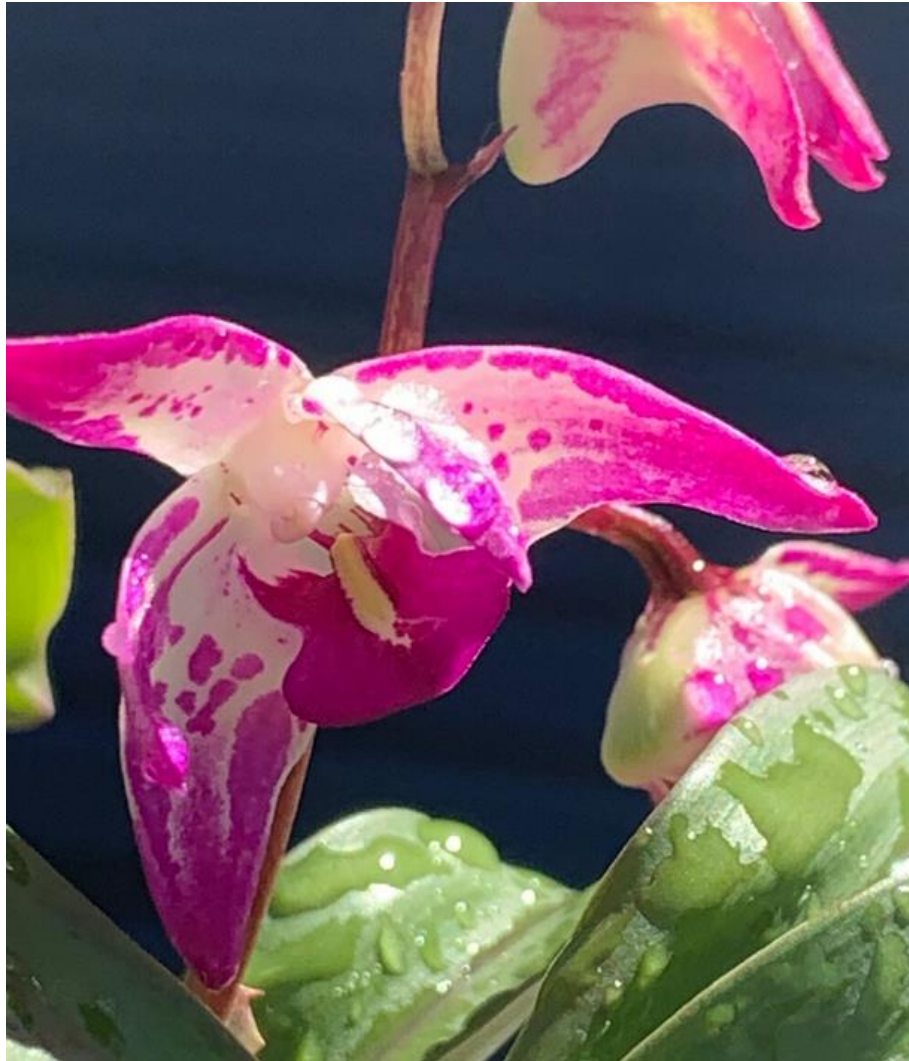




***Please feel free to forward this newsletter to friends who might be interested in knowing about Five Cities Orchid Society and encourage them to subscribe at [www.fcos.org](http://www.fcos.org).***



A new acquisition of one of the new Aussie Dendrobium hybrids from Sunset Valley Orchids, SVO 8150.

**A message from the President's potting bench.**

Hey, Orchid Buds!

February sure went by fast. We started off by having Fred Clarke speak at the FCOS meeting on February 11, and of course I had to buy a new orchid for Valentine's Day. There's no other day of the year that justifies my buying new orchids from the Sunset Valley Orchids sale. Several of us in Los Osos put in an order together, and I was able to get some of the new *Sarcochilus* and Aussie *Dendrobium* crosses. My new little Aussie plant bloomed within two weeks, again justifying my acquisition (see picture above). I have a *Laelia anceps* and several *Cymbidiums* in bloom outside and a lot of spiking *Phalaenopsis* with buds developing in my shadehouse. Last week one of my neighbors left a bunch of *Epidendrum keikis* on my porch. I have potted them up and they are added to my hummingbird garden. Spring promises to be floriferous for sure!

Fred's talk generated a lot of interest, and we had 63 people attend our last meeting. There were people from all across the United States, Canada and even a guest from Mumbai, India. I'm really glad that we were able to share the FCOS Lecture series with so many people. Be sure to keep reading for a synopsis of Fred's talk and a link so you can watch it if you wish. Speaking of presentations, Ed Lysek and I gave a talk last Saturday to the Los Osos Valley Garden Club on Orchids that grow outside on the California Coast. It was fun to get together, talk about our orchid collections and make new acquaintances here in Los Osos. There's more to come--please be sure to check the events section of the FCOS website. We have some really interesting topics and speakers lined up this year. I think even when we are able to safely meet again in person we should be able to use Zoom at times. It allows more people to participate from wherever we may be.

Our next monthly meeting is on March 11, 2021 at 7 pm on Zoom. A group of local growers will continue their presentation about Best Practices of Orchid Culture which they began during the November 2020 meeting, and give out practical advice on what has worked for them at growing orchids in their growing environments. A short summary of what they discussed can be seen in the December 2020 newsletter on the FCOS website. If time is available at this next meeting we will also answer some letters to the editor and talk about basic orchid culture for indoor growers.

We like to grow! I'd like to welcome our new members Wendy McKeown, Alexandra Van Nuys, and Maki Goskowicz. A special welcome to our new member Ron Hardy, a friend and the current President of the Tacoma Orchid Society. Check the FCOS Member Benefits page on our website for information on becoming an FCOS member. I would also like to encourage you to support the FCOS by paying your membership dues or sending in a donation. This is what helps us grow our programs so we can bring you engaging and knowledge speakers. FCOS is a 501(c)(3) Nonprofit Organization and donations are tax deductible.

Remember there's always room for one more orchid. Happy Blooming!

Jeff



*Dendrobium* Pink Stripes will be just one of the many plants up for Auction in our Spring Online Auction. [Watch this space for upcoming details!](#)



**March's Zoom Presentation**

## **Answers to Your Orchid Growing Questions**

### **• Thursday, March 11, 2021**

- 7:00 PM 9:00 PM
- Presented by Eric Holenda, Chris Ehrler, Jeff Parham and Ed Lysek
- This lively presentation will address specific growing recommendations for our members'™ orchids based on local growing conditions.
- This will be a continuation of this group's previous presentation at the November 2020 FOCS meeting. The topics to be presented at the March meeting will include at least the following: fertilizer, repotting and pest control.
- If you have a specific question please email it to Ed Lysek and it will be included in our discussion.

**Join Zoom Meeting at 6:55 PM on Thursday, March 11**

**<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87016320614?pwd=YIFxMXZqVFA1V1BSazVvQmIzNnh4QT09>**

**Meeting ID: 870 1632 0614, Passcode: 613810**

**Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87016320614?pwd=YIFxMXZqVFA1V1BSazVvQmIzNnh4QT09>**



Last Month's meeting featured a presentation by Fred Clarke, owner of Sunset Valley Orchids. "How to Become an 80 Percent Grower"

You can view a recording of the presentation here:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/CwTWYe\\_8naFbBdzciHINtdqj1VvDm7lbnIM4jSm0wg1ENGMDH05P3SoF\\_ahX4BdRf.4wclgs-14H\\_INWJ3](https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/CwTWYe_8naFbBdzciHINtdqj1VvDm7lbnIM4jSm0wg1ENGMDH05P3SoF_ahX4BdRf.4wclgs-14H_INWJ3) Passcode: Dq7E&1wk

Fred offered a wealth of recommendations and observations to help us become better curators of our orchid collections. He suggests discarding plants in decline and focusing our efforts on healthy actively growing and blooming plants.

Watering:

- Orchids grow on the sides of trees - well drained, roots dry out fast, good air circulation and only slight amount of nutrients reach the roots.
- General rule, water less from Nov to March.
- Fill pot 1/3 full with water, when the water drains it will pull air into the pot and keep the roots healthy.
- If you have hard water, water heavily once each month then repeat watering in an hour. This will flush accumulated salts from the media.
- Use 20-20-20 fertilizer for hard water, the 20% phosphorus helps neutralize calcium and magnesium in hard water (typically municipal water).
- Use 15-5-15 or 13-3-15 (CalMag) for R/O (reverse osmosis) or rainwater.
- PH of 5.4 to 6.0 is optimal for nutrient uptake.
- 100 ppm Nitrogen recommended every time you water. (1/2 tsp per gal. water for some fertilizers)
- Lift pots when wet and again when dry to get a feel for when you need to water.

#### Light and Temperature:

- See the link for Fred's talk for specific recommendations by orchid type.
- If growing under lights, reduce photoperiod by one hour Nov-Jan and increase by 1 hour Feb-April.

#### Potting Media:

- 3:1 bark to perlite is recommended.
- Repot only when new roots appear or slightly before.
- Hose blast of roots should be avoided when removing old media. It is O.K. to leave a small amount of the old media to avoid root tip damage.
- Write the date new roots appear on the tag so you know when to repot.

#### Pest Control:

- Treat in early Spring before pests multiply and again mid-Autumn.
- Safer insecticidal soap to smother all types of insects and mites.
- Safari is used as a systemic insecticide but is toxic to bees so should only be used on indoor plants.

#### Orchid Facebook Groups (FG) (updated from the Feb 2020 FCOS Newsletter article)

Facebook provides a lot of really good opportunities to network with people from all over the world. One of the ways to do this is to go to our [Facebook site for the Five Cities Orchid Society](https://www.facebook.com/fivecitiesorchid/) (<https://www.facebook.com/fivecitiesorchid/>). Via Facebook you

can post a picture, like a post, add a comment, network with growers and invite people to visit the Five Cities Orchid Society and our events.

It's fun to visit other orchid societies such as the American Orchid Society (AOS) Facebook page and scroll through it. Many times people post pictures of their sick orchids and ask for help. Many people will offer advice as to the problem and solution. It's a great resource for learning about growing orchids and getting advice from growers. (The AOS does not allow people to sell orchids or do commercial promotion on their Facebook page).

There are many different Orchid Groups on Facebook, many of them are Public Groups but many are Private, (here you have to apply to and be accepted before you can see what people are posting). Many of these Facebook Groups, both Public and Private, have strict rules that you need to observe such as no private or commercial sales, types of acceptable posts, as well as warnings against posting inappropriate language and behavior. Many orchid nurseries have created their own Facebook Group so they can sell orchids on Facebook.

Many commercial orchid growers use Facebook or Facebook Groups to advertise their current offerings. Sometimes a grower will post a picture of a first bloom seedling and offer a look at the newest hybrids that are becoming available. As an example, Sunset Valley Orchids posts their 1st bloom seedlings in advance of their availability. It becomes a valuable resource to find current hybrids and for growers to show off new crosses that you may not have known existed. As an example, once on the Facebook site, search and visit FANGtastic Phalaenopsis, a Facebook Group where Norman's Orchids regularly posts. See what's happening in his nursery and get a first look at the new Phalaenopsis hybrids that are available this year. There are several orchid nurseries that host Live Talks and auctions, such as Normans Orchids which meets every Saturday.

Facebook Orchid Groups make it easier than ever to share with friends, family and teammates. The list of Orchid related Facebook Groups is quite extensive. You can find a Facebook Group for nearly every aspect of orchid growing and collecting. You are can even create your own Facebook Group. Before entering the site or entering their webpage you can see the current membership in the group and how often there are new posts, so you can determine how active the site is currently. Once you join a particular Facebook Group and are approved to post then new posts appear under your Facebook Group tab in chronological order of their posting. You can always go to the Group site itself and look through old posts, but once you join only new posts are sent to your Facebook Group site.

Here is a partial listing of some Orchid Facebook Groups that you may find interesting. (This listing is not inclusive of all orchid Facebook Groups nor is it a recommendation for any particular group. There are at least 65 orchid Facebook Groups to which you can belong, as well as those of related growers and garden groups).



- Â· Orchids Trade and Sale -has a subscription of 9.9 thousand members. This group is for the trade and/or sale between individuals and also for businesses advertising their plants and products.
- Â· Coalition for Orchid Species -8.4 thousand members. Orchid Society in Miami Florida for people interested in growing orchid species.
- Â· Orchid Lovers Around The World (Tips, Share, and Ask All about Orchid). This Group For Orchid Lovers, so if you want to ask, share, or just upload a photo your orchid.
- Â· Planet Pleurothallid-2.4 thousand members. A place for people who grow, collect and appreciate Orchids in the Pleurothallid Alliance of genera. No selling of orchids.
- Â· Scented Orchids- 10 thousand members. Where scented orchids are appreciated. A place where you can share pictures, care information, and where you got this beautiful plant.
- Â· Miniature Orchids Worldwide- a Public Group with 7.3 thousand members. We enjoy everything about miniature orchids. Please no hybrids and selling of products. All reports are first approved before they are posted.
- Â· New Earth Orchids -Orchids for sale Private group 450 members.
- Â· Growing Orchids in Semi Hydroponics, Private groups with 3.4 k members covering all aspects of semi-hydroponic growing.
- Â· Dr. Bills Orchids - Private group with 1.2 thousand members.
- Â· Pacific Highlands Orchids - private group with 81 members.
- Â· Orchid Tips and Tricks - 12 thousand members, about 80 posts per day.
- Â· Orchid Yard Sale - Orchids only- 5.5 thousand members, established Feb 2020.
- Â· Cultivated orchids of Madagascar - currently 1,800 members worldwide share pictures and culture information.
- Â· Love For Orchids, a new Facebook Group est. Feb 2021 with 445 members.
- Â· Growing Orchids Under lights - Wardian Cases 7.1 thousand members.
- Â· Brassavola Orchids & Their Hybrids. Private group with 3.3 thousand members.
- Â· Buy Sell Orchids USA - 2.4 thousand members.
- Â· Normans Private Reserve Orchids- a Private group with 2.8 thousand members.
- Â· Blue Nanta - orchid roots users group. 11 thousand members.
- Â· Oncidiums Alliance Group - 3.3 thousand members.
- Â· American Orchid Society, public group with 53.4 thousand members.
- Â· Sunset Valley Orchids

- Â· [CalCoast Orchids](#)
- Â· [Andy's Orchids](#)
- Â· [First Rays Orchids](#)
- Â· [Gold County Orchids](#)
- Â· [Papa Paradise Orchids](#)
- Â· [Triton Orchids](#) - 4.2 thousand members

Facebook groups are a fun way to see new content every day and to network with the global orchid community online. The Facebook Group link is on the bottom of your personal Facebook page. The Facebook Groups icon looks like three white figureheads in a blue circle. This is Facebook's official mobile app for using, organizing, and discovering groups. You can download it from the App Store. If you're automatically signed into Facebook on your device, you will also be automatically signed into Facebook Groups.

## 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](mailto:EdLysek@me.com). We had really great participation by members for this newsletter - keep your photos coming!




**Judith Scheithauer**

15h · 🌐



Really treasure this *Dendrobium speciosum*. We have had it since 2003. Blooms regularly. Have split it several times. It is currently in an 15 Inch pot since 2018. It has a very faint pleasant scent.



*Laelia* Santa Barbara Sunset "Showtime"  
from CalOrchid. Grown by Ed Lysek.

*Epi. Chien Ya Smile* a cross made by Rudy Bachmann (*Epi. polybulbon* x *E. cordigera*) grown mounted on an oak branch by Ed Lysek. See below for a photo of one of the parents of this cross. This hybrid retains some of the fragrance of the *cordigera* parent.



*Epi. polybulbon* from SLO Orchids grown mounted on an oak branch. Thanks to Rudy Bachmann for gifting this to Ed Lysek a number of years ago. Moving it to a brighter location in my greenhouse made a major difference in the number of flowers and vigor of this orchid.

*Vanda* 'Pachara's Delight' happily growing and blooming in my cool in winter, hot in summer greenhouse. If you want to try growing a *Vanda* outside in a frost-free location, this orchid would be one to try. FCOS purchased several plugs (small orchid plants) of this orchid last year. These will be ready for sale at one of our FCOS auctions in about a year. Grown by Ed Lysek.



*Dend.* Zip Zzp

Lisa Hall gave me a keiki about 10 years ago. Now a nice plant with 3 spikes. - Grown by Eric Holenda.

*Catasetum* Grace Dunn x *Mormodes ignea*. When *Catasetums* are crossed w/ *Mormodes*, *Mormodes* color comes through, but not their twisted asymmetrical shape. - Grown by Eric Holenda.



*Catasetum* Grace Dunn x *Mormodes hookeri*. Blooming in a 2 inch pot, just ordered it 2 months ago (Both plants from Sunset Valley Orchids). Grown by Eric Holenda.

*Cyrtochilum serratum*. Looooong vining inflorescence. In Peru / Ecuador the spike rambles across the top of the shrubby bushes/trees they grow among. - Grown by Eric Holenda.



*Laelia anceps*, "Guatemalan form" which blooms later than Mexican forms. - Grown by Eric Holenda.

*Lc Hot Sauce*. I've seen other clones with even more intense color. - Grown by Eric Holenda.



*Cymbidium Amesbury 'St. Patrick'*. This is one of our favorite cymbidiums. We have had it since 2003. Presently we have 3 pots that bloom like crazy every year. Grown by Judy Scheithauer.



This *Rhynchoaelia digbyana* blooms mostly twice a year for us. We got the original plant in 2011 and it has been divided several times. Likes a warm bright location. Really a gem. - Grown by Judy Scheithauer.





(Photo from last month)

ots of flowers on the way. Check the photo below to see what species this spike is from and what the flowers look like.

*Dendrobium speciosum* one month later than the photo above. Each of the eighteen spikes are about 18 inches long. Each of the blooming growths has either 1 or 2 spikes each. Should be open soon. None of the flowers are open yet so a photo of a spike with open flowers will be in the next newsletter. Grown outside year-round in a plastic container in a combination of Orchiatea and lava rock. Grown by Chris Ehrlar.





*Cymbidium* (Mighty Tracey x Wallacia) x *devonianum* flower.



*Cymbidium* (Mighty Tracey x Wallacia) x *devonianum* spike. The *devonianum* parent is pendulous. Grown outside year-round in a plastic container in a combination of Orchiata and lava rock. Grown by Chris Ehrler.

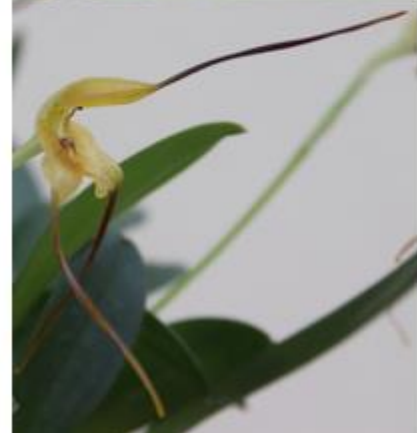


*Cymbidium* Ernest Hetherington 'Geyersland' x Don Hosfeldt 'Hatfields'. Grown outside year-round in a plastic container in a combination of Orchiaata and lava rock. Grown by Chris Ehrler.

*Masdevallia boliviensis*. Orchid acquired from Ecuagenera. Grown in a cool greenhouse in a clay pot in New Zealand sphagnum moss. Grown by Chris Ehrler.



Side view of *Masdevallia boliviensis*.



*Masdevallia hirtzii*. Was a gift from Jeffrey Thompson a few years ago. Grown in a cool greenhouse in a clay pot in New Zealand sphagnum moss. Grown by Chris Ehrler.



*Miltoniopsis Patricia Anne*. Grown in a cool greenhouse in a clay pot in New Zealand sphagnum moss. *Miltoniopsis* need cool, moist, and bright conditions to grow well. Grown by Chris Ehrler.



**A Few Messages from the American Orchid Society**

# Webinars-Coming Attractions!



<b>When</b>	<b>February 09, 2021</b> 8:30pm EST Tuesday	<b>February 16, 2021</b> 8:30pm EST Tuesday	<b>March 02, 2021</b> 8:30pm EST Tuesday	<b>March 09, 2021</b> 8:30 pm EST Tuesday
<b>Topic</b>	Greenhouse Chat (Orchid Q&A) <i>Send in your Questions!</i>	Native Orchids of the Heartland	Greenhouse Chat (Orchid Q&A) <i>Send in your Questions!</i>	Star Search: Judging Angraecoid Orchids
<b>Presenter</b>	<b>Ron McHatton</b> Chief Education and Science Officer	<b>Doug Martin</b> AOS Associate Judge, Member - Native Orchid Conference	<b>Ron McHatton</b> Chief Education and Science Officer	<b>Beth Martin</b> AOS Associate Judge



*Neofinetia falcata*, native to Japan, Korea and China is the oldest known orchid in cultivation. That should be a hint: it is very easy to grow, especially here in Coastal California. Our ambient temperatures and humidity are precisely what these plants appreciate to thrive. They will take a long time to outgrow your windowsill, so be brave and give one/some a try.

We were invited to join the ZOOM presentation by the Greater Westchester Orchid Society on Feb 17 given by Jason Fischer of Orchids Limited in Plymouth, MN. That's right, an orchid nursery in the middle of the (cold) prairie. His parents emigrated from Japan and started the business 50 years ago. Yes, they have a huge heating bill in winter.

The first known paintings of these 'Wind Orchids' date to the 1400s. In the late 1800s or Edo Period in Japan, they became known as the 'Orchid of the Shogun'. Once the Shoguns got involved, everything got more precious (ie, expensive) especially the collection displays and the pottery. Fortunately, the plants didn't care, and continued to thrive with minimal attention. These orchids are natural miniatures, quite unlike bonsai, but perhaps reflect the spatial limitations of a crowded island and thus the reverence for perfection in small plants that stay small. These characteristics of compactness and hardiness in cultivation should endear them to those of us who keep outgrowing our shelves. See where I'm heading?

*Neofinetia* have been reassigned to the genus *Vanda*, are June/July bloomers and summer growers, appreciating but not demanding a winter rest, October to April. Like all orchids native to tree habitats, they appreciate a little water, a very little fertilizer and a LOT of airflow around their roots. You can find plants with bare roots clinging to the outside of (cheap) clay pots. Enormously adaptable, they are often shipped by growers in bark and charcoal medium. But the classic presentation is on a rounded ice cream shaped mound of sphagnum in a plastic pot with as much open space as plastic and placed in a special (expensive) hand thrown and decorated display pot. Display pots have very large openings at the bottom for air circulation.

Starter plants can be found for \$20-25, and prices go up from there. Collectors routinely pay several thousands, and some have sold for \$25K. But stick with the basics for your first plants.

Find a suitable location. Like other orchids, they appreciate dappled sunlight; direct sunlight perhaps only early morning. They do appreciate humid and moving air (wind orchids, remember?) The moss should remain damp but not sitting in water, so depending on the heat and humidity, you might add some water weekly or a few times a week. They seem to enjoy being misted daily if you can manage. It's ok for the moss to get dry, but not crinkly-dry, even in winter. ¼ strength of your favorite fertilizer once or twice a month is plenty. Remember, they are used to getting just the dregs of whatever lands on tree leaves and gets washed over them with the rain. Repotting isn't needed often, because the moss doesn't break down quickly. You may get by with every 2-3-4 years: just listen to the plant. When you are ready to repot, go to [YouTube and watch a demonstration](#): it's not hard, but the picture's worth a thousand words.

When you are ready to have a display worthy of a Shogun, gather your yen and be prepared to pay JPY5,262 (\$50) and up, to tens of thousands of yen for the hand thrown pots. The good news is that since these are very slow growing plants, it will take a decade for your first plant to outgrow its first pot.

Several of our Santa Barbara growers carry *Neofinetia*, including [Seed Engei](#) and [CalOrchids](#). Maybe we can put together a group order and give these plants a try? Already have some? Be prepared to show and tell at the next ZOOM meeting (at least, you won't be hauling a 5-gallon pot in front of your camera). Let [Ed Lysek](#) or [Jeff Parham](#) know if you'd participate in a group order of these little gems.

Karen Kolba





Be sure to check the [FCOS website homepage](#) for the latest member YouTube videos. The latest addition is ["Bc. Maikai and It's Hybrids"](#) by Ed Lysek.

**Featured Orchid for the month: Cymbidiums**



*This December 2017 article comes to us courtesy of Tuckers Orchid Nursery in Redvale, New Zealand. Remember when the article recommends a northern exposure, for us above the equator folks, this translates to a southern exposure. The article gives great advice on growing this diverse group of orchids which thrive outdoors on the Central California Coast. Local experience shows these orchids can take summer high temperatures in the 90's F and winter lows in the 30's F even though the article cites much milder N.Z. temperatures. (Photo from Asbell Orchids - Arroyo Grande*

Cymbidiums are usually the easiest orchids to grow in New Zealand conditions

Light- All Cymbidiums need good light to flower well, almost as much as the plant can stand without burning the leaves. One of the easiest things to do when my cymbidiums won't flower put them in more light. They need approx. 25% shade, either under shade cloth or trees that will give filtered light. Short periods of full sun will do no harm as long as it is either early morning or late afternoon when the sun is not so strong. It is not the scorching of the sun that does the damage it is the heating of the leaves. Air movement around the plants at all times is essential.

Temperature - Most Cymbidiums like cooler conditions 25°C (77F) max and down to 8-10°C (46-50F) overnight. They will tolerate it cooler in the winter, but if grown cold (down below 8°C 46F overnight), it is better to keep them slightly on the dry side. Some Cymbidiums with Indonesian or Taiwanese species in the parentage may need to be grown a little warmer. A temperature drop of at least 5°C (9 degrees F) overnight is essential to initiate flowering (not usually a problem in NZ) Watering in the evening during the summer months will help this.

Feeding - Cymbidiums are quick growers and can produce large plants, so correspondingly they are heavy feeders. Use a combination of anything, blood & bone, slow release, Growing Orchid Tucker (14-3-9 with Mg, Ca and trace elements) for the rest of the year but definitely use Flowering Orchid Tucker (8-2.7-17 with Mg, Ca and trace elements) from January otherwise you get less than optimum flowers. A liquid feed of Growing Orchid Tucker weekly during the growing period is essential. From late January/early February, as the bulbs ripen and spikes start appearing switch to Flowering Orchid Tucker to promote strong and healthy flowers.

Repotting & compost - Seedlings should be re-potted every 6 months and flowering sized plants really need to be done every second year at least. They like fresh mix. Good drainage in the pots is essential so check that all the drainage holes in the pots are clear and large enough. Burn some extra in with a soldering iron if necessary (beware the fumes from plastics are toxic so use a well ventilated area). It is not the composition of the mix that is important, the rewarding cultivation of Cymbidiums depends on the correct balance between light, food, water and the microclimate in which they are being grown. Look at your plants and let them tell you if they are happy. Bright glossy leaves standing up, not flopping over is a good indication that things are well.

Potting Mix - we have seen all types work from sand, scoria, peat, pumice, bark etc. But, because we have the best pine bark available in the world, we use it exclusively. (Unfortunately that's why you have to pay world prices for it as it's currently exported to the USA, Japan, Taiwan and Europe by the 40 ft container!!). We use No 2 for the small plants and No's 3, 4, and 5 for the progressively larger plants.

Humidity & watering - Cymbidiums being partly terrestrial have different root systems to that of epiphytic orchids. Their roots are thick and fleshy and so best kept constantly moist - this makes plastic pots the best choice for them. Cymbidiums do not generally have a rest period after flowering therefore must be kept watered throughout the year

with the mix being allowed to dry slightly between watering. There are 2 exceptions to this:

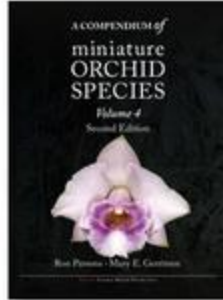
1) When a plant has been newly potted, they are a bit delicate, as the roots will have been bruised and probably broken during potting. Just spray lightly over the leaves and just dampen the surface of the mix for a week or so to let the damage heal. This will prevent trouble from bacterial and fungal infections later.

2) Plants with *Cym devonianum* in the recent parentage like to have a slight winter rest with restricted watering for a short period.

Watering - In summer, as much as possible (every day or two) overhead is fine. In winter, cut back to once or twice a week, never over the flowers to avoid the spotting marks.

Common problems: Blackened leaf tips can be fungal disease or more commonly it is caused by an excess of food or lack of water (either way the balance is out somewhere). Try flushing the plants with plain water only for 2 weeks and then resume normal watering and feeding. The blackened tips will not go away and can be cut off. Some varieties are more susceptible to this. If it is looking like a fungal problem spraying with an all-purpose fungal spray is recommended. Silvery marks on the underside of the leaves indicate that red spider mites are active. Spray with a good insecticide and repeat twice more at 10-day intervals. This is the main pest that attack Cymbidiums. When watering, spraying the underside of the leaves can help to prevent them as the mites don't like wet and humid conditions.

Flowering: When your spikes appear, it is a good idea to put in a stake, so you can easily see which plants need to move to a more sheltered area for winter. As the spikes lengthen loosely tie them to the stake. And if you have to change the way a spike is growing please be very careful. The new spikes are very brittle and snap off easily. It is best to do this very gradually, over several weeks, and only after lunchtime on a warm day. The spikes are more pliable in the afternoon when the sap has had a chance to rise. Keep slug baits around the plants as the new spikes are very juicy and tempting for slugs and snails.



The long-awaited **second edition** of the best-selling *A Compendium of Miniature Orchid Species* is available to pre-order: [www.redfernnaturalhistory.com](http://www.redfernnaturalhistory.com)

This landmark work comprises four volumes, over 1,800 pages and more than 2,800 photographs (including 1,500 previously unpublished images).

Featuring detailed accounts of over 500 species across 117 genera, as well as a further 500+ species illustrated with summary cultivation advice, this is the seminal work on the subject of miniature orchids.

Only 2,000 sets will be printed. Secure yours now!



Pre-order by clicking here: [www.redfernnaturalhistory.com](http://www.redfernnaturalhistory.com)





The Cactus and Succulent Society of America has graciously extended the following invitation to FCOS members.

Join us Saturday, March 6th at 10:00 a.m. PST for the next in our series of webinars featuring Cactus and Succulent experts from around the world.

**To register for the webinar, [click here](#)**

**After registering, you will receive a confirmation email.**

With over 7,000 registered names, Epiphytic cactus hybrids, commonly known as Epiphyllums, Orchid Cacti, or Epis for short, have been a fascinating and growing hobby for many years. Join us as we explore this wonderful, evolving world. See the latest advances and trends, and get cultural tips from one of the world experts in the field.

Frank Süpple's parents were already collecting epiphyllum hybrids when Frank was a little boy. At the age of 6, he came in contact with many, now famous, Epiphyllum growers such as Walther Haage, Kurt Petersen, and many more. At the age of 15, he wrote his first article about an Epiphyllum for the Dutch Cactus Society.

Frank has written more than 300 articles and books about epiphytic cacti hybrids. He is a prolific grower of new hybrids and has made some stunning crosses. Due to his never-ending work with these plants and his worldwide contacts, his collection has thousands of different hybrids.

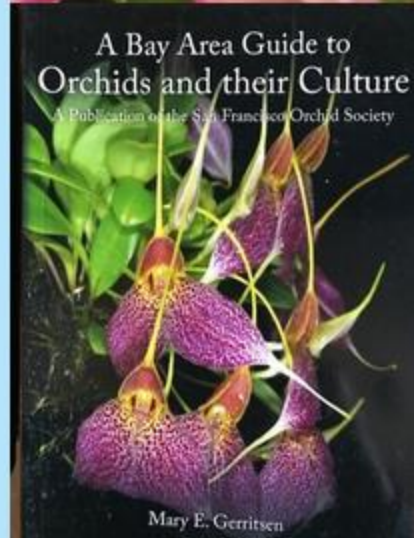
Frank resides in Nijmegen, Netherlands and is member of several cactus societies. He has won international awards with many of his plants.

Send an email to [Jeff Parham](#), [Chris Ehler](#) 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.

Large format prints of your favorite orchid images: FCOS member Gary Stoner will make large format prints of your orchid photos. Your orchid or pet photos (any photo really) edited and printed to your satisfaction. See my etsy home page @ [orchidsplusbygary](#) for pricing and options. All orchid society and rotary club members receive a 40% discount. Call Gary @ 805 235 4184 for details.

A Bay Area Guide to Orchids and Their Culture by Mary Gerritsen 150 pages of orchid growing recommendations for conditions almost identical to our Central Coast. Learn how to select the right orchids for your conditions and how to care for your orchids from some of the most experienced growers in the Bay Area. Illustrated with photos by Ron Parsons. AOS price \$25 - but if you make a \$20 donation to FCOS, the book is yours. Limited to the first 10 donations. Please make checks payable to FCOS and mail to: Ed Lysek, 179 Niblick Rd. #323, Paso Robles, CA 93446. Ed will forward the checks to Alan for deposit. Books will be mailed to you, so please include your mailing address with your check.

**GARAGE  
SALE**





**Five Cities Orchid Society 2020 Board of Directors**

**Jeff Parham, President** [jsp1440@aol.com](mailto:jsp1440@aol.com)

**Ed Lysek, Vice President** [edlysek@me.com](mailto:edlysek@me.com)

**Alan Durham, Treasurer**

**Chris Ehrler, Past President**

**Julie Orr, Secretary**

**Karen Kolba, Anne Bachman, and Denise Florez, Directors at Large**

**Show Chairman, Eric Holenda**

Orchids are really great!

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

Powered by  SQUARESPACE