



Five Cities Orchid Society

August, 2018

FCOS President's Message August, 2018

Thanks to everyone that attended and brought great food to our July potluck and donated plants and assorted items for the silent auction. Alan Durham again did a superb job being the Quality Control on my BBQing. Congratulations to all those who had the winning bid on the different plants and items that had been donated for the auction. There were definitely a large number of orchids that had multiple bids. For those that took second place in the bidding, remember to bid quicker and higher on items at our December potluck and silent auction. Alan, the FCOS treasurer, said we grossed about \$900 from the auction and an additional \$100 from Clive's Art Show a few weekends ago. So thanks again to all those that made donations and who bid on the various items. Besides the items donated by members, we also had plants donated by Marni Turkel and Ecuagenera Nursery in Ecuador.

At this point in time (July 23) I have only received TWO (2) proposed theme names for next year's orchid show. Hopefully everyone put on their thinking cap before the end of July and has sent me their suggestions by the time you read this newsletter. As in past years, Rudy and Anne Bachmann of SLO Orchids donated \$50 worth of your choice of orchids to the person who suggested the winning theme name. The show committee will be choosing the winning name at their August 13 meeting.

Did you know that the American Orchid Society (AOS) has hosted over 60 1-hour long webinars about various orchid related topics during each year. They all are available to AOS members and some of them are actually available to non-members. The previous webinars are available on their website. For members, you now have access to past issues of Orchids magazine from the 1930's to the present. They will be adding article and photo searching capability soon, so you should be able to conduct a quick search for a particular topic of orchid. If you are not already a member, I think you might consider becoming one so that you will then have access to a large library of information about orchids. You can find more information at <http://www.aos.org/>.

Hope to see you are the August 9 meeting. Chris

HINT-----Why cinnamon?

Keep some **cinnamon** on hand while repotting to sprinkle on newly cut areas of the plant. Cinnamon (yes, the ordinary spice from the grocery store) is a good, natural fungicide. You may substitute your favorite orchid fungicide for cinnamon if you have one. During repotting is a great time to examine the orchid thoroughly looking for bugs.

Speaker for August Meeting

The FCOS president Chris and his wife Betsy had the opportunity to go on a 12-day tour in Southern Ecuador in November 2017, after the 22nd annual World Orchid Conference. Here is a quick overview of his presentation for the August meeting.

Our group was lead by Alex Portilla, a nephew of Pepe and Ivan Portilla, who are the owners of Ecuagenera Nursery. The tour began in Guayaquil and after getting our group onto a nice bus we headed east and over an almost 12,000 foot pass in the Andes and then into Gualaceo, where the main Ecuagenera Nursery complex is located. While there we experienced the 25th anniversary celebration of their nursery with lots of great food and entertainment. We then continued our trip with many stops along the roads and on trails to see orchids growing in their native habitats. We saw a wide variety of different orchid genera and other blooming plants during the almost 1,200 mile trip. The PowerPoint slide show will consist of photos of orchids in the wild and propagated at Ecuagenera's nurseries and other blooming plants seen while on the road. Photos of Ecuadorians and the areas where they live will also be shown.

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Ansellia africana is a variable species with a broad distribution in tropical Africa. Two-inch flowers are borne on branched inflorescences in winter and spring, though large plants may bloom throughout the year. Plants can get quite large under good conditions. The blooms are usually basically yellow and are barred in differing degrees, with some nearly entirely dark brownish black. Most have a musky fragrance. Culture is as for cattleyas, with high light and intermediate temperatures (60° F night and 80° F day). Allow it to dry between waterings. Many hobbyists grow this plant in baskets, though it will do well in trees in frost-free areas.