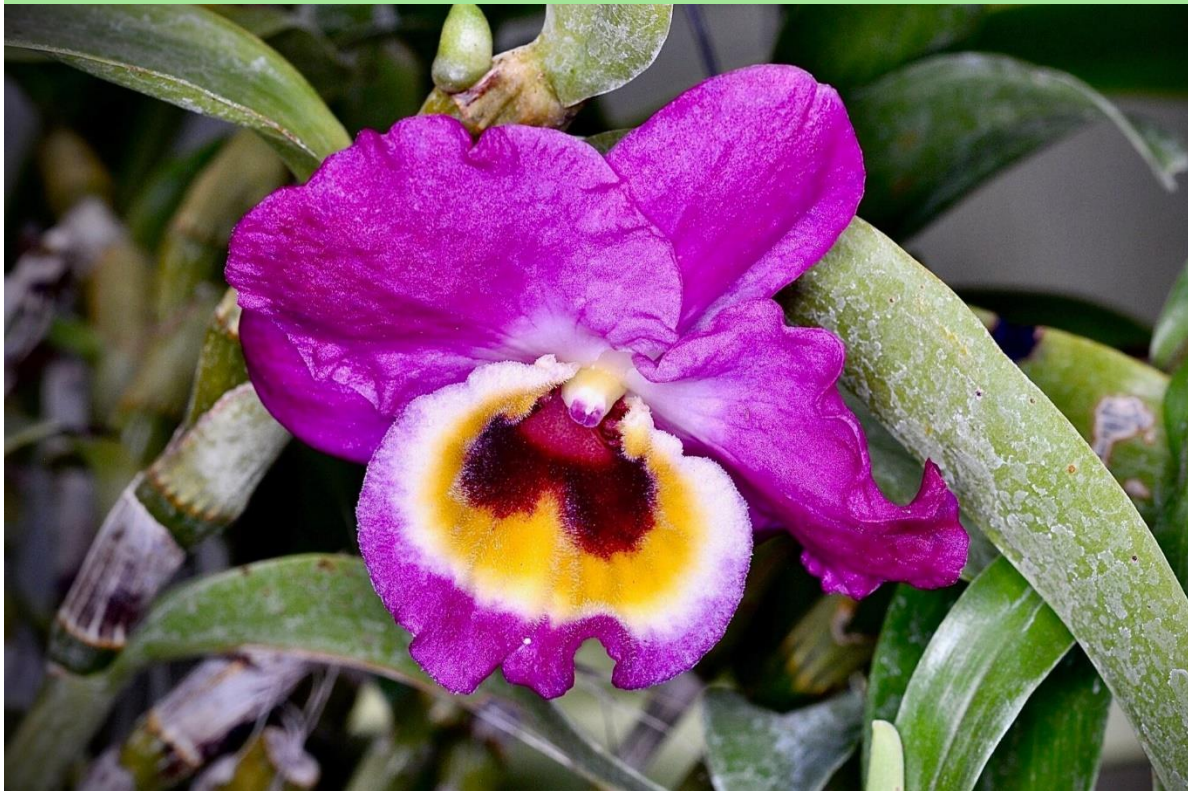




August 2021 Newsletter

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.fcoss.org



Dendrobium Red Emperor 'Prince' - one of the many fine orchids included in the BetterWorld FCOS auction. This is a good orchid to grow outdoors in a frost-free location.

A message from the President's potting bench:

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

The Dog Days of summer are here and as the days get shorter and we approach cooler weather we can anticipate many of our late summer and fall blooming orchids.

I know many of us are looking forward to our member auction this month which will be on Aug 9- 15. You can [preview](#) the auction and bidding will open on Aug 9, 2021 at 9 am. Use the following link. <https://fcos.betterworld.org/auctions/fcos-august-2021-orchid-auction>

This auction serves as our main fundraiser for this quarter and will help us continue to provide quality speakers and programs for FCOS. We have some rather spectacular plants that have been donated by CalCoast Orchids, the Huntington Botanical Garden and our members. If you would like to donate any items to benefit the FCOS, please use the following link:

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

I would like to thank everyone involved for your support. There have been countless hours of work and expense by our members to bring you these plants. Remember each orchid is the culmination of years of planning and cultivation. Many of these plants have been raised from flask or seedlings and have been cared for by our members for several years. The donations that we received from the Huntington Botanical Gardens include some primary hybrids and high value plants. What a great opportunity we have to grow our collections and propagate our love and fascination of orchids.

Plant Pick up for auction winners will be on Aug 21, 12:30 pm to 3 pm at Asbell's Orchids, 200 Orchid Lane, Arroyo Grande. Dan Asbell will also be keeping the doors open in case you'd like to come by and do some additional orchid shopping.

Our auction also provides a great opportunity to send orchids as gifts to that special someone. Shipping can only be arranged within the Continental United States only for those plants listed from CalCoast Orchids for a reasonable cost.

A special thank you to the Huntington Botanical Gardens and our local orchid nurseries Asbell's Orchids and CalCoast Orchids for their help with this auction as well to members Ed Lysek, Chris Ehrler and Anne Bachman for their contributions.

If you cannot participate in our auction, or wish otherwise to support us, please consider supporting the [Mission](#) of the FCOS by sending in a donation.

<https://fcos.betterworld.org/campaigns/donate>

We also have excellent speakers and topics lined up till the end of the year. Be sure to keep up to date on the events section of our website for the latest information:
<https://www.fcos.org/events-and-where>

I would like to encourage you to support the FCOS by becoming a member and paying your dues. If possible, you can also send in a donation --the FCOS is a 401(c)3 non-profit and donations are tax-deductible. Your contributions assist us in growing our programs and scheduling speakers for our meetings.

Happy Blooming!

Jeff

Membership Form

<https://fcos.betterworld.org/campaigns/membership-2>



Five Cities Orchid Society Presents:

Ron Parsons: Stanhopeas and their Relatives Thursday, August 12th at 7 pm

Weird and wonderful Stanhopeas and their relatives have amazing scents and bizarre form. Many of these fascinating orchids can be grown in frost free areas along the Central Coast. Join Ron Parsons as he shares his fantastic photos and descriptions of the members of this unique group of orchids. (above: *Stanhopea embreii*)

Join [Zoom Meeting](#)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87016320614?pwd=YIFxMXZqVFA1V1BSazVvQmIzNnh4QT09>

Meeting ID: 870 1632 0614, Passcode: 613810

To find your local number go to: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/kcNqzKNn34>

To send us a contribution and support our Orchid Lecture Series:

<https://fcos.betterworld.org/campaigns/donate>

Last month's meeting featured Dennis Wigham, senior botanist and founding director of the North American Orchid Conservation Center.



Dennis Whigham has worked for about 45 years as a plant ecologist for the Smithsonian on the East Coast. He spoke to the FOCS group at the July 2021 zoom meeting. His topic was Orchid Ecology and Conservation's Engaging Citizen Scientists. He has worked with the need to conserve native orchids in their original habitat when possible. There are over 25,000 orchid species but only about 1,000 have been evaluated. About 60% are considered rare, threatened, endangered or have some other status as species of concern.

Between the US and Canada there are about 200 native species with about 57% of those having populations that are in trouble. In California there are 37 species with 16 having some sort of special status. The population size of most native orchids in the US is declining and there are very little conservation efforts throughout all of the habitats. Many of the US native orchids can live underground for years before growing above the ground.

Due to orchids seeds being very small they need to be in contact with a fungus in order to grow. Dr. Whigham mentioned that the 'orchids eat the fungus'. He showed a short video entitled "Orchids: masters of deception". The video can be seen at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D94Oe0Vuh9U>. The video talked about the various techniques orchids use to lure pollinators to the flowers. Dennis stated that orchids have been known to be able to survive in the wild prior to germination for at least 14 years. They generally have better germination when the understory is thinned or there is death of the canopy. Possibly more fungi are available once the tree canopy has died. He stated it is not easy to understand the entire ecology of any orchid species.

The conservation groups mission is to Conserve Native Orchid Heritage by 1) setting up seed and fungal banks, 2) propagation of each species, and 3) public education. Currently they have about 60 collaborators throughout the US. working on setting up Regional Groups. Dr. Whigham also mentioned that there is currently no federal funding to help with conservation with all work generally being done by donations. You can learn more about the North American Orchid Conservation Center (NAOCC) by going to their website at <http://goorchids.northamericanorchidcenter.org/>. The website has an easy-to-use identification key that can be used. Quite helpful in determining what species you saw in the field.

NAOCC is partnering with organizations around the U.S. to collect native orchid seed and samples of the local mycorrhizal fungi. The goal is to develop propagation protocols for threatened or endangered native orchids. Volunteers and donations are required to continue these very worthwhile efforts. Please visit www.northamericanorchidcenter.org for more information and to sign up for the NAOCC newsletter.

For a recording of Dr. Whigham's presentation:

https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/Rv4BHBZZm2-Jol-CTzqgNXJGvnnHhIKZXWR1sn2gcO4gBKWkdLgWU-au_hB5fwoJO.z3xTzxIIBiBApAb6
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Rosemary - A Distinguished Member

In June, a few FCOS Show Committee members presented Rosemary Bradshaw with the Orchid Digest's Diamond Award of Excellence. As a 30-year member of the society, Rosemary has served the offices of secretary, treasurer, auditor, and director at large over the years. In 1995, Rosemary volunteered to become the first show committee chairman of the Central Coast Orchid Show and Sale sponsored by the society. Meeting the challenges of organizing a show for 10 years, she hung up her hat as show chairman. Since then, she's continued to work with the committee overseeing show operations, as well as, offering her experienced guidance. FCOS is celebrating Rosemary to recognize and thank her for her contributions to the society, and always sharing her passion for orchids.



You have no idea of how great you made me feel. To be honored by FCOS with a life time membership is absolutely wonderful but by Orchid Magazine, that's something else. Everything I did through the years was because it was just the thing to do at the time. After Bob died FCOS and my good neighbors was what I had holding me together here on the Central Coast. Couldn't let the society dissolve so I guess we (about 10 members) put a show on to pull in members. Who would have thought that would be 26 years ago, show still going on (minis COVID19) and a lot of new members. I have to admit I am very proud of the show and FCOS. But as with most things, it doesn't happen with one person. It takes a team of like-minded people to make good things happen. (Rosemary with Barb Walsh)

You all should take credit and a lot of pride in what FCOS and the show have become.

I so enjoyed seeing all of you, it's been a long time and I missed every one of you. After you all left, I had another glass of wine (of course) stole some icing off the cake, enjoyed my awards, told my children and took a nap. That was a lot for one afternoon. Thank you all so much. Much love, Rosemary.

(Rosemary with Eric Holenda)



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



This *Zygopetalum 'Rhine Wine'* is a favorite of ours. The fragrance is subtle. The flowers measure about 3.5"/3.5" when fully open. We keep it in the cooler side of green house. Judy Scheithauer

Judy has been growing this orchid cactus 'Alter Ego' for a few years with great success.



An Oncidium hybrid which will be up for bidding at the FCOS BetterWorld auction in August. Originally a Trader Joe's donated 'second chance' orchid. Saved from the compost bin by Ed Lysek

***Cattleya maxima* - One of the easier *Cattleya* species to grow and flower. Prolific bloomer. Grown by Eric Holenda**



Barb Walsh has several Epidendrums grown from seed scattered among her succulents. Orchid seed needs compatible fungi for successful seed germination and growth, and here's the proof in the front right and left corners of this container.

**This is Barb's collection
of very happy
Epidendrums.**





***Clowesia russeliana x Catasetum tigrinum*: first bloom seedling from Fred Clarke of Sunset Valley Orchids - 36 flowers. I'm totally stoked about this plant. See next photo for a close-up of the flowers. - Grown by Eric Holenda**

Close up of the flowers - Grown by Eric Holenda





***Dendrobium sanderae* var. *luzonicum*:** as name suggests it comes from Luzon Island in the Philippines. *Luzonicum* is a more compact variety than the standard *sanderae*, thus more popular to grow. Grown by Eric Holenda

***Encyclia adenocaula*: a compact growing species. - Grown by Eric Holenda**





Miltonia candida: a Brazilian species which grows in wet conditions at altitudes of 1,500 to 1,800 ft. and in some areas to 2,400 ft. It is a medium sized, cool to hot growing epiphytic species. Grown by Eric Holenda

***Maxillaria sanderiana* 'Stony Point'**: likes to be cool and damp. Grown by Eric Holenda





***Dendrobium wardianum*: Another dry winter rest Thai species. Grown by Eric Holenda**

***Dendrobium farmeri*: Late bloom. Usually a spring bloomer. Likes bright light and well-draining medium or can be grown mounted. Grown by Eric Holenda**





***Rhynchostylis retusa* grows in India. Purchased as part of an FCOS group purchase with Dan Newman of Hanging Gardens. FCOS members may have an opportunity to place orders again later this summer for those who are interested. Grown by Ed Lysek.**

***Stanhopea tigrina fma. nigroviolacea* - one of the larger flowering Stanhopes. Purchased as a \$7.50 seedling from Santa Barbara Orchid Estate a few years ago. It apparently likes the growing conditions in Templeton. This year it had three spikes with two flowers on each spike. Strong spicy fragrance. Grown by Ed Lysek.**





Close up of the flower.

Asct. Cherry Blossom 'Omega' - a miniature member of the Vanda alliance. Purchased from Peter Lin of Diamond Orchids when he spoke to FCOS several years ago. Has bloomed every year, this time with three flower spikes on a tiny plant. Cool winters, hot summers and lots of light. Net pot with small bark and perlite inside a larger clay pot filled with large volcanic rock to keep the root zone humid. Grown by Ed Lysek.





***Bulbophyllum lobbei* 'Kathi's Gold'.** Grows best in hot to warm growing conditions, although this orchid is currently growing under cooler conditions. Native to Borneo, Indonesia, Malaysia, and the Philippines at altitudes of 200 to 2000 meters. Part of a plant that Eric Holanda gave to Ed Lysek. Grown in a bark and lava rock mixture by Chris Ehrler.



***Bulbophyllum lobbei* 'Kathi's Gold' side view.**



***Miltonia* Sunset.** A hybrid purchased from Ecuagenera while visiting their greenhouses in Ecuador. Grown in sphagnum moss by Chris Ehrler.



Lycaste aromatica. Yes, it is fragrant (cinnamon scent) as you might guess from the species name. Grows natively in Mexico, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Honduras and El Salvador in cool to warm growing conditions. Generally, an epiphyte on mossy branches, lithophyte on damp limestone cliffs or occasional terrestrial in tropical semi-deciduous forests or warm oak forests in ravines along streams. Grown outside in a plastic pot with a bark and lava rock mixture in bright conditions but no direct sunlight area by Chris Ehrler.

***Lycaste* Chorus,** a hybrid between *L. aromatica* and *L. macrobulbon*. Has a fragrance of nutmeg and mint. This flower is slightly larger than the *Lycaste aromatica* shown above. Orchid acquired from SLO Orchids. Grown outside in a plastic pot with a bark and lava rock mixture in bright conditions



but no direct sunlight area by Chris Ehrler.



Stanhopea oculata. Native to Mexico and is found growing in cool to warm conditions generally as an epiphyte. Currently grown in a mixture of Orchidata and lava rock in a moss lined basket hanging high in a cool greenhouse. Flower spikes come out the bottom of the basket so do not grow in a pot without large holes or you will not see the flowers. Grown by Chris Ehrler.

Stanhopea hernandezii. Grows in Mexico in warm to cool conditions at an elevation of 1700 to 2250 meters as an *epiphyte, terrestrial or lithophyte.* Currently grown in a mixture of Orchidata and lava rock in a moss lined basket hanging high in a cool greenhouse. Flower spikes come out the bottom of the basket so do not grow in a pot without large holes or you will not see the flowers. Grown by Chris Ehrler.



Why do I need to wait to repot my orchid until new root tips begin to emerge?



September's speaker will be Ray Barkalow. If you are not familiar with his website www.firstrays.com you need to click this link and take a look. It is filled with a range of useful orchid growing information. Ray's August Update explains why it is important to repot your orchids when new root tips are emerging. The article is reprinted below.

"Be Faithful to Your Roots" by Ray Barkalow - August 2021 Update

No, I'm not talking about your family or genealogy (although that's a good precept to live by). Instead, I'm referring to our orchids' roots, and while many are familiar with the adage "*good roots equals a good plant*", we often give them little consideration beyond a couple of basics, so I thought it might be a good idea to look at roots a bit more closely.

The image (below) is the cross section of an orchid root, showing the outermost velamen, endodermis, cortex, and stele in the middle. Each of those layers has its own function, and may contain several, distinct structures, as can be seen on the right, with individual roles to play in the plant's survival. Rather than discussing what those detailed functions are, let's look at how those functions can be affected.

Orchid roots function to take up water and nutrients, preserve water loss, and also allows the exchange of gases to regulate life cycles. Root structures (i.e., cell shapes, sizes, types, and the number of cells from the cortex to the velamen) will vary from species to species and from plant to plant, depending on what and where it is growing. For this and many other reasons, orchids are highly adaptive to changing/varying environments.

Orchid roots develop differently depending on the environment within which they are growing. They can grow fully exposed dangling in the air, in partial contact with a surface (e.g., mounted on bark), and/or growing in a medium. When an aerial root touches a surface, the portion that makes contact with the surface will adapt differently so that the cellular function is optimized for the plant survival. For example, the area that contacts a piece of bark will often develop root hairs on the bottom side, together with smaller velamen cells and thin-walled passage cells. This will help an orchid cling to the bark and allow better transfer of water and air on the bottom side, where it is attached to the mount. On the exposed side, passage cells become more lignified or suberized (waxy) for protection and to slow water loss. Roots growing submerged in a medium can develop a modified velamen layer but do not always do so like roots exposed to the air.

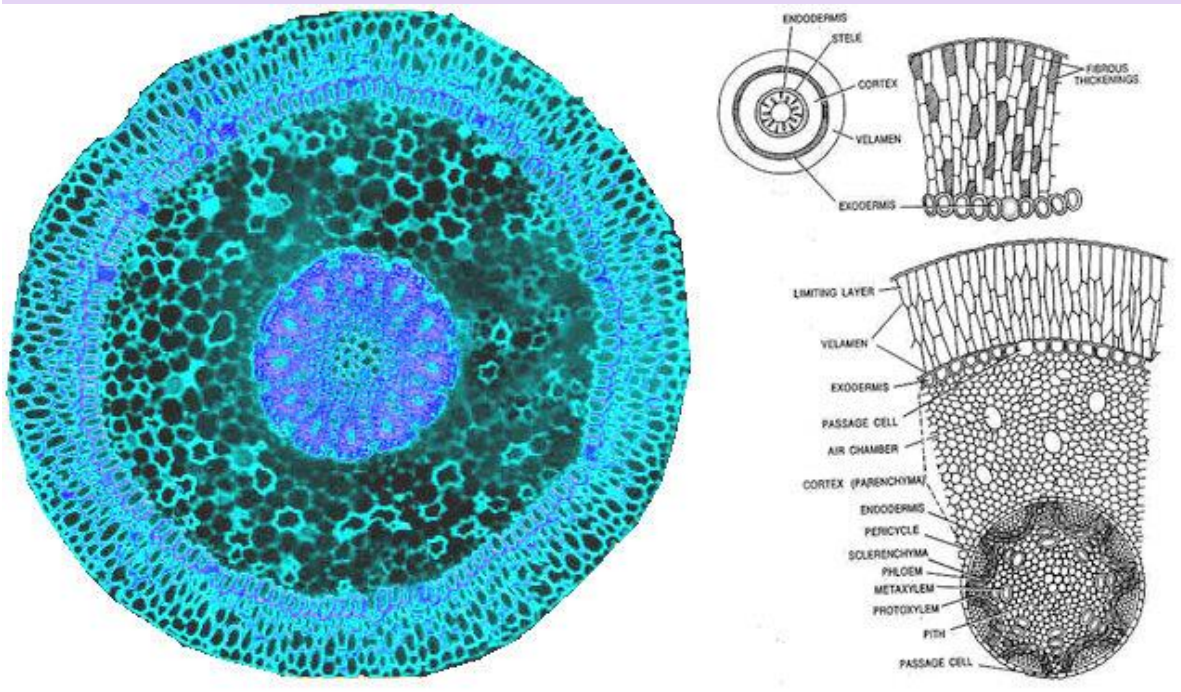
Let me reiterate: as roots grow, they "tailor" their cell structure to function optimally in that environment, and that once they have grown, they cannot change. That means that if you change the environment, whether that be repotting (even using the same medium), changing the cultural technique, or just moving it from a nursery greenhouse to your windowsill, the existing root system may no longer be optimal for the plant, so will weaken and die. That's why it is always best to repot a plant just as new roots are emerging from the growth front, as they *will* be optimal for that environment and support the plant as the old ones fail.

Established aerial roots placed into water (as compared to new roots that grow in water) usually survive and can adapt because aerial roots have outer cells that are structured to not allow water freely into- and out of the plant (but can still regulate gas exchange). This allows time (maybe a few months) for an orchid to adapt and grow "water roots" in the new water environment. Some aerial roots will rot soon after

being placed into water but this can often be attributed to physical damage that occurred before being placed in water. A crack along any part of the root will allow water (and therefore fungi and/or bacteria) into the unprotected center of the root and rot occurs. Some aerial roots just cannot adapt to water conditions and die off, but hopefully new "water roots" have developed by that time.

As far as the functioning of roots that have rotted and only left a "string" in the middle - that section of the root contains the vascular tissues, used for transporting water, nutrients, fuel, hormones and chemical building blocks throughout the plant. They may function for a short while, but without the support and protection of the outer parts of the root structure, they will soon be lost.

The bottom line is this: whenever you change anything in your orchid culture - medium, growing style, watering frequency, pot size, or simply the plant's location - think about the potential impact on the roots, and make the needed secondary changes. For example, if you change to a coarser potting medium, you may need to raise the humidity and/or water more often. If you change to a technique that has moist, open, airy medium (semi-hydroponics being one), you may need to increase the humidity and temperature to compensate for the enhanced evaporative cooling. -Ray





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Fascination of Orchids Show & Sale

FCOS Lifetime Membership

A New FCOS Lifetime Membership is available for a donation of \$500. The FCOS Board is looking for creative ways to ensure 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: Is FCOS going to sponsor the annual Central Coast Orchid Show in 2022?

Answer: Eric Holenda will be holding a meeting to discuss this very topic in August. Interested persons are encouraged to [email Eric](#) for details. This is a great opportunity to work with fellow orchid lovers and network with other volunteers, vendors and meet and make new friends.

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.

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Orchids are really great!

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