



## January 2023 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)*



*C. Lana Coryeii (C. walkeriana 'SVO Whopper AM/AOS x Sc. Beaufort 'Big Circle' 4n)*

### **From the President's Potting Bench**

Happy New Year 2023! I hope everyone is well and that you all have enjoyed the Holiday season, observing traditions, being surrounded by the people that you love and of course lots of blooming orchids.

Many of my orchids have been blooming this month, including mini Cattleyas, Laelias, Barkerias, and an amazing Phragmipedium hybrid, *P. Hanna Popow*. Many of my other orchids are developing spikes with promises of blooms soon to open, which is very exciting!

During December's FCOS's Holiday and Orchid Social meeting and auction, we held elections. On behalf of the Board of Directors and Members of FCOS, I'd like to acknowledge and express gratitude to outgoing, continuing, changing and incoming members of the FCOS Board.

Much thanks to Denise Florez, for serving as Secretary/Treasurer of the FCOS for the last two years. She is currently ending her service with the Board as she moves out of the area. We all wish her well in the future. A warm welcome to Michelle Ralston as incoming Secretary, Karen Kolba as incoming Treasurer and Anne Dering as our new Director at Large. As for our ongoing Board of Directors Officers/Members, thanks to Eric Holenda for continuing to serve in capacity of Vice President, as well as to Board Members Ed Lysek, Kristie Wells, and Anne Bachmann for their continuing participation for the coming term. I have been also voted to continue as President, and I endeavor to serve you all well in this capacity.

In 2023, we will have monthly Zoom meetings, hold online orchid auctions, and periodically gather in person for additional events. We are currently booking speakers and events for 2023, and appreciate all those who present, facilitate and participate in these events.

Upcoming Event: We are all looking forward to our January Zoom meeting, featuring an Orchid Talk by Mary Gerritsen. She will speak about growing outdoor orchids on the California Coast. This meeting will be held on Thursday, January 12, 2023, at 7:00 pm PST on Zoom.

Upcoming Event: FCOS's first in-person gathering in the new year will be on January 21, 2023. At this gathering, we will meet at the Plant Shop at Cal Poly to help re-pot some of their orchids. We will send out more information about this gathering later in the month.

Keep up to date on events by checking the FCOS website: <https://www.fcos.org/events-and-where>

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

We know you have many opportunities for giving throughout the year. We are hopeful that the Five Cities Orchid Society will be on your list. Membership dues do not cover all of our costs! We rely on donations, auctions, and orchid sales as funding for our monthly Orchid Talks, periodic gatherings, and toward the future goals of FCOS. You can make donations online at:

<https://fcos.betterworld.org/donate>, or you can send a check to FCOS, PO Box 1066, Grover Beach, CA 93433. If you have recently donated, a BIG Thank You! Your donation makes a difference!

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

Jeffery Parham

President, Five Cities Orchid Society



*Phragmipedium* Hanne Popow (*P. besseae* v. *flavin* x *P. schlimii*)



The *Phragmipedium* is potted in a self watering pot, which keeps the roots fairly wet all the time. This was obtained as single growth about 2 years ago from *Ecuagenera* and now has about 6 flowering spikes with sequential flowering. This one plant forms a rather spectacular showpiece and promises to leave several of you with "Phraggy envy".



*Phragmipedium* Hanne Popow is available from Ecuagenera's Florida inventory and, if ordered now, can be picked up at the March Santa Barbara International Orchid Show, saving you the costs of shipping. See photo below of a plant Ed Lysek purchased from Ecuagenera in early December.



**The Five Cities Orchid Society (FCOS) Orchid Talks 2023 invites you to an evening with:**

**Mary Gerritsen: Growing Orchids Outdoors in California.**

**January 12, 2023  
7 pm- 8:30 pm**

Mary Gerritsen's talk on Growing Orchids Outdoors in California will help you make (some of) your orchids weatherproof, i.e able to thrive outside the comfort of your home. The talk will

include information about creating suitable growing areas, micro-climates and how to cope with heat and cold. She will also delve into a survey of popular orchids that are grown outside year-round in coastal California.

Mary has been a fan of orchids since her post-doctoral days in the late 1970s in San Diego. She is an independent biotechnology consultant and in her spare time she travels as much as she can to see orchids in their native habitat. In the past 12 years, Gerritsen has traveled to more than 15 countries to track and/or photograph orchids. She has also written articles for orchid magazines, including *Orchids*, *Orchid Digest*, and the *Orchid Review*, and has written (with co-author and photographer Ron Parsons) a number of orchid books, including *Masdevallias*, *Gems of the Orchid World*, *A Compendium of Miniature Orchid Species* (1st and 2nd editions), *The American Orchid Society Guide to Orchids and their Culture* and *A Bay Area to Orchids and their Culture*. Mary serves on the board of the *Orchid Digest* and is the incoming president of the *Orchid Conservation Alliance*, and is a past president of the *San Francisco and Peninsula Orchid Societies*. Mary lives in San Mateo, CA, and has a large collection of orchids that grow in 6 outdoor shade structures, two greenhouses, her front porch and an indoor sun room.

Sign up for our monthly newsletter at [www.FCOS.org/subscribe](http://www.FCOS.org/subscribe) to receive the zoom link in a reminder email.

**[Join Zoom Meeting](#)**

**<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83211075243?pwd=c3d4eE5UV1BSZkRyYmY4NExPbWN0Zz09>**

**Meeting ID: 832 1107 5243**

**Passcode: 411934**



Looking up orchids on the web before placing a bid is always a good idea. Where would we be without our smartphones?

Dan Asbell was on hand to give great orchid advice and to accept a donation from FCOS on behalf of his dad, Bob Asbell, to the Cymbidium Society of America.







Great to see things finally returning to normal as our group was able to once again meet at the Women's Center in Arroyo Grande.

The little orchid plugs purchased by FCOS three years ago have grown up and are helping to fund events like our Holiday Party. Thanks also to Denise for potting up the CalPoly Cymbidiums and the many members who donated plants making this silent auction a success.



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



*Cattleya perciviliana* semi-alba is a reliable bloomer for the holidays. My standard colored *C. perciviliana* blooms about a month later than this semi-alba form. This is a division of a plant originally grown by Larry Vierhelig. It is growing in a net basket with Hydroton clay pellets as the media and has three flower spikes this year. Grown by Ed Lysek.

This is the standard form of *C. perciviliana* blooming January 22, 2022 to give you an idea of the difference between the standard and semi-alba forms. If you look closely at the lip of the semi-alba form above you will see a touch of purple in the fold of the lip, a vestige of the fully colored standard form. Grown by Ed Lysek.





This un-named hybrid *Oncidium* blooms in time for the Holidays and was purchased from Gallup and Stribling three years ago. It likes to dry completely between waterings and is in a small pot for the size of the plant. It has two flower spikes and should continue opening flowers through February. The nice thing about orchids that bloom in the cooler winter months is that the flowers tend to last much longer than summer-blooming orchids. Grown by Ed Lysek.

*Miltonia* Kibet 'Belleglade' started blooming the first week of October and is still in bloom three months later. Grown by Ed Lysek.





*Laelia anceps* Guerro x  
*Laelia anceps* Helen has a striking 'feathered' coloration. Unlike many of our FCOS coastal members, my colder location in Templeton requires me to grow my *L. anceps* in my greenhouse rather than outdoors. Last year I tried growing several *L. anceps* outdoors in a shelter location and the buds were two weeks from opening when a cold winter's night froze all of them. Perhaps Mary Gerritsen's talk this month will provide ideas on how to better "winter proof" my outdoor orchid attempts? Grown by Ed Lysek.

I find it fascinating to see the range of color types and bloom sizes of *Laelia anceps*. This light pink, smaller flower type is a cross between the famous 'Marble Queen' x *L. anceps* 'Wallbrunn'. Grown by Ed Lysek.





*Laelia anceps* Linneata x  
SVO 'Flair' with pronounced  
feathering on a nicely  
rounded flower. Grown by  
Ed Lysek.

If you are tempted by Jeff's photos of *Phrag*. Hanne Popow in his introductory comments, here's a look at the plant I received a few weeks ago from [Ecuagenera](#). On sale for \$15. I believe this is a bargain for such a great plant. On May 11th, David Sorokowsky of Paph Paradise will talk about Paphs and Phrags. His website has an excellent article describing how to grow Phrags. [Click here to read his recommendations.](#) Ed L.





*Laelia anceps*. This species grows natively in Mexico and Honduras as a warm to cool growing epiphyte at elevations of 500 to 1500 meters. Is considered a hardy drought-tolerant species that likes a dry winter rest. This orchid is growing outside mounted to a piece of cork oak with some sphagnum moss at the root. Grown by Chris Ehrler.

Front view of one of the flowers of the above *Laelia anceps*.





*Laelia speciosa*. A cool to cold growing species found in Mexico at elevations of 1400 to 2400 meters. The orchid is growing in a cool greenhouse and is mounted to a piece of wood with some sphagnum moss on the root. The spike is approximately 2.5 feet long. This orchid was from the Bruce Norman (an FCOS charter member) Collection. Flower looks different than the one on [orchidspecies.com](http://orchidspecies.com) so might be mislabeled. Grown by Chris Ehrler.

Front view of one of the *Laelia speciosa* flowers.





Side view of one of the  
*Laelia speciosa* flowers.



*Laelia anceps*. Much breeding has been done to develop superior color, size, and form. However, I find these clones don't have the vigor and multiple leads it takes to form a nice specimen like the typical form pictured here. Grown by Eric Holenda.



*Oncidium Sweet Sugar* 'Lemon Drop'. Great solid yellow color, long lasting. Does well outside in a protected patio. Grown by Eric Holenda.



*Lc. Spring Fires* x *Pot. Star Fire*. First bloom seedling, from Sunset Valley Orchid's red breeding program. Grown by Eric Holenda.



*Oncidium* Heaven Scent  
'Sweet Baby'. Typical Sherry  
Baby type: vigorous,  
temperature tolerant, and  
sweet smelling. Grown by  
Eric Holenda.



*Masdevallia* Pat Akehurst  
'Golden Zebra'. A really  
great plant: bright color,  
reliable grower. From  
Asbell's Orchids. Grown by  
Eric Holenda.





### 2023 NEOFINETIA INTERNATIONAL CALENDAR

The 2023 calendar is available for download and printing at home using the link below. Many office print shops (FedEx Office, Staples, etc) will also be able to print and bind it for you as well. Files are available for printing on US 11x17, US Letter, and International A paper sizes. A southern hemisphere version with the seasons modified accordingly is available as well.

[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/16ZKeLtlxI-syQ1Dfn1BmLwV59iDiWBjw?usp=share\\_link](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/16ZKeLtlxI-syQ1Dfn1BmLwV59iDiWBjw?usp=share_link)



#### THE MYSTERY OF VANILLA SOLVED

For centuries researchers have wondered how the seeds of the Vanilla orchid are naturally dispersed and why the fruits produce the highly appreciated, aromatic compound vanillin.

A study led by researchers at Lankester Botanical Garden (JBL) and the Biodiversity and Tropical Ecology Research Center (CIBET), of the University of Costa Rica, in collaboration with several local and foreign partners has finally revealed the secret of Vanilla and vanillin, something that had remained a mystery despite its commercial importance worldwide.

Our 5-year study on wild populations in Costa Rica shows that dehiscent (those that mature and open on the vine) Vanilla fruits are visited by male euglossine and female stingless bees remove and disperse the seeds as they collect fragrances and nest-building materials respectively from the fruits.

In the meantime, indehiscent fruits (those that drop intact to the ground where they mature) are consumed by mammals, especially rodents and a species of marsupial. Both were shown to actively grab and eat the mature aromatic fruits, consuming the nutritious pulp and excreting the seeds.

Seeds that passed through the digestive system of the animals were tested and proved viable. Both digested and undigested seeds were germinated successfully, in vitro and in situ. We suggest this multimodal dispersal by several groups of animals is responsible for the broad distribution of the vanilla orchid.

Read more about this extraordinary story in our recently published paper in the prestigious journal *Current Biology* (high quality photos and videos available):

[https://www.cell.com/current-biology/fulltext/S0960-9822\(22\)01831-0](https://www.cell.com/current-biology/fulltext/S0960-9822(22)01831-0) and [https://www.researchgate.net/publication/366306207\\_First\\_evidence\\_for\\_multimodal\\_animal\\_seed\\_dispersal\\_in\\_orchids](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/366306207_First_evidence_for_multimodal_animal_seed_dispersal_in_orchids)



“male euglossine and female stingless bees remove and disperse the seeds as they collect fragrances and nest-building materials respectively from the fruits”

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ลิขสิทธิ์เป็นของสมาคมอุทยานแห่งชาติ Copyright National Parks Association of Thailand : Painted by Mr. Rattawit Sakwutwint

Learn more about lady slippers this year with the Five Cities Orchid Society.

Did I pay my FCOS 2022 Membership? Click [HERE](#) to see if your name is on our Paid Members List. Thank you for all who have paid their 2022 Membership dues.

## 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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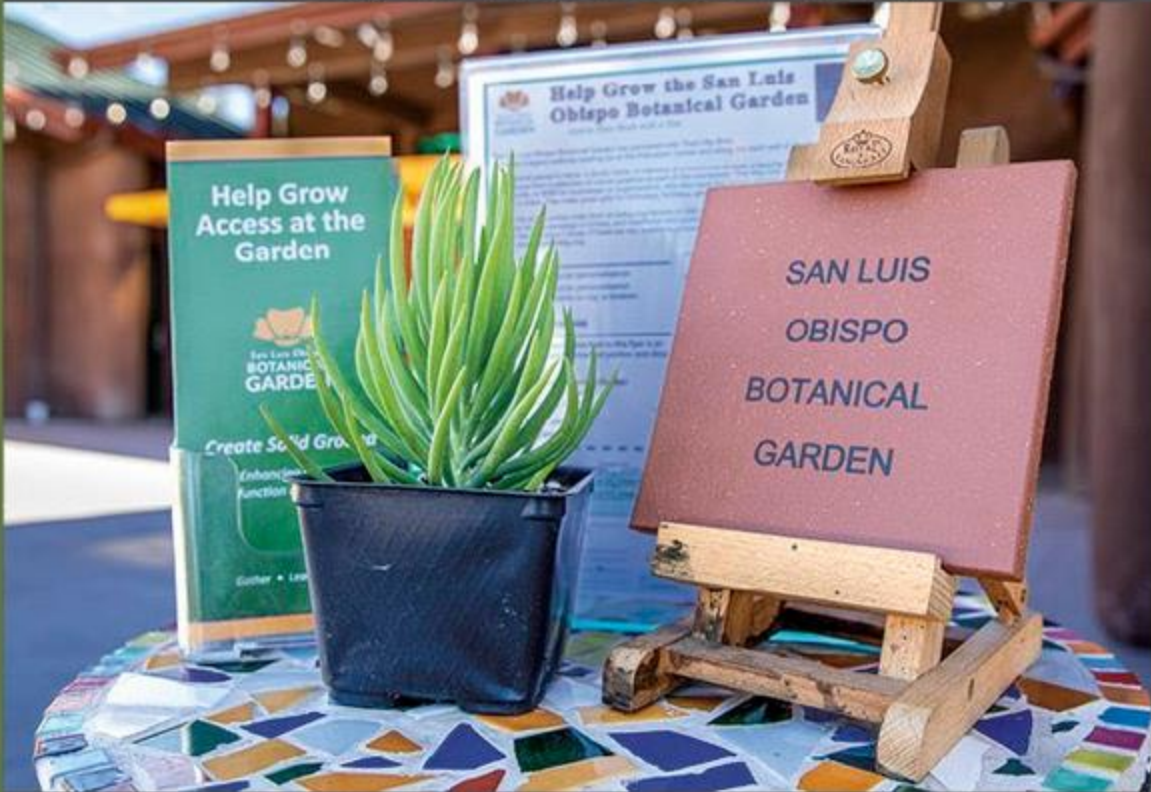
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# Arcadia Greenhouses



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[www.ArcadiaGlassHouse.com](http://www.ArcadiaGlassHouse.com)

### FCOS Garage Sale

Send an email to [Jeff Parham](mailto:Jeff.Parham@fcos.com), [Chris Ehrler](mailto:Chris.Ehrler@fcos.com) or [Ed Lysek](mailto:Ed.Lysek@fcos.com) 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.

Orchid Virus tests from Agi labs. \$8 each, contact Jeff at [jsp1440@aol.com](mailto:jsp1440@aol.com)

Cymbidiums for sale in San Luis Obispo. 5-gallon pots of cymbidiums, many in spike or flower, assorted colors. \$20 to \$30 each. Contact Jerry Camel at 805-543-933

### Five Cities Orchid Society 2022 Board of Directors

**Jeff Parham**, *President*

**Eric Holenda**, *Vice President*

**Denise Florez**, *Treasurer & Secretary*

**Kristie Wells**, *Asst. Secretary*

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**Orchids are really great!**

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