

DVOS May 2016 Newsletter

Hello DVOS members

This is a belated newsletter.

Since we no longer have an official newsletter editor we have to plug along until someone volunteers.

First of all, WE ARE MOVING BACK.

The board decided move back to water district building. The meeting will be on SECOND THURSDAY.

The board meeting will be at third Thursday.

First meeting will be on July 14th Thursday at Contra Costa Water District Building.

There will be no August Auction. Instead It will be a regular meeting with a ice cream social and member show and tell.

Holiday party will be held at back in at the Pleasant Hill Community Center. There will be a mini auction as well just like last year.

Purely Organic fertilizer was ordered. might be arriving next a couple of days. If it does I will make them into a 10 lbs bags. Do not know the exact cost yet.

October show and sale. We still need to sign up for more vendors and volunteer for the show. Please contact Eileen Jackson show chair.

This Month speaker is Dan Newman from Hanging Garden, I believe Dan is providing the plant table. Dinner with the speaker is the same place at Sichuan Chinese Restaurant. Everybody welcome. Starts at 5:30pm. Contact David Trebotich

See attached file for Brad Piini's summary of Keith Davis talk from last meeting.

Everybody had a wonderful time at the California Orchid in Bolinas. Thanks to Yunor for organizing it.

Dennis Olivas of D & D flowers is having a open house and spring sale. May 21, 22 Sat. and Sun. 9am to 3pm. 169 1st Ave. Daly City.

Anyone who has not joined DVOS Facebook please let me know I will send you an invite. So far we have 148 members. This is a closed group.

Again, any member who can contribute to our newsletter please let me know. otherwise it will be one page emails will come to you every month.

Thank You

president

Keith Davis spoke at April meeting about Bifoliate Cattleyas.

Summary by Brad Piini

Long healthy roots can be a good thing or a bad thing, depending on the situation. In dentistry, long healthy roots can make for a very demanding and tedious extraction process. With orchids these same long healthy roots produce a healthier plant with more prolific blooms. Keith Davis was our April D.V.O.S. guest speaker and he lectured almost exclusively about orchid root systems and how to grow the very finest Bifoliate Cattleya orchids. Bifoliate Cattleyas are epiphytes in nature. Like all epiphytes, they grow on trees and prefer a lot of air movement around their root system. If it is stuck in a pot with an old and sour media, the root system on your orchid will suffer. Bifoliate in particular don't form a lot of new roots each year and when they do, those roots are very finicky. Typically, you will only get three to five new roots for each new growth. You need to ensure that these new roots don't get disturbed and are grown as healthy as can be. For this reason, you never want to over pot your Bifoliate Cattleyas in too much media otherwise the new roots will be subject to rot. The aerial roots that your orchid produces should never be buried in the media. Aerial roots are low humidity roots and do not like to be buried in a moisture retaining media. If you ever want to make a division of a Bifoliate Cattleya, it is best to use what is called the pot-over system. This involves letting a new front lead grow over the pot's edge and then tie up a small pot just underneath where the new growths will start. The new roots will grow down into the pot and the new growths will then have their own root system already established in the new pot. At this point, the division can be cut loose from the mother plant and you will have a nostress division already established. This is fool proof, but it takes time. Cattleya loddigesii and Cattleya harrisoniana are two exceptions that can usually be divided as normal Cattleyas in a new root growth mode. Keith has a solution if you have ever had a Bifoliate Cattleya or any other orchid that has lost its entire root system. If an orchid has lost its roots, it has no way to maintain the humidity that will prevent the plant from desiccating. To create this humid environment, Keith gets a plastic bag and pokes holes in it. He then puts wet spagnum moss into the bottom, followed by a layer of styrofoam peanuts. He then places the orchid on top of the peanuts and seals the bag. Place the bag in a well-lit situation with no direct sunlight. Then wait. The plant will get into a cycle where it will reinvigorate and hopefully produce a new root system. The last thing that Keith brought up was a plant amendment that he has used for two years with excellent results. It's a fertilizer with micro nutrients and hormones call Purely Organic. When this material is sprinkled on the orchid root system and leached into the root system, the orchid seems to show a dramatic increase in new eye formation from the back bulbs and an improved root growth. Purely Organic is a natural product containing weasel piss, Mexican pixie dust, Donald Trump hair dye, alfalfa meal, cottonseed meal, fish meal, blood meal, steamed bone meal, ground rock phosphorus, sulfur, potassium, magnesium, kelp, and green sand. Jim Young is the producer of Purely Organic and can be contacted at his business phone of (803)892-2651 or his mobile phone at (803)622-6622. Note that DVOS has placed a large order of Purely Organic. Contact Sung Lee for details. Thank you, Keith, for all the great cultural information. We were all impressed with the beautiful slides and can't wait to try the new Purely Organic supplement on various plants and body parts.