

# Diablo View Orchid Society

www.DVOS.org 501(c)(3) corporation

at Our next meeting Thursday, Feb. 9th  
Alan Koch will talk to us about  
*Orchid Nutrition*

One look at Alan Koch of Gold Country Orchids and you'd never think he was once an LAPD policeman, he's just too outgoing and smiles too much for that. A career change led him to work in the old Armacost and Royston nursery when they were located in the greater LA area. It sparked his imagination and the rest was history. He opened Gold Country Orchids in the foothills north of Sacramento, outside of Lincoln, Ca. The nursery is located above the heat of the Central Valley in summer and at the thermocline in winter. And anyone who has been there can tell you its a wonderful place. One of these days you've all got to take advantage of a weekend drive out there, especially when he holds an open house with orchid culture classes.

This month Alan will talk about orchid nutrition, feeding, fertilizing and plant hormones. This is an appropriate discussion for hobbyists of all levels, so if you are new and wonder what to feed your orchids please come to this meeting. If you're an old hand and wonder if a regimen change might benefit your orchids, come and ask. If there's one thing I know about Alan, he'll give you a straight answer.

**Gold Country Orchids** will provide the plant table.

**Speaker's Dinner** with Alan Koch is on Thursday, February 9th at 5:30 p.m. at the Sichuan Fortune House, 41 Woodsworth Lane, Pleasant Hill.

Everyone is welcome to attend and meet our speaker before the meeting. If you can join us, please call George McRae at (510) 233-7374 to be included in the reservation.

**Next Meeting:**  
Thur. Feb. 9th  
7:30- 10:00 p.m.

Contra Costa Waster District Board  
Room  
1331 Concord Blvd.  
Concord Ca.

Map: [www.diabloviewos.org/About/map.htm](http://www.diabloviewos.org/About/map.htm)

# Diablo View Orchid Society

## Steve Beckendorf was our speaker in January

With the sound of Auld Lang Syne still echoing in the back of our minds and the cold winter nights forcing us to think warm thoughts just to stay warm, DVOS started off the new year by taking us to the warm jungles of Columbia. Our winter lecture series was begun with a search of two rare orchids in the *Odontoglossum* family and our guide/ speaker was Steve Beckendorf.

On earth there are 40-50 known *Odontoglossum* species. Steve was interested in just two of these *Odontoglossum* species: *Odontoglossum nevadense* and *Odontoglossum naevium*. The reason for such interest in these two species is that as of 15 years ago, only one plant of each of these orchids was still in cultivation. The objective for Steve was to go back into the wild, rediscover and collect each of these two orchids and breed them with the last remaining cultivars of this species to increase the number of these two species in

captivity. To achieve this, Steve traveled to a mountainous area of Columbia called Sierra Nevada De Santa Marta. This area of Columbia is a 90x90 square mile area that boasts of 19,000 foot snow capped mountain peaks just 26 miles from the Caribbean Ocean.





## *Steve Beckendorf continued*

The search for these orchids was restricted by the fact that only one road exists on the Caribbean side of this Sierra Nevada range. This road is the only access into a dense jungle area. Bushwhacking without an established trail was almost impossible as Steve soon found out. This impenetrability serves to protect this area from the modern world. Many of the plants and animals in this area are found nowhere else in the world.

The slide show proceeded to take you back into this remote area of the Columbian jungle. Steve interacted with the native people of this area, the Mamas, and showed ruins dating back to 700 A.D. Steve eventually found *Odontoglossum nevadense* and *Odontoglossum naevium*. These plants were pollinated with the existing cultivars of *nevadense* and *naevium*, cultivated and have since bloomed and are in the process of being propagated.

This travelogue was most enjoyable. Thank you Steve for the interesting journey.

## *President's Message* by George McRae



February, the most misspelled month of the year. More likely than not pronounced without the first "R". Also one of the rainiest. Which may or may not be the case this year. The last five days of rain we just endured doubled the amount that we had for the entire rainy season previous. My cymbidiums are spiking and many are blooming. The warm-ish and dry-ish but certainly the extra light put them in this precarious condition. "Danger?" you say? Blooms are at risk now for spotting and snails and slugs. Keep your eye on them! They'll give They'll give you a better show at POE.

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## President's Message continued

And yes(!), we will be represented this year but in a much smaller capacity. Brian Wraxall, our beloved treasurer, has managed this. If you have plants you would like to put in the show, contact him as soon as possible. Be advised that in the past an intrepid core of POE folks have done ALL the work from design, to planning and construction, set up, plant grooming, proper labeling and ribbon entry. *This time, be prepared to seriously* help out. Cindy Hill provided me with this guide: <http://www.orchidworks.com/showguide/> And she has graciously allowed me to cut and paste her own guide from the SFOS newsletter (P.5). POE is wonderful but it's a huge amount of work, plus parking is now charged at Fort Mason and other parking is a monster. Still, it is one of only a few remaining shows in the country, and it speaks of what elegance there is still left in our culture. A sanctuary for the soul.

About orchid care..... start planning your repotting now. You will need bark and lots of it. New, clean, pots too. Decisions must be made: do I divide this beauty? What do I do with the divisions? Share the wealth? Swap for something you crave? Make a stir fry? Do I allow it to continue to become the gorgeous specimen it begs me to allow? That we are faced with decisions like these is certainly the best part of the gift of orchid-mania. And lest I forget, **DON'T FORGET TO START YOUR FEEDING REGIMEN NOW!!!!**( note to self....)

ALSO it is a great privilege to announce our Zazzle On Line Store!!! It's in the process of building. But items are available for purchase. Imagine drinking your favorite morning beverage out of a Mug with a DVOS orchid on it AND YES!! the postage stamps are legal and the cachet of a letter with a DVOS stamp makes you as classy as you can be. <http://www.zazzle.com/diablovieworchids> Each purchase gives a 10% return to the society.

Don't forget our Valentines Day themed refreshment table this month. Pink Cupcakes? Will you be mine? See you on the 9th!!



## Preparing Your Orchids for Display at POE

**COME ONE, COME ALL!** Everyone is invited to bring your plants in for display at the spring show! It's fun to share your blooming beauties with others, to get to know your fellow society members, and it's exciting to see visitors learn about growing orchids by seeing your plants. Here are suggestions for getting your plants in show-ready condition.

For best results, start well before the show date.

### One to two months before the show:

Identify likely candidates for display - plants that are beginning to spike, those that bloom regularly in February, ones that can be transported in your car. Begin to stake inflorescences as they get to 6-8 inches tall, preferably using bamboo stakes and twist-ties, so they present themselves at their best. (It's better to begin staking early than too late.) Use a long enough stake to support what is expected to develop. Inflorescences can be trained to be upright or arching. Flower buds will adjust their position towards light, so keep the plant orientation stable once the spike begins to develop. (I do this by keeping the tag at the back of the pot.) Paphiopedilums should be staked so the flower hangs normally, not facing the sky.

Make sure ventilation is good to avoid botrytis fungus spotting. Botrytis is likely when nights are cool and humidity is high, without good air movement, and can cause last-minute problems.

### One week before the show

Clean up dead leaves, dried back-bulbs, bracts, old spikes and blooms. Gently clean leaves with 50:50 water and milk or lemon juice (top only) and a cotton ball or clean damp soft cloth (do not use on glaucous-leaved plants). Do not use leaf shine products! Trim dead leaf tips at an angle to appear natural, using sterile razor or scissors. Examine the foliage, especially the undersurface, and sheaths, for

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Cindy Hill's Guide To Showing Your Orchids continued

signs of scale and other pests. Be careful - Inflorescences are soft when immature but as they elongate, can become brittle and inflexible. Keep water off the buds and flowers to minimize damage.

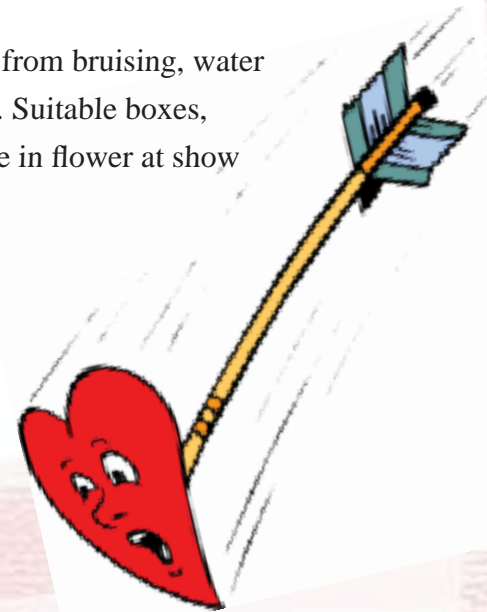
Attach more twist ties to stake if needed, but keep it unobtrusive. Trim a tall stake to flower level to avoid poking out an eyeball. You can use cotton balls to but space between developing buds, if needed - just remove them before watering.

## A few days before the POE setup

Select the 'finalists' that will be at their blooming prime for the show. Keep protecting emerging buds from bruising, water damage, botrytis. Begin to think about how best to transport the plants. Planning is critical to success. Suitable boxes, packing, helping hands and a vehicle are all part of successful transport. When selecting plants will be in flower at show time, consider how they can be packed and how those containers can fit in your vehicle.

## Day of show setup and Transport:

Soak the plant well and apply some fresh mix/bark topdressing. Consider adding some Spanish moss to keep delicate roots covered. Clean the pot or use a decorative slip pot or cachepot to hide the plastic pot. Make sure plant is correctly labeled, legibly, with all names fully written out. Put YOUR NAME tag, phone number, on tape or address label on bottom of pot and on an extra label inside the pot. Make sure you have no hitchhikers! Leave infested plants at home. Hosing off aphids as a quick fix inevitably leaves a few hitchhikers that may spread to other plants at a show.



Check that your inflorescences are staked and tied to display their blooms to best advantage. Try to use stakes of the uniform diameter and color (preferably an inconspicuous green); ties should match each other and be as inconspicuous as possible.

Before loading your plants in the car, pack the inflorescences with soft tissue paper or florist's wrapping paper to minimize chafing by leaves etc. Use temporary stakes to support arching or pendulous spikes and wedge the pots into styrofoam boxes to ensure plant and spike are stable during trip to the show; this should prevent them falling over if you need to stop suddenly. You may want to double pot plants for extra stability in a moving vehicle. (Set plant pot inside a larger (empty) pot or bucket.

While in transit, watch out for sunburn or freezing. Park in the shade if plants are left in the car. Use a picnic cooler to transport tiny pleurothallids in cool, humid comfort.

Unpack carefully, checking that any stakes are still secure. Groom again if needed, and remove any traveling supports. If the plant is normally hung or suspended in your growing area it is your responsibility to ensure that the plant is appropriately staged. Some members have created a variety of stands for their plants: all you need is something that will display the plant to its best advantage. This is particularly important for plants with trailing or hanging flowers.

Enter plants in show - go to the registration desk, ask for help if you have questions, to make sure your plants are entered in the correct class.

Remember, the more flower plants at the show, the better the show. So bring your plants or send them with someone else!! BE PART OF THE PARTY!!

If you have questions about preparing your plants for the big spring show, contact me at

[coelogyne7@gmail.com](mailto:coelogyne7@gmail.com).

See you at the show,

Diablo View Orchid Society





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## Coming Shows and Sales

### Pacifica Orchid Extravaganza

Visit one of California's largest orchid nurseries

Hundreds of blooming plants on display

Learn from the experts! Culture and care advice all weekend

Extraordinary Orchids Available, Easy beautiful hybrids, Weird, wonderful, unique species

February 23,24, 25 9 am - 5 pm

1204 Linda Mar Blvd, Unit A Pacifica CA

Free Admission - Free Parking - Wheelchair Accessible



*L. gouldiana*



*Den. glumaceum*



## Coming Shows and Sales continued

### The San Francisco Orchid Society Pacific Orchid Expo Festival Pavilion, Ft Mason Center, San Francisco

Announces the 60th Pacific Orchid Exposition 2012

Thursday, February 23 through Sunday, February 26, 2012

Gala Benefit Preview Thur. Feb. 23, 6:30-10

Show & Plant Sale Feb. 24-26, 2012 Fri. 10-6, Sat. 9-6, Sun. 10-5

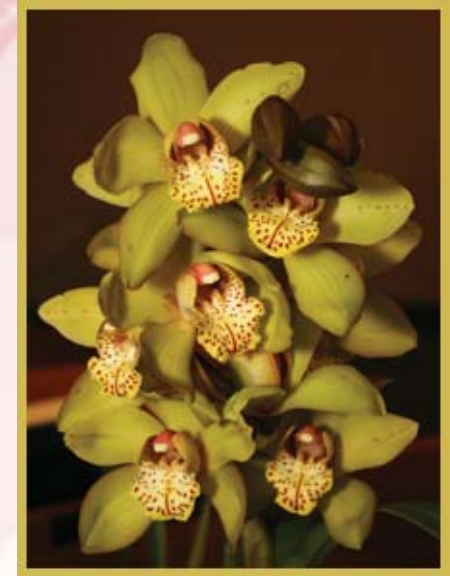
Admission: \$13 online / \$15 at the door, Seniors \$10 online / \$12 door

For Tickets and Information [www.orchidsanfrancisco.org](http://www.orchidsanfrancisco.org) 888.695.0888

New Gourmet Alley! Sample delicious food from local purveyors & wines  
from around the world from Ferry Plaza Wine Merchant

Enter Your Orchids at the POE 2012

Open Bench Display Format:



The San Francisco Orchid Society is going to have an open bench display this year. If you or your members would like to enter one or more orchids in the Pacific Orchid Exposition, we encourage you to do so. You can't win if you don't enter! Information about plant entry and the exhibition schedule is now available on the SFOS website: [www.orchidsanfrancisco.org/poe.html](http://www.orchidsanfrancisco.org/poe.html)

### 67th Santa Barbara International Orchid Show

March 16-18 9am -5pm Earl Warren Showgrounds Hwy 101 & Las Positas Rd.

General admission \$12 Seniors/students \$10 Children under 12 free

[www.sborchidshow.com](http://www.sborchidshow.com)

# Diablo View Orchid Society

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## Membership News

courtesy of Ulrike Ahlborn,  
Membership Chair

[membership@dvos.org](mailto:membership@dvos.org)

We start 2012 with 141 members

## 2012 Dues are now due

General Members \$20

Commercial Members \$25

Lifetime Members \$300

If you are unable to receive the newsletter by email and need a B&W copy mailed to you, there is an additional \$10 charge for copying and postage.

New Member/ Renewal application:

[www.dvos.org/About/membersh.htm](http://www.dvos.org/About/membersh.htm)

If you joined at our Show in November you do not owe for 2012



*Den. agathaedemonea*

2011  
DVOS Club Pins

are still available \$8

Get yours at our next meeting

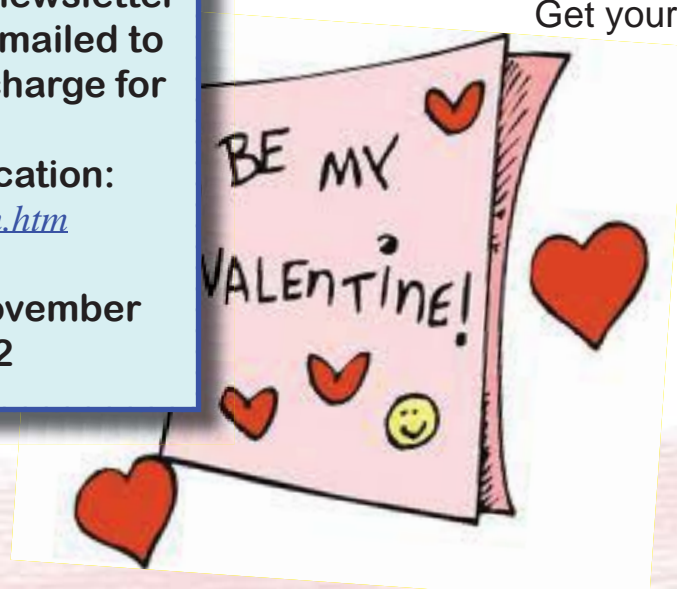


C. Circle of Life AM/AOS

Rth. David Tomassini

Ctt. Gregory Tyrome

Darden AM/AOS





# Upcoming Speakers and Events

*Refreshments for the February Meeting will be provided by:*

## **FOOD:**

*(Food must be cut into servings)*

George Cooper    Nicol Henderson  
Tom Pickford    Bayan Culhane  
Jeanette Bean    Evelyne Powell  
Barbara Ungersma  
Noble Emery    Barbara Strehlitz

## **DRINKS:**

Juices

## **ICE:**

Jim Wert

## **SET-UP/CLEAN-UP:**

Brenda Aday  
Irmchen Matull



*Thanks!* to Rodney Kline  
for this month's photos

- Feb 9:            Alan Koch - Nutrition for Orchids  
Feb 16:          Board meeting at the home of  
                      Eileen Jackson  
Feb 23-25:      Pacifica Orchid Extravaganza  
                      (see P. 7)  
Feb 24-26:      Pacific Orchid Expo (see P. 7)  
March 8:        Ron Parsons - Australian Orchids  
March 16-18:    Santa Barbara Orchid Show (see  
                      P. 7)



Coel. Multiflora

# Diablo View Orchid Society

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## Awards DVOS Sept.

### Novice

- 1st *Cym. Flory Sun*
- 2nd *Cym. no name*
- 3rd *Cym. no name*

- Judith Johnston
- Jim Wert
- Mary Ann Gschwend

### Intermediate

- 1st *L. gouldiana*
- 2nd *Slc. Samba Princess*
- 3rd *Paph. Banjarmasin*

- Akiko Ogawa
- Tom Pickford
- Brian Wraxall

### Advanced

- 1st *Den. glumaceum*
- 2nd *Masd. Heathii*
- 3rd *Coel. multiflora*

- Cindy Hill
- Ken Cook
- Cindy Hill

### Lancer Smith (species/under 6")

- Den. agathaedemonea*      Cindy Hill



*Cym. Flory Sun*



## AOS Corner

Lynn Fuller, Chair, AOS Affiliated Societies Committee

While surfing AOS website for a topic for this month's AOS Corner, I came across a little known project of the, the Species Identification Task Force (SITF) AOS (in full disclosure, I have to admit it is little known by me probably because I am not a judge). SITF is under the supervision of the Judging Committee of the AOS and its mission is to try to improve and simplify the processing of awards, with the goal of ensuring that awarded species are correctly named. Members of the Task Force are not necessarily taxonomic experts but individuals who use reference material to confirm the identity of submitted awards. When the SITF collective expertise and reference collections are not adequate, members of the task force turn to a network of qualified experts. The discussion on their website goes on to describe that the "task force replaces the previous cumbersome identification and verification procedure, which often involved shipping plant material to a taxonomic expert. The SITF, using today's electronic communications capabilities and readily available high quality digital images, hopes to facilitate the process of identifying awarded plants and to get the process done in a timely manner. Most awarded species do not need a taxonomist for identification, if reference material is available. When reference material is not available we use taxonomic experts who are willing to give opinions based on digital photographs. Occasionally awards will require in depth investigation by a taxonomic specialist, and SITF coordinates this when it is required." Their webpage also provides links to a variety of other resources which any orchidist would find interesting to explore. To find out more about the SITF check out their site at <http://www.aosforum.org/sitf> - you should all enjoy exploring this site. This SITF page on the AOS website is an example of the vast amount of information on the AOS website. We are in the middle of an exciting show season and I hope you all will try to support the shows in your areas. Some that are on my radar screen for this year will be the 2012 Philadelphia International Flower Show. AOS will again be putting in an exhibit at this world renowned event. Last year 265,000 attendees visited this show over its 7 days. The theme this year is Hawaii: Islands of Aloha. A committee has been put together and we will be soliciting plant material and volunteers for 'manning' the site. Another show is the Spring Members' Meeting of the AOS. This will be hosted by the Wichita Orchid Society. More information on these two shows (including how to register for the Members' Meeting) will be forthcoming on the AOS website under Events. Hope you all had a great holiday and New Years.

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*Slc. Samba Princess*



*Paph. Banjarmasin*

## AOS Awards

Kathy Barrett

1/4/2012

Sacramento CSNJC



*Masd. Heathii*

**Cattleya Purple Fantasy 'Deer Creek'**  
(C. Precious Stones x C. Mini Purple)  
AM 83

Exhibited by Gold Country Orchids

**Paphiopedilum Ice Age 'Dom Perignon'**  
(Paph. Pacific Shamrock x Paph. Ice Castle)  
AM 81

Exhibited by Dave Sorokowsky

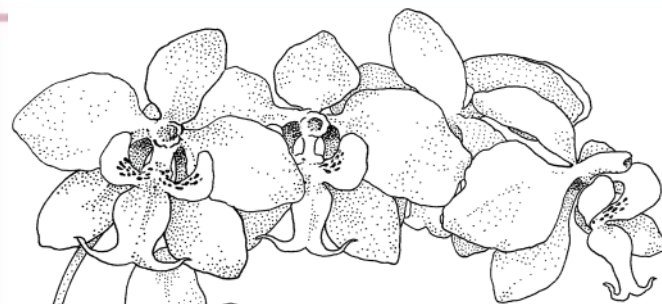
Images can be seen at <http://www.csnjc.org>



## DVOS Officers 2012

**President:** George McRae  
**Immediate Past President:** Liz Charlton  
**Vice-President:** Kathy Barrett  
**Treasurer for Life:** Brian Wraxall  
**Secretary:** Rodney Kline  
**Board Members:** Brad Piini, Meg Crosby, Parky Parkison  
Eileen Jackson, Jamie Wasson  
**Membership:** Ulrike Ahlborn [membership@dvos.org](mailto:membership@dvos.org)  
**Newsletter:** Jamie Wasson, Liz Charlton  
[dvosnews@gmail.com](mailto:dvosnews@gmail.com)  
**Webmaster:** Nick Doe, Ulrike Ahlborn  
[webmaster@dvos.org](mailto:webmaster@dvos.org)  
**Committee Chairs:**  
**Greenhouse Tours:** Parky Parkison  
**Refreshments:** Eileen Jackson  
**Raffle and Sales:** Carol and Casey Campell  
**Judging:** Nancy and Ted McClellan  
**Equipment and Lights:** Dave Tomassini  
**Librarian:** Phyllis Arthur  
**AOS Representative:** Dennis Olivas  
**Orchid Digest Representative:** Brian Wraxall  
**SFOS Show Chairman:** Brad Piini  
**DVOS Show Chairs** Liz Charlton and Kathy Barrett

## Commercial Members



### Commercial Plant Services

David & Alice Tomassini, 3 Woodside Ct.,  
Danville, (925) 736-7630

[atomassini@aol.com](mailto:atomassini@aol.com)

### White Oak Orchids, Inc.

Sales and Boarding, 1204 Linda Mar Blve.,  
(650) 355-8767

[www.whiteoakorchids.com](http://www.whiteoakorchids.com)

### California Orchids

Mary Nisbet, 515 Aspen Rd.

Bolinas, (415) 868-0203

[www.californiaorchids.com](http://www.californiaorchids.com)



# Diablo View Orchid Society Membership

Membership \$20 (  ), Business \$25 (  ), Life \$300 (  )

Add \$10 (  ) if you wish to receive the monthly newsletter by mail.

(All memberships are valid January 1 to December 31 of the current year. If you do not renew your membership dues by March 1 the following year, your privileges will cease. Monthly newsletters will be by e-mail unless you do not have an e-mail address)

PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY

New (  ) Renewal (  ) Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## For General Membership:

Principal Member: \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse or Significant Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## For Business Membership:

Name of Business \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Business Contact/Owner: \_\_\_\_\_

## Mailing Address (Must fill in)

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ Work or Cell Phone (Opt.): ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail address: \_\_\_\_\_ WebSite: \_\_\_\_\_

Are you a member of the American Orchid Society (AOS): Y/N ( \_\_\_\_\_ ); Orchid Digest Corporation (ODC): Y/N ( \_\_\_\_\_ )

## Cultivation (Check all that applicable):

Indoor (  ), Outdoor (  ), Greenhouse (  ), Hobbyist (  ), Commercial (  )

What is your favorite genus to grow? Phalaenopsis (  ), Cattleya (  ), Cymbidium (  ), Dendrobium (  ), Vanda (  ), Masdevallia (  ),

Paphiopedilum (  ), Phragmipedium (  ), Pleurothallids (  ), Zygopetalum (  ), List others: \_\_\_\_\_

**DVOS perpetuates with the fun and diligent work performed by our membership. We would like to know if you would be interested in participating in the various functions in order to keep this fun, educational, and friendly environment.**

## I would like to participate in present or future: (Check all that is applicable)

Elected Officer/Board of Director (  )

Committees: Equipment (  ) Library (  ) BBQ/Auction (  ) Advertising (  )

Refreshments (  ) Newsletter (  ) Xmas Party (  ) San Francisco Show (  )

Raffle/Sales (  ) Book Meeting Room (  ) Greenhouse Tours (  ) DVOS Show & Sale (  )

Welcome Hostess (  ) Assist when needed (  )

Endorse check payable to: **Diablo View Orchid Society, Inc.**

Please send application and check to: **Diablo View Orchid Society**

c/o Ulrike Ahlborn

202 Gaucho Ct

San Ramon, CA 94583-2113

[Membership@DVOS.org](mailto:Membership@DVOS.org)