



January 2021 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](http://www.fcoss.org).***

### **A message from the President's potting bench.**

Happy New Year!

The *Cymbidiums* are in bud and it's a joy to watch them grow every day. The inflorescences are getting longer and the buds are getting bigger. I anticipate that I will soon have many more flowers in my yard. What a lovely New Year's gift.

December's Holiday Orchid Social turned out really well. Prior to the meeting, Board members delivered orchids and gift bags to the homes of local members. At the event, we had elections, voted for some bylaw changes and enjoyed some festive and fun games. We played Bingo for Bloom Bucks, had a raffle and a plant auction. Members also made Orchidgami; paper orchids modeled from endangered orchid species to bring awareness to orchid conservation. Thanks so much to everyone who attended. If you haven't done so yet, remember to email us a picture of your completed Orchidgami for your chance to win Bloom Bucks. Also, if you are local and didn't yet receive an orchid, please contact me.

This event was a success due to the generosity of time and resources by many people and local orchid businesses. A special thank you to CalCoast Orchids and to Asbell Orchids for their donations. Thanks also to CalCoast Orchids, SloOrchids, Asbell Orchids and Ambriz Kingdom of Plants, who have all agreed to honor FCOS Bloom Bucks. Look for upcoming opportunities to win Bloom Bucks at upcoming meetings. Thanks to all the Board members for their contributions as well. It took all of us working together to successfully create this festive event.

Moving forward, the FCOS has some exciting plans for this year.

January's meeting will feature Gary Yong Gee who will be joining us on Zoom from Queensland Australia to talk about native Australian epiphytic and lithophytic orchids. This will be an exciting opportunity to see Australian orchids in the wild. Gary's speaker fee will support orchid conservation efforts.

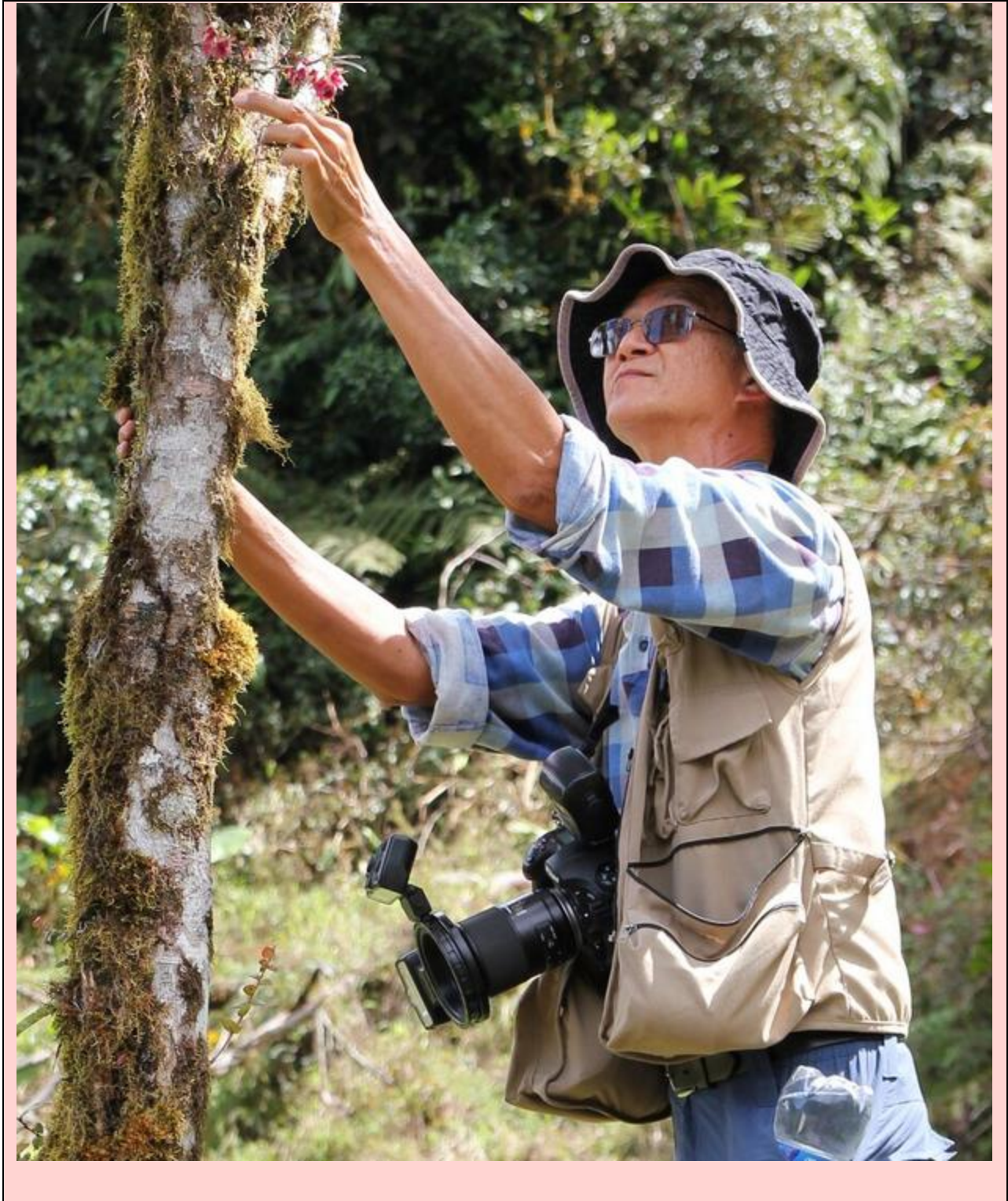
As the year proceeds, we have some excellent speakers and topics lined up. Be sure to keep checking the events section on our website for information. [www.FCOS.org/events](http://www.FCOS.org/events) We plan

to schedule speakers via Zoom meetings for the next 6 months, at which time we will evaluate whether we can have in-person meetings.

I would like to encourage you to support the FCOS by keeping your dues up to date, as well as by considering making an additional tax-deductible donation. This helps us continue to offer quality speakers at meetings and develop our education and conservation programs.

Thank you and Happy New Year!

Jeff



Five City Orchid Societyâ€™s Zoom Meeting

Time: 7 pm January 14

## Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87016320614?pwd=YlFxMXZqVFA1V1BSazVvQmlzNnh4QT09>

Meeting ID: 870 1632 0614, Passcode: 613810

Our speaker for our Zoom meeting at 7 PM on Thursday, January 14th is Gary Yong Gee **who** will speak on “**Epiphytic and Lithophytic Orchids of SE Queensland, Australia**”

Gary will talk about the native orchids in the rain forest and eucalyptus forests of Queensland’s subtropics as well as the spectacular scenery.

Gary Yong Gee has been photographing species orchids for 35 years and has more than 30,000 color slides and over 65,000 digital images. He has been writing a regular monthly article for the Bulletin of The Orchid Species Society, Inc., which is based in Brisbane, Queensland.

<http://yonggee.name/>.

FCOS will make a donation to the **Orchid Conservation Alliance** for this presentation per Gary’s request.

Get Ready for our February Speaker - Fred Clarke of SVO Orchids

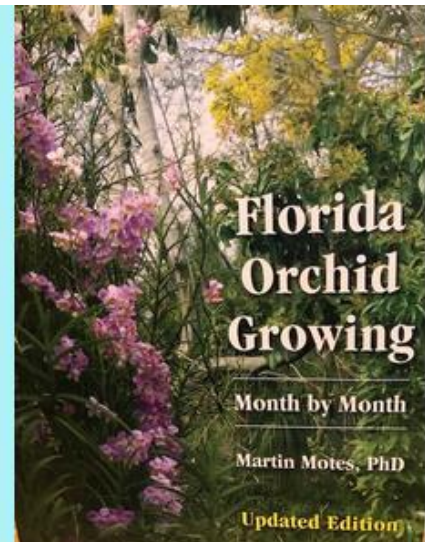


SVO has offered FCOS members a 20% discount for orchids purchased on-line at [www.sunsetvalleyorchids.com](http://www.sunsetvalleyorchids.com) in anticipation of Fred Clarke’s ZOOM presentation to FCOS on Feb. 11, 2021. You can place our orders and pay SVO directly on their website, making this a very easy way to receive some fantastic SVO orchids. Remember to enter your American Orchid Society membership number for an added discount. Please order before Feb. 11.

*“Sunset Valley Orchids offers a 20% discount on all plant orders from your club members. The special voucher code is ZOOM. When you check out, type ZOOM into the voucher code box on the shopping cart page and click ‘RECALCULATE’ to apply the discount. This special discount is additive to the existing discount schedule, making for an excellent opportunity.”* - Fred Clarke

*Dr. Motes was kind enough to allow us to reprint a chapter from his book on cold tolerance of orchids. Written for Florida growers, it has a wealth of growing recommendations for our Central Coast growing conditions. The chapter on how to grow Cattleya orchids outdoors is very useful for our local conditions.*

*[Click here if you would like to order a copy - directly from Motes Orchids.](#)*



### **Cold Tolerance of Orchids by Dr. Martin Motes**

One major obstacle for neophyte growers is in understanding the diversity of cultural requirements of various genera of orchids. Orchids are such a vast group of plants which have succeeded in nearly every conceivable habitat on earth, that knowledge of a specific genus's cultural requirements, rather than a general knowledge of what orchids like, is necessary to successfully cultivate the various types. Most cultivated orchids come from tropical regions but differences in elevation and other geographic features of their native habits can mean dramatic differences in the response of orchids to various external conditions. Most emphatically these differences can be seen in different genera's toleration of cold. While some orchids are native to regions where frost is more the norm than the exception, others are hyper-tropical plants for whom 50°F (10°C) is far too cool. Knowing which is which is essential in a mixed collection of orchids. A great irony for beginners is to discover that their extra nurturing efforts to protect certain orchids have in fact done more harm than good.

Dendrobiums are among the most confusing for new orchid growers. is huge genus, well over a thousand species divided usually into 15 sections, ranges over nearly a quarter of the planet. Found from western Indian all the way to Micronesia, dendrobiums inhabit an incredible variety of ecological niches. Ironically, the two sections most common in horticulture are diametrically opposite in cold tolerance. Section Dendrobium, the soft bulb or nobile types whether in their pendulous forms like *D. anosum* and *D. aphyllum* or in the upright types like *D. nobile* and its hybrids, positively relish the cold. Temperatures right down to frost are the best culture to produce the most prolific blooming of these plants. Without cold and drought stress in winter these plants will retain their leaves and produce an abundance of vegetative growths but few if any flowers. Stressed by cold and dried out properly these plants lose all their leaves and in spring the bare bulbs are covered in flowers. The opposite is true for the hard cane dendrobiums of sections Spathulata and Phalaenanthé. Loss of leaf on *D. phalaenopsis* types is usually indicative that they have suffered from too much cold. Temperatures below 60o F (15o C) can produce this

undesirable effect. *D. phalaenopsis* and evergreen types should receive the maximum cold protection.

Other sections of the genus have slightly different tolerances. Section Callista, *D. farmerii*, *D. lindleyii* (*aggregatum*) and their relatives can take temperatures nearly as low as the nobile types and will bloom all the better for exposure to temperatures in the 30s°F (3- 5°C). Section Formosae, *D. formosum*, *D. infundibulum* and the new hybrids prefer slightly warmer conditions but are quite happy with temperatures in the 40s °F (6-9°C). Other sections of Dendrobium in cultivation such as Pedilonium, Latouria, and the Australian hybrids of section Dendrocorne have slightly different requirements and those growing these more exotic will succeed best in researching them. Try B. Lavarack et al. Dendrobium and its Relatives, Timber Press.

After the cold sensitive hard cane Dendrobiums, Phalaenopsis are the most tender of commonly grown orchids. Phalaenopsis will be strongly induced to bloom by temperatures in the mid-50s °F (12-13°C). A few exposures to temperatures below 60 °F (15°C) will produce the desired spikes and thereafter the plants will be happiest if they are kept above 60F. One or two nights down to 50°F or slightly below will do little harm but are to be avoided in the best kept collection.

Cold damage and sun burn to *Vandas* shows as initial whitening of the foliage which later turns black. *Vandas* come next on the scale of sensitivity. Like Phalaenopsis they are stimulated to bloom with sharp drops of temperature into the 50s at night, especially when the temperature can be induced to climb into the 80s °F (27-32°C) by day. *Vandas* will tolerate brief excursions into the upper 40s °F but are best kept above 50 degrees. Temperatures below 50 °F for very long or very often will produce the tinkling sound of falling Vanda leaves, turning the plants into palm trees.

*Trichocentrums* of the mule ear-type with thick fleshy leaves (*Trctm. luridum*, *lanceanum* etc.) have warmth requirements similar to vandas. The thinner leaved Oncidinae will usually take temperatures into the 40s with aplomb. Many of the hybrids in this group have been bred to Miltoniopsis and to cool growing species to increase their cold tolerance. A caution with this group is the ability of wind to strip heat rapidly from their thin leaves. The cold tolerance of these will be much greater in still air.

With the exception of some species of Amazonian origin like *Cattleya violacea*, most cattleyas can take quite cool temperatures. Most growers have few concerns for them even in temperatures down to the upper 40s °F (8-9°C). They must, however be protected from both frost and freeze. Be extra cautious on those clear still nights when the temperature drops to the 30s °F (3-4°C).

In addition to the cold loving nobile dendrobiums, certain other genera from the high Himalayas such as deciduous *Calanthe* and *Cymbidium* species and hybrids, actually require quite cold temperatures to stimulate them to their best bloom. Even warm growing, temperature tolerant hybrid *cymbidium* flower best when chilled repeatedly into the low 30s °F.

All orchids tolerate cold best when they have proper nutrition. Avoid too much nitrogen which might stimulate too soft of growth and increase the dosage and frequency of application of both magnesium and potassium in colder weather.

Nobile type *Dendrobiums* can be grown outside in a sheltered location where temperatures can be as low as 30°F as long as the plants are kept dry. According to Dr. Motes cold dry conditions are essential for proper blooming.



Keiki (small plants growing where flowers usually form) will be produced if *Dendrobium* nobile-type orchids are not kept dry in winter. Keikis will form on a number of orchids if they do not experience a dry winter rest.

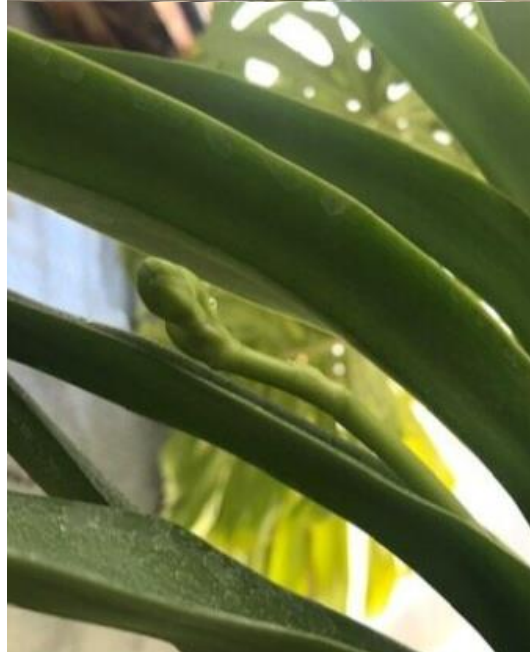


The reward for dry and bright winter conditions - flower buds!



Even *Vanda* orchids benefit from a slight drop in temperature which can promote the development of flower spikes according to Dr. Motes.

This is true for *Phalaenopsis* (moth) orchids as well. A few weeks at 50°F (no lower) and *Phalaenopsis* will begin to initiate flower spikes.





## 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](mailto:EdLysek@me.com). We had really great participation by members for this newsletter - keep your photos coming!



*Slc. Hsin Buu Lady 'Y.T.'* This is a cross of *Laelia anceps* X *Cattleya Wendy's Valentine*. The *L. anceps* gives this orchid wide temperature tolerance. Wendy's Valentine contributes the deep red color and more compact bloom spikes. Grown by Karen Kolba.

*Dendrobium phalenopsis* type grown by Karen Kolba. This is one of the *Dendrobiums* mentioned in the article above by Dr. Motes that must be kept warm.



Kristie Wells obtained *Laelia* 'Splendid Spire' from a chunk that Wayne Ferrell, from SBOE, sold her from a huge blooming specimen at one of their open houses a few years ago. He didn't think he had any smaller plants of this variety in pots (and because I was infatuated with it!)



*Cymbidium* Green Valley Emerald 'Tri Lips', from Water Orchids. The flowers, at least in this first bloom season, are, interestingly, at the base of the plant. Grown by Kristie Wells





Judy Scheithauer's *Ansellia Africana* never fails to put on a fantastic show of flowers. We really treasure this plant. Dick Alkema gave us a piece way back in 2005. He collected his original plant from Africa when he was a petroleum engineer. We saw his pictures of them climbing in the tree to harvest it. It is easy to grow and we have given out many pieces



Thanks to a drop in night time temperatures to the mid-40's °F, my Vanda has TWO flower spikes developing! This hybrid was purchased from SBOE at their \$7.50 plant table several years ago as a small seedling. Grown by Ed Lysek.



*Dendrobium kingianum* is another *Dendrobium* that benefits from cool, dry winter conditions. This award-winning cultivar 'Betsy' grows in Chris Ehrler's backyard.



*Cymbidium erythreum*. A terrestrial species that is found in Japan, China, Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos, Hong Kong to Sumatra and Java, and is considered to be a hot to cool grower. This orchid is grown outside in a partially shading area. Currently grown in a plastic pot with a mixture of classic Orchiata and lava rock. Grown by Chris Ehrler.



*Cymbidium Tartare* x *C. Pink Champagne* 'Pixie'. A hybrid that is grown outside in a partially shading area. Currently grown in a plastic pot with a mixture of classic Orchiata and lava rock. Grown by Chris Ehrler.



*Cymbidium* Ruby Pendant 'Vista del Monte'. A hybrid that is grown outside in a partially shading area. Currently grown in a plastic pot with a mixture of classic Orchiata and lava rock. Grown by Chris Ehrler.



Closeup of one of the *Cymbidium* Ruby Pendant 'Vista del Monte' flowers.

*Cymbidium Yowie Flame Tikitere*. A hybrid that is grown outside in a partially shaded area. Currently grown in a plastic pot with a mixture of classic Orchiata and lava rock. Grown by Chris Ehrler.



Closeup of one of the flowers of *Cymbidium Yowie Flame Tikitere*.







*Laelia anceps*. A species that is native to Mexico and Honduras. Is considered to grow in hot to cool conditions. This orchid is grown outside in a partially shading area. Currently grown mounted to a piece of cork oak bark. Grown by Chris Ehrler.

*Laelia anceps* 'Fort Caroline'. This species that is native to Mexico and Honduras.

This orchid was donated to the FCOS opportunity table many years ago by Larry Verheilig. This orchid has 12 spikes this year. Is considered to grow in hot to cool conditions. This orchid is grown outside in a partially shading area. Currently grown mounted to a piece of cork oak bark. Grown by Chris Ehrler.





An additional color form of *Laelia anceps* is the 'guerrero' form. This specific example has a particularly dark lip and light-colored sepals. It was purchased from Ambriz Kingdom of Plants last year. It grows in a net basket with volcanic media in Ed's greenhouse and as Chris stated above, can take temperatures from just above freezing to the high 90's °F. Grown by Ed Lysek.



*Pleurothallis teaguei*. A species that is native to Ecuador at elevations of about 750 to 1,550 meters. The leaves and flowers are large in size (flowers about 1.5 inches top to bottom). It is reported to be able to be grown in warm to cool conditions. This orchid is grown in a cool greenhouse and is planted in a clay pot filled with sphagnum moss. Grown by Chris Ehrler.



Side view of a blossom of a *Mediocarcar decoratum* flower. Flowers are about 1/4 inch from front to back.

Front view of a blossom of a *Mediocarcar decoratum* flower. Flowers are about 1/4 inch across.



*Mediocarcar decoratum*. A mat-forming epiphytic species that grows natively in Papua and New Guinea and West Irian at elevations of 900 to 2500 meters. Is reported to be able to be grown in warm to cold conditions. Currently grown on a piece of redwood that is hanging in a cool greenhouse. Grown by Chris Ehrlar.

*Cattleya* Friend (*Blc.* mem Don Herman)  
Growing outdoors with two flower  
spikes. Grown by Alan Durham

Also identified on the web as *Eplc.* Don  
Herman. But by any name, a pretty  
orchid.



Three gems from Eric Holenda round  
out this month's photos.

Dorothy Elliot 'Fuchsia Fire', HCC/AOS  
blooms reliably in mid-November. This  
one lasted a good six weeks. The color  
needs to be seen to be appreciated.  
From Cal-Orchid.



*Clowesetum* Black Jade (*Clowesia russelliana* x *Catasetum expansum*). I just love these *Catasetums*. I just bought six more from Fred Clarke's dormant season sale offerings. They grow vigorously, when provided abundant summer light and warmth.



*Slc.* Lamp Lighter. A *Sophronitis* (now changed to *Cattleya*) *coccinea* hybrid from The Orchid Estate. *Coccinea* hybrids like good light but somewhat cooler temperatures. It is important to let them dry between waterings. Basket culture helps.



## **FCOS Garage Sale - a new feature for our newsletter!**

Send an email to [Jeff Parham](#), [Chris Ehrlar](#) 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. 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.

### **FREE - HIGH PRESSURE SODIUM LIGHT FIXTURE**

This is the underside of the light canopy. The light is a high-pressure sodium, 600 watts, approx. 2500 kelvin (very red) which promotes flowering, my limited understanding says the typical grow light is 6500 kelvin which promotes vegetative growth.

They'll need to buy a bulb (about \$20)

This is a photo of the 600 watt transformer. Both the light canopy and the transformer are free to anyone who contacts me.

Gary Stoner

email: [stonersauto@gmail.com](mailto:stonersauto@gmail.com)

phone: 805-235-4184



## Letters to the editor

Have a comment, suggestion or just want to make a comment about orchids? Send an email to [Ed Lysek](#) titled editor and our editorial board may decide to include it in a future newsletter.

**Dear editor** - *The FCOS Holiday Zoom Party was a great idea. Credit goes to Karen Kolba for the idea and her fortitude to make it happen. Thanks to all who contributed their time and efforts to this great program.* -several FCOS members

**Dear editor** - *The Holiday Gift Bag was a welcome surprise. What a nice gesture! Thank you so much for thinking of us.* -Jan and Ian Plested

### Five Cities Orchid Society 2020 Board of Directors

Jeff Parham, *President* [jsp1440@aol.com](mailto:jsp1440@aol.com)

Ed Lysek, *Vice President* [edlysek@me.com](mailto:edlysek@me.com)

Alan Durham, *Treasurer*

Chris Ehrler, *Past President*

Julie Orr, *Secretary*

Karen Kolba, Anne Bachman, and Denise Florez, *Directors at Large*

*Show Chairman*, Eric Holenda

*Coming in the month's ahead - an Advertisers Section featuring vendors offering a range of plants, information and supplies.*

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

Powered by  SQUARESPACE