At Our next meeting

August 14

The CSNJC crew (Sue, Kathy, Dennis O., Dick, Dennis W. and maybe even Alan)

The AOS Judging System

Ever wonder what happens to your plant once you turn it over to a clerk in the judging room? At our next meeting, judges from the California Sierra Nevada Judging Center will be here to do a mock judging to show us the judging process. We will learn first hand what happens to your plant once you leave it in the clerk's hand, including the paperwork involved in getting your plant ready for the judging team and the process the judging team uses to determine if the plant should receive an award.

We will also setup a computer and projector to demonstrate how OrchidWiz and the AOS software AQPlus is used by the judging team. This should be a very informative meeting.

Speaker's Dinner will be at the Sichuan Fortune House at 41 Woodsworth Ln. in Pleasant Hill at 5:30 pm. Everyone is welcome. If you plan to attend, please call Liz Charlton at 925-280-1671 or email dvosnews@gmail.com

Plant table will be provided by members of the CSNJC.
July's guest speaker was Dave Sorokowsky. The topic was "Growing Quality Orchids Indoors." Dave followed this topic with a brief but very informative talk on semi-hydroponic growing of orchids.

Dave drew on his own personal experience to bring us special techniques on growing orchids indoors. The requirements for indoor orchid culture are the same as outdoor growing. Light, water, temperature, air movement, humidity and fertilizer are still the basic needs in all orchid culture.

**Light:** The best light for indoor growing is an easterly facing window. The plants should be no more than three feet away from the window, otherwise supplemental light will be needed. Lighting may be supplemented with fluorescent tubes, metal halide or sodium bulbs. These latter two choices are expensive and may produce enough heat to burn your orchids.
Water: Any low mineral content water will work, but reverse osmosis is preferable.

Temperature: A diurnal swing of 15 degrees Fahrenheit is needed to make many orchids initiate flowering. The best way to accomplish this is to get the plants closer to the window so that they can experience the cooling and heat from the outdoors through the glass.

Air Movement: Fans are necessary to prevent rot and they keep the plants cool in the summer.

Humidity: Swamp coolers are the best way to provide humidity indoors. Gravel trays filled with water and placed under your orchids are ineffective at providing sufficient humidity. These trays will provide humidity only up to one inch above the gravel and are useless for a plant that is 4-6 inches or more away from the gravel tray.

Fertilizer: Any balanced fertilizer will work. Remember, if you are using reverse osmosis water you need to provide the macro-nutrients (nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium), as well as the micro-nutrients (copper, boron, calcium, iron, magnesium, etc.)

The segue for the next topic on hydroponics was that if you can grow your orchids semi-hydroponically, you will be more successful as a grower. With this technique, humidity, water and fertilizer are all in abundance, all of the time. Semi-hydroponics uses a solid plastic cup that has 3 to 4 holes drilled horizontally one-inch above the bottom. This will allow water to stand in the bottom of the cup and act as a reservoir. The cup is filled with an inert media. This is usually Dyna rock or Prime Agra, which are both expanded clay material that can be purchased on-line at firstrays.com. Start by filling your cup one-third full with pre-soaked expanded clay. Then place the plant in the cup and fill the rest of the way with the remaining expanded clay. The old roots will die in this new environment, but new roots will soon adapt to the hydroponics. The old roots should be left in place for now and should only be removed when you transplant the orchid in the future. This media should allow plenty of air space between the expanded clay and the roots for air circulation. This seems like a very interesting technique, one that is certainly worth trying. Thanks again Dave
The DVOS annual picnic is scheduled for August 16 2008. As has been the custom, it will be held at the home of Bob and Mary Lou Van Galder.

This event is open to all DVOS members and guests including cowboys, rodeo clowns, and dance hall girls. Everyone needs to bring an orchid or other orchid item to donate to the auction fundraiser.

Food will be whatever the cooks rustle-up. To be on the safe side members should plan to bring food according to the following schedule: A-E Dessert, F-I Side Dish, J-Q Salad, R-Z Hor D’oeuvres. Bring enough for 10 servings. Set-up 10:30-12:00, Lunch 12:30-1:30, Auction 2:00-3:30, Clean-up 4:00-5:00.
Awards plants in July

1st *Sl. Gratrixiae* ‘Jolen’ AM/AOS
   Sharon Duffy

2nd *Vanda Pachara Delight*
   Bernice Linder

3rd *Encyclia citrina* Akiko Ogawa

Lancer Smith:
(species or miniature orchids)
*Neofinetia falcata*
Akiko Ogawa

Beginner’s Corner:
*Phal* Rosy Tyke x *Phal* (First Choice x Ho’s Amaglad)
Bayan Culhane

*Sl. Gratrixiae* ‘Jolen’ AM/AOS
The next Board Meeting
August 21st at 7:30 p.m. will be
at the home of Brad Piini

Neofinetia falcata

Upcoming Speakers and Events

Aug 14: Sue Wedegaertner and friends *The AOS Judging System*

Aug 16: DVOS Picnic at Bob and Mary Lou Van Galder’s

Sept 11: Marni Turkel *Give It a Rest* on dry resting orchids

Oct 9: Fred Clark of Sunset Valley Orchids on *Catasetinae Species and their Cultivation*

Refreshments for the August Meeting

**Cookies:** Giovanna L Deem, Charis Anderson, Bob Akbarian, Noble Emery, George McRae, Diana Vavrek, Madge Fordyce

**Beverages:** Melissa Sadler

*Please bring baked goods CUT into serving size pieces.*

See what is available in our library:
www.diabloviewos.org/Library/library.htm
To check-out an item, contact Phyllis Arthur
Membership News

We have 97 members as of August. There were no new members in July.

Ulrike Ahlborn  Diablo View Orchid Society  *  Attn. Ulrike Ahlborn, membership Chair  *  117 Laredo Ct  *  San Ramon  *  CA  94583-2116

www.membership@DVOS.org

Bring a Quality Blooming Orchid
to the DVOS Orchid Roundup picnic

This event is the Club’s primary fundraiser. We do not have donations from a member’s collection as we have had the past few years. Therefore each member needs to donate a very high quality plant from their collection or purchase a blooming orchid, and bring it to the event (or the meeting two days before). This is an opportunity for everyone to give back to the society. The quality of plants is far more important than quantity. Each member needs to provide a tag with a written description of the plant, why it is special, and include the name of the donor. Maybe even a picture if the plant is not in bloom.
AOS Awards July 2008
Courtesy of Kathy Barrett

7/02/08 - California Sierra Nevada - Sacramento
Macrolinium lexarzanum ‘Gold Country’, CCE 90 species
Exhibited by Gold Country Orchids

Paphiopedilum Lyro Blackhawk ‘Sierra Sunset’, AM 80
(Paph. St. Swithin x Paph. glanduliferum)
Exhibited by Curtis Gean

7/01/08 - Pacific Central - San Francisco
Oestlundia (Encyclia) cyanocolumna ‘Winston’, CCM 84 species
Exhibited by Amy and Ken Jacobsen

7/21/08 - Pacific Central - Oakland
Slc. unnamed hybrid ‘Amy’ HCC 76
(Slc. Sierra Doll x C. loddigesii var. harrisoniae)
Amy and Ken Jacobsen
Exhibited by
(according to the new naming conventions this is a Sc. unnamed hybrid)

Pictures can be seen at the Pacific Central web page
http://www.aospacificcentral.org

California Sierra Nevada Judging Center http://www.csnjc.org

Encyclia citrina

V. Pachara Delight