



November 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.fcos.org



RLC Yen Corona 'Green Genie', this plant is outgrowing its 4 inch pot that was planted from plugs that FCOS purchased a few years back. A few of these may appear in our December online auction.

From the President's Potting Bench:

I hope everyone is safe enjoying your Holiday Season and that you have a bounty of blooms to compliment your festivities this month.

My own little grow area is bringing me a lot of joy and I have several Paphiopedilums, Phaleanopsis, Potinaras, mini Cattleyas and a Barkaria species in spike. Out in the yard, several Cymbididus and Laelia anceps are sporting flower spikes with promises of more blooms and color shows this winter.

This last month has been quite busy for FCOS as we participated two weekends at the San Luis Obispo Botanical Gardens (SLOBG) and the CalPoly Plant Sale and summer music festival. Thank you to CalCoast Orchids, FCOS was able to sell orchids in the annual SLOBG Plant sale and the SLOBG Art in the Garden events and during parent's day weekend at CalPoly.

I would like to thank all of you that showed up to help set up our booth

and to "talk orchids". FCOS had a very successful sale because of your involvement. Thank you to Alison and Bas from CalCoast Orchids and to Eric Holanda, Chris Ehler, Anne Bachman, Cindy Phyllis Rosenberg, Kathy Keys, Barbro Bond, and Ed Lysek, Karen Kolba, Meliss Ralston.

We will not have our usual Thursday night "Orchid Talk" this December and instead have scheduled a Holiday Orchid Social on Dec 9, 2023 at 12:00 pm at the We will have a potluck dinner, Members Auction and Election of officers. Hopefully you will join us. Please bring any orchids that you would like to donate to FCOS for our silent auction. Additionally, Members may sell up to 5 of their own plants in the auction for a 20% donation to the FCOS.

Toucan terrace, Pismo Beach CA. Members are also encouraged to bring plants for a "show and tell" and of course a dish to share for the potluck.

As a suggestion, if your last name begins with:

A thru H -- Being a main dish

I thru O ---Bring a side dish

P thru Z ---Bring a desert.

If your dish requires heating, bring it in a crock pot or on a heat plate.

The FCOS will also conduct its annual meeting to elect officers to its executive committee and a board of Directors. Positions of President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Board Member are to be nominated and voted upon. Please email Jeff Parham if you have questions or would like to volunteer.

The FCOS will resume a monthly zoom talk in January and will release a schedule of "Orchid Talks" soon. We will endeavor to compliment these online talks with bimonthly daytime orchid activities.

FCOS Holiday Orchid Social

The annual FCOS Holiday Orchid Social will be held at Toucan Terrace on December 9, 2023 from noon to 3 pm. FCOS will provide Ham, water, and coffee. Please bring potluck items to complement the dinner and desserts and any orchids that you would like to donate for our orchid auction.

A members vote on bylaws changes and elections of officers will also take place. Several positions on the Board of Directors, the President, Vice President, and Treasurer positions need to be filled. We need volunteers to fill these positions. Contact us and let us know if you are interested in serving on the FCOS Executive Board.

FCOS Online Orchid Auction

We would like to hold an online orchid auction during the 1st week of December with plant pickup at the Holiday Orchid Social on Dec 9.

Our plant sales have not done that well this year and we really do need to be able to generate some funds to pay for our programs for next year.

Please use this link to submit plants for this auction. We will also have an orchid auction that day for people that bring plants. <https://fcos.betterworld.org/donate-an-item>

FCOS Business meeting

Beginning November 7, 2023, 7 pm-8 pm, FCOS will begin holding an additional Zoom meeting to discuss business related items, fundraisers, planning the orchid show. If you've been looking for an opportunity to participate in the planning of orchid Society events, this is the place to be on the second Tuesday of the month. All Board of Directors are encouraged to attend! Please let me know that you are planning to attend, and feel free to submit any agenda items that you have for consideration. I will put together a tentative agenda to send out to those who have requested them. Email Jeff at jsp1440@aol.com You can use the same [zoom link](#) that we use for our monthly Orchid Talks.

Volunteer Opportunities

We are currently seeking volunteers for various committees, including Events, Technology, Outreach, and Membership. In addition, we have three open positions on our Board of Directors for next year. Volunteering with us is a great way to give back to the orchid community and gain valuable experience in leadership and teamwork. 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. If you are interested in learning more about these opportunities, please contact us.

OrchidFest 2024

We are gearing up to plan an Orchid Show for next year at Nipomo High School on Feb 3-4, 2024, (SAVE THE DATE) We would like to put together a show committee to begin to plan and

coordinate the show. Contact Jeff if you would like to be involved on the Show Committee. We need a lot of member involvement to pull this off.

Orchidtalks 2023

Do not forget that FCOS offers 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 are 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 via Zoom 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 cannot wait to see you there!

Orchid Buddy

The Five Cities Orchid Society is pleased to announce the launch of its Orchid Buddy Program. This program aims to provide orchid enthusiasts with a platform to connect with other orchid lovers and share their knowledge and experience.

To sign up for the Orchid Buddy Program, you can either register as an Orchid Buddy or an Orchid mentor. As an Orchid Buddy, you will have the opportunity to connect with other orchid enthusiasts and receive guidance and support in your orchid-growing journey. On the other hand, as an Orchid mentor, you can share your knowledge and experience with other members and help them grow their orchids successfully. [Sign up here!](#)

Join FCOS

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. Do not miss out on this opportunity to take your orchid growing to the next level - become a member of FCOS today! Check FCOS's Member Benefits page on our website for information on [becoming a member](#) of FCOS.

Come grow with us!

Jeffery Parham, President, FCOS



Habenaria Flamingo 'Red'. This was grown from a tuber from RustyExotics.com using cultural information from Nicholas Rust, one of our orchid speakers, this tuber has slower grown and bloomed.



Phragmipedium Noirmont (*longifolium* 'Woodstream' AM/AOS x Mem Dick Clements 'Rojo Grande'). This is a plant that I obtained from Asbells's Orchids before they closed and interestingly it is a Woodstream Orchids cross developed by Bill Goldner, FCOS's October speaker. I've grown it in bark under LED lights. The deep red pouch is really pleasing.





FCOS ORCHID TALKS: Gary Yong Gee "Orchids of Southwestern Western Australia"

- Thursday, November 9, 2023
- 7:00 PM 8:30 PM
- [Google Calendar](#) [ICS](#)

Gary Yong Gee [surname *Yong Gee*] is an Australian born Chinese, and lives in Brisbane, Australia. He began growing orchids around 40 years ago. These days, he maintains a large hobby greenhouse, cultivating Australian native, and exotic species. He has over 100,000 orchid photographs taken on travels to parts of Australia, New Guinea, Asia, Europe, Central and South America, South Africa, and Madagascar, at shows, and in situ. Gary is an orchid judge with the Australian Orchid Council. He is also a member of several Australian orchid societies, the American Orchid Society, and the Orchid Conservation Alliance.

Gary's main interest is species orchids. He has contributed an extensive monthly article to the *Orchid Species Bulletin*, published by the Orchid Species Society, for over 30 years. Gary has also written occasional articles for *Orchids Australia*, and the *Australian Orchid Review*; and given numerous talks to various orchid societies. The Vandaceous Orchids supplement to *Orchids*, Bulletin of the AOS, November 2021, has his article about *Aerides*. He has a website, which is currently being upgraded, and shows some of his photographs at www.yonggee.name

Orchids of Southwestern Western Australia

Flora in Southwest Western Australia makes up a large proportion of the Australian floral kingdom. Various habitats in the southwest are subject to a Mediterranean climate, of cool, wet winters, and hot, dry summers. All orchids in this region are tuberous terrestrial plants that have an annual growth cycle. Several genera (*Drakaea*, *Elythranthera*, *Pyrorchis*) are unique to the region. All have adapted to bushfires that occur naturally in the dry period. Some taxa do not flower unless the habitat is subject to burning, the previous season. Many species have evolved alongside their unique pollinator. Thus, pseudocopulation plays a major role in the pollination syndrome.

Topic: FCOS's Orchid Talks

Time: This is a recurring meeting Meet anytime

Join Zoom Meeting

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

Meeting ID: 823 5543 5739

Passcode: 204435

You're Invited
to the FCOS Holiday Party!

**Dec
9th**

12pm to 3pm

***Potluck**

***Orchid Auction**

***Games**

Turkey and mashed potatoes provided.
Bring your favorite side dish or dessert.

**Location: Toucan Terrace 995 Terry Drive,
Pismo Beach, CA 93449**

Volunteers Needed!



At FCOS's October Zoom meeting Dr. Bill Gardner who owns Woodstream Orchids, spoke to the group on Next generation miniature *Phragmipedium* and other lines of breeding. He stated that the company is family run and he has been hybridizing for about 30 years and has made over 6,500 crosses. He used to hybridize *Paphiopedilums* but figured out that *Phragmipediums* were easier to grow plus grew faster. He has traveled to central and South America to see the growing conditions of the various species in the different genera. When he was selling orchids at New York shows people who lived in apartments were asking for orchids that stayed small but still bloomed. This led to him concentrating on hybridizing mini-*Phrags*. There was a limited colors in the hybrids until the discovery of *Phag. besseae* in Ecuador in 1980. Bill then showed several smaller *Phrag.* species that have been used in hybridizing over the year. He then showed many different hybrids and the different lines of breeding that he and others have taken in their journey to develop mini-*Phrags* of a wide variety of colors.

He suggested that the group are generally intermediate growers and do well when grown between about 50 and 80 F. He fertilizes heavily year-round. He transplants compot orchids at 6-month intervals and larger *Phrags* every year. The water where he lives is relatively soft so he does not use an RO (reverse osmosis) system. The potting media he uses is Orchiata with some perlite and sand. He suggests if your *Phrags* are not blooming you might try to increase the light and decrease the nitrogen to see if that will stimulate a flower spike.

Bill's email address is woodstream3@aol.com and his website address is <http://www.woodstreamorchids.com/>.

If you missed Bills' presentation you can watch it here.

https://us02web.zoom.us/recording/detail?meeting_id=rz5E%2Fde0Tp6eNyLY4KgF1g%3D%3D&show_share=true



Art in the Garden at the SLO Botanical Garden (Oct 7-8) was another great opportunity for FCOS members to get together, teach people how to grow *Phalaenopsis* orchids and have a great time.

Lots of happy orchid purchases and new subscribers to our newsletter. If you are interested in volunteering to be the coordinator for in-person monthly member get togethers please volunteer. We would like to get these events on our 2024 event calendar and your help would be greatly appreciated. [Click here](#) and we will send you details. No experience necessary!





FCOS had another opportunity to sell orchids at the CalPoly Horticulture Fall Festival Oct 21. This event was very well attended by CalPoly students and their parents. Thanks go to Wendy Robinson of the CalPoly Horticulture Dept. for inviting FCOS to participate.

Volunteers Ed, Phyllis, Barbro, Chris, Michelle, Susan, Alex and Matt did a great job representing FCOS at this event. 41 new subscribers were added to the FCOS newsletter and over 100 orchids were sold. Thanks again go to CalCoast Orchids for donating these plants.





Cymbidium Orchid Culture

Cymbidiums are usually the easiest orchids to grow in New Zealand (and Central California coastal) conditions. An article from [Tucker's Orchid Nursery, Auckland, N.Z.](#) gives timely growing suggestions as we approach our *Cymbidium* blooming season.

Our newest newsletter subscriber, Amy just purchased her first *Cymbidium* orchid and we hope this helps her and all of our *Cymbidium* growing subscribers to achieve great success with their

plants. Just remember the seasons are reversed in New Zealand and *Cymbidiums* bloom for them in our summer (their winter).

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 75F max and down to 45F to 50F overnight. They will tolerate it cooler in the winter, but if grown cold (down below 45F 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 10F 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, a high nitrogen fertilizer for the rest of the year but definitely use a low nitrogen fertilizer from January (June in the northern hemisphere) otherwise you get less than optimum flowers. A liquid feed of a high nitrogen fertilizer with trace elements (14-3-9) weekly during the growing period is essential. From late January/early February, (June/July in the Northern hemisphere) as the bulbs ripen and spikes start appearing switch to a low Nitrogen high Potassium fertilizer (8-2-17) to promote strong and healthy flowers.

Repotting – Seedlings should be re-potted every 6 - 12 months and flowering-sized plants really need to be done every 2 - 3 years at least. They like a 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 – 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 of mixes work, including 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- foot container!!). We use No 2 for the small plants and No 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 a 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 attacks *Cymbidiums*. When watering, spraying the underside of the leaves can help to prevent them as the mites do not 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 must 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.

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



Stanhopea oculata growing in a wire basket, lined with sphagnum moss and filled with a mixture of bark and perlite. Kept constantly moist in bright shade in my greenhouse. This is a division of Chris Ehrler's original plant. 4 spikes opening a total of 29 flowers with the amazing scent of mint chocolate chip ice cream filling my greenhouse. Grown by Ed Lysek.

Closeup of *Stanhopea oculata* flower.

When I first encountered a blooming *Stanhopea* at Santa Barbara Orchid Estate 30 years ago I thought "what an ugly flower." Now I find myself growing 8 species and hybrids and find both the flowers and scents fascinating. The *Stanhopeas* haven't changed, but my appreciation of them has. *Stanhopea* is a genus of about 60-80 species from Central and South America. For more information on growing these fragrant orchids please [click here](#).





As Jeff Parham has mentioned, as our orchid collections mature and we run out of space, miniature orchids become much more appealing. This is *Aerangis lutea alba*. It is growing mounted on a split oak branch with a wad of sphagnum moss tucked around the roots to increase moisture. This is a young plant with its first small bloom of 4 flowers. As the plant matures the number of flowers (hopefully) will increase. Grown by Ed Lysek.

The flowers of *Aerangis lutea alba* have a delicate crystalline appearance with prominent nectary spurs. A native of Kenya, Africa more cultural information can be found on "Pumpkin Beth's" website by [clicking here](#). Although classified as a warm/intermediate grower my several plants have tolerated winter temperatures in the low 40's when kept dry and summer temperatures in the low 90's.





Sl. Dorothy Eliot x L. anceps is a hybrid with 75% *L. anceps* and 12.5% *C. cinnabarina* and 12.5% *C. coccinea*. It blooms two months earlier than my *L. anceps* species, has a spike only 1 ft. tall and has five very dark flowers with prominent violet veins in the throat. It is growing in a wooden basket with a small amount of bark and gets bright diffused sunlight in my greenhouse. A great addition to any *L. anceps* collection. Grown by Ed Lysek.

Cattleya bowringiana var. *coerulea* 'Blue Angel' is my earliest blooming *Cattleya*.

Noted Cat. breeder Arthur Chadwick states, "*Cattleya bowringiana* is a remarkably adaptable plant. It can be found thriving as a lithophyte in rocky ravines, with the plants matted to the bare rocks in full sun. It is found growing as a terrestrial on quartz sand along rapidly flowing streams, and, as a typical epiphyte, on large tropical trees. Plants grow at altitudes from a few hundred feet above sea level to as high as 3,500 feet. Able to grow in such a wide variety of environments, it is no wonder *C. bowringiana* has always been one of the most popular *Cattleya* species in cultivation. As one reviewer put it, "There is no special treatment for these plants; they just grow." Grown by Ed Lysek.





Cattleya bowringiana
standard color form which for
me blooms one to two weeks
later than the smaller *coerulea*
form.

It is native to Central America
in the countries of Belize and
Guatemala and, along with *C.*
skinneri, is the most northern
growing of the *Cattleya* species.

For an excellent article on Both
C. bowringiana and *C. skinner*
on the Chadwick & Son website
[please click here.](#)

This orchid was a collection of
unwanted back bulbs when I
won it for \$6 at an FCOS silent
auction in 2020. Look for more
bargains at the Dec. FCOS
silent auction. Grown by Ed
Lysek.

Bletilla striata. A terrestrial cool to cold growing species found in Japan, Korea, China, Hong Kong, and Okinawa at elevations of 100 to 3200 meters. There are only four species in this genus. This orchid is growing in a plastic pot filled with planting mix. The pot is outside year-round in a shady location. Grown by Chris Ehrler.



Side view of *Bletilla striata* flower.

Close-up of the lip of *Bletilla striata* .





Dendrochilum magnum. A cool growing epiphyte natively growing in the Philippines at elevations of 1600 to 2000 meters. This orchid is growing in a plastic pot filled with a mixture of bark and lava rock. The pot is in a cool greenhouse. Grown by Chris Ehrlar.

Close-up of recently opened
Dendrochilum magnum
flowers.





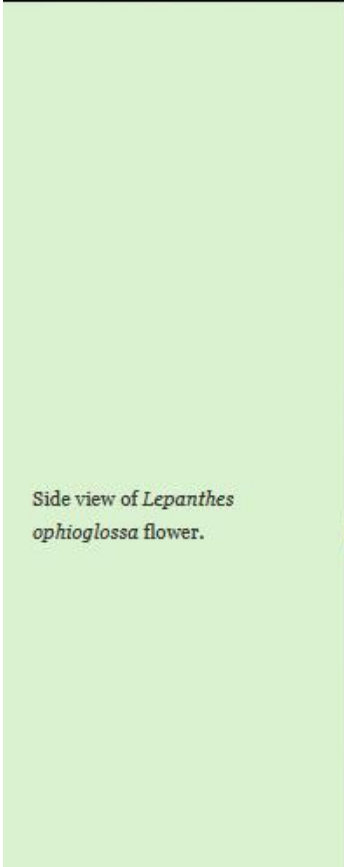
After the flowers of the *Dendrochilum magnum* have been open for a few days the petals turn to a dark orange color from the yellow seen in the photo above.

Dryadella simula. A cold growing epiphyte found in Colombia, Ecuador and Peru in the lower cloud forests with a pronounced dry season in the summer and fall at 2000 to 3100 meters in elevation. The flowers grow out near the base of the leaves so you have to make sure you look for them to see them. The orchid is growing mounted to a piece of cork oak with some sphagnum moss on the root. The mount is hanging in a cool greenhouse. Grown by Chris Ehrler.





Lepanthes ophioglossa. Found in Ecuador at elevations of 1500 to 2300 meters growing as a cool to cold growing epiphyte. Growing mounted to a small piece of tree fern with some sphagnum moss on the root. Hanging in a cool greenhouse. Grown by Chris Ehrlar.



Side view of *Lepanthes ophioglossa* flower.





Lepanthes spp. This unknown species was a gift from John Leathers. Is going mounted to a piece of cork oak with some sphagnum moss on the root. Growing in a cool greenhouse by Chris Ehrlar.

Side view of *Lepanthes* spp flower.





Masdevallia spp (floribunda type). *Masdevallia floribunda* grows in Mexico, Guatemala, Belize, Honduras and Costa Rica at elevations of 400 to 1500 meters as a hot to cool growing epiphytic species. This orchid was a gift from Jeffrey Thompson and is growing outside mounted on a piece of wood with sphagnum moss on the roots. Grown by Chris Ehrler.

Side view of *Masdevallia* spp
(floribunda type) flower.





Pleurothallis stricta. Found in Colombia and Ecuador at elevations between 1800 and 2500 meters. Is a cool to cold growing epiphyte. This orchid is growing in a plastic pot filled with sphagnum moss. Pot is in a cool greenhouse. Grown by Chris Ehrler.

Closeup of *Pleurothallis stricta* flower.





Pleurothallis grobyi type. This species is found in many countries including Mexico, Belize, Guatemala, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Venezuela, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Brazil, French Guiana, Surinam and Guyana. Is a hot to cold growing species found at elevations of 60 to 3200 meters. This mounted orchid is in a cool greenhouse. Grown by Chris Ehrler.

Closeup of *Pleurothallis grobyi* type flower.





Pleurothallis megalops. A cool growing epiphyte found in Ecuador at about 1600 meters in elevation. This orchid is growing on a piece of wood with sphagnum moss on the root. This mounted orchid is in a cool greenhouse. Grown by Chris Ehrler.

Side view of *Pleurothallis megalops* flower.





Closeup of the lip of the flower.
Wonder what the pollinator
feels when it lands on the lip?

Pleurothallis mystax. Found in Panama at elevations of 650 to 1000 meters. In orchidspecies.com it is considered a hot growing epiphyte, but this orchid is growing well in a cool growing greenhouse. Grown by Chris Ehrler.





Side view of *Pleurothallis mystax* flower.

Pleurothallis recurva. A warm to cool growing creeping epiphyte found at elevations of 600 to 1400 meters in Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia and Brazil. This orchid is mounted a cork oak and is hanging in a cool greenhouse. Grown by Chris Ehrler.



Closeup of *Pleurothallis recurva* flower.

Restrepia sanguinea
'Ecuagenera'. This cool to cold
growing species is found in
Colombia at elevations of 1500
to 2800 meters. This orchid is
growing in a clay pot filled with
sphagnum moss. The pot is in
a cool greenhouse. Grown by
Chris Ehrler.





Side view of *Restrepia sanguinea* 'Ecuagenera' flower.

Looking for natural methods of pest control?

Try these carnivorous plants....all require very pure water either reverse osmosis, rain water or bottled spring water.

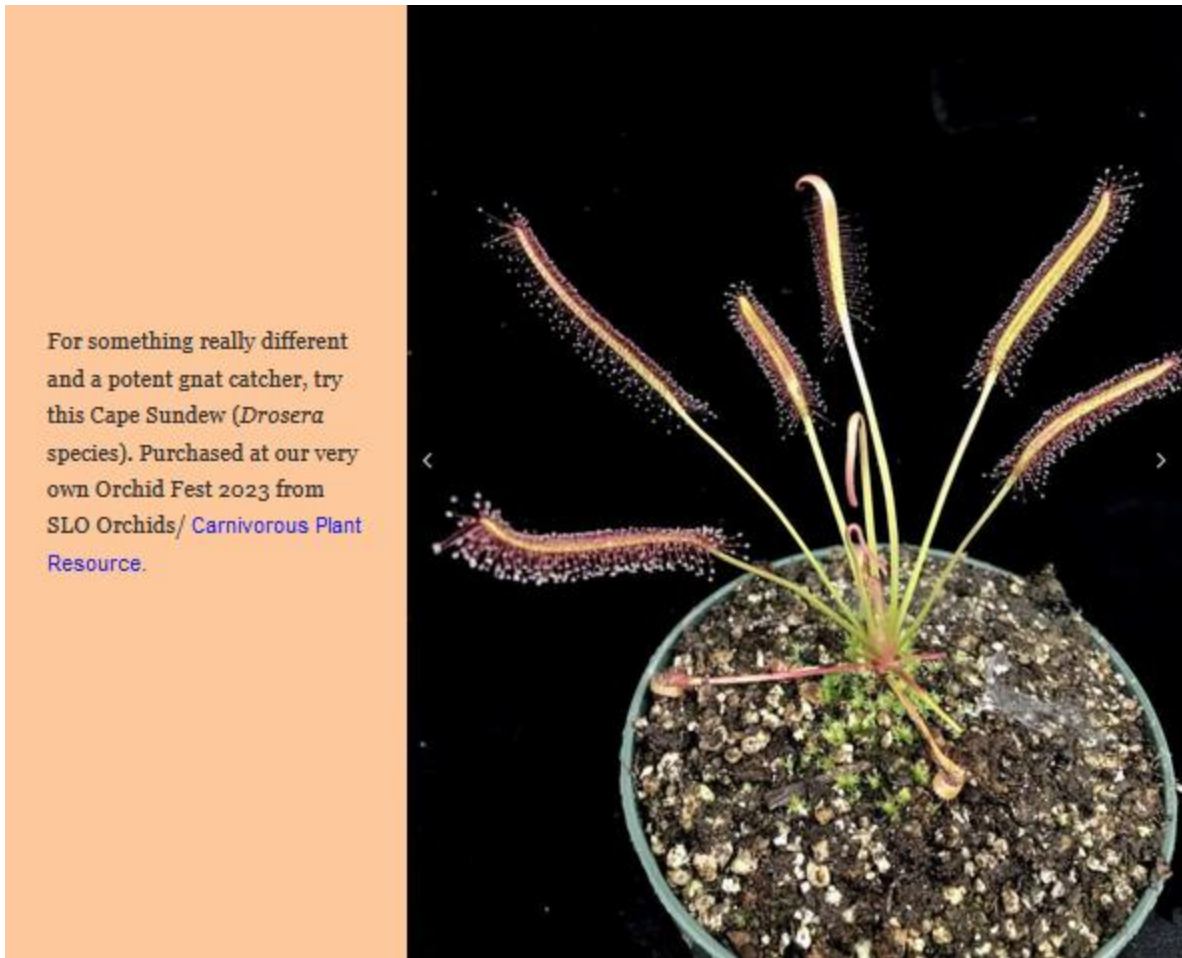


Butterworths commonly called “Pings” (Pinguicula species) are great at catching gnats on their sticky leaves. Best grown in shade over a bed of damp sphagnum moss. The purple to lavender flowers are a nice plus and the plants bloom throughout the year. These plants are available through SLO Orchids in Arroyo Grande through their association with [Carnivorous Plant Resource](#).

Pitcher plants (*Nepenthes* species) are great at attracting and consuming ants and beetles. For our area, choose species or hybrids from the New Guinea highlands which are more tolerant of cooler conditions in winter, rather than the warm temperature lowland types. For sources, try [SLO Orchids](#) and occasional small plants are stocked at [Los Osos Valley Nursery](#).



Pitcher plants (*Sarracenia* species) come in a variety of colors and forms. All types of flying and crawling insects can be controlled by these plants. These large, squat pitchers were obtained from [CalCoast Orchids](#) during their recent open house.



November: The Month of Maturity by Thomas Mirenda

When orchids grow into mature specimens, they can be mind-blowingly beautiful. One of the great joys of cultivating orchids is watching them progress and attain dimensions and flowerings seldom witnessed in the wild. Coddled and pampered in our greenhouses and orchid gardens, with the benefit of excellent fertilizers, superior media and our well-informed growing prowess, orchids can perform miraculous feats. The AOS rewards such plants with cultural awards such as the Certificate of Cultural Merit or Certificate of Cultural Excellence.

While human beings are obsessed with youthful good looks and we tend not to win any beauty contests as we age, I like to think we become more beautiful in other ways. If we cultivate ourselves and develop our intelligence, culture and wisdom through experience, travel and socialization, we develop into something truly beautiful — creatures that can make the world a better place for those we care about.

While my expanding midsection and philosopher's furrows in my brow may not win me any beauty contests, I've found that when I strive to do good works, am kind to myself and others, learn as much as I can each day and share that knowledge, however incomplete, I might still be worthy of a cultural award one day.

SLOW THE SPIGOT Along with days being shorter with the winter solstice approaching, temperatures are cooler, skies are grayer and the nights are longer. Most orchids (except

Southern Hemisphere terrestrials, such as *Pterostylis* or *Disa*) are requiring far less water than they did in spring and summer. *Cattleyas* should now have mature growths with sheaths, and *cymbidiums* should show large fat pseudobulbs and the cone-shaped beginnings of inflorescences, while *phalaenopsis* should be elongating the spikes they initiated last month. Water and humidity are still necessary for these orchids to progress toward flowering, but less is definitely more this month. Certain orchids from seasonally dry habitats, such as *dendrobiums*, *habenarias* and *catasetums*, should be left extremely dry starting now, to the point where the plants drop some leaves. This, though disconcerting, is part of their culture and often necessary for blooming. It should be noted here that many of the pseudobulbous species orchids from Mexico and Central America (*Lycaste*, *Encyclia* and many others) are experiencing the beginning of their dry season now and should be watered and fertilized accordingly for the next few months.

PESTER THE PESTS If your plants summered in the yard, by now any pests that may have come inside with your orchids for the winter will have made themselves known. Make sure to treat any infestations promptly. Most outside insects do not fare well in the greenhouse, and can be eradicated with ease, but it is the sucking parasites that one must start watching for. Without the benefit of rain and beneficial insects, mite populations often explode, particularly on soft leaved orchids such as *lycastes* or *phaius*. If undetected, these can do significant damage. Look for small webbing on the undersides of leaves and a “silvering” effect on the upper surface. This is due to the dying of cells from the sucking arachnids. Mites are inhibited by high humidity and can be controlled (in a small collection) by regularly wiping the undersides of the leaves with a wet sponge or rag with insecticidal soap. Larger collections need spraying with a miticide.

WHAT’S AT STAKE With many orchids, particularly *phalaenopsis* and *cymbidiums*, sending out spikes, it is advantageous to start guiding the inflorescences with stakes. Even if the spike is too short to tie at this juncture, setting a stake in the pot near the newly emergent inflorescence is a good reminder that a spike is coming and the plant should be treated with the utmost delicacy. Longer spikes can be tied and guided upward to avoid crossing and tangling with other inflorescences. Once inside, many orchids begin to slough off old leaves and growths from previous years, no longer needed by the plant in the diminishing light. Such leaves and tissues should be removed to avoid rotting in winter.

TEMPERATURES Cooler-growing plants — *masdevallias*, *draculas* and cooler growing *oncidiums* — are thriving now. Take advantage of the natural drop in temperatures to encourage new growth and blooming in these sensitive species. Any hardy orchids such as *bletillas*, *cyripediums* and *cremastras* that you may have planted outside will benefit greatly from an insulating mulch of pine needles spread deep enough to hold some heat yet fine enough to allow sprouts to develop in the early spring. In the greenhouse, search out any broken windows or other sources of drafts that can really hurt your orchids in midwinter. A little attention to this now will prevent heartache in December when the damage has been done.

— *Tom Miranda has been working professionally with orchids for over three decades and is the past chair of the AOS Conservation Committee. He is an AOS accredited judge in the Hawaii Center (email: biophiliak@gmail.com)*

[ORCHIDS Magazine \(aos.org\)](http://www.aos.org)

<https://www.aos.org/about-us/orchids-magazine.aspx>

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.](#)



AMBRIZ KINGDOM OF PLANTS

LAELIA ANCEPS,
CATTLEYA AND A
WIDE VARIETY OF
ORCHIDS

4998 FOOTHILL RD
CARPINTERIA CA 93013

RARE AND UNUSUAL
CACTUS,
SUCCULENTS,
CAUDICIFORMS,
TILLANDSIA AND
MORE!!!

CONTACT JOE TO
SCHEDULE A VISIT @
1-805-570-5792



PIC·COLLAGE

Your Garden Adventure Awaits



GATHER · LEARN · GROW

Explore plants from the world's mediterranean climate zones

Interpretative Displays · Hiking Trails · Picnic Areas
Docent Tours · Educational Programs · Children's Garden
Gift Shop · Dog Friendly · Venue Rentals



Photos by Lisa Rooder, Eve Vigil & Erick Wand

\$10 Admission
\$8 for seniors, students,
and active military
Children 12 & under are FREE

OPEN DAILY

Members
FREE

 **San Luis Obispo**
BOTANICAL
GARDEN
SLOBG.org

Take a Free
Virtual
Tour!



A 501 (c) 3 charitable organization; Federal ID 77-0248682

3450 Dairy Creek Road, San Luis Obispo · 805-541-1400

Arcadia Greenhouses



Free Planning Guide

www.ArcadiaGlassHouse.com

Give A Lasting Gift *Commemorative Tiles*

Leave your mark at the Garden



Create Your Own Custom Message



San Luis Obispo
**BOTANICAL
GARDEN**

SLOBG.org

805.541.1400 x303

3450 Dairy Creek Road, San Luis Obispo



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. 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 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 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.

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.

Cymbidiums for sale in San Luis Obispo. 5 gallon pots of cymbidiums, many in spike or flower, assorted colors. \$20 to \$30 each. Contact Jerry Camel at 805-543-933

Five Cities Orchid Society 2023 Board of Directors

[Jeff Parham](#), *President*

[Eric Holenda](#), *Vice President & Treasurer*

[Michelle Ralston](#), *Secretary*

[Kristie Wells](#), *Asst. Secretary*

[Christina Derring](#), [Anne Bachmann](#), and [Ed Lysek](#), *Directors at Large*

[Jeff Parham](#), *Show Chairman*

[Chris Ehrler](#), *Past President*

Orchids are really great!

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

Powered by [Squarespace](#)

[Unsubscribe](#)