



August 2008 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
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Our Next Meeting

Our next meeting will be held on Thursday August 14th starting at 7:30pm. The speaker will be Dexter Friede of Grow More fertilizers, best known for their liquid seaweed extract. Grow More has been in business since 1976, is family owned, offers over 50 retail products, and does business in 35 countries.

Dexter personally is an avid horticulturalist, with a "yard like a jungle". His talk will focus on micronutrients, beneficial bacteria, humic acid, and the role of seaweed products in supplying these supplements. Dexter will be donating Grow More products, including some new products featuring amino acids and bio-stimulates. He will be most interested in hearing from us problems we are having with our plants. Incidentally, Dexter is also Peggy Bozem's nephew! **Call Peggy (481-2269) by August 10th if you are interested in pre-ordering any Grow More fertilizer. Dexter will bring it along and you will not pay shipping plus you will get a discount on the price.**

President's Message

Did anyone lose plants during the heat wave a few weeks ago? I had just transplanted a bunch of cymbidiums just before it hit. Now that some time has past I do not think I lost any plants but I sure had a lot of brown leaves. It probably set my cymbidiums back a year. I am finding even though we live in such a great climate to grow cymbidiums you still have to keep a constant eye on the weather. Two years ago it was the freeze, this year the heat. I am sure glad that I am not a commercial grower. Although talking to Bob and Dan they came out fine.

I went down to SBOE and Cal Orchid during their open house. I really do not need or have room for any more orchids but I still wanted to check out the nurseries. Once there, who can resist a sale? I found several plants that I could not live without. I am still trying to find room for them.

The Mid-State Fair is in full swing. I had several plants in bloom and I thought it would be good advertising for the club to show them. I called the Fair but was disappointed to find out that deadline to turn in applications for showing plants this year was June 10. On June 10, I did not even know if I would have any plants in bloom. Next year I plan on turning in applications. I will make an announcement at the meeting next May to see if anyone else is interested. Remember your plants will up in Paso for two weeks in not the friendliest weather for orchids.

Chuck has a new natural gas heater for sale. It is a Southern Burner 25,000 BTU Greenhouse heater. It is new in the box and cost him \$800. If anyone is interested in it he said he would make them a good deal. You can see him at the next meeting, Email him at acscheithauer@verison.net or give him a call at (805) 937-6201.

Membership dues are due. If you have not yet paid for 2008-2009, please pay the \$20 at the next meeting or send a check to the society's PO Box listed below.

I look forward to seeing everyone at the next meeting, Aloha, Danny

July meeting notes (by Eric Holenda)

Our last month's speaker was Weegie Caughlin. She is a Cymbidium lover, and currently grows about 800 mature plants at her home in Los Altos Hills south of San Francisco. How does she prepare plants for show? Well, the process begins three years before, as that is how long it takes to get a Cymbidium up to its full potential of bud count and flower quality. As the spikes emerge, she stakes each one, placing the stake in such a manner that the spike may be trained into position for the most appealing display. The spikes are regularly retied as they lengthen. The plant is moved under cover to protect emerging flowers from rain.

Leaves are cleaned just before the show with one part skim milk to four parts water, with a soft cloth. Brown leaf tips are cut off and the cut treated with neosporin (keeps the cut tip green). Any spikes or flowers that are fading are removed, as they detract from the overall display.

Weegie takes an emergency tool kit to shows with her. Included are scotch tape and super glue, which are used to repair flowers broken in transport.

In her opinion, the quality of Cymbidium hybridizing has gone downhill, with the aim of breeding being to produce commercially profitable, "safe" crosses. The period from 1994 to 2004 saw some of the most creative and exciting experimentation, with people of real talent and insight willing to pursue new and unknown directions with novel species and untried hybrid plants as parents.

Special Award (by Eric Holenda)

Occasionally, it becomes appropriate to recognize the contributions of some of our longstanding members who give much but aren't in the limelight, so to speak. Such is the case with Peggy Bozem, our official greeter. For uncounted years she has cheerfully welcomed all strangers who have found their way to our meetings. Like clockwork, every two hours for two days at the Show her voice rings out over the P.A.

announcing the raffle winner. Beginning January 1, she schmoozes local businesses by letter and on foot for donations for the Show's Friday Nite Silent Auction. For this and other selfless service to our Society, last month we honored her with a needlepoint hoop, "For A Lifetime of Service to the Five Cities Orchid Society ". Congratulations, Peggy -- I know you've enjoyed receiving it as much as we've enjoyed giving it.

“Weed-Wackin POT LUCK Party “

You are all invited to help FCOS members Bob and Dan Asbell on Sat., August 30; at Asbell's Nursery in Arroyo Grande. Everyone is invited and needed to join forces to pull weeds out of pots at Bob's Nursery. The weeds have gotten out of hand and with all of us working together, in one fell swoop, we can help get them under control again. Please join us there for this event as it will help Bob immensely & it's always fun to be together visiting. Bring family & friends & a dish to

share, or just show up anytime after 9 AM. Bob will provide sandwiches for lunch about NOON. Please RSVP to Laurie at 929-6710 so she can let Bob know how many sandwiches we'll need, or to get travel directions. Parking is limited so carpooling is encouraged. See you at the “Weed-Wackin POT LUCK Party”!

Cabrillo Orchid Society BBO and Auction

COME TO THE RANCH FOR GREAT ORCHIDS & FOOD! The Cabrillo Orchid Society is having its annual pot-luck, BBQ, and ORCHID AUCTION at the Ranch. Bring a dish to share for pot luck, and some cash for ORCHID BARGAINS & EXOTIC ORCHID OFFERINGS presented at our silent auction! Bring your drinks & tableware, we supply the tri-tip. SATURDAY, AUGUST 9, 12:30 TO 3 P.M. at 1860 Cottontail Creek Road, Cayucos. For info or directions, call Susan 995-0006.

Orchid Calendar

Dates	Event	Location	Comments
Thursday, August 14 , 7:30pm	FCOS Monthly Meeting	AG Women’s Club, Arroyo Grande	The speaker will be Dexter Friede of Grow More fertilizers. His talk will focus on micronutrients, beneficial bacteria, humic acid, and the role of seaweed products in supplying these supplements.
Aug 9-10, 2008	Orchid Mania Orchid Garage Sale	San Francisco County Fair Building, 9 th and Lincoln in Golden Gate Park	19 th Annual sale. Free Admission. Open from 10am-4pm. Get in an hour early on Saturday for \$20 donation. Biggest discount bargains Sunday after 2pm. More info at www.orchids.org .
September 13 – 14, 2008	Sacramento Orchid Forum Show	Shepard Garden and Art Center, 3330 McKinley Blvd., Sacramento, CA	For more info contact Jeff Tyler, 5520 Fruitridge Rd., Sacramento, CA 95820; (916) 455-4292
October 3 – 5, 2008	San Diego International Orchid Fair	Quail Botanical Gardens, 230 Quail Garden Dr., Encinitas, CA	For more info contact Jamie Werner, (760) 943-2333, jamie@szpr.com
October 16 – 19, 2008	Southland Orchid Show	Huntington Botanical Gardens, 11511 Oxford Rd., San Marino, CA.	For more info contact Robert Lauri, 4290 Van Dyke Pl., San Diego, CA 92116; (619) 742-0741; bklauri@yahoo.com
October 25, 2008	Third Annual CVOS Orchid Expo & Sale	Grossman Gallery at the Lompoc Library	More info on this event in future newsletters
November 1 – 2, 2008	Santa Barbara Orchid Estates Fall Open House	Santa Barbara Orchid Estate	http://www.sborchid.com/events.php
November 22 - 23, 2008	Orchid Society of Santa Barbara Fall Show	Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History	This year’s theme is “Galaxies of Orchids”.