



December 2022 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



From the President's Potting Bench

Hi Everyone,

I hope you are all enjoying your Holiday Season and that you have a bounty of blooms to compliment your festivities.

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

This last month was quite busy for FCOS. We sold orchids two weekends in a row at the San Luis Obispo Botanical Gardens' (SLOBG) Plant and Art Sales. It took many people to make these events a success. A sincere thanks to Alison and Bas of [CalCoast Orchids](#) for the donation of orchids for us to offer in the sales. Further sincere thanks to those who help staff our booth to "talk orchids." Thanks to Eric Holanda, Chris Ehrler, Kristie Wells, Phyllis Rosenberg, Kathy Keys, Denise and Hoss Florez, Ed Lysek, Karen Kolba, Michelle Ralston, and John and Linda DeSousa. FCOS had a very successful sale because of your involvement, and we appreciate you all so much!

Upcoming Event: FCOS will be meeting in person for our Holiday Orchid Social on Friday, Dec 9, 2022 at 5:30 pm at the Women's Club, 211 Vernon Ave, Arroyo Grande. We will have a potluck dinner, Members Auction and Election of officers. Hopefully you will have all received your invitation in the mail and 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. Email any officer and request an orchid auction sheet and we will email it to you. Fill this out in advance and bring with your auction orchids to save some time at the Holiday Orchid Social. Members are also encouraged to bring plants for a "show and tell" and of course a dish to share for the potluck.

MASKS - if you feel you

are at risk due to the recent increase of COVID, RSV and flu cases, please feel free to wear a mask to this event. Anyone with a fever, cough or sneezing is encouraged to check with their doctor and remain warm and comfortable at home.

Please print a [Silent Auction Bid Form by clicking here](#) or you may access the form on the [FCOS.org website](#).

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 dessert

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 Board of Directors. Positions of President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Board Member are to be nominated and voted upon. Please email Karen Kolba or Jeff Parham if you have questions or would like to volunteer to serve FCOS in any of these positions in the coming year. Note: We will not have our usual Thursday night "Orchid Talk" this December, as we are going to put all of our energies toward the Holiday Orchid Social instead.

Upcoming Event: In case you need to extend your orchid festivities over the weekend and perhaps buy some orchids for Holiday Gifts, [CalCoast Orchids](#) will be open for a Holiday Orchid Sale on Saturday, December 10, 10:00 am to 1:00 pm at their greenhouse located at [2181 Blue Heron View Lane, Los Osos California](#). FCOS members are invited to come and talk orchids with the public during this time. There will certainly be some amazing plants to get you into a festive Holiday spirit. CalCoast has some amazing Phalaenopsis, Dendrobiums, Harlequins and Intergenerics currently in bloom.

Upcoming Events: The FCOS will resume monthly meetings with Zoom-based “Orchid Talks” in January. We will release a schedule of “Orchid Talks” soon. For those of you who want to meet in person, we will be offering daytime orchid activities in the future on approximately a bi-monthly schedule.

Upcoming Event: Come and get your hands dirty! Our first activity of the new year will be Orchid Potting at the CalPoly Plant Shop on Saturday, January 21, 2023 at 10:00 am. Several of our members will demonstrate correct potting techniques and members will join in on a potting adventure to make the Miltonias bloom. More details will be released in an upcoming announcement.

Join and Support FCOS: I encourage your support of the FCOS by paying your annual dues for 2023. 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. [Click Here to pay your 2023 dues and to donate.](#)

Check FCOS’s Member Benefits page on our website for information on becoming a member of FCOS: [Click Here for Member Benefits](#)

THIS JUST IN -Karen Kolba has agreed to be a candidate for the FCOS Treasurer position being vacated by Denise Florez. Voting for all candidates will take place at the Dec 9th pot luck get together. This will open up Karen’s position as an at-large Board of Directors member. Anyone interested in this position should contact Jeff or Karen ASAP. Many thanks to Denise for her excellent work this past year as Treasurer.

Happy Blooming!

Jeff



***Phal.* Norman's Blue Bunny (Lioulin Blue Star ' Norman' x tetraspis ' Blue Hawaii' FCC/AOS),
grown under LED lights by Jeff Parham, Los Osos, Ca.**



Phalaenopsis Tariflor Blue Pride 'Blue Hawaii (Purple Martin x Timothy Christopher



Prosthechea trulia x sib-squid shaped flowers with an interesting fragrance.

The native range of this species is SW. Mexico (to Guanajuato). It is a pseudobulbous epiphyte and grows primarily in the seasonally dry tropical biome. This orchid is non resupinate or right side up. Most orchid flowers are actually upside down. You might enjoy the following article on "upside down orchids".

<https://www.indefenseofplants.com/blog/2018/10/16/the-upside-down-world-of-orchid-flowers>



FCOS OFFICIAL INVITATION!

HOLIDAY ORCHID
SOCIAL

DECEMBER 9, 2022 AT
5:30PM

ARROYO GRANDE
WOMEN'S CLUB

211 VERNON STREET



YOU ARE INVITED TO
ATTEND THE FIVE CITIES
ORCHID SOCIETY'S
HOLIDAY ORCHID SOCIAL
POTLUCK

- BOARD OF DIRECTOR ELECTIONS
- SHOW AND TELL
- MEMBERS ORCHID AUCTION (BRING PLANTS TO DONATE OR SELL)
- SILENT AUCTION STARTS AT 5:30PM AND ENDS AT APPROXIMATELY 7:30PM
- CLEAN UP AT 8PM
- BRING YOUR BEST DISHES
- FCOS WILL PROVIDE HAM AND COFFEE
- BRING PLATES, SILVERWARE AND DRINKS





Additional details from the coordinator of the December 9th pot-luck/silent auction program, Eric Holenda...

THE RETURN OF SOME NORMALCY

After too long, we will once again have our traditional December Potluck and Silent Auction.

SETUP: Begins promptly at 5pm. Board members will all arrive at 5pm, but anyone else who wants to bring out the tables and chairs, cover tables, set up food tables, etc., etc., is most welcome. The sooner the set-up, the sooner we EAT!.

THE FOOD: Bring your favorite dish to share— be it casserole, salad, dessert, etc. Also, bring your own plate, utensils, napkin, and any preferred nonalcoholic beverage. The club will provide coffee, water, and HAM.

THE ORCHIDS: This is your BIG chance to get rid of excess orchids, and simultaneously acquire new ones. Each orchid you donate for adoption will need a BID SHEET (download here in newsletter and fill out) in which you provide the plant description, opening bid, etc. Including PHOTOS of its blooms always bumps the bid price up. You may also bring any other orchid related items you think will be desirable to bidders.

BIDDING: All plants go to highest bidder, minimum raise is \$1.00. Bidding will end suddenly around 7:30 or so. At that time, round up the plants / items you have the top bid on. Make a WRITTEN, ITEMIZED list of your winning bids and their total, and hand it to our treasurer. Pay by cash or preferably check.

DUES: Now is an excellent time to pay 2023 dues. Include the DUES FORM with your payment. The annual membership is only \$25.

SHOW AND TELL: Too long since we were able to show off live blooming orchids. You can set your blooming beauties in the center of our eating tables. We will have a special table for really large plants.



Alex Mintzer and one of his Aussie buddies heading out to find orchids.....and maybe a few ants!

FCOS had the privilege of having FCOS member Alex Mintzer speak to the group via zoom on “A **Springtime Epiphany - Biodiverse Glories of Southwestern Australia**”. Alex is Professor Emeritus from Cypress College. Alex obtained his Ph.D degree from the University of Michigan after his undergraduate studies at U.C. Irvine with one of his advisors being Professor Harold Kopopwitz. Although he enjoyed orchids his main research was on ants. Alex started by showing native orchids from a number of countries including, Switzerland, Scotland, Venezuela, Panama, Costa Rica, Ecuador and Peru.



The main portion of his photos related to plant life in southwestern Australia generally south of the city of Perth. He stated the climate was similar to ours in central California with cool rainy winters and warm to hot summers. He saw a wide variety of different plant communities from shrublands to open woodlands to dense tall forests. There were also diverse insect pollinator communities. He was able to visit the Mt. Trio Caravan Park near the base of the Sterling Mountains.



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



Thanks to a presentation by Eric Holenda several years ago, my Oncidiums are growing and blooming much better. I now use smaller pots, allow the plants to dry more thoroughly before watering and keep them much drier when cold nights are forecast since my greenhouse is not heated. This un-named Oncidium was purchased over 10 years ago from Trader Joes and has been divided many times, resulting in several plants scattered around my greenhouse. Grown by Ed Lysek.

An un-named Sophrolaelia hybrid (*SL. Dorothy Elliot X L. anceps*) which blooms earlier than my *L. anceps* species. Growing in a net pot filled with Hydroton clay pellets in my greenhouse, but would be happy in any frost-free outdoor location. Grown by Ed Lysek.





One of my many *Blc.* Maikai hybrid orchids grown from a flask purchased from Sunset Valley Orchids in 2016. These plants have very vigorous roots and thin pointed upright leaves resembling a succulent. This orchid likes very bright diffused sunlight. Look for one or more of these plants at the upcoming Dec. 9th silent auction/pot luck. Some have white lips, others are darker purple and some are tall and others short. This is the advantage of growing plants from a flask, you can get a wide range of colors and forms - but it takes a few years and a lot of patience! Grown by Ed Lysek.

I purchased this *Miltanopsis* from CalCoast Orchids a few months ago and it continues to send up new flower spikes in my cool greenhouse fall/winter conditions. My challenge will be to keep this orchid cool during my hot summer months. Expect to see more of these orchids offered for sale at the upcoming open house orchid sale at CalCoast Orchids on Saturday, Dec. 10th. Grown by Ed Lysek.





Bulbophyllum lepidum— there are actually six individual flowers here. Bulbo's generally like warmth, shade, and frequent water. Grown by Eric Holenda.



Vanda coerulea— atypical as it is a cool grower from higher elevations. Most Vandas love warmth. All true coeruleas have petals that twist forward. If you see a flat flower being sold as a coerulea species, it is not— it is a hybrid. Grown by Eric Holenda (see photo below for an example of a *V. coerulea* hybrid)



Barkeria lindleyana— *Barkeria* is a fascinating genus, all native to Mexico except *B. lindleyana*, from Costa Rica, often found growing in orchards around the capital city, San Jose. They have huge roots, and need a dry rest when dormant. Grown by Eric Holenda



Masdevallia triangularis— One of my favorites, I've had this plant for decades. It often puts out a flush of blooms around Spring showtime. Grown by Eric Holenda.



Vanda 'Pachung Blue' is a hybrid of *Vanda coerulea* mentioned above by Eric Holenda. Note the petals at the 2 o'clock and 10 o'clock position are flat (in the plane of the other petals) which as Eric mentions indicates this is a hybrid. This *Vanda* inherits cold tolerance from *V. coerulea* making it a good candidate to grow in our area. In my greenhouse it blooms twice per year and can tolerate winter lows in the 40's and summer highs in the 90's. The roots benefit from high humidity and good air circulation. Growing in a slatted wooden basket suspended over a large terracotta pot kept wet to maintain a humid atmosphere around the roots. Ed L.



Dendrobium Fancy Angel 'Lyce'— One of the plants from our recent visit to the Cal Poly horticulture greenhouses. Grown by Eric Holenda



Oncidium Sweet Sugar 'Lemon Drop'— Easy grower, greenhouse or patio. Grown by Eric Holenda.



Slc Red Jewel— From SB Orchid Estate. I find *Sophranitis* (now *Cattleya*) *coccinea* and its hybrids do better outside rather than in a warm greenhouse. The roots also like to dry between waterings, so I grow it in coarse granite rock. Grown by Eric Holenda.



Dendrobium cuthbertsonii bicolor. Plants are native to New Guinea and natively growing at high elevations (700 to 3500 meters). Can grow as an epiphyte, lithophyte or terrestrially. This orchid is growing in a cool greenhouse on a piece of cork oak with a small amount of sphagnum moss at the roots. The roots need to dry out between waterings. It is my understanding that many people find that this species is difficult to grow and many of this species ended up in the compost pile. Grown by Chris Ehrler.



Closeup of front of the
Dendrobium cuthbertsonii
bicolor flower .



Side view of the
Dendrobium cuthbertsonii
bicolor flower .

Dendrochilum cobbianum. A cool growing species from the Philippines at elevations above 1200 meters. Grows either epiphytically or as a lithophyte. Growing in a cool greenhouse in a plastic container that is filled with hydroponic type clay balls. There is a hole drilled in the plastic so that there is no more than 1 inch or so of water in the bottom of the container. Grown by Chris Ehrler.



Dendrochilum cobbianum
spike.



Closeup of *Dendrochilum cobbianum* flower.



Side view of *Dendrochilum
cobbianum* flower.





Dracula kareniae. This is a natural hybrid between *D. erythrocodon* and *D. fulgifera*. It grows natively in Ecuador at elevations around 200 meters as a cool to cold growing epiphyte. Grown in a cool greenhouse mounted on a piece of cork oak with a small amount of sphagnum moss at the roots. Grown by Chris Ehrler.



Closeup of the *Dracula kareniae* flower.



Masdevallia Cinnamon
Twist 'Golden Gate'
HCC/AOS. This is a hybrid
between *Masd. ayabacana*
and *Masd. goliath*. Grown in
a cool greenhouse in a clay
pot filled with sphagnum
moss at the roots. Grown by
Chris Ehrler.



Closeup of the *Masdevallia*
Cinnamon Twist 'Golden
Gate' flower.

Masdevallia tovarensis. A cool to cold growing epiphyte growing endemically in Venezuela at elevations of 1600 to 2400 meters. This plant is growing in a cool greenhouse as both mounted plants and in clay pots filled with sphagnum moss. It usually has 2 to 3 flowers per spike but this plant was recently transplanted and only produced one flower per spike. Grown by Chris Ehrler.



Closeup of the *Masdevallia towarensis* flower.



Pleurothallis groybi. A cold to hot growing species from 60 to 3200 meters in Mexico, Belize, Guatemala, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Venezuela, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Brazil, French Guiana, Surinam, and Guyana. This plant is growing in a cool greenhouse mounted to a piece of wood with some sphagnum moss at the roots. Grown by Chris Ehrlar.



Closeup of the *Pleurothallis groybi* flower.



Myoxanthus punctatus. Grows in southern Brazil at elevations around 670 to 1500 meters as a warm to cool growing epiphyte. This orchid is growing on a piece of cork oak that is generally hanging in a cool greenhouse. It was set in the clay pot only for the photo. Plant was acquired in the latest FCOS auction and was donated by the Huntington Orchid Collection. Grown by Chris Ehrlar.



Front view of the
Myoxanthus punctatus
flower.



Side view of the *Myoxanthus punctatus* flower.

Pleurothallis minutalis
(*oxios*). The tag states the
species is *oxios* but on
Andy's Orchids it shows the
species name as *minutalis*.
Found in a few states in
Mexico and also in
Guatemala as a cool to cold
growing mat-forming
epiphyte or lithophyte at
elevations of 1500 to 2200
meters. Growing in a cool
greenhouse mounted to a
piece of wood. Grown by
Chris Ehrlar.



Front view of *Pleurothallis minutalis* (oxios) flower.



Side view of *Pleurothallis minutalis* (oxios) flower.





Pleurothallis pectinata.
Grows in Bolivia and Brazil around Rio de Janeiro as a cool to warm growing epiphyte. Grows with the leaves hanging down. This photo was taken with the orchid laying on a table so some of the leaves are not hanging down as they would be when the mesh pot is hanging in the cool greenhouse. Grown by Chris Ehrler.



Pleurothallis pectinata
flower and leaf.



Closeup of the *Pleurothallis pectinata* flowers.

Pleurothallis recurva. A warm to cool growing creeping epiphyte found in Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia and Brazil at elevations of 600 to 1400 meters. This orchid is growing mounted on a piece of wood placed in a cool greenhouse. Grown by Chris Ehrlar.



Pleurothallis scurrula. This cold growing epiphyte is found in Peru at elevations about 2200 to 2400 meters. This orchid is growing in a clay pot filled with sphagnum moss that is in a cool greenhouse. Grown by Chris Ehrlar.



Side view of the
Pleurothallis scurrula
flower.





Pleurothallis stricta. A cool to cold growing epiphyte found in Colombia and Ecuador at elevations of 1800 to 2500 meters. This orchid is growing mounted to a piece of wood with some sphagnum moss on the roots. It is growing in a cool greenhouse. Grown by Chris Ehrler.



Side view of the
Pleurothallis stricta flower.



Restrepia cuprea. A warm to cool growing epiphyte found on Colombia's eastern slopes of the central cordillera at elevations of 1600 to 1700 meters. This orchid is growing in a clay pot that is filled with sphagnum moss. Grown by Chris Ehrlar in a cool greenhouse.



Side view of the *Restrepia cuprea* flower.

Scaphosepalum gibberosum.

A cool growing epiphyte found in the Antioquia department of Colombia at elevations of 1600 to 2000 meters. This orchid is growing mounted on a piece of cork oak with a small amount of sphagnum moss on the roots. Grown by Chris Ehrler in a cool greenhouse.



Top view of *Scaphosepalum gibberosum* flower. The bend in the purple sepal is due to it running into another plant during development.



Scaphosepalum lima. A cool to cold growing epiphyte or terrestrial found in Antioquia department of Colombia at elevations of 1800 to 2500 meters. This orchid is growing in a clay pot that is filled with sphagnum moss. This is a sequential bloomer and has had flowers on it for at least one year. Grown by Chris Ehrler in a cool greenhouse.



Side view of the *Scaphosepalum lima* flower.





I was first introduced to the use of neem oil over 30 years ago by Norman Fang of Norman's Orchids in Montclair, CA. I use it as a dilute foliar spray to control scale, mealybugs and other insects and it also functions as a fungicide. Neem oil is a natural oil derived from the seeds of the neem tree and as an emulsified oil it acts to smother insects while also acting as a biological control by interrupting insect life cycles. An excellent article by Matthew Borden in Fine Gardening magazine details the use, benefits and attributes of neem oil and is well worth your time to read.

<https://www.finegardening.com/article/what-to-know-about-using-neem-in-the-garden>. If you are not a subscriber to Fine Gardening, the link will permit you to read two on-line articles. If the link does not lead you to the article you may need to copy and paste the link into your browser.

<https://www.finegardening.com/article/what-to-know-about-using-neem-in-the-garden>

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.](#)



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Photos by Lisa Roeder, Eve Vigil & Erick Wand

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FCOS Garage Sale

Send an email to [Jeff Parham](mailto:Jeff.Parham@fcos.org), [Chris Ehrler](mailto:Chris.Ehrler@fcos.org) or [Ed Lysek](mailto:Ed.Lysek@fcos.org) 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.

Orchid Virus tests from Agi labs. \$8 each, contact Jeff at jsp1440@aol.com

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 2022 Board of Directors

Jeff Parham, *President*

Eric Holenda, *Vice President*

Denise Florez, *Treasurer & Secretary*

Kristie Wells, *Asst. Secretary*

Karen Kolba, Anne Bachmann, and Ed Lysek, *Directors at Large*

Eric Holenda, *Show Chairman*

Chris Ehrler, *Past President*

Orchids are really great!

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

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