



January 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



Mystacidium capense bloomed by Joan Graham on her outside patio in Los Osos, California. _____

Happy New Year!

I hope you are all well and have enjoyed the holidays; surrounded by people you love and lots of blooming orchids.

This holiday season I've been visiting family in the Puget Sound area of Washington State. Extreme weather has snowed us in and delayed my trip back. I have family and good friends that take care of my orchids while I'm gone. I have humidifiers, a heater with thermostat set at 50 degrees, a number of fans, temperature gauges and lights. I have the fans and lights plugged into special electrical sockets that can be turned on and off with a computer app. I also have other apps that allow me to monitor temperature, humidity and light. My helpers come every other day to fill the humidifiers and tend to the plants. They also graciously send me pictures of my blooms. With everyone's help, my plants are always well cared for, even when I'm away.

During the December FCOS meeting, we held elections. Several officers retired and several new officers were elected. I'd like to thank Ed Lysek, who served as Vice President; Alan Durham, who served as Treasurer; and Julie Orr, who served as Secretary. We are grateful for their generous service to our Society.

I'd like to welcome our incoming officers: Eric Holenda as Vice President, Denise Florez as incoming Secretary/Treasurer, and Kristie Wells as Assistant Secretary. Anne Bachman and Ed Lysek were also elected to serve on the Board. A detailed list of current officers and their contact information is provided at the end of this newsletter.

In addition, I want to acknowledge Ed Lysek and Chris Ehrler for their ongoing contributions to the publication of this newsletter. This joint endeavor has been quite successful; we now have 264 subscribers. We all appreciate those who have contributed pictures and articles to our newsletter in the past. If you have pictures of your orchids, questions, selfies, or other news, please send to one of the newsletter editors by the 25th of the month, and we will do our best include it in the following issue. Additionally, FCOS has a fairly active Facebook presence and features daily orchid pictures posted by our members. Please stop by, subscribe and post your pictures to share with the online orchid community.

We are all looking forward to our January meeting, featuring George Hatfield's presentation on Cymbidiums. We are fortunate George has agreed to visit us on Zoom and share his knowledge and experience with us. He's the orchid guy you've been looking for!

We appreciate the contributions of all our speakers. We are currently booking speakers and events in 2022. In addition to monthly Zoom meetings, we will have orchid auctions, the first of which will be in March. We are also organizing a series of Orchid Garden Tours, a series of private tours to individuals' homes, greenhouses and gardens. If you are interested in opening your greenhouse doors for an Orchid Garden Tour, please let us know. As host, you will determine the number of visitors and tour schedule. FCOS must insist on proof of vaccination for all participants. Keep up to date on events by checking the FCOS website:

<https://www.fcoss.org/events-and-where>

I encourage you to support the FCOS by becoming a member and staying current with your dues. <https://www.fcoss.org/memberbenefits>

As 2021 comes to a close, we know you have many opportunities for giving. We are hopeful that the Five Cities Orchid Society will be on your list! Membership dues do not cover our costs! We rely on donations and auction sales to be able to bring you our monthly Orchid Talks. If you have recently donated, a big thank you! Your donation makes a difference!

The FCOS is a 501(c)3 non-profit and donations are tax-deductible. Your contributions assist us in growing our programs and scheduling speakers for our meetings. You can [send](https://fcos.betterworld.org/donate) donations to: <https://fcos.betterworld.org/donate>

I hope to see you all at the January meeting. Happy Blooming!

Jeffery Parham

President, Five Cities Orchid Society

PS - This just announced - 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 greenhouse under lights in Los Osos. These will bloom freely in my backyard but if I put under lights they normally will bloom a few weeks earlier. Grown by Jeff Parham**



***Vanda Paki* - grown under lights by Jeff Parham**

An outdoor-thriving and very free-blooming primary hybrid from the crossing of *Vanda suavis* and *Vanda cristata*. These blooms have the unusual, cinnabar-red lip markings of *V. cristata* and the delightful speckled pattern and rounded shapes of *V. suavis*. These plants are known to have a long blooming season and can be in bloom most of the year. This plant has been in bloom for about 9 weeks.



Five Cities Orchid Society Presents:

George Hatfield - All Things Cymbidium

Thursday, January 13th at 7 pm

George Hatfield graduated from California State Polytechnic University, Pomona with a Bachelor of Science in Plant and Soil Science. George is the founder of Hatfield Orchids which was established in 1999. Hatfield Orchids is a leading hybridizer of cymbidiums in the World. Hybrids created and sold by Hatfield Orchids have won numerous awards internationally.

Join [Zoom](#) Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82355435739?pwd=bThHazRPekw5cjhnYmNzMlpkTW96dz0>

Meeting ID: 823 5543 5739

Passcode: 204435

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



George Hatfield of Hatfield Orchids in Oxnard was named Grand Champion for his Cymbidium Oxnard Dots 'Hatfields' at the March 16-18, 2012 event at the Earl Warren Showgrounds in Santa Barbara.

Last month's meeting featured a presentation on Fragrance by Steve Frowine.



Fragrant Orchids

Steven A. Frowine

December 9, 2021



There are between 4,000 and 10,000 distinct odors, all of which humans can detect. Unlike our other senses, smell is difficult to describe in words and usually requires us to use phrases like "smells like jasmine" or "smells like a rose". The ability to detect the fragrance of an orchid flower is influenced by the time of day, temperature, humidity and the gender and experience of the person making the observation. This makes judging orchid fragrance a challenge for the several orchid competitions where a fragrance category exists.

Steven presented photos and cultural information for a range of fragrant orchids and a list of the images presented and suggested sources of fragrant orchids has been posted on the [FCOS.org website on the "events and where to find us" page for Dec. 9, 2021.](https://www.fc-os.org/events-and-where-to-find-us)

In the past, orchid breeders have selected for flower size, color and overall plant vigor, but have not emphasized fragrance. As a result, many modern orchid hybrids lack the fragrance of their species ancestors. This trend may be reversing as other plant breeders, notably rose hybridizers have started to emphasize fragrance in their new hybrid rose introductions. Fragrance in orchid species is an important tool the orchid uses to attract pollinators and their fragrance has nothing to do with us. But this may be changing as orchid customers begin to consider fragrance when selecting their next orchid to purchase.

Use the link below to view a recording of this meeting:

https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/Aed_UQnrQH1XcpHd7pVvUGwJFNfzrhMmeWbDCY6_vsl4o_wQnfGopo1PEAt4D342.MLz4amxxHMKYXM8t Passcode: N0A1r%Wi

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



Cymbidium elegans. A cool to cold growing epiphyte or lithophyte growing in the Chinese Himalayas, Assam India, eastern Himalayas, Nepal, Bhutan, Sikkim and Myanmar on trees and rocks overhanging streams in shady locations at elevations of 1500 to 2800 meters. Grown outside in a plastic pot filled with Orchiate and lava rock. Grown by Chris Ehrler.

Cymbidium Gladio 'Hatfields' x Cindy Lou 'Geyerlands' spike. Grown by Chris Ehrlar.



Closeup of *Cymbidium* Gladio 'Hatfields' x Cindy Lou 'Geyerlands' flower.



Dendrobium cuthbertsonii. This species grows in cool to cold conditions at high elevation (750 to 3500 meters) in New Guinea as a epiphyte on mossy trees or on moss covered rocks as a lithophyte. This plant is grown in a cool greenhouse on a piece of cork oak with a small amount of sphagnum moss. This plant is from Ecuagenera. Grown by Chris Ehrlar.

***Dendrobium* Nagasaki.** This is a hybrid between *Den. moniliforme* and *Den. Sagimusume*. This plant is grown outside on the north side of the house in a shady area. Grown in a plastic pot filled with a combination of Orchiatea and lave rock. This plant was a gift from Jeffrey Thompson. Grown by Chris Ehrler.



Closeup of *Dendrobium* Nagasaki spike.

Closeup of *Dendrobium* Nagasaki
flower.





Dendrochilum cobbianum. A cool growing Philippine species growing as an epiphyte or lithophyte at elevations above 1200 meters. This plant is currently growing semi-hydroponically in a cool greenhouse in a plastic container filled with a clay product. This plant was a gift from Jeffrey Thompson. Grown by Chris Ehrler.

Closeup of *Dendrochilum cobbianum* spike.





Closeup of *Dendrochilum cobbianum* flower.



Laelia anceps. This warm to cool growing epiphytic species is found in Mexico and Honduras at elevations of 500 to 1500 meters. Grown outside in a plastic pot filled with gravel. Grown by Chris Ehrler.

Closeup of *Laelia anceps* flower.





Laelia anceps 'Fort Caroline'. A different color form of this species. This plant is grown outside in a hanging wood basket. Grown by Chris Ehrler.

Another color form of *Laelia anceps* grown mounted on an oak branch inside an unheated greenhouse. Grown by Ed Lysek





Masdevallia bicolor.
This epiphytic species is found in Peru, Ecuador, Colombia, Venezuela and Bolivia growing down on tree trunks at elevations of 400 to 2100 meters, and can be grown in cold to warm conditions. This plant is grown in a cool greenhouse in a clay pot filled with sphagnum moss. This plant is from Ecuagenera. Grown by Chris Ehrlar.

Side view of
Masdevallia bicolor.





Pleurothallis marthae. This species is found in Colombia and has some of the largest leaves and flowers in this genus. It is a cold growing epiphyte. This plant was from Jeffrey Thompson and is grown in a cool greenhouse in a large clay pot filled with a combination of bark and gravel. Grown by Chris Ehrler.

Closeup of the *Pleurothallis marthae* flowers.





Restrepia antennifera (spotted form). This is the type species of the genus. This epiphyte is found in Venezuela, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru in Andean forests on tree trunks at elevations of 1600 to 3500 meters. Grows in cool to cold conditions. This plant is grown in a cool greenhouse in a clay pot filled with sphagnum moss. Grown by Chris Ehrler.

Side view of *Restrepia antennifera*
(spotted form).



Restrepia guttulata. This is a cold to cool growing, Colombian, Ecuadorian, Peruvian and Venezuelan, epiphytic species that is found in cloud forests at elevations of 1700 to 3000 meters. This orchid is grown by Chris Ehrler in a cool greenhouse in a clay pot filled with sphagnum moss.

Restrepia nittiorhyncha. This cool to cold growing epiphytic species is found at an elevation of 1200 to 2900 meters in Venezuela and Colombian cloud forests. This plant is grown in a cool greenhouse in a clay pot filled with sphagnum moss. Grown by Chris Ehrler.





Rhynchosopsis
Kasorn's Viola
Coequestris 'Blue'.
Grown by Joan
Graham

***Vanda* Pachung Blue.**
Grown by Ed Lysek.
Consistently blooms
twice a year - grown in
a slatted wooden
basket with the roots
surrounded by
Spanish moss.



***Vanda* Pachara's
Delight. Grown by Ed
Lysek**

Stanhopea stevensonii
with two flower spikes
blooming somewhat
late in the year in Ed
Lysek's greenhouse.
Chuck and Judy
Scheithauer report
their Stanhopeas are
blooming as well.





***LaelioCattleya* Puppy
Love "Softness".
Grown by Ron Hardy.**

***Brassolaeliocattleya*
Yen Corona "Green
Genie". Grown by Ron
Hardy.**





Paphiopedilum (*Paph* Lace Lullaby Round Wonder x *Paph* Wallula Crazy "Jade Top"). Grown Ron Hardy.



Bc. Hawaiian Discovery x *Bc. Love Sound*— First bloom seedling from Fred Clarke of Sunset Valley Orchids grown by Eric Holanda

Mxp. Bryon Rinke— pretty dark! From Fred Clarke of Sunset Valley Orchids grown by Eric Holenda



Rth. Young-Min Orange— a typical *Cattleya* (now *Guaranthe*) *aurantiaca* hybrid - Eric Holenda



Why Do You Grow the Orchids You Grow?

By Sue Bottom/Photographs by Terry Bottom (Photos can be viewed in ORCHIDS, January 2016, pages 26 through 29)

Now It's Habenarias

Has your taste in orchids changed over time? When you first start growing orchids, you buy everything in sight, all you know is that you need more, more! Cattleyas are my enduring favorite, the incredible flowers, the fragrance, perhaps that's why most of the benches and overhead poles are filled with them. But then you go to an orchid show and see something that you simply can't live without.

In the beginning it was Phalaenopsis. When we were living in Houston, the Houston Orchid Society was a Phalaenopsis club thanks in part to Bill Tippitt's breeding of multifloral phals. It was an exciting time for phalaenopsis, the hybridizing for yellows was in its heyday and the harlequin phals had just been introduced. How can you not love phals with their long lived graceful blooms?

Then one day Stephen Moffitt gave a presentation to the Galveston club about catasetums, so naturally I started growing them. What is easier than a plant that requires no winter care during its dormancy but grows like mad in the summer? Add Fred Clarke of Sunset Valley Orchids into the mix with all his beautiful and fascinating hybrids and there are new wows to tempt you every year.

Next there was the vanda phase, so many colors, sizes and shapes! After that it was the ephemeral stanhopeas. That addiction started with a *Stanhopea grandiflora* that bloomed 8 times in one year, can you spell hooked? It took a bit of observing how others succeeded with theirs and some trial and error until I could reliably rebloom them and by then I had almost two dozen different varieties. After that came the African angraecoids in their white and green glory, the dendrochilums with their chains of miniature flowers and... well, you get the idea.

Roy Tokunaga of H&R Nurseries had some *Habenaria medusa* seedlings for sale when he came to talk to our club and I had seen pictures of this oddity and thought, why not? When it bloomed, it was love at first sight and the hunt was on for more. There have been many enablers along the way, including Thanh Nguyen of Springwater Orchids on the east coast and Peter T. Lin of Diamond Orchids on the west coast and several in between. Before the year was over, there were about two dozen habenarias in the greenhouse, orchids that grow from tubers and require a dry dormant winter.

That's how I found myself outdoors on a cold January afternoon with all these dead looking plants figuring out how I was going to repot them so they'd come back to life in the spring. The trickiest part is keeping the tuber oriented so the shoot end is pointing up and the root end is pointing down, easier said than done in that one end looks pretty much like the other. I think I made the wrong decision on one or two of them last year. For the similarly afflicted, this is what I have gleaned from reading about them and talking with other orchid growers.

Pot Selection. First, look for deeper standard size pots rather than azalea or bulb type pots. Don't use peanuts at the bottom of the pot because that's where the tubers will want to form. Use smallish pots, if you think you're slightly underpotting, you've probably chosen the right pot.

Potting Mix. Most folks suggest using either sphagnum moss or Pro-Mix HP as your potting mix. I opted for a Pro-Mix HP/sponge rock mix and top dressed with a little sphagnum moss so the soilless mix wouldn't wash out of the pot. If you use sphagnum, make sure you have the AAA grade, otherwise find a good soilless mix. Next year I may try a few in straight sphagnum moss packed tightly enough that the plants will stand up without support.

When to Repot. After flowering, the vegetation starts to brown and the plant begins to enter dormancy. The tubers are still growing and storing energy for next year's growth so just limit your watering until the plant dies back. Don't be in any hurry to remove the dead top

vegetation from the pot because that will help you orient the tubers properly during the repotting process.

Tuber Orientation. If you just knock the plant out of the pot and clean away the old potting mix like you would with other orchids, you'll find yourself saying oops, which end is up? The first-time repotting, I held the tubers in my hand-oriented top to bottom from depotting through repotting, to make sure they didn't get turned around. Often you can tell there is a pointy end from which the shoot grows that should be oriented up when you repot. But if you can't tell which end should be up, hedge your bets and lay the tuber sideways.

Then You Wait. Once your tuber is happily ensconced in its dry new home, put the pot someplace where it won't accidentally get watered. You have to wait until the tuber breaks dormancy and sends up a new shoot and then you can begin watering. If there is no new growth when all your other orchids have spring fever, you can give your Habenaria an occasional sip to encourage it to start growing. Once it has a few inches of height, give it copious amounts of water and fertilizer during the growing season because like your other winter dormant orchids, it has to cram 12 months of growing into 7 or 8 months. In the fall the bloom spikes will emerge from the center of the plant, get ready for the show!

Orchid growers go through all sorts of trials and tribulations learning how to grow one type of orchid and then when they finally figure it out, they decide to start growing a different type of orchid. It is probably natural that our taste in orchids evolves over time. After all, if you look back at your recipes from several years ago you realize your ingredients and techniques have morphed over time... though you must be careful not to admit to a Louisiana native that you are now adding beans to the gumbo!

Sue Bottom started growing orchids in Houston in the mid-1990s after her husband Terry built her first greenhouse. They settled into St. Augustine, Florida, Sue with her orchids and Terry with his camera. They are active in the St. Augustine Orchid Society, maintaining the society's website and publishing its monthly newsletter. Sue is also a member of the AOS Editorial Board.

sbottom15@hotmail.com

The original article with complete photo layout can be found here: [ORCHIDS Magazine \(aos.org\)](http://aos.org)



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:

Where can I find a list of FCOS speakers for 2022?

Answer:

Go to the FCOS.org website and click on the "events and where to find us" page for a list of scheduled speakers for 2022 or simply click [HERE](#).

Question

I was given a plant of *Habenaria rhodocheila* in full bloom. It is a really beautiful orchid and I would like to see it bloom again next year. Now that the flowers have faded, how do I care for it? — *Captain G.P. Woodward*

Answer

Habenarias have been promoted as being among the most difficult orchids to grow. Yet if one pays particular attention to their general needs, they are actually one of the easiest. The most important key to their culture is watering. Asian species of Habenaria go through a definite monsoon-type growing season. They are developed from corms that go totally dormant in the parched soil of their native habitat, so parched that the soil is rock-hard and cracked. In the early spring, the rains soften the soil and spark the Habenaria into new growth. The plants are now kept in a constant state of wetness, growing at amazing rates until midsummer. At the point when the rosettes of leaves seem to be slowing down, this is the time to watch for emerging flower spikes from the center of the rosette. The plant should still be kept continuously moist until the last flower has fallen off. At this point, the plant must still be watered, but allowed to dry slightly between waterings. This is done because the plant is now producing new corms for next year's growth under the soil.

Now comes the hard part. When the foliage starts to become spotted and looks as if it is dying, stop watering the plant. Give no water at all. We put our awarded plants on top of an electrical service panel where it is guaranteed they will not receive any water, even accidentally. Repot in dry mix at this time. Then around February to March, take a look every week and see if anything is poking up through the top of the soil. If it is, water it. If not, put it back. An occasional misting by the middle of April can spark the plant if no signs of growth are present. Habenarias purchased as bare-root corms should not be planted until April, as the damp soil mixes will start growth and alter their growth cycle unfavorably. The preferred mixes are any of the soilless blends, such as Pro-Mix HP. — *Joe Palermo*



Habneros rhodocheilia 'Clara Maes' Birthday Surprise CCM/AOS 987 points). photographer Rhichard Noel

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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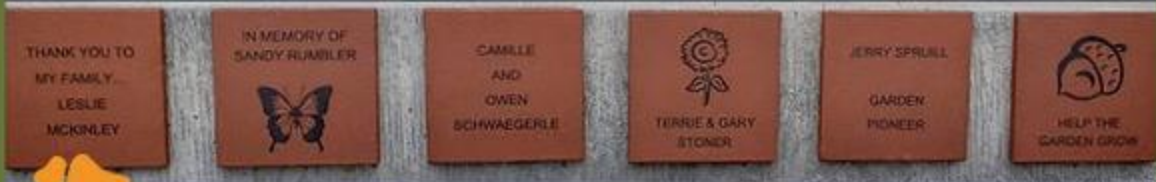
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FCOS Garage Sale

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.

Five Cities Orchid Society 2022 Board of Directors

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Eric Holenda, *Vice President*

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Karen Kolba, Anne Bachmann, and Ed Lysek, *Directors at Large*

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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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