



February 2022 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



Cattleya Finckeniana, reliable bloomer, consistently blooms outside for me every year. Grown in partial shade under a tree in Los Osos. Grown by Jeff Parham

From the President's Potting Bench:

February is always one of my favorite orchid months. The Cymbidiums in my yard are all in various stages of early blooming. I acquired some new Cymbidium plants from a members

sale last year and several of those plants are in spike with a promise of a floriferous February. Additionally, I've been enjoying my *Laelia anceps* that bloom freely in my yard (pictured below).

Our speaker for February is Fred Clarke, who has developed some amazing colored and flower forms with his Aussie Dendrobium breeding program. Fred's contributions to the orchid world are numerous and we are excited to host his talk. Fred has also agreed to give us a 10% discount on orchid purchases. In the shopping cart at check out, in the note section, indicate "5 Cities 10%" and he will adjust the invoice accordingly. <http://www.sunsetvalleyorchids.com> Please join us for our Zoom meeting February 10, 2022 at 7 pm. More details and the Zoom link are available below. Mark your calendar, you do not want to miss his presentation.

The FCOS Board of Directors have been busy forming a new partnership with San Luis Obispo Botanical Garden and we are pleased to announce that FCOS will participate in the Art in the Garden at the San Luis Obispo Botanical Garden and hold a plant sale on March 25, 26 and 27, 2022. Art in the Garden is an opportunity for artists to show and sell their work as well as to share the San Luis Obispo Botanical Garden with community members. It will be held at the Garden's Oak Glen Pavilion and the surrounding patio spaces in conjunction with the SLOBG annual Donor Appreciation event, Ribbon Cutting for the newly completed concrete patio areas, Artist Reception, and Spring Plant Sale. We will send out more information next month. Watch this space!

Be sure to keep checking the events section on our website for information on upcoming Orchid Talks and events. <https://www.fcos.org/events-and-where>

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 (<https://www.fcos.org/memberbenefits>) for information on becoming a member of FCOS. You can send donations to: <https://fcos.betterworld.org/donate>

Jeffery Parham
President, Five Cities Orchid Society

The 2022 Santa Barbara International Orchid Show, originally scheduled for March has been postponed to 2023. For updates, sign up for the [SBIOS Newsletter here](#).



Laelia anceps hybrid blooming in my frontyard in Los Osos. These will bloom freely outside and the plant has 6 spikes with 3-5 flowers per spike. Grown by Jeff Parham



Cymbidium unknown. This is the earliest of my Cymbidiums to bloom this year.



Dendrobium Pink Stripes, grown and bloomed by Joan Graham. Joan obtained this in last years April FCOS auction and was one of her first orchids. Joan now has about 150 orchids and an incredible light setup and patio display of her plants.



Five Cities Orchid Society Presents:

**Fred Clarke: Aussie Dendrobiums and Their Cultivation
Thursday, Feb. 10th, 2022 7:00 - 8:30 PM PST**

Our friends down under have been breeding their native Dendrobiums and creating some fantastic flowers - the word is out! Aussie Dendrobiums are easy to grow, tolerant of heat and cold, have fragrant flowers and re-bloom from the old bulbs!!!! They grow well with Cattleyas and in frost-free areas. They are the perfect plants for the shade house.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82355435739?pwd=bThHazRPekw5cjhYmNzMIpkTW96dz09>

Meeting ID: 823 5543 5739

Passcode: 204435

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kcNqzKNn34>



Dendrobium Jonathan's Glory 'Dark Joy' is a medium sized Australian Dendrobium hybrid which reblooms several times from older canes. It can be grown outdoors in frost free locations.



FCOS had the privilege of having George Hatfield speak via Zoom to the group at the January 2022 meeting. His topic was “Cultural Techniques for Growing Award-Winning Cymbidiums”. George is the owner of Hatfield Orchids in Oxnard where he has about 5,000 sqft of growing area. He has been a hybridizer for over 20 years. He has been a Trustee for the World Orchid Conference, President of the American Orchid Society (AOS), of the Cymbidium Society of America (CSA) and the Santa Barbara International Orchid Show, and is an AOS and CSA Certified Accredited Judge. George stated his growing areas has had a temperature range from 30 to 102 °F so his cymbidiums can take a wide temperature variation. He has to treat his well water to lower the pH value. He is currently just selling his flasks to commercial growers and is not open to the public for retail sales.

He stated that 90% of poor flowering in Cymbidiums is due to low light levels. Must remember that it is light levels which drives photosynthesis which adds tissue mass to the plant. He

presented the following info about what light levels non-blooming and blooming sized cymbidiums can tolerate, and what is ideal and in relation to full sun and duration.

Immature non-bloom sized cymbidiums

Tolerate: 20% full sunlight

Ideal: 10-15% full sunlight

Duration: 6-10 hours/day

Mature bloom sized cymbidiums

Tolerate: 60% full sunlight

Ideal: 25-40% full sunlight

Duration: 6-10 hours/day: more is better

They can withstand a maximum of 18 hours of light/day and need a dark period each day. He also has found that pendant cymbidiums like slightly less light than upright ones. Also, you need to remember that when the humidity is high the moisture in the air will decrease the light levels reaching the orchid leaves. George stated that most cymbidiums are epiphytic and not terrestrial. Best conditions are within 10-15 miles of the California coast. The different sections of cymbidiums need different cultural conditions. He showed different cymbidiums growing in their native environment. He presented the following info about how to help determine if your cymbidiums are receiving enough light in your growing area:

Sufficient light

Medium to light green leaves

Stiff self-supporting foliage

Vigorous plants

Profuse flowering

Insufficient light

Dark green leaves

Long, soft foliage

Prone to disease

Lack of flowering

He stated that if you put your hand about 1 foot above the leaves you should be able to see a distinct shadow of you hand and fingers if they are receiving adequate light levels. He suggested that if you get 60-70% Aluminet cloth it will allow more light to the orchids than with normal 60-70% shade cloth. This material will generally decrease the temperature of about 10 °F. Can grow cymbidiums under lots of different types of trees which will filter light to the plants. Generally best to grow with an eastern or western exposure with protection from the mid-day sun. Usually, northern exposures do not provide enough light for cymbidiums to grow

well. Cymbidiums grow best with humidity levels between 40-60% with warm and heat tolerant species growing better with higher humidity. George stated that you should never let the media get bone dry but should keep it moist at all times. Also has found that having a water quality TDS (total dissolved solids) level less than 200 TDS is ideal. The leaves will generally last about 4-5 years but if the TDS is over 600 you will see leaf die back sooner. If there is leaf die back you can then also have fungal infection invade and lose more leaf tissue. If the media breaks down then the porosity will decrease and the orchid can die quickly. He suggested that you transplant at least every 4 years or sooner. George suggested adding perlite to your media as it does not break down like bark does. He presented the following table showing what he has found to be the best organic and inorganic materials for Cymbidium mixes:

Organic types

- Kiwi bark - best
- Tree fern fiber - good
- Fir bark - good
- Coconut husk - good
- Coir – good
- Redwood fiber (gorilla hair) - good
- Cedar mulch - good
- Potting soil - fair
- Horse manure - ?

Inorganic types

- Rockwool blend - best
- Aliflor - good
- Pumice - good
- Perlite - good
- Vermiculite - good
- Lava Rock - good
- Pea gravel - good
- Broken brick - fair
- Granite chips - fair

George likes to use a mixture of 80% Kiwi Bark and 20% Perlite. Once he puts the media into the bottom of the pot, he then adds the orchid roots (has removed about 2/3 of the current root mass) then adds additional media. He then proceeds to tamp the media down with about a 1-inch diameter wood dowel to make sure the orchid does not move in the new media. George stated you should have at least three bulbs per division. You can leave one to two back bulbs in each division as long as the growth is firm. Plan to transplant your cymbidium once it has finished blooming. When transplanting make sure the new growth is away from the pot edge.

George suggests that media has at least the following functions:

- Maintain anchorage for the orchid

- Provide porosity (air) at the root zone
- Retain moisture and nutrients for the plant to use
- Helps to maintain the media pH (prefer 5.5-6.5) for best results.
- If you have very pure water, it may require a top-dressing of dolomite lime
- As organic media breaks down it become acidic.

He suggested a number of products or procedures you can use to keep your tools and area clean and sanitary which is important so you do not spread disease between plants. These include the following:

- Flaming the tools with a propane torch
- A saturated solution of tri-sodium phosphate (TSP)
- Quaternary ammonia - Physan, Naccosan, etc. – 10% solution and wipes
- Does not like chlorine as it quickly become inactive in hard water or soiled conditions.

George likes using Nutricote 13-11-11 slow-release fertilizer on his cymbidiums (see note farther down in this FCOS newsletter about FCOS supply and sale of this fertilizer). The fertilizer is released slowly during each watering. He has found that the Nutricote Type 270 releases nutrients for about 1 year due to the fact that temperature below 75°F will extend the release time of the fertilizer. He adds approximately the following quantities of this fertilizer based on pot size:

- Small pot size (3.25 to 4-inch pot) - 1 teaspoon
- Medium pot size (5 to 6-inch pot) – 2 teaspoons
- Large pot size (7 to 8-inch pot) – 1 tablespoon
- Extra large pot size (10 to-12-inch tubs) – 2 tablespoons

If your cymbidium is happy it will double in size each year. He also stated that cymbidiums growing in a full pot generally bloom the best. George places Nutricote on the surface of each newly transplanted cymbidium. For cymbidium variety section he stated the following:

- Cool Growing (traditional) – cymbidiums that need a distinct 25°F Day-to-Night temperature differential to initiate flower inflorescence.
- Warm Tolerant - cymbidiums that flower with temperatures below 75°F night temperature, regardless of the day temperature
- Heat Tolerant – cymbidiums that flower with temperatures above 75°F, regardless of the day temperature

Common pests that infest cymbidiums include the following:

- **Boisduval Scale** (looks similar to mealy bugs) – need to be eliminated from collection. If light infestation spray plant with aerosol Leaf Shine (set plant out of direct sun for a few days). For severe infestations use systemic pesticide (like Safari or imidacloprid containing products) as soon as detected and then after two weeks. Horticultural or Neem oil also works. Need to apply as a drench and material needs to be taken up by the roots to be effective! Should remove all

leaves and flower sheaths to eliminate scale hiding places and allow easy inspection. Can use an insect growth regulator (Enstar) will keep pests from going through different stages of its life.

- **Mites** – Underside of leaf infected by mites will have a silvery sheen to it. Mites get bad during warm dry weather so suggests watering leaves especially after adding small amount of soap to the water. If this does not work then try Avid or Tetra San, Telstar or Kelthane (following product instructions) making sure to get spray on underside of leaves.

- **Thrips** – You do not see the damage until later. They chew the surface of the plant tissue and suck out the juices from leaves, stems and developing flowers. Very challenging to control. Suggests a late fall application of Triazicide will decrease the population during cool weather which will minimize the damage to buds and flowers.

- **Snail/slugs** – Suggests using Sluggo (iron phosphate). Metaldehyde (another product that can be used) can be toxic to pets.

Common diseases of cymbidiums include the following:

- **Anthracnose** – A fungus that can attack after leaf die back starts. Cut off 1 inch below leading edge of damaged leaf. Can use a fungicidal spray.

- **Black rot (Pythium)** – Black rot of the pseudobulb and rot the roots. Can destroy orchid quickly. Typically happens in warm weather. Can use Subdue (Aliette) as a drench which will stop it but it is expensive. Best to quarantine plants or discard them. Should make sure media is not retaining a lot of moisture by adding materials that open up the mixture. Also, the orchids will do better if there is good air circulation.

George has found that it is best to stake an inflorescence in the afternoon and also when the media is slightly dry. These are when the inflorescence is more flexible.

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



SVO 7093 *B/c.* Topaz Impact (*Lc.* Mildred Rives 'Orchidglade' X *B/c.* Love Sound 'Dogashima') first bloom seedling from a flask purchased from Sunset Valley Orchids in 2017. Grown by Ed Lysek in a hanging basket net pot filled with volcanic rock.

Sophtrolaelia XBO (Sl. Dorothy Elliot X *L. anceps*) combines the temperature tolerance of *L. anceps* and the complex heritage of Dorothy Elliott (50% *L. anceps*, 25% *C. cinnabarina* and 25% *C. coccinea*). Very temperature tolerant and a nice shade of pink/red with a yellow throat. Grown by Ed Lysek





Masdevallia princeps x *M. ayabacana*. This is a primary hybrid between two of the *Masdevallias* with large flowers. Grown by Jeffrey Thompson.

Masdevallia tovarensis. A cool to cold growing epiphytic species found in Venezuela growing at an elevation of 1600 to 2400 meters. Grown by Jeffrey Thompson.





Unknown *Phragmipedium*.
Grown by Jeffrey
Thompson.

Unknown *Phragmipedium*.
Grown by Jeffrey
Thompson.





Phragmipedium x sedenii
'Candidulum'. A natural
hybrid between *P.*
longifolium and *P. schlimii*
that are found in Colombia.
Grown by Jeffrey
Thompson.



Dracula berthae. Is a cool
to cold growing epiphytic
species found at an
elevation of 1800 to 2600
meters on the eastern
cordillera in Colombia.
Grown in a cool
greenhouse with the orchid
being mounted on a piece
of wood. Grown by Chris
Ehrler.

Pleurothallis bivalvis var *xanthina*. A cool to cold growing species that grows as an epiphyte or terrestrial in Mexico, Costa Rica, Panama, Colombia Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia, Venezuela Guyana, Fr Guiana, Surinam and Trinidad & Tobago in cloud forests at elevations of 1000 to 3300 meters . Growing outside in the shaded in a clay pot filled with sphagnum moss. Grown by Chris Ehrler.



Pleurothallis stricta. A cool to cold growing epiphyte found in Colombia and Ecuador at an elevation of 1800 to 2500 meters. Grown in a cool greenhouse with the orchid being mounted on a piece of wood. Grown by Chris Ehrler.

Laelia anceps "'Snowdrop'.
One of the many color
forms of this species.
Grown mounted to a piece
of cork oak which is
currently hung in a cool
greenhouse. Grown by
Chris Ehrler.





Mediocarlar decoratum. A mat-forming, warm to cold growing epiphytic species from Papua and New Guinea and West Irian at elevations of 900 to 2500 meters. This reminded me of Christmas tree lights in a different type of tree. Growing mounted on a piece of cedar board which is hung in a cool greenhouse. Grown by Chris Ehrlar.

Closeup of *Mediocarlar decoratum* flower.





Scaphosepalum species.
Acquired from Rudy Bachmann at SLO Orchids many years ago. Grown in a cool greenhouse with the orchid being mounted on a piece of wood. Grown by Chris Ehrler.



Papilionante vanadarum.
This species that is found in Assam, eastern Himalayas, India, Nepal, Bhutan, Sikkim, Myanmar and southern China growing at an elevations of 1200 to 1750 meters. It is a cool growing epiphyte. These plants were acquired by Ed Lysek in a flask from Marni Turkel in 2018. A number of small plants were mounted onto this piece of cork oak (which is 30 inches long) since then has grown outside hanging on the north side of my house. Last year the flower buds started but shriveled so in 2021 when the flower buds started I moved the mount into the greenhouse to to give it higher humidity. Two flower spikes developed with a total of five fragrant flowers. I also kept a single mounted individual in the greenhouse since 2018 and it is very small in relation to the once seen in the photo. Once the flowers fade the mount will be moved outside again. Grown by Chris Ehrler.



Side view of a *Papilionante vanadarum* flower.



Closeup of the front of a
Papilionante vanadarum
flower.



Cym. Khan Fury 'Black Plum' Grown outdoors in Los Osos by Kristie Wells, from Cal Orchid

Encyclia (now Prosthechea) polybulbon is a miniature mat forming orchid. Original plant given to Ed Lysek by Rudy Bachmann a number of years ago. Likes bright light, takes cool winters and warm summers. Grown mounted on an oak branch in my greenhouse. Flowers are numerous and are 1/4 inch wide.





Masdevallia harlequin
'Ecuagenera' is a hybrid
Masdevallia which
tolerates warmer
temperatures than typical
orchids of this genus.
Growing in sphagnum
moss in a small clay pot
and kept constantly moist.
Evaporation from the clay
pot and a shady location
keeps this orchid cool in
summer in my warm
Templeton location. Grown
by Ed Lysek and blooming
in cool winter conditions in
my greenhouse.

Cattleya perciviliana
'Jewel' blooms in time for
the Holidays and continues
blooming into February.
Original plant grown by
Larry Vierheilig. Now
growing in Ed Lysek's
greenhouse.





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 some orchids growing outside and worry about them getting too cold. Should I bring all my orchids inside the house for the winter?

Answer:

Dr Motes has the answer. **If you want to know how cold is too cold for your orchids, click to read an [excerpt](#) from Florida Orchid Growing on cold tolerance.**

<https://www.motesorchids.com/store/fog>.

Webinars-Coming Attractions!



When	January 11, 2022 8:30pm EST Tuesday	January 18, 2022 8:30pm EST Tuesday	February 15, 2022 8:30pm EST Tuesday	February 23, 2022 8:30pm EST Wednesday
Topic	Miltoniopsis	Greenhouse Chat (Orchid Q&A) <i>Send in your Questions!</i>	A Guide to Modern LED Lighting How to set up an indoor grow area	Greenhouse Chat (Orchid Q&A) <i>Send in your Questions!</i>
Presenter	Mark Whelan Retired Professor Multi-genera Orchid Grower	Ron McHatton Chief Education and Science Officer	Kelly McCracken Owner High Desert Orchids, Miniature Orchid Specialist	Ron McHatton Chief Education and Science Officer

REGISTRATION REQUIRED

Cannot make it on the scheduled date or time? No need to worry. Register anyhow! ALL webinars are recorded and 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

Webinar announcements are posted to Facebook,

Membership Benefits and How to Join FCOS

- The FCOS Newsletter emailed every month. Keep up to date on FCOS activities, enjoy entertaining and informative articles, and orchid culture tips. [Sign up for FCOS newsletter.](#)
- Monthly Zoom talks from local and worldwide Orchid Experts.
- Opportunities to win beautiful and quality orchids.
- Network with amateur, advanced collectors and commercial growers
- Select invitation to our Holiday Party/Summer Picnic and Auctions.
- Participation in our Annual Central California Coast Orchid Show
- Create orchid displays for The Huntington Botanical Gardens International Orchid Show/The Santa Barbara International Orchid Show.
- Invitation to exclusive FCOS Field-trips to out of town vendors and events.
- Click to download a copy of the [FCOS Membership Form.](#)
- Membership dues are \$25 per year for an individual or family. \$15 after June 1 for the balance of the calendar year.
- Make your check payable to Five Cities Orchid Society, PO Box 1066 Grover Beach, CA 93483.
- Please include your completed membership form with your payment.
- Thank You for becoming a member of the Five Cities Orchid Society.

Payment by Credit Card with an FCOS-BetterWorld Account

If you wish to pay for your membership by credit card, you will need to establish an account with the FCOS processing service BetterWorld. Establishing an FCOS-BetterWorld account will also enable you to participate in FCOS on-line orchid auctions as well as paying for your membership dues. [Click here to create an FCOS-BetterWorld account and pay for your membership by credit card.](#)

A Lifetime Individual Membership is available for a one-time donation of \$500. Your generous donation enables FCOS to attract quality speakers, create content rich newsletters and most importantly helps finance one of the largest regional orchid shows in the western U.S. You can submit your lifetime membership payment by check using the [FCOS Membership Form](#) or by credit card by clicking this link: [FCOS-BetterWorld Lifetime Membership Donation of \\$500.](#)



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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.



FCOS Nutricote Type 180 13-11-11 fertilizer for sale! As you heard at the January meeting George Hatfield likes to use Nutricote time released fertilizer on his orchids. FCOS purchased some large bags of the Nutricote Type 180 and separated it into one (1) pound bags and selling it for \$4/pound. I just checked on Amazon and you can purchased five (5) pounds of it through them for \$49.52 (about \$10/pound). BUT to get the FCOS price you need to contact Chris (805-748-4609) and come to his house to pick it up and pay for it. So if do not mind paying over twice the price Amazon might deliver for free.

Five Cities Orchid Society 2022 Board of Directors

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Orchids are really great!

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

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