



September 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



From the President's Potting Bench:

Dear Orchid Enthusiasts,

I hope this letter finds you well. My wife and I have been very busy these past few months supervising construction and then decorating our new front yard. The construction work involved hardscaping, replacing the driveway and yard with pavers and creating an enclosure with a new fence and gate. After construction was complete, we created dedicated areas for our beloved orchids. Our collection includes an array of stunning orchid varieties such as Coelogynes, Cymbidiums, Epidendrums, and Sarcochilus orchids. It's a beautiful space and we are really enjoying it.

In working with my orchids, I've really come to appreciate the utility of the semi-hydroponic method. My Sarcochilus orchids are thriving due to the success of this approach. Planted in a netted pot filled with a bark mix with a wick at the base, the netted pot then sits in a ceramic pot that holds water. When the plant is dry, it can get more hydration by pulling water up the wick, ensuring optimal moisture levels. The result? Multiple flower spikes that have bloomed and continue to bring joy to our yard.

We couldn't be happier with the outcome of our front yard project, and we wanted to share this exciting update with all of you. We hope that our dedication to our orchids inspires you to pursue your own gardening endeavors.

Field trip Opportunity

Look further in this newsletter for an invitation from the Los Osos Valley Garden Club to join them for a field-trip to the Las Pilitas Nursery Tour and Native Plant Shopping Trip in Santa Margarita on Nov 20.

Volunteer Opportunities

We are currently seeking volunteers for various committees, including Events, Technology, Outreach, and Membership. In addition, we have open positions on our Board of Directors for next year. Volunteering with us is a great way to give back to the orchid community and gain valuable experience in leadership and teamwork. We encourage you to get involved in our society and share your knowledge and passion for orchids with other members. We look forward to getting to know you and sharing our love for these beautiful and unique plants. If you are interested in learning more about these opportunities, please contact us.

CalCoast Orchids Openhouse and FCOS Orchid Repotting

Join us at CalCoast Orchids for a Fall Open-house, exclusively for members of FCOS and local garden clubs, Sept. 16, 11 am to 1 pm. CalCoast Orchids has thousands of spiked orchids in blooms. Be the first to see the new Paphiopedilum in bloom.

FCOS will have a repotting clinic, outside the greenhouse. Bring your orchid and your special pot and we will pot your orchids up for you. We will have some bark and pots available. Suggested donation \$5-\$15. Limited Supplies!

We need volunteers for our potting clinic. [Sign up](#)

OrchidFest 2024

We are gearing up to plan an Orchid Show for next year at Nipomo High School on Feb 3-4, 2024, (SAVE THE DATE). We would like to put together a show committee to begin to plan and coordinate the show. Contact Jeff if you would like to be involved on the Show Committee. We need a lot of member

involvement to pull this off. Much of the business of the show committee can be completed on Zoom, or a hybrid meeting.

Orchid talks 2023

Don't forget that FCOS offers monthly Orchid Talks featuring expert speakers from around the world. Each month, we will focus on a different orchid genus or growing region, giving you the opportunity to learn about the diversity of orchids from the comfort of your own home. Whether you're a seasoned orchid enthusiast or just starting out, our monthly talks are the perfect way to connect with other orchid lovers and expand your knowledge. And the best part? You can join us from anywhere in the world! As a global orchid society, FCOS is dedicated to bringing together orchid lovers from every corner of the globe. This month we will feature Scott McGregor, who will talk about growing orchids outside on the California Coast. He will give us tips, techniques and insights into what plants we can grow here successfully. So mark your calendars and join us for our next Orchid Talk. We can't wait to see you there!

Logo Contest

The new FCOS logo submissions have been sent in and are posted in this newsletter for your pleasure. Vote your top.2 Choices. Send your vote to Jeff at jsp1440@aol.com. The FCOS Board of Directors will make the final determination as to the adoption of a new logo. The creator of the logo that wins the most votes will win a cash prize of \$300. We will let you know the winner next month when the new logo appears at the top of October's newsletter. The logos will then be available on Merchandise offered on the www.fcoss.org website.

Living in Gratitude

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all the newsletter editors and contributors who've been generously sharing their time and effort on these monthly newsletters. Your contributions have helped to make our newsletters more informative and engaging. I also extend my heartfelt appreciation to those who have sent in their pictures, which have helped to create a vibrant and lively community. Your dedication and support are truly appreciated and we look forward to continuing our collaboration with you. Thank you again for all that you do!

Come Grow With Us

FCOS offers a range of exclusive benefits to its members, including access to industry-leading resources, networking opportunities, and events. To learn more about becoming a member and accessing these benefits, visit the Member Benefits page on our website. Here, you will find all the information you need to understand the value of an FCOS membership and how to join our community. Don't miss out on this opportunity to take your orchid growing to the next level - become a member of FCOS today! Check FCOS's Member Benefits page on our website for information on becoming a member of FCOS. <https://www.fcoss.org/memberbenefits>

Jeffery Parham, President, FCOS



Habenaria sp. This is a spectacular *Habenaria* species from South Laos. It is likely an undescribed species in Section *rhodocheila*. It has large, extremely long-lasting (2-3 months) flowers that are mostly bright oranges and scarlets but rarely light orange. This color almost glows. This is the first *Habenaria* that I've grown and flowered from corms that I purchased from Nicholas Rust, rustyexotics.com. Grown under full spectrum LED lights by Jeff Parham.



Epidendrum porphreum, the purple Epidendrum. Found in Colombia and Ecuador in very wet montane forests at elevations of 1800 to 3900 meters. This is an elegant, outstanding species with robust 4 ft canes which have dark rich glossy leaves with purple undersides. The plant blooms in a terminal branched with spikes that carry long lasting 1 inch blooms, the entire flower including the ovary is a brilliant magenta except the extended 4-lobed butterfly-shaped lip which has a central white patch. I purchased this from Ecuagenera about 3 years ago. Grown outside in Los Osos, CA, in bark, in full sun and watered 2-3 times a week, slightly drying before watering. Grown by Jeff Parham



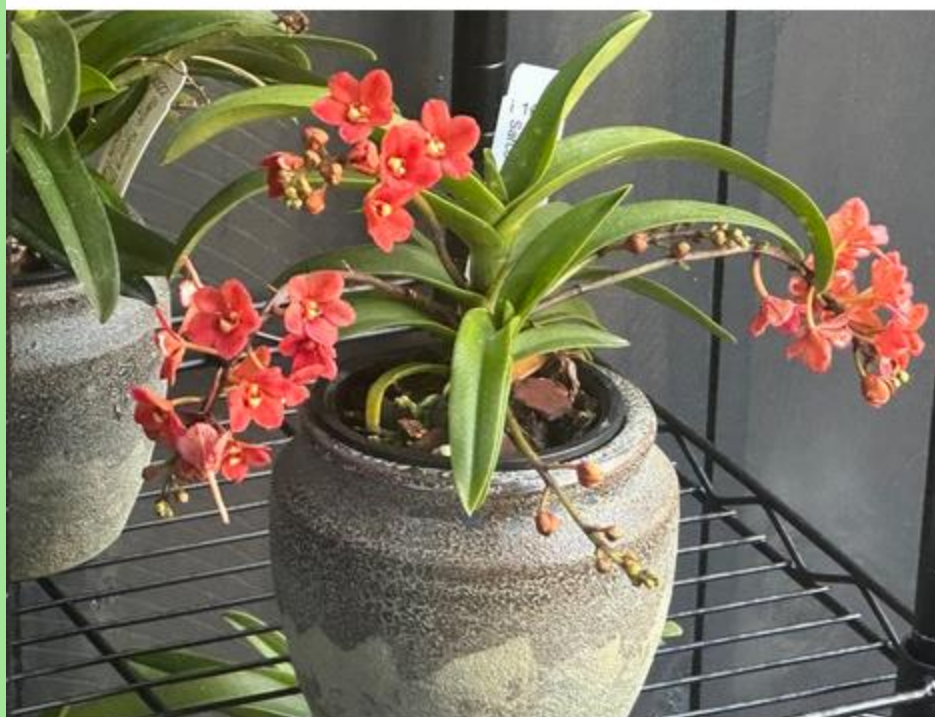
Coelogyne Joel Strandberg (*mooreana* x *confusa*) is an orchid hybrid originated by J.Ritchie in 2006. It is a cross of [Coel. confusa](#) x [Coel. mooreana](#). It is considered a "primary hybrid" because it is a cross between two species. I grow this in bark in a partial shade. Usually the flowering lasts four to six weeks. Grown by Jeff Parham.



My new display rack showing *Sarcochilus*, *Coelogynes*, *Epidendrums*, and *Cymbidium* growing together.



brilliant colors on the many spikes of *Sarcochilus*.



This is the only *Sarcochilus* seedling that has this particular color. This has been in bloom about 6 weeks and hasn't stopped blooming yet.



Another rare color form in my hoard of *Sarcochilus*



FCOS ORCHID TALKS

Scott McGregor "Pushing Limits: Growing Orchids Outdoors in a Coastal CA

Thursday, September 14, 2023

7:00 PM 8:30 PM

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

Coastal California, with its favorable climate, is an ideal location to grow hundreds of orchid species outdoors. This is the story of an experiment to push the limits on what might be possible to grow, with a number of surprising outcomes. From this talk you'll learn about some beautiful new species you can grow and some tips/techniques on outdoor growing.

Scott McGregor has been growing orchids since he was 12, when a neighbor gave him a plant. That plant had a short life, but the hook was set, and he found books and sources for orchid species while growing up in St. Louis. His collection has changed over time, living in different location around the

world, but has always centered around the more unusual species. Scott grows all his plants outdoors, without a greenhouse, just "adding some water and shade" to what nature provides in Southern California. He especially enjoys finding new species that grow well in our climate (many are far more adaptable than most people would believe), and now grows over 500 different orchid species, along with cloud forest companion plants such as *Heliophora* and epiphytic *Utricularia*. He rarely uses chemical insecticides or fungicides, preferring fresh air, beneficial insects and our native tree frogs. Scott retired from the corporate world a few years ago and stays active on corporate boards and working with non-profit groups that promote science education for kids. He resides with his family in San Juan Capistrano, California.



FCOS ORCHID TALKS:

Nicholas Rust "Habenaria: A Basic Overview of the Breeding of Species"

At the August FCOS Zoom meeting, Nicholas Rust, of Rusty Exotics, spoke to the group about "Habenarias: A Basis Overview of the Breeding Traits of Species". He stated that the about 900 species are mainly terrestrial and occasionally epiphytic. They are found natively on all continents except the Antarctic. They all have a large lip (labellum) with one mid-lobe and two side lobes with small lateral sepals and a hood. The first hybrids were made in about 1910 with most of the hybrid colors coming from five species. About 10 of the species are used in most of the hybrids. Nicholas then showed many photos of both species and hybrids. He is growing his collection under full spectrum LED lights. He suggested a well-draining soil. He makes a base mix of 60% natural woodland soil mix and 40% peat moss. He then plants in a combination of six parts base mix, three parts perlite, two parts charcoal and one part play sand. For pests he uses Safari and for spider mites he uses a combination of neem oil and

soap. Good air flow will decrease the risk of fungus. If fungus is noticed he uses Thiomyl as a spray. Habenarias go into dormancy after flowering. In fall the foliage will turn yellow and it is time to stop watering. Once the foliage has dried completely you can either 1) leave the pots along with occasional misting to increase humidity or 2) dig up the tubers and put into a plastic bag with small amount of dry soil and place in a dark location. In February to March, you should see small growth coming out of the tuber. Plant the tuber about ½ to 1 inch below the surface of the media and then mist the surface but do not water the pot. Once the leaves have opened, then begin watering. Habenarias like a temperature range of 60-100 °F. More information about Habenarias can be found in the FCOS August newsletter in an article by Nicholas or by going to his website (<https://rustyexoticsorchids.com/>).

If you missed Nicholas Rusts' Orchid talk on Habenarias, you can watch or rewatch it here. This link is only available for 2 weeks so watch it now.

https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/VRTfhDxDWJFtsYNoJD82zMSW0IVb_xc-FNzFoQ5TUy2iJ8YtKyXCSttx196-njYX.ZHU1ZM_GxeFGoBHY

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



*Poneorchis
gramnifolia.*
Grown by Michael
Jenne, photograph
by Chris Howard.

Dendrobium Phlox,
(almost-closed
flowers). Downy
phlox is a long
blooming
herbaceous
perennial typically
found in rocky or
dry open woods,
valleys, thickets,
meadows, prairies,
and glades.

This plant is
excellent for sunny
locations, in rock
gardens, cottage
gardens, wild
gardens, native
plant gardens, or
prairie-type areas.

This species is
found in many
habitats and in
many sizes. It can
basically bloom at
any time of the year
but mid-winter is
the most possible
on a cluster that
surrounds the
previous years cane
arising from below
the leaves.

This species needs
constant cold
temperatures with a
lessening of water
and a cessation of
fertilizer in the
winter months.
Grown by Michael
Jenne, photograph
by Chris Howard.





Oececlades spathulifera. native to a small region of northern and western Madagascar. Grown by Michael Jenne, photograph by Chris Howard.

Sobralia macrantha, grown outside in partial sun. Grown by Michael Jenne, photograph by Chris Howard. A large sized terrestrial and rarely epiphytic, warm to cold growing species that is native to Guerrero, Oaxaca, Puebla, Veracruz and Chiapas states of Mexico, Belize, Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua and Costa Rica.



Grown by Michael Jenne, photograph by Chris Howard.



Masdevallia Pat Akehurst 'Golden Zebra'. This orchid was purchased at the recent FCOS Birthday Party auction. It was donated by Eric Holenda. Now growing on the north side of Chris Ehrler's house.

Miltonia Sunset. This orchid was purchased while visiting the Ecuagenera nursery in 2018. Original plant has been divided and is growing and blooming as a mount with sphagnum moss on the roots and also in a clay pot filled with moss. Both the mount and the pot are in a cool greenhouse. Grown by Chris Ehrler.





Miltoniopsis
(*herralexandra* x
Mp 264 4n). This
orchid was
purchased while
visiting the
Ecuagenera nursery
in 2018. Growing in
a clay pot filled
with moss with the
pot being in a cool
greenhouse. Grown
by Chris Ehrler.

Stanhopea

hernandezii. Is a warm to cool growing epiphyte, terrestrial or lithophyte found at elevations of 1,700 to 2,250 meters in Mexico. Growing in a metal mesh basket which is lined with sphagnum moss and filled with a mixture of bark and lava rock. All *Stanhopea* produce flowers that hang downward so they need to be grown in a mesh pot with rather large openings. Growing hanging high in a cool greenhouse. Grown by Chris Ehrlar.





Stanhopea occulata.

A warm to cool growing epiphyte or terrestrial in Mexico, Guatemala, Belize, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Colombia, Venezuela, and possibly southern Brazil at 1,000 to 3,000 meters above sea level. Growing in a metal mesh basket which is lined with sphagnum moss and filled with a mixture of bark and lava rock. Growing hanging high in a cool greenhouse. Has a mint chocolate chip fragrance. Grown by Chris Ehrler.

Stanhopea tigrina.

A cool to warm growing epiphyte found at elevations of 600 to 1,700 meters in Mexico. Flowers are very large and produce a strong fragrance.

Growing in a metal mesh basket which is lined with sphagnum moss and filled with a mixture of bark and lava rock. Growing hanging high in a cool greenhouse. Has a strong but pleasant fragrance.

Picture showing two open flowers and one bud. This orchid has produced a total of six spikes this year. Grown by Chris Ehrler.





Stelis spp. This plant was a gift a few years ago from Jeffrey Thompson. Growing mounted to a piece of cork oak with some sphagnum moss on the roots. Mount is hanging in a cool greenhouse. Grown by Chris Ehrler.

Closeup of the a spike and flowers of the *Stelis* spp. shown above.





Stelis spp. This unnamed *Stelis* was collected many years ago in Bolivia by a collector. Growing mounted to a piece of cork oak with some sphagnum moss on the roots. Mount is hanging in a cool greenhouse. Grown by Chris Ehrler.

Masdevallia civilis. A cool growing epiphyte, terrestrial or lithophyte found in Colombia, Venezuela, Ecuador and Peru in cloud forests at elevations of 2,000 to 3,000 meters. Growing in a clay pot which is placed outside under cover in Santa Barbara, by Jeffrey Thompson.





Masdevallia Margaret
Sunset. Growing in a
clay pot which is placed
outside under cover in
Santa Barbara, by Jeffrey
Thompson.

Pleurothallis costancensis. Native to Costa Rica and Panama at elevations around 650 to 1,800 meters. Is considered to be a hot to warm growing, epiphyte, but is growing well a cool greenhouse. Growing mounted with some sphagnum moss on its root. Grown by Chris Ehrler.



Prosthechea (Encyclia) brassavolea growing in medium bark in bright shade in my intermediate temperature greenhouse. Found in Mexico to Nicaragua and Costa Rica at altitudes of 900 to 2500 meters in wet pine oak and evergreen forests on larger branches and tree trunks. Grown by Ed Lysek.

Vanda Pachung Blue was my first *Vanda* purchase from Santa Barbara Orchid Estate about 10 years ago. It is in a hanging wood slat basket without media and the long pendant roots are growing into a large empty terra cotta pot on the floor of my greenhouse. The terra-cotta pot keeps the root zone humid. The original one foot tall plant is now 5 ft tall and blooms twice a year. The *V. coerulea* in the background of this hybrid gives this *Vanda* excellent cold tolerance. Grown by Ed Lysek.



A close up of *V. Pachung Blue*. The flowers last at least a month.

Blc. 'Picotee Passion' is a good example of the hybridizing efforts of Fred Clarke of Sunset Valley Orchids to produce round full flowers that bloom several times per year. Growing in a slatted wooden basket without media and watered daily in Spring and Summer. Grown by Ed Lysek.



If you want to grow a show stopper try *Renanthera* Kodama 'Red Dragon' (*Renanthera philippinensis* x *Renanthera storiei*). Although reported to be a warm grower this plant has thrived in my greenhouse with winter lows in the 40's. Kept dry in winter with occasional misting and lots of water and fertilizer Spring and Summer. Bright light is needed for flowering. Growing like my Vandas in a wooden basket with Spanish Moss around the roots to keep the root zone humid. On hot, dry days my misting system is set to mist for 45 seconds every two hours. Grown by Ed Lysek.



Encyclia tampensis x *E. granitica* has fragrant long lasting flowers. This is the first year this plant has bloomed for me and it has 5 flower spikes. Planted in a small plastic pot with small bark and allowed to dry between waterings. Obtained at an FCOS silent auction several years ago. Originally grown and donated by Anne and Rudy Bachmann. Now happily growing in Ed Lysek's greenhouse.



A close up of the fragrant flower of *E. tampensis* x *E. granitica*



Cat. Janice Evans "Sweet Sixteen". We purchased this plant from Dan Asbell last winter. As you can see, the rabbits had been chewing on it. Chuck has done a great job of bringing it back alive! Greenhouse, food, and water --- easy to care for. Grown by Chuck and Judy Scheithauer.



BLC Empress Worsley "Roman Holiday". This BLC is one of my favorites. Picked it up a few years ago at SBOE. It blooms every year about August. It stays in the greenhouse and I feed and water it like other BLC. Grown by Chuck and Judy Scheithauer.

Californian Native Orchids

*Spiranthes
romanzoffiana* found at
Shaver Lake.
Photographed by Paul
Jensen.



California native orchids that I have found on my wanderings in the Sierras. The first two are *Platanthera dilatata* v. *leucostachys* and were found at Shaver Lake. Photographed by Paul Jensen.



Platanthera dilatata v. *leucostachys* found at Shaver Lake.

A saprophytic orchid called *Corallorhiza maculata* found at Rancheria Falls near Huntington Lake. Photographed by Paul Jensen.



Bog orchids (*Platanthera dilatata* v. *leucostachys*) with lupine, lilies, and paintbrush at around 10,000 ft elevation in Eastern Sierras. Most California orchids are found at lower elevations. Photograph by Kristie Wells.



Plantathera dilatata var. *leucostachys* (white flowered bog orchid or Sierra bog orchid).
Photograph by Kristie Wells.



Close up of the bog orchid sporting curved nectaries. This subspecies has the longest spur of the 3 *dilatata* subspecies, and are nocturnally fragrant and moth pollinated.
Photograph by Kristie Wells.



Plantathera elegans ssp.
elegans on dry slopes in
Montana de Oro in July
2023. Photograph by
Kristie Wells.

Another *Plantanthera elegans*. Photograph by Kristie Wells.



Enlarged image of *Plantanthera elegans*. Photograph by Kristie Wells.



DESIGN CONCEPT
FJB-50

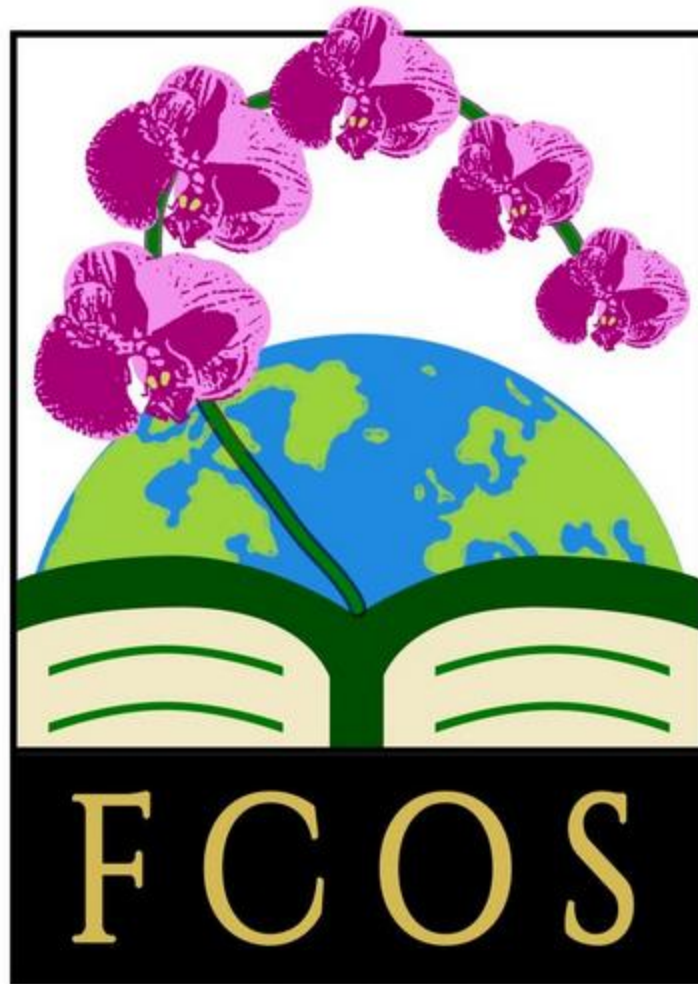


The above logo is designated: FJB-50

Vote for our new FCOS Logo. Vote for your favorite Top 2 choices.

Send an email to [Jeff](#) with the subject line FCOS LOGO VOTE and indicate in order, your top 2 choices by the logo designation numbers. The logos will eventually be available on merchandise for purchase on our website, such as Cups, T-Shirts, hoodies, sweaters, etc. Any of these logos may be selected to put on merchandise.

The winner and details for ordering will be available in the October newsletter.



EST 1990

*Five Cities
Orchid Society*

The above logo is designated: FJB-70

DESIGN CONCEPT
FJB-51



The above logo is designated FJB-51

DESIGN CONCEPT
FJB-53



The above logo is designated FJB-53



Five Cities
Orchid Society

The above logo is designated: FJB-80



The above logo is designated: MK-12

MK-11



The above logo is designated MK11

The following are examples of the FCOS Merchandise that will be available for purchase in Oct.









The flyer features a light green background with abstract, flowing shapes in shades of green and brown. The text is arranged in a clean, modern layout. The main title 'Open House' is in a large, black, serif font, with 'And Potting Clinic' in a smaller, black, cursive font below it. A green speech bubble contains the event details: 'SATURDAY SEP. 16TH 11AM TO 1PM'. A list of bullet points provides details about the event. The address is listed in a bold, black, sans-serif font. A green button with white text says 'DON'T MISS OUT!'. Below it, the contact information is provided. On the right side, there is a photograph of a lush garden filled with various orchids and other plants, including a prominent yellow orchid in the foreground.

CalCoast
Orchids

Open House

And Potting Clinic

SATURDAY
SEP. 16TH
11AM TO 1PM

Select opportunity for FCOS and garden club members and their guests.

- Thousands of orchids and house plants available. Meet the Growers!
- Bring orchids that need repotting.
- Bring your own pots or a selection of pots and bark will be available.
- 1 gal max.

**2181 Blue Heron View Ln
Los Osos, CA 93402**

DON'T MISS OUT!

For more info. Email:
jsp1440@aol.com

KSBY Sunday at 5 pm California Bountiful will feature an episode on Los Osos's own CalCoast Orchids.



FIELD TRIP OPPORTUNITY

LOS OSOS VALLEY GARDEN CLUB

Las Pilitas Nursery Tour and Native Plant Shopping Trip

November 20th, 2023, 9 am - 12 noon

Las Pilitas Nursery, 3232 Las Pilitas Rd., Santa Margarita

Now is the perfect time to plant California native plants! Join us as we visit one of the best CA native plant nurseries in our area - Las Pilitas Nursery - to learn about and purchase plants that will thrive in our area, support local wildlife and conserve water.

Penny Nyunt will provide answers to our questions and assist us as we choose the CA native plants we would like to purchase.

Carpooling is encouraged if possible due to limited parking. More information regarding carpooling possibilities will be provided upon signing up. There are plenty of spots available, as long as we carpool.

[SIGNUP HERE](#)

Fertilizer Burn

By Susan Jones

The saying "If some is good, more is better" is not necessarily a beneficial approach to fertilizing orchids.

Plants will only absorb the amount of mineral nutrients they need, which is determined in part by the amount of light they receive, the temperatures they are grown in and the quantity of water available. Just as with people, too much food can cause serious health problems in orchids — excess mineral salts can build up, which they cannot tolerate. It is a gradual problem, affecting orchids that have been consistently overfertilized or have gone too long without repotting, allowing mineral salts to accumulate and concentrate over time.

Fertilizing

If you grow a mixed collection, one in which a variety of genera are represented, the fertilizing needs of your plants may vary considerably. The general rule of thumb — applying a balanced fertilizer weekly, weakly — is a good starting point.

Too much or too strong fertilizer can burn orchid leaves and roots.

Many growers recommend that plants be watered with plain water, then watered a second time with a fertilizer solution. This ensures that the medium is thoroughly wet before fertilizer is applied. Some mixes, especially those containing pine bark, can be difficult to wet through, and so should be prewatered with plain water and left to sit a few minutes until the medium is completely damp. This helps reduce salt buildup and the possibility of root burn.

Most vandaceous orchids do best with copious amounts of fertilizer, and during growth may benefit from dilute applications of fertilizer as often as twice a week. Pleurothallids, on the other hand, do not require nearly the same quantity of nutrients, and may be better off with a biweekly schedule. In addition, any orchid will require more nutrients during periods of active growth, less during periods of slower grow and possibly none during dormancy.

Fertilizer can be applied weekly to biweekly at half or even a quarter of the strength recommended by its manufacturer. When in doubt, start with a more dilute solution and observe the results on your plants. Should the beginning quantity prove insufficient, the amount of fertilizer may be adjusted upward with fewer repercussions than burning the plant through over-fertilization.

There are many high-quality fertilizers available, but be sure the one you choose for your orchids is labeled specifically for their use, rather than an all-purpose garden or houseplant fertilizer. It should also include a balance of the three main elements: nitrogen (N), phosphorus (P) and potassium (K) (the percentage of each element usually appears on the label in numeric form, such as “7-7-7”; the remaining percentage is composed of inert ingredients), and ideally micronutrients as well.

Water quality

Water quality is important, and contributes to the overall health of plants. Rainwater, melted snow, deionized water or reverse-osmosis (RO) water with a bit of tap water added are all low in dissolved mineral salts and considered safe for watering orchids. Chlorine damages orchids, but chlorinated tap water may still be used. Fill a container with the water for the plants and allow it to sit open overnight before watering. This allows the chlorine to dissipate. Well water and softened water are more tricky. Well water may have a high mineral content and softened water has sodium added, both of which can damage orchid roots. They may be treated with a reverse-osmosis system to filter out harmful salts.

Salt buildup

Starting with water of excellent quality is important, but salts from added fertilizers may still accumulate over a period of time. Salt buildup looks like whitish to brownish crusts on the medium and around the pot, or on the surface of the mounting substrate on mounted orchids, and can be a sign of over-fertilizing. If allowed to remain, those salts will negatively impact the health of your plant. Fertilizer salts burn and kill orchids, especially in more sensitive genera like paphiopedilums, phragmipediums, pleurothallids and bulbophyllums.

Fertilizer burn symptoms

Lack of root growth may indicate an unhealthy concentration of mineral salts in the medium, on up to full fertilizer burn. If this is suspected, decant the plant and check its roots. Dead root tips, brown roots or salt crust on the potting medium surface are signs of trouble. In later stages, brown leaf tips may appear, indicating burned roots. Leaves, and eventually pseudobulbs on sympodial orchids, can become yellow. If allowed to continue, fertilizer burn will eventually kill the plant.

Prevention

When beginning a fertilization regime, it is safer to err on the side of a weaker solution for several months until it is determined how much fertilizer the plant needs and can use. Starting out slowly reduces the risk of damaging tender young roots, especially on seedlings or more sensitive plants, with too strong a concentration of fertilizer.

Larger applications of fertilizer can increase plant growth in heavy feeders such as vandas, but when this is done plenty of water should be available to the plant at all times. The concentration of fertilizer salts increases as the amount of water decreases, which can damage the roots if they are allowed to dry too much.

Plants that require a dry winter rest period should not be fertilized for a few weeks before that rest period is initiated. Otherwise, roots may burn when fertilizer salts remaining in the pot and mix concentrate as water is cut back.

Dry or sunburned plants are most susceptible to fertilizer burn. Fertilizer salts are hard on dehydrated plants, as they are not able to absorb fertilizers properly. Use a dilute solution (one quarter of the recommended strength), water well between feedings, and check regularly for salt buildup on your pots and potting medium as your plant recovers.

Flushing media and root zones with plain, fresh water at least once a month will dissolve and remove mineral salts that can otherwise build up in the pot and media and harm plants. Mounted plants need regular leaching as well, and should have their mounts and roots flushed regularly. Some growers incorporate this into their care regime, fertilizing orchids at every other watering so that the media is automatically flushed clean in between.

Treatment

If the damage is done and an orchid injured through overfertilizing, the road to recovery starts with decanting the orchid, removing all of the old medium and thoroughly flushing the roots with plain water to remove accumulated salts. Next, repot the orchid using fresh clean medium and a new pot. Keep the

plant shaded and shield it from temperature extremes as you would any recently repotted plant, watering regularly and reintroducing a dilute fertilizer once the plant begins to establish.

Soft-leaved orchids are especially susceptible to leaf burn.

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Susan Jones was the editor of Awards Quarterly and assistant editor of Orchids. American Orchid Society, 16700 AOS Lane, Delray Beach, Florida 33446

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Too much or too strong fertilizer can burn orchid leaves and roots.



Soft-leaved orchids are especially susceptible to leaf burn



Did I pay my FCOS 2023 Membership? Click [HERE](#) to see if your name is on our Paid Members List. Thank you for all who have paid their 2023 Membership dues.

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.

Five Cities Orchid Society 2023 Board of Directors

Jeff Parham, *President*

Eric Holenda, *Vice President & Treasurer*

Michelle Ralston, *Secretary*

Kristie Wells, *Asst. Secretary*

Christina Derring, Anne Bachmann, and Ed Lysek, *Directors at Large*

Jeff Parham, *Show Chairman*

Chris Ehrler, *Past President*

Orchids are really great!

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

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