

FCOS President's message - July 2018 newsletter

We will have our mid-year BBQ and potluck on Thursday, July 12, at THE Arroyo Grande WOMEN CLUB. The doors will open about 6:00 pm and Dinner will begin at 6:30 (earlier than our normal meeting time). If you can come early to help set up tables and chairs that would be helpful. You need to bring along you own place setting(s), beverage, and a dish to share. To make the evening successful, we also hope that each person will donate to the silent auction. If you have transplanted your orchids and now have more than one pot of a particular orchid please consider donating one of the orchids. Or if you have too many orchids for your growing space or orchids that you cannot give the correct environmental conditions to for it to grow well, please donate it/them to the auction. You will also want to bring along your checkbook so you can pay for the new treasures that you hopefully will win at the auction. The money we generate from the silent auction helps to keep our annual dues low and allows us to continue to be able to afford quality speakers. If you have questions about this meeting, please call me at 1-805-489-9046.

It's time for you all to help us generate a list of potential theme names for next year's orchid show. The person who enters the winning name will get a surprise gift. I know at this point you already have suggestions for the name and want to know what you need to do to enter. It's easy. Send me an email with your suggestions (no limit on the number of names you can enter) at my home email address (ehrler4@juno.com). I will be the only one who knows who entered which names and I will give the show committee only the suggested theme names. The show committee will only find out who entered the winning name once they have made their final decision. All proposed theme names must be to me no later than SUNDAY, JULY 22, so start sending them soon.

Remember that if your orchids are not growing well, especially at this time of the year when many are putting out new growths and roots, there could be a problem. You might not be giving your orchids the correct conditions and care. This can include over or under watering, not having the correct amount of light for you orchid, adding too much or too little fertilizer, and not giving them enough air movement to list a few of the possibilities. So do not be afraid to ask folks at the meeting how they grow their orchids, especially those that bring in their plants for show and tell. They probably have already experienced the same problems you are experiencing and they can help you become a better grower.

Hope to see you are the July meeting/dinner/silent auction. Chris

Summer

Arts

Festival





June 2018 speaker notes

At FCOS's June meeting, James Rose who co-owns Cal Orchids with his wife Lauris, spoke about Mexican Laelias. He mentioned that there is a great book released in 1997 titled Laelias of Mexico that is well worth owning. Laelia speciosa blooms in April-May and can take temperatures to 0 F. The flower color is variable and can reach 5-6 inches in size. It needs a dry winter, and in the wild grows in full sun. L autumalis has a large bloom that is fragrant. It blooms in the fall. L crawshayana might be a natural hybrid. In nature it grows in a humid oak forest. L albida is an easy grower and grows better mounted than potted. It is considered to be the hardiest of all the Laelias. It blooms between September and December. Lanceps has many varieties, with some growing on the eastern side of the main mountain range and the other on the western side. L gouldiana has only been found near one town in Mexico. It is now extinct in nature due to over collecting. L furfuracea likes to be grown in warm conditions. L rubescens is common and needs to be grown in hot conditions. Laurea looks like Lrubescens and is a warm grower. L superbiens bloom from November to March in areas that are mainly frost free. Spikes can be up to 6 foot in length. The white form grows natively in Honduras. This species needs a dry winter. L harbingeriana is a warm grower and might be a natural cross between L anceps and L superbiens. L nemesis is probably also a primary hybrid. L evermaniana can take severe frost.

*****MARK YOUR CALENDARS*****

- Santa Barbara Orchid Estate Summer Open House July 13-15, 2018 1250 Orchid Drive, Santa Barbara Info: www.sborchid.com
- Cal Orchid's Summer Hummer July 13-15, 2018; 9 AM—5 PM 1251 Orchid Drive, Santa Barbara Info: www.calorchid.com

- International Phalaenopsis Alliance Summer Symposium July 21-22, 2018 The Huntington Library, Art Collections, and Botanical Gardens, San Marino Info: www.phal.org
- Orchids in the Park July 21-22, 2018; 10 AM—5 PM San Francisco County Fair Building "Hall of Flowers, San Francisco Info: www.sforchidsinthepark.org

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Orchid Care Calendar

The cycle of orchid growth and bloom is fascinating to watch. Keeping in sync with these cycles by actively fertilizing and repotting at the optimal times leads to greater success in orchid growing. Depending on where you live, the cycle of orchid growth and bloom may be This chart is just a guideline, you may experience different cycles based upon your environment and orchid collection.

Summ er	Repot Phals & Cattleya as they go out of bloom, finish repotting of Paphs by early summer. Also repot late blooming epidendrums.
	Look for blooms on: Catasetum, Doritis, Doritaenopsis, Encyclia, Miltonia, Stanhopea & Vanda
	Continue fertilizing at twice the winter rate. Increase watering to compensate for moisture lost during high temperatures.
	Look for new growth on Brassavola, Cymbidium, Dendrobium, Epidendrum, Lycaste, Masdevalia, Odontoglossom, Oncidium, Paphs, Phals, Phrags & Psychopsis - stake as necessary.

And the Smallest Orchid Yet!





Four years ago, Lou Jost, an American botanist, discovered the smallest orchid species in recorded history in Ecuador. The flowers measure just 0.08" (2.1mm), beating the previous record-holder platystele jungermannioides. Dr. Jost said of the discovery, "I found it among the roots of another plant that I had collected, another small orchid which I took back to grow in my greenhouse to get it to flower. A few months later I saw that down among the roots was a tiny little plant that I realized was more interesting than the bigger orchid."

In fact, the petals on this tiny orchid are so slender that they are merely one cell thick, making them transparent. This is one of over 1,000 species that has been discovered in Ecuador in the last century, and was the 60th new species that Dr. Jost has discovered.

I think I have posted this before. However, I thought our newest members would be interested in reading about it.





Five Cities Orchid Society