



June 2011 Newsletter

Affiliations American Orchid Society The Orchid Digest	Proud Supporter of 5 Cities Homeless Coalition
President: Chris Ehrler	Vice President: Danny Stocks
Secretary: Anne Bachmann	Treasurer: Christina Holenda
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Our Next Meeting (Chris Ehrler)

Well it's time for one of our annual meetings that involves some serious food instead of just our monthly snacks. Yes, it's time for our summer BBQ potluck and silent auction. **It will start at 6:30, an hour earlier than our normal meetings.** I will unfortunately be out of town and will miss the fun but hopefully you will be able to attend. Danny will again be the head BBQer and last year he did a superb job. In case you did not know our annual membership fee (hope you have paid your dues of only \$20, but if, not now would be a great time) does not cover the cost of running our society and this silent auction is one way to generate some additional funds and keep our great treasurer happy. So please bring along and donate any extra plants or ones that just do not grow well under your growing conditions. Also, make sure you bring along your checkbook as you do not want miss out on some real bargains. Remember the rules of the silent auction allow you to increase your own bid. The money goes to a great cause.

May Meeting Summary (Chris Ehrler)

FCOS had the privilege of hosting Ken and Amy Jacobson at our May meeting. Ken spoke to us about Cymbidium seedling surprises. Ken is a judge in the AOS judging program, heads the CSA judging program and has been growing *Cymbidiums* for over 40 years. He and his wife grow *Cattleyas*, *Laelias*, *Lycastes*, *Encyclias*, *Vandas*, *Masdevallias* and a few *Disas*. Each year he makes 15-20 *Cymbidium* crosses and then grows out about 25 plants per cross. He said he would like to grow more of them but as usual space is limited. He suggested that everyone try their hand at making crosses as it can be very enjoyable. Seedlings have become difficult to find. You can name your crosses, use whatever parents you want, and are not limited to crosses that others have made. He stated that most hybrids today are about 13-15 generations removed from the original species parents. He has used *Cymbidium Lone Star* in many of his crosses which has a large white flower and seems to have a gene that will cover up yellow in crosses where it is one of the parents. He has found that some of the best all white flowers come from crossing a green flower with a pink one, not white versus white. Many years ago spotted flowers

used to be thrown out because breeders did not think they would sell but now they are quite popular.

He stated that if one of your cymbidiums has virus and its leaves rub against a non-virus plant it will transfer the virus to this other plant so make sure you keep any that you think might have virus away from the clean group. Best plan is to send the virus ones to the compost pile.

He has found, that if you grow a plant with red blooms in bright light, the flower color will be more intense red while, if you grow them in lower light levels, the red will not be as bright. When he takes the seedlings from the flask, he transplants into coir (almost powered coco husk material). Then when they are transferred to 3 ½ inch pots, he used coco husk chips with about 8% perlite and does not remove the coir. At each transplanting, he never washes off the media just adds more as the pot size increases. He does not like to disturb the roots. He also adds a small amount of oyster shell (about ¼ inch size from the feed store) to his medium to keep the medium from becoming too acidic. He suggests you rinse the oyster shell material well as it is salty, fertilize once per week with whatever fertilizer you have on hand, plus once a month during the growing season he adds some epsom salt to the water instead of the fertilizer.

President's Message (Chris Ehrler)

By now your orchids should be showing some new root growth and hopefully you have some with spikes or blooms. If you have questions about your orchid and why it is doing what it is doing or not doing or what you hoped it would be doing, make sure you ask someone about it at the meeting. There are some members in the society that have been growing for many years and will freely give you information based on their experience. More than likely the question or issue you have has already been experienced by someone else in the group and so an answer to your question might be easy to find. We all can learn something new from others in the society

As you will recall from the last newsletter the [Fdk. After Dark 'SVO Black Pearl' FCC/AOS](#) orchid that Sunset Valley

Orchids donated at the orchid show as a fundraiser for the 5Cities Homeless Coalition was donated back to the society to keep the fundraiser going. The plant was open to all to bid and I want to let you know that Scott St. Clair is the proud winner with a high bid of \$95. The orchid is regularly sold by SVO for \$100. The money was given to the Homeless Coalition.

Upcoming Events

July 8 – 10 Santa Barbara Orchid Faire, SB Orchid Estate & Cal-Orchid Open House. Show and Sale Public AOS judging May 8th 1PM. Meet Author Steve Manning, new book: “Discovering New World Orchids”. “A leisurely time in summer for growers and collectors to gather and share their passion for orchids.” <http://www.orchidfair.com/>

July 23 -The Cabrillo Orchid Society Annual BBQ
 FCOS members have been invited to attend their annual BBQ and silent auction which will be held on Saturday, July 23 from 12:30 to 3:30. They will supply the meat but please bring along a potluck item that will feed 8-10 people, your own drinks and silverware. They will supply plates and a good time! If you still have plants you did not donate to the FCOS auction in June it would be appreciated if you would please bring them along and donate them to their auction. The party will take place at the Fishman Ranch at address: 1860 Cottontail Creek road, Cayucos. Please let them know by calling them at 995-0006 if you will be attending so they know how much meat to prepare. Directions to their ranch are as follows: take highway 1 thru Morro Bay. At the 1st light past the light at Yerba Buena in Morro Bay is where you turn right. A sign will have an arrow to the ocean for Studio Dr. and an arrow pointing up the hill for "Old Creek Road" with arrow pointing up the hill. Drive about 5 miles up hill, past Whale Rock Reservoir, past Santa Rita Road on right, and then turn left at Cottontail Creek Rd. (about 50' beyond Santa Rita Rd.) Travel about 2.2 miles down Cottontail Creek Rd. (you will go between 2 white barns before you arrive at your destination) until you arrive at 1860

and turn into the driveway on the right. The numbers are on mailbox and fence. It is quite easy to find and their ranch is a very pleasant place to spend time with new friends.

AOS News

AOS is on the move. At the members meeting held in April, it was announced that all members with email addresses would receive an invitation in early May to explore the AOS web site that has been under development which also included the new Orchids Plus program and to provide feedback. During that time, both web sites will run simultaneously. When the new site is made active you'll notice a new, fresh look to the AOS website. Its more than a cosmetic change. Along with upgrades and added material, the new Orchids Plus program will be available. If you are a current subscriber to AQ+, you will need to re-register in the new program. AOS also anticipates a 'social network' component to the website and it is currently under development.

In addition, at the Members meeting, the Board of Trustees announced that a committee has been formed to assess the future strategic partners for the AOS. Possible strategic partners are Huntington Gardens in California, Fairchild Botanical Garden in Florida and Longwood Gardens in Pennsylvania. The current AOS property in Delray is under contract for purchase and the potential purchaser is going through some local zoning change requirements. It is anticipated that sale will be completed in the last quarter of 2011.

2011 Orchid Calendar

Date	Event	Location	Comments
June 9	FCOS Annual Potluck and Silent Auction	Arroyo Grande Women's Club	06:30:00 PM
07/08/10	Santa Barbara Orchid Faire Orchid Estate and Cal Orchid Open House	Earl Warren Fair Grounds	9-5pm Friday & Saturday 10-4pm Sunday Admission free, parking \$5
07/23/11	Cabrillo Orchid Society Annual BBQ	Fishman Ranch Directions above in newsletter	12:30 – 3:30 pm

