

*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](http://www.fcos.org).*

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

I hope that everyone is doing well during this difficult time. As for me, my orchid collection has proved exceptionally enjoyable the last few months. I've felt really lucky that I've had my orchids to put my time and intention into. It's been a great way to defeat anxiety and create some positive moments and memories.

I've been researching each of my orchids' cultural requirements and then trying to optimize their growing conditions. One of my favorite websites is Jay's Orchid Encyclopedia: <http://www.orchidspecies.com>. This site tells you a lot about the cultural requirements of each species, whether it's fragrant and when it will bloom. There are also other helpful links available on our website: [www.FCOS.org](http://www.FCOS.org)

Since space is always a concern, I've spent some time reorganizing my grow space. I've added some hardware cloth to the fence, behind my shelves and below my light system. Now I can mount orchids on cedar planks, place them on the fence, and take maximum advantage of the LED lights. I've also been repotting some plants in LECA and setting them up to grow as semi hydroponics. As Los Osos has slowly warmed up, the greenhouse has come alive and I am rewarded by cascading flowers. I love the diversity of colors, shapes and scents! Due to the current circumstances, our monthly meetings are postponed until further notice. We hope you are making the best of staying at home, and enjoying your orchid collection. Although we cannot have our traditional in-person meetings, we are still involved with our orchid members and want your membership to be relevant. If you have orchid-related questions, please contact us.

We thought that members would want the opportunity to obtain orchid plants, which normally are a fun part of our meetings and field trips. Therefore, we modified our annual June auction into an online auction and drive by plant pickup, which went really well.

Thank you to all those that participated in the event. There were some amazing plants donated. Thank you to Ed Lysek, Anne Bachman and Chris Ehrler for the plant donations. The bidding was fierce for several of the orchids and we raised close to \$300 for FCOS.

We already have more plants donated and will have another auction in August. CalCoast Orchids has donated some *Paphlopedilums* for our next auction. If you have plants to donate please email me ([jsp1440@aol.com](mailto:jsp1440@aol.com)) a photo and

**description of the plant by July 25th. We will make announcements regarding our auction in the August newsletter.  
Happy Growing! Jeff**



**Judy Scheithauer recently found a worthy recipient for one of her 'second chance orchids'. Barbara had a heart procedure on Monday and celebrated her 90th birthday on Thursday. She lives in Orcutt and is quite a lady. I thought a 2nd chance orchid was appropriate for her.  
- Judy**

## How about a few ideas for your next orchid purchase?

Asbell Orchids in Arroyo Grande has a number of terrestrial orchids in spike. These Thunia orchids may or may not look like the web photo of a Thunia to the right, but who wouldn't want one of these to add to their collection? Call Dan Asbell to arrange for a visit (805) 550-1593.



You have to act fast to take advantage of a 20% discount from Ecuagenera. Use Discount Code: OrchidWorld at checkout. Chris Ehrler reports plants shipped during a previous sale were larger than normal as plants normally sold during the Spring shows remain in inventory. [www.ecuagenera.com](http://www.ecuagenera.com) for on-line orders.



## 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 them coming for the next newsletter!

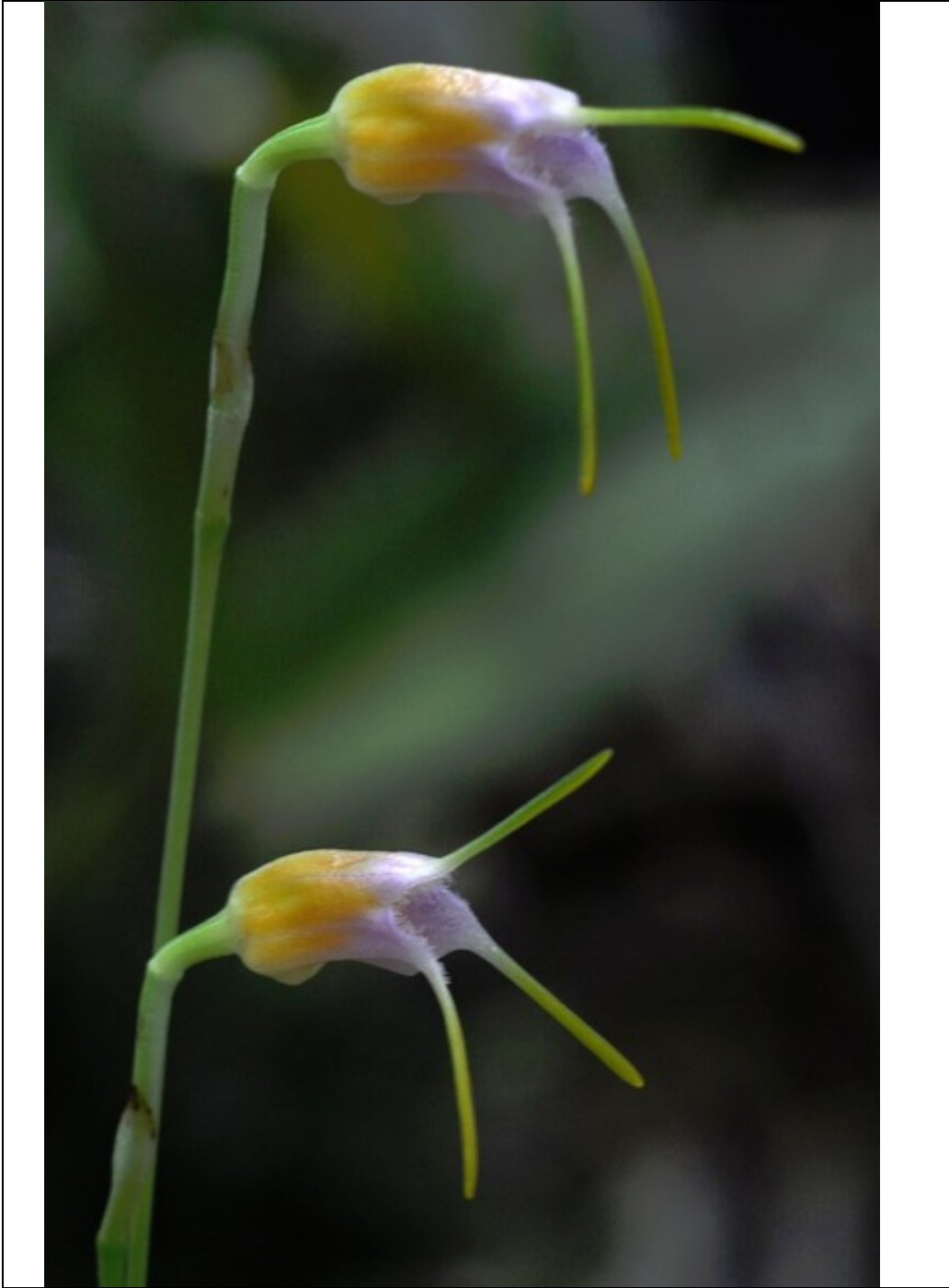


**Asbell Orchids in Arroyo Grande is well known to our members. Ed Lysek was encouraged to grow this *Lycaste odorata* hybrid by Dan and Bob Asbell during a visit two years ago. It has done exceedingly well and has a strong aroma of cinnamon. if you would like to add to your collection, Asbell Orchids has a good selection of *Lycaste* orchids for sale, many in bloom now. Grown by Ed Lysek**



The size of a quarter, but OH what a show! *Schoenorchis manipurensis* (fragrans) from India. Part of a group purchase of plants from India courtesy of Dan Newman of Hanging Gardens in Pacifica. At a future date FCOS members will have the opportunity to place another order for plants with Dan. Grown by Ed Lysek.







**Growing orchids in Templeton's warmer summer climate has made it virtually impossible for me to grow *Masdevallas*. But a plant of *M. paivaeana* from Kathy and Joe Parker of Pacifica has thrived for a year in a shady north corner of my greenhouse on a bed of gravel kept constantly moist since September 21, 2019. I hope this gives others the incentive to try something new and challenging. Grown by Ed Lysek**



***Dendrobium bensoniae*** - another plant purchased from India. Requires a dry winter rest and plenty of water and fertilizer in summer. Growing mounted on an oak branch. It gets watered every morning in spring and summer. Grown by Ed Lysek.



**Another miniature worth growing - and I'm sure you have the space.**





***Schoenorchis scolopendria*** purchased as a flask from Marni Turkel several years ago. Grows moist and shady and forms a carpet on oak or other suitable mounts. Temperature tolerant of cool winters and warm summers. Grown by Ed Lysek.



***Sedirea japonica* - Minmaru (miniature form) grown by Chris from the FCOS opportunity table a few months ago. Plant purchased by Jeff and Ed at the end of the 2019 SBIOE show for FCOS. When Jeff saw it in bloom he remembered that he had chosen this orchid off the table but then traded it to Chris. Grown by Chris Ehrler**



***Encyclia hanburyi* growing on a piece of cork oak. Inflorescence is 16 inches long and has seven flowers. Grown by Chris Ehrler**



*Dracula kareniae* grown by Chris on a piece of cork oak in a cool greenhouse. Might grow OK outside in Grover Beach if media was watered every day. Natively grows in Ecuador at elevations around 2000 meters. According to Orchidspecies.com *Dracula kareniae* is a natural hybrid between *D. erythrocodon* and *D. fuliginosa*.

*Dracula* Raven 'Sophie' grown in a mesh pot with a combination of Orchidata and lava rock. Is grown in a cool greenhouse by Chris. Raven is a hybrid made by John Leathers when he crossed *Dracula vampira* with *D. roezlii*. Grown by Chris Ehrler







***Dracula morleyi* (a species) grown in a mesh pot with sphagnum moss in a cool greenhouse. This species is an epiphyte that is found at an elevation of about 1,900 meters in elevation in northwestern Ecuador. Grown by Chris Ehler**



***Masdevallia* Mary Staal x *M. constricta*. Flower is almost 5 1/2 inches tall. Is grown in a clay pot with sphagnum moss. Grown by Chris Ehrler**

**Chris is growing *Masdevallia morochoi* in a clay pot with sphagnum moss. This species is native to southern Ecuador and northern Peru. Grown by Chris Ehrler**

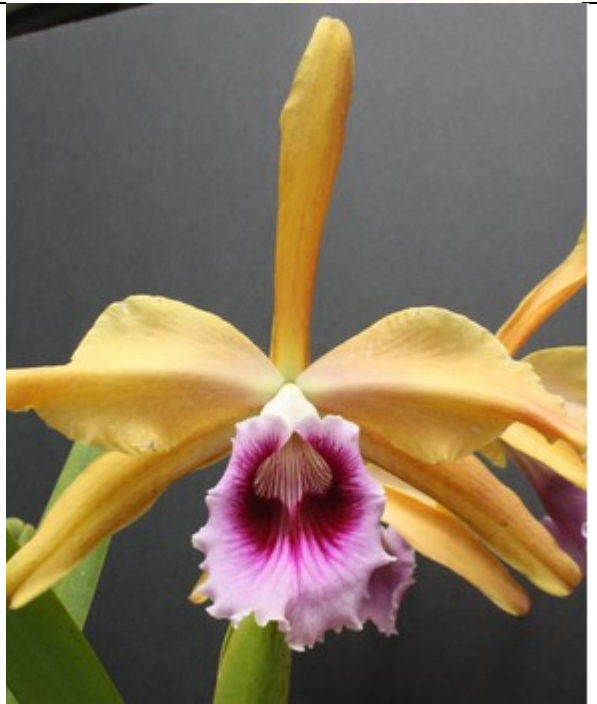


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|--|---|
|   | <p><b><i>Miltoniopsis</i> Herralexandra x MP 264</b> purchased at one of Ecuagenera's nurseries in Ecuador in 2017. Grown by Chris Ehrler</p> <p><i>Miltoniopsis</i> needs to be grown cool, moist and in bright light (no direct sunlight). Chris is growing his <i>Miltoniopsis</i> under cool conditions but they would probably do better if they were growing under intermediate conditions.</p> |
|  | <p><b><i>Miltoniopsis</i> Oso Ploar x Nube Blanca.</b> Also purchased at one of Ecuagenera's nurseries in Ecuador in 2017.</p>  |

***Laelia tenebrosa* ( and *purpurata*), and all the other spectacular Brazilian Laelias), are now *Cattleya tenebrosa*. The darker flower is the typical color form. Grown by Eric Holenda**



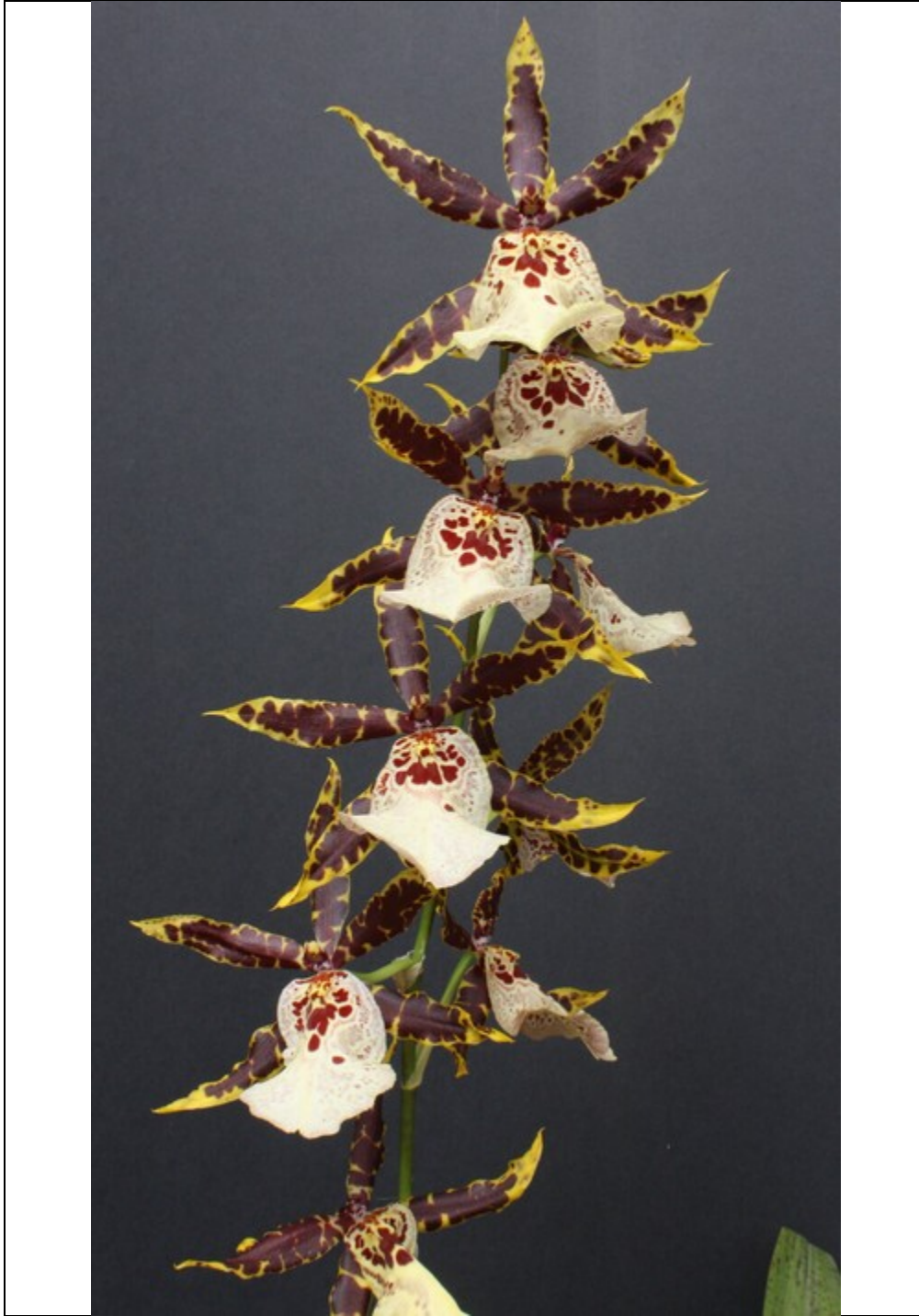
**This yellowish one is *C. tenebrosa* 'Golden Delight' HCC/AOS. The golden form is uncommon and much sought after. I acquired it from Larry Vierheilig's collection. Both plants originally came from Carter and Holmes. - Grown by Eric Holenda**





***Cattleya Canhamiana* 'Azure Star' AM/AOS is the coerulea ("blue") form of this primary cross, *C. mossiae* x . I can't say enough about this plant. It is a vigorous and trouble free grower. The flowers are much larger than the leaves, so in full bloom it has a bouquet effect. This plant now has 19 flowers on 9 spikes, in an 8 inch pot. Highly recommended! - Grown by Eric Holenda**





**Degarmoara Flying High 'Stars N Bars': I've had this plant for 25 or 30 years, almost lost it once or twice, but with TLC it has come back. All you old timers will remember Fred A. Stewart orchids in Santa Barbara. It is one of their meristems. - Grown by Eric Holenda**



**Slc Sun Spots x Slc Katherine Clark: A Sunset Valley Orchids seedling. These spotted things are crosses using the Brazilian bifoliate Cattleyas. They can be problematic to grow if you're not careful. I use an open mix of large bark and water frequently when they are growing (summer), as they have rambling roots that like air. When dormant you must be careful to let dry between waterings. - Grown by Eric Holenda**



***Dendrobium* or *Dockrilla wassellii* is native to a small area in the Cape York Peninsula, Australia. It grows outside, likes bright light and reduced winter watering. It takes a few years to get big and bloom well. - Grown by Eric Holenda**



***Stanhopea* buds. What will the flowers look like? You will have to check out the August FCOS newsletter to see what the open flowers will look like. Flowers are very fragrant and generally only last about last 5-7 days. But the plant currently has six flower spikes so my plant will have flowers off and on for awhile. - Grown by Chris Ehler**

And to add to the excitement - here's a *Stanhopea* bud on one of Ed Lysek's plants - this one is called The Predator. More reasons to watch for the August newsletter!



**LOOKING FOR SOMETHING TO DO IN PASO ROBLES? HOW ABOUT ORCHID ART AND A DAY OUT IN THE NORTH COUNTY?**



Orchids: Nature's Masterpiece show has re-opened at Studios on the Park in Paso Robles. Your chance to see watercolors from AOS artists Carol Woodin, Marcia Whitmore and a fantastic Cattleya portrait by our own FCOS member Mary Carole Larson as well as many other noted artists. Be sure to purchase a \$20 raffle ticket for Heather Matthews stunning etched glass panel of *Cattleya maxima* shown below. [www.studiosonthepark.org](http://www.studiosonthepark.org) for details.



***Cattleya maxima* 'Crownfox' by Heather Matthews. Raffle tickets for sale at Studios on the Park - raffle will be drawn once 50 tickets are sold. This museum quality artwork could be yours for a \$20 donation; proceeds go to the Children's Art Program.**

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

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

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