



Sept 1, 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.fcoss.org.



Phalaenopsis Jiaho Blueberry (Samera var coerulea x equestris var coerulea)

A message from the President's potting bench.

Summer time is usually quite busy when it comes to orchid care. There's a lot of need for repotting and reorganizing, checking to make sure the Summer's optimum light and heat are well utilized to stimulate orchid growth. That said, Los Osos has been rather dim this summer and we haven't had that many really hot

days. So I've been careful to move as many plants as I could underneath the LED lights in my greenhouse. My *Draculas* are growing nicely on the bottom shelf. Some of the *Laelias* are starting to spike. I see a few flower stalks coming from miscellaneous plants. Last month I installed new hardware cloth on the walls in order to hang more mounted plants. The new upgrade to my greenhouse is working nicely, as more of my mounted orchids have access to the LED lights and are forming flowering spikes. You may want to the AOS August [Orchid Checklist](#). While most of my orchids are in the growth phase, I don't have that many orchids in bloom in the greenhouse. But summer has not been entirely void of blooms. I've enjoyed my novelty *Phalaenopsis*, hybrids developed by Norman Fang of Normans Orchids ([Orchids.com](#)). its genetic composition is 50% *Phal. equestris*, 25% *Phal. bellina*, and 25% *Phal. violacea*. It is very free flowering, warmth tolerant, and disease resistant, and can bloom from late spring into fall—a remarkable 6 months of blooms. These *Phalaenopsis* with *P. bellina* and *P. violacea* parentage have vivid colors, strong substance and a fruity, often spicy fragrance that perfumes the greenhouse. They are sequential blooming and have bloomed all summer and one tiny flower can fill the greenhouse with a pleasant fragrance that is a little fruity and spicy. I bought it in March and it has been in bloom all summer.

Have I told you about my *Sobralias*? *Sobralias* are some of the tallest orchids in the world and consist of canes with leaves coming from a rootball. Each cane can sport a terminal flower. I visited Bruce Rogers, a *Sobralia* grower, in San Francisco last year and obtained a few *Sobralias* from him and have gotten a few additional ones since. At first I was afraid to let these grow outside and kept them in the greenhouse. Since they are rather large I finally decided that they had to live outside. Well, they love it outside here in Los Osos. Their beautiful green foliage has really added to the texture of the landscape and it turns out the flowers are worth the wait, they are that amazing! See my [backyard Sobralias](#).

Last December, I won a *Sobralia Luna Neuva* at the FCOS auction and it is a nice-sized bush. Actually it was an amazing deal! It surprised me this August with flowers for the last 3 weeks. The blooms are ivory white with lavender tinged lip margins and yellow back in the throat. The flowers are pleasantly fragrant and last for about 5 days, then the next sequential flower blooms on the same cane. It's magnificent to watch.

Two weeks ago, I suddenly noticed a cane along the fence had a huge lavender flower, measuring 3.5 inches across the lip. *Sobralia rogersiana* (pictured below) was formally known as a *S. micrantha* variety originating in Guatemala that has been renamed for Bruce Rogers. My plant has about nine canes on it but only bloomed off of two canes this summer. The blooming of the *Sobralias* finally motivated me into doing more work outside to find more permanent suitable growing areas for my plants. If you would like to learn more about *Sobralias*, you can read Bruce Rogers article [here](https://www.aos.org/AOS/media/Content-Images/PDFs/sobralias.pdf): <https://www.aos.org/AOS/media/Content-Images/PDFs/sobralias.pdf>

In regard to our meetings, FCOS will have a general meeting using Zoom on September 10, 2020 from 7:00-8:30 pm. Eric Holanda will give a talk about *Oncidiums*. If you wish to participate, you will need to download the Zoom app on your smartphone or computer in preparation for the meeting. If you are new to Zoom and don't have a smartphone, you can participate by dialing in. A email will be sent out to a For information and the link to the meeting go to: <https://www.fcoc.org/events-and-where/august-2020-monthly-meeting-by-zoom-ssm6p>

The online meetings are most successful when everyone arrives on time so we can get started promptly. I hope we all enjoy this chance to renew acquaintances and share our fascination with orchids.

One more note: we are finding our online auctions are quite successful. Last month's auction went well--we had 40 plants up for auction. There was some fierce bidding--we even had some free items available. There were a few gems in this last auction and those paying attention snatched them up for bargain prices. Someday when these get brought in for show-and-tell, you will be kicking yourself for not getting them. I want to thank all of you that donated to and participated in the auction. Stay tuned for news of the coming auction in December for the holidays.

Looking forward to seeing you at the virtual meeting on September 10!

Take good care of yourself. Happy Blooming! Jeff



That's a Lot of Eyeballs!

Our August Orchid Sale was promoted in our FCOS Newsletter, the FCOS Facebook and Instagram pages and the Chambers of Commerce for Arroyo Grande and SLO. Our efforts resulted in 428 persons clicking on the Orchid Sale page of our website. Our messaging is reaching a very large audience!

FCOS.org website: 2,113 unique visitors year to date

FCOS Instagram Page: 583 followers

FCOS Facebook Page: 801 followers

The Orchid Doctor is In.

If you haven't looked at the FCOS website in a while, take a look at the new page Jeff Parham has added [What's Wrong With This Orchid?](#) If you would like help with a problem plant, email a photo and description of the problem to [Jeff](#) and we will include it in our future newsletters and post it on the website. This helps all of us grow better orchids.



Submitted by Karen Kolba: My *Renanthera* Tom Thumb is growing in bark, East facing shaded window, indoors Pismo (not in a greenhouse.) No visible bugs, looks like a flower spike is starting (so not totally unhappy plant.) The yellowing starts at the end of the leaves, oldest ones first, then the newer leaves start to yellow at the tips.

Jeff Parham's suggestion: I think the yellowing tips are a Magnesium deficiency. If the tips were black, this would indicate a Calcium deficiency. Whichever it is, CalMag (liquid Calcium/Magnesium supplement) should help.

Calcium is not trans-located in the phloem (the transport system in the leaf and stem) so a deficiency normally results in blackening and necrosis. Magnesium is able to be trans-located so it's a novelist element and you usually see the older

leaves get a mottled appearance as the magnesium is trans-located to a growing meristem (the growing point) of roots or shoots.



Renanthera Tom Thumb in flower. Note the yellowed leaf tips of the older leaves. CalMag (1 to 2 tablespoons per 5 gallons of rainwater every two weeks) was added to the fertilizer program several months ago and the new leaves are uniformly green. -Ed Lysek



An example of a Calcium deficiency in a new *Cattleya* shoot showing the blackened tip - Calcium can not be trans-located from other parts of the plant, so the rapidly growing tissue at the tip of the leaf dies. If using R/O (reverse osmosis) or rain water, supplementing with CalMag will provide additional Calcium and Magnesium. -Jeff Parham & Ed Lysek (Jeff knows better, this is one of Ed's plants and he's now using CalMag regularly).



Eric Holenda, renowned international traveler and master orchid grower will be our guest speaker this month. His topic is

“Eric’s Dancing Ladies: the Seduction and Culture of the Oncidiums”

“My intention will be to get people familiar with the ways and habits of Oncidiums, so they can have a positive growing experience with them. I plan on covering the basics: watering, temperature, potting mixes, repotting, using plants from my greenhouse as examples.”-Eric Holdenda

What's Blooming Now?

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



Dan and Bob Asbell of Asbell orchids with a blooming plant of *Stanhopea wardii*. See below for a close up of the flower.



***Stanhopea wardii* close-up. The fragrance is amazing! Spicy floral cinnamon/clave. Growing in a hanging basket, under a plastic sheet roof, but open on all sides of the lath house to the local Arroyo Grande climate. Grown by Bob and Dan Asbell.**



***Trichoglottis pusilla* - received last month from Ecuagenera with two buds already formed, so I can't take credit for these wonderful little blooms. - Grown by Ed Lysek**



Lc. Mini Purple Tamami-4N X *C. percivaliana* "Mendenhall-Summit™. My favorite *Cattleya* is *C. percivaliana* which blooms at Christmas. I've found the primary hybrids of *C. percivaliana* bloom at different times of the year extending the bloom season for this type of orchid. Growing mounted on an oak branch in the coolest part of my warm greenhouse, bright diffuse light, watered every day in summer. Kept fairly dry in winter. Fertilized every two weeks with Michigan formula fertilizer (1 tbs/5 gallons of rainwater) plus 2 tbs of CalMag supplement. Applied with a pump sprayer to soak the exposed roots.

When mounting *C.percivaliana*, Alice - owner of Santa Barbara Orchid Estate recommends not adding a pad of moss under the plant - it retains too much moisture, leading to fungal rot in winter. - Grown by Ed Lysek



Jeff Parham is growing this amazing *Sobralia rogersiana* outdoors in Los Osos. These orchids bloom sequentially, meaning there is a flower in bloom over an extended period of time. If you are interested in adding a *Sobralia* to your collection, Asbell Orchids has a number of plants in bloom at their Arroyo Grande nursery. Grown by Jeff Parham.



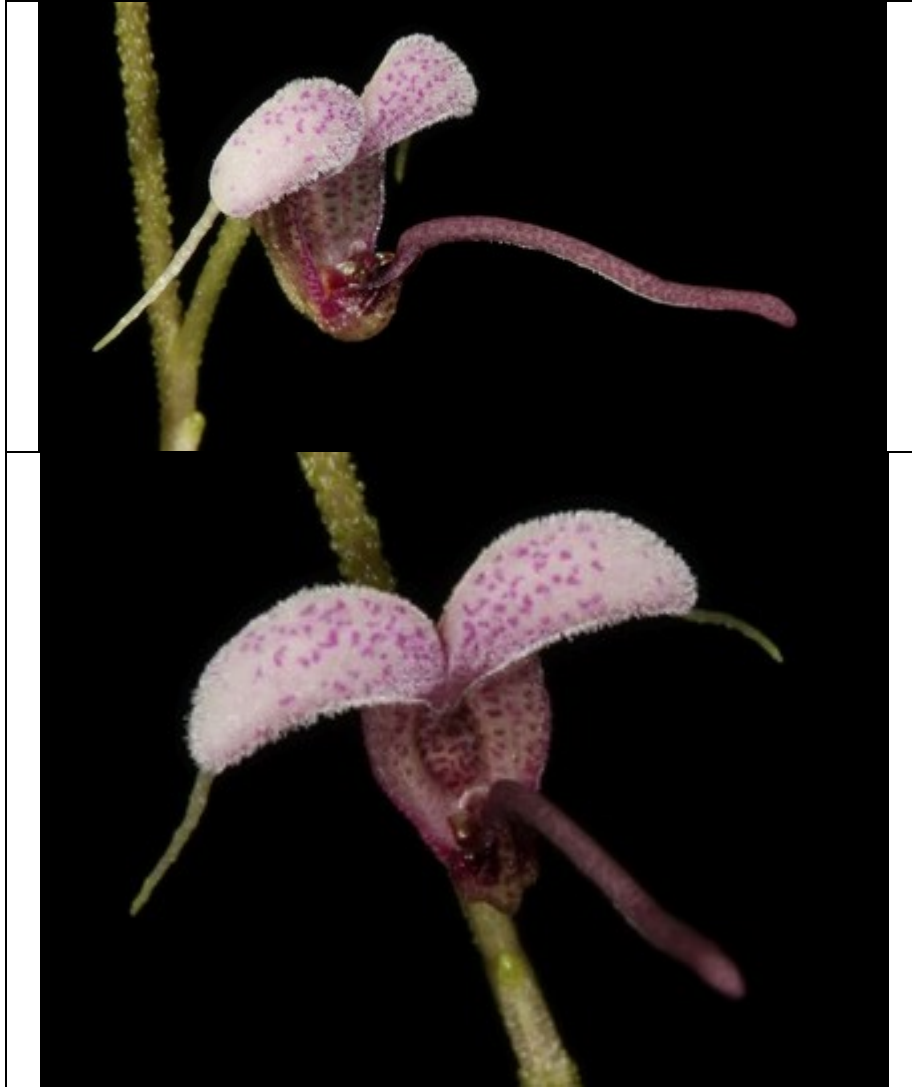
***Masdevallia velifera* from Ecuagenera Nursery in Ecuador. This orchid is grown in a cool greenhouse and is potted in New Zealand sphagnum moss in a clay pot. Would probably**

grow fine outside at my house if placed on the north (shady) side of my house with no direct sun. This flower has lasted over 1 1/2 months. *Masdevallias* (and most species within the subtribe Pleurothallidinae) need to have their roots in a moist but not always wet media. So generally I water twice per week during the summer with one of those times adding a small amount of fertilizer. All my orchids are fertilized once per week with a weak fertilizer solution (1/6 teaspoon/gallon of either rain or reverse osmosis [RO] water). I alternate between using a Michigan State University (MSU) or K-Lite fertilizer. The MSU formula I use was designed for RO or rain water and has added calcium and magnesium. My orchids are fertilized during the entire year except for a few of them that receive a dry winter rest. Grown by Chris Ehrler



Lepanthes auriculatus from Ecuagenera Nursery in

Ecuador. As you might have guessed the flowers are small but each inflorescence will continue to produce additional flowers over an extended period of time. This orchid is mounted on a small piece of wood with sphagnum moss added both behind and over the top of the roots. Roots and moss are sprayed with either rain or RO water most days if the moss is dry. Grown in a cool greenhouse. See my fertilizer description above. Grown by Chris Ehrlar



***Scaphosepalum lima* from Ecuagenera Nursery in Ecuador. The flowers are small as with most of the species in this genus but it produces flowers sequentially along the inflorescence. This orchid is grown in a cool greenhouse and is potted in New Zealand sphagnum moss in a clay pot. Each flower lasts about a month. Grown in a cool greenhouse. See my fertilizer description**

above. Might be OK to grow outside at my house if placed on the north (shady) side of my house with no direct sun. Grown by Chris Ehrler



Crytochilus sanguineus from India via Dan Newman at Hanging Gardens in Pacifica, CA. It is potted in a plastic pot with a combination of Orchidata and lava rock as the growing media. It is growing outside in the north (shady) side of my house. These flowers have passed their prime and are slightly dried up. Close-up of the flowers on the right side. Grown by Chris Ehrler



Donny Elkins of SLO Orchids with *Stanhopea occulata* - this orchid has an amazing scent of mint chocolate chip ice cream. Several of our members grow this orchid - the scent is irresistible.



Eric Holenda continues to provide us with amazing photos of amazing blooms and this month is no exception.

***Habenaria medusae*: A terrestrial, that likes to grow warm.**

***Masdevallia* ~Sunny Angel™. I've had it 20 yrs or so, outdoor patio. - Grown by Eric Holenda**





***Paph rothschildianum*: A magnificent species, all but extinct in the wild. The three remaining sites, on Borneo, are under 24 hr. armed guard, to protect the orchids from poachers. - Grown by Eric Holenda**

***Lc. Rustic Spots* â€” Like all *Brassavola nodosa* hybrids, it is a strong grower, likes warmth. - Grown by Eric Holenda**



***Stanhopea* ~Gibbs Jungle Bunny™**
joins our gallery of *Stanhopeas*
blooming this month. Grown by Anne
and Rudy Bachmann.



***Epc.* El Hatillo x randa** - Grown by
Anne B.



***Laelia crisps* 'Gentilea'. - Grown by -
Anne B.**



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

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