



June 2023 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



Phragmipedium schroederae, a primary hybrid of *Phragmipedium caudatum* x *Phragmipedium sedenii*, made in 1882. This division is purportedly from the original plant which makes this a Living Antique. Grown in bark with lots of water under LED lights in Los Osos, by Jeff Parham.

From the President's Potting Bench

We are excited to announce that the FCOS will be turning 33 years old this summer! To celebrate this momentous occasion, we are organizing an FCOS Birthday Party on July 15th.

We invite all our members and supporters to join us in this celebration of our accomplishments over the past three decades. It will be a great opportunity to socialize, share memories, and toast to the future of our organization.

If you have been looking for an opportunity to volunteer and get involved in your orchid community, this is your chance. To make things easier for everyone, we have set up a signup genius page where you can select the task you would like to help with. Whether you are interested in decorating, cooking, BBQing, or helping with the cleanup, we have a job for you. Click on the link provided and sign up today to make this party a success! Please sign up on [signup genius](#) to volunteer and help with the party.

We will provide more details about the event in the coming weeks, but please mark your calendars for July 15th and save the date! I hope to see you all there!

If you would like to donate plants for our members only online auction to be held the first two weeks of July then use this [donation form](#). Plants from the auction can be picked up during the July 15th Birthday party. There will also be a silent auction of plants that members bring to the party.

Be sure to keep checking the events section on our website for information on upcoming Orchid Talks and events on our FCOS calendar. We have arranged to have some fascinating speakers that will talk about specific areas to grow orchids such Growing Orchids on the California Coast and Inland, Orchids from Mediterranean climates: Orchids of Crete and Australia and Orchid Talks that feature *Laelia*, *Habenaria*, *Cattleyas*, *Sarcochilus*, *Pleurothallids*, *Paphiopedilums* and *Phragmipediums*. Be sure to come back and check this link often for our updated schedules and special events.

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

The FCOS Board of Directors is working on developing new membership benefits, leadership, and volunteer opportunities to keep our members engaged and driving the growth of the Society.

I would like to thank all the contributors and editors of this newsletter for all the help with putting this online publication together. Please submit pictures of your orchids with a description of the plant and/or cultural information by the 25th of the month so that we can include it in the following months newsletter. The newsletters are a great way to see what orchids your neighbors and fellow members are growing.

I would like to encourage your support of the FCOS by paying your annual dues, if you haven't done so already this year. 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. <https://fcos.betterworld.org/donate>

Joining the Five Cities Orchid Society can offer many benefits, including:

1. Access to expert knowledge: Orchid societies bring together people with a great deal of knowledge and experience in growing and caring for orchids. FCOS hosts a monthly zoom meeting with expert Orchidologists who may specialize in particular genera, species of orchid, or cover a particular geographical area or topic of orchid culture. By joining FCOS, you can tap into this expertise and learn from others who share your passion for orchids.
2. Resources and information: The FCOS publishes newsletters, maintains a website, and hosts events where members can learn about different orchid species, growing techniques, and other topics related to orchid care.
3. Access to rare or hard-to-find varieties: the FCOS has members who specialize in growing specific types of orchids or who have access to rare or hard-to-find varieties. By joining our orchid society, you may be able to purchase or trade plants with other members and expand your own collection.
4. Discounts on supplies: FCOS has created partnerships with suppliers that offer discounts to members on orchid-related products and supplies.
5. Camaraderie with other orchid enthusiasts: Joining the Five Cities Orchid Society can be a great way to connect with others who share your passion for orchids. You can meet fellow orchid enthusiasts, share your experiences and knowledge, and develop new friendships with like-minded people.

Overall, joining FCOS can be a wonderful way to deepen your knowledge of orchid care, expand your collection, and connect with other orchid enthusiasts in your area.

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

Join FCOS: We will help you grow better orchids.

Happy Blooming!- Jeffery Parham, President



Sarcocilus hybrid: SVO G074 Sarcocilus Kulnura High 'Melba' x Sarcocilus Kulnura Lemon 'Lemon1'. Plant is grown in bark in a self watering pot, and growing in the outside in the open air. Plant currently has 6 flower stalks in the process of opening and developing flower buds.



SVO G056 Sarcocilus Kulnura Ballerina 'Rod' x Sarcocilus Kulnura Fireball 'Intense
AD/AOC.



Collection of Sarcocilus hybrids growing outdoors, all in various stages of flowering.



Five Cities Orchid Society (FCOS) Presents

ORCHID TALKS 2023:

FRED CLARKE "Today's Mini and Compact Cattleya's"

- Thursday, June 8, 2023
- 7:00 PM 8:30 PM
- [Google Calendar ICS](#)

Fred will present a detailed look at the species and latest developments in the breeding and growing of these colorful flowers.

Today Mini and Compact growing Cattleya's come in many colors and shapes. Learn about the small growing Cattleya species, the important breeding plants and what hybrids are available for the orchid enthusiast. In conclusion we cover the 'best growing practices' for cultivating these little gems.

The presenter will be Fred Clarke of Sunset Valley Orchids in Vista. Fred Clarke has been growing orchids for 42 years and has been hybridizing for 38 of those years. With over 34 years as a professional grower and manager in the horticultural industry, Fred applies these skills at his orchid nursery; Sunset Valley Orchids, located in San Diego, California.

He is a passionate orchid grower whose curiosity in orchids is broad and varied. Although developing Cattleya hybrids has been his sustaining interest, he is also actively creating new Paphiopedilum and Aussie Dendrobium hybrids plus some others to be named if they work out! His pioneering work in Catasetum intergeneric hybrids led to the development of several notable hybrids, most recently the grex, Fredclarkeara After Dark, which produced "the blackest flower ever witnessed." This grex has received over 100 awards worldwide with nine FCC's and thirty AM's from the AOS judges!

Fred is an Accredited Judge in the Pacific South Judging Region. His plants have received hundreds of quality awards from the American Orchid Society.

Source:: <https://www.sunsetvalleyorchids.com>

The Five Cities Orchid Society is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: FCOS's Orchid Talks

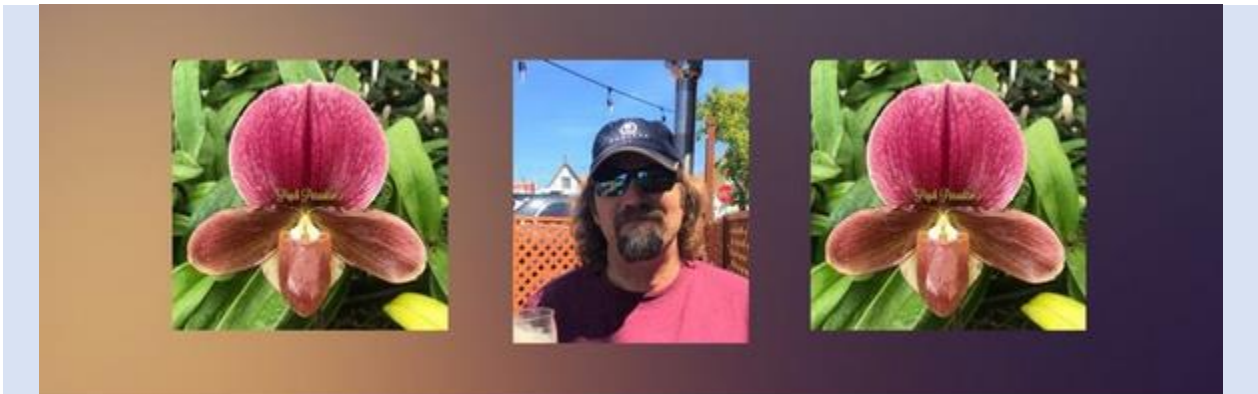
Time: This is a recurring meeting Meet anytime

Join Zoom Meeting

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

Meeting ID: 823 5543 5739

Passcode: 204435



The FCOS group was pleased to have Dave Sorokowsky from Paph Paradise speak at the May Zoom meeting on “Don’t fear the Slippers. Dave began by talking about watering orchids and he stated that he waters using a dramm water breaker and waters each pot three times and stated that any residual salts in the pot will be flushed out on the third watering. This makes sure that the entire bark mixture in each pot is wet.

His bark mixture consists of equal parts Orchinata, perlite, and charcoal. The mix needs to be well draining. Good drainage will cause the roots to grow down into the mix faster searching for moisture. Some of this group like oyster shells added to the planting mix. He said that sphagnum moss will either keep the root too wet or too dry and that coco husk will kill the roots. He uses a MSU 13-3-15 fertilizer made by Greencare. In the spring he uses a mixture of 150 ppm Nitrogen, then in summer ups the concentration to 250 ppm Nitrogen and then during the winter only 100 ppm Nitrogen. (See the article below for a quick method to calculate the ppm nitrogen of a fertilizer). He adjusts pH to 5.8 which is the level where most of the nutrients are available to the orchids. Three times per year he applies a mixture of 1 tablespoon of Epson Salt (adjusted to pH=5.0), with two of the applications in the spring and one in the fall. He generally must spray for mealy bugs, sometimes for mites and fungus.

He then proceeded to discuss groups of Paph that are easy to grow. These Maudiae types generally need less light and like the temperatures that we like, and need to be watered at least weekly. Complex Paphs have longer lasting flowers and prefer a maximum temperature of 85F and are OK down to about 40F. In the spring they need lots of water to make sure the flowers develop properly. Multifloral Paphs need more light and are generally larger plants and prefer to have a temperature range between mid-80s to low 60s. The species in this easy to grow group include at least the following: *P. venustum*, *P. wardii*, *P. delenatii*, *P. villosum*, *P. gratixianum*, and *P. henyanum*. Sequential bloomers in this easy to grow group include *P. haynaldianum*, *P. lowii* and *P. rothchildianum*. Dave stated that *P. rothchildianum* will take at least six years to bloom once removed from a flask. The multiflorals need bright light, warm temperatures and should dry out slightly before each watering. Dave then talked about species that were moderately difficult to grow. These include *P. niveum*, *P. sanderianum*, *P. sukhakulii*, and *P. charlesworthii*. He then stated that the ‘trouble makers’ (difficult to grow) species

included *P. fairrieanum*, *P. tigrinum*, *P. helinae*, *P. armeniacum* and *P. emersonii*. Dave ended by stating that you should not water on cold days and always water early in the day to allow water on the leaves to dry out. Suggests having good air flow around your orchids. After repotting with new bark, he said to water every day for one week to make sure the bark is really wet. He suggested checking out his website (<https://www.paphparadise.com/>) for a wide variety of videos he has produced to help you become a better Paph grower.

If you missed the last meeting and would like to watch the recording, it will be available for the next month at:

https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/KRpjWJRDwv04M3fdtBMu0PpDsJGci75lneFG5ZXSidDPBf6O6ieINsLCrXAaL_3K.bNLts3LYnMYUcy2j

Passcode: A%ckmV4R



Fertilizing you orchids simplified by Ray Barkalow of [FirstRays](https://www.firstrays.com/)

Those of you that are familiar with me, whether in-person, via online forums or this newsletter, know how detailed and "nerdy" I can get about plant nutrition. I have no doubt that some of

you view that as "overkill", so I thought I'd put together a few bullet points that constitute a simple, yet effective methodology to follow when feeding your plants.

- Fertilizer formula, in general, is not critical.
- If you use a pure water source – rain, RO, distilled, etc. – you must supplement Mg and Ca. You can use an ordinary fertilizer and use supplement additives, but I find it easier to use a formula already containing them. In order of amount contained, K-Lite has the most, followed by MSU RO and Jack's Cal-Mag.
- There is no need to switch formulas if the one you're using is nutritionally complete.
- Nitrogen is, by far, the most important nutrient. I strongly urge growers to use nitrogen content as the feeding control factor – analogous to calorie counting for people.
- Since we have no idea of the mass uptake by the plant, we can use fertilizer concentration and frequency of application as a control mechanism.
- A good, general feeding regimen should supply between 75 and 125 ppm N per week. Don't let that scare you – it's easy to translate that to easy to use measurements:
 - Divide 8 by the %N in the formula. The result is teaspoons/gallon to mix for the middle of that range, giving you room to round up or down for measuring convenience. Here are a few examples:
 - K-Lite Orchid/Epiphyte Fertilizer contains 12.9% nitrogen. $8/12.9=0.62$, so 1/2-, 2/3-, or 3/4 teaspoon per gallon keeps you in the recommended range.
 - MSU Fertilizer for Well Water contains 19.2% nitrogen. $8/19.2=0.42$, so use 1/3 to 1/2 teaspoon per gallon.
 - Miracle-Gro Orchid Food is a 30% N formula. $8/30=0.267$, so 1/4 teaspoon/gallon is appropriate.
 - If you work with metric measures, dividing 9.2 by the %N gives the result in ml/L.
 - If you feed every two weeks (that's the longest interval I recommend), double the numerator in that simple math.
- If you decide to change fertilizer formula, use the same nitrogen concentration, but do not expect to see a change in your plants' growth and flowering. If that's your goal, maintain a steady course with your feeding and look instead at other aspects of your overall culture.
- Of course, I still recommend supplementing your feeding regimen with Kelpak and Quantum-Total, as they offer significant benefits.

Until next time... *Good Growing!* -Ray



If you are interested to see how New Zealand orchid societies hold their orchid shows, here is a link to an excellent article about the upcoming "Orchids & More" show where our June speaker, Fred Clarke will be a featured speaker. There is also an article on the origins of the NZ company who introduced Orchiata Bark to the world.

<https://orchidsandmore2023.wordpress.com/>

Conejo Orchid Society



Orchid Show and Sale

Thousand Oaks Public Library

1401 East Janss Road, Thousand Oaks

Friday, June 2, 1 pm to 6 pm

Saturday, June 3, 10 am to 5 pm

Sunday, June 4, Noon to 2 pm

Admission is Free

Displays, Plant Sales and Demonstrations

Come Early for the Best Selection

Orchids for sale include many varieties of nursery and member grown plants

Many beautiful but inexpensive orchids for the beginner

Companion plants, such as tillandsias and succulents also on sale

Cash or Checks Only

Demonstrations: Friday 2 pm, Saturday 11 am, 2 pm

Bring your orchid questions

Questions: (805) 410-3803

Conejo Orchid Society is a 501(c)(5) Non-Profit Organization
This program is not a Thousand Oaks Library sponsored event

If New Zealand is too far to go, how about Thousand Oaks?



Thank you for doing the dishes
and folding the laundry.
So... how much did you spend
FOR THE NEW ORCHID

A little orchid humor....



Please feel free to submit any orchid humor you find for future newsletters...



We are excited to announce that we are hosting a party and we need your help! In order to ensure the party runs smoothly and is a success, we are looking for volunteers to assist with various tasks throughout the event. These tasks may include setting up decorations, serving food and drinks, and cleaning up after the party. If you are interested in volunteering, please sign up on Signup Genius using the link provided. Your help is greatly appreciated and will contribute to making this party a memorable experience for everyone!

Please sign up on [signup genius](https://www.signupgenius.com) to volunteer and help with the party.

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

How are your free 'FCOS Member Challenge' orchids doing that you hopefully picked up at this year's Orchid Fest ? Below is one that now has open flowers and another that is in bud. If you want to see what the flower currently hidden in the bud looks like do not forget to check out then month's newsletter. When your Member Challenge orchids are in bloom please send in photos so we can see what your flowers look like.



Howeara Lava Burst
'Puanani' AM/AOS. This is
one flower of about ten
on the spike, many of
which have not yet
opened.



Epipactis gigantea are starting to bloom at the San Luis Obispo Botanical Garden. Photo submitted by Martin De La Cruz, Horticultural Support.

Cypripedium kentuckyensis,
grown by Michael Jenne and
photograph by Chris
Howard, Guadalupe, CA.





Enc. profusa 'Peter's' x *Enc. incumbens* 'Martha'

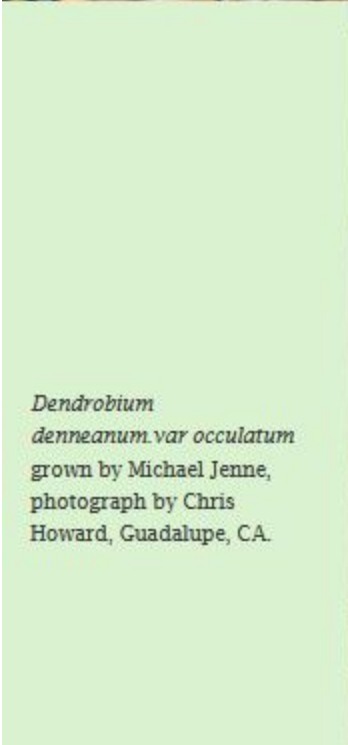
This is a pretty big name for such a sweet, delicate orchid. It blooms regularly about this time each year. It stays in our greenhouse and gets fed and watered with the rest of the orchids. It is one of my favorites. Grown by Judy and Chuck Scheithauer.

A close up of the sweetly scented *Encyclia* shown above. Grown by Judy and Chuck Scheithauer.





Paph. Dr. Toot. Grown by Michael Jenne and photograph by Chris Howard, Guadalupe, CA.



Dendrobium denneanum var. occulatum grown by Michael Jenne, photograph by Chris Howard, Guadalupe, CA.





Dendrobium thrysiflorum.
Purchased as a two cane division on the \$7.50 bargain table at Santa Barbara Orchid Estate 12 years ago. Last year this plant had 24 flower spikes. Time to divide and offer some divisions at the July FCOS Birthday Party. Dry winter rest in winter, monsoon conditions in summer (lots of water and fertilizer). Grown by Ed Lysek.

B/c Picotee Passion from Sunset Valley Orchids. Almost killed this one a few winters ago by overwatering in winter. Three nice blooms this year. Grown by Ed Lysek.





Lc. Stonehouse is a very temperature tolerant *Cattleya* that can take winter lows in the 40's and summer highs in the 90's. Orchid Web states "A famous hybrid made up of 25% *Cattleya mossiae*, 25% *Laelia purpurata* and 50% *Cattleya trianaei*. Very robust with huge flowers colored in white with a scarlet lip and yellow eyes in the lip. This plant dates back to 1916 and was registered by H. Worsley." Every few years I plop the entire plant and pot into a slightly larger pot, using Hydroton clay pellets to fill the gap. Next year will be pot number 4. Grown by Ed Lysek.

Cattlianthe suavis (*C. schroederae* x *Guranthe skinneri*) obtained as a bare root division from Andy Easton who states "this orchid blooms like a maniac." Bright diffused light, very porous media (large bark and perlite or Hydroton clay pellets) in a hanging basket. Grown by Ed Lysek.





Cat. George Hauserman has 15 *Cattleia* species in its background according to [orchid roots.com](http://orchidroots.com). Photos don't capture the intense rich velvety red of the lip. I continue to struggle to get this orchid to survive my cool winter greenhouse conditions. Maybe a small zone heater or heating pad will help next winter. Grown by Ed Lysek.

Rhynchostylis retusa grows as an epiphyte in trees in Southeast Asia at elevations of 1,000 to 5,000 ft. I grow it in hanging slotted clay pots with either large chunks of bark or volcanic rock. The pencil thick roots need plenty of air. Watered daily in spring and summer. Grown by Ed Lysek.





Orquidacea's 'Small Fortune' (SVO 7056) from a flask planted out in 2017. Plants from this flask have ranged from solid orange to solid red but my favorite is this bi-colored variant. If you've never tried growing orchids from flask you're missing a great opportunity to share plants with friends and discover a few gems for your own collection. Flask from Sunset Valley Orchids. Grown by Ed Lysek.

Oncidium Mayfair 'Trinity' is always a show stopper with its solid yellow flowers. Grown in an undersized net pot and allowed to dry between waterings. See the [Oct. 2020 newsletter](#) for FCOS member Eric Holenda's *Oncidium* growing suggestions. Grown by Ed Lysek.





Cymbidium Lotza Spotz 101 x *Cymbidium devonianum* 'Grant'. Grown outside in a plastic pot filled with a mixture of bark and lava rock. Pot is placed under a lath shade structure. Grown by Chris Ehrler.

Dendrobium trantuanii. In orchidspecies.com this is reported to be a warm growing epiphyte native to in northwestern Vietnam elevations of 800 to 1000 meters. But this orchid is growing well mounted on a piece of cork bark which is in a cool greenhouse. It has survived 40 F nights in winter. Grown by Chris Ehrler.



Side view of *Dendrobium trantuanii* flower.

Closeup of *Dendrobium trantuanii* fuzzy lip. Wonder what this lip feels like to the pollinator?





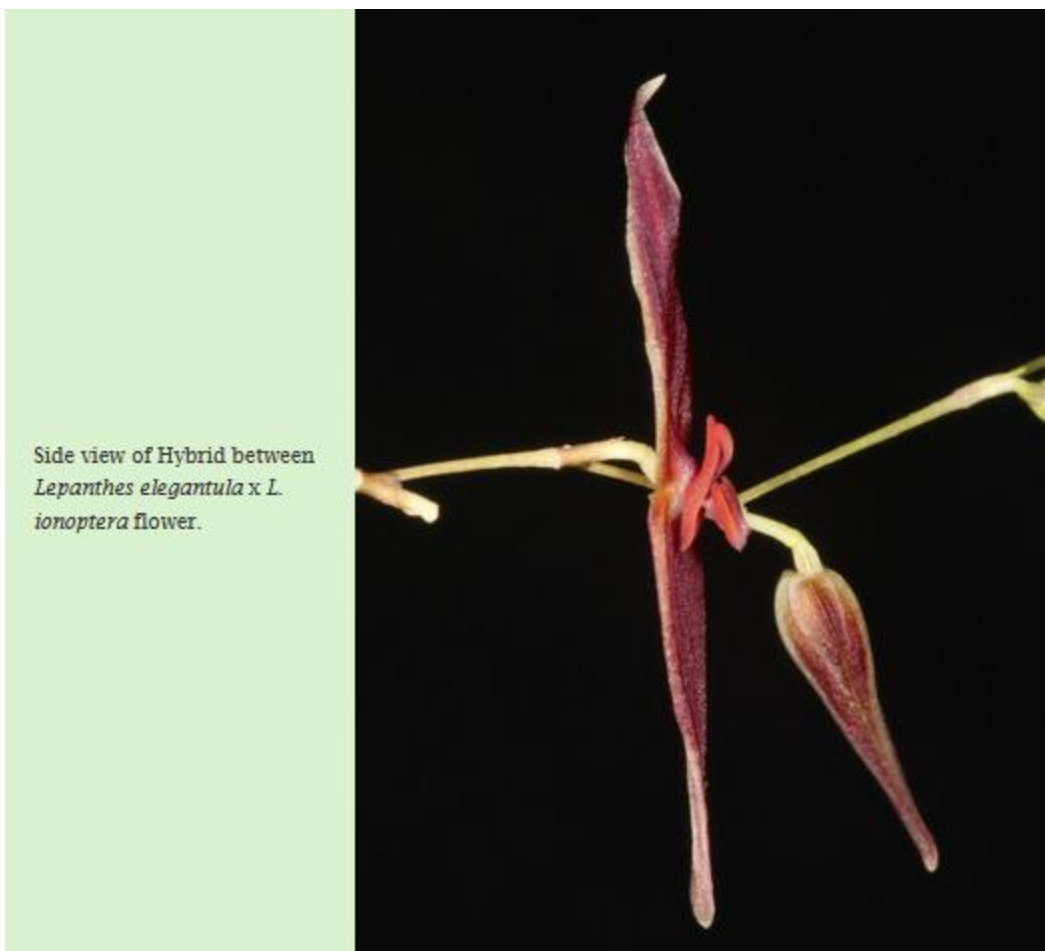
Dracula dodsonii. Found in Colombia and Ecuador at elevations of 1,600 to 2,000 meters as a cool growing epiphyte or terrestrial. Growing in a mesh pot filled with a mixture of bark and lava rock. Pot is in a cool greenhouse. The spikes grow upwards instead of downward in many *Dracula* species. Grown by Chris Ehler.

Side view of *Dracula dodsonii* flower.





Hybrid between *Lepanthes elegantula* x *L. ionoptera*. Both species are cold growing epiphytes but *L. elegantula* is found at elevations of 2,800 to 3,200 meters in Ecuador and while *L. ionoptera* grows in Venezuela, Colombia and Bolivia at 2,400 to 2,500 meters. This orchid is growing in a mesh pot filled with sphagnum moss that is in a cool greenhouse. This flower is about 1.25 inches from top to bottom. Grown by Chris Ehrler.



Side view of Hybrid between
Lepanthes elegantula x *L.*
ionoptera flower.



Masdevallia coccinea Seattle Gold. One of the many clones of this popular species. This species is native to Colombia and is cold growing epiphyte found at elevations of 2,400 to 3,000 meters. Growing in a mesh pot filled with a mixture of bark and lava rock. Pot is in a cool greenhouse. Grown by Chris Ehrler.

Masdevallia Highland Pumpkin Spice. A hybrid between *Masdevallia* Genie \times *Masdevallia* Urubamba. *M. Genie* is a cross between *M. angulata* and *M. coriacea* while *M. Urubamba* is a cross between *M. ayabacana* and *M. veitchiana*. This orchid is growing well both potted in a mixture of bark and lava rock and mounted both in a cool greenhouse and outside. Grown by Chris Ehrler.





Side view of *Masdevallia*
Highland Pumpkin Spice
flower.

Platystele consobrina. A cool to cold growing epiphyte native to Colombia at elevations of 1,600 to 2,500 meters. This orchid is growing in a small mesh pot filled with a mixture of bark and lava rock. Pot is in a cool greenhouse. This flower is just over 1/4 inch from top to bottom. Grown by Chris Ehrler.



Side view of *Platystele consobrina* flower.

Sarcochilus hartmanii.

Grows natively in eastern Australian as a cool to hot lithophytic and sometimes epiphytic species found at elevations up to 1,000 meters. This orchid grows year round outside under lath covered area. When this plant needs repotting, I have just added a larger pot to capture the aerial roots. Grown by Chris Ehrler.



Closeup of *Sarcochilus hartmanii* flower spike.

Sarcochilus Kirra Lea. This is a hybrid between *S. Heidi* x *S. fitzgeraldii*. *S. Heidi* is a cross between *S. Fitzhart* and *S. hartmanii*. This orchid is growing outside in a plastic pot filled with a bark and lava rock mixture. Grown by Chris Ehrler.



Sarcochilus Kulnura 'Em Style' x *S. (Cherrie Dawn x Kulnura Ripple)*. This orchid is grown outside in a plastic pot with a mixture of bark and lava rock. Grown by Chris Ehrler.

Closeup of *Sarcochilus* Kulnura 'Em Style' x *S. (Cherrie Dawn x Kulnura Ripple)* flower.





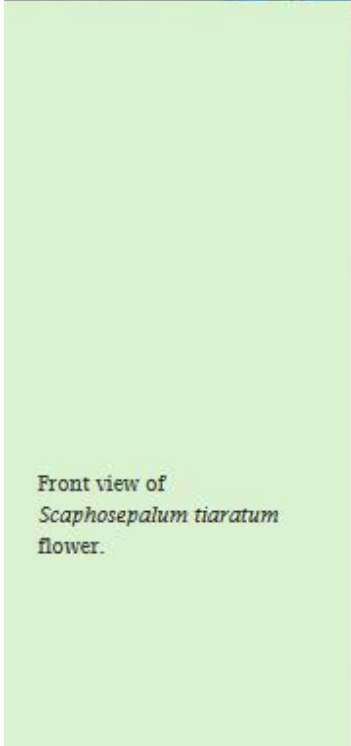
Scaphosepalum anchoriferum. This is a cool growing epiphyte native to Costa Rica, Panama and Ecuador at elevations of 1,100 to 2,000 meters. This orchid is growing in a mesh pot filled with sphagnum moss which is in a cool greenhouse. Grown by Chris Ehrler.

Side view of *Scaphosepalum anchoriferum* flower.





Scaphosepalum tiaratum. Grows in Colombia and Ecuador at elevations of 1700 to 2000 meters as a cool growing epiphyte. The long spike has had approximately 50 previous flowers. This orchid is growing in a mesh pot filled with a mixture of bark and lava rock. Pot is in a cool greenhouse. Grown by Chris Ehler.



Front view of *Scaphosepalum tiaratum* flower.





Side view of *Scaphosepalum tiaratum* flower.

Paph. Prince Edward of York
(*rothschildianum* X
sanderianum). Grown in
greenhouse in Santa Mara,
CA by Paul Jenzen.





Encyclia cordigera roseum.
Grown by Paul Jenzen,
Santa Maria, CA.



Cattleya Callistoglossa
(purpurata X warszewiczii).
Grown by Paul Jenzen,
Santa Maria, CA.



Bletilla white variegated
Striped leaves

Vanda Pachara Delight
Grown and bloomed in a
greenhouse by Michael
Jenne and Chris Howard,
Guadalupe, CA.



Stripe leaf of *Bletilla*

Bletilla, Rlarry Touchette in
Santa Maria, CA



Bletilla ochracea, Rlarry
Touchette in Santa Maria,
CA



Bc. Leprechan, flower just
opened up, grown by Ron
Hardy, Gig Harbor WA.

Brassocattleya Leprechaun
Legend is an orchid hybrid
originated by Rod McLellan
Co. in 1981. It is a cross of
C. luteola x *Rl. digbyana*. It
is considered a "primary
hybrid" because it is a cross
between two species. RHS
currently accepted name is
Rhynchoaeliocattleya
Leprechaun

Sic. Brasstown "Lipstick"
Grown by Ron Hardy, Gig
Harbor WA.



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.](#)



SWEET HARVEST

Sweet Harvest Hydroponics and Organics is offering paid FCOS members a **discount** on their products. The amount of the discount will depend on their cost. They can help and give advice on any growing issue you have and they carry a wide variety of products including but limited to the following:

- Growing essentials
- Organic Amendments
- Soils and Growing Media
- Lighting
- Air and Water purification
- Nutrients and Additives
- Organic Disease and Pest Control
- Hydroponics
- Climate Control
- Indoor and Outdoor Greenhouse

Sweet Harvest started in 2010, and is located at 1041 E. Grand Ave, Arroyo Grande, CA. Their phone number is (805) 473-0004. Their website is <http://www.sweetharvest.org/home.html>.

Watch for these orchid growers at shows or contact them to ship orchids directly to you. The orchids and aroids that they brought to the 2023 Santa Barbara International Orchid Exposition were of high quality. If you are ever planning to visit either Colombia or Ecuador, you should contact these growers and stop in for a visit. You can pre-order orchids from each of these companies and they will either ship them to you or bring them to an orchid show they are attending.



Orquideas Katia is a family own business in Colombia near the city of Medellín. They grow a high variety of Colombian orchid species and are slowly adding anthuriums and succulents their inventory. You can find more about their plants at <https://www.orquideaskatia.com/> or <https://www.facebook.com/orquideaskatiacolombia/>. Gustavo Aguirre, the executive director, has been growing Colombian orchids species for 45 years and can be reached at orquideaskatia@gmail.com. They export to the US about 6-8 times/year.



Ecuadorquideas is from Ecuador and you can find out more about their orchids and aroids www.ecuadorquideas.com and at <https://www.facebook.com/ecuadorquideas>.



Ecuagenera is from Ecuador and is a family-owned company specialized in the production and the conservation of orchid species and hybrids since it became a business in 1992. Their missions are not only to preserve the extensive collection of native orchid species built by the missionary priest Angel Andreetta who start collecting orchids in the 1950s, but also to participate in protecting, growing, and marketing Ecuadorian species of ornamental plants. More information can be found at www.ecuagenera.com and at <https://www.facebook.com/ecuagenera.orquideasecuador/>. They ship every week or two to their newly purchased greenhouse complex near San Diego. They have a live auction on Facebook every Tuesday and Friday morning and you can find more info about these auctions on that site.



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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 cymbidiums, many in spike or flower, assorted colors. \$20 to \$30 each. Contact Jerry Camel at 805-543-933

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