



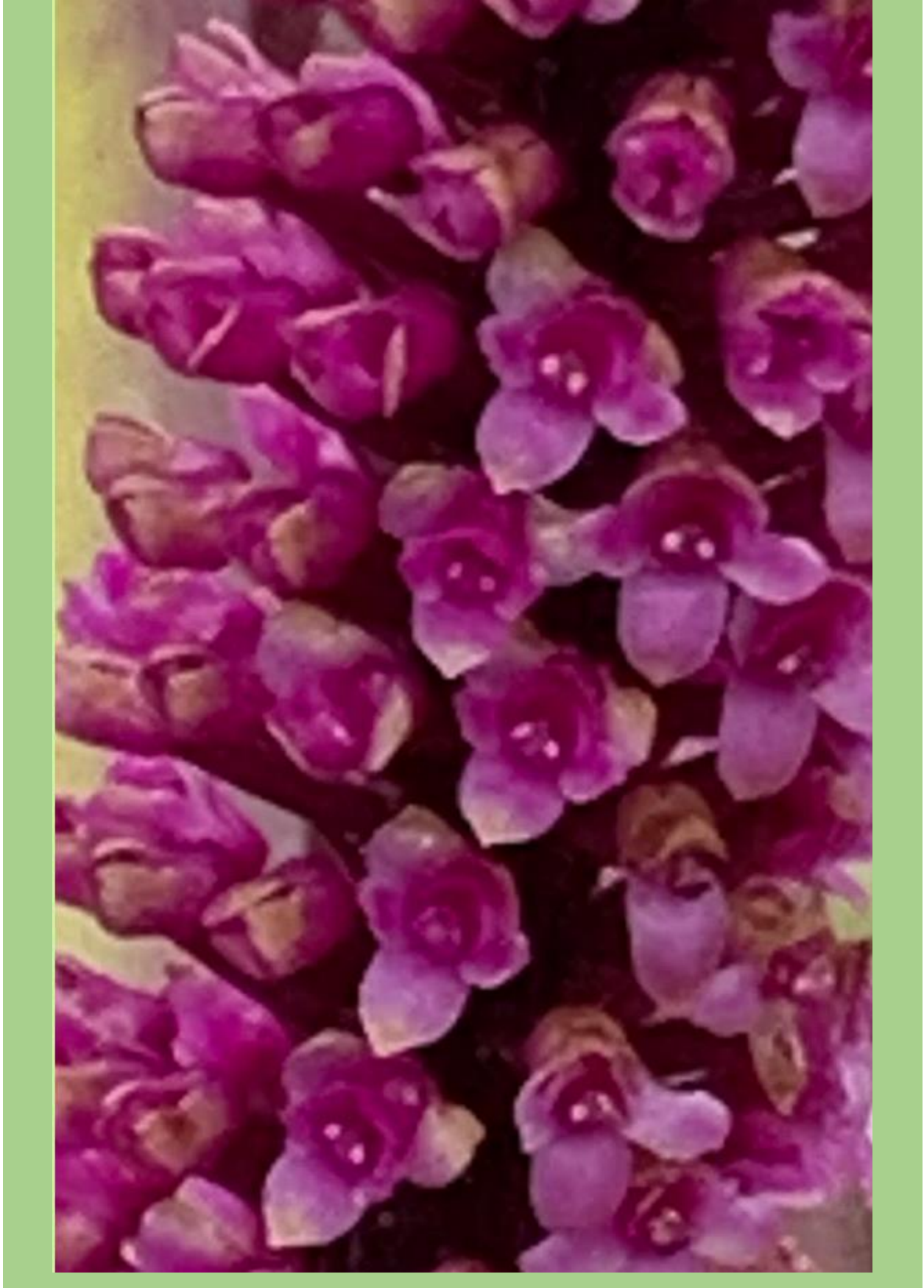
June 2022 Newsletter

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.fcso.org



Arpophyllum spiculatum growing in my backyard in Los Osos. Jeff Parham





From the President's Potting Bench:

I hope that everyone is doing well. May has certainly been a busy month. I have been lucky enough to repot several of my *Sarcochilus* and Aussie *Dendrobiums* that have been growing new roots. In particular, I've been enjoying the new flowers on our *Arpophyllum spiculatum*. It has 15 flower stalks, each comprised of small perfect purple flowers. When the flowering process is complete, we plan to divide it and offer some of these in a future member's auction.

FCOS is continuing to strengthen our partnership with the SLO Botanical Gardens. Some members of FCOS attended the SLO Botanical Gardens Donors dinner earlier in the month, including some from our Board of Directors. We are exploring options for the future; possibly starting with establishing some orchid gardens on the SLO Botanical Gardens' grounds. We are looking into importing some Mediterranean orchids this summer with that project in mind.

Our Zoom meeting last month featured Bruce Rogers, who inspired us with tall tales about *Sobralia* orchids. Bruce is credited with bringing *Sobralias* to our gardens and he has developed some incredible hybrids. These are some of my favorite outdoor-growing orchids, as they have can take a lot of sun and produce large flowers. *Sobralia* flowers bloom sequentially from the tip of the canes; once a flower blooms and drops it is replaced by a second flower that blooms just below the original. These plants make nice little landscape bushes.

Our next Zoom meeting will be on June 9, 2022, at 7 pm. A local botany professor from CalPoly, Professor Nishi Rajakaruna, will speak on plant processes and adaptations for growing in serpentine soils. The details for this meeting and Zoom link are available below. Our Zoom meeting starts promptly at 7 pm.

Generally speaking, our meetings are held the second Thursday of the month at 7 pm on Zoom. However, we will be arranging some opportunities to gather in person over time. In July, we will not meet for our regular Thursday evening meeting; rather we will gather in person on July 17 for a BBQ, potluck and silent orchid auction. A new members benefit is that members can sell up to 5 orchids per auction and agree to donate 20% of the selling price to the FCOS. So members are encouraged to bring extra divisions of plants that you want to donate or sell at this auction. In addition, we will be selling plants from our own FCOS orchid collection that have been grown by our members from plugs to full sized plants, including many large-flowered *Epidendrums*. When you RSVP for this meeting you will be provided all the details. We hope to see you at the picnic in July!

In regard to future events, reference the Events section on our website:

<https://www.fcoss.org/events-and-where>

I would like to encourage you to support the FCOS by paying your dues and/or sending in a donation. These funds are used to grow our programs and bring you engaging and knowledge speakers. FCOS is a 501(c)(3) Nonprofit Organization and all donations are tax deductible.

Check out the FCOS' Member Benefits page on our website (<https://www.fcos.org/memberbenefits>) for information on becoming a member of FCOS.

Happy Blooming!

Jeff



**Professor Nishanta "Nishi"
Rajakaruna, Ph.D.**

Faculty-in-Residence
California Polytechnic State University

Five Cities Orchid Society Presents:

[Why Serpentine Rocks: Serpentine Plant-Soil Relations in California and Beyond](#)

Professor Nishanta “Nishi” Rajakaruna, Ph.D.

Faculty-in-Residence

California Polytechnic State University

- Thursday, June 9, 2022
- 7:00 PM 8:30 PM

Professor Nishi Rajakaruna fell in love with plants at a young age during a visit to Sinharaja Rainforest, a lowland tropical rainforest in Sri Lanka. He received a BA in human ecology from College of the Atlantic (Maine) and conducted his post-undergraduate practical training in plant ecophysiology at Harvard University. His research on the evolutionary ecology of the *Lasthenia californica* complex earned him a MS and a PhD in botany from the University of British Columbia, Canada. Nishi conducted post-doctoral research in plant ecology at Stanford University. His research examines how plant diversity, ecology, and evolution are influenced by serpentine and other 'unusual' soils, including those with heavy metals. He has taught botany at College of the Atlantic and San José State University for 12 years and spent a year as a Fulbright US Scholar in Sri Lanka and India. He is currently a professor in plant biology at California Polytechnic State University where he teaches general botany, ethnobotany, biogeography, and geoecology.

Nishi has published over 95 peer-reviewed papers and book chapters on plant-soil relations of serpentine and other harsh edaphic settings in California, Maine, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Iran, and Russia and is the co-editor of two key treatments on plant life on serpentine soils [*Serpentine: Evolution and Ecology in a Model System* (2011) and *Soil and Biota of Serpentine: A World View* (2009) and a book titled *Plant Ecology and Evolution in Harsh Environments* (2014).

Thursday June 9th, 2022 7:00 - 8:30 PM PST

Join [Zoom](#) Meeting

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

Meeting ID: 823 5543 5739

Passcode: 204435

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kcNqzKNn34>



Silent Auction and Potluck

At the home of Hoss and Denise in Oceano

Sunday, July 17 from 1-4pm

We're barbecuing TriTip and Chicken
bring a side dish, salad, or dessert
and your favorite beverage.
(bottled water will be provided)

Bring your in bloom orchids for
SHOW and TELL

Bring your extra orchids, etc. to donate to the
SILENT AUCTION

Bring cash for AUCTION BIDDING

Replies are Required by July 10

to:

FCOS.ORG@gmail.com

Please email with the number of persons attending.

You will then be given the address and directions.

LIMITED PARKING — CARPOOL SUGGESTED

"Our mission is to encourage growing, blooming and enjoyment of orchids and companion plants by our members and the general public. To sponsor outreach, research and educational programs to promote orchid growing as a hobby or business. To promote the conservation of orchids in the wild."



Bruce Rodgers gave the FCOS group a Zoom presentation entitled "The Sobralia Orchids and other Tall Tales" at the May 2022 meeting. Bruce has been growing this genus of orchids for about 40 years and has one species named after him. He has made many hybrids. He showed many photos of many of the species and hybrids. A number of them only have flowers that are open for 1 day but some produce flowers that are open for up to 8 days. Some also produce flowers that can be up to 7 inches across. They are sequential bloomers so when one flower is finished then another one will open. They grow best when they are root bound. The trigger for flowering is possibly temperature as they generally bloom from August to September but some are known to flower in December, but flowering will probably depend on your culture and the plant's location. Bruce stated that they are impossible to divide as the root mass is very thick. He has found that for him they grow best in sphagnum moss when they are small then then he switches to a bark and perlite mixture for larger individuals. He said they need lots of water when growing but only uses a weak fertilizer solution that he uses every other week. It is important that the fertilizer has trace elements. Bruce stated they grow best in shady locations with full sun stressing the plants. He does not like to use pesticides but uses Integrated Pest Management (IPM) for control. This includes the following: predatory wasps, 'mealy bug destroyers' and lady bugs. He said to keep the lady bugs around his area slightly longer he puts the lady bugs into a cardboard box and then sprays them with a mixture of 7-up soda and water. The lady bug wings get stuck together and cannot fly for a few days, so the bugs have a chance of eating more pests until their wings become unstuck and they fly away a couple of days later.

Many of the Sobralia species have been used for medicinal purposes in Ecuador and Peru. He mentioned there was a book entitled "Medicinal Orchids of Asia" written by Eng Soon Teoh that was published in 2016 for those interested in more info about this subject. Bruce also talked about a wide variety of orchids that have been used for medicinal purposes or as food that grow in various locations in the world.



One of Bruce's "blue" Sobralias

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



Dendrobium falconeri likes warm, wet summers and bright dry winters. I've been growing several of these plants from a flask purchased in 2019 from Marni Turkel and this is a first bloom seedling. Pretty amazing flower on knobby, wiry pendulous canes. Grown by Ed Lysek.

Encyclia prismatocarpa - saw this blooming at SLO Orchids 10 years ago and really liked the prominent purple lip. It has bloomed every year since then. Tall spike with numerous flowers that last for at least a month. Grows well with warm summers and dry cool winters. Like all Encyclias (Prostheceas) it likes to dry out between waterings. Grown by Ed Lysek.





Trichoglottis pusilla has a fantastic flower and this is similar to the photo I saw on the Ecuagenera website when I purchased the plant. My intermediate greenhouse temperatures were ideal to grow this plant - and I made room for my new addition. Grown by Ed Lysek.

I was surprised at the size of this plant when it arrived! I had no idea it was a miniature. This is the second time it has bloomed in the two years I've had it and it is a great plant - and doesn't take up much room. - Grown by Ed Lysek.





Bletilla 'Peaches and Cream' was sent to me from Kusamono Gardens 1 small rhizome with two leaves in a 2" pot in 2018. I will repot it from a 1gallon to a squat 5 gallon this year and may have some to share next year. 5 flower spikes. - Grown by RLarry Touchette.

Bletilla striata. I bought the original rhizome from a Japanese nursery in LA for a dollar in 1985. Put it in a 24" pot in 2009, moved it up to Santa Maria in 2015 and put it at the north east corner of the back of the house. This year they decided to go for a walk. I use Miracle-Gro moisture control non-organic potting soil. The wind stripped most of the flowers off, there were about 30 spikes. Grown by RLarry Touchette.





Bletilla ochracea I got this from Quarryhill Botanical Garden in a 4" pot in 2018. It is now in a squat 5 gallon pot, 9 flower spikes. Grown by RLarry Touchette.

Bletilla soryu Grown by RLarry Touchette.





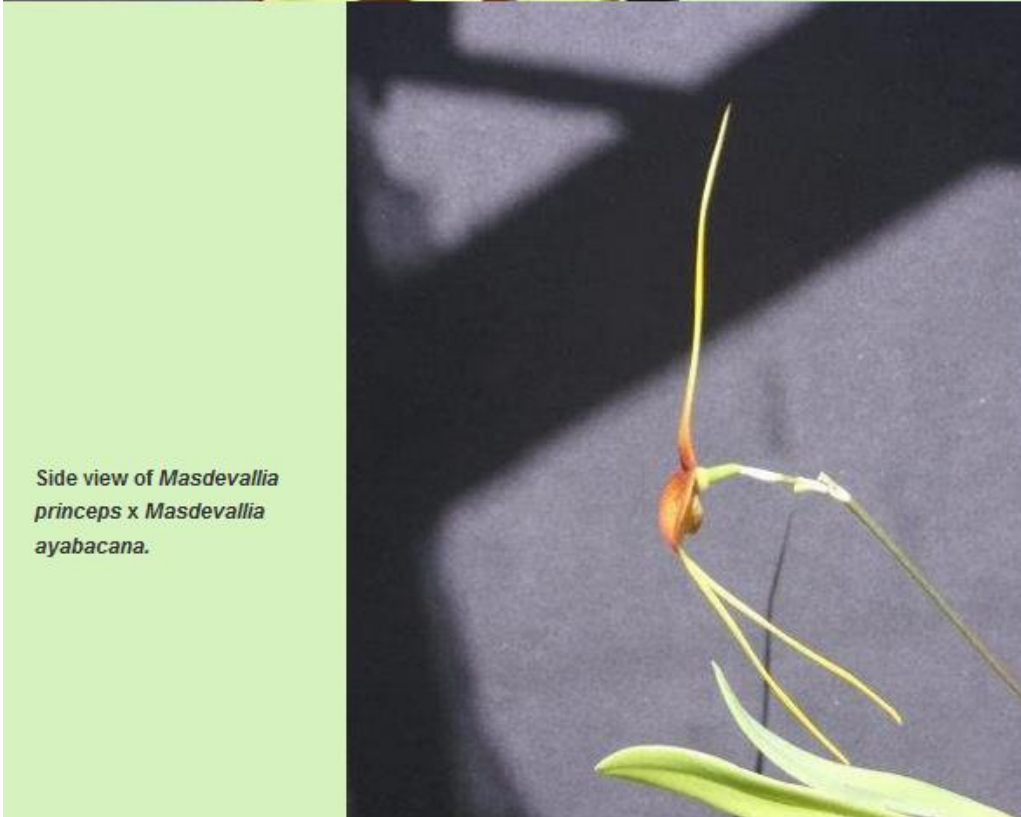
Masdevallia coccinea var
alba 'Blanca" AM/AOS.
This species is found in
Colombia and Peru at
elevations between 2400
to 3000 meters. Grown by
Jeffrey Thompson.

Masdevallia coccinea var *alba*
‘Blanca” AM/AOS. A closeup of
the same clone. Grown
mounted on a piece of wood
with some sphagnum moss on
the roots. Grown in a cool
greenhouse by Chris Ehrler.





This is a primary hybrid between *Masdevallia princeps* x *Masdevallia ayabacana*. Grown by Jeffrey Thompson.



Side view of *Masdevallia princeps* x *Masdevallia ayabacana*.



Masdevallia civilis. This cold growing species can grow as an epiphyte, terrestrial or lithophyte and is found in Colombia, Venezuela, Ecuador and Peru at elevations of 2000 to 3000 meters. Grown by Jeffrey Thompson.

Masdevallia ignea 'York'. This species natively grows at elevations between 2600 to 3800 meters in the Eastern Cordillera of Colombia. Grown by Jeffrey Thompson.





Masdevallia caudata. A cool to cold growing epiphytic species growing at between 800 to 3300 meters in Peru, Ecuador, Colombia and western Venezuela. Grown outside in a clay pot filled with sphagnum moss. Grown by Chris Ehler.

Closeup of *Masdevallia caudata* flower.





Dracula navarroorum. This cool growing epiphytic species is found in western Ecuador at elevations around about 1800 meters. Grown in a plastic mesh pot filled with sphagnum moss which is hung in a cool greenhouse. Grown by Chris Ehrlar.

Closeup of *Dracula navarroorum* flower.





Dracula ripleyana. A cool growing species which is possibly found in the wild in Costa Rica. Is a sequential bloomer so there are multiple flowers growing on each inflorescence. Grown in a plastic mesh pot filled with sphagnum moss which is hung in a cool greenhouse. Grown by Chris Ehrler.

Closeup of *Dracula ripleyana* flower.





Dendrobium trantuanii is found in northwestern Vietnam in rather dry broad leaf evergreen forests at elevations of 800 to 1000 meters. It is listed in www.orchidspecis.com as a warm growing epiphyte but is growing well in a cool greenhouse. It is mounted on a piece of cork oak with sphagnum moss over the roots. Grown by Chris Ehrler.

Closeup of *Dendrobium trantuanii* lip structure.





This Miltoniopsis hybrid is fragrant. Grown in a cool greenhouse in a plastic pot filled with sphagnum moss. Grown by Chris Ehrler.



Sarcochilus hartmannii. Grows natively in eastern Australian as a cool to warm growing lithophytic and sometimes epiphytic species at altitudes up to 1000 meters. This plant is growing outside in shade on the north side of the house in a plastic pot filled with a combination of bark and lava rock. Grown by Chris Ehrler.

Sarcochilus Kulnura
Sweetie 'Em Style' x S.
(Cherrie Dawn x Kulnura
Ripple) 'Tipped'. This hybrid
is growing outside in shade
on the north side of the
house in a plastic pot filled
with a combination of bark
and lava rock. Grown by
Chris Ehrler.



Sarcochilus Kirra-Lea.
This hybrid is a cross
between *Sarcochilus* Heidi
and *S. fitzgeraldii* which
was registered in 1995.
Growing outside in shade
on the north side of the
house in a plastic pot filled
with a combination of bark
and lava rock. Grown by
Chris Ehrler.



A number of years ago Dan
Asbell did a selfing of this
plant and the following four
images are flowers from
the seedlings that were
produced by this selfing
that then grew out in his
laboratory.



Flower from *Sarcochilus* Kirra-Lea selfing. This and the next three flowers are all from the same selfing and flask and were all mounted on a piece of cork oak in 2018 and which generally hangs outside in shade on the north side of the house. Grown by Chris Ehrler.

Another flower from *Sarcochilus* Kirra-Lea selfing.





Another flower from
Sarchochilus Kirra-Lea
selfing.

Another flower from
Sarchochilus Kirra-Lea
selfing.





Scaphosepalum beluosum. This cool to cold growing epiphytic species is found on the western slopes of the Andes in Ecuador at elevations of 1500 to 2200 meters. Grown in a mesh pot filled with sphagnum moss which is hanging in a cool greenhouse. Grown by Chris Ehrler.

Front view of
Scaphosepalum beluosum
flower.





Scaphosepalum gibberosum. A cool to cold growing epiphytic species found at elevations of 1600 to 2000 meters in the Andes of Colombia. Grown mounted on a piece of wood with sphagnum moss covering the roots. Growing in a cool greenhouse by Chris Ehrler.

Closeup of *Scaphosepalum gibberosum* flower.





Dendrobium trantuanii
grown by Karen Kolba.
Likes warm wet
summers and cooler,
dry winters.

Dendrobium nobile 'Red Emperor Prince' grows in a sheltered spot outdoors all year in Templeton. Tolerates mild frosts in winter and hot summers. Grown by Ed Lysek





Dendrobium moschatum a division given to me by Eric Holenda several years ago. This is the first time it has bloomed for me and has three spikes with 10+ flowers on each spike. Warm, wet summers with lots of fertilizer and a cool dry winter rest.

Close up of the pouch shaped lip of *Den. moschatum* with a fringe around the edge of the lip. Very unusual and attractive flowers. Growing happily in Templeton in an undersized pot in bright diffuse light (3,000-4,000 fc) Ed Lysek





Sarcochillus hartmannii
(Amanda x Pur White)
original plant donated to
FCOS by Joe Ambriz of
Ambriz Kingdom of Plants
(see ad below). Plant was
grown by Ed Lysek before
being re-donated to the
FCOS/BetterWorld auction
and purchased by Joan
Graham. This is the best
this plant has ever looked!
Good job providing the right
growing conditions Joan.

Sarcochillus hartmannii
(Amanda x Pur White) is
one of my first orchids. I
bought this at FCOS's April
2021 auction and the plant
was donated by Ed Lysek.
This is grown mounted on
my outside patio in Los
Osos. Grown by Joan
Graham.





**P. Schilleriana x P. man I
grown on the patio in Los
Osos by Joan Graham.**

**SLC Lee's Ruby Valentine
Gift x SLC Tutankamen Pop
AM/AOS**



Did I pay my FCOA 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](#), [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.

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 mature plants, many in spike. Seeking for \$20-\$30 each. See photos below. Contact Jerry Camel 805-543-9338.

Five Cities Orchid Society 2022 Board of Directors

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Orchids are really great!

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

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