



# January 2011 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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<b>Newsletter Editor: Anne Bachmann</b>	

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

We are so lucky to have Jason Fischer from Orchids Limited in Plymouth, Minnesota as our January speaker. He is in town as one of the main speakers at the 55th Paphiopedilum Guild meeting in Morro Bay. Since he is in town, he graciously agreed to speak at our meeting. Tell your friends as we seldom get such a renowned guest. Jason has spent a considerable amount of time in Japan and will speak to us about "The Native Orchids of Japan". Jason works and helps to manage Orchids Limited with his father, Jerry Fischer. Orchids Limited opened in 1978 and consists of four greenhouses with 15,000 square feet of growing space, a shade house, and laboratory. Jason has had a life-long education in orchids, mainly from the opportunity of being raised in a family orchid business. Jason's educational interests were strongly influenced by Japan. He studied the Japanese language and culture in high school and college and lived in Japan from 2001 to 2003. After returning from Japan, he decided to import Japanese orchid species and add a new niche to the business. Having worked for his father since the age of 5, Jason has been involved in the orchid world from both the business and hobbyist perspective. He has been interested in orchid hybridization and lab work since the age of 14. He first started breeding Phalaenopsis which later led to work with paphs, phrags and miscellaneous hybrids. The Phragmipedium hybrid that bears his name, Phragmipedium Jason Fischer, has received more American Orchid Society FCC's to date (16) than any other hybrid in history. Jason's first lecture on Neofinetia falcata at the Minnesota Orchid Society in 2004 was the kick-off for an amazing series of lectures across America. He has a passion for orchids and the communication skills he developed in Japan as an English teacher have helped him to create very interesting lectures. Jason recently took a trip to Fukuoka (May 2008) to climb mountains and photograph native orchids in situ. He was able to photograph many species such as Cymbidium goeringii, Gastrochilus matsuran, Thrixpernum japonicum and Calanthe discolor. Jason will have plants for sale at the meeting so bring your checkbook. Also check out Orchid Limited's web sight at [www.orchidweb.com](http://www.orchidweb.com) if anyone wants to preorder plants. Any preorders will receive a 10% discount and not have to pay shipping. The deadline for preorders is January 10.

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

Happy New Year! It always amazes me that each year seems to go by fast but my orchids seem to grow so slow. In case you missed the great dinner and silent auction we had at our December meeting, we had a few changes in the FCOS board. But it is more important to begin the New Year by looking back and thanking all those that have made the Five Cities Orchid Society so successful

in the past year. If it was not for a dedicated group of volunteers, you might be sitting in a dark room wondering when the slides for the orchid presentation are going to begin. Eric Holenda was our vice president who was in charge of setting up speakers for the last 6-7 years. Without his efforts, we would have not had the large variety of great speakers who gave us information on how to grow our orchids better and also took us on many "visual trips" allowing us to see orchids growing in their natural habitats around the world. Danny Stocks, who did an outstanding job as our president over the last 3 or so years, has taken over for Eric as vice president and will be in charge of next year's programs. He is open to ideas on speakers or orchid related topics you would like discussed at future meetings so please pass on any suggestions to Danny. The other two persons I would like to thank are Peggy Bozem who has taken care of member registration and Alice Swope who has been in charge of refreshments. Both of these ladies have done superb jobs helping to make sure we knew who was who and that we had something good to eat and drink. There were many others that have stepped forward to help and I would personally thank them all for their dedication to our society.

Thanks to everyone who brought along the great food to the December potluck. I am sure no one went home hungry. I am very thankful to those that donated plants and other items for the silent auction. There was some spirited bidding on a number of the plants. We generated a total of \$574 from the auction which will be used to cover part of the costs for speakers in 2011. Thanks also to the folks that turned in their 2011 membership money. Remember its only \$20 for an annual membership for you and your entire family. Best bargain in town.

There are a number of upcoming events you need to add to your 2011 calendar. First and foremost, is our show which will be on April 1-3. It will begin with the Friday Night Preview from 6:30 to 9:30 pm and then continues on both Saturday and Sunday. More information will be in upcoming newsletters. It would be great if all members could lend a hand for at least a 2 hour block of time over the weekend so please mark you calendars so you do not miss out on all the fun. Remember even if you think you do not know enough about orchids to help out we will find a task that you will find comfortable doing.

I would personally like to thank Eric, Christina, Larry, and Laurie for setting up and taking down the FCOS and SMOS joint display at the November Orchid Society of Santa Barbara show. Although this show is small in size, there were many beautiful plants on display. They did such a good job that the display won

best theme display and also the Orchid Digest Award.  
CONGRATULATIONS.

If you have not attended a LARGE first class orchid show, there are two upcoming ones that I recommend you try to attend. 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. It is estimated that there will be 150,000 orchids in many colors, shapes and sizes showcased at this show and it promises one of the most diverse selections of orchids in the country. In the past there have been over 50 orchid vendors who set up displays and sell orchids from around the world. In addition, hundreds of award winning orchids, judged by the American Orchid Society (AOS), will be on display. Named one of the top three orchid shows in the country, the POE offers something for everyone. They have a Gala Benefit Preview, Thursday, March 3, 6:30-10:00 pm (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).

The second LARGE show I would like to highlight is the 62nd Santa Barbara International Orchid Show that will be held from March 11-13, 2011. The show will take place at the Earl Warren Showgrounds in Santa Barbara. 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 being \$10. Children 12 years and under get free admission. The overall size of this show is smaller than the San Francisco show, but it is also a lot closer to home, and FCOS will have a joint display with SMOS at this show. If you are interested in helping with either setting up or taking down the FCOS display you will get to see the show early and will also receive a pass that allows you to get into the show for FREE on any day. More info at [http://www.sborchidshow.com/show\\_overview.html](http://www.sborchidshow.com/show_overview.html).

I hope that during 2011 we will all be able to improve our skills at growing the fantastic plants known as orchids. Do not forget to attend our meetings and show as you can always learn new information that hopefully will allow you to refine your growing techniques. And remember if you have a question about the society or growing orchids please ask someone at the meetings. The sharing of information will make us all better growers.

I hope to see you at the next meeting.

### 2011 Orchid Calendar

Date	Event	Location	Comments
'Jan 13	FCOS monthly meeting	Arroyo Grande Women's Club	07:30:00 PM
'March 4-6	San Francisco Orchid Society Exposition	Fort Mason	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 11-13	Santa Barbara Int'l Show	Earl Warren Showgrounds	9-5 pm Admission \$
'April 1-3	FCOS Orchid Show		