

MARVELOUS MAY

Five Cities Orchid Society

President's Corner – for May 2016 Newsletter

I sure hope you did not miss our show as it was a great time. I have not yet seen the attendance figures but everyone there was having fun at the Preview Party on Friday and then during the show on Saturday and Sunday. The vendors were quite pleased with the sales they had over the weekend. They each donated a number of orchids that we then used on the opportunity table at the April meeting. Hope you made it to that meeting and won a new orchid. Also, thanks to the many new people that showed up at the April meeting after attending our show.

I also was pleased with the large turnout of people that showed up at 7 pm at the April meeting and attended our first Orchid 101 gathering. Bob Asbell did a great job in instructing people on what made an orchid and orchid. The gatherings will continue each month so make plans to arrive before 7 pm so you do not miss out on information that will help you to become a better orchid grower.

I would like to thank Larry Vierheilig, Anne Bachmann, John DeRosa, and Eric Holenda who volunteered their time to man the FCOS table at the Nipomo Greenhouse Growers open house on Saturday April 16 at Nipomo High School. We had a table display of plants from Rudy and Anne Bachmann, Larry, John, and me. We had a number of people stop and talk to us about orchid growing and some of them sounded interested in coming to our meetings and possibly becoming a member.

Keep your orchids happy and remember that many of them are beginning to send out new roots and growths so they might need more water so make sure you check them on a regular basis. Also, watch for bugs as they will begin to reproduce quickly with the warmer weather and can multiply quickly. Hope to see you all at the May meeting. Chris

Chris Ehrler President FCOS

Orchids 101



Bob Asbell will again conduct an **Orchids 101** class before our regular meeting on May 12. Class begins at 7 PM and lasts about 20 min. All are welcome---especially our newest members who have particular concerns.

May Speaker

Our main program for the May 12th meeting will be a presentation by Leslie Chan and his brother from AGGRAND Fertilizers. You might remember seeing their booth at our show in April.

We will be hosting our speakers for dinner before the May 12 meeting at Divine Thai Cuisine Restaurant at 501 West Grand Ave, Grover Beach. Its phone # 481-3663. We would like to start dinner about 5:45 with some of our orchid club members joining us. Our main meeting will start at 7:30 Directions to Divine Thai: take the 4th ST exit heading west to West Grand Ave in Grover Beach. Take a left on West Grand and the restaurant is about two blocks down the street. We would like to get an approximate number of those attending dinner. You can call Chuck at 937-6201 to let him know you will be there but you can still show up if you decide at the last minute you will attend.

The following is a note from Leslie re: his presentation.

We are looking forward to coming down on the 12th and meeting with all of you again. We thought we would go over briefly the differences between chemical based vs. organic based fertilizers. I will explain how the AGGrand fertilizers came about and the basic components which make it organic. I will share with you my experiences with my farmers' plight under drought conditions these past few years and how the organic fertilizers helped them. Then I will explain how we transitioned into using the fertilizers with orchids. This is where Dr. Jim Chan comes in. He was not in the developing stage of the organic fertilizer. He experimented and is continuing experimenting on how to use the organic fertilizer with the orchid and various plants. We will close by explaining simple ways on how to apply the fertilizers to the plants. We will be brief in hitting the highlights in about 30 minutes and leave the remaining 15 minutes or so for questions.

April, 2016 Meeting

Bob Asbell began his Orchids 101 class this month. It was interesting to see how the group kept getting larger and larger as the time went on. And many of the folks were not new growers. Just remember---you can never have too many orchids , or too many growing hints! And Bob is a National Treasure.

Eric Holenda and Chris Ehrler took over at the regular meeting with their presentation of some of the basics for watering, growing mediums, pest control, light, etc.



FCOS 2016 Directors

President: Chris Ehrler 489-9046
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American Orchid Society
The Orchid Digest

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Upcoming Events For Orchid Lovers

☑ Casa de las Orquideas Annual Seedling Sale May 14, 2016 9 AM—6 PM 170 S. Nardo Ave, Solana Beach Info: casa@orquideas.com or 858-755-7572

☑ San Gabriel Valley Orchid Hobbyists Annual Auction May 19, 2016; Preview 6 PM, Auction begins 7 PM Los Angeles County Arboretum and Botanic Garden, 301 N. Baldwin Ave., Arcadia

☑ Sunset Valley Orchids Annual Open House June 18, 2016 9 AM—4 PM 1255 Navel Pl, Vista Info: www.sunsetvalleyorchids.com or 760-310-0778

☑ Cal Orchid's Summer Hummer June 8—10, 2016 9 AM—5 PM 1251 Orchid Dr., Santa Barbara Info: www.calorchid.com or 805-967-1312

☑ Santa Barbara Orchid Estate Summer Open House June 8-10, 2016; Friday and Saturday 8 AM—5 PM, Sunday 9AM—4 PM 1250 Orchid Dr., Santa Barbara Info: sboc@sborchid.com or 800-553-3387

Saturday, June 4, 2016

Fourteenth Orchid Digest Speakers Day:

Crazy About Cattis

The Huntington Library, Art Collections and Botanical Gardens, San Marino, CA

12:30 pm to 8:00 pm.

Expert Lectures-Orchid Displays-Orchid Sales-Silent Auction-AOS Judging-Dinner

Scheduled Speakers:

Fred Clarke: "Modern Splashed and Spotted Cattleyas and How To Grow Them"

Keith Davis—"Superior Culture for Cattleyas"

Munekazu Ejiri—"New Cattleyas from the Far East"

Francisco Miranda—"The Genus Cattleya in Brazil - Species and Groups"

Evening Presentation:

James Comstock—"Cattleyas in 3-D"

Tickets: \$65 (\$80 at door) for afternoon seminars, wine and cheese happy hour, dinner and evening entertainment.

Reservations online at www.orchiddigest.org

or contact Simone Friend at Orchidsimoneff@aol.com or call (562) 431-1247. When contacting by e-mail, please include phone number, e-mail address and mailing address. Space is limited so don't wait to buy your ticket.

