Dan Newman on the Genus Pleurothallis

Like every genus in the Orchid Family, there are warm, intermediate and cool growing species. Dan Newman of Hanging Gardens will introduce you to this wonderful and rewarding Pleurothallis Alliance of the Orchid World.

In 1982, he bought his first plant, a tiny Dendrobium phalaenopsis seedling hybrid, at the Honolulu airport. Thriving in a west-facing bay window, it bloomed a year or two later. Dan, with his new love for orchids, began to acquire more seedlings or out-of-bloom divisions, and read all the orchid books he could find.

He joined the American Orchid Society and San Francisco Orchid Society in 1987. Dan served as vice president of the SFOS in 1994 and president from 1995 to mid-96. He is still a member of the AOS and SFOS, Orchid Digest Corporation, Orchid Society of California, Peninsula Orchid Society, Carmel Orchid Society, and the Pleurothallid Alliance.

In 1996, he moved his 350 orchid collection from a one-bedroom apartment to a small commercial greenhouse in San Francisco. Friend and orchid mentor, Walter Teague, also brought in his amazing, much larger collection of rare and unusual species acquired from around the world. He then started the nursery, Hanging Gardens and purchased Walter's collection a few years later. Growing orchids full-time since 2000 and moving into a 3,600-sq. ft. greenhouse in Pacifica at the end of 2002, the collection expanded very quickly.

In spring 1992, he had the opportunity to see a number of the blooming native terrestrial species in Greece. First real orchid trip was an expedition to Costa Rica and Belize led by Mort Block in October that same year. In 1994, He went on another of Mort's trips, this time to Ecuador. He visited orchid habitats near Puerto Vallarta, Mexico, and later near Machu Picchu in Peru.

Plant table provided by Hanging Garden. Dan will bring plants to sell.

5:30 p.m. dinner at:

Three Brothers from China
2001 Contra Costa Blvd., A-50
Pleasant Hill, CA
(925) 838-2232

To attend no host dinner with the speaker, please call Dennis Olivas at 925-969-1246 or e-mail at d.olivas@comcast.net by August 10, 2005.

The next Board Meeting is at Barbara Tague Resident at 7:30 a.m. on August 18.
Future 2005 DVOS Speakers

September 8th: ICU - Bad Plants, good plants...DUH...I don't know

October 13th: Carson Whitlow

November 10th: Dennis Olivas on Orchid General Culture (101)
Plant table by D & D Flowers

December 8th: Annual X-mas Party

DVOS Speakers for 2006
January 12th: Sheldon Takasaki (tentative)

February 9th: Scott Dallas on Dendrobium species and culture
Plant table by White Oaks Orchids

March 9th: Marni Turkel of Stony Point Ceramics - Dendrochilum, Cologene and related species
Plant table by Marni Turkel/Stony Point Ceramics. Will bring plants and pottery to sell.

April 13th Round Table: 1/2 hour presentation on transplanting and culture of Zygopetalum, Oncidium and Vanda alliances.

Refreshments for August 11, 2005

Alice Tomassini
Jeannette Bean
Noble Emery
Parky Parkison
Kathi Ames
Nancy Pak
Dave Dunn

Beverages:

Ken and Renee Dawdell
Dennis Olivas

July 14, 2005

DVOS Monthly Meeting Plant Display
Award Winners

1st Place: Laeliocattleya Tiny Titan
Barbara Tague

2nd Place: Catasetum Doris Choice
X pileatum
Joe Grillo

3rd Place: Brassolaeliocattleya Waianae
Leopard 'Chin Hua'
Phyllis Arthur

Lance Smith Medallion:

Neofanetia falcata
Jeanette Beam

Look What I Bloomed For the Very First Time:

Phalaenopsis Samba
Jennie Tom

ICU: Doctor on Duty

During the break session (only 15 minutes) while most of you will be enjoying the refreshments, one can bring in a plant to have it looked at by the ICU Doctor on duty. Remember to place the plant you bring in into a clear plastic container. Do not bring in more than a plant at each meeting. Doctor on Duty is Dennis Olivas.

At the July meeting we had 2 members with questions.
Ken Jacobsen gave a great lecture on unusual cymbidiums. He has been growing orchids for 35 years. The real show was listening to Frank Fordyce react to the slides of these unusual looking orchids. Prior to Ken’s presentation, Frank was honored because the AOS will be presenting to him an award for 60 years of orchid pioneering and work in the progression of orchids. Then, once Ken’s presentation began, Ken and Frank were off to the races!

Ken would show a slide of a cymbidium with streaks or spots or garish colors, and Frank would respond by saying that that was the ugliest orchid he had ever seen. Then Ken would respond, “Frank, you may not like it, but one backbulb is worth $1500!” Frank’s response was that it was in no way worth that amount of money. Ken’s response... beauty is in the eye of the beholder. Frank would then sum it all up by saying something to the effect that yeah, that may be true, and some people spend a lot of money on a Hummer H2, but it doesn’t make it pretty! That was a great comeback for Frank. It was just a lot of fun to watch and listen to Ken and Frank interact.

Many people call cymbidiums the “weeds” of the orchid world. They require minimal care and bloom on neglect. The cymbidiums that Ken showed us, however, are very expensive weeds. The orchids he showed us fell into groups based on their color form.

Feathered - with white or blush towards the edges of the petals and sepals. Unfortunately, these genetic freaks don’t meristem well. They tend to revert back to their original plant coloration without feathering when meristemmed. The only way to get one of these feathered cymbidiums is to get a piece of the original plant, i.e. backbulb. These feathered plants are extremely unstable. Even from year to year the blooms can look completely different and go back to plain at whim. Most of these feathered cymbidiums come from meristem mutations, but occasionally a seedling will show this trait. In particular, cymbidium “Gracie Allen” tends to produce seedlings with feathering more than most cymbidiums.

The second pattern shown was “Petal Peloric.” This means the petals mimic the patterns of the lip. Next, “Spots” and “Stripes.” The form and flowering is better with the spotted forms of these cymbidiums (don’t ask Frank). These spotted flowers are more stable bloomers.

Finally, Ken wrapped up his talk with a brief overview of how he cultures his cymbidiums. Ken uses coconut chips and perlite, as follows:

- 85% coconut chips, _" to ½"
- 15% #3 or #4 perlite
- No bark
He uses Nutracote fertilizer, 18-6-12, 180-day release formula, from February to April. He likes this because it is temperature dependent. Osmocote is not as good, because it releases regardless of temperature and it releases every time you water.

Thanks again, Ken!

July Speaker's Recap written by Brad Piini.

Announcements!!

D & D Flowers Weekend Sale

D & D Flowers is having a huge inventory reduction sale on August 13 and 14, 2005. Hours are 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. in Half Moon Bay. Great prices on original divisions of Cattleyas, Oncidiums, Cymbidiums, Paphiopedilums, Phragmipediums, and many more genera. Please bring your own boxes. Really good deals.... Priced to sell. Will take cash or checks but not credit cards.

The greenhouse is located in Half Moon Bay, 1/3 mile east of Main Street. Just east of the Spanish Village on Hwy 92 is a house and woodpile yard. Turn onto the street between the house and woodpile yard and go over the bridge. D & D Flowers is the first greenhouse on the right. If you have any questions about the directions, please call Dennis Olivas at 925-969-1246.

Library News

Your DVOS library has some incomplete year issues of Orchid Digest and Orchids magazines. If you have any of these needed issues and would like to donate them to the DVOS library, please bring them to the next general meeting.


Orchids (AOS) 1992-1994
Diablo View Annual Picnic and Auction  
Theme: Safari  
August 20, 2005  
Bob and Mary Lou Van Galder’s home

Set up for the event is at 10:30. Please, we do need volunteers, besides the board members who is there every year to make this event successful, to help with the setup. Tables and chairs need to be set up, wiped down and covered. Auction plants needs to be numbered and screened from pests and diseases.

The society will provide the roast pig, chicken and soft drinks.

We do ask members with last name starting with the following alphabets to provide side dishes:
A to H - Salads I to O - Casserole/Hot Dish P to Z - Dessert

Please provide enough of the side dish for 12 people. We would like to suggest that members get together to make these side dishes. If 2 did cooperatively make a special salad or side dish or dessert, make sure it is enough for 24 people or 3 of you provide enough for 36 people. Also, don’t forget to bring your own silverware, plates and napkins.

We encourage members to donate 1 or more orchid plant division(s) from their collection. Please bring only established, healthy and pest/disease free plants. A plant that you yourself would like to bid on. Besides plants, you may donate clean pots, potting mixes, books on orchids or orchid related items. You must be a paid member to attend the event or a $20 entry fee will be charged.

You may sign up at the August 11th meeting by giving in the form below to Dennis Olivas and you will be given a map to the Van Galder’s estate. You may also call Dennis at 925-969-1246 and leave a message of who you are and how many in your party is attending or e-mail Dennis at d.olivas@comcast.net.

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Please print legibly:

Name: ____________________________ Number attending the Pot Luck/Auction: _______

Number having Roast Pork: ___________ Number having Roast Chicken: _________

I am bringing as a side dish:

Salad: _____ vegetable _____ fruit Casserole/Hot dish: ___________________________ (type)

Dessert: _____ cake _______ pie _______ my specialty
Local Vendors

Livermore
*The Orchid Ranch*
Fordyce Orchids - Cattleyas 925-447-1659
http://www.fordyceorchids.com
Orchids Orinda - Phalaenopsis
Tonkins Orchids – Paphiopedilums

Oakland
*Orchids Fiori D.Amore*
Paolo & Nina DiCandia
510-530-4884 (by appt. only)

Pacifica
White Oak Orchids *Specializing in the Weird and Wonderful*
Pacifica CA USA 94404 (650)355-8767 information
www.whiteoakorchids.com 1-888-672-4432 Toll-Free Order line

Danville
*Commercial Plant Services*
David & Alice Tomassini
3 Woodside Ct., 925-736-7630

Half Moon Bay
*D & D Flowers*
Greenhouse located in Half Moon Bay
(925) 969-1246 (by appt. only)

Diablo View Orchid Society
Roy Florey, editor
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