn about it habitat and the perils that await the future for the queen of Venezuelan *Cattleya*'s. Included will be photos of plants, with some having masses of blooms the size of Volkswagens.

Fred Clarke has been growing orchids for 30 years and has been hybridizing for 20 of those years. With over 23 years as a professional grower and manager in the horticultural industry, Fred applies these skills at his orchid nursery. He is a passionate orchid grower whose curiosity in orchids is broad and varied. Although developing *Cattleya* hybrids has been his sustaining interest, he is also actively creating new *Bulbophyllum* and *Paphiopedilum* hybrids.

Fred is an Accredited Judge in the Pacific South Judging Region. His plants have received hundreds of quality awards from the American Orchid Society. His pioneering work in *Catasetum* intergeneric hybrids led to the development of several notable hybrids, most recently the grex, *Fredclarkeara* After Dark, which produced "the **blackest** flower ever witnessed". This grex has received five First Class Certificates and three Awards of Merit on the first flowers shown for judging!

The treat fairies for the meeting will be Judy Gabriel and Linda Mabry.

President Corner – Danny Stocks

Well my first month is past. There sure were a lot of people at the last meeting. It was kind of intimidating. I am not used to standing in front of a crowd of people running a meeting. I have to say it is much easier to run into a burning building. It did

make me feel great when I introduced myself as the new president and everyone cheered and clapped. Thank you so much for the encouragement and support. I am sure it will get easier as time goes on. I have to realize we are all there for the same reason to share our love of growing orchids and to learn more about them. I would like to thank several people helping make the meeting a success. Jeffrey thank you for doing Orchids 101. I am sorry I missed your demonstration because I really wanted to hear about dividing plants. I would like to thank Eric for lining up our speaker, Norito Hasagawa. Thank you Alice for making sure we had snacks. And finally Chris thank you for running the raffle and keeping me going in the right direction. Who ever sent me the Email for the free orchids at Skyline Flowers a big Thank You. Who ever thought some one would be giving away Cymbidiums? They literally had thousands of Cymbidiums they were giving away. Not enough money in Cymbidiums as other cut flowers. Well I showed up with my pick-up and filled it. I tried to come back the next day to get some more but they were cleaned out. I brought most of them to our meeting and I hope everyone that wanted one got one. It is not often that a deal like that comes around. Unfortunately they were all the same variety of cymbidium. Bob did say however that they were a good variety. I do have a few left if anyone wants one. Lets talk racks. This will be the last year I will be able to get racks. My wife is taking a new job October 1st. All the racks in the stores will taken down this next month (September). I think we should have around ten racks available. If any one wants one let me know. If you live close I will drop it off and help you set it up. Alice I have one for you.

Speaking of support. The Coastal Valley Orchid Society is having its second annual Orchid Expo and Sale on September 22. They have asked, and we have in the past set up a table of plants to display. The focus of this event is having AOS judges judge the plants on display. Unlike other judged events we (the public) can watch them as they judge the plants. It is a great learning event on what they look for and how to better show your plants. We are looking for someone to help set up a table display. And we also need plants. Eric helped with this last year but this year he will be unavailable. Call me, send me an email, or talk to me at the next meeting if you are interested in setting up a table or bringing plants. This event is free and there are also going to be vendors selling plants. I know I don't have enough plants and it is my guess that most people in the club don't either. I have to admit though my wife thinks I have enough plants but she still lets me bring more home that I cannot live without. Some people call it an addiction. I call it a

love of orchids. I am sure there are many out there like me. Finally keep October 20 open. It is a Saturday and we are trying to plan a greenhouse tour of some of our members greenhouses. In July I just mentioned to Eric that it would be nice to see some of the greenhouses our members had. And bam he emails me that he has a date and some greenhouses lined up. It is hard to fail with support like that. More info coming shortly. If any one has an idea or wants to do something. Let me know and we will try to make it happen. Aloha, Danny

Summary of the August meeting presentation

At our August meeting we hosted Norito Hasegawa an AOS certified judge who lives in southern California. He spoke on *Phalaenopsis* species and how they influence their hybrids. He suggested that there are a number of specialty orchid groups you can join, wit some of them putting out a monthly publication. He also suggested that everyone should join and receive publications from the AOS and Orchid Digest to get a broad overview of the orchid world. Norito stated that *Phalaenopsis* are monopodial with leaves on the side and blooms coming from the leaves. They continue to grow from the top unless the top is damaged. He showed a large number of

slides or a variety of *Phalaenopsis* species and hybrids that have been produced over the years. He discussed the differences that the various species had on the hybrids, including overall size, shape, form and number of blooms per spike. He stated that the side lobes of the lip can appear to come together and form a lip. The lip's mid lobe can have small hairs called cirri. In the wild they grow from Thailand to Australia. Some complex hybrids have multiple flowers with each being at least 4 inches across. He suggested that anyone interested in *Phalaenopsis* should purchase a book published by Eric Christianson who revised the genus. Use of DNA analysis to separate the various species has not been used very much so far in this orchid genus. He mentioned that some are pyloric, which means that the petals have a similar color pattern to that on the lip. There are currently no *Phalaenopsis* hybridizers in the US, but a large number in Taiwan. Hybridizers are working to make new hybrids that have large color blotches on the flowers or miniature flowers. A number of new species of *Phalaenopsis* have been found growing in the wild ove rthe last number of years.

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Orchid Calendar

Dates	Event	Location	Comments
Tuesday, Sept 18, 7pm,	FCOS Monthly Meeting	SLO Vet's Hall, corner Grand and Monterey, San Luis Obispo	FCOS will have a joint meeting with the Cabrillo Orchid Society. We will be co-hosting Fred Clarke from Sunset Valley Orchids in San Diego. His presentation will be on <i>Cattleya mossiae</i> , the queen of Venezuelan <i>Cattleya</i> 's. No ORCHIDS 101 this evening.
Saturday September 22, 2007	Coastal Valley Orchid Society Orchid Expo and Sale	Lompoc Public Library Lompoc, CA	This year's theme is "Orchids: Natures Masterpieces". Displays by local orchid societies and local growers. Orchids for sale. Judging by AOS judges starts at 1 PM and the public is invited to observe the entire judging process. .
Saturday and Sunday, September 22-23	San Francisco Orchid Society	Hall of Flowers San Francisco, CA	Sale and Exhibit with demonstrations, lectures and raffle. General Admission is \$3. Benefits the SF Orchid Society's Scholarship program at Cal Poly. Open 10am-5pm each day. 23 international and local vendors. More info at www.orchidsanfrancisco.org