



May 2022 Newsletter

Please feel free to forward this newsletter to friends who might be interested in knowing about Five Cities Orchid Society and encourage them to subscribe at www.fcos.org



Cattleya Big Ben is an orchid hybrid originated by Bracey in 1968. It is a cross of *Ctt. Portia* x *C. mossiae*. I got it at SBOE about 10 years ago. It is mounted on a section of an oak tree, but the roots have grown over the supporting wooden shelf and extend several feet in all directions. It gets larger every year and this year the 3 new growths all flowered. Grown by Ed Lysek.

From the President's Potting Bench:

Hello Fellow Orchidphiles,

I hope your April was as floriferous as mine. I'm enjoying the new rewards in my greenhouse: blooming Masdevalias, Phaleanopsis, Potinaras, Sarcophilus, and my treasured Encyclia citrina. My yard has been filled with Cymbidium blooms. It's just wonderful to see.

It seems that orchid season has been quite busy for FCOS members. First of all, FCOS participated in the Art in the Garden and plant sale at SLO Botanical Gardens. The SLO Botanical Gardens is our new partner in growing. We would like to thank Alison and Bas at CalCoast Orchids for their generous donation of orchids. Thanks also to the volunteers for their time and expertise. It was a lot of fun to get to spend some time together and talk orchids with people. Subsequently, we held an online auction that was very successful. Thanks to everyone who donated plants, and especially to those who entered bids. By the way: plant pick up for auction winners is at Asbell's Orchids, 200 Orchid Lane, Arroyo Grande. Call Dan Asbell (805-550-1593) to make arrangements. Dan will also have his doors open in case you'd like to come by and do some orchid shopping. Dan's plants grow in a shade-house, are well acclimated to the Central California climate, and will grow and bloom quite well at your home with the proper attention to light exposure. Thanks to Dan at Asbell's Orchids for their support of the auction.

Are you looking for opportunities to get out, go for a peaceful drive and see orchids? FCOS is now organizing Garden Gatherings. The FCOS Board of Directors and guests participated in a "trial run" or "trial of fun" at Ed Lysek's greenhouse last weekend. Here's what one of the participants had to say the day after the event: "I'm still high on our orchid experience! Who knew all that gorgeousness and lovely people would warm the heart and soul so much!" I believe these events will be highly enjoyable; details about future events will be released soon.

The FCOS has had some excellent speakers and topics this year and will reveal a new schedule soon to take us to the end of the year. We have decided to keep the Zoom meeting format and try and have a monthly opportunity for an outside meeting, field trip, gardens gatherings, potting clinics, or hands-on activity. Be sure to keep checking the events section on our website for information: <https://www.fcos.org/events-and-where>

I do have some sad news to report: About half of our members haven't paid dues yet this year, which does negatively impact our ability to operate the FCOS events properly. If you are contacted to pay dues, or haven't yet paid your dues, I ask that you continue to support the FCOS by addressing this important need. I also encourage everyone to support the FCOS by becoming a member, paying dues on time, contributing items to the auction and/or offering a donation. All donations help us grow and thrive as a Society. Check out the Benefits of Membership: <https://www.fcos.org/memberbenefits>

Happy Blooming!

Jeffery Parham

President, Five Cities Orchid Society

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



Encyclia citrina, a cool growing epiphyte from Mexico. closeup of flower showing the white crenulations on the lip. The flower has a lemony fragrance, an orchid to be experienced. Bloomed by Jeff Parham under lights in an outdoor shade house in Los Osos, California.



***Leptotes bicolor*, a reliable bloomer, plant has terrete leaves which carry the white and purplish flowers. Slightly fragrant. - grown under lights by Jeff Parham.**



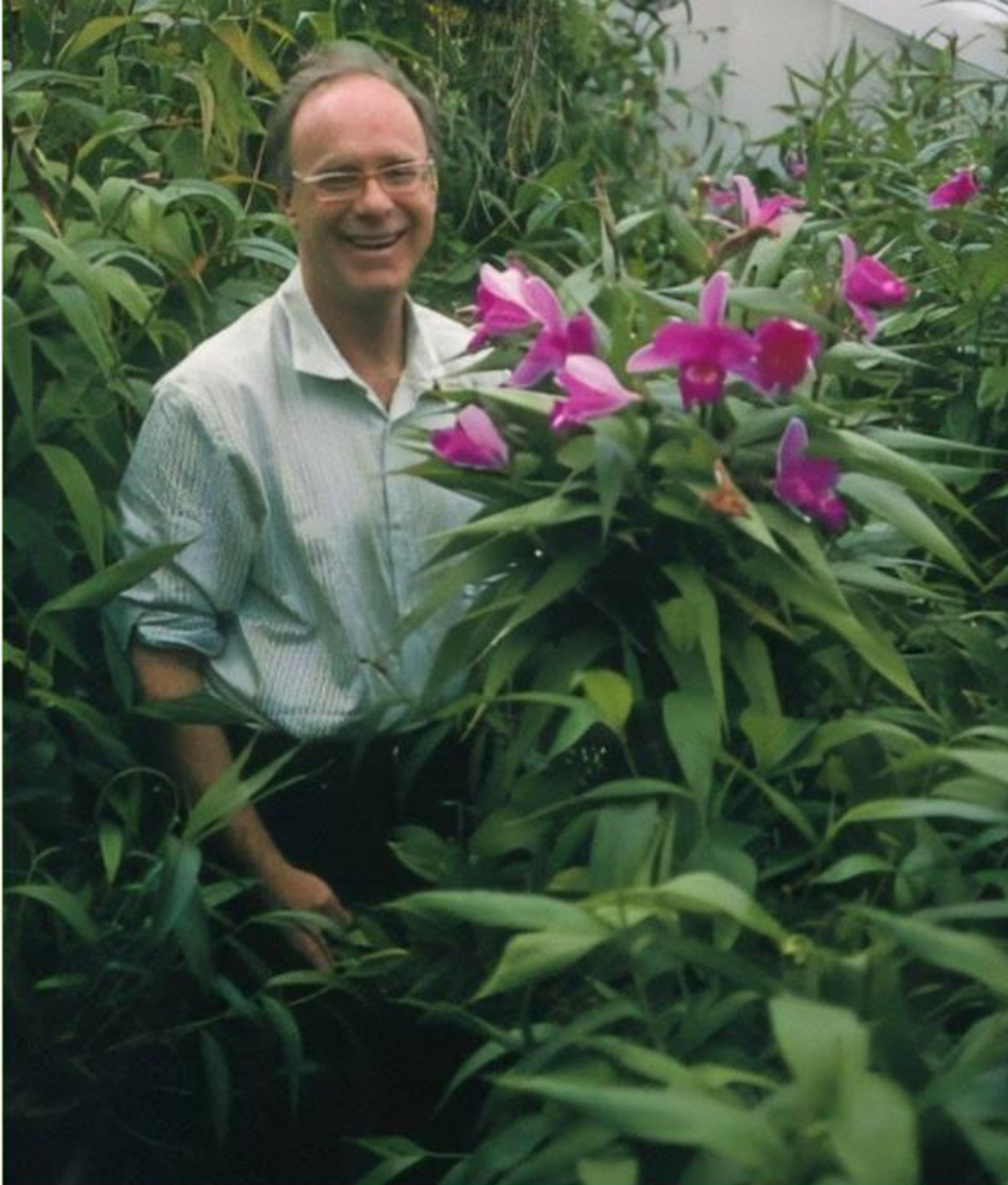
***Paphiopedilum* Pinocchio**, given as a gift several months ago by Alison Glasco of CalCoast Orchids. This is the second bloom on this plant which is a sequential bloomer, forming a flower bud behind the current bloom, an easy grower, an attractive pouch.



Chris Ehrler at the Central Coast Greenhouse Growers Association fundraiser open house at Nipomo High School. Proceeds from the sales were designated for scholarships.



Barb Walsh-talking orchids at Central Coast Greenhouse Growers Association fundraiser open house at Nipomo for CalCoast Orchids.



Bruce Rogers in his jungle collection of Sobralias in his greenhouse in San Francisco.

Five Cities Orchid Society Presents:

Bruce Rogers: The Sobralia Orchids and Other Tall Tales.

Thursday May 12th, 2022 7:00 - 8:30 PM PST

Bruce Rogers has been growing, hybridizing and decorating with orchids in the San Francisco Bay area for over 30 years. He specializes in Sobralia orchids which are now being bred to be more compact and more tolerant of our coastal growing conditions. Bruce is the author of the best selling book "The Orchid Whisperer, Expert Secrets for Growing Beautiful Orchids" (Chronicle Books, 2012) as well as many articles on growing, maintaining and designing with orchids.

Join [Zoom](#) Meeting

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

Meeting ID: 823 5543 5739

Passcode: 204435

Find your local number:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/kcNqzKNn34>



One of the many fantastic Sobralias Bruce will discuss.



Sobralia rogersiana, named for our speaker, Bruce Rogers. Grown in bark, outside beneath a tree, this orchid blooms every August/Sept and is a sequential bloomer. Each cane forms this showy purple flower which lasts about a week, falls off and is replaced by another bloom. Usually each cane will flower 3 flowers in succession which makes for a plant that is in bloom for the better part of a month.



***Sobrallia mirabilis* - grown in bark, in partial shade. Blooms reliably in August/Sept. Slightly fragrant.**



Sobralias are some of the tallest orchids in the world. The leafy canes produce a terminal flower, and the plant can appear rather bushy, making it a good patio or landscape plant, handsome even when not in flower.



FCOS had the privilege of having Scott McGregor speak to the Zoom group about Growing Mediterranean Climate Terrestrial Orchids. Mediterranean climates are temperate, have seasons, generally have an ocean or sea to the West, have mild, rainy winters and hot, dry summers. He stated that there are five Mediterranean Climates worldwide. They are Mediterranean Basin, California, Central Chile, Western Cape of South Africa and Western and Southern Australia. Orchids in these areas generally have similar growth patterns in each of these areas. The Mediterranean climate adaptations of these orchids include growing in the winter, flowering in the spring and are deciduous and summer dormant. This is generally the opposite of most of the orchids that most people are growing. There are various microclimates within each of the five worldwide climates. The orchid genera in the European Mediterranean climates include the following:

- *Serapias* – “Tongue” orchids
- *Ophrys* – “Bee” orchids
- *Orchis* – “Man” / “Monkey” orchids
- *Anacamptis* – “Winged” / “Butterfly” orchids

Scott showed us a number of slides of different species in these genera. There are a wide variety of microclimates in the area where the South African Mediterranean climate terrestrial orchids grow. The orchid genera in the South African Mediterranean climates include the following:

- *Satyrium*
- *Disa*
- *Eulophia*

After showing a few slides of species of these genera that grow in South Africa, Scott then discussed the following Australian Mediterranean climate terrestrial orchids including

- *Diuris* – “Donkey” orchids
- *Thelymitra* – “Sun” orchids
- *Myrmecchila (Chiloglottis)* – “Ant” orchids
- *Caladenia* – “Spider” orchids
- *Pterostylis* – “Greenhoods”

Scott then continued by discussing how to cultivate this group of orchids. The topics included life cycle, potting, light, water/fertilizer, propagation, pests and sources. Roots generally begin in early autumn, followed by leaf growth in early winter, then you should see flower bud development in early spring, and then full flowers in spring followed by dormancy beginning in summer. Roots grow from the top of the tuber. Next year’s tuber also begins growing from the top of the current tuber. If you are lucky your plants will grow more than one new tuber each year. Some of the tubers can be very small and difficult to see in the mix so Scott suggests after you remove the new tuber to keep the soil in the pot and see if you get any growth in the old soil next growing season. As they end their blooming cycle the leaves will begin to shrivel as the orchid’s energy is used to increase the size of the new tuber. At the end of July or August he checks to see if new tubers developed. He suggests potting the tuber about 4-6 inches deep in white plastic pots. White pots are cooler in sunlight. Should have about 80-85% inorganic material such as perlite, pumice or sand. Remaining 15-20% should be organic material coconut fiber or high-quality potting soil. The European species that natively grow in calcareous soil (such as *Ophrys*) should have some marble chips added to the mix. Oyster shells and limestone are too harsh to be in the mix. Do not use any peat or sphagnum moss in the mix. It is best to not unpot them every year unless you want to check the tubers to give them away or to make sure the pots still have a viable tuber. The California coastal climate is ideal for these groups. Best to keep them out of direct sun in the summer. They can do well with eastern exposure and full morning sun. Once they are dormant, put them in the shade, and keep them completely dry, but outside from about March to May. They can rot if they are kept moist during this period. They need the diurnal temperature change to signal them to resume growth in Autumn. Use good quality water such as reverse osmosis, rain, or distilled water. Fertilize lightly (200 ppm) only when they are in active growth. Use acidic fertilizer on *Thelymitra* for best color. Scott stated to stop watering completely after flowering or if they start going dormant

(yellowing leaves). If you see leaves starting to grow in August or September start water lightly as the tuber has begun to grow. If no growth is seen by October 1, go ahead start lightly watering and then more heavily once you see leaves. If no leaves are seen by February a new tuber probably did not develop last year. When transplanting add some of the original soil into the new pot as it probably contains some associated mycorrhiza. As mentioned earlier some of the tubers are very small (like a peppercorn) so be careful when you search for new tubers in last year's potting mix. If the orchid begins to develop seed pods, Scott suggests cutting them off as it is using energy to develop the pod and he stated you probably want the energy going into the growth of the new tuber. Scott has generally had the most trouble with snails and slugs and sometimes aphids. Biggest enemy is overwatering resulting in soggy growing media. If you want to purchase some of these orchids best to purchase from June to August when they are dormant. Australia has banned the export of all native orchids. He suggested not buying any from EBay/Etsy/etc as they are of uncertain quality and may violate USDA or CITES import rules and possibly are from illegal wild-collected orchids. A reliable US source of some of these genera is TarzaneGroup.com. European and Australian species and hybrids is MyOrchids.de in Germany. To purchase from them you will need an import permit. He also stated that RePotMe.com has white pots, marble chips and other supplies. He stating you should buy the largest tubers you can afford as mature plants are more tolerant of mistakes and generally have a better floral display. Scott suggested that some of these groups to consider when you start out are:

- *Pterostylis curta*
- *Serapias lingua* and *S. cordigera*
- *Diuris magnifica* and *D. amplissima*
- *Thelymitra glaucophylla* and hybrids
- *Ophrys mammosa* and *O. sphegodes*

To watch a recording of Scott's presentation, use the following passcode and link:

https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/t1GLDGeiCJRUiXhs65fMpG0WpvGgokbm82PY7luk7UXnqV_Rx3ig_H3e3TQJPT_8.7wDi1uJ7pebZcWe-

Passcode: j5*aSW^



Diuris – “Donkey” orchids



· *Thelymitra* – “Sun” orchids

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



A cool growing species found in Vietnam in cloud forests at 1300 to 2000 meters. Was a present from Barb Walsh. Grown in a plastic container filled with bark and lava by Chris Ehrler outside on the north side of the house.

Closeup of *Coelogyne mooreana* flower.





**Cymbidium Pauwelsii
'Horizon Alba'. Grown
in a plastic container
filled with a mixture of
bark and lava by Chris
Ehrler outside on the
north side of the
house.**

**Cymbidium Pia Borg
'Flash'. A hybrid grown
in a plastic container
filled with a mixture of
bark and lava which is
placed outside on the
north side of the
house. Grown by
Chris Ehrler.**





Dendrobium delicatum.
A natural hybrid
between *D. kingianum*
and *D. tarberi*. Found
in Queensland and
New South Wales
Australia Has
wintergreen scented
flowers. Grown
outside in a mixture of
bark and lava rock
which is placed on the
north side of the
house. Grown by
Chris Ehrler.

Closeup of
Dendrobium delicatum
flower.





Dendrochilum wenzelii spike. Grows natively in the Philippines and is listed as a hot to warm growing epiphytic species growing at an elevation between 300 to 1000 meters. This plant is Is growing fairly well in a cool greenhouse on a piece of wood with sphagnum moss over the roots. Grown by Chris Ehrler.

Closeup of
Dendrochilum wenzelii
flower.





Lepanthes imitator.
Flower about 3 mm in length. A cool growing epiphyte natively found in the southeastern portion of Ecuador at elevations around 2150 to 2480 meters. Growing in a cool greenhouse attached to a small piece of tree fern with sphagnum moss covering the roots. Grown by Chris Ehrlar.

Side view of
Lepanthes imitator
flower.





Lepanthes ligiae. Flower about 5 mm in length. A cool to cold growing epiphytic species found at elevations between 1500 and 2600 meters in cloud forests in western Colombia. Growing in a cool greenhouse attached to a small piece of tree fern with sphagnum moss covering the roots. Grown by Chris Ehrler.

Side view of *Lepanthes ligiae* flower.





Masdevallia ignea
'Crestwood'. A cold
growing species found
between elevation of 2600
to 3800 meters in the
Eastern Cordillera of
Colombia. Growing on a
mixture of bark and lava
rock in a cool greenhouse.
Grown by Chris Ehler.

Side view of *Masdevallia*
ignea 'Crestwood' flower.





Masdevallia Fraseri (*M. ignea* 'Beau' x *M. coccinea alba* 'Snowbird'). This a primary hybrid (both parents are species). As you can see the *M. ignea* shape is dominant. Growing outside on the north side of the house in a clay pot filled with a mixture of bark and lava rock in a cool greenhouse. Grown by Chris Ehrler.



Side view of *Masdevallia Fraseri* flower.



Masdevallia Copperwing.

Pleurothallis canaligera. Is found growing as either an epiphyte or terrestrially cool growing species in Colombia, Ecuador and Peru at elevations of 1200 to 2700 meters. Is growing in a cool greenhouse in a clay pot filled with sphagnum moss. Grown by Chris Ehrler.





Closeup of *Pleurothallis canaligera* flower.



Hybrid between
Porroglossum muscosum
x *Masdevallia hercules*.
Cross made by Gerardus
Staal at Peninsula Hybrids.
Grown mounted to a piece
of wood with the roots
covered with some
sphagnum moss. Grown by
Chris Ehler in a cool
greenhouse.

Closeup of the
Porroglossum muscosum
x *Masdevallia hercules*
flower.





Restrepia mendozae.

Listed in

orchidspecies.com as a warm growing epiphyte that is found in the southeastern part Ecuador at elevations around 1500 meters. This plant is growing well in a cool greenhouse in a clay pot filled with sphagnum moss. Grown by Chris Ehrler.

Side view of *Restrepia mendozae* flower.





Restrepia wagneri. A warm to cool growing epiphytic species found in western Venezuela at 1200 to 2300 meters of elevation. Grown mounted to a piece of wood with sphagnum moss on the roots. Grown by Chris Ehrlar in a cool greenhouse.

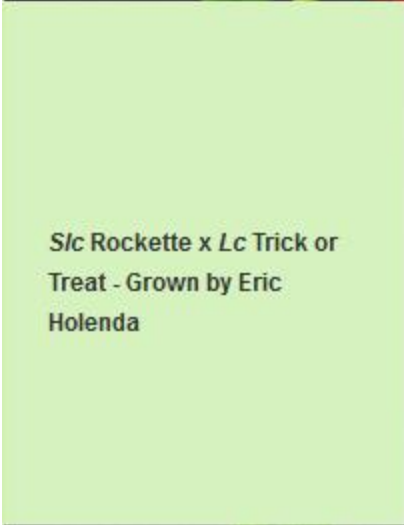
Restrepiella ophiocephala.
A cool to warm growing
epiphyte found from Mexico
to Costa Rica and
occasionally in South
Florida in damp forests with
rivers, margins of swamp
forest and coffee
plantations at elevations of
40 to 1600 meters. Growing
in a cool greenhouse both
mounted on a piece of
wood with the roots
covered by sphagnum
moss and also in a clay pot
filled with moss. Grown by
Chris Ehler in a cool
greenhouse.



Side view of *Restrepiella
ophiocephala* flower.



*S/c Rockette x Pot. Star
Fire. Grown by Eric Holenda*



*S/c Rockette x Lc Trick or
Treat - Grown by Eric
Holenda*



Cymbidium Hot Line x *C. devonianum* - Grown by Eric Holenda

Dendrobium (Peewee x (Yondi Gold x Yondi Brolga) x *D. speciosum* var. *curvicaule*. - Grown by Eric Holenda.





Laelia (now *Cattleya*)
purpurata— just opening.
Grown by Eric Holenda

Dendrobium aphyllum.
what a great species! 4
spikes this year (3 last).
Grown by Eric Holenda





Sarcochilus Sweetheart x
Enid— Cal Orchid. Grown by
Eric Holenda

Sic. Lucky Chance— I favor
plants that have all the
growths bloom
simultaneously, if I can find
them. Grown by Eric
Holenda



Cattleya suavis 4n - a
cross made by Andy
Easton. Every Spring this
orchid puts on quite a
show. Grown by Ed Lysek.

Bt. Stonehouse has 17 flowers on 5 spikes. Growing in Hydroton clay pellets in clay pots which are placed inside larger pots as the plant grows (I'm getting ready to add a fourth pot next year). Fragrant and temperature tolerant. Grown by Ed Lysek.



Cattleya (Guaranthe) skinneri - the white and purple forms. This orchid is known for sending out numerous roots. The white plant is in a hollow oak log and the purple is in Hydroton clay pellets in a net pot. Grown by Ed Lysek.

For those who don't have a green thumb, Lego is introducing a Phalaenopsis orchid. Pre-order yours at Lego for \$49. What a great way to get kids interested in orchids!



Garden Gatherings



Our first test of "Garden Gatherings" was held at Ed Lysek's greenhouse on Saturday, April 23rd.

Space was limited to 11 persons. Additional visits to Ed's greenhouse will be announced for later this summer.



Several FCOS members have volunteered to hold Garden Gatherings at their greenhouses and growing areas. Schedules and sign up details will be posted on future newsletters.

If you would like to host a Garden Gathering please contact any member of the Board of Directors listed below. It is a great way for all of us to learn from each other.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR:

Here's a better way to air your dirty (or clean) laundry. Got a complaint, suggestion or just want to express your opinion, send an email to our editors, [Jeff Parham](#), [Chris Ehrler](#) or [Ed Lysek](#). (photo courtesy of Gary Yong Gee).

Question: The tag is broken on this so I'm not sure what it is. (Picture below) Look at the leads development. Any advice. Should I replot this now?-JP

Answer: Hi JP - from the looks of the pseudobulbs and two growths on each bulb, looks like it is related to *Laelia anceps* - but the "dwarf" on the broken label is a mystery. If it did not say "dwarf" it might be *L. anceps* Ft. Caroline which is a coerulea (blue color) form. I would replot now in coarse bark or into a wooden basket - whatever you are doing, keep it up - this looks like a fantastic plant and you should get lots of blooms next year.-Eric

JP - did a quick websearch for dwarf coerulea Laelias

https://www.sborchid.com/culture.php?culture_title=Dwarf%20Laelias





Did I pay my FCOS 2022 Membership? Click [HERE](#) to see if your name is on our Paid Members List. Thanks 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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FCOS Garage Sale

Send an email to [Jeff Parham](#), [Chris Ehrler](#) or [Ed Lysek](#) and include an image of your item, a description, price, and your contact info. We'll include your info in our next monthly newsletter if there is space. FCOS assumes no responsibility for payment, taxes, etc. We ask the items be orchid or plant related. FCOS is not taking a commission or participating in any other way.

Orchid Virus tests from Agi labs. \$8 each, contact Jeff at jsp1440@aol.com

Cymbidiums for Sale in San Luis Obispo. 5-gallon pots of mature plants, many in spike. Seeking for \$20-\$30 each. See photos below. Contact Jerry Camel 805-543-9338.

Five Cities Orchid Society 2022 Board of Directors

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Orchids are really great!

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

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