



FIVE CITIES  
ORCHID SOCIETY

January 2020 Newsletter

**Welcome to our first newsletter of the New Year in a new format. Please feel free to forward this newsletter to friends who might be interested in knowing about Five Cities Orchid Society and encourage them to subscribe at [www.fcoss.org](http://www.fcoss.org).**

Our speaker for January is Joe Ambriz - "*Laelia anceps* - how to grow this temperature tolerant orchid".



Joe Ambriz will talk about his favorite orchid, *Laelia anceps* at our Thursday, January 9th meeting. He promises an exciting, photo packed presentation. This is the key blooming season

for this temperature tolerant Mexican species. Join us for the meeting at 7:30. Details on the events page at [www.FCOS.org](http://www.FCOS.org). Dinner with Joe will be at Divine Thai Restaurant, 501 W. Grand, Grover Beach, CA at 5:30.

If you plan to join us for dinner with Joe, please click to email: [edlysek@me.com](mailto:edlysek@me.com)

## **From The Presidents Potting Bench**

### **THE ORKID ZONE**

We have been asked by the Chapman Estate ([www.chapmanestatefoundation.org](http://www.chapmanestatefoundation.org)) to participate in their Kids day, April 22, 9:30-11:30. Chapman has arranged for 50 kids from 4-6 grades to attend. We will have the opportunity to work with these NAOCC materials and kids to evaluate the kids program which I thought we could call The OrKid Zone.

As part of our mission of Orchid Education and conservation, we have been working to establish The OrKid Zone a program where FCOS Members focus on teaching and learning about orchids with kids. Many of these materials have been developed by the North America Orchid Conservation Center (NAOCC).

We have access to some materials such as live plants, orchidami punchouts, a poster on orchid pollinators, a vanilla orchid book, and some coloring pages. Additionally, we might include the seed to tissue culture demo in this OrKid Zone exhibit or even supply a living plant for each kid to take home.

We are getting samples of Orchidami <https://northamericanorchidcenter.org/orchid-gami/> as punchouts which will include two native California species. We can purchase punch-outs and if they are intended for educational purposes, such as a classroom activity or orchid society event (e.g. OrKid Family Day), we can purchase these at a significant discount of 50 cents per sheet "and the NAOCC will cover mailing costs.

The feedback from people that have used orchidami is to select the following: Showy Lady's Slipper, Water Spider, Chapman's Fringed Orchid. These are relatively easy to fold and represent a variety of shapes and color. Also there are a few California orchids as punch-outs include: Striped Coralroot (*Corallorhiza striata*) Fairy Slipper (*Calypso bulbosa*) Chatterbox (*Epipactus gigantea*). We will have a few of these available at our next meeting if you have an interest in working with these.

Additionally, here is a link to a poster on orchid pollinators up: <https://www.pollinator.org/shop/orchid-poster#poster>. If anyone has any suggestions or would like to help with the OrKid Zone, please let us know.

## **CONSERVATION**

We have been talking with the North American Orchid Conservation Center and they are hoping to organize a California regional NAOCC group to support efforts to collect samples of native orchids (fruits and roots) for the seed and fungal banking efforts and, eventually, propagation efforts. We can become involved in the collection part of NAOCC, and they have provided us the protocols that they have developed that describes how you would go about making collections, landowner and collector agreements, etc.

The NAOCC has been working several education and conservation issues such as the Orchid in the Classroom and Fairchild Million Orchid Project. This is a collaborative program with the Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden which has great potential to become a national model. In these projects seed pods and plant material are collect and propagated by school age kids. Orchid seedlings are produced in a mobile tissue lab and eventually the orchid seedlings are planted to establish the plants in designated conservation areas, horticultural gardens and in and other wild places and these individuals and populations monitored over time. If there is enough interested individuals within our membership that would be interested determining if a program could be initiated in our local schools (currently in middle and high schools). The NAOCC can also work with us on details of what is needed to try to make it happen. The program is currently focused in the DC and Miami area but the NAOCC is hopeful that it will start in other parts of the country in a year or two. To learn more about the North American Orchid Conservation Center go to <https://northamericanorchidcenter.org>.

## **NEWSLETTER**

I'd like to remind you that we could use your help with some content. Maybe you would like to write an article, summarize a trip or experience, talk about conservation or cultivation issues, report on a particular genus or species, write a book review, share a story or your pictures etc. It would be nice to have some collaboration from our members with this newsletter project. If each one of us would submit one thing this year it could make a big difference. (Think about the possibilities. You could even have a recurring column.) This is not an obligation but an opportunity.

Our editors will screen (and may edit) submissions and make the final decisions on what to include in each issue. Submit your articles any time for consideration in future newsletters.

Our December Pot Luck Dinner and Silent Auction was a great success and a festive way to celebrate the Holidays.



Eric's amazing *Laelia anceps*.



At our December pot luck dinner the desserts were particularly popular.



Always great to see everyone in a festive Holiday mood.



One of our most famous members, Moto-Cross champion motorcycle rider Miss Fire and her husband Johnny!



and if you need proof, here is Linda at the top of her career

## Upcoming Events

Peninsula Orchid Society Show and Sale - Jan 25-26

The Peninsula Orchid Society Show and Sale is - January 25-26, 2020 at Redwood City (Community Activities Building, 1400 Roosevelt Ave, Redwood City, 94061) from 10am-5pm each day. We have nine vendors lined up (Gold Country, Cal-Orchid, Brookside, Asbell, Botanico, Orchid Design, D&D Flowers, Orchids and Gardens, and Sorella) as well as seminars, AOS judging and member plant sales. We hope to see you there! For updates check out our website or our facebook event: <https://www.facebook.com/events/835902900172506/>

**Our new website attracted 843 visitors in 2019 - the top visitors are:**

- **U.S. 727**
- **China 51**
- **U.K. 15**
- **Canada 13**
- **Japan 9**
- **Austria 5**

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