



April 2010 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: Larry Vierheilig, Scott St. Clair and Kathy Phelan	
Newsletter Editor: Anne Bachmann	

Our Next Meeting (Eric Holenda)

Tony Velardi will speak about Pendulous Cymbidiums. With cymbidium season in full swing, it is a great time to hear from the energetic and entertaining Tony Velardi, whose backyard hybridizing has produced a number of delightful pendulous cymbidiums, including the 2007 Santa Barbara show Grand Champ, Cym. Geno's Gem 'Emerald Fire'. Tony Velardi is a retired CSA judge, past head of the CSA Judging Region, and past president of the San Gabriel Branch of the CSA. His hybrids can be found at Mariposa Gardens, and, this month, on our raffle table! We may have a dinner with Tony and his wife Gina before. Call Eric (929 5749) to find out. Besides the table from Butterfly Gardens we'll have plants left from the Show -- a double dose !

FROM THE SHOW CHAIR

All indications are that the Central Coast Orchid Show was another success -- all reports were positive. I always have a hard time asking people to give of their valuable free time to help with the Show but people responded so enthusiastically, even those who could not help out. It's a rare opportunity in life to work on a project with so many people with everyone in harmony. Thank you everyone who helped make the Show happen.

We got a surprising number of calls from people in the LA area who wanted to come up to the show. Laurie's persistence in putting out press releases far and wide months before the show is paying off.

President's Message (Danny Stocks)

Was that the best show we ever had? I have been told that our show is the best small show in the nation and this year it definitely lived up to the hype. The displays were the best, I feel, we ever had. The vendors said they made more money than last year. They all already want to come back for next year. They were saying they love our show because the people in our clubs are so friendly it makes them feel like family. The numbers are not in yet for attendance but it felt like the show was better attended than last year. I need to send a huge thank you to the show committee for putting in the hard work all year to put together a fabulous show. The show committee are not the only ones I need to thank. There are so many people that worked so hard to make the show successful that I know I

would miss someone. I appreciate everyone's contributions so I will attempt to thank everyone in groups. If I miss you, I apologize now because it is not intentional. First I would like to thank the orchid societies in San Luis Obispo, Santa Maria, Lompoc, Santa Barbara, the Five Cities and our vendors for the displays. Like I already stated, I think this year's displays were the best we have ever had. The amount of flowering plants in the displays was truly impressive. The displays would not be possible if the members of the clubs did not bring plants to put in them. Thanks to the AOS judges for coming and judging the plants and displays in the show. Ours is a small show and we appreciate the time they take out of their schedules to judge for us. Thank you to the mayors of our local cities and the celebrities for picking their favorite orchid. Thank you to the members of the clubs who came out and ribbon judged. Thank you to the members of the clubs who came out and spent the weekend helping at the different stations during the show. Thank you to the plant doctors and the plant demonstrators. Thank you to the Alzheimer's Association for sponsoring the Preview Night. Thank you to all people, businesses and wineries for your donations. Thank you to Ellie's for the food. This is another in the category of the best we ever had. The show was so fun but I sure was tired on Sunday night. And I know I was not the only one. Well I am rested up now and looking forward to next year's show. It will be the fifteenth annual and hard to believe but it will be the best we ever had. See you there.

As far as the club goes, we have some exciting things coming up. We will be putting together a phone directory with the paid members in it. We have a couple of field trips to go view native orchids in bloom. These will be last minute field trips as the native orchids in our area are only in bloom for a short time. I will be passing around a sign up list at our next meeting for people interested in going. We are trying to get a new design for a FCOS t-shirt. Anyone that has a talent for making a t-shirt design please contact me. We are also trying to put together a greenhouse tour this spring of some of our club member's greenhouses and yards. Come to our next meeting on April 8th for more information.

March Meeting Summary (Chris Ehrler)

At our March meeting FCOS was happy to have one of our own members, Dan Asbell, speak to us on growing orchids outside on the Central Coast. Dan stated that due to our Mediterranean climate, with few if any freezes, we have the ability to grow a wide variety of orchids outside during the

entire year. *Epipactis* grows wild in our area and needs moving water at its roots all the time to grow. We can grow other species of orchids from other parts of the world if we can simulate their growing environment. Cymbidium species from the foothills of the Himalayan Mountain Range can grow very well along the Central coast and can survive short periods of freezing. In their native habitat they have dry cool winters and late summer and fall monsoon rains. *Vanda coerulea*, native to China, can survive low temperatures and will bloom up to three times per year. While *Vandas* normally are grown with no media around the roots they have found that they grow better in our area if they add a little large bark around the roots in the net basket and then hang Spanish moss around the roots. When they are watered, it allows more moisture around the roots for a longer period of time. Other orchids that will grow well in our area are *Coelogene cristata*, *Coelogene tomentosa*, *Encyclia citrina*, *Rynchistele rossii*, *Zygopetalums*, and some *Sobralias*, *Pleione*, and *Phaius*. He also stated that *Oncidium Sherry Baby*, known for its great fragrance, can grow outside in our area and can put out up to three bulbs per bulb. Dan also reminded everyone that even in Ecuador, which we think about as being warm due to being on the equator, has cool

growing orchids that live at high elevations and can be grown quite well outside on the Central Coast.

Upcoming Events (Eric Holenda)

At the San Jose Orchid Exposition, if members are interested in supporting the Orchid Conservation Alliance, a minimum donation of \$10.00 will gain them access to a very nice evening reception of wine tasting and some Godiva chocolates on Saturday June 5th 6:30pm-9:30pm. The price point is low enough so that even those on a modest budget can support the OCA. In the last three years of this show, \$3,500 has been raised for OCA. Their goal is to be at 5K after the conclusion of this event to be half way to our goal of buying a 100 acre Ecuadorean orchid reserve under OCA management.

Orchid Calendar

Date	Event	Location	Comments
Apr 01	Santa Maria Society Tour	Chisan Orchid Company Lompoc	01:00:00 PM
Apr 07	FCOS monthly meeting	Arroyo Grande Women's Club	07:30:00 PM
Apr 17	Gold Coast Cymbidium Growers	San Mateo Garden Ctr 605 Parkside Way San Mateo	10-4 PM
Apr 17 & 18	Sacramento Orchid Show	Scottish Rite Temple Sacramento	Rheisler@resis.com for information
May 1 & 2	Carmel Valley Garden Show	Hidden Valley Institute of the Arts	9-4 PM Free admission 831-659-0934
June 4, 5, & 6	San Jose Orchid Exposition	Miraido Club House S.J. Japantown	AOS judging on Friday evening for those interested in having their plants judged.
July 10 & 11	Santa Barbara Orchid Estate Show	Earl Warren Showgrounds Santa Barbara Fair Grounds	