



February 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](http://www.fcoss.org).***



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

February is always one of my favorite orchid months. The cymbidiums in my backyard are all in various stages of early blooming. I purchased from a local nursery three *Cymbidium* Pink Champagne for my backyard wedding in 2019. They have bloomed for me every year at the same time and the flowers usually last into May. Every year for our anniversary my wife and I have this floriferous reminder of a really special day for us.

The 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.

Last month our speaker, Gary Yong Gee joined us from Australia and showed us his pictures of Australian epiphytic and lithophytic orchid species growing in the wild of Australia as well as his greenhouse. I was really looking forward to Gary's talk as I have some Australian orchids in my collection. I really thought it would be fascinating to see Gary's photos of these plants as they occur in nature and his greenhouse. Last summer I won an Aussie *Dendrobium* in our FCOS orchid plant auction called *Dendrobium delicatum* (aka the delicate dendrobium). Gary's talk was a great opportunity to learn more about these types of orchids. Many of the Australian *Dendrobiums* grow and bloom quite well outside and can be really showy container or landscape plants. My *Dendrobium delicatum* already has several inflorescences forming and promises to be a spectacular focal point in my backyard.

During Gary's presentation he also talked about a few species of *Sarcochilus* that are endemic to Australia. This genus of orchids has become my new obsession! *Sarcochilus*, commonly known as butterfly orchids or fairy bells, is a genus of about twenty species. Most species in nature are epiphytes but a few species only grow on rocks or in leaf litter. These grow and flower readily and make a great windowsill plant.

Our speaker for February is Fred Clark, who has developed some amazing colored and flower forms with *Sarcochilus* breeding program. Fred's contributions to the orchid world are numerous and we are excited to host his talk. Please join us for our Zoom meeting February 11, 2021 at 7 pm. More details and the Zoom link are available below. Mark your calendar, you do not want to miss his presentation.

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 knowledge speakers. FCOS is a 501(c)(3) Nonprofit Organization and all donations are tax deductible.

Check FCOS's [Member Benefits](#) page on our website (FCOS.net) for information on becoming a member of FCOS.

Happy Blooming

Jeff



*Cymbidium* Pink Champagne. Growing in my backyard in Los Osos.



Close-up of *Cymbidium* Pink Champagne flowers.

The Los Osos Valley Garden Club have scheduled a presentation on growing orchids in Central California for their members in February.

**Growing Orchids on the Central California Coast.**

Presented by Jeff Parham and Ed Lysek. They will explain how to grow beautiful orchids outside on the California Central Coast and will give examples of what orchids will grow in our area, and how to care for them. Presentation will be on February 20th, 9:30 am. This presentation is free and open to the public. A Los Osos Valley Garden Club general meeting will follow the program. <https://www.lovgardenclub.org>

Los Osos Garden Club is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting. Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81644807867?pwd=L2lIM1B6MTVwVkkyVUhHbmF1c29PdZ09>

Meeting ID: 816 4480 7867 Passcode: 490910



## February's Speaker - Fred Clarke

- Thursday, February 11, 2021
- 7:00 PM 9:00 PM

### **"Becoming an 80-Percentile Grower"**

Ever wonder what the most important requirements are for growing the best orchids? Learn about the underlying reasons of how and why orchids grow as they do. Then explore the fundamentals and advanced growing techniques to best grow them. Orchid plant culture is explained as you have never heard it before. Learn how to become an 80-percentile grower, expect to be wowed by this talk!

The presenter will be Fred Clarke of Sunset Valley Orchids in Vista. Fred has been growing orchids for 42 years and has been hybridizing for 38 of those years. With over 34 years as a professional grower and manager in the horticultural industry, Fred applies these skills at his orchid nursery; Sunset Valley Orchids, located in San Diego, California.

He is a passionate orchid grower whose curiosity in orchids is broad and varied. Although developing *Cattleya* hybrids has been his sustaining interest, he is also actively creating new *Paphiopedilum* and Aussie *Dendrobium* hybrids plus some others to be named if they work out!

His pioneering work in *Catasetum* intergeneric hybrids led to the development of several notable hybrids, most recently the grex, *Fredclarkeara* After Dark, which produced the blackest flower ever witnessed. This grex has received over 100 awards worldwide with nine FCCs and thirty AMs from the AOS judges!

Fred is an Accredited Judge in the Pacific South Judging Region. His plants have received hundreds of quality awards from the American Orchid Society.

Sunset Valley Orchids offers a 20% discount on all plant orders from FCOS members from now until Fred Clarke's presentation on Feb 11th. Use the special code Zoom when you check out using their website to place your order. [www.sunsetvalleyorchids.com](http://www.sunsetvalleyorchids.com). If you are an AOS member, add your membership number to receive an additional discount. Don't miss this great and generous offer to acquire some amazing plants.

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

Topic: Fred Clark: "Becoming an 80th Percentile Grower"

Time: Feb 11th, 7 pm

Join Zoom Meeting

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

Meeting ID: 870 1632 0614, Passcode: 613810

One tap mobile

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+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

Meeting ID: 870 1632 0614, Passcode: 613810

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87016320614>



FCOS had the privilege of having Gary Yong Gee from Brisbane, Australia speak to the group via Zoom at the January 2021 meeting. His topic was 'Epiphytic and Lithophytic Orchids in SE Australia'. Gary lives in Brisbane which is near the coast with many mountains around the city. He has been growing orchids for over 30 years and grows mainly species. It rains mainly in their summer with mostly dry winters. The mountains have lots of forests but there has been a lot of logging that has cleared some areas. He stated that there are about 100 orchid genera and 1,700 species of orchids in Australia with about 23% being epiphytes or lithophytes. He also stated that some genus and

species names have been changed over the last number of years by Australian orchid experts but many of those names have not yet been accepted. For example, *Dendrobium kingianum* has been changed to *Thelychiton kingianus*. Gary showed slides of a wide variety of orchid species and gave information about where they generally are found. Photos included a wide variety of species in the following genera: *Bulbophyllum*, *Cymbidium*, *Dendrobium*, *Dockrillia*, *Liparis*, *Oberonia*, *Plectorrhiza*, *Peristeranthus*, *Rhinerrhiza*, *Sarcochilus*, and *Taeniophyllum*.

If you missed last meeting, you can still see [Gary's presentation](#).

Passcode: Xu!uBF2w

The above photo of Gary was taken by Chris Ehrler on an Orchid Conservation Alliance "Orchids in the Wild" trip to Colombia in 2018.

## 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 your photos coming!



*Cymbidium* Girl Crazy 'Mardi Gras' (note feathered petals). Orchid was a gift from the late Ralph Kashima who I believe was the hybridizer. Grown by Chris Ehrler.





Closeup of one of the *Cymbidium* Girl Crazy 'Mardi Gras' flowers.

*Cymbidium* Sydney Harbor 'Sunrise' x *C. devonianum* 'Coburg'. Orchid has six pendulous spikes this year. Grown by Chris Ehler.



Closeup of one of the *Cymbidium* Sydney Harbor 'Sunrise' x *C. devonianum* 'Coburg' flowers.





*Laelia anceps* 'Helen' acquired by Chris Ehrlar from Joe Ambriz. Joe was growing this orchid potted in a mixture of Orchiata and #4 perlite.



Don't forget to transplant before this happens. Orchid roots are amazingly strong and can break your pots if you do not transplant before they become totally root bound. Grown by Chris Ehrler.

Cymbidium roots were stronger than this plastic pot. Do not forget to check your orchids each year to see which might need to be transplanted.





Lots of flowers on the way. Check back in a future to see what species this spike is from and what the flowers look like.



Barb Walsh found this *Angraecum sesquipedale* at Cal Orchids a few years ago. Known as Darwin's orchid or the Star of Bethlehem orchid, it is fragrant at night. Notice the 10" spur coming down from the back of the 5" wide flower. Darwin's Hawkmoth has a proboscis long enough to reach the bottom of the spur to collect nectar and pollinate this flower. Grows in a west facing window sill. Grown by Barb Walsh.



This *Encyclia polybulbon* is crawling off its cedar shingle mount. Barb Walsh grows this on the north side of her house - a little treasure from SLO Gardens.



A closeup of Barb's *Laelia anceps*.



A *Laelia anceps* from the Bruce Norman collection given to Barb Walsh by Chris Ehrler. Barb believes Bruce acquired it from the Koch family (Koch Roses up on the Mesa). This plant, hanging on a shepherd's hook, is grown on a cork mount and does well on the north side of the house.

*B/c* Izumi Charm 'Popper', HCC/AOS from Larry Vierheilig's auction. I remember he had this plant in the club's SBIOS display several years ago, 20 - 30 flowers. Magnificent! Grown by Eric Holenda.



*R/c* Little Toshie x C. Beaufort. Hybrid from Alan Koch of Gold Country Orchids who is well known for his minicatt crosses. This is a micro mini, about 3" tall. Grown by Eric Holenda.



*R/c* Young Min Orange. This is an *aurantiaca* hybrid. First of the season. Feb - March is the blooming peak. Grown by Eric Holenda.



*S/c* Lucky Chance, a great plant, from SVO. Prolific bloomer, about 6' tall. Grown by Eric Holenda.





*Rhyncolaelia glauca*, a species native to southern Mexico and Central America. Grows natively in open oak savanna, so takes extremes of temp., dryness, and bright light. Grown by Eric Holenda.

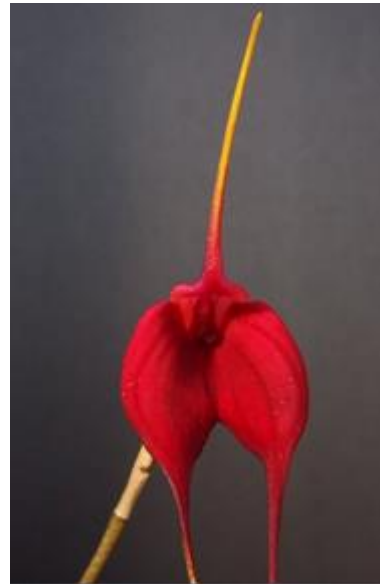
*Mormodia* Barnabas Collins from SVO. Blooming in a 1 ½" plug pot.





*Maxillaria* (now *Brasiliorchis*) *picta*.  
Maxillarias like to be damp, and many species, when well grown, will be an impressive bouquet of blooms. Grown by Eric outside on his patio.

*Masdevallia* Bay Breeze 'Oliver', great color, cool grower. Grown by Eric outside on his patio.





*Paph. gardneri*, one of the multifloral Paphs (meaning they have 3 - 5 or more flowers per spike, all open at same time). This is a miniature species, nicely fits in a 4" pot. Grown by Eric outside in his warm greenhouse.



## A Few Messages from the American Orchid Society

### AOS Speakers Day



11:00 AM EST, February 6

SPECIAL WEBINAR - [SPEAKERS DAY](#) - ORCHID CULTURE

The AOS is excited about holding our first online orchid speakers day!

All About Orchid Culture

[REGISTER NOW!](#) Date: February 6

Featuring the following speakers:

Kristen Uthus of New World Orchids- Growing Miniatures 11-11:45 AM

Francisco Miranda of Miranda Orchids "Brazilian Habitats and Species -12-12:45 PM

Ron McHatton Chief Science Officer, AOS - Those Pesky Bugs 1-1:45 PM

Dave Sorokowsky of Paph Paradise - Growing Paphs Successfully 2-2:45 PM

Alan Koch of Gold Country Orchids - Dendrobium Culture 3-3:45 PM

Online Registration \$30 <https://www.aos.org/all-about-orchids/webinars/public/speakers-day.aspx>

# Webinars-Coming Attractions!



<b>When</b>	<b>February 09, 2021</b> 8:30pm EST Tuesday	<b>February 16, 2021</b> 8:30pm EST Tuesday	<b>March 02, 2021</b> 8:30pm EST Tuesday	<b>March 09, 2021</b> 8:30 pm EST Tuesday
<b>Topic</b>	Greenhouse Chat (Orchid Q&A) <i>Send in your Questions!</i>	Native Orchids of the Heartland	Greenhouse Chat (Orchid Q&A) <i>Send in your Questions!</i>	Star Search: Judging Angraecoid Orchids
<b>Presenter</b>	<b>Ron McHatton</b> Chief Education and Science Officer	<b>Doug Martin</b> AOS Associate Judge, Member - Native Orchid Conference	<b>Ron McHatton</b> Chief Education and Science Officer	<b>Beth Martin</b> AOS Associate Judge

REGISTRATION REQUIRED: <http://www.aos.org/orchids/webinars.aspx>

Cannot make it on the scheduled date or time? No need to worry. Register anyhow!  
*Webinar announcements are posted on Facebook, Instagram, and in the AOS Corner of your Affiliated Society's newsletter.*

AOS digitizes the webinars and they are available to view at your leisure.  
GREENHOUSE CHAT Webinars are indexed by topic for future viewing

Send your Greenhouse Chat questions and photos to [greenhousechat@aos.org](mailto:greenhousechat@aos.org)



**Zygopetalums are relatively easy to grow.**

This family of easily cultivated species originates in Brazil. They are terrestrial orchids that are cool growing, and will happily grow alongside your Cymbidium collection. Most have beautiful blue-purple lips, which is an unusual colour in the plant world. Many are highly fragrant and will fill your house with delightful perfume for many weeks as they last for quite a while in flower. The Zygopetalum family will happily hybridize with many other genera.

Light: Fairly bright light, leaves should be light to medium green. Approximately 50% shade.

Temperature: Minimum night temps recommended to be 10-12°C. Maximum summer temperatures 26°C. If temperatures get cooler than this in winter try to keep the leaves dry to prevent spotting.

Feeding: Feed with Flowering Orchid Tucker weekly, all year round. Flush the plants with plain water monthly to remove excess salts from the mix.

Repotting & compost: Medium grade bark similar to that used for Cymbidiums is suitable. Zygopetalums have thick fleshy roots, and need some space to grow so don't put them in too small a pot. Late summer is the best time to repot. The roots are fairly delicate and break easily.

Humidity & watering: When the plants are making up their new growths water and feed fairly frequently. When the plants have finished growing towards the end of summer, water less frequently to just keep the mix damp until new growths emerge.

Culture of some of the better known Zygopetalum alliance partners:

Flowering: Certain species have been recorded as flowering at various times of the year, mainly in autumn. The trend for hybrids is for them to have a peak flowering season in autumn and then occasionally again in spring. The inflorescences can be deceptively quick in coming through, you might just see the stem emerging from between the leaves of the new growth and then 3 - 4 weeks later the flowers are open.

Zygopetalum culture courtesy of Tuckers Orchid Nursery, Auckland, New Zealand.

Visit their website to subscribe to their excellent monthly newsletter.

[www.tuckersorchidnursery.co.nz](http://www.tuckersorchidnursery.co.nz)



Another one of Ed Lysek's unique field trips. Ed and Chris visited a winery in Paso Robles that had uprooted a number of acres of 18-year-old Merlot grape vines. We picked thru the wire and fence stakes to pull out some of the old vines. Watch in future FCOS sales for some of the vines to be auctions as orchid mounts.



*Cymbidium* (Glenwood Melody x Vogelsang (4N)). Flower buds are just beginning to open. Obtained 2 years ago on a field trip to Orchids Royals. Grown by Jeff outside in Los Osos.

**FCOS Garage Sale**

*To add an item to the next newsletter please 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.*

Offer by FCOS member Gary Stoner to make large format prints of you orchid photos: Your orchid or pet photos (any photo really) edited and printed to your satisfaction. See my etsy home page @ [orchidsplusbygary](#) for pricing and options. All orchid society and rotary club members receive a 40% discount. Call Gary @ 805 235 4184 for details

**GREENHOUSE SPACE NEEDED:**

Orchids of Los Osos is looking for 4,000 to 6,000 square feet of greenhouse space to rent. If you know of anyone with space available please contact Raul Salgado at [orchidslososos@gmail.com](mailto:orchidslososos@gmail.com).

**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**

Orchids are really great!

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

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