



December 2020 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](http://www.fcos.org).***



***Laelia anceps Feathered (liniata x ultramo) grown by Jeff Parham in his backyard in Los Osos, CA***

## **A message from the President's potting bench.**

**Hello Everyone,**

**As we come to our Holiday Season, we're all finding that this moment is different from any before it. Let's celebrate our love of orchids and our connection with each other at the FCOS Orchid Holiday Social. Our Board of Directors has been planning a special virtual meeting for the annual meeting this year. We will be holding this event Thursday, December 10, 2020 at 7:00 pm via Zoom. Events will include an auction, a raffle, Orchid Bingo, an "Orchid-gami" competition and opportunities to win Bloom Bucks. Here's how it will work:**

**A Holiday Orchid Social Gift Bag will be hand-delivered to all local FCOS members' homes between December 5th and 9th. This packet will contain the agenda and some party favors, such as Orchid Bingo, and Promotional Orchids, our gift to you for being a member. Be sure to look for your package from us, you don't want to leave it sitting outside all night.**

**In preparation for the meeting, here's some items for you to do ahead of time:**

- 1. To pay homage to our annual potluck, we will share recipes. Email a photo of your dish with an accompanying orchid along with the recipe to Jeff at [JSP1440@aol.com](mailto:JSP1440@aol.com) by December 9, 2020. We will be posting these pictures and sharing recipes at the meeting.**
- 2. Prepare your "Orchid-gami" project. In the Holiday Orchid Social Gift Bag, you will receive a orchid-gami punch out pattern that you can use to create your "Orchid-gami Paper Orchids." If you want additional "Orchid-gami" patterns, you can find them at: <https://northamericanorchidcenter.org/orchid-gami/> Each pattern represents an orchid that is currently an endangered species, and can serve to raise awareness of the efforts to conserve orchid species in the wild.**

**Bring your completed orchid-gami project to the meeting in order to compete for FCOS Bloom Bucks. Bloom Bucks will be redeemable at FCOS Shows, Auctions, Group Plant Orders and Participating Vendors such as Calcoast Orchids. The best constructed Orchid-gami Display will be awarded Bloom Bucks from our Judges.**

**We will also auction some plants, have a brief elections of officers and a key vote on some bylaws changes. (See [here](#) to review proposed changes in bold and italics). The positions open are President, 2 year term, nominee Jeff Parham. Member at Large, 2 year terms, nominees Denise Florez, Karen Kolba**

**You may even find yourself on a scavenger hunt. There will be time available for you to get to socialize with other members.**

**Consider inviting a friend to attend the meeting with you. Guests can [register](#) and will receive an electronic Orchid Bingo Card so that they may play along with us.**

**This promises to be a very unique experience for our members. We will get some**

**business done, plan for the future, have some fun and laughs, play games and acquire some new orchids.**

**This moment is different from any before it.**

**Hope to see you soon! Happy Holidays! - Jeff**

**Donate to FCOS**

**Wear Festive Colors! Avatars Welcome!**

**The Zoom link for the party is below.**

**Happy Holidays from FCOS**

**You are invited to an *Orchid Holiday Social***

**Thursday December 10, at 7 pm via Zoom**

**Fun and Games to include orchid auction, raffle, Orchid Bingo, Orkidgamy, and chances to win FCOS Orchid Bucks!**

**A FCOS Member Holiday Gift will arrive at your door in a few days. Agenda and Zoom link are in the December newsletter.**

**Wear Festive Colors! Avatars Welcome!**

**Holiday Orchid Social**

**Time: Dec 10, 2020 07:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)**

**Join Zoom Meeting**

**<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81765771018?pwd=Qk4rMk1Pckhrc0gzZHIRMjJjbFN1Z09>**

**Meeting ID: 817 6577 1018**

**Passcode: 472837**

**One tap mobile**

**+16699006833,,81765771018#,,,,,0#,,472837# US (San Jose)**

**+12532158782,,81765771018#,,,,,0#,,472837# US (Tacoma)**

**Dial by your location**

**+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)**

**+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)**

**+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)**

**+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington D.C)**

**+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)**

**+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)**

**Meeting ID: 817 6577 1018**

**Passcode: 472837**

**Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81765771018?pwd=Qk4rMk1Pckhrc0gzZHIRMjJjbFN1Z09>**



**Bloom Bucks will be awarded as raffle prizes and can be redeemed at FCOS Shows, FCOS Auctions, Group Plant Orders and Participating Vendors such as Calcoast Orchids.**

**November 2020 FCOS speaker notes**

The November 2020 FCOS Zoom meeting was 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". The four speakers have a variety of growing areas from inside their house, outside in a shady area, a shade house and in a greenhouse. They speakers live in Los Osos, Templeton, Nipomo, Grover Beach, respectively, so have differences in their outside air temperatures during the year. They began by talking about the names on an orchid tag and then presenting a visual on how to find information about orchid species on the website [www.orchidspecies.com](http://www.orchidspecies.com). They then showed the recommended temperature ranges from orchids that are listed as needing hot to cold conditions, but remarked that many orchids, especially hybrids are somewhat temperature adaptable and cannot read the chart on what temperature at which they like to grow. Each author then presented information about the different growing areas they have at their house and how they have made modifications or adaptations growing orchids. Each of them then discussed how they have adjusted humidity and kept air moving in their growing areas. They then presented information on the use of shade cloth or wooden lath to decrease the light's intensity. This was followed by a discussion on water they use for their orchids with three of the speakers stating they collect rain water for use during the year in watering their orchids. When and if their rain water supply ran out they would switch to Reverse Osmosis (RO) water. The presentation ended with a short discussion by Ed who was the lead author of an article in Orchid Digest (Volume 83-1 in 2019) entitled "Vacation time for orchids: a dry winter rest". A copy of the article can be found at the bottom of the main page of the Five Cities Orchid Society's website at (<https://www.fcos.org/>).

The speakers will continue their presentation at a future meeting when each of them will discuss their fertilizer routine, their various potting media and mounting materials, and how they deal with pest control.



The speaker for January 2021's first meeting of the year will be Gary Yong Gee who will speak on Epiphytic and Lithophytic Orchids of SE Queensland, Australia. □

Gary will talk about the native orchids in the rainforest and eucalyptus forests of Queensland's subtropics as well as the spectacular scenery.

Gary Yong Gee has been photographing species orchids for 35 years and has more than 30,000 color slides and over 65,000 digital images. He has been writing a regular monthly article for the Orchid Species Bulletin. The Bulletin is published by the Orchid Species Society based in Brisbane, Queensland.

[www.yongee.name](http://www.yongee.name)



During last month's panel discussion, the topic of how to increase humidity was discussed. ~Double-potting was mentioned as one way to increase the humidity around the roots of an orchid.



*Angcm. sesquipedale*. Darwin's Orchid is growing in a net pot resting inside a clay pot. The clay pot is sitting in a shallow tray of water which is keeping the clay pot constantly moist and you can see the roots growing in the humid air space between the net pot and the clay pot.



**Another way to increase humidity comes from Fred Clarke of Sunset Valley Orchids ([www.sunsetvalleyorchids.com](http://www.sunsetvalleyorchids.com))**

**Have you had challenges overwintering your Catasetinae plants? If you are losing plants due to excessive dehydration, this may be caused by long periods of low humidity. Here is a solution that is being used successfully by some ingenious growers.**

**Set the pot in a jar with water, making a loose-fitting seal with the rim of the jar. The water should not touch the bottom of the pot. The reservoir will maintain high humidity around the roots, even while the plant remains dry during dormancy. This innovative technique produces great results!**



## What's Blooming Now

Here are a range of great submissions from our members. Remember to send your photos for next month's newsletter to Ed Lysek at [EdLysek@me.com](mailto:EdLysek@me.com). We had really great participation by members for this newsletter - keep them coming for July!



***Cattleya maxima***. This species is natively found in Venezuela, Colombia, Ecuador and northern coastal Peru. In South America is called Flor de Navidad or Christmas Flower. Grown by Ed Lysek





**SVO6231 is a Sunset Valley Orchid cross of *Bl. maikai* 'Lea'™ X *Lc. Florence Lin* 'Diamond Orchids'. A vigorous grower and bloomer with succulent like leaves that like bright light. **This plant will be auctioned at the December Holiday party!****



**A *Stanhopea* hybrid**

***Aciopea* 'Ecuagenera Passion'  
*Acineta superba* X *Stan. stevensonii***





The scent is a blend of Vicks vaporub, mothballs and a hint of clove. Not overpowering, but itâ€™s never going to be a popular scent for perfume. Grown by Ed Lysek

Bc. Kosh Wallis 'Paradise' will be auctioned at the December Holiday party. Grown by Ed Lysek

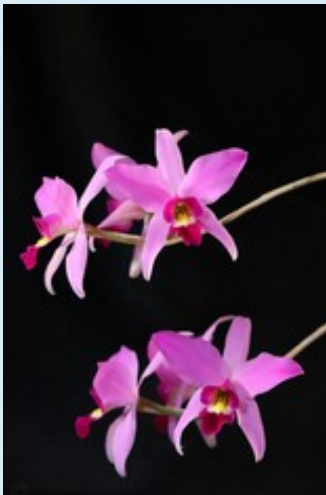


An easy growing hybrid of *Brassovola nodosa*, this plant likes intermediate temperatures and bright light.





***Dendrobium anceps* (Guerero x Irwin).** Grown outside year round mounted on a piece of cork bark. This orchid had three spikes this year with a total of eight flowers. This photo shows two of the spikes. Natively found in Mexico and Honduras and can be grown in warm to cool conditions. Is considered to be a hardy drought-tolerant species. Grown by Chris Ehrler



**Close-up of one of the flowers. Flower is 4 1/2 inches across.**



**Close-up of the lip.**





***Laelia anceps* Mendenhall AM/AOS x Feathered Flame CHS/AOS. Grown in the greenhouse year round mounted on a piece of cork bark. This orchid had one four foot long spike with a total of two flowers. Flower is 5 inches across. Grown by Chris Ehrler**





***Laelia speciosa*. Grown in the greenhouse year round mounted on a piece of cork bark. This orchid had one spike with a total of three flowers. Flower is 3 inches across. This orchid was received from the Bruce Norman collection (a FCOS charter member) after his death. Grown by Chris Ehrler**



***Dendrobium* Nagasaki.** This is a hybrid between *Dendrobium moniliforme* and *Dendrobium Sagimusume*. This orchid is considered to be temperature tolerant so I grow it outside year round in a plastic pot with a combination of classic Orchidata and lava rock. Flower is 2 inches across. Plant received last year from Jeffrey Thompson. Grown by Chris Ehrler



***Dendrobium cuthbertsonii* bicolor. Native to New Guinea. Needs cool and humid conditions. There are lots of color variations in this species. Grown in the greenhouse year round mounted on a piece of cork bark that is laid flat on the bench. Flower is 1 inch tall. These flowers have been open for over two months and rumor has it that under good culture they can be open for possibly six months. Time will tell how I do. Grown by Chris Ehrler**



***Dendrobium* Ray's Spot X Donokayla (or Dunokayla - tag is handwritten). Purchased from Sunset Valley Orchids at the FCOS show in 2019. Grown by Kristie Wells.**

**Five Cities Orchid Society 2020 Board of Directors**

**Jeff Parham, President** [jsp1440@aol.com](mailto:jsp1440@aol.com)

**Ed Lysek, Vice President** [edlysek@me.com](mailto:edlysek@me.com)

**Alan Durham, Treasurer**

**Chris Ehrler, Past President**

**Julie Orr, Secretary**

**Karen Kolba, Anne Bachman, and Denise Florez, Directors at Large**

*Show Chairman, Eric Holenda*

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Five Cities Orchid Society -[www.fcos.org](http://www.fcos.org)

“Our mission [to] encourage growing, blooming and enjoyment of orchids and companion plants by our members and the general public. To sponsor outreach, research and educational programs to promote orchid growing as a hobby or business. To promote the conservation of orchids in the wild.”

Reality always tastes better served with a side of Orchids

Follow FCOS on Facebook, Instagram and Youtube.

**Orchids are really great and so are the people who grow and share them!**

***Stay safe and healthy and looking forward to getting back together as a society in the not too distant future.***

**Five Cities Orchid Society, P.O. Box 1066, Grover Beach, CA 93483-1066, USA**

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