



November 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.



***Cattleya finckiana* Kennedy - Grown outside under a mock orange tree in my backyard in Los Osos. Jeff Parham**

A message from the President's potting bench.

I hope you, yours, and your orchids are all doing well. In this time of great events I am finding even more joy in tending to my orchids. My summer projects are finally paying off and our little yard in Los Osos is looking good. I've slowly integrated orchids into several sections of the front and back yards. *Laelias*, *Dendrobiums*, *Cymbidiums*, *Sobrailias* and *Epidendrens* are now found hanging from baskets from the eaves of the house and greenhouse. We have them displayed in ceramic pots around the yard. It's really fun to look around at the artsy botanical sanctuary we've created.

I've made a few new acquisitions in the last few months. I ordered a *Phragmepedium* and a few *Masdevalias* from Ecuagenera this summer. The new plants are fun, and yet its great to see the blooms that old reliables like *Cattleya finckiana* and Lc. Trick or Treat that bloomed outside under the mock orange tree. Orchids are such a beautiful part of life.

Announcements and Business: The November and December meetings will each feature a panel of our own members. They will be discussing best practices in orchid care: the cultural requirements and maintenance of grow spaces. Best Practices: Saving your Orchids From the Compost Pile-Part 1 will be conducted during the Zoom meeting on November 12 at 7:00 pm. Part 2 of the panel will be held at the beginning of the December meeting.

Moving forward, the Five Cities Orchid Society is continuing to work toward our mission [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 or business. To promote the conservation of orchids in the wild. □

Our next step is the formation of our new FCOS Education and Conservation Committee. Our purpose is to establish a scholarship and grant program for orchid-related educational and research projects. As the Five Cities Orchid Society is a 501(c)(3) Non-Profit organization, donations are tax-deductible, and help us to support our mission in furthering orchid education and conservation. The money we collect will be awarded to students, researchers and organizations that have a proven commitment to orchid research, culture and conservation.

Donate to FCOS

Please plan to join us for the FCOS Holiday Party Auction and Fundraiser via Zoom on December 10 at 7:00-8:30 pm. We promise to have a festive time together! Activities will include Orchid Bingo, a special auction, raffle, prizes, and much jocularly. Members who have paid 2020 dues can expect the delivery of a holiday Gift on their doorstep a few days before the meeting to add to the fun. if you haven't yet paid your dues for 2020, there is still time. Pay dues. New members are encouraged to join for 2021.

Members who have paid dues for 2020 will automatically receive membership for 2021 at no cost since we are unable to hold in-person meetings. Those who wish to donate \$20 towards 2021 operating costs are encouraged to do so and these

contributions will ensure quality programs and speakers for all to enjoy. Donate to FCOS

We will also have elections of officers and vote on a change to the ByLaws during the December meeting. Please be sure to attend this important and festive meeting.

Take good care of yourselves, and see you on Zoom!



LC Trick or Treat grown under a mock orange tree in my backyard in Los Osos, Calif. Jeff Parham

November FCOS Zoom Meeting

Best Practices: Saving your Orchids From the Compost Pile.

Time: Nov 12, 2020 07:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81842750666?pwd=bVBKekN3R05mbXNTcTAxQjNGVGhrdz09>

Meeting ID: 818 4275 0666

Passcode: 037654

One tap mobile

+16699006833,,81842750666#,,,,,0#,,037654# US (San Jose)

+12532158782,,81842750666#,,,,,0#,,037654# US (Tacoma)

Dial by your location

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

Meeting ID: 818 4275 0666

Passcode: 037654

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81842750666>



***Aerangis mystacidium*- grown under Full Spectrum LED Lights in my backyard shade house in Los Osos, CA. Jeff Parham**

December: Elections, Holiday Party, Auction and FunRaiser

Thursday, December 10, 2020 at 7:00 PM 8:30 PM

Please join us on December 10; 2020 at 7 pm on Zoom for our Holiday Party and Funraiser: The evenings program will be a short follow up to November's meeting - Best Practices: Saving your Orchids From the Compost Pile.

We will have elections of members, vote on our Bylaws Changes and conclude with Holiday festivities; auctions, games, raffles and prizes. Paid Members will receive a holiday package in advance of the meeting. It's not too late you can still pay your 2020 membership or purchase a new membership. [Go Here!](#)

Part of the proceeds of our Holiday FunRaiser to benefit the new FCOS Education and Conservation Committee.

SIGN UP FOR THE FCOS NEWSLETTER TO RECEIVE THE ZOOM LINK

Speaker notes from the October 2020 FCOS meeting

At our October meeting Dr. Martin Motes of Motes Orchids provided an overview of several of the many (over 48 by some classifications) *Dendrobium* groups and their cultural requirements. *Dendrobiums* benefit from small pots or on wooden mounts so the root ball can dry completely after watering. Fertilizer should be applied when new growths appear and they can quickly expand to full size in a matter of a few weeks. Many types require a dry winter rest to grow and flower best. Low phosphorus slow release fertilizers are recommended, with special note to look for Avocado and Citrus fertilizers.

Nobile Dendrobiums or soft can *Dendrobiums* bloom best in Spring if they receive exposure to cold in winter - 50F was recommended. They can take temperatures down to just above freezing and should be kept on the dry side in winter. If too wet in winter, kekeis (small plants) will grow on the canes instead of flowers. Using glue to place 6-month slow release low phosphorus fertilizer in the pot or on a mounted plant will provide fertilizer for the growing season in Spring and Summer when the plants should receive abundant water and bright light.

Phalaenathe Dendrobiums need temperatures above 50F. These warm loving *Dendrobiums* have terminal spikes of colorful flowers and are often available from Big Box stores.

Spatulata Dendrobiums are warm growing orchids.

Latouria Dendrobiums comprise both warm and cold growing orchids.

Pedilonum Dendrobiums are warm growers.

Calista Dendrobiums grow in the Himalayan Mountains and like warm wet summers and cool to cold dry winters. They form 3 to 4 new growths in Spring and can quickly grow into a specimen plant. Unfortunately, their colorful flowers only last 7 to 10 days. Slugs and snails seem particularly fond of developing flower spikes.

Formosum Dendrobiums can take temperatures as low as 40F. They can be distinguished by small black hairs (*Nigrohirsutae*) on the stem and white flowers predominate. Flowers can last 1 to 2 months.

Mites can be a problem on Dendrobium leaves. Look for a dusty, silvery coating on the underside of leaves, with some black specks.

Spray the tops and bottoms of leaves and stems with canola oil (cooking oil) at the rate of 3 Tbs/gallon of water. Follow in 7 to 10 days with a spray of a mixture of 2 oz of dish washing liquid (Ajax was recommended) per gallon of water.

Show and Tell - What's Blooming Now in Our Members Collections

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!



Bc. Vodo Limelight is blooming nicely - two spikes blooming and another with buds. Grown outside in shade. - Grown by Alan Durham



***Slc. Hsin Buu Lady YT* - a *Laelia anceps* cross with *Slc. Wendy's Valentine* made by Ching Hua in 2000. Reported to be fragrant but so far this recently opened flower does not have a scent. - Grown by Ed Lysek**



Cochleanthes aromatica - lives up to its name with a wonderful perfume of gardenias. Purchased last year from Ecuagenera, this plant has four buds and should stay in bloom for more than a month. If you like fragrant orchids - this one is a must. Grown by Ed Lysek.



***Vanda Pachung Blue* - takes cool winters and warm summers, blooms for well over a month. Grown suspended over an empty clay pot to increase the humidity around the exposed roots. Watered daily in Spring and Summer with rainwater. - Grown by Ed Lysek**



***Dtps* Little Gem Stripes x *Dtps* Yu Pir Summer. We really love this orchid. The coloring and fragrance are exceptional. We got this from former member, Bill Maidment. It blooms regularly every year. Look closely in the lip for a subtle orange glow. - Grown by Chuck and Judy Scheithauer .**



***Sigmatostylix radicans* Grows in Brazil. Flowers have a nice honey fragrance and last about 4-6 weeks. - Grown by Judy Scheithauer**



***Sigmatostylis radicans*. Both of my plants are blooming right on time. They are so dainty. The flowers measure about a quarter of an inch. Fairies just love them. Mounted on cork bark with some moss. Mist them everyday and more in hot weather. - Grown by Judy Scheithauer**



***Acianthera* (formerly *Pleurothallis*) *pectinata*.** Leaves grow down from the pot. Potted in a mesh pot filled with sphagnum moss. Grown hanging in a cool greenhouse. Plant is native to Bolivia and Brazil. Plant purchased a few years ago from Cal Orchids in Santa Barbara. - Grown by Chris Ehrler



***Acianthera* (formerly *Pleurothallis*) *pectinata*.** Close-up of the inflorescence.



***Coelogyne mooreana*. Received as a gift from Barb Walsh a few years ago. Grown outside on the north side of my house in a plastic pot with a mixture of bark and lava rock. Grows natively in the highlands of Vietnam. - Grown by Chris Ehler**



Close-up of one of the flowers of *Dendrobium cuthbertsonii* bicolor, shown below. Purchase from Ecuagenera at the 2018 Santa Barbara International Orchid Show. Grows natively at high elevations in New Guinea. - Grown by Chris Ehrler

***Dendrobium cuthbertsonii* bicolor. Purchased from Ecuagenera at the 2018 Santa Barbara International Orchid Show. Grown on a piece of cork oak bark in a cool greenhouse.**



***Dendrobium* Rutherford Sunspot x Zoom "Topps". Won on the opportunity table about 20 years ago from an Australian vendor who spoke at an FCOS meeting. Both of these flowers are from the same plant. Grown outside on the north side of my house in a plastic pot in a mixture of bark and lava rock. Did not bloom until I started to give it a dry winter rest from watering. - Grown by Chris Ehrler**





***Dendrochilum bicallosum*. Spikes are pendulous. Orchid is grown in a plastic container which has a single hole in it about 1 inch above the bottom of the container. Media is small round clay pellets. When water and fertilizer is added, it is poured into the top of the container until it flows out the single hole. Grows natively at low elevations (warm to hot temperatures) in the Philippines but survives in my cool greenhouse.- Grown by Chris Ehler**



Dendrochilum magnum. This orchid was received as a gift from Jeffrey Thompson about 5 years ago. Grown in a cool greenhouse in a plastic pot in a mixture of bark and lava rock. Grows natively at high elevations (cool temperatures) in the Philippines. - Grown by Chris Ehler

Closeup of *Dendrochilum magnum* spike and flowers.





Close-up of *Lepanthes hexapus*. As with most *Lepanthes* species this flower is small and this species only measures about 1/4 of an inch in height. Grown on a small piece of cork in a cool greenhouse. Orchid from Ecuagenera. Grows in warm to cool environments natively in Colombia and Ecuador. - Grown by Chris Ehrler



***Lycaste leucantha* 'Key Lime' x *dowiana* alba 'Freida'.
Grown outside on the north side of my house in a
plastic pot in a mixture of bark and lava rock. - Grown
by Chris Ehler**



***Restrepia cuprea*. From Andy's Orchids. Grown in a cool greenhouse in sphagnum moss in a small plastic mesh pot. Grows natively in warm to cool environments in Colombia. - Grown by Chris Ehrlar**



Pleurothallis masdevalliopsis. Grown mounted on cork oak bark with some sphagnum moss on the roots although this orchid grows upward so the roots are al mostly exposed to the air. Orchid from Ecuagenera. Grown in my cool greenhouse. Grows natively in cloud forests in Ecuador. - Grown by Chris Ehrler



Pleurothallis pubescens. Purchased as a \$7.50 special from Santa Barbara Orchid Estates a number of years ago. Grown mounted on a piece of cork oak bark in a cool greenhouse. Grows natively in warm to cool environments from at least Mexico to Argentina. - Grown by Chris Ehrler



Fall
Orchid
Market
presented by the
Carmel Orchid Society

Friday, Saturday
November
13 & 14
9am - 4pm

Potting Demos
and
Orchid Talks

Orchids
Succulents
Carnivores
Natives
& Exotics

Vendors:
Asbell Orchids
Echo Valley Orchids
Orchids & Gardens
RANA Creek Nursery
COS Member Sales
Barsch Tropicals
D&D Flowers
Mesa Exotics

Outside under
the breezeway
Masks required
Plenty of parking

Community Church of the Monterey Peninsula
4590 Carmel Valley Rd. Carmel CA
CarmelOrchidSociety.org

The Carmel Orchid Society will hold an open air Orchid Sale Friday and Saturday, Nov. 13 & 14. We wish them well as they pioneer new ways to display and sell orchids in a public forum. Any FCOS members who attend are asked to report back to the FCOS Board on your impressions of this event. Our own local orchid grower, Asbell Orchids will be a vendor at this show.



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.

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

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