



# January 2010 Newsletter

<b>Affiliations</b> American Orchid Society The Orchid Digest	<b>Proud Supporter of</b> Alzheimer's Association of the Central Coast
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## Our Next Meeting

Our January speaker will be Nick Tannaci of Watsonville, CA. Nick is a "specialist specialist" -- not just a Paphiopedilum grower, but he exclusively breeds in the Brachypetalum and Parvisepalum sections of the Ladyslipper family. (Brachys are compact plants with very roundish flowers on short stems, usually white to yellow, often overlaid with various patterns of maroon spots or stripes. Parvis includes many of the amazing new species that were discovered in China in the 1980's. Among other professionals, he is regarded as the best in the country in his field.

The plants he produces are the result of 38 years of selective breeding, his top priority being vigor and disease resistance. The result is easily grown plants, typically blooming in 2" pots. Their small size and moderate light requirements means that a number of them can easily be accommodated on a home windowsill.

Nick's PowerPoint presentation will cover the cultural methods he uses for vigorous growth and quality flowers. Nick will supply the plant table. Generally he brings plants in bud or bloom. You can also order plants for him to bring down from his website, [www.tannaci.com](http://www.tannaci.com). We'll be hosting Nick and his wife Cathy for dinner at the Quarterdeck prior to the meeting at 5:15 pm. Call Eric (929-5749) if you wish to join us, dutch treat.

## President's Message (Danny Stocks)

The holidays are over and I hope everyone had a great time. I am in the snow in the Rocky Mountains. I will be home in time for our next meeting. Today I was wondering if there are native orchids here. If Eric and Christina were here, I am sure they could find some.

**This is a reminder. I know many people have already paid their dues for the year but for everyone else dues are due this month for the year. \$20 for the year. They can be paid at the meeting or through the FCOS web site.**

Our show is coming up fast. March 26 is the preview night and we have tickets for sale. We need everyone's help selling tickets so please get some to sell and don't forget to buy some for yourself. If your employers want to buy some for gifts or for rewarding employees let us know. There may be paperwork involved that takes time to complete and process.

Last year we did not sell all the available tickets. This year let's try a little harder to get them all sold. I look forward to seeing everyone at the next meeting on January 14.

## November Meeting Summary

Thank you to everyone that was at our holiday potluck. It had the possibility to go very wrong but everyone pulled together and it was a blast. The weather was atrocious. It definitely was not a good night to be out. The person that was to open the building was late. I was scared they were not going to show so I went down to the police station so they could get some one to open the building. When I got back the building was open and almost completely set up. The potluck had an excellent selection of food and the auction was a success. Thank you to everyone that donated plants, especially Rudy. He always brings a generous amount of blooming plants to our events. The silent auction was a very successful fundraiser. We made \$497!

## World's Smallest Orchid

The world's smallest orchid is just 2.1mm wide, with transparent petals that are just one cell thick. It comes from the Platystele genus, which is made up of mostly miniature plants. The cream-colored orchid measures only 2.1mm across and the petals are so thin they are transparent. Botanists who have just discovered a new flower in Ecuador can be forgiven for having missed it until now.

American scientist Lou Jost found the tiny flower by accident among the roots of a larger plant that he had collected from the Cerro Candelaria reserve in the eastern Andes. He said: 'I saw that down among the roots was a tiny little plant that I realized was more interesting than the bigger orchid. 'Looking at the flower is often the best way to be able to identify which species of orchid you're got hold of - and can tell you whether you're looking at an unknown species or not.'

It is the 60th new orchid that Dr Jost has discovered in the past decade. He works for Ecuador's EcoMinga Foundation, which created the reserve in partnership with the World Land Trust in Britain. 'It is an exciting feeling to find a new species,' he said. 'People think everything has been discovered but there's much more.'

More than 1,000 orchid species have been unearthed in the South American country in the last 100 years, as new roads have opened up more remote regions.

Dr Jost's most exciting find was a group of 28 types of orchids from the teagueia genus in a mountainous area near Banos, Ecuador. The group was previously thought to only have six species.

Read more: <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-1232106/Smallest-orchid-world-accident-2mm-wide.html#ixzz0bfYyagIy>



## Orchid Calendar

Dates	Event	Location	Comments
January 14	FCOS Monthly Meeting	AG Women's Club, Arroyo Grande	7:30 pm
February 6 & 7	Sonoma Orchids Society Spring Show	Santa Rosa Veteran's Bldg 1351 Maple Santa Rosa	Sat 6 <sup>th</sup> 10-5 pm Sun 7 <sup>th</sup> 10-4 pm
Feb 26-28	2010 Pacific Orchid Exposition	Fort Mason San Francisco	<a href="http://www.orchidssanfrancisco.org">www.orchidssanfrancisco.org</a>
March 12-14	Santa Barbara Int'l Orchid Show	Santa Barbara Fair Grounds	9-5 pm <a href="http://www.sborchidshow.com">www.sborchidshow.com</a>
March 26 - 28	Five Cities Orchid Society 2010 Orchid Show	South County Regional Center 800 West Branch, AG	Fri, 26 <sup>th</sup> Preview Reception Sat 27 <sup>th</sup> 9-5pm Sun 28 <sup>th</sup> 10-5pm