



**JULY 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)*



*Phalaenopsis* Jiaho Blueberry (Samera var. *coerulea* x *equestris*) growing under LED lights in my shade house in Los Osos. Wonderfully fragrant. For an interesting look at the ancestry of this orchid, [click here](#).



*Mystacidium* Neil McCormick



*Elleanthus amethystinus* Just waiting for a hummingbird visit.

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

**Hello All,**

**Summer brings its own delights and challenges to orchid growing. There's always something new to tinker with in the shadehouse--I've been working on keeping the humidity level higher as of late. This effort, along with the longer days and warmer temperatures, has paid off with new roots and sprouts popping out everywhere. I'm enjoying the new flowers on my *Mystacidium* and my novelty phals. My *Elleanthus amethystinus* blossoming with its tubular purple flowers; a visual temptation to the visiting hummingbirds. I'm also watching the new growths on my *Cymbidiums* with anticipation of the blooms to come. Orchids are such a joy!**

Looking forward to FCOS plans: We are working toward another auction in mid August. If you would like to donate any items, please let us know via this link: <https://fcos.betterworld.org/donate-an-item>

We also have excellent speakers and topics lined up till the end of the year. Be sure to keep up to date on the events section of our website for the latest information: [www.FCOS.org/events](http://www.FCOS.org/events).

I would like to encourage you to support the FCOS by becoming a member and paying your dues. If possible, you can also send in a donation --the FCOS is a 401(c)3 non-profit and donations are tax-deductable. Your contributions assist us in growing our programs and scheduling speakers for our meetings.

Happy Blooming!

Jeff

Membership Form: <https://fcos.betterworld.org/campaigns/membership-2>



**Five Cities Orchid Society Presents:  
Dennis Whigham: Orchid Ecology and Conservation  
Thurs July 8th at 7 pm**

Dennis Whigham is a Senior Botanist at the Smithsonian Institution where he has studied the ecology of plants for almost 40 years. He is a member of the Orchid Specialist group of IUCN and his interests in native orchids and their plight led to the establishment of the North American Orchid Conservation Center. <https://northamericanorchidcenter.org/>

Join [Zoom Meeting](#)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87016320614?pwd=YIFxMXZqVFA1V1BSazVvQmIzNnh4QT09>

Meeting ID: 870 1632 0614, Passcode: 613810

To find your local number go to: <https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kcNqzKNn34>

Last month's meeting featured Ana Satara who gave a very informative talk on orchid placement. Outdoor locations were discussed with respect to sunlight intensity and duration and shading from surrounding vegetation and buildings. Indoor growing under lights was discussed with many useful ideas regarding LED lights, trays and racks.

To view a recording of Ana's presentation, click on this link:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/QPxJ\\_N3vQ-\\_6cT1zjJ1AnbNvey3Ahupg-6Wm9nQPpg6\\_tQlbuSj6DZ\\_HptJTGNbJ.hyl2OKo7CwS2Ai7v](https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/QPxJ_N3vQ-_6cT1zjJ1AnbNvey3Ahupg-6Wm9nQPpg6_tQlbuSj6DZ_HptJTGNbJ.hyl2OKo7CwS2Ai7v)

Passcode: 4@LK0fCH

You can subscribe to Ana's newsletter at [An Essence of Orchids](#) to receive information on orchid culture and see some amazing orchid photographs. Be sure to read her excellent article "[Details of my fertilizer program for different genera](#)"

**Finding the "right light": growing areas and the art of orchid placement**  
**What is the "right light"?** Observe your plants and look for yellow leaves (too much light) or dark green leaves (too little light). Epsom Salt (Magnesium sulfate) at the rate of 1/3 to 1 tsp/gallon every two weeks in Spring and Fall can help protect chlorophyll from breaking down if exposed to high light conditions. Ana uses this for her outdoor growing *Cymbidiums*.

**More light is better?** Too much light can stress your orchid, cause leaf burn and may not lead to blooms.

**Location: latitude & light intensity.** For windowsill growers, Summer's high sun angle may mean less light gets to your plants. Lower sun angles in other seasons may increase light exposure for windowsill growers.

**Duration + Light Intensity = Growth.** Consider both light intensity AND duration for the total amount of light an orchid receives. Most orchids bloom based on temperature and dry/wet seasonal changes, not photoperiod. Equatorial orchids experience little change in day-length between winter and summer.

**Light spectrum.** Ana now uses Active Grow Sun White Spectrum LED lights and ballast free LED light strips. Light strips vary from 1 to 4 and are placed 12-15 inches above seedlings and 26 inches above blooming plants (10 inches for light loving *Laelias*). For lower light plants, the LED strips are placed higher, 20 inches for Stanhopeas and 35 inches for *Neofenetia falcata*. Lights are kept on 6 1/2 to 7 hours per day.

**Bringing it all together: orchid placement** - If you observe and adjust the light your orchids receive, they will prosper. For outdoor growers consider your latitude, sun angle, duration, intensity and the influence of buildings and trees to find optimal growing locations. For indoor growers consider the type of LED lights, the number and height of light strips and how long the lights are kept on and if growing on a windowsill, consider if summer is your 'dark' season and supplement with additional light if necessary.

*Note: See the letters to the editor below for information on the benches Ana™na used for both indoor and outdoor growing.*

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



***Dend. jenkensii*: an opportunity table plant, from Marni Turkel. Blooms like this every year.**

**This orchid likes to be grown mounted and needs a dry winter rest.**

**Grown by Eric Holenda.**

***Rhyncostele majalis*: opportunity table, from Dan Newman. Grows outside all year. Grown by Eric Holenda**







***Onc.* Sharry Baby - wonderful fragrance and long-lasting spikes with many flowers.**

**As Eric mentioned in his presentation a few months ago, keep pots of *Oncidiums* on the small side to allow the root ball to completely dry before re-watering.**

**Grown by Eric Holenda**

***Catt. Warscewiczii***: from  
Larry Vierheilig and now  
happily growing in Eric  
Holenda's greenhouse.





***Sarcochilus  
hartmanii*: alba  
form. Easy outdoor  
grower in a protected  
area of Eric Holenda's  
backyard in Nipomo.**

My sister thinks these look-like angels. I grow this plant outside in Arroyo Grande. The plant is *Epidendrum parkinsonianum*.

Grown by Alan Durham



*Epidendrum parkinsonianum* likes to grow mounted. The plant grows downward from the mount with fragrant, pendulous flowers.

Yes - this is a repeat from last month's newsletter, but it is a great reminder of the fantastic plants we expect to have for our August BetterWorld auction. Your Board is currently working with Brandon Tam of the Huntington to secure a donation of plants for August. Who knows what gems might be included?

Bob and Dan Asbell plan to divide their several plants of *Arpophyllum* this summer. Divisions may be available for purchase in a few months. Could one of these be listed on our FCOS August BetterWorld on-line auction? Check future newsletters for updates.



*Dendrobium bensonae* from India. Requires a dry winter rest. Grown by Ed Lysek

I grow *D. bensonae* mounted on an oak branch. Once watering begins in Feb. buds appear along last year's leafless canes and new canes sprout from the base. A small amount of sphagnum moss surrounds the base of the plant and retains a little extra moisture. Grown by Ed Lysek



*Lycaste aromatica* hybrid from Asbell Orchids. Loses its leaves in winter and needs a slight dry period. When watering returns there is a flush of yellow flowers from the base of the pseudobulbs. Strong cinnamon scent! Grown by Ed Lysek

*Cattleya brabantiae* 'El Toro' from Carter and Holmes several years ago. These are the first two blooms. Grown in a net basket filled with clay pellets (Hydroton) and watered daily in summer. Grown by Ed Lysek



*Schoenorchis scolopendria* grown from a flask purchased from Marni Turkel. Mounted on a piece of cork and grown in bright shade. Forms a dense mat on all sides of cork mounts. Grown by Ed Lysek

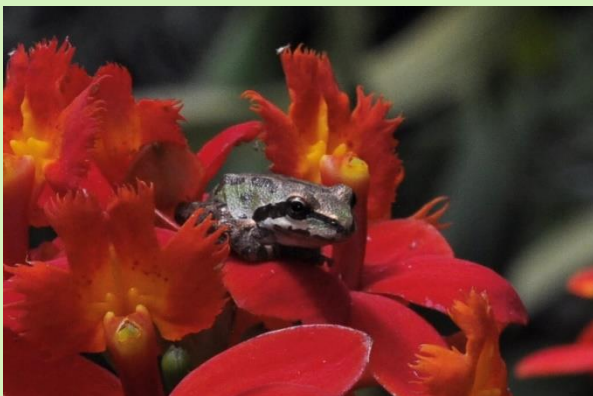
Another *Schoenorchis*, this one is *manipurensis* from India. Reported to need warm humid conditions, this one survived my cool dry winter greenhouse conditions and has bloomed two years in a row. Grown by Ed Lysek





***Dendrobium heteroglossum*** from Cal Orchids. Blooms for a long period in Spring and Summer. Flowers are pendulous along the mid-section of the canes. Grown without media in a plastic net basket in bright shade. Less water in winter, but not completely dry. Grown by Ed Lysek

***Cymbidium 'Ruby Eyes Red Barron'*** Conditions in Templeton are much cooler in winter than Arroyo Grande. Many of my Cymbidiums are still in flower in late June. Grown outdoors in coarse Orchiada bark by Ed Lysek.



I have a lot of frogs this year. They like to perch among the *Epidendrum* flowers and watch the world go by. Both the orchid and frog grown by Ed Lysek



***Encyclia* (now *Prosthecea*) *lancifolia*.**  
Easy to grow and wonderfully scented flowers. Grown by Ed Lysek



***Encyclia prismatocarpa***  
growing in bright shade. Intermediate conditions (cool in winter, hot in summer) and blooms late spring. Grown by Ed Lysek

***Dendrobium nobile***  
**'Red Emperor'** puts on an impressive show after a cold dry winter rest. Grown outside in Templeton, exposed to temperatures slightly below freezing several nights. Water and fertilize in summer and harden off in autumn with reduced fertilizer and less water. Grown by Ed Lysek





***Encyclia citrina* (current name according to some folks is *Prosthechea karwinskii*). This genus of this species has changed through time from *Cattleya* to *Encyclia*, to *Euchile* and now *Prosthechea*. This species natively grows in Mexico at an elevation of 4,300 to 8,600 feet above sea level. This plant is grown outside by Larry Stabler.**



***Dendrobium thysiflorum.***  
Found natively in Chinese Himalayas, Hainan China, Assam India, eastern Himalayas, Myanmar, Thailand, Laos and Vietnam at elevations of 1200 to 2000 meters. Is a cool grower. Grows outside (no direct sun) in a plastic pot with Kiwi Bark and lava rock. Grown by Chris Ehrler.

Close up of  
***Dendrobium thysiflorum*** flower.





***Dracuvallia Blue Boy***. Is a cross between *Masdevallia uniflora* x *Dracula chimera*. Grows in a cool greenhouse in a clay pot with sphagnum moss. Grown by Chris Ehrler.

Jeff Freeland sends his greetings to all his friends at FCOS from his new home in Pasadena, CA. This *Laelia sanguiloba* 'SVO' x *L. tenebrosa* 'None Darker' has 4 blooms and is happy growing for Jeff in its new location close to the Huntington Gardens.



AOS Santa Barbara Judging Center is back up and judging orchids again.

But, they are not currently able to use the previous location or date so they are now judging at the Dudley House at 197 N, Ashwood Ave. in Ventura. The judging begins at noon the third Saturday of each month. Once they are able to begin using the facility in Santa Barbara again then they will move back to judging during the Orchid Society of Santa Barbara meeting in Santa Barbara.

If you are interested in become an AOS judge please contact Jim Sloniker at (805) 642-4357 or via email at [jimorchid@aol.com](mailto:jimorchid@aol.com). Some additional info about the Pacific South Judging Region can be found at <https://www.aospacificsouth.org/information.html>. The judges are always looking for new folks that are interested in becoming an AOS judge.



**CalOrchids Summer Hummer is Back!**

Cal Orchids in Santa Barbara is hosting their Summer Hummer 2021 sale from Friday July 16 through Sunday July 18 from 9am until 4 pm each day. They are also hosting the *Neofinetia falcata* (Fukiran) show and Sale on Saturday July 17 from 10am until 3 pm. Informal lectures will take place before judging. Official judging will start at 2:00 PM. A discussion of the results will follow the judging. This event is sponsored by the Fukiran Society of America.

Parking is limited so they suggest that everyone carpools. They also suggest check on their website (<http://www.calorchid.com/>) prior to the date for any updates on the event.

**FCOS Lifetime Membership**

A New FCOS Lifetime Membership is available for a donation of \$500. The FCOS Board is looking for creative ways to ensure the long term financial health of FCOS. For those of you who are able to consider this generous donation your lifetime membership will help FCOS maintain its quality speaker programs and prepare for the resumption of our Spring Show. [Click here for donation details.](#)

**Become a Life Member of FCOS for a \$500 donation!**



**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR:**

Here's a better way to air your dirty (or clean) laundry. Got a complaint, suggestion or just want to express your opinion? send an email to our editors, [Jeff Parham](#), [Chris Ehrler](#) or [Ed Lysek](#). (photo courtesy of Gary Yong Gee).

**Question:** Last month's speaker, Anna had some great suggestions for the benches she uses. How can I get more information?

**Answer:** Anna provided this link to an article she wrote describing the benches she uses for both indoor and outdoor growing.

<https://www.aeorchids.com/orchid-growing-areas/affordable-flexible-benches-mounts-indoors-outdoors/>



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

**Five Cities Orchid Society 2021 Board of Directors**

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**Orchids are really great!**

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