



April 2021 Newsletter

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.fcos.org



SLC Grenada Sunrise 'SVO' Tequila Sunrise X Slo. Rockette 'Little Rock' AM/AOS 1st bloom seedling, recently acquired from Sunset Valley orchids.

A message from the President's potting bench.

I hope that all of you are keeping healthy, safe and in good spirits.

Spring has finally come to my little corner of the orchid world in Los Osos. The days are getting longer, we've had rain and now it's getting warmer. It's really exciting to see the orchids wake up, form new roots and flower buds. My little shade house is full of orchids in various stages of blooming. I've never had this many flower spikes: Phaleanopsis, Phragmepidiums, Mystacidiums and Masdevalias. I'm excited that several of the new Sarcochilus crosses from Sunset Valley Orchids also are forming flower spikes. Around the yard several Epidendrums are blooming. The *Bletilla striata* is in bloom among the succulents. Many of my Cymbidiums have already bloomed in March and others are just now opening their flowers. It is so much fun to watch it all unfold!

Sadly, we have had to cancel this year's orchid show and sale, which would normally be planned for about now. Looking forward, the Show Chairman has set a date for our next show April 1-3, 2022. Save the Date!

In the meantime, FCOS has some exciting plans for this year. We have some excellent speakers and topics lined up in the next few months. Be sure to keep checking the [events](#) section on our website for information:.

I would like to encourage you to support the FCOS by paying your dues or sending in a donation so that we can continue to grow our programs and bring you engaging and knowledgeable speakers. It is really enjoyable to gather and be able to socialize, celebrate, and learn more about our beloved orchids.

I would like to encourage you to support the FCOS by paying your dues or sending in a donation so that we can continue to grow our programs and bring you engaging and knowledgeable speakers. Join FCOS as a yearly dues paying member or donate [here](#).

Happy Blooming!

Jeff Parham



Sunset Valley Orchids SVO 7056. Clusters of orange red flowers. Can take warm summers and cool winters. One or more of these will be available in April's online auction.

Five Cities Orchid Society is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: 'Everything you always wanted to know about Slipper Orchids' by Jan Plested

Time: Thurs April 8th at 7 pm

Join [Zoom Meeting](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87016320614?pwd=YIFxMXZqVFA1V1BSazVvQmlzNnh4QT09)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87016320614?pwd=YIFxMXZqVFA1V1BSazVvQmlzNnh4QT09>

Meeting ID: 870 1632 0614, Passcode: 613810

To find your local number go to: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87016320614?pwd=YIFxMXZqVFA1V1BSazVvQmlzNnh4QT09>



Jan Plested, FCOS member will speak about Slipper Orchids, *Paphiopedilums*. Jan and her husband Ian owned a retail orchid nursery in the U.K. prior to moving to the U.S. Jan has been growing Paphs for over 40 years and will share her experience in growing these fantastic orchids.

Paphiopedilum Dollgold 'Royal Flair'.



Complex *Paphiopedilum*

Maudiae type paphiopedalum



Speaker notes from March 2021 FCOS presentation

The March 2021 FCOS Zoom meeting was part two of a PowerPoint presentation put on by Jeff Parham, Ed Lysek, Eric Holenda and Chris Ehrler and was titled "Keeping our compost piles small: what has worked and not worked". Part one of their presentation was presented in November 2020 and included the following topics: names on orchid tags, temperature requirements for various cold to warm growing orchids, the speakers growing areas, humidity and air movement, light level requirements and how to make adjustments, water quality and capture of rain water, and dry winter rest requirements of various orchid types. The topics for the present presentation included fertilizer, potting media, pest control and some answers to 'letters to the editor' that had been received.

Each of the speakers used a slightly different approach to fertilizing their orchids. They first discussed the nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium, calcium, magnesium and other nutrient requirements. They suggested using fertilizer that was urea-free as it takes bacteria to break down the urea in order to release the nitrogen. These included the following

- Jeff: uses Norman's orchid fertilizer on his Phalaenopsis once/ two weeks; uses K-Lite (12-1-1-10Ca-3Mg) on rest of his orchids at 55

ppm; KLN at one teaspoon/gal to stimulate root growth; and Megathrive which is a seaweed extract that he uses as a foliar feed at six tablespoons/gal (has a short shelf life, but stimulates root and leaf growth and flowering in a few orchids).

- Ed: in the spring adds 1 teaspoon of Nutricote for each 6-inch pot (adjusts amount for different pot sizes; from spring through early fall fertilizes with 1 tablespoon/5 gallons of rainwater every 1-2 weeks with 2 tablespoons of CalMag Plus added: from late fall thru winter uses same concentration but then every two to four weeks depending on how sunny and warm it is. He waters his orchids before fertilizer is added. Due to the hot and dry conditions and his many mounted orchids which get watered and misted most every morning from spring to fall, he has not seen a salt buildup. He showed photos of a few of his orchids that he suspected had either a calcium (brown or black leaf tips) or magnesium (mottling in older leaves) deficiency and how he increased calcium and magnesium concentration in his water and the new leaves look OK.
- Eric: during spring through fall, he uses $\frac{1}{4}$ strength Peter's[™]s Excel 15-5-15 CalMag Special fertilizer during all waterings. Will use $\frac{1}{2}$ strength for his Cattleyas and Catasetums. He does occasional flushings of media with no fertilizer added. During winter he switches and uses Dyna-Gro Bloom liquid fertilizer (3-12-6). He has also better growth after he began adding found that adding 1 teaspoon/ of vinegar/gallon of water to his fertilizer solution. NOTE: the amount of vinegar/water is much less than was mentioned during the presentation so if you plan to adjust your fertilizer pH, please verify the pH level before you actually add vinegar to your fertilizer solution.
- Chris: He waters and fertilizes with either stored rain water or reverse osmosis (RO) water through the entire year. He fertilizes once per week during the entire year with either K-Lite fertilizer or a MSU fertilizer for RO water. He adds either KelpMax or Seaweed Extract once/month to the fertilizer solution. Based on the orchids he grows he targets a maximum total of about 200 ppm in his fertilizer solution. In spring he added Nutricote 270 to each pot and also places mesh bags with a small amount of this fertilizer on most of his mounted orchids. He checks his water pH and ppm by using both a pH meter and an EC/TDS meter, respectively.

The group then discussed repotting in containers (media, timing and pots types) and mounting or orchids.

- Jeff: he uses Orchidata for most of his orchids. Grows some orchids hydroponically in Hydroton. Suggested to soak this material three different times for 24-hour periods RO water to decrease the TDS to under 150 ppm. In his last rinse he adds a CalMag fertilizer.
- Ed: he grows some orchids in Hydroton, while others are in net pots, he then places inside larger clay pots to increase humidity. He also places some of the net pots on top of rocks placed in the clay pots. He also grows some orchids in hollows he makes in pieces of oak. He adds oyster shells as a limestone source for his Paphiopedilums. He noted that Cymbidium and Zygopetalum backbulbs can be placed in slightly damp peat moss or perlite, and kept in a shady area, and if you are lucky in a few months, you might see sprouting of new sprouts which will lead to more orchids.
- Eric: he uses a variety of media when transplanting including bark, granite rocks, perlite and Styrofoam peanuts. He uses larger sized bark for his Cattleyas, Phalaenopsis and others, and then finer bark for Paphiopedilums, Oncidiums and Pleurothallids. Perlite helps distribute water throughout the pot and keeps the mix evenly moist from the top to the bottom. The granite rock dries quickly and helps add weight to the pot. The styrofoam peanuts are used to fill space in large pots so the mix does not stay wet for too long plus reduces weight in larger pots.
- Chris: he uses the same media type used by Eric, plus also uses sphagnum moss, gorilla hair, tree fern and a variety of media for his mounted orchids. For bark he uses either Orchidata or Kiwi bark to which he adds lava rock instead of perlite.

The group then discussed their approach to pest control. Two remedies for pest control as noted in past Orchids magazines include 1) 70% isopropyl (rubbing) alcohol can be used to kill a wide variety of pests but the liquid must contact the bug, and 2) can use a combination of 1 pint rubbing alcohol, 1 pint 409 spray cleaner and 3 quarts of water as a contact insecticide.

- Jeff: he uses a combination of BioAdvanced 3-in-1, neem oil, Physan and Trifecta Crop Control. He uses neem oil as a preventative spray for scale, once in spring and then again in summer if they are present. He mixes 2 teaspoon neem oil and 1 teaspoon mild liquid soap together and once emulsified mixes in 1

quart of water. When he uses this combination, he sprays all surface of the orchid, pot, media and surrounding rock. He stated that Physan is a bactericide and fungicide and he uses 1 teaspoon/gallon once/month. He also stated that Paphiopedilums are sensitive to Physan.

- Ed: he said he uses either isopropyl alcohol or neem oil (2 tablespoons/gal) to kill scales. He used to apply this solution with an artist paint brush or Q-tip directly to the scale but found out that this might not kill the eggs or baby scale crawlers under the adult and now applies one of the solutions using a soft toothbrush and actually lightly scrubs the scale with the solution to make sure it is dislodged and the eggs or little ones are also killed. For severe bug infestations he uses a systemic insecticide such as Safari, BioAdvanced 3-in-1, Orthene, or OrtheneX. These products should be used INSIDE ONLY as they can kill bees and butterflies. He also stated you need to make sure to wear a good fitting respirator to make sure you are not inhaling these sprays. He also uses Avid when he finds mites on his orchids. Symptoms of a severe mite infestation are a silvery stippled appearance on the underside of leaves and reduced plant vigor. He states that mites thrive in hot dry conditions. If you keep the humidity high you decrease the risk of a mite infestation.
Ed also has found that slugs and snails are attracted to regular mushrooms, so he places some around his growing area and then checks them the next morning. Then the next day he checks for their feeding, and if some damage to the mushroom is seen then he goes out with a flashlight the next night to pull them off the mushroom and kill them. He also stated that metaldehyde pellets are also effective sprinkled on growing media, just keep away from pets. Other control methods are dishes of beer or lettuce leaves which attract slugs. Ed also has a number of frogs that live in his greenhouse and has found that they will figure out that slugs are attracted to the mushroom and will wait by the mushroom and then apparently will eat the smaller slugs.
- Eric: uses Safari (1 teaspoon/gallon water) only for widespread infestations. Uses Rid-Bugs organic insecticide or occasional mealy bug presence. Uses Ortho Home Defense as a repellent. Spraying the growing area perimeter keeps out the occasional incursion of ants. One application lasts a couple months. Comes ready to spray in gallon containers, with no mixing required. Uses hydrogen peroxide as a general antiseptic and bug killer. He keeps a spray bottle always handy, to quickly Rx any problems. Use with a small, soft brush for scale, mealybugs, etc. He stated

he find it superior to alcohol. Smart & Final has gallons of hydrogen peroxide for about \$8.

- Chris: alternates between using Safari, BioAdvanced 3-in-1, and a combination spray consisting of 2/3 teaspoon Orthene, 2 teaspoons Physan, 2½ tablespoons horticultural oil and 2½ tablespoons Safer Soap mixed with 1 gallon of water. This combination spray directions came from Jeffrey Thompson who received it from Paul Delegram who found it worked well and reduced the time required to spray each one individually. Chris only used these products inside the greenhouse. He wears long sleeves, long pants, gloves and a respirator whenever he sprays any chemical.

FCOS's former member Larry Vierheilg (now deceased) used to use 1½ tablespoons of Spectracide /gallon as an all-around insect killer.

Based on letters to the editor that had been received, the group discussed the following topics:

- How far apart should plants be?
- Should humidifier and fan be on 24 hours?
- Would ceiling fan be better than table top fan?
- Is 80°F too warm?
- If growing under lights, should you change number of hours the lights are on?
- When can sphagnum moss be used and how should it be used?
- What level of shade cloth should be used over Cymbidiums growing outside in southern California?

Some suggestions for taking orchid photos: (by Chris Ehrler)

1) Keep the background in your orchid photo(s) simple and non-busy. A black, non-reflective background generally is the best unless the flower is very dark, then use a lighter background so the flower will stand out better. See photos below to see the difference between Cymbidium photos with either a tan or black background.

2) Take a photo of both the entire plant including the pot and an individual flower (if your orchid is in flower).

3) You might include a ruler in the photo of the entire plant to give some scale to the size of the orchid.

4) For the photo of the individual flower use a simple and non-busy background. This will make it easier to see your great flower.

5) If you are taking a closeup photo with a DSLR camera or one in which you can adjust some camera parameters, try to use a high f-stop to increase the depth of field and a shutter speed of at least 1/60 or 1/120 of a second to decrease the chance of a blurry photo due to camera movement. If necessary, you can increase the ISO setting of your camera to get a high f-stop and suggested shutter speed.

6) For closeup photos or photos in low light levels, you might want to use a tripod or set your camera on something stable to decrease the chance of a blurry image.

6) You might need to use a flash if you are taking your photo in a non-well lit area. If you are using a flash, take a photo both with and without the flash and compare the results. Then use the better of the two photos. Sometimes the flash can washout (overexpose) the image.

7) If you are taking the photos outside, take photo(s) when it is not windy or your image(s) might be blurry.

8) Generally, do not take photo(s) with the orchid in the direct sun. Better to take the photo with the plant in partial shade.

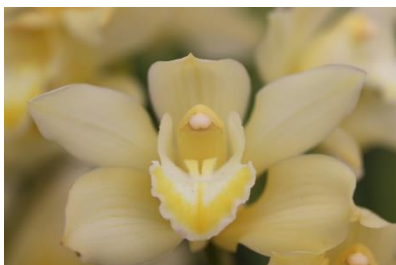
9) Do not get closer to your subject than your camera lens can focus or your image will be blurry.



Cymbidium Pauwelsia Horizon Alba 4N with tan background



Cymbidium Pauwelsia Horizon Alba 4N with black background



Close-up of *Cymbidium* Pauwelsia Horizon Alba 4N with tan background



Close-up of *Cymbidium* Pauwelsia Horizon Alba 4N with black background. The exposure is slightly different between this and the preceding photo so the flower color is slightly different.

What's Blooming Now - a few photos from our members and friends



Coelogyne tormentosa with two flower spikes. This orchid is growing in a plastic container with a semi-hydroponic media in a cool greenhouse. Natively found in river valleys in the mountainous regions of Malaysia, Sumatra, Borneo, and Java. Grown by Chris Ehrler.

Close-up of *Coelogyne tormentosa* flower.



Close-up of *Coelogyne tormentosa* lip.



Masdevallia ignea. Grown in a plastic pot filled with bark and lava rock in a cool greenhouse. Natively found in the Eastern Cordillera of Colombia. Grown by Chris Ehrler.

Close-up of *Masdevallia ignea* flower.



Pleurothallis pectinta. Grown in a plastic mesh pot with sphagnum moss inside a cool greenhouse. The leaves grow down from the bottom of the pot and hang below it. Natively found in Bolivia and Brazil around Rio de Janeiro. Grown by Chris Ehrler.

Close-up of *Pleurothallis pectinta*.



Scaphosepalum odontochilon. This orchid is growing in a clay pot in sphagnum moss but will also grow well mounted on a piece of wood. Growing inside a cool greenhouse. Natively found in Colombia and Ecuador.

Side view of *Scaphosepalum odontochilon*.



Lc. 'Colorguard Hawaii'. Grown by Ron & Virginia Hardy, Gig Harbor, WA

Cattleya Alfresco ' St. Tropez'
AM/AOS. Grown by Ron & Virginia Hardy, Gig Harbor, WA





Dendrobium Big Mama. Grown by
Ron & Virginia Hardy, Gig Harbor,
WA

Dendrobium kingianum. Grown by
Ron & Virginia Hardy, Gig Harbor,
WA



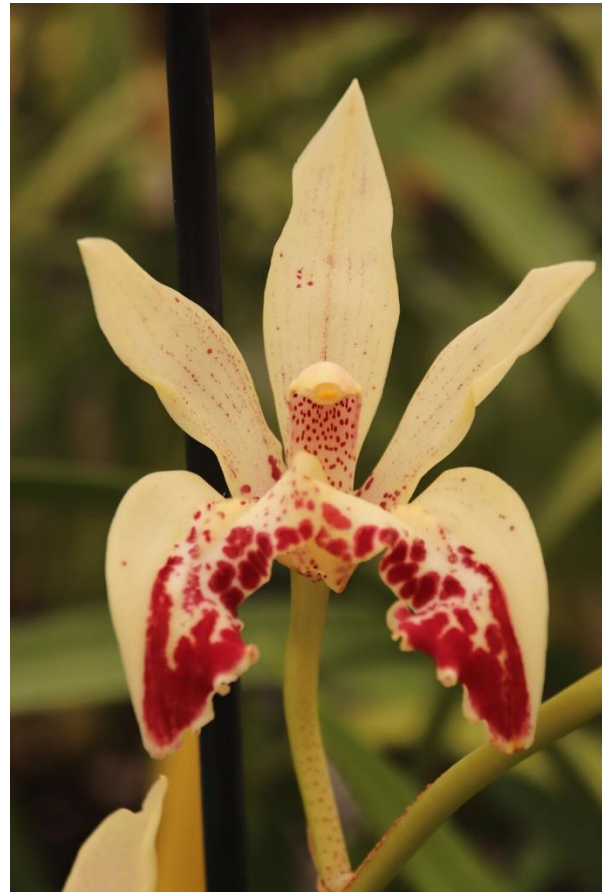


It is always satisfying when many of your best orchids come into bloom at the same time. Here is from left to right Den. aggregatum, Oncidium "Melody Fair"™, Vanda "Pachara Delight"™ and the red guy in the back is Sunset Valley Orchids SVO 7056 shown in Jeff's™ message above. -Ed Lysek



Cymbidium (Frank Kageyama 'Keiko BCSCA x Finger of Suspicion Hatfield's) Three Lips. Note that instead of a single lip this flower has three lips but some of the flowers have one to two lips. Grown by Danny Stocks.

Cymbidium Ison's Wild Thing 'Leta' JC/AOS. Note that this flower and the following two are all based on the same cross and have different clonal names of Ison's Wild Thing. Grown by Danny Stocks.





Cymbidium Ison's Wild Thing
'Voodoo Magic'. Grown by Danny
Stocks.

Cymbidium Ison's Wild Thing #2.
Grown by Danny Stocks.



Cymbidium (Strathdon x Cherry
Shower) 'Papillion'. Grown by Danny
Stocks.

Cymbidium Spotted Madam 'O
Brother'. Grown by Danny Stocks.



Cymbidium Wild Women 'Angela'.
Grown by Danny Stocks.

Cymbidium Valley Flower 'Precious
Lady'. Grown by Danny Stocks.





Cymbidium Devon Jade 'Kathleen'.
Pendulous *Cymbidium* grown by
Danny Stocks.

Close-up of *Cymbidium* Devon Jade
'Kathleen' flower.





Cymbidium Kiwi Midnight 'Surprise'.
Pendulous *Cymbidium* grown by
Danny Stocks.

Close-up of *Cymbidium* Kiwi Midnight
'Surprise'.





Dendrobium (Den. Aussie Charm x Den. Zip) SVO x Den. Cobber 'Violet Gold'. Grown by Danny Stocks.

Laelia Gene Baum. Prior to Gene's death he was an avid orchid grower and members of the Lompoc Orchid Society. Grown by Danny Stocks.





Laelia Santa Barbara Sunset
Showtime Major. Grown by Danny
Stocks.

FCOS April Orchid Auction is Coming!

FCOS will hold an Online plant auction the last week of April. Members who have plants they wish to donate to FCOS for this auction can upload photos and descriptions by following the instructions below. A link to the auction will be sent out by April 15th.

Click on the Betterworld link below, and select your orchid photos, upload to the site and fill in the forms to include description and value of the donated item. We will select from this donation database to use for subsequent auctions or raffles.

Once we select your plants for an auction or raffle, we will be in contact with you as to where to take your plants locally for winners to pick them up.

<http://fcos.betterworld.org/donate-an-item>

Announcing Carter and Holmes Photo Contest
Spring 2021 Virtual Orchid Show

Since most orchid shows and sales have been canceled this spring, Carter and Holmes has decided to once again host our own version online. We want you to send in your best photos in one of the categories shown below, and we will be posting them on our Facebook page for everyone to vote on. *Just like with an in-person show, photos should show current or very recent flowerings (within the past thirty days).* Whichever photo has the most votes in each category will win a \$15.00 Carter and Holmes Gift Certificate. PLUS we will have a Special Category called Boss's Favorite that will receive a \$25.00 Gift Certificate.

Categories For our Virtual Orchid Show Are:

Cattleya Alliance
Oncidium Alliance
Vanda Alliance
Dendrobium alliance
Ladyslipper Alliance
Cymbidium Alliance
Miscellaneous and Unusual Genera
Specimen Plant (with or without flowers)
Miniature Grower (under 10" tall in bloom)
Display or Grouping (Use your Creativity, Can include other plants in addition to Orchids)
Pet Friendly (Grab a snap of your plants with your furry, feathery or scaly friend)

Please include the full name of the plant(s) pictured when you email your entries.

Send Your Photos to the email address shown below before Thursday April 15th, 2021.

photos@carterandholmes.com

Photos will be posted for voting on our Facebook page from April 19th- April 26th, 2021. Winners will be announced online and in our Email Updates.

The Fine Print- Restricted to US Customers Only. Limit of 3 Entries per Customer please. Photos must include contact information (otherwise how will you know you won?). And of course only send photos where you own the rights. Images can be watermarked as long as it is not distracting from the overall photo. No repeat photos from previous contests.



Paphiopedilum 'Gloria Naugle' watercolor by Marcia Whitmore

In keeping with this month's speaker, our cultural recommendations for this edition of our newsletter comes from the American Orchid Society's cultural handbook, *Growing Orchids: Cultural Requirements of Paphiopedilum*

By Jack Tonkin

More than 60 species of *Paphiopedilum* (paf-ee-oh-PED-i-lum) are found in nature from the high hills of northern India to the lowlands of the Philippines. Magnificent orchids, the paphiopedilums have long been a major part of most collections. A fascinating array of colors and forms and their ease of culture have attracted lifelong admirers.

The relatively recent discovery of several striking species in China, such as the butter-yellow *Paphiopedilum armeniacum*, has sparked unusual excitement among orchid collectors.

All paphiopedilums are characterized by a cuplike lip, called the pouch, and by a prominent dorsal sepal. They are often called lady's-slipper orchids, which refers to the shape of the pouch. The plants are primarily terrestrial, although some, like *Paphiopedilum lowii*, may be found growing epiphytically (on trees) or lithophytically (on rocks). They are dwarf to moderate in size, with leaves which are stiff, waxy, or leathery and range from glossy green to superbly mottled.

The leaves usually form a fan-shaped tuft. From the center of each new growth an erect scape arises bearing one or more flowers. A few *Paphiopedilum* species *glaucophyllum*, *stonei* and *rothschildianum* may produce up to six flowers simultaneously. Mostly the flowers are 2 to 5 inches across in an incredible variety and mixture of colors, lasting perfectly on the plant for six weeks or more. While their blooming season is primarily from mid-autumn through spring, this rule is not absolute. Many modern hybrids flower twice or more each year.

Paphiopedilums are divided into two cultural groups: The warm-growing, mottled-leaved types, like the famous *Paphiopedilum Maudiae* (ideal for beginners), and the cool-growing, green-leaved types.

Ideally, the mottled-leaved paphiopedilums need *Cattleya*-like temperatures, while the green-leaved paphiopedilums grow very well in the company of cymbidiums. All paphiopedilums require reasonably cool nights, particularly in the spring when they are setting their buds for the autumn flowering season. Although this requirement makes them difficult to grow in warm areas, their low light requirement does make it possible to keep them cool through shading. Hence both the mottled-leaved and the green-leaved paphiopedilums may be grown almost side by side, although not to the same perfection as they would be in growing areas with environments tailored to their specific needs.

Temperature and Humidity: The green-leaved types ideally require a minimum night temperature around 50 to 55 F, while the mottled-leaved types need 60 to 65 F at night. Day temperatures should range between 70 F and 80 F, although short periods of moderately higher or lower temperatures will not injure the plants. The humidity should be moderate, between 40 and 50 percent during the day.

Light: Paphiopedilums enjoy medium light intensity, requiring 800 to 1,000 foot-candles throughout the year for optimum growth. Avoid direct sun, except in the early morning. In the home, move plants back from the window at the height of the noonday sun or, ideally, grow them behind a sheer curtain.

Air Movement: Moist, vigorous air movement, at a temperature favorable to the plants, is highly recommended to keep the leaves cool and to dry drops of water on the plants, thereby reducing chances of disease. Hot or cold drafts cause buds to blast (brown and die). Consider the position of the plants, especially those on a windowsill.

Watering: Although paphiopedilums are sympodial orchids, they do not possess pseudobulbs and hence, like phalaenopsis, must have a regular and constant water supply. This will entail keeping the medium moist but not wet, a technique with which beginners will have to experiment in order to perfect. Water early in the day so that the foliage will dry before temperatures drop at nightfall.

Paphiopedilums typically need watering every five to seven days, but individual conditions require some variance. The potting mix, the humidity surrounding the plants and weather conditions all affect the rate at which plants dry and thus require water.

For those growers using bark as a potting medium, it is extremely important not to permit the plant to dry completely because it is then difficult to rewet. Water will channel through the dry mix leaving most of the pot dry. When this happens, submerge the whole pot and mix in a pan of water until moisture has been restored to the pot.

Fertilizing: Feed plants in fir bark with a high-nitrogen fertilizer (30-10-20 or 30-10-10 ratio) at half of the recommended strength. Fertilize greenhouse-grown plants three times and then apply plain water for the fourth watering to leach out any salts that have accumulated. For home or windowsill growing, alternate fertilizer and plain water. Plants grown in some of the more complicated mixes consisting of rock, peat, oak leaf mold, etc., should receive fertilizer at a more reduced strength because some of these elements may provide nutrients or may be soured by a high nitrogen fertilizer at full strength.

Potting: Because most paphiopedilums are terrestrial, a medium that drains well but retains moisture is necessary. Straight fir bark is excellent. Finely chopped fir bark (1/8 inch to 1/4 inch) is preferable to the medium or large chunks used for

cattleyas and phalaenopsis. Wet the bark thoroughly before potting any type of orchid in it.

Paphiopedilums grow easily into specimen plants because, with good culture, they branch freely and regularly. Since paphiopedilums are capable of producing flowers on rootless growths, particular care in watering must be taken in growing a specimen plant in order to provide the lovely display of blooms with a healthy, extended root system.

Repot Paphiopedilums when the medium has decomposed, the plant has outgrown its pot or when it is appropriate to divide the plant. Although many paphiopedilums will live when divided into single growths with roots, it is preferable to make divisions of no fewer than three growths. Repot and divide immediately following flowering.

The procedures for repotting entail clipping off dead roots, positioning the plant in the new container and filling in and around the roots with the compost medium until it reaches just slightly over the base of the plant. Do not bury the plant growths because this encourages rot. The base of each growth should be touching the potting medium to encourage new roots to grow into the medium. Keep watering to a minimum until evidence of new growth is apparent.

Place recently potted paphiopedilums in a shaded area, then move gradually into proper light conditions once new growth begins.

FCOS Lifetime Membership

A New FCOS Lifetime Membership is available for a donation of \$500. The FCOS Board is looking for creative ways to insure the long term financial health of FCOS. For those of you who are able to consider this generous donation your lifetime membership will help FCOS maintain its quality speaker programs and prepare for the resumption of our Spring Show. [Click here for donation details.](#)

Become a Life Member of FCOS for a \$500 [donation](#)



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR:

Here's a better way to air your dirty (or clean) laundry. Got a complaint, suggestion or just want to express your opinion, send an email to our editors, [Jeff Parham](#), [Chris Ehrler](#) or [Ed Lysek](#). (photo courtesy of Gary Yong Gee)

Question: I have a *Cattylia skinneri* that I won in an FCOS auction last year. It has roots growing over the pot on two sides of the plant.

Can you tell me anything about this plant? I would think now is the time to repot but it's already big and it has flower sheaths in the apex of the leaves. Should I repot? Is it going to flower soon?



Reply from Eric Holenda: Now is the time *Cattleya* (now *Guaranthe*) *skinneri* blooms. Carefully peel back that dried up sheath to expose the buds inside. Also, a good idea to peel off all the dried bulb sheaths, etc.

As it is now rooting, definitely time to repot after blooming is finished. I find *skinneri* likes to be cool and humid at the roots, so I pot with large bark so there are lots of air spaces in the pot. When it is well grown, each year it will get larger and larger.

As Eric suggests above, peel back the flower sheath to expose the growing flower buds. This prevents humidity from building up around the buds and reduces the chance of bacterial or fungal rots.





The alba form of *C. skinneri* growing on a hollow oak log. Here the roots thrive being fully exposed on the surface of the log. Typical *C. skinneri* blooms are pink. Grown by Ed Lysek

FCOS Garage Sale

Send an email to [Jeff Parham](#), [Chris Ehrler](#) or [Ed Lysek](#) and include an image of your item, a description, price, and your contact info. We'll include your info in our next monthly newsletter if there is space. FCOS assumes no responsibility for payment, taxes, etc. We ask the items be orchid or plant related. FCOS is not taking a commission, or participating in any other way.

Five Cities Orchid Society 2020 Board of Directors

Jeff Parham, *President* jsp1440@aol.com

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Show Chairman, Eric Holenda

Orchids are really great!