



## February 2011 Newsletter

<b>Affiliations</b> American Orchid Society The Orchid Digest	<b>Proud Supporter of</b> 5 Cities Homeless Coalition
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<b>Newsletter Editor: Anne Bachmann</b>	

### **Our Next Meeting (Danny Stocks)**

We are fortunate to have Mary Gerritsen for our February speaker. Mary recently returned from a nearly month-long visit to Borneo, with the primary objective of seeing the orchids and carnivorous plants in their native habitat. Her presentation will cover a little about the geography and geology of Borneo, more about orchid habitats, and lots of photos from her treks to Mt. Kinabalu, Long Pasia, Mulu National Park, the caves of Sarawak, and Bako National Park.

Mary Gerritsen, Ph. D... is a retired cancer scientist who has been growing orchids on and off for more than 30 years, and since relocating to the Bay Area in 1997 started to amass a collection of small cool growing miniature species such as Masdevallias, Porroglossums, Lepanthes and other assorted tiny gems. She also has a second intermediate greenhouse, filled with larger species such as Angraecoids, Cymbidiums, Dendrobiums, Oncidiums, Laelias, Cattleyas and Bulbophyllums. She loves to see orchids growing in situ, and has made it her mission over the last few years to see as many as possible, with trips to see and photograph orchids (and other flora as well) in Canada, various states in the USA, Mexico, Ecuador, Peru, Costa Rica, Panama, Brazil, China, Germany, Rhodes and Crete, Australia and most recently, Borneo. She is the co-author of two botanical books: Masdevallias, Gems of the Orchid World, and Calochortus, Mariposa Lilies and their Relatives, with fellow San Francisco Orchid Society Member and well known photographer, Ron Parsons. Mary is now working on a third book Miniature Orchids with Ron Parsons. In addition to being a member of the San Francisco Orchid Society and the Pleurothallid Alliance, Mary has served as the vice president and president of the Peninsula Orchid Society (San Mateo).

Mary will also have plants for sale at the meeting. So bring your checkbook. It will be your chance to buy plants that are not normally offered by our local orchid growers.

### **January Meeting Summary (Chris Ehrler)**

The FCOS speaker for January 2011 was Jason Fischer from Orchids Limited in snowy Plymouth, Minnesota. He mentioned that Terry Root at the Orchid Zone had sold a Phalaenopsis Jason Fischer (which was named after him) for \$25,000. He spoke to us about Native Orchids of Japan. He said that May is the month when many of the native orchids are in bloom. April is the Cherry Blossom Festivals in Japan and a very nice time to visit. He was able to have a friend of his take him into the mountains in southern end of Honshu near the Fukiyoka area to view orchids growing in the wild. He showed many photos of the natural habitat in the areas where the orchids are growing. There were many different *Cymbidium* species and other genera that are unique to Japan. *Cymbidium goeringii* is the oldest known orchid and was written about by Confucius in 300 BC. Some orchids have been sold in China for up to \$1 million dollars. He showed many photos of *Neofinetia falcata* which is an orchid that many people grow in Japan. The price of a plant depends on its overall size, leaf shape, axis color, color of the root and their tips (some are red), color pattern of the leaves and their axis, and the flower color and shape. They put on some shows that take place when the orchids do not have blooms and judge the plants on their leaves. They are shown many times in hand painted pots. He showed photos of the technique that is used when potting them in moss with the plant roots wrapped in moss but being high above the pot rim.

### **President's Message (Chris Ehrler)**

Hope you are ready for the upcoming orchid shows. The 59<sup>th</sup> Annual San Francisco Orchid Society's Pacific Orchid Exposition (POE) will be held March 4-6, 2011 at Fort Mason Center's Festival Pavilion in San Francisco and this show is HUGE. There will be lots of orchids and vendors with many familiar and new orchid species and hybrids to check out. They have a Gala Benefit Preview, Thursday, March 3, 6:30-10:00pm (cost \$35) with normal show hours being Friday, March 4, 10 am-6 pm, Saturday, March 5, 9 am-6 pm, and Sunday, March 6, 10:00 am-5:00 pm. General admission is \$12.00 in advance over the internet and \$14 at the door, seniors (65+) are \$8.00 online and \$10

at the door, with children 12 and under being free when accompanied by an adult, except at the Gala Benefit Preview. You can get more information at [www.orchidsanfrancisco.org](http://www.orchidsanfrancisco.org).

being \$10. Children 12 years and under get free admission. More info at [http://www.sborchidshow.com/show\\_overview.html](http://www.sborchidshow.com/show_overview.html).

The next BIG show will be closer to home. The 62nd Santa Barbara International Orchid Show that will be held from March 11-13, 2011 will be at the Earl Warren Showgrounds in Santa Barbara. If you have not yet experienced a large orchid show, this one although smaller than San Francisco will still stop you in your tracks as you enter the front door. There will be a diverse array of different orchids and displays including some that are so large you will wonder how they got it set up. If you are the type that is interested in seeing how the displays are setup and are interested in helping the FCOS/SMOS joint display get put together, make sure you contact me at the February meeting and I will connect you with the folks that will be setting it up. The show will be open to the public from 9 am until 5 pm on Friday through Sunday, with admission being \$12, with seniors and students

But the best show of all will be our show that will be on April 1-3. The Friday Night Preview is from 6:30 to 9:30 pm and then continues on Saturday from 9am-5pm and Sunday from 10am to 5pm. Please mark you calendars to make sure you are in town to see the show but most importantly to help put it on. You will have a great time volunteering for various tasks throughout the weekend. If you are looking for something unique to do at the show, volunteer to be a ribbon judge on Friday afternoon. I guarantee that you will learn something new about orchids after working with others that share the hobby of orchid growing.

I hope to see you at the next meeting.

### 2011 Orchid Calendar

Date	Event	Location	Comments
February 10	FCOS monthly meeting	Arroyo Grande Women's Club	07:30:00 PM
February 26	Sacramento Valley Cymbidium Show & Plant Sale	Shepard Garden & Art Center 3330 McKinley Blvd, Sac	9 – 4 pm
March 3-6	San Francisco Orchid Society Exposition	Fort Mason Festival Pavilion	Gala – Thurs. 6:30-10 pm \$35; Friday, 10-6 pm; Saturday, 9-6 pm; Sunday, 10-5 pm; Admission \$14 at door; \$12 advance; Seniors \$10 at door; \$8 advance.
March 12	Annual Cymbidium Congress	Adams Elementary School 2701 Las Positas Rd Santa Barbara	8:30 – 4:30
March 11-13	Santa Barbara Int'l Show	Earl Warren Showgrounds	9-5 pm Admission \$12, Seniors \$10, Kids free
April 1-3	FCOS Orchid Show	South County Regional Center	