Steve Beckendorf will talk to us about
Hairy, Abuse-Tolerant Dendrobiums

Steve Beckendorf is a professor emeritus at UC Berkeley’s Molecular and Cell Biology Department. He is the president of the Odontoglossum Alliance and is also an AOS certified judge. Steve spends his retirement traveling the world and has written extensively about his main passion, Odontoglossums, in both ‘Orchids’ the American Orchid Society magazine and ‘Orchid Digest’ the magazine for The Orchid Digest Corporation. These are two outstanding orchid organizations which our new members should consider joining. (www.aos.org and www.orchiddigest.com)

Last summer Steve and other notable odontoglossum advocates spoke at the Orchid Digest’s Summer Speaker series, tackling the tricky taxonomic changes within that alliance. But this month Steve will discuss the intriguing Formosae dendrobiums, a group that used to be called nigrohirsute dendrobiums because of the black hairs on their stems. These dendrobiums are attractive, unusual and hardy. I’m sure everyone of us is interested in finding out more about orchids that can deal with our daily abuse.

Steve Beckendorf will provide the plant table.

Speaker’s Dinner info on page 8.
Jan. 2012

Diablo View Orchid Society

DVOS Holiday Party 2011
President’s Message
by George McRae

Happy New Year to all of you! It’s an honor to accept your confidence in me as your 2012 President! First off, we have a wonderful program for you all this month with one of our own, Steve Beckendorf as our speaker and plant table provider. I hope you will join us at the speaker’s dinner before the meeting, where you can get to know Steve even more. January is always the month of the new and the resolved. This year my solemn resolution is to actually take care of my plants and give them what they deserve, which in my case is food! Unlike our VP who openly confesses to not watering her plants, my sin is not feeding. Not only do I have a collection of orchids, I also have a wonderful collection of unopened and unused fertilizers. Orchids have moods and cycles. Part of the love I have for them is observing these cycles. Marking the calendar with them. Many of my Pleurothallids bloom in winter, and it’s a lovely start to the year. In California, Calypso bulbosa will be just starting to wake up around now. They are in full bloom, depending on conditions, as early as Presidents Day. Coral roots will also be poking up in the forests of Northern Cal. As Martha says, it’s a good thing. As a final note: this is YOUR society. Its success is up to you. We’ll be forming some committees to cover the variety of activities and events we put on. I encourage all of you to participate, whether it’s a regular meeting committee like refreshments and set-up or the picnic, or annual show, or the Christmas Party (which this year was wonderful!) Many societies languish because the Board gets saddled with the lion’s share of the work. Other societies spread out the burden, which we do reasonably well, but I want everyone to feel that they are a part of this society, and to feel ownership in it! Here’s to a fabulous 2012.
Ken plants all of his Masdevallias and Draculas in Sphagnum moss. The plants love this media. 80% of his Masdevallia collection is planted in 3 inch clay pots with two styrofoam peanuts in the bottom and the rest sphagnum moss. The sphagnum moss will require repotting every year to keep the media fresh.

Masdevallias and Draculas are not heavy feeders. Ken uses 1 tsp. Dynagrow growth formula mixed with 1 tsp. Maxi-sea for the micronutrients along with 2 drops of Super Thrive diluted in 2 gallons of water. Once a week he will foliar feed his orchids (sprays the fertilizer on the leaves only). If it is very hot or very cold, Ken suspends the feeding for another week.

Ken then listed some suppliers of Masdevallias and Draculas that he has used.

For plants: Hawk Hill in Pacifica, Columbia Co. in Pacifica, JLOrchids in Connecticut, and Hill Gardens in Oregon. For supplies he uses Kelly's Corner in Maine and Orcheata owned by Tom Perlite.

Ken concluded his lecture with slides of his home growing conditions. Ken's orchids extend from his front porch to the backyard and into the greenhouse. He showed numerous ways to increase the amount of orchids you can put into a limited amount of space. Using bars, poles, chains, and shelves, Ken is able to squeeze more orchids into every available space. Only a Black Hole, in outer space, is packed more densely than Ken's orchid collection. The night was full of good ideas, which I'm sure Ken will be happy to share with you. Thanks again Ken for sharing some of your secrets of success.
Alden Lane Nursery Presents

The Temple of Bloom
Orchids Under the Oaks 2012
January 7th & 8th
10am-4pm
Escape the Winter Blues!
Free Admission and Parking
Orchid Marketplace
Free Seminars
(925)447-0280
www.aldenlane.com
THE Collector's Cymbidium Orchid Auction
San Mateo Garden Center
605 Parkside Way, San Mateo, CA 94403

January 20, 2012 Auction 7 pm
Registration & Preview 6:30 - 7 pm

People wait all year for THE Collector's Cymbidium Orchid Auction! They have driven from all over the SF Bay Area (people have even phoned in from Southern California!) to place bids at this auction. Beautiful, Blooming, Rare, Hard to find, even Past Show Award Winning orchids! Come early, bring lots of boxes.

FREE ADMISSION & PARKING

Check for Catalogue List of plants & photos on Auction Page of www.GoldCoastCymbidiumGrowers.com

Questions? E-mail to bacyms@yahoo.com

Gold Coast Cymbidium Growers
San Mateo, CA

Diablo View Orchid Society
Speaker’s Dinner with Steve Beckendorf on Thur. Jan 12 - before our meeting - will be at 5:30 at the Sichuan Fortune House, 41 Woodsworth Ln. in 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.

Membership News

courtesy of Ulrike Ahlborn, Membership Chair

We start 2012 with 139 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

If you joined at our Show in November you do not owe for 2012
Upcoming Speakers and Events

Jan 7-8: Temple of Bloom (see P. 6)
Jan 12: DVOS meeting: Steve Beckendorf
Jan 19: Board meeting will be at the home of Brad and Karen Piini
Jan 20: Cymbidium Auction (see P. 7)
Jan. 28-29: Peninsula Orchid Society Show & Sale (see P. 13)
Feb 23-25: Pacifica Orchid Extravaganza (see P. 14)
Feb 24-26: Pacific Orchid Expo (see P. 11)
Feb 9: Alan Koch - Nutrition for Orchids

Refreshments for the January Meeting will be provided by the Board
Now that Summer is behind us, let’s hope the weather calms down so we can all enjoy the upcoming orchid show season. Some of you are starting to hold their meetings again after a summer hiatus. The AOS has had a busy summer as well. There are new novice culture sheets for most of the more popular orchids. If you are a member of AOS and have not already registered for access to the new website Members’ Only, I hope you do it soon. One major difference in the new website is that it may be translated into a multitude of foreign languages. The translation is done with a drop down menu on the left hand top portion of the site. Also, the site is continually being populated with up-to-date orchid information. In addition, there is a new member’s profile where you can renew your membership, change your mailing address or email information and manage your AQ+ subscription. Plus, each month, Ron McHatton produces a fabulous electronic newsletter filled with all kinds of orchid culture information. If you are already an AOS member and not receiving notifications of these monthly newsletters, AOS does not have your email address. To be added to the distribution list, send your email address along with your full name to Terri Rivera at trivera@aos.org. Please note: if you are having difficulties signing into the ‘Members Only’ section, it may be that your prior registration is no longer valid. With the new website, each member must renew their registration. Instructions for doing so are on the home page of AOS. You will also find a tab on the home page about the Myrtle Head Savanna Conservation Committee project. It is up and running and donations are being made. You can read more about this joint project with Nature Conservancy...
PACIFIC ORCHID EXPOSITION
Celebrating 60 Years

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

FESTIVAL PAVILION,
FORT MASON CENTER,
SAN FRANCISCO

A Salute to the Golden Gate

San Francisco Orchid Society's 2012

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

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

Weekend pass $55 online / $60 at the door
Includes Gala & unlimited access to the show
(excludes special events)

For Tickets and Information
www.orchidsanfrancisco.org
888.695.0888
2012 DVOS Officers and Board

President: George McRae
Vice President: Kathy Barrett
Secretary: Rodney Kline
Treasurer: Brian Wraxall
Board Members: Brad Piini
Meg Crosby
Jamie Wasson
Eileen Jackson
Immediate Past President: Liz Charlton

AOS Awards

Kathy Barrett

December CSNJC December 7, 2011

Cattleya brevipedunculata ‘Nevada City’, AM 82 species, Exhibited by Ted McClellan

Cattleya coccinea fma. aurea ‘Grass Valley’, HCC 79 species, Exhibited by Ted McClellan

Please note that the ever-changing genus ‘Sophronitis’ is now subsumed into ‘Cattleya’. And - for you taxonomy freaks - the variety ‘aurea’ is listed as forma until taxonomically published as a ‘variety’. How ya like them apples?
A lot of folks asked for Ken Cook’s cake recipe. He has been kind enough to share it.

Ken Cook’s Sour Cream Chocolate Cake
2 c. flour
2 c. sugar
½ tsp. baking powder
1 ¼ tsp baking soda
1 tsp salt
1 c. water
¾ c. sour cream
¼ c. butter, softened
1 tsp. vanilla
2 eggs
1 c. unsweetened Hershey’s Special Dark Cocoa

Preheat oven to 350. Measure all ingredients into a large bowl and beat for ½ minute at low speed. Beat for 3 minutes at highest speed. Pour into greased, floured cake pans. Bake for 20 -30 minutes, testing with a toothpick.

Frosting:
½ c. butter melted
1 c. unsweetened Hershey’s Special Dark Cocoa
4 c. powdered sugar, sifted
1 c. sour cream
2 tsp. vanilla

Put all ingredients in a food processor equipped with a steel blade a process until smooth, scraping down sides of bowl.

Note: It is worth the search to find Hershey’s Special Dark Cocoa. It truly pushes this recipe over the top!
Pacifica Orchid Extravaganza
Orchid Free for All

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
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President: George McRae
Immediate Past President: Liz Charlton
Vice-President: Kathy Barrett
Treasurer for Life: Brian Wraxall
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Committee Chairs:
Greenhouse Tours: Parky Parkison
Refreshments: Eileen Jackson
Raffle and Sales: Carol and Casey Campell
Judging: Ted and Nancy 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

Jan. 2012

Commercial Members

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

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