



## July 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.fcoss.org](http://www.fcoss.org)*



**SLC Bright Angel "Red Knight" x SLC Mem Trudy Marsh "Sun Flair". This is one of Sunset Valley Orchids' mini Cattleyas which grew and bloomed quite well in the shade-house under LED lights. Grown by Jeff Parham**-----

From the President's Potting Bench:

Dear Orchid Society Community,

We would like to extend a warm welcome to the Five Cities Orchid Society (FCOS) Newsletter! We are thrilled to have you join our growing community of orchid enthusiasts. As an orchid society, we strive to promote the love and appreciation of orchids through education, shared experiences, and community outreach.

We are proud to share that our newsletter has over 535 subscribers, and we are constantly working to improve and expand the content we provide. Each month, our newsletter features the stories and experiences of our members, as well as informative articles on caring for orchids and upcoming events within the orchid community.

**Thank you for joining the Five Cities Orchid Society Newsletter!**

We are thrilled to announce that FCOS is growing!

FCOS is proud to announce the expansion of its online presence. With a strong Facebook presence, a Youtube channel featuring member videos, and a website ([www.fcos.org](http://www.fcos.org)) that will soon be updated with new and relevant content on orchid growing and orchid regions from around the world, FCOS is committed to providing a wealth of information to orchid enthusiasts everywhere. Keep an eye out for our upcoming content!

As a regional orchid society, you may join us at the SLO Botanical Gardens 'Art in the Garden' events, Orchid Shows, Orchidfest, Nurseries, and Colleges -doing repotting, online and live auctions, orchid sales, talks, demonstrations, field trips and social events. We encourage you to get involved in our society and share your knowledge and passion for orchids with other members. We look forward to getting to know you and sharing our love for these beautiful and unique plants.

We offer monthly Orchid Talks featuring expert speakers from around the world. Each month, we will focus on a different orchid genus or growing region, giving you the opportunity to learn about the diversity of orchids from the comfort of your own home. Whether you're a seasoned orchid enthusiast or just starting out, our monthly talks are the perfect way to connect with other orchid lovers and expand your knowledge. And the best part? You can join us from anywhere in the world! As a global orchid society, FCOS is dedicated to bringing together orchid lovers from every corner of the globe. So mark your calendars and join us for our next Orchid Talk. We can't wait to see you there!

FCOS offers a range of exclusive benefits to its members, including access to industry-leading resources, networking opportunities, and events. To learn more about becoming a member and accessing these benefits, visit the Member Benefits page on our website. Here, you will find all the information you need to understand the value of an FCOS membership and how to join our community of professionals. Don't miss out on this opportunity to take your orchid growing to the next level - become a member of FCOS today!

**Come and Grow with Us!**

Jeffery Parham, President, FCOS



Happy Birthday to our beloved Five Cities Orchid Society (FCOS)! As we celebrate another year of growth and beauty, we kindly request your [RSVP](#) to our upcoming birthday party taking place on July 15, 2023, from 11am to 2pm, at [Toucan Terrace, 955 Terry Drive, Pismo Beach CA](#).

We look forward to seeing you at the party and appreciate your continued loyalty to the Orchid Society. Let's make this year's celebration one to remember! Consider volunteering to help with the party and [RSVP](#), so we know how much BBQ, Cake and Ice Cream to bring. Michelle is planning an ice cream sundae bar that should satisfy any craving that you've been having for a "Good old fashioned ice cream social".

The Five Cities Orchid Society (FCOS) is excited to announce that our next online auction will be starting on July 4th, 2023, at 8 am and will end on July 14th, 2023, at 8 pm. We invite all orchid enthusiasts to participate in this exciting online auction by donating auction items, orchid divisions, orchid supplies, lights, and more. To donate, simply fill out the online [donation form](#) . If you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact us directly through email or phone.

The online auction will feature select plants and items, and you will have an advantage in knowing that you've won before attending the FCOS Birthday party at Toucan Terrace, where auction items will be available for pickup at 11:30 am.

We will keep updating the auction items regularly, so make sure to check back often. By participating in the auction, you will be supporting FCOS's mission to promote the culture, cultivation, and conservation of orchids. Join us now and bid on your favorite orchids!

### [Bid in Auction](#)

TWO Auctions? Double the fun! We will also host a live auction at the Birthday party. See the details below.

Attention all members! Are you looking to sell an expensive orchid division or specimen orchid or maybe a large *Tillandsia* (air plant) ? Look no further than our Members-Only in-person Plant Auction at the Birthday Party. As a benefit for our members, you can sell one plant per member at the Party with 80% of the sale proceeds going directly back to you and 20% going to support FCOS. The auction of member plants will be held before the silent auction (HINT: use your 80% proceeds to bid for silent auction plants). For convenience, please [print and complete bid forms](#) now and bring your plants and completed bid forms to the Birthday Party. Place your 80/20 Member Plants on the specially designated 80/20 bid table and let the bidding begin!

To help support the future success of the FCOS, we are suggesting you consider making a \$10 donation. Whether you attend, bring a family of 5 or are unable to attend, a small contribution will go a long way in helping us continue to promote awareness and appreciation for the wonders of orchids. What better way to say [Happy Birthday!?](#)



*Sarcochilus* Kulnura Ballerina 'Rod' x *Sarcochilus* Kulnura Fireball 'Intense' AO/AOC. Potted in bark in a self watering pot, the roots are almost always moist. Left outside all winter and allowed to dry slightly between watering. Grown in my backyard in Los Osos, by Jeff Parham

**FCOS Launches its new [Orchid Buddy Program](#) for FCOS Members.**

Are you an orchid enthusiast looking for a new friend to share your hobby with? Or are you a beginner who would like some guidance from someone experienced in orchid-growing? Look no further than our Orchid Buddy program!

Our program connects orchid lovers of all levels and provides a fun and supportive environment for everyone to learn and grow together. Whether you are an experienced grower or just starting out, having a buddy or mentor can increase your enjoyment and help you learn more about these amazing plants.

Joining our program is easy - simply sign up and we'll match you with a buddy or mentor who shares your interests and goals. You'll have the opportunity to connect with other orchid enthusiasts, share tips and advice, and even attend events and workshops together.

Don't miss out on the chance to make new friends and take your orchid-growing to the next level. Join our Orchid BuddyMentor program today and see the benefits for yourself!

Simply sign up using the SignUpGenius app and we will match you with your orchid buddy. You can contact your Orchid Buddy with questions by email and you both can determine how your Orchid Buddy relationship evolves from there.

[Orchid Buddy Signup](#)



*Sarcochilus Bunyip* 'Super Free' x *Sarcochilus Heidi* 'Red Flush'



**TWO AUCTIONS - ON-LINE BETTERWORLD AUCTION & IN-PERSON SILENT AUCTION and a member only Sale!**

**FIRST:** Get Ready for the **Birthday Party Silent Auction**. Download and fill out the bid forms for your donated orchids by clicking the link below, print the form, complete the orchid information and bring to

the Birthday Party on July 15th. This live silent auction is in addition to the BetterWorld on-line auction and all plants from both auctions will be available for pick up at the Birthday Party.

SECOND: FCOS will again be holding its traditional midyear Silent Auction. Bring plants to donate with you, and fill out a bid sheet for each one (bid sheets will be available at the meeting, but it's much easier to print the e-version and fill it out ahead of time). Providing photos of the plant in flower always pumps up the bidding. You can donate anything plant related: books, art, crafts, and other kinds of plants besides orchids. [CLICK HERE FOR THE BID FORM.](#)

Next, find the items you can't live without and place your name and bid on the sheet. Highest bid at closing takes the item home. Bid high and often. All proceeds go to the club treasury.

THIRD: members can bring one plant (who knows what fantastic specimen plants will be offered) for sale with 80% to the member and 20% to FCOS. What a great way to earn \$\$\$ to spend on the silent auction plants!

**\*\*\*\*\*EXTRA! EXTRA! PHALAENOPSIS BLOW-OUT!\*\*\*\*\***

Chris Ehrler rescued over 30 Phals from Costco, which are now happily growing in my greenhouse. These are healthy, mature plants showing good root and leaf growth. They will be for sale at the potluck for FIVE DOLLARS EACH! First come basis. -Thank you, Eric Holenda



### Design our FCOS Logo: Contest

**FCOS needs a new Logo!**

**Our old FCOS Logo is a bit dated and doesn't print well. We would like to put it out there as a contest to have one of our members design the new logo.**

**Here are the rules.**

**Submit your designs as a jpeg to [Jeff](#) by July 20. Acceptable submissions will be printed in the August newsletter. The contest is open only to individuals who are current members by the end of the contest. Members can submit up to 5 designs for consideration. Members will vote on their favorite designs and the winning logo will be adopted as the Official FCOS Logo and made available on a line of merchandise: shirts, mugs, etc. The FCOS Board of Directors will pick the final design. The Winning designer will receive a \$300 cash prize.**



Here are some design tips to consider when creating a logo for the Five Cities Orchid Society:

1. **Simplicity:** Keep the design clean and simple to ensure easy recognition and scalability.
2. **Balance:** Maintain a balanced composition by distributing visual elements evenly throughout the logo.
3. **Typography:** Choose a font that complements the overall design and conveys the desired tone, whether it's elegant, modern, or playful.
4. **Color Harmony:** create a harmonious color scheme. Consider using shades and gradients to add depth and visual interest.
5. **Symbolism:** Incorporate elements that represent the orchid society, such as the Cattleya orchid, or different genera of orchids, in a way that is visually appealing and meaningful.
6. **Versatility:** Ensure that the logo works well in different sizes and formats, such as on websites, social media profiles, and printed materials.
7. **Uniqueness:** Strive for a distinctive design that sets the Five Cities Orchid Society logo apart from others in the industry.

Remember, these are general tips, and it's important to tailor the design to the specific needs and preferences of the orchid society.

You may want to review our website and past Newsletters for ideas specific to FCOS, consider our mission statement or demographics.

*Our mission is 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 and/or business, and to promote conservation of orchids in the wild.*

Additional Demographics:

Facebook followers

3,390 Facebook followers

Men 31.6%

Women 68.4%

Location:

Cities:

Arroyo Grande 64

Santa Maria 40

San Luis Obispo 35

Los Osos 30

Quezon City, Philippines 26

Los Angeles 25

Melbourne, VIC, Australia 24

Nipomo 24

Sydney, NSW, Australia 23

Yangon, Myanmar

Countries:

US 1.2 k  
Philippines 803  
India 176  
Australia 131  
Canada 90  
Malaysia 79  
South Africa 56  
Myanmar 51  
Brazil 50  
United Kingdom 42



**The Five Cities Orchid Society Presents:**

**“FCOS’s Orchid Talks 2023 ”**

**Francisco Miranda “The Genus *Laelia* in Brazil”**

Enjoy a virtual tour through the regions of the country where Laelias are found. We promise to show some of the most beautiful areas of Brazil.

Our speaker Francisco Miranda was born in Rio de Janeiro on February 6, 1956. He got his degree in Biology and began his taxonomic studies in the orchid family in 1981. During the next 4 years, he lived most of the time in Manaus where he studied Amazon orchids and began his Master's degree. Shortly after returning to Rio de Janeiro, the Masters was completed on "*section Cattleyodes of the genus Laelia*". Since then, the main interest has been on the Brazilian *Laelias* and *Cattleyas*. He is the author of several papers ranging from species descriptions to subjects of growers' interest in Brazilian, German and U.S. publications. He is also author of two books. Since 2000, he lives in Haines City, Florida, where he operates [Miranda Orchids](#), an orchid nursery specializing on Brazilian species and the *Cattleya* alliance. He also guides trips to Brazil and frequently visits Brazilian habitats to find new and/or interesting orchid species.

FCOS's Orchid Talks: Francisco Miranda "The Genus *Laelia* in Brazil"

Time: July 13th, 2023 at 7 pm PST

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82355435739?pwd=bThHazRPekw5cjhnYmNzMlpkTW96dz09>

Meeting ID: 823 5543 5739

Passcode: 204435



At the June FCOS Zoom meeting Fred Clarke of Sunset Valley Orchids gave a presentation entitled “**Today’s Mini and Compact Cattleyas**”. Fred mentioned that this group saves space, has a wide range of color patterns, can bloom more than once each year, are generally vigorous growers and are adaptable to different temperature and light regimes. He began by describing the various species that are important in the breeding programs. These include, but are not limited to, the following: *Cattleya (Sophronitis) coccinea*, *C. walkeriana*, *Laelia pumila*, *C. luteola* and *C. imtermedia*. Fred said the following four primary hybrids are the backbone of the breeding program: *Sc* Beaufort, *Lc*. Mini Purple, *Sl*. Orpetti, and *Sc*. Batemanniana. He then showed many photos of both these hybrids and other hybrids made from these crosses.

Fred then mentioned that Cattleyas in nature are epiphytic and generally grow on trees and have well drained roots that dry out fast. Roots can pick up any moisture or nutrients quickly. The leaves and roots get lots of air movement and not a lot of nutrients. We need to simulate that in our growing environments. So, you need to water well and then let the roots dry out before watering again. Each grower needs to figure out how often to water based on their growing environment, including pot size and media type. Fred suggests the amount of water to add to the pot is equal to about 25% of the pot volume. As the water drains out the bottom it pulls air back into the media. Once per month you should heavily water each pot then, an hour later, heavily water again to leach any accumulated calcium, magnesium, or other minerals from the media.

If you are watering with hard water Fred suggests fertilizing with a 20-20-20 ‘balanced’ fertilizer. The phosphorus (second number in of the three numbers) is more than double what the plants needs but it will lower the pH of the solution and neutralize the bicarbonate. If you have a pure water source like reverse osmosis (RO), deionized (DI) or rain water, he said you do not need a high amount of

phosphorous and suggests using a fertilizer like 13-3-15 Cal Mg. The calcium and magnesium are important for plant growth and are already available in hard water, but absent in pure water sources. Fred uses ½ teaspoon of fertilizer per gallon of water every time he waters year-round. He likes a well draining potting media and uses 3 part bark to 1 part perlite. For smaller pots he uses a finer mix and for larger pots he uses a coarser mix. This helps to maintain the same amount of air space around the roots no matter the pot size. If you use sphagnum moss you need to be careful of watering and fertilizing as the moss tends to hold onto calcium, magnesium, and sodium ions.

Fred said repotting is stressful to the orchids no matter when it is done because they evolved to grow on the side of a tree and never move. You should repot when new roots are beginning to grow so they have new media to grow into. You should use a large enough pot to allow for three years of new growth. When transplanting, be careful to not damage the new roots and he suggests, once the old media has been removed, to position the orchid in the new pot with the old side next to the side of the pot and then add media. He then shakes (vibrates) the pot to distribute it and help it drop downward and then adds more until the pot is filled with bark. He does use his finger to make sure the voids are filled with media but is careful to not damage the new root tips. Make sure you write a new tag. He adds the date when the plant started to grow new roots so he will know the next time it will start new root growth and needs transplanting.

If you missed Fred’s talk you can watch [a replay](#), available for the next two weeks only. Passcode: g?gr&6pK



### **Watering your orchids**

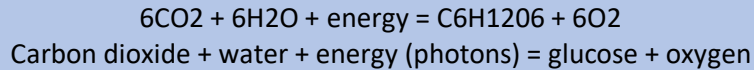
Last month we posted Ray Barkalow’s fertilizer discussion. This month Ray talks about watering your orchids. For more helpful orchid growing information please visit [www.firststrays.com](http://www.firststrays.com).

We’ve all heard recommendations to “let orchids dry out between waterings” or “keep evenly moist”, and the like, plus questions about “how often do I need to water?” or “how long can orchids go without watering?”. Personally, I think we need a different mindset about our watering strategy. If we want our plants to grow and bloom as well as they possibly can, we should ask ourselves “how *should* I be watering my orchids?”. Science and nature give us the clues.

Orchids have evolved various strategies to capture, store and conserve water – for example, velamen on roots to act like a sponge, pseudobulbs on cattleyas and thick, fleshy leaves on phalaenopsis to hold

water, plus thick, waxy cuticle layers on the leaves to prevent its loss. But we need to look at the physiological functioning of plants to understand it better.

Very simply, plants grow through photosynthesis, by capturing carbon and producing fuel, then transforming nutrients and fuel into tissues. The chemical reaction for photosynthesis is simple:



Water, as you can see, is a major raw material in that reaction, so it makes sense that having readily-available water is a key to growth. In fact, if you do some mass balances with the other reactions that occur, in order for a plant to gain one pound in overall mass, it must process about 200 pounds of water! It turns out that a plant uses moisture at the root system as a “control factor”, as well.

When there is plenty of water available, hormones generated by the roots travel upwards in the plant, providing a “signal” to the leaf stomata to open. By doing so, carbon dioxide can enter the leaves – providing the other critical raw material for photosynthesis – and oxygen is released. (Coincidentally, those are some of the same hormones we “boost” by applying [growth stimulants](#) like [Kelpak](#).)

So, we can see that making sure our plants have plenty of water is a key to growth, both as a raw material and as a “well being” trigger. It also gives us a clue as to why a plant that is watered frequently or kept evenly moist will do better than one allowed to see dry spells, but it does not mean we can simply “pour it on” and be done. No – we also must recognize that orchid roots need plenty of air circulation, so we must choose our potting medium so that the water that is inherently trapped between particles does not suffocate the roots.

So the question “How should I water my plants” involves potting, as well. Once that is optimized for your growing conditions, the answer becomes “heavily and often” and your plants will do great!

More thoughts on watering your orchids:

[Water does not cause root rot](#)

[Flushing potting media](#)

[Water quality in the U.S. and Canada](#)

Lastly, recent FCOS speakers have emphasized it is best to water early to allow time for water to evaporate from the leaves and particularly the crown to prevent bacterial rot from developing. Highly oxygenated water brings oxygen to the roots, so Dave Sorokowsky of [Paph Paradise](#) recommends using a rose type sprinkler head and broadcasting a spray of water onto your orchids to maximize the amount of air/oxygen in the spray of water.



### Join us in Cambria on Saturday, July 29th

Join Jeff Parham and Ed Lysek at 11 AM on Sat. July 29th at the Cambria Nursery. The topic is "Outdoor orchid growing - Yes you can!" We're reaching out to orchid growers and gardeners in the Cambria area to introduce them to Five Cities Orchid Society. You can help by attending and giving attendees a first hand understanding of the benefits of joining FCOS, subscribing to our newsletter and participating in our events. Please email [Ed Lysek](#) to confirm - Jeff and I have made several of these presentations this year - they are fun interactive events. What a great way to spend a Saturday morning in Cambria talking about orchids to fellow orchid growers.

You can also join us at [Los Osos Valley Nursery](#) on Sunday, August 6th at 11 AM for our orchid growing presentation. Come join the fun and help us grow Five Cities Orchid Society.

## Send Us Your Photos

A request to our many new members and subscribers - send a photo of yourself with one of your orchids and introduce yourself to everyone. First names only and no need to color coordinate with your orchid like Alan, unless you can't resist. Left to right, (top) Jeff, Alan, Ed & Chris; (bottom) Hilding, Eric, Karen & Rosemary. Email photos to Ed, Jeff or Chris - email links of Board members are at the end of the newsletter.





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



FCOS MEMBER  
CHALLENGE ORCHID.  
HOW ARE YOURS  
DOING?

*Howeara* Lava Burst  
'Puanani' AM-AOS.

Closeup of *Howeara* Lava  
Burst 'Puanani' AM-AOS  
flower.





ANOTHER FLOWER  
FROM THE FCOS  
MEMBER CHALLENGE  
ORCHIDS.

*Procatavola* Key Lime  
Stars.

Side view of *Procatavola*  
Key Lime Stars flower.





Amy Loh is our newest member and grows her orchids in Toronto, Canada. Her interest in orchids started growing last year.

"I have acquired many grocery store *Phals.* and have added other types as I learn on the internet.

Some interesting ones include *Phragmipedium Elfin Touch*, *Paphiopedilum grattrixianum*, Cattleyas, and recently a *Sarcochilus.*"

Welcome to FCOS Amy and you are off to a great start judging by the quality of the plants and blooms in these photos.

A few of Amy's orchids in flower.





*Phragmapedium* Hanne Popow. Great bloom, great plant and great photo - maybe these photos will inspire other new members and subscribers to submit photos.

A very temperature tolerant *Vanda* hybrid from Santa Barbara Orchid Estate. *Vanda suavis* x '*Taller Blue*' has two flower spikes in full bloom and blooms several times per year. Growing in a hanging clay pot without any media and misted daily. Grown by Ed Lysek





*Tolumnia*

A very free-blooming and compact Caribbean epiphytic species. This species grows and flowers best when set in hanging wooden baskets or mounted on an oak branch.

Temperature tolerant and blooms May - June.

Species from Cuba, Dominican Republic, & Haiti. Grown by Ed Lysek.

Close up of the flowers of *Tolumnia variegata*. It is important to allow the roots to quickly and completely dry after watering. Mounting on a tree branch and allowing the roots to hang in the air works well but requires daily misting. Ed L.





*Scaphosepalum gibberosum*. A cool growing epiphyte found at elevations of 1600 to 2000 meters in Colombia. This orchid is growing mounted on a piece of wood with some sphagnum moss over the roots. The mount is hanging in a cool greenhouse. Grown by Chris Ehrler.

Closeup of *Scaphosepalum gibberosum* flower.





I've never seen a reference to an orchid pollinated by a frog, but this is what I found this morning when I looked at my *Cat. George Hauserman* flowers. Grown by Ed Lysek.

One of Fred Clarke's Sunset Valley Orchids compact *Cattleyas* I purchased 6 years ago. It blooms 3 or 4 times per year. Growing in a hanging plastic net basket with volcanic rock media. *Pot. Paradise Rose 'SVO' X Pot. Lebkries 'Diamond Orchids'*. Grown by Ed Lysek.





*Cat. Brabantae* 'El Toro' from Carter and Holmes Orchids. A bifoliate *Cattleya* requiring dry conditions in cooler winter weather. Growing in a plastic net pot and seems to prefer shadier conditions than my other *Cattleyas*. Grown by Ed Lysek.

*Dendrobium falconeri*, one of the prettiest *Dendrobiums* I grow. Fast draining media in a small plastic net pot, bright diffuse light and a dry winter rest. After 5 years growing two of these plants I'm still struggling to find the best growing conditions for this species. Grown by Ed Lysek.







*Cymbidium* Gladio  
'Hatfields' x Cindy Lou  
'Geyserland' 4n. This  
orchid is growing in a  
plastic pot filled with a  
combination of bark and  
lava rock. Grown outside  
under a wood lath cover.  
Grown by Chris Ehrler.

Closeup of *Cymbidium*  
Gladio 'Hatfields' x Cindy  
Lou 'Geyserland' 4n  
flower.





*Cymbidium* Geoff Laird. A pendulous cymbidium growing in a plastic pot filled with a combination of bark and lava rock. Grown outside under a wood lath cover. Grown by Chris Ehrler.

*Dendrobium hancockii*. A hot to cool growing epiphytic found at elevations of 200 to 1600 meters in southern China on tree trunks. This orchid is growing in a clay pot filled with bark and lava rock. Currently growing in a cool greenhouse but has grown well outside in past years. Grown by Chris Ehrler.





*Dendrobium thysiflorum*. Native to the Chinese Himalayas, Hainan China, Assam India, eastern Himalayas, Myanmar, Thailand, Laos and Vietnam at elevations of 1200 to 2000 meters. Is a cool growing epiphyte, lithophyte or terrestrial species. This orchid is growing in a plastic pot filled with bark and lava rock with the pot being placed outside under a wood lath cover. For unknown reasons this year this orchid only produced one spike in June while last year it produced four spikes in March. Grown by Chris Ehrler.

Front view of *Dendrobium thysiflorum* flower.





Side view of *Dendrobium thyrsoiflorum* flower.

*Dracula barrowii* 'Kathy'  
AM/AOS. A cool to cold  
growing epiphyte which  
was grown and described  
from a plant in England  
that came from Peru,  
although this species has  
not been found again in  
Peru. This orchid is  
growing in a cool  
greenhouse in a mesh pot  
filled with sphagnum  
moss. Grown by Chris  
Ehrler.





Side view of *Dracula barrowii* 'Kathy' AM/AOS flower.

Closeup of *Dracula*  
*barrowii* 'Kathy' AM/AOS  
flower.







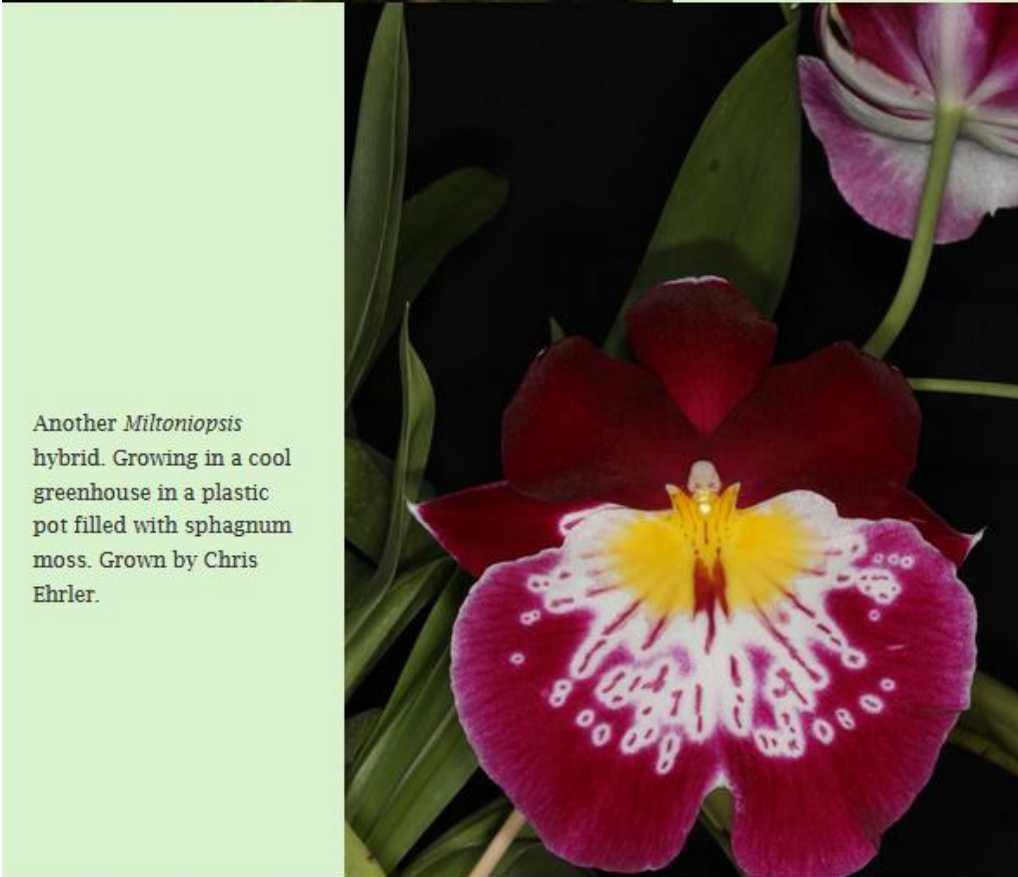
*Dracuvallia* Blue Boy 'Cow Hollow'. A primary hybrid between *Masdevallia uniflora* and *Dracula chimaera*. Is growing well mounted and also in a clay pot filled with sphagnum moss with both placed in a cool greenhouse. Grown by Chris Ehrler.

Closeup of *Dracuvallia*  
Blue Boy 'Cow Hollow'  
flower.





*Miltoniopsis* hybrid.  
Growing in a cool  
greenhouse in a plastic  
pot filled with a mixture  
of bark and lava rock.  
Grown by Chris Ehrler.



Another *Miltoniopsis*  
hybrid. Growing in a cool  
greenhouse in a plastic  
pot filled with sphagnum  
moss. Grown by Chris  
Ehrler.



*Masdevallia caesia*. A cool to cold growing species found in southwestern Colombia in cloud forests at elevations of 1600 to 2200 meters. It is a pendant species which produces flowers with an odd odor. Generally blooms in March but is blooming in June this year. Grows in a mesh pot filled with sphagnum moss that is hung outside under a wood lath cover. Grown by Chris Ehrlert.

Closeup of some of the  
*Masdevallia caesia*  
flowers.





Closeup of *Masdevallia caesia* flower.

*Masdevallia caudata*. A cool to cold growing epiphyte found in Colombia and western Venezuela at altitudes of 1800 to 3300 meters. This orchid is growing in a cool greenhouse in a clay pot filled with sphagnum moss. Grown by Chris Ehrler.



Closeup of *Masdevallia caudata* flower.

A cool growing epiphyte found at an elevation of 1,200 meters in Ecuador. This orchid is growing in a cool greenhouse in a clay pot filled with sphagnum moss. Grown by Chris Ehler.



Side view of *Masdevallia lappifera* flower.



A hybrid between *Masdevallia princeps* and *Dracula wallsii*. This orchid is growing in a cool greenhouse in a clay pot filled with sphagnum moss. Grown by Chris Ehrler.



Side view of *Masdevallia princeps* and *Dracula wallsii* hybrid flower.

*Masdevallia* Purple Heart. This is a primary hybrid between *Masdevallia coccinea* and *Masdevallia elephanticeps*. Growing outside under a wood lath cover in a clay pot filled with sphagnum moss. This orchid was a gift from Jeffrey Thompson. Grown by Chris Ehrler.



Side view of *Masdevallia* Purple Heart flower.

A primary hybrid between *Masdevallia veitchiana* and *Masdevallia herradurae*. Growing in a cool greenhouse mounted to a piece of manzanita with a small amount of sphagnum moss on the roots. Grown by Chris Ehrler.





Although the name tag states *Pleurothallis ruscifolia*, this flower does not match that photos in [orchidspecies.com](https://orchidspecies.com) for this species so the label might be incorrect. This orchid is growing in a cool greenhouse in a plastic pot filled with seddling bark and lava rock. Grown by Chris Ehrler.

Closeup of *Pleurothallis ruscifolia* flowers.





*Pleurothallis scurrula*. A cold growing epiphyte found in Peru at elevations around 2200 to 2400 meters. Growing in a cool greenhouse mounted to a piece of wood with a small amount of sphagnum moss on the roots. Grown by Chris Ehrler.

*Sarcochilus Kirra* Lea. The following three flowers all came out of the same flask made by Dan Asbell from a selfing from Chris Ehrler's original *Sarcochilus Kirra* Lea orchid. When the individual small plants were removed from the flask they were mounted onto a piece of cork oak which was hung outside under a lath cover.



Another of the flowers produced from the selfing of the *Sarcochilus Kirra* Lea. A selfing is where the pollen from an individual plant is placed on the stigmatic surface of the same plant.

Another of the flowers produced from the selfing of the *Sarcochilus Kirra* Lea. There was a total of nine different flower patterns/colors that opened this year on this same piece of cork oak but due to space constraints for our newsletter the others were not included. Many of the other flowers are more whitish with red only near the center.





*Habenaria* hybrid- purchased corms from Seed Engei at the Santa Barbara Orchid Show. Corms were placed in 50/50 bark/sphagnum moss and kept very well watered on a window sill. Flowers opened slowly but have stayed in bloom for 2 months. Grown by Cindy Drozynski.

Are you interested in growing *Habenaria*: Join FCOS Orchid Talks 2023 on August 10, 7 pm for Nicholas Rust, "Habenaria: A Basic Overview of the Breeding of Species."



*Sobrاليا veitchii*, a cross between *S. macrantha* (lavender) and *S. xantholeuca* (yellow). Seedlings of this cross produce a wide range of colors from pink to lavender to peach. Purchased at Cal Orchids last year. Grown and bloomed by Alex Mintzer in Los Osos.





*Cutlauzina pendula*, purchased from Orchids of Los Osos a few years ago and grown in a hanging basket outside under a tree in Los Osos. Grown by Alex Van Nuys.



*Dendrobium thyrsiflorum*, grown outside in a basket in the shade in Los Osos, plants have been growing outside about 2-3 years and are fertilized with Nutricote, grown by Alex Van Nuys in Los Osos.

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.](#)**



## SWEET HARVEST

Sweet Harvest Hydroponics and Organics is offering paid FCOS members a **discount** on their products. The amount of the discount will depend on their cost. They can help and give advice on any growing issue you have and they carry a wide variety of products including but limited to the following:

- Growing essentials
- Organic Amendments
- Soils and Growing Media
- Lighting
- Air and Water purification
- Nutrients and Additives
- Organic Disease and Pest Control
- Hydroponics
- Climate Control
- Indoor and Outdoor Greenhouse

Sweet Harvest started in 2010, and is located at 1041 E. Grand Ave, Arroyo Grande, CA. Their phone number is (805) 473-0004. Their website is <http://www.sweetharvest.org/home.html>.

Watch for these orchid growers at shows or contact them to ship orchids directly to you. The orchids and aroids that they brought to the 2023 Santa Barbara International Orchid Exposition were of high quality. If you are ever planning to visit either Colombia or Ecuador, you should contact these growers and stop in for a visit. You can pre-order orchids from each of these companies and they will either ship them to you or bring them to an orchid show they are attending.



**Orquideas Katia** is a family own business in Colombia near the city of Medellín. They grow a high variety of Colombian orchid species and are slowly adding anthuriums and succulents their inventory. You can find more about their plants at <https://www.orquideaskatia.com/> or <https://www.facebook.com/orquideaskatiacolombia/>. Gustavo Aguirre, the executive director, has been growing Colombian orchids species for 45 years and can be reached at [orquideaskatia@gmail.com](mailto:orquideaskatia@gmail.com). They export to the US about 6-8 times/year.



**Ecuadorquideas** is from Ecuador and you can find out more about their orchids and aroids [www.ecuadorquideas.com](http://www.ecuadorquideas.com) and at <https://www.facebook.com/ecuadorquideas>.



**Ecuagenera** is from Ecuador and is a family-owned company specialized in the production and the conservation of orchid species and hybrids since it became a business in 1992. Their missions are not only to preserve the extensive collection of native orchid species built by the missionary priest Angel Andreetta who start collecting orchids in the 1950s, but also to participate in protecting, growing, and marketing Ecuadorian species of ornamental plants. More information can be found at [www.ecuagenera.com](http://www.ecuagenera.com) and at <https://www.facebook.com/ecuagenera.orquideasecuador/>. They ship every week or two to their newly purchased greenhouse complex near San Diego. They have a live auction on Facebook every Tuesday and Friday morning and you can find more info about these auctions on that site.



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