



FCOS President's message - October 2017 newsletter

For those of you that did not make it to the September meeting, you missed an interesting start to the meeting. Turns out the City of AG's Parks Department somehow missed our meeting and did not send anyone to open the doors. After Eric went to the police department to see if they could help, and multiple other unsuccessful phone calls, we continued by having Bob Asbell present his Orchids 101 on *Sobralia* outside the building. Karen Kolba suggested we could use the clubhouse at Toucan Terrace so we drove there and setup for the rest of the meeting. Thanks to everyone that helped by quickly setting up the chairs and tables for Bryce's presentation. See notes from his presentation in this newsletter. Alan talked with the new head of the Parks Department about the locked doors, and she was very apologetic for missing our meeting and has refunded our rental cost for two meetings. Alan also now has her cell phone number so if it was to happen again we know who to call.

Hope you are keeping your orchids happy. If not or you have questions about your orchids, please ask for help at the next meeting. Hope to see you there. Chris

Bob Hamilton Guest Speaker Oct. 12, 2017

Robert Hamilton was born in Berkeley in 1946 and has lived in Berkeley all his life. He has used the name Bob since childhood. His working-career began at UC Berkeley first as a scientific glass blower specializing in electron tubes and eventually becoming the manager of equipment and facilities for two semiconductor research labs, the UC Berkeley Microlab and its successor, the UC Berkeley Marvell Nanofabrication Laboratory. Each lab had memberships of more than 300 researchers at any one time. Bob retired from UC June 2017 after 50 years of service.

Bob met his partner John Leathers in 1975 and a year later they built a greenhouse and began growing cool-growing Andean orchids with John specializing mainly in *Draculas* and *Masdevallias* and Bob, *Odontoglossums*. They operate a 3000 sq. ft. greenhouse in Pacifica, CA on the coast making developmental crosses as well as line breeding. They operate their own lab. They hold a California Nursery License as Hawk Hill Nursery; however, commercial sales are not the objective of their efforts given market conditions for specialty orchids.

"The Orchid Craze"

This talk begins at the beginning of the 19th Century with the discovery of nature and seeks to share what that dynamic century produced in a frenzy for orchids and other exotic plants. It covers the efforts at propagation and a bit of history about orchid propagation. The talk evolves to Hawk Hill Orchids, what we do and what we've made. It ends with a degree of pessimism about the future of hobbies, like orchid growing given the changes we see in our culture and its youth. While a number of slides will focus on our flowers, I call on the 11th Commandment, "Thou Shall Not Bore" and make an effort to avoid talks based on "this x this = this".

The plant table will be provided by Hawk Hill Nursery.

Speaker notes from the September, 2017 FCOS meeting.

Bryce Augustine, an AOS judge from Santa Barbara judging center, spoke to the FCOS group at our September meeting. His title was Passport to Orchids and he began by telling you some of the dangers you might encounter while trekking looking for orchids. These included leeches, jumping spiders and other obnoxious bugs. He and his wife Nancy now prefer to travel in luxury like on a cruise ship. Bryce took the group on a Powerpoint presentation to Indonesia, Sumatra, Borneo, Singapore, Queensland, Australia, Central/South America (including Belize, Cayman Islands, Costa Rica, Mexico and Colombia). For each area he showed a number of slides of a variety of orchids that grow in the wild. Orchid genera included *Phalaenopsis*, *Vanda*, *Ascocentrum*, *Paphiopedilum*, *Dendrobium*, *Prosthechea*, *Sobralia*, *Vanilla*, *attelya*, *Myrmecophilia*, and *Lycaste*.

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Orchid Society of Santa Barbara presents

Falling for Orchids Show & Sale

Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History
2559 Puesta del Sol Road
Santa Barbara, CA 93105

Saturday Nov. 18
10 am - 5 pm

Sunday Nov. 19
10 am - 3 pm

Museum admission:
 Adult (18-64 years) \$12
 Senior (65+ years) \$8
 Teen (13-17 years) \$8
 Child (2-12 years) \$7
 Child (under 2 years) free
Sunday is free!

info: <http://orchidsb.org/>

Vendors:
 Amritz Kingdom of Plants
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AOS, CSA & Ribbon Judging • Spectacular Displays • Beautiful Orchid Sales

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Fall Calendar

Repot Doritis, Doritaenopsis, Encyclia, Miltonia & Stanhopea as they go out of bloom. Repot seedlings as necessary, especially Phalaenopsis seedlings.

Decrease fertilization rate, allow Phals to experience the chill of early fall, allow other orchids to experience the shortening of the day length. Bring orchids indoors that have been outside for the summer. Stake spikes as they grow. Check light conditions, remove shade cloth as necessary.

Look for blooms on: Oncidium, Miltoniopsis, Phragmipedium, Psychopsis & Sophronitis

Look for spikes on Phalaenopsis, Oncidium, Brassavola, Dendrobiums

I've got my eye on you



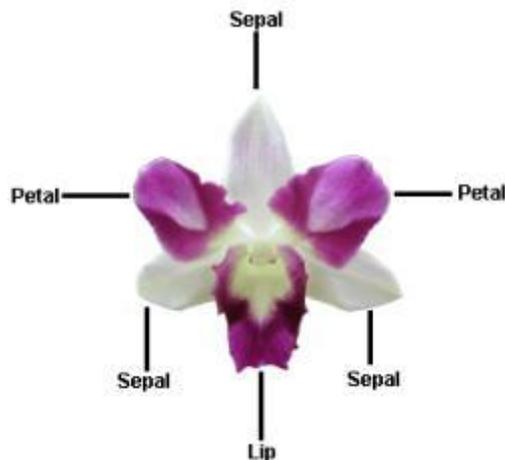
Natural Cues

Phals are sensitive to the drop in temperature that comes with fall. If grown indoors the plant should be given 2 weeks of near minimal temperatures in the fall to initiate bloom spikes.

Orchid Blooming

An orchid bloom opens slowly and rarely do we actually get to experience the process. In a time-release video of an orchid flower opening up to full bloom, the three sepals which make up the outer covering of the bud were green as the bud developed. As the bud opens, the three sepals fold back to show their lovely purple stripes. Inside the three sepals are the three petals, two large round petals to the left and right and one petal that has formed into a lip. On other flowers the sepals are not part of the bloom in the way they are with an orchid.

An orchid typically has three sepals and three petals, one of which is a lip. The picture of a Dendrobium below illustrates this. The sepals are white and the petals are purple. The lip, a special petal that forms into a unique shape, is also purple.



Natural Stimuli

In nature, orchids have natural stimuli that indicate to the plant that the growth season is over and it's time to bloom. Some orchids are temperature sensitive and some are light sensitive. Those that are temperature sensitive are often triggered to bloom by the natural cooling that occurs in the fall. This drop in temperature signals to the orchid that the growth period is coming to an end and it is time to get ready to set a bloom spike. Sometimes orchids grown in our homes where the temperature is fairly constant are deprived of this natural cue and will be reluctant to bloom. Temperatures in the 60's for a brief period (1-2 weeks) are usually sufficient to initiate a bloom spike in the majority of Phalaenopsis. Similarly, light sensitive orchids grown in our homes where lights are on after dark can have their natural cycle disrupted. If these types of plants are allowed to summer outdoors they will usually sense the shortening days and begin the bloom cycle.