



June 2020 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.

A message from the President's potting bench.

Hi FCOS Members!

We have a busy month planned for our members but we are doing things a bit different during this pandemic era. We will not be holding our regular Thursday night meeting or auction. However, it is not all bad news. In order to satisfy your sweet tooth for orchids, we have again prepared some orchid related videos for the month, and members have sent in photos and descriptions of their Show & Tell Orchids. But that's not all! We are holding our 1st FCOS Online Orchid Sale, June 15-22. See details below and check your email June 15. You do not want to miss this!

I've been getting ready for June: cleaning, and repotting some plants in my collection. What has become apparent is that of all the different ways that I have grown orchids, the semi hydroponic method seems to result in the most impressive growth. I've just got to show these to you, so click on my video below.

This month we have prepared some new videos for the FCOS YouTube Channel. Once you have watched the videos, feel free to leave a positive comment, share the video to other orchid friends. The FCOS videos can always be found by Subscribing to the FCOS Youtube channel (which you do with link below each video), or going to Youtube.com and searching for the Five Cities Orchid Society.

Chris has gifted us with a video demonstrating how he grows *Lepanthes* species in little glass terrariums. <https://youtu.be/gHaqpGI9V6s>

See what's blooming in Ed's Greenhouse. <https://youtu.be/A6hPrG2SHhw>

Eric muses about the new orchids he has bought and how they are establishing themselves in his greenhouse. https://youtu.be/zzT8O_7xAuM

Jeff has had some amazing success with using a semi hydroponics method to grow some orchids, especially *Laelias*. When you see how these plants are growing, you might want to try your hand at semihydroponics. It uses LECA, a lightweight expanded clay aggregate that wicks a nutrient solution to the orchids roots. <https://youtu.be/TBTgwtbZaFU>

If you would like to participate and help us build our video collection, consider making your own short film about your orchids and submitting it by the 23rd of

June.

Happy Growing! Jeff



DISCOUNT ON ORCHIDS BUT YOU NEED TO ACT FAST.

Ecuagenera Orchid Nursery in Ecuador is currently having a 5% discount on plant orders but the discount is only for plants ordered by June 7, 2020. You can download the price list for their orchids, flasks and tropical plants at https://www.ecuagenera.com/epages/ecuagenera.sf/en_US/?ObjectPath=/Shops/ecuagenera/Categories/%22Price%20List%22. You can see photos of most of the orchid flowers or plants of most of them by going to their website (<https://www.ecuagenera.com/>) and clicking on their 'Orchid Species' tab and then picking the genera you are interested in seeing. A number of the FCOS members have purchased orchids from Ecuagenera and have found their quality to be very good. Eric and Christina Holanda and Chris and his wife Betsy have visited the Ecuagenera nurseries in Ecuador and were amazed at the large size of the operation and of the number of species they were growing.

Ecuagenera will add \$2 per plant to cover their cost of CITIES paperwork and shipping to Florida. You will also pay for the cost of Priority Mail shipping from Florida to your house. If you are interested in ordering plants with the discount

please call Chris (805-748-4609) by June 5 at the latest and email him your order and he will help to coordinate the plants to be a single order so they can be shipped from Florida in the fewest boxes possible. That will help save money on shipping from Florida. If you want to place an order directly please add in the following code 9BWPNP4V for the discount and make sure you order before the discount deadline ends.

Longwood Gardens is offering a free 10 hour on-line course for orchid lovers - novices and experienced growers. Miss our monthly meetings? Here is a way to hear speakers, improve your growing skills and best of all, you can log on anytime in the next year to watch segments of this program at your leisure.



Click for a 2 minute YouTube video explaining this course - enroll and take up to a year to view the information on a broad range of orchid topics. Not to be missed - this is a fantastic program - and it's FREE!

[YouTube video: Everything About Orchids Overview: 2 minute video](#)

[or you can go directly to the Longwood webpage here](#)

Everything About Orchids

FREE ONLINE OPEN COURSE

January 20, 2020 to January 19, 2021

About this Class

Join us for a new learning experience at Longwood Gardens. We are excited to present Everything About Orchids to our guests as a free online open course. Whether you are new to orchids or a seasoned grower, this class will offer valuable insights from the experts at Longwood Gardens, one of the great gardens of the world.

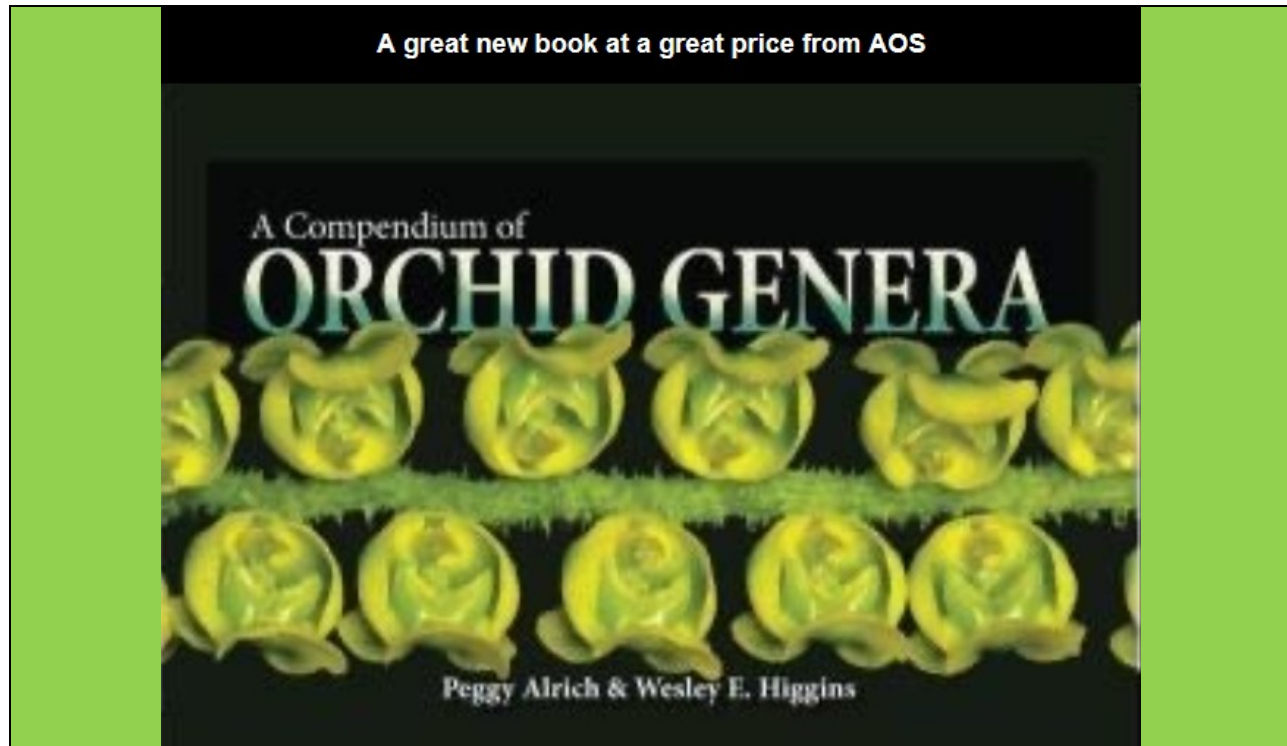
Learn more about Longwood's outstanding orchid collection and how you can grow and enjoy orchids in your own home with Greg Griffis, Orchid Grower, and Peter Zale, Associate Director of Conservation, Plant Breeding and Collections. You will learn about different types of orchids, their cultural needs, and how to use these plants in your home, in floral designs, and even in the landscape! Learn tips and techniques for repotting and propagating orchids as Greg discusses the care and culture of Longwood's orchid collection. Discover some unique native orchids and learn about how we are breeding and conserving some of these exciting terrestrial species.

Everything About Orchids is self-paced and open for registration anytime January 20, 2020 through January 6, 2021. The course closes January 19, 2021.

Instructors

Greg Griffis and Peter Zale

Longwood Gardens, located in Kennet Square, PA was the private residence of the DuPont family. Today the gardens and extensive orchid collection are open to the public (or will be once the COVID restrictions are lifted).



A Compendium of Orchid Genera

A \$99 value, now at a 50% discount for a limited time only!

The book is now available for purchase and just in time! As we enter Phase 1 of re-opening in our area, we will be able to return to our offices and start sending out orders starting this week.

Original orchid color plates abound in this distinctive Orchid Encyclopedia by Peggy Alrich and Wes Higgins, a marvelous and artistic creation in landscape format of 500 pages.

Original orchid discoverer and date are listed as well as the Etymology and Generitype of more than 2000 orchids along with a easy to read description of growth habits, countries and regions within countries of origin. The plants and flowers are aptly discussed and the authors give colors and varieties found in various areas of note. Sepals and petals along with special features of lips complete the beautifully described notes. Of note in the book are the synonyms the orchids have had over the years, and those that were, and are, invalid even today. A modern twist to the encyclopedia features a general culture description which helps even a veteran grower understand the some of the nuances of the particular plants being discussed. What is absolutely beautiful is the collection of artwork of each of the plants done in color plates, many by the original artist or from an original collection and dated. Many of the drawings illustrate entire flowers, with all their separated parts. This book would be a welcome and beautiful addition to any orchid grower's collection, a stunning work and artistic

treasure.

The book is 600 pages long, hardbound, and 8 1/2 x 11 in landscape format.

The retail price for this book is \$99.00, but for a limited time, American Orchid Society members may purchase the book at a 50% discount. Just make sure you are logged into the website when placing your order.

You can [order it online](#) now for \$49.50* !

Just visit www.aos.org, or you can place an order with us over the phone at (305) 740-2010. We are available Monday through Friday from 9AM to 5:30PM EST.

*Plus shipping and insurance. Regular 10% membership discount does not apply on top of the 50% offer.

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What's Blooming Now?

Here are a range of great submissions from our members. Remember to send your photos for next month's newsletter to Ed Lysek at EdLysek@me.com. We had really great participation by members for this newsletter - keep them coming for July!



***Sarcophilus hartmanii* expertly grown outside by Chris Ehrler.**



Kirra Lea #1



Kirra Lea #2



Kirra Lea #3

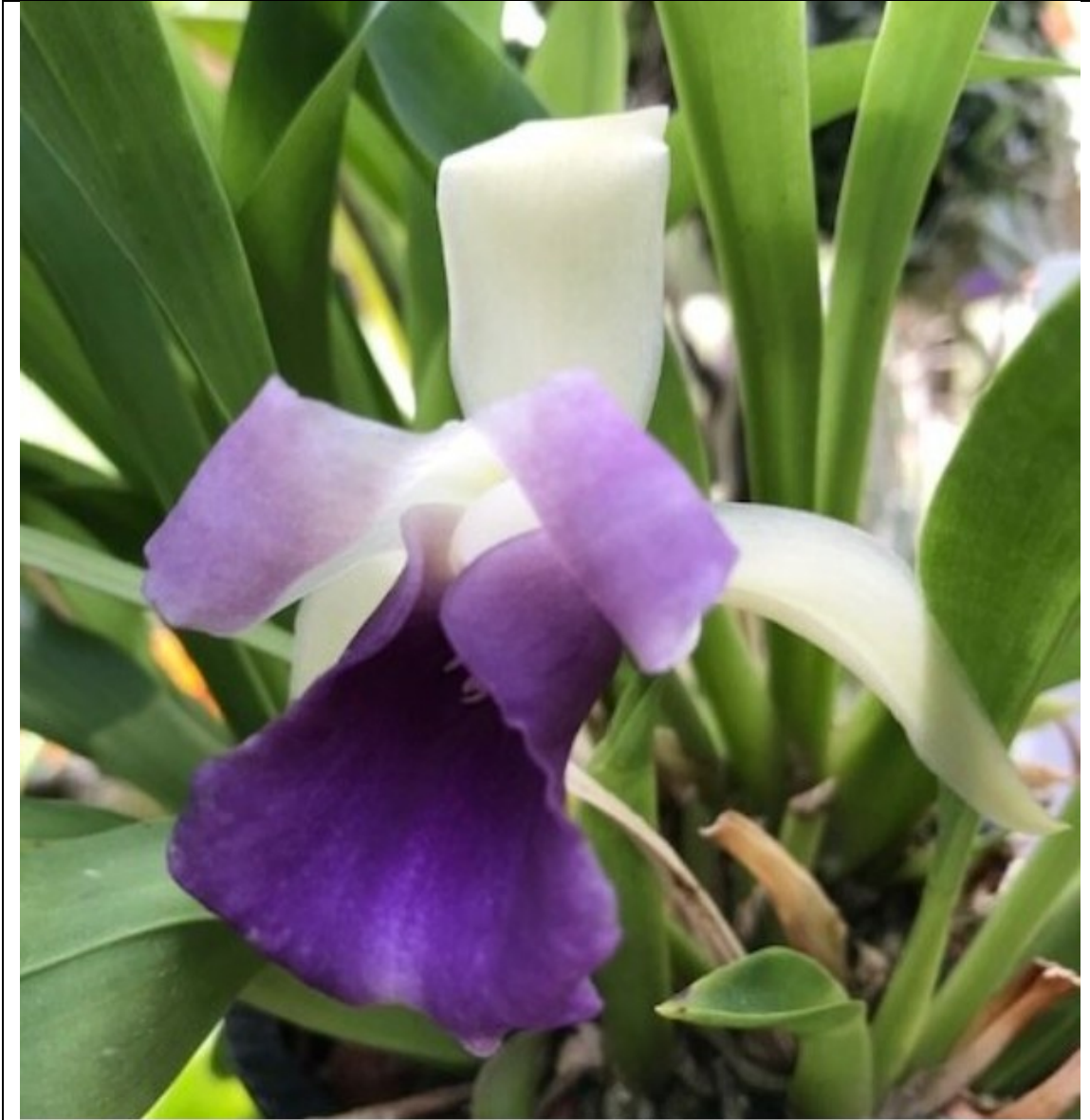
Kirra Lea #4



***Sarcochilus* Kirra Lea that Chris has growing on a piece of cork oak. Grown outside with the cork oak hanging and not in the pot it is in the photo. All the Kirra Lea are from the same seed pod that Dan Asbell produced and then he also did the flasking work with the seed pod once it was ready to go.**



***Dendrobium Galton Sunday* grown by Judy Scheithauer**



***Cochleanthes discolor* grown by Ed Lysek. Bright shade and moist in summer, less water in winter. This plant is from Ecuagenera - see Chris Ehrler's message at the beginning of this newsletter if you wish to purchase a similar plant from Ecuagenera.**



Dendrobium chrysotoxum - requires a dry rest from Thanksgiving to Valentine's Day. Grown by Ed Lysek and withstands cool dry winter temperatures in the low 40s and appreciates plenty of water and fertilizer in summer. Grown mounted on an oak branch.



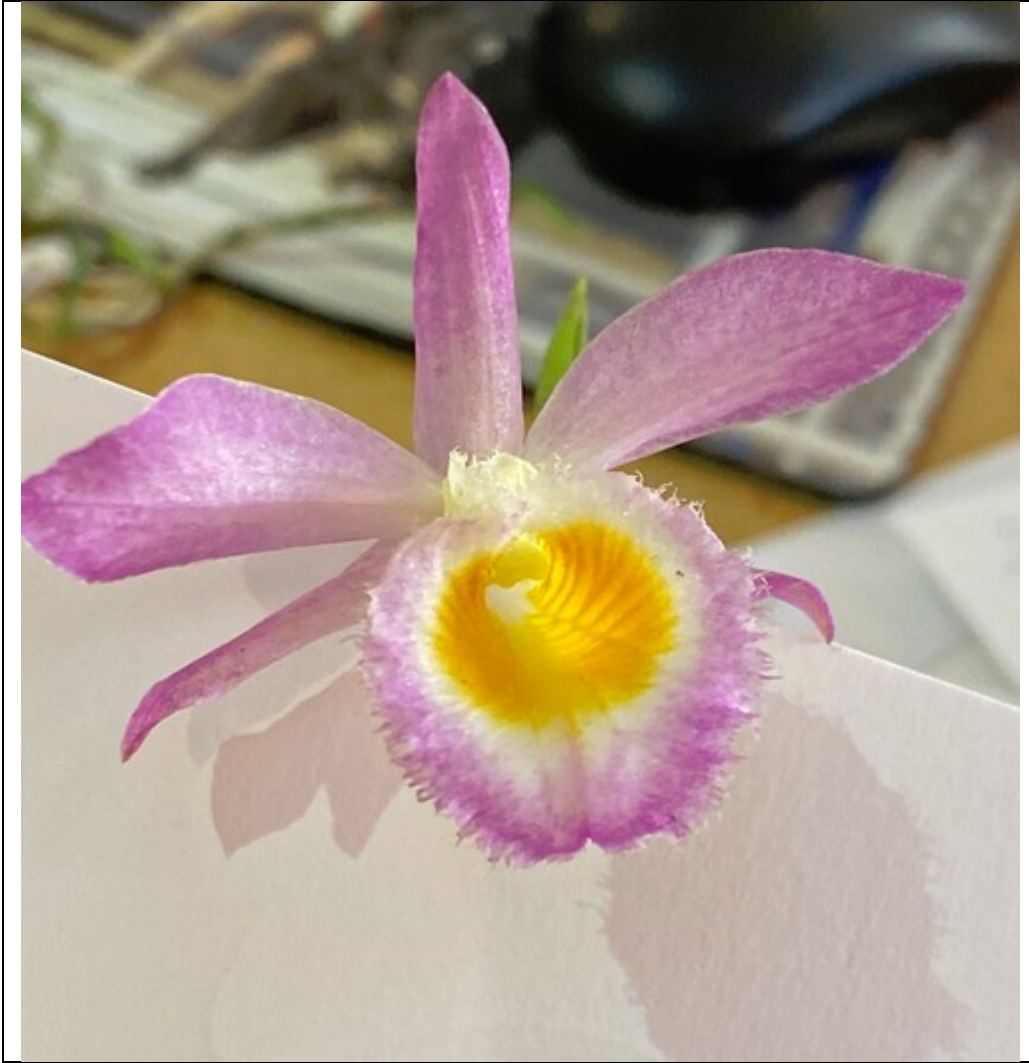
Looks like asparagus? I counted 7 new growths from the base of this plant, growing in large (black) lava rock.

It's *Dendrobium delicatum* (*D. speciosum* X *D. kingianum*). This plant has been growing outside in Templeton for the last 12 months, under a polycarbonate protected walkway. Temperatures were in the high 20s for several nights this winter and summer highs were in the low 100s. It bloomed in March! One tough plant. -Ed Lysek





Alan Durham sends us this gem of a *Cattleya* from his backyard - amazing what can be grown outside in Arroyo Grande.



Karen Kolba sends us a great photo of *Dendrobium loddigessi*.



How's this for a great looking *Tillandsia*
- possibly *T. styraminea*?

Another great looking *Tillandsia*





Karen Kolba definitely has the formula for growing great *Tillandsias*!



***Laelia purpurata* SBOE expertly grown by Eric Holenda.**



Rhynchostele majalis from Dan Newman of Hanging Gardens, Pacifica. Really vigorous grower, out in the patio. -Eric H.



***Catasetum tigrinum x kleberianum*, from SVO. REALLY early bloom, most bloom in the Fall. Another great plant from Eric H.**



***Laelia superbiens* alba** from SBOE. Rather unwieldy. I put it in the biggest pot I have and it still is crawling out. Spikes are 5 ft long. Eric H.



***Cattleya Casitas Spring 'Linden'*. AM/AOS. An older clone that's been around awhile. -Eric H.**



***Cattleya mandelii* with 14 flowers grown by Paul Jenzen**



***Guarianthe aurantiaca* grown by Paul Jenzen**

Orchids are really great and so are the people who grow and share them!
Stay safe and healthy and looking forward to getting back together as a society in the not too distant future.

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