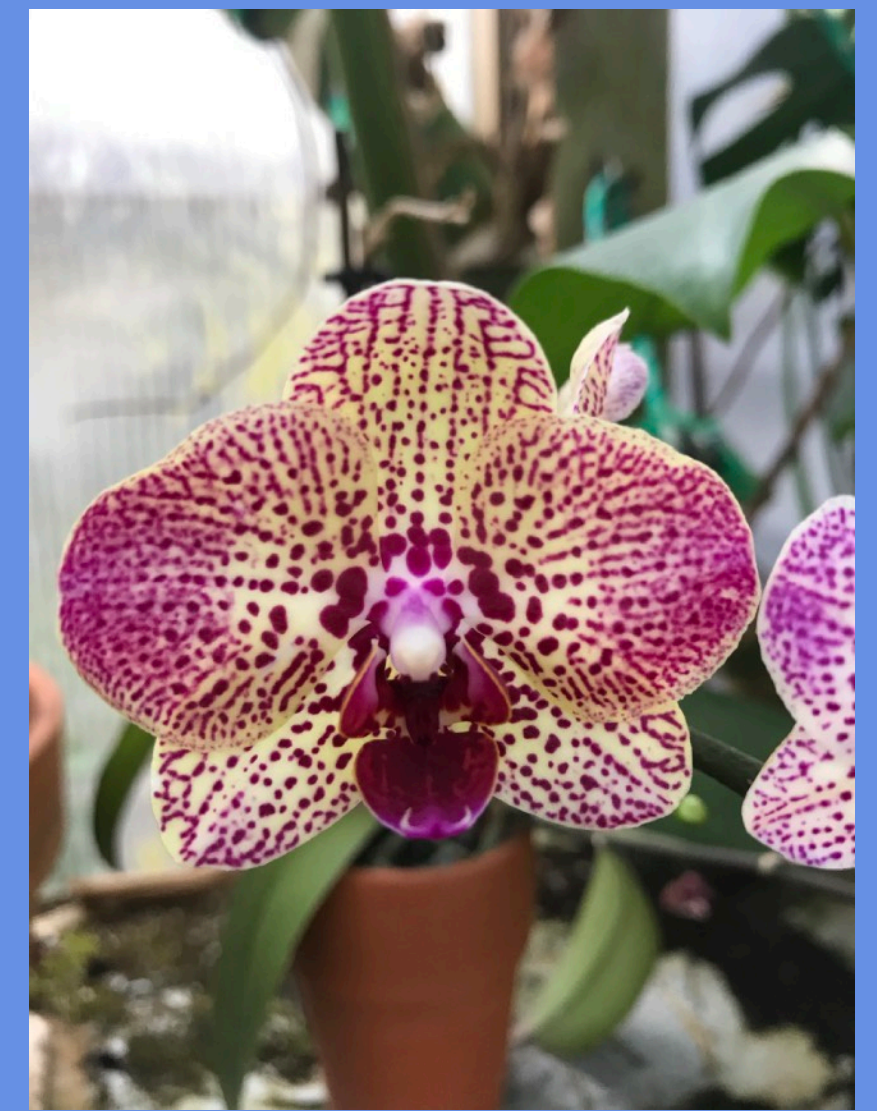


Orchid Growing on the Central California Coast



Five Cities Orchid Society

Take Away Points for Today

- **How to kill an orchid - Wet + Cold = Dead**
- **How to get an orchid to re-bloom**
- **How to care for my *Phalaenopsis* orchid**
- **What can I grow outside in a frost free area?**
- **I need to subscribe to the FCOS newsletter. Visit www.FCOS.org/subscribe**



FIVE CITIES ORCHID SOCIETY

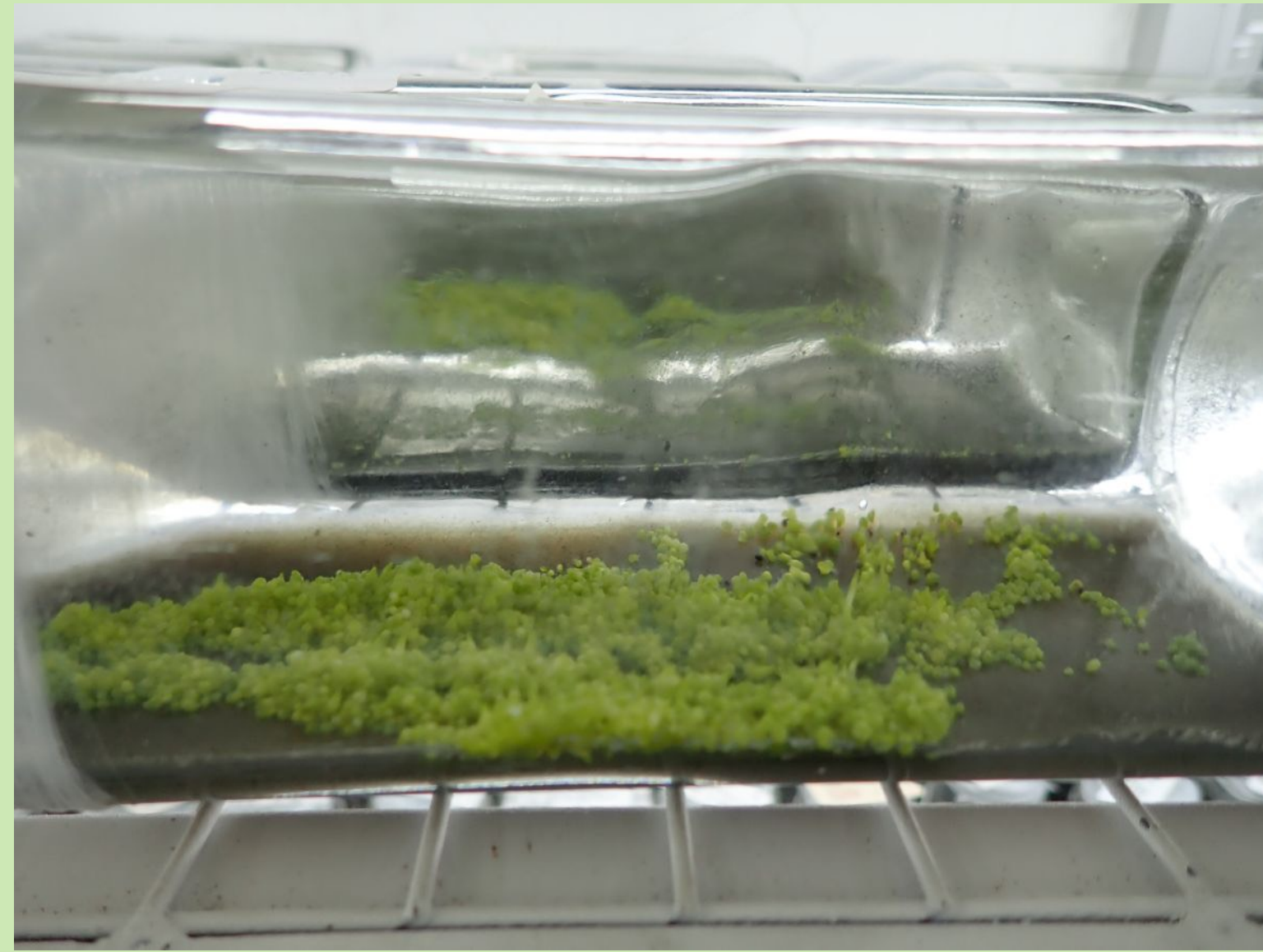
- **LOCATED IN ARROYO GRANDE, CA**
- **100+ MEMBERS, mostly SLO COUNTY, now international as well!**
- **NOVICE ORCHID GROWERS TO “OLD TIMERS”**
- **MONTHLY ZOOM SPEAKERS - SECOND THURS, 7 PM**
- **MONTHLY NEWSLETTER with link for Zoom meetings**
- **ORCHID AUCTIONS of member’s plants**
- **FIELD TRIPS to commercial orchid growers**
- **VISITS to members’ growing areas “GARDEN GATHERINGS”**
- **IN-PERSON GET TOGETHERS**

Exactly what is an Orchid?

- **Flower - bilateral symmetry**
- **3 petals and 3 sepals**
- **Stamen and pistil fused into a column**
- **Pollen encapsulated into pollina**
- **Can make fertile crosses at the Genus level (intergeneric crosses)**

What is different about orchids?

- Orchids are mostly epiphytes
 - Grow on trees or rocks with roots exposed
 - Roots must dry between watering
 - Roots must have good exposure to air
 - Require media with large open spaces - bark, volcanic rock, perlite, gravel, rubber chips, clay pellets or mounted on cork
-



Why so expensive?

- Year 1 - make cross
- Year 2 - harvest ripe seed and plate on media
- Year 3 - transfer to flasks
- Year 4 - flask to community pot
- Year 5 - community pot to single pot
- Year 6 - 7 first flowers
- Commercial growers have reduced the time from seed to flower to 4 to 5 years for most commercially produced *phalaenopsis*.



Phalaenopsis - the “moth orchid”

- **Grows best in bright shade - East or North windowsill.**
- **70-80F days, 58-70F night.**
- **Wide range of sizes and colors**
- **Over-watering is the main cause of death!**
- **Needs several weeks of a 15F night-time drop in temp. to begin flower spike development - no lower than 55F.**



Water when roots are ash-gray and the pot is light when lifted. Clear pots allow roots to photosynthesize.



Pour in water to flush out minerals until roots turn green. Pot will feel heavy.



When to Water and how often?

- **Water only when roots are ash gray.**
- **DO NOT USE ICE CUBES**
- **Water for several minutes until most of the roots are green.**
- **Water should flow through the pot to remove salts.**
- **Do not allow water droplets to sit in the crown of the leaves - bacterial rot will develop**
- **May not need to water more than once per month in cool weather, once per week in summer.**
- **If moss is completely dry, may need to soak in a container for 15 minutes. Not an issue if growing in bark.**

Second flower spike



- **After flowers fall, cut spike above the second node for a smaller side flower shoot to develop.**
- **Cutting the spike will reduce the plant's vigor and next year's flowers will be reduced - but you will get another flower spike this year.**