



## From the President's Potting Bench

It's hard to believe that November is here and 2019 is rapidly coming to an end. I have been busy trying to Feng shui my greenhouse. I grow a lot of my orchids outside here in Los Osos, but feel more comfortable putting some of them in the greenhouse for the winter.

My greenhouse is actually an enclosed shade house that I've spent a lot of time optimizing for my orchids. I have electricity, a sink, a small RO system, fans, a heater, a powered sprayer, LED grow lights, and humidity trays filled with water. Even with all of this, I inadvertently killed my Stanhopea flowers just as they opened last month. This resulted in me installing a new solar vent on the roof to try and control the high temperature. It takes a lot of tinkering to get the right setup.

As to successful growth, I have a Camperrettia in flower, several Laelias in spike and a catty Orpetti with 5 blooms. I also have 4 of the Second Chance Phals in my greenhouse. A few of them are in spike now, and will be going to a new home soon. Last month I gave 20 blooming Phals to residents at the Las Brisas Retirement Home and 4 to hospice patients. They all seemed to appreciate the offerings.

The Second Chance Program isn't the only development for our society is preparing to go into in the future. We have joined both the San Luis Obispo and the South County Chambers of Commerce, and several of us have attended chamber functions and mixers. Chamber functions are open to any member of the FCOS. If you are interested, please let me know and I can put you on the Chamber list as an official representative of the FCOS. It's a great opportunity to network with your community and represent the FCOS.

In addition, we are actively seeking partnerships within the community. We are talking with these organizations: Central Coast Cactus & Succulent Society, CalPoly Horticultural Department, CalCoast orchids, Floricultura, Chapman Foundation group, Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts of America and Children's Discovery Center (to be opened in the summer of 2020). Stay tuned for further developments.

Have you checked out our new website? Please visit [www.fcoss.org](http://www.fcoss.org) and sign up to receive our newsletters. It will help us build our list. If you have any feedback on the website, please let us know. We are looking for members to write articles for our website and newsletter. If you have any information you'd like to share regarding orchid-related stories, cultural information, book reviews, trips, orchid sales etc., please send it to be considered for publication.

Additionally, as part of our membership drive and to encourage attendance our next Central Coast Orchid Show, I have used the Nextdoor App to inquire if anyone in my neighborhood would be interested in a class on orchids in Los Osos. There has been a huge response--140 people have expressed interest. I have sent a tentative date for an FCOS orchid class on Jan 19, 2020 at 2 pm at CalCoast Orchids in Los Osos. This meeting will be similar to the general Thursday meeting. We can use the participation of current members, as well as the donation of a few orchids, in order to make this a success. Please contact me if you're available. Hopefully this meeting will lead to increased membership for FCOS.

Wishing you all well as we begin the holiday season. Jeff

[The Show Committee](#) is launching a major advertising program for the 25th Anniversary Central Coast Orchid Show and Sale. We will show members how to start a Facebook account so you can "Follow" FCOS and "Like" the FCOS postings. Those of you with Facebook accounts solely to see photos of your grandchildren will now have a second reason to check your Facebook accounts to see postings of FCOS member grown orchids.

## *Guest Speakers November 14, 2019 Meeting*

Bas van Eijk and Alison Glasco went on their first date in 2013 upon his arrival in the United States. The homegrown farmer and Los Angeles native shared a romance that quickly blossomed into a happy marriage, and their shared interests sparked a dream that they could achieve together—Cal Coast Orchids. Bas worked for an orchid grower located in Carpinteria, California as they started building a life together, and then the pair pursued an opportunity in Virginia before returning to the Central Coast with a plan to start their own business. With Bas's extensive background in horticulture and Alison's landscaping experience and schooling in the sciences, the couple was well-prepared to begin. Cal Coast Orchids is located in Los Osos, CA and grows an extensive line of Phalaenopsis orchids. Bas will share his extensive knowledge of how to care for these beautiful orchids and will discuss the state of the art equipment he installed at Cal Coast Orchids.

Remember--We will be hosting our speakers for dinner before the meeting. Let Ed know.

### **\*\*\*You Will Want to Make This Date \*\*\***

Our FCOS field trip on Sat Nov 16th will visit Ambriz Kingdom of Plants in Carpinteria at 10 AM, Lunch at Padaro Grill on Padaro Ave in Carpinteria and then Air Plant Alchemy in Carpinteria at 2 PM. Details and street locations are posted on the Events page of [www.fcoss.org](http://www.fcoss.org). We will get behind the scenes tours at both facilities and orchids and tillandsias will be available for purchase at both locations. For additional information email Ed Lysek at [EdLysek@me.com](mailto:EdLysek@me.com). No need to confirm in advance, just arrive at 10 AM. If you wish to carpool, please attend the November FCOs meeting on Thurs, Nov. 14th and ask Jeff Parham or Ed Lysek to be added to the carpool list.

### **\*\*\*KEEP THIS IN MIND\*\*\***

**Orchids: Nature's Masterpiece** will be an art show featuring orchid themed art set among live blooming orchids on loan from our FCOS members, neighboring societies and local vendors. The show runs from March 5-29, 2020 at Studios on the Park, Paso Robles CA. If you wish to volunteer plants or your time to assist in this show, please email Ed Lysek at [EdLysek@me.com](mailto:EdLysek@me.com). Seminars on orchid growing, photography, and botanical painting are planned for this show and additional ideas for special programs are welcome. Additional details about this show will be posted on the "Events" page of the FCOS website.

## **Five Cities Orchid Society Board of Directors 2019**

**President: Jeff Parham 1-360-271-3971**

**American Orchid Society**

**Vice-President: Ed Lysek 1-805-297-3446**

**The Orchid Digest**

**Secretary: Judy Scheithauer 1-805- 937-6201**

**Treasurer: Alan Durham 1-805 489-0683**

**Directors-at-Large: Karen Kolba 1-805-489-5132 Chris Spence 1-805-621-2607 Alice Swope 1-805- 484-1689**

Be sure you set aside your orchids that need a dry winter rest. Be sure to go to the Five City Orchid Society website and read the article by Ed Lysek. [WWW.fcoss.org](http://WWW.fcoss.org)

## By Popular Demand

### White Trash

Everything is going to happen really fast so make sure you have steps 1 & 2 done before you melt the Almond Bark/White chocolate.

1 box Honey Graham or Golden Graham cereal  
1 pkg Almond Bark or White Chocolate – WalMart – with baking stuff.

16 oz dry roasted salted peanuts

- 1 Cover a spot on your counter with wax paper.
- 2 Mix peanuts and cereal in a big bowl.
- 3 Cut Almond Bark into pieces and put into a microwavable bowl. Melt in a microwave for 60 seconds with a plate covering it. Take it out of the microwave & stir around. It probably will have some hard pieces still. Heat it for another 30-40 seconds until smooth and runny.
- 4 Immediately take out of the microwave and pour melted candy over the cereal mixture. Mix it gently in order to coat all the cereal & peanuts.
- 5 Once it is mixed, transfer to sheet of wax paper. After it has hardened, break into bite size pieces and store in air-tight container.

Variation: To dress it up more -- melt chocolate and pour over the pieces as they are cooling.

## Upcoming Events

- Casa de las Orquideas Annual Open House\* December 7, 2019; 9 AM—4 PM 170 S, Nardo Ave, Solana Beach Info: [www.orquideas.com](http://www.orquideas.com), [casa@orquideas.com](mailto:casa@orquideas.com)
- Andy's Orchids Holiday Open House\* December 6-8, 2019; 10 AM—4 PM 734 Ocean View Ave., Encinitas Info: [www.andysorchids.com](http://www.andysorchids.com)
- Sunset Valley Orchids Open House\* December 14, 2019; 9 AM—4 PM (Street tacos 10 AM—2 PM) 1255 Navel Pl, Vista Info: [www.sunsetvalleyorchids.com](http://www.sunsetvalleyorchids.com)



## Open House 2019 Dec 6-8 Encinitas, CA

Come join us as we celebrate the opportunity to welcome guests and friends to our home, our nursery. Join us for food, refreshments, friends and of course, thousands of beautiful and rare Orchid



**FIVE CITIES ORCHID SOCIETY SHOW AND TELL**