



August 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.fcoss.org



Dear Orchid Pals,

We would like to extend a warm welcome to the Five Cities Orchid Society (FCOS) Newsletter! We are thrilled to have you join our growing community of orchid enthusiasts. As an orchid society, we strive to promote the love and appreciation of orchids through education, shared experiences, and community outreach.

We are happy to share that we had a successful Birthday party, BBQ/potluck/Orchid Auction last month. It was wonderful to see everyone and share our love for orchids. Thank you to everyone who volunteered, donated plants, and contributed to the potluck.

As we move into the dog days of summer, it is time to start preparing our orchids for the fall and winter seasons. You might find it useful to look through the orchid culture [checklist](#) provided by the American Orchid Society. Currently, I have many Sarcophilus spiking and blooming (see below picture) on my outside patio, along with my ever-blooming Epidendrens. In the greenhouse there are a few Phaleanopsis in bloom along with several mini Cattleyas and the most striking Masdevallia Machu Picchu (see above, lead photo).

Upcoming Event

We would like to invite you to join us on August 6 at Los Osos Valley Nursery, [301 Los Osos Valley Rd](#), at 11 am for a talk on growing orchids outdoors. This will be a great opportunity to talk about the best practices in growing orchids and to meet other orchid enthusiasts. Don't miss out on this event!

FCOS is proud to announce the expansion of its online presence. With a strong Facebook presence, a Youtube channel featuring member videos, and a website (www.fcos.org) that will soon be updated with new and relevant content on orchid growing and orchid regions from around the world, FCOS is committed to providing a wealth of information to orchid enthusiasts everywhere. Keep an eye out for our upcoming content!

LOGO CONTEST ENTRIES

We are thrilled to announce that we have received numerous logo entries from our members for the FCOS Logo Contest. With so many creative and unique designs, we want to give you the opportunity to choose your favorite. We will be sending out a separate email with all the entries for your consideration.

Volunteer Opportunities

We are currently seeking volunteers for various committees, including Events, Technology, Outreach, and Membership. We are gearing up to plan an Orchid Show for next year and would like to put together a show committee to begin to plan and coordinate the show. 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.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all the newsletter editors and contributors who've been generously sharing their time and effort on these monthly newsletters. Your contributions have helped to make our newsletters more informative and engaging. I would also extend my heartfelt appreciation to those who have sent in their pictures, which have helped to create a vibrant and lively community. Your dedication and support are truly appreciated and we look forward to continuing our collaboration with you. Thank you again for all that you do!

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 of professionals. Don't 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. <https://www.fcos.org/memberbenefits>

Don't 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're 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 from anywhere in the world! As a global orchid society, FCOS is dedicated to bringing together orchid lovers from every corner of the globe. This month we will feature Nicholas Rust of Rusty Exotics on Aug 10th, at 7 pm. Nicholas specializes in Habenarias and other terrestrials and offers some spectacular plants on his website. So mark your calendars and join us for our next Orchid Talk. We can't wait to see you there!

I would like to encourage your support to the FCOS by paying your annual dues, if you haven't done so already this year. We are also grateful for any donation you can contribute. These funds help us grow our programs and bring you engaging and knowledgeable speakers. FCOS is a 501(c)(3) Nonprofit Organization, and all donations are tax deductible. <https://fcos.betterworld.org/donate>

Come Grow with Us!

Jeffery Parham, President, FCOS



Masdevalia Machu Picchu, grown under LED lights in my backyard shade house in Los Osos. Grown by Jeff Parham.



Currently, my Sarcochilus orchids are spiking and forming buds. It's interesting to note that the Sarcochilus that bloomed in April last year were grown under lights, while the ones grown outside are blooming now.



FCOS Launches its new Orchid Buddy Program for FCOS Members.

Are you an orchid enthusiast looking for a new friend to share your hobby with? Or are you a beginner who would like some guidance from someone experienced in orchid-growing? Look no further than our Orchid Buddy program!

Our program connects orchid lovers of all levels and provides a fun and supportive environment for everyone to learn and grow together. Whether you are an experienced grower or just starting out, having a buddy or mentor can increase your enjoyment and help you learn more about these amazing plants.

Joining our program is easy - simply sign up and we'll match you with a buddy or mentor who shares your interests and goals. You'll have the opportunity to connect with other orchid enthusiasts, share tips and advice, and even attend events and workshops together.

Don't miss out on the chance to make new friends and take your orchid-growing to the next level. Join our Orchid Buddy Mentor program today and see the benefits for yourself!

Simply sign up using the SignUpGenius app and we will match you with your orchid buddy. You can contact your Orchid Buddy with questions by email and you both can determine how your Orchid Buddy relationship evolves from there.

Please click [this link](#) to send an email to Jeff Parham indicating you would like to sign up for an Orchid Buddy or to be an Orchid Mentor to an Orchid Buddy.



FCOS ORCHID TALKS:

Nicholas Rust "Habenaria: A Basic Overview of the Breeding of Species"

Thursday, August 10, 2023

7:00 PM 8:30 PM

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

This talk is all about *Habenaria* hybrids and how they are made! Featuring over 45 hybrids and 100 pictures, this a perfect talk for anyone, be it an expert *Habenaria*-grower or someone who has never heard of the genus before. It begins with a quick summary of the genus' history and where

hybridization began. Next comes a big dive into hybrids with emphasis on how individual species created the hybrids. This makes up the bulk of the talk and has loads of pictures, both species and hybrids. Lastly, we'll finish up with a thorough discussion on *Habenaria* culture, placing a large emphasis on the "big-bad dormancy," which won't seem big or bad after we finish!

Nicholas is an up-and-coming hybridizer in the orchid community. His orchid passion began in 2015 when a mini-*Phalaenopsis* was gifted to him. Like a flame to gasoline, this gift quickly pulled him into the diverse world of orchids. Shortly after his interests were formed, he began exploring the culture of several unique genera of terrestrial orchids. He now specializes in *Habenaria* and other related genera, jewel orchids, Australian terrestrial orchids, and *Bulbophyllum*. In 2019, this obsession bloomed into a small orchid nursery, RustyExotics Orchids, which he uses to share the wonders and beauty of his work.

Through studying biochemistry and molecular biology throughout college, Nicholas approaches his orchids with the same scientific perspective he uses while working in a research lab. This led to an interest in the entire growth cycle of orchids and the start of his own hybridization program in 2018 which focuses mostly on terrestrial orchids, especially *Habenaria*. His aim is to use rarely cultivated species and distinct variations of species to create truly exceptional shapes and colors that will pave new directions for unique hybrids.

Source: <https://rustyexoticsorchids.com/>

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

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

Meeting ID: 823 5543 5739

Passcode: 204435



Habenaria Culture by Nicholas Rust

Source: <https://rustyexoticsorchids.com/>

“Exotic” Culture: Active growth

Substrate

I get more questions about what medium I use to grow my *Habenaria* than any anything else. Although that may seem like a simple question, medium can make or break mastery over these orchid’s culture! Yet, to answer simply: **Use a well-draining, peat-based medium**

I personally start with a base mix of 40% peat moss and 60% garden soil. Essentially any garden soil will work, and do not worry about if it drains well at this point or not, as that comes later. This base mix ensures the medium will remain damp and slightly acidic, allowing the plants to absorb water and nutrients readily throughout its growth cycle. Once the base mix is done, add 6 parts base mix, 2-3 parts perlite, 2 parts fine charcoal, and 0.5-1 part play/quartz sand. This creates a water-retentive medium that never stays soggy, perfect for *Habenaria*.

But there is a catch: you need to adjust your medium to your own watering habits! I cannot stress this enough!

Each one of my plants gets thoroughly watered so that water drains through the bottom of the pot every 3 days. If you are a very heavy waterer, completely dousing your plants every 1-2 days, add more perlite or charcoal so that the medium drains better. If you only water every 4-5 days, add less charcoal or perlite so that the medium can absorb more water. *Habenaria* like to stay damp at all times, but soggy/wet soil can cause their stems to rot and dry soil can cause them to die back. Adjust your medium accordingly, and you will already be on the track to growing *Habenaria* successfully.

Of course, there are exceptions, but they are easy to adjust to. Member of the genera, *Bonatea*, tend to grow best in sandy soil, so adding 3 parts sand and 3-4 parts perlite allows them to grow exceptionally.

This medium also works well for South African *Habenaria* such as *Hab. arenaria*, *Hab. tridens*, the extremely difficult-growing *Hab. kraenzliniana*, and many others. Many *Cynorkis* actually grow naturally as epiphytes, so 3 parts charcoal and an extra 2 parts fine pine bark give them the airy, well-draining medium they need. Likewise, usually a *Paphiopedilum* medium works very well with *Cynorkis*, too. *Platanthera* can be tricky, as many species from that genus are true bog orchids, therefore grow in wet soil. I and others have had success with these by growing them in a traditional carnivorous plant medium: 2 parts perlite and 3 parts peat moss. There are also some bog *Habenaria* that grow well in this medium such as *Hab. repens*, a North American native *Habenaria*.

Lighting

All of the *Habenaria* at RustyExotics are grown under dimmable, full-spectrum LEDs, both blue-red (purple) and white. While this will not be a guide on artificial lighting for plants, I will at least discuss what kind of lighting to use and some easy signs to tell if your plants are receiving too much, too little, or the perfect lighting. Again, the simple rule is:

Large-growers (*Hab. medusa*, *Hab. dentata*-types, *Pecteilis susannae*, others, and their hybrids) like **bright light, similar to *Cattleya***. **Small-growers** (member of the *Hab. rhodocheilacomplex*, *Hab. lindleyana*, *Pecteilis hawkesiana*, others, and their hybrids) like **less light, so between *Phalaenopsis* and *Cattleya* lighting**.

If you follow this rule, your plants will grow well, but it is also important to know the signs to look for to ensure your lighting is correct! If the **lighting is insufficient**, the plants will look etiolated, or tall with significant stem distance between each leaf that grows. If the plant has **too much light**, the leaves will

turn yellow/orange-brown and will burn. A properly illuminated *Habenaria* should form a tight rosette with each leaf emerging just above the other on the stem, like this:

There are some exceptions to the above rule, but again, they are relatively easy to account for. *Hab. roebbelenii* and most of its hybrids cannot tolerate light as much and grow best in *Phalaenopsis* lighting. *Hab. erichmichelii*, *Hab. rostrata*, *Hab. chlorina*, and hybrids need much more light, similar to *Hab. medusa/Cattleya* levels. Most all *Cynorkis* benefit from less light and will grow well in slightly brighter than *Phalaenopsis* light. Many South African *Habenaria* (are you seeing a theme?) enjoy nearly full sun, therefore prefer *Cattleya* light and brighter. *Bonatea* are similar and mostly do well with bright light. Many *Platanthera* can also grow well in bright light but may overall be happier in part shade.

Water, Fertilizer, and Humidity

Watering is usually considered one of the “difficult” parts of *Habenaria* culture. However, this is only because watering is a little unique when the plant is emerging from its dormancy. Besides that, it is very easy!

While actively growing, *Habenaria* love water. They want to **stay constantly damp throughout vegetative growth**. Drying out for more than a few days can cause the roots to desiccate which may eventually lead to rot. As mentioned earlier, your own watering habits should be considered when choosing a proper medium, but as long as the soil remains damp, the plant will be happy!

Exceptions? Yes, but very few! Bog *Habenaria* and *Platanthera*, like *Hab. repens* and *P. blephariglottis* and even *P. ciliaris*, can be grown in sitting water, exactly like one would do with most carnivorous plants. *Hab. rostrata* can also be grown this way, but only seem to benefit from that when they are seedlings.

Fertilizer is another easy aspect of culture. *Habenaria* grow quickly since they are working against an ecological clock based on the dry season in situ, so they need a lot of energy to grow, bloom, and create tubers for the following year! I use a half strength, **balanced (eg. 20-20-20) fertilizer every two weeks** once they are actively, fully growing with roots (we will talk about this more later). I continue this through flowering and stop as soon as the first flowers begin to fade. This is important to note because the plant itself does not appear to be doing much at this point, but the new tubers are rapidly growing and maturing under the soil!

Humidity is a breeze. Most *Habenaria* are relatively non-specific when it comes to humidity, so anything between **50-90% relative humidity** will be fine. The only thing to keep in mind is **air movement**. *Habenaria* have very thin leaves without the protection of an epicuticular wax, so they are prone to fungal and bacterial diseases. This means they benefit **from thorough, adequate air movement**, especially when grown in higher humidity.



Exotic" Culture: Dormancy

Well, it's about time! This portion of the guide will cover any and everything dormancy! As a primarily *Habeneria*-focused nursery, RustyExotics has to make sure our methods are **effective** so that we don't lose our plants over the winter, **highly efficient** so that we don't ages worrying about dormant plants, and **practical** so that we can store thousands of dormant tuberoids without taking up much space at all.

Entering Dormancy

Before talking about dormancy, it is important to know what signs to look for to tell that your plant is entering into dormancy. Normally, this happens between October-December and occurs after the flowers have started to fade. Entering dormancy might initially seem subtle, but here are the things to look for: **the flowers fade, the spike begins to die back, and all the leaves begin to subtly yellow first at the edges, then over the entire leaf.**

As soon as you notice this, **STOP WATERING!** The plant will continue to yellow more, then the foliage will soon brown and dry. You have officially entered dormancy!

During Dormancy

Dormant Habeneria tubers

Dormancy requires a finite level of moisture to keep the tuberoids hydrated yet prevent desiccation (drying), leading many people to consider this the most difficult part of *Habeneria* culture. However, I have used two methods to easily care for the dormant plants. Each method has its own pros and cons, so the best way to choose what works best for you is to simply examine your own setup and decide. A full pro/con list of each method will be provided at the end of this section to help you decide that.

Method 1: Pot Method

This first method is as simple as it sounds: keep it in the pot! Once the foliage has browned, dried, and is easily pulled from the pot with little effort, **place the entire pot in a location that has high humidity that never gets sprayed with water**, like a covered shelf in a greenhouse. The soil and RH will keep the tubers from desiccating but will never grow high enough to cause the tubers to rot. This method is great because it is extremely low effort but does take a significant amount of space, especially if the plant is large. It also does not allow for as easy access to the tuber, so one must constantly dig up the tubers to check if they are healthy.

I personally do not use this method mostly because of the sheer volume of plants I have, but there are some specific species that are much easier to care for using this method. *Hab. medioflexa*, *Hab. lindleyana*, and *Hab. rostrata* all appear to benefit greatly from remaining in the soil year-round. *Bonatea* also tend to grow well using this method, but the reason for that is completely different than the mentioned *Habenaria*, and we will discuss that later.

Method 2: Plastic Bag Method

This is my number one suggested method on how to keep *Habenaria* during dormancy. Once dormant, **dig the tubers up, place them in a plastic bag, and toss in an overfilled tablespoon of dry medium**. That's it! That is how I keep thousands of tuberoids healthy every year. The plastic bag + soil combo keeps the RH high enough to prevent desiccation but never too high as to cause rot, just like the pot method. As an added bonus, it allows you to monitor the tuber throughout the entire dormancy. I love this because I can know exactly when everything starts to sprout or if anything needs emergency care.

Exiting Dormancy

Sometime around February-March, most *Habenaria* should begin to emerge from dormancy. If you use the plastic bag method, you can easily see when that is, and it looks a little like this:



Once the tubers begin to sprout like that, it's time to pot them up! **Throw them into a deep pot to account for tuber growth, bury the fresh chute about 2 cm (less than an inch) under the soil, and gently mist the soil just to wet the surface.**

Some of you may have noticed that the tubers do not have any roots at this point. That is why it is critical to withhold fully watering at this time. **Exactly like in *Catasetinae*, the new growth has to develop a certain amount before the roots begin to grow!**



Not yet...



Not yet...



Water it!

Look here: the growth is an inch long (2.5 cm), but the roots at the base are only barely beginning to form. That means the plant **cannot** absorb water readily and will likely rot instead of grow if drenched in water.

At this point in growth, the new growth has already broken the surface but has no functional roots! Therefore, **still do not water it**. Only when the first pair of leaves has emerged should you begin to properly water it. At that point, the plant's roots will begin to grow more and will absorb more water, accelerating their growth.

In Summary

Entering Dormancy: Once the leaves start yellowing, stop watering!

During Dormancy: Use the plastic bag or pot method and keep them dry!

Exiting dormancy: Pot up when the tubers sprout, then withhold thorough watering until the first full pair of leaves has formed a nice rosette

Finally... It wouldn't be right if there weren't some exceptions! *Bonatea* and *Cynorkis* are much more sensitive to desiccation and prefer a **slightly** damp dormancy. If you remember me saying I would discuss *Bonatea* later, here is the "later." As well as enjoying a slightly damp dormancy, many *Bonatea* have extremely short or negligible dormancies! Do not be amazed if a *Bonatea* goes dormant, then you find a happy, sprouting tuber as soon as you dig it up. To work with their growth cycle, I often use the pot method and just let them immediately begin growing again. *Hab. dentata*-types as well as dendritic tuber species like *Hab. xanthocheila*, *Hab. roebelenii*, and *Hab. janellehayneiana* also benefit from a slightly damp dormancy, or at least a very light misting every 3-4 weeks if the tuber is lightly squishy or malleable.

That's about it! By adapting these steps to your own practices, you, too, can grow *Habenariinae* successfully. **If you have any further questions, send me an email at rustyexotics@gmail.com.** This is a **dynamic guide, meaning the more questions I get asked, the more I add and change this guide to make it even more user-friendly, complete, and thorough.** I hope you enjoyed it, and happy growing.

Method 1: Pot Method		Method 2: Plastic Bag Method	
Pros	Cons	Pros	Cons
Extremely easy, low effort	Not space efficient at all	Still relatively easy and highly effective	Takes more time to prepare
Good for sensitive species	No quick way to monitor tuber's health	Allows easy monitoring of the tuber's health	Uses a lot of plastic bags (but they are reusable)
	Might miss when tuber sprouts in the spring	Makes exiting dormancy easier (can tell when they sprout)	



Hab. carnea fma. *Nivosa*





ORCHID TALKS 2023:

At the July FCOS Zoom meeting Francisco Miranda spoke to the group on ‘The Genus Laelia in Brazil.’ Francisco stated he was a Taxonomist/Botanist for his career. He began by showing relief and vegetation maps of South America with different zones highlighted in Brazil. Rain generally comes in from the south and hits a coastal mountain range where lots of rain takes place in an Atlantic rainforest. This area is highly populated by people and there has been lots of deforestation. The central portions of Brazil are dry due to most of the rain taking place in the coastal mountains.

There are four groups within the genus Laelia. They are: Catteyodes, Hydrolaelia, Parviflorea and Microlaelia. Francisco then showed photos of most of the species in each of these groups growing in their natural habitats. *Laelia purpurata* grows in the southern sections of the coastal rainforest

and a few direct color forms have been found. But some of the color forms in cultivation have some from only 2 to 3 individuals that have been collected in the wild. *Laelia lobata* is only found growing on Gavea Mountain. *Laelia crispa* is found on the other side of the mountain and grows in full sun as an epiphyte. The rupicolous Laelias are mainly found inland but a few species grow near the coast. The species in this group generally like a dryer winter but then get lots of water in spring and summer. He described the environmental conditions for each of the and mentioned that many of them live in depressions and cracks in the rocks which allow them to have roots down into the rock cracks and some decomposing material around the base of these orchids.

If you missed Francisco's presentation you can view it here for a limited time:

https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/GE2PMJB1bS8E9aJnaxH99cACuNwVONIT2E6WGCElsSC_CLLIEj7ktuiCE7npfobb.1FAXo08mGyDfH5DJ

Passcode: R2s+mJaU



FCOS BIRTHDAY PARTY was a HUGE SUCCESS.

Thanks to the members who volunteered to make this happen - Karen, Michelle, Jeff, Ed, Anne, Wendy, Hilding, Clive, Linda, Laurie, our BBQ Master Chris and all of our members who donated auction plants.



Paul and Barb, two of the original six founders of FCOS gave an informative and at times humorous account of the early years of FCOS.

Plenty of food contributed by all of our members, and Chris Ehrler has mastered the art of tri-tip smoking.



New member Cindy found many opportunities to add to their orchid collections thanks to the generous member donations like those of Hilding.

Jeff explained the importance of member volunteers to keep FCOS thriving. We encourage all newsletter subscribers and members to consider the benefits of volunteering to help with on-line and in-person events. You don't need to be local to participate. Please email Jeff and we will find something that fits your interests and available time. ... and most importantly you will enjoy doing with a team of like minded orchid growers.



Previous newsletter articles discussed fertilizer and watering. This month we focus on SLUG control methods. There is nothing more frustrating than to watch your orchid every day as a flower bud slowly forms, growing larger each day, slowly beginning to unfold and show the slightest hint of color - only to be completely missing the next morning with a telltale slime trail leading over the edge of the pot. Well, read on and hopefully the methods described below and in the Gardener's World article link will let you avoid the fate of Shaun the sheep and his pumpkin growing frustrations with slugs.

Not familiar with Shaun? If you've got a few minutes, we think you will enjoy this...

<https://youtube.com/watch?v=sODRxbOfrrl&feature=share>

Now on to a few ways to control slugs. Here are a number of proven methods from the BBC's Gardeners World magazine: [please click here to read the article.](#)

Since a number of orchid growers wish to avoid potentially harmful chemicals such as metaldehyde or ferrous sulfate there are several alternative methods you might wish to consider.

[Copper foil tape](#), used for Tiffany style stained glass artwork can be wrapped around pot edges or the stems of developing flower buds. Slugs reportedly avoid crossing the copper foil and will dine elsewhere. The effectiveness of this method is under review according to the Gardeners World article cited above.

One of our members reports good results by placing a grocery store mushroom on the surface of an orchid pot, particularly when new roots begin to emerge. It seems slugs prefer to eat mushrooms more than orchid roots or flowers. After a day, examine the mushroom for signs of slug grazing. The next night, flashlight in hand you will most likely find the slug has returned to the mushroom and can be caught in the act.

This same member has a number of small frogs living throughout his greenhouse and not only do they keep slugs and other insects under control, they frequently perch on top of the mushrooms at night having learned that's where the slugs congregate when the lights go out. Pretty smart frogs.

Other methods involve placing beer in shallow bowls (note to pet owners - this frequently attracts dogs as much as it does slugs and can make your growing area smell like a brewery). Lettuce leaves can be used as an attractant similar to mushrooms and bran is also mentioned as a control method. Although after watering your orchid a scattering of bran might be more of an issue than the slugs it was meant to control. Lastly a scattering of abrasive materials such as diatomaceous earth or even crushed eggshells are reported to give good results.



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



Sedirea japonica - A marvelously fragrant flower, very hardy and compact plant similar to a small and thicker-leaved Phalaenopsis with thick white roots, basal spikes reaching 7 inches, each carrying up to a dozen 1 1/2" flowers, rounded sepals and petals are creamy white spotted with rose, the lip is white with rose markings, free-flowering and particularly spectacular in spring, easy grower. Quote from [Andy's Orchids](#)

A close up of *Sedirea japonica's* flowers. A native of Japan, I grow this plant in a 2 inch net pot inside a clay pot sitting on a bed of moist gravel to keep the humidity high and the temperatures as low as possible. Media is small bark. Two plants were purchased from Hawaii, the first immediately lost all leaves and died, this second plant has thrived for the last 3 years in spite of my cold winter conditions and warm summer months. The gravel/humidity tray and double potting seem to be the reason for my success. Should be an easy grower for those in cool Coastal California locations. Grown by Ed Lysek.





Club.

Grown by Rob Albrecht,
Secretary, Gawler Districts
Orchid Club,
Gawler, South Australia
Rob - thanks for joining our
Zoom presentation last
month and a warm welcome
to your orchid growing
friends who may join us for
this month's presentation.

"Digital image by Kyle
Howard. Used with
permission of the Gawler
Districts Orchid Club"

Thunia gattonensis is a
terrestrial orchid from the
hills of the Himalayas that
goes completely dormant in
winter. Want to know more
about Thunia orchids? [CLICK
HERE](#). This orchid is a
primary hybrid growing in
medium to small bark in a
quart plastic pot. The plant
is about 2 ft. tall and grows
very rapidly from new
growths which appear in
Spring. If you want to grow
something unusual, this is
one to consider. Grown by
Ed Lysek.





Bulbophyllum lobbii
obtained from Rudy
Bachmann at SLO Orchids
10 years ago. It finally
bloomed and was worth the
wait! Grown by Ed Lysek.

The flower is LARGE -almost 3 inches across with two more buds about to open. Growing in sphagnum moss tucked into a porous concrete container (the mold was a quart yogurt container). Kept constantly moist and evaporation from the thick concrete keeps the plant cool. The hinged lip flutters in the slightest breeze. Grown by Ed Lysek.





This is a different color form of *Bulbophyllum lobbii* 'Kathi's Gold' with smaller more colorful flowers. Growing in sphagnum moss in a slatted wooden basket and kept moist year round. Original plant from Eric Holenda, divisions now happily growing in my greenhouse. Grown by Ed Lysek.

Dendrobium moschatum is a slender two foot tall plant. If kept cool, dry and bright in winter you will be rewarded with flower clusters in Summer. Growing in a small terracotta pot with coarse media to allow the roots to dry quickly. Lots of water and fertilizer in Summer. The tall arching stems become top heavy as the terminal flowers develop so be sure to secure the pot to prevent it from toppling over. Grown by Ed Lysek.





Stanhopea tigrina fma. nigroviolacea seems to have liked this past winter's cool temperatures in my greenhouse. Lows were in the high 30's on several winter nights. Grown in a sphagnum moss lined basket with bark and perlite to permit the pendant flower spikes to emerge downward through the root zone. Seven flower spikes with 14 flower buds, 4 flowers opened this morning. Grows best in bright shade in my Templeton location. The plant seems to like the shade provided by the many Tillandsias growing among the Stanhopea leaves. Coastal growers might try growing this one outdoors in a shady, frost protected location. Grown by Ed Lysek.

You really have to be an orchid enthusiast (or maybe a science fiction fan?) to appreciate the flowers of the Stanhopea shown above. The strong, spicy-sharp fragrance is a clear sign a flower has opened long before you arrive to inspect your plant. Grown by Ed Lysek.





Rhynchosstylus retusa growing in 3/4 inch black volcanic rock (AirVol Block Co) in a clay pot. Although a native of SE Asia growing at 1,000 meters or lower it survives my cool winter conditions if kept dry and flowers several times in the warm summer months. The flower spikes are over a foot long and blooms last for several weeks. Grown by Ed Lysek.

Detail of *Rhynchosstylus retusa* flowers.





Jan Plested, along with her husband Ian, grow an amazing range of orchids in their Atascadero greenhouse. Many were collected years ago when it was possible to rescue orchids from areas being cleared for development. *Cattleya (Laelia) purpurata flamea* is in full bloom.

Dendrobium Hibiki is a vigorous growing primary hybrid between *Dendrobium bracteosum* and *Dendrobium laevifolium*. This plant is happily growing and blooming in Jan and Ian's greenhouse in intermediate/warm conditions.





Dracula cordobae
'Bartholomew' HCC/AOS. Is an epiphyte growing in cloud forests in Ecuador at elevations of 750 to 1,000 meters in elevation. Is considered a warm growing species but is growing well in a cool greenhouse. Growing mounted to a piece of cedar board with some sphagnum moss on the roots. As with many of the Draculas, the spikes grow downward from the growths so needs to either be mounted or grown in a mesh pot. Grown by Chris Ehrlar and is named after his second son.

Closeup of *Dracula cordobae* 'Bartholomew' flower.





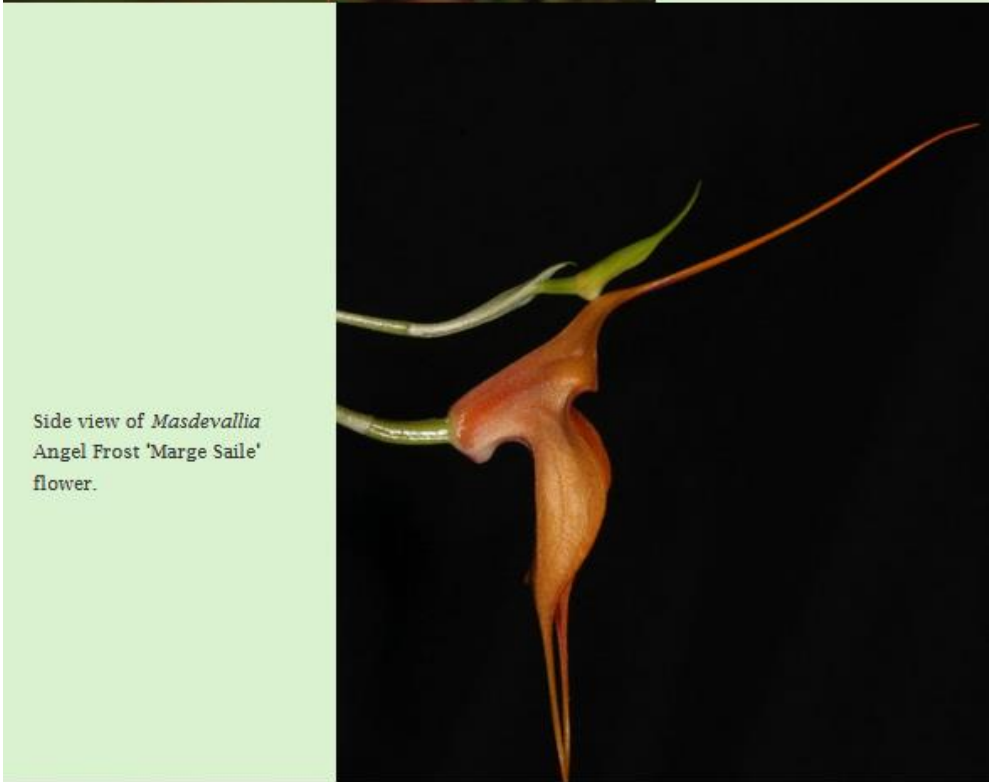
Lycaste aromatica. Growing in Mexico, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Honduras and El Salvador as a cool to warm epiphyte, lithophyte and sometimes terrestrially at elevations of 500 to 2,000 meters. This orchid is growing outside in a plastic pot filled with a mixture of bark and lava rock. It has a great cinnamon fragrance. Grown by Chris Ehrlar.

Side view of *Lycaste aromatica* flower.





Masdevallia Angel Frost 'Marge Saile'. Growing in a cool greenhouse attached to a piece of wood with some sphagnum moss on the roots. This is a primary hybrid between *Masdevallia veitchiana* and *Masdevallia strobilii*. Grown by Chris Ehrler.



Side view of *Masdevallia* Angel Frost 'Marge Saile' flower.



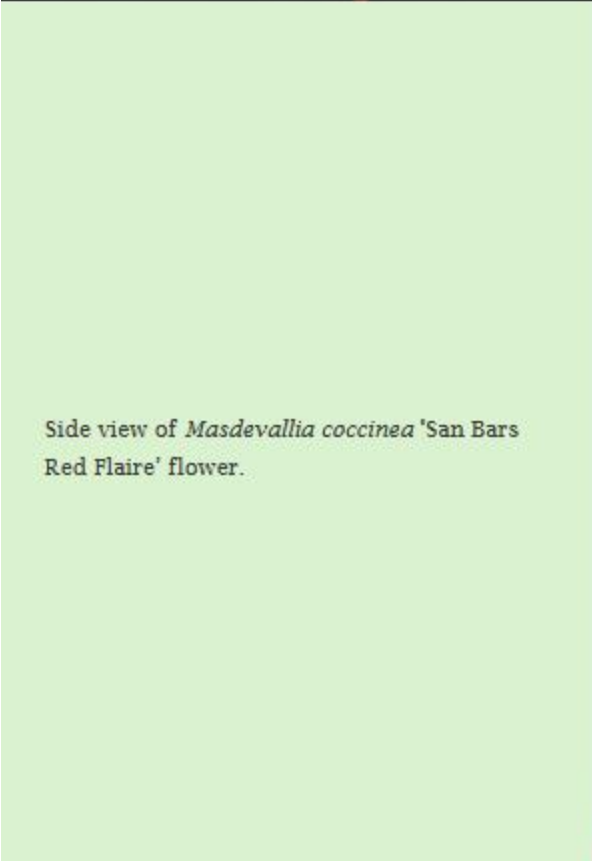
Masdevallia civilis. A cool growing epiphyte, terrestrial, or lithophyte found in cloud forests in Colombia, Venezuela, Ecuador and Peru at elevations of 2,000 to 3,000 meters. This orchid is growing outside in a shaded location and is attached to a piece of cedar wood with sphagnum moss on the roots. Grown by Chris Ehrler.

Side view of *Masdevallia civilis* flower.





Masdevallia coccinea 'San Bars Red Flaire'. This is one of the many color forms of this species. This cold growing species is native to Colombia at elevations of 2400 to 3000 meters. This plant is growing well both mounted and in a clay pot filled with a mixture of bark and lava rock with both placed on the north side of the house where they get diffuse light and generally stay cool. Grown by Chris Ehrler.



Side view of *Masdevallia coccinea* 'San Bars Red Flaire' flower.





Masdevallia coccinea var *alba* x *Masd. don quijote*. A primary hybrid between these two species. This plant is growing in a clay pot filled with a mixture of bark and lava rock on the north side of the house where it gets diffuse light and no direct sunlight. Grown by Chris Ehrler.

Side view of *Masdevallia coccinea* var *alba* x *Masd. don quijote* flower.





Masdevallia pinnochio.

Found in Ecuador at elevations of 1300 to 1500 meters as a cool growing epiphyte. Will continue to bloom on each spike if you keep it happy. Growing in a bark and perlite mixture in a plastic pot placed in a cool greenhouse. Grown by Chris Ehrler.

Side view of *Masdevallia pinnocchio* flower.





Miltonia Pearl Ono. Growing in a cool greenhouse in a plastic pot filled with sphagnum moss. Grown by Chris Ehrler.

Miltoniopsis (*herralexandra* x Mp 264 4N). Purchased while visiting the Ecuagenera nursery in Ecuador. Growing in a cool greenhouse in a plastic pot filled with sphagnum moss. Grown by Chris Ehrler.





Miltoniopsis (Oso Polar x Nube Blanca). Purchased while visiting the Ecuagenera nursery in Ecuador. Growing in a cool greenhouse in a plastic pot filled with sphagnum moss. Grown by Chris Ehrler.

Nageliella purpurea. A cool to warm growing epiphyte found from sea level to 1,500 meters in Mexico, Guatemala, El Salvador and Honduras. There are only two species in this genus. Growing in a cool greenhouse mounted to a piece of wood with some sphagnum moss on the roots. Even though the spikes might look dry they can continue to send out new flowers so do not cut the old spikes off too soon. Grown by Chris Ehrler.



Closeup of *Nageliella purpurea* flower.

Pleurothallis flexuosa. A hot to cool growing epiphyte found at elevations of 350 to 1900 meters in Venezuela, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, and Bolivia. Growing in a mesh pot filled with a mixture of bark and lava rock which is in a cool greenhouse. Grown by Chris Ehrler.



Side view of *Pleurothallis flexuosa* flower.

Pleurothallis phyllocardia. A warm to cool growing epiphyte found in Costa Rica and Panama at elevations of 1300 to 2500 meters. Growing in a cool greenhouse in a plastic pot filled with a mixture of bark and lava rock. Grown by Chris Ehrler.



Pleurothallis phyllocardia leaf and flower. For unknown reason the initial leaf put out another leaf where normally the flower would have come from and then this flower. The rest of the leaves on this orchid just have a single leaf with a flower.

Restrepia brachypus 'Red Stripe'. Grows at 1180 to 3200 meters as a cool to cold growing epiphyte in Venezuela, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Bolivia. Growing in a cool greenhouse mounted to a piece of wood with some sphagnum moss on the roots. Grown by Chris Ehrler.





Side view of *Restrepia brachypus* 'Red Stripe' flower.

Restrepia dodsonii. A cool growing epiphyte found in Ecuador at elevations between 1,060 to 1,700 meters. Growing in a cool greenhouse in a clay pot filled with sphagnum moss. Grown by Chris Ehrler.





Side view of *Restrepia dodsonii* flower.

Restrepia guttulata. Grows in Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela elevations between 1,700 to 3,000 meters as a cold to cool growing epiphyte. This orchid was purchased from Dan Newman at Hanging Gardens and he said this was a division of a plant collected many years ago in Atillo, Ecuador. Growing in a cool greenhouse in a clay pot filled with sphagnum moss. Grown by Chris Ehrler.





Side view of *Restrepia guttulata* flower.

Restrepia tsubotae. Grows at 600 meters in humid conditions in Colombia. Is considered to be a warm growing species but so far has grown and bloom in a cool greenhouse. Growing in a clay pot filled with sphagnum moss. Grown by Chris Ehrlert.





Side view of *Restrepia tsubotae* flower.

Zootrophion aguirrei. Found in Colombia but details about its location are not provided in orchidspecies.com. The flowers of this species shown on the website have small purple spots which this one does not have. I am not sure how the pollinator is able to pollinate this flower as there does not appear to be much of an opening. Growing in a cool greenhouse in a plastic pot filled with a mixture of bark and lava rock. Grown by Chris Ehrler.



Side view of *Zootrophion aguirrei* flower.

A great looking *Phalaenopsis* currently has 19 blooms. Rebloomed by Wendy McKeown of Los Osos.



Stenoglottis woodii

This rare terrestrial orchid blooms elegant, airy plumes. Each petite flower is white with tiny pink freckles on the lip. This species is not deciduous, unlike some other species in the genus.

This is a Cool growing Species from South Africa that normally blooms in August in California. Grown by Chris Howard & Michael Jenne in Guadelupe, CA.





Brassavola cucullata- Long, slender, pendent leaves with a flower to match, *Brassavola cucullata* has a spidery bloom—creamy white and yellow-green petals with a fringed lip. “Weird and wonderful,” according to the American Orchid Society, which includes this species among its list of collector’s items. The bloom period for this species is from summer into winter. Flowers are night fragrant, sweetly scented. Grown by Chris Howard and Michael Jenne in Guadelupe, CA.



Dendrobium glomeratum- The species is native to the Moluccas and Sulawesi where it grows on the trees of the humid forests between 1200 and 1500 m of altitude.

Grown by Chris Howard and Michael Jenne in Guadelupe, CA.



Encyclia mooreana- This fragrant species is found in El Salvador, Nicaragua, Costa Rica and Panama as a medium sized, cool to cold growing epiphytic species found in lower montane cloud forests on larger branches with shade at an elevations of 1250 to 2100 meters.

Grown by Chris Howard and Michael Jenne in Guadelupe, CA.

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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:

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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.

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