Ok, so you've learned to grow your charges, and by golly, you beam with pride!

Now, how about a photograph, to preserve the lovelies, or to even to brag.

Photographing flowers isn’t as easy as you’d like it to be. Our speaker this July, David Wasserman is going to help sort that out. His lecture is entitled: “WHY IS PHOTOGRAPHING AN ORCHID SO DIFFICULT? - Ways to make it a lot easier”.

Dave has been a professional photographer for over 30 years, mostly specializing in scientific and technical areas. Originally, he was trained as a biologist, and initially learned both photography and cinematography to help with research on animal behavior studies. In the early 1980s, he transitioned from biological consulting to freelance photography and has been there ever since. Besides working on both assignments and personal work, he has taught at the Academy of Art University in San Francisco for over a decade. He primarily teaches conceptual classes along with color theory. Areas of photographic expertise are macro/micro photography, lighting on location, and landscape photography. His work can be seen at his web site, cactitranssects.com, and at GettyImages.com. He is presently in the final stages of publishing a macrophotography book on ROCKS.

Speaker’s Dinner will be at 5:30 at the Sichuan Fortune House, 41 Woodsworth Ln. in Pleasant Hill.

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

Plant table will be provided by Tropical Orchid Farm
We finally learned the secrets of growing fabulous orchids from the master orchid grower, Ken Cook. Ken has always had the ability to WOW you with his beautiful and varied orchid collection. After listening to his June lecture at DVOS, you come to the realization that his superior culturing ability comes from his tremendous dedication both in time and attention to his orchid collection. Ken puts more effort into his collection than most of the other orchid hobbyists present that night.

Ken has always shown an amazing ability to grow Masdevallias and Draculas. The majority of his presentation was geared toward the raising of these two types of orchids. Part of Ken’s success with Masdevallias and Draculas is the location where Ken is growing his orchids. Ken lives in El Cerrito, which has a coastal climate influenced by close proximity to San Francisco Bay. This allows Ken to grow many of his orchids outdoors in the prevailing cool to moderate temperatures and constant humidity.
Ken went into the cultural requirements needed to grow Masdevallias and Draculas. Most of these orchids are found in the mountains of Ecuador, which provide a wet and humid environment with cool temperatures. To try and duplicate these conditions in your greenhouse Ken recommends that you place the Masdevallias or Draculas directly over the fogger to keep them cool and moist. Masdevallias and Draculas will tolerate cool much better than warm or hot conditions. They will survive down to 30 degrees Fahrenheit, but below this temperature they will start to lose their leaves. Most Masdevallias and Draculas don’t require a lot of light and will grow well in the shade. They also prefer light air movement, but too much wind will dry them out.

The big difference between growing Masdevallias and Draculas is the way you pot or mount the orchid. Draculas will almost always send their blossoms from the bottom of the plant. This means that if you plant it in a plastic pot, you will never see the plant bloom. Draculas need to be mounted on some type of wood or placed in a mesh basket or a wooden slat basket. This will allow the flower spikes to emerge from the bottom of the plant and flower. Masdevallias, on the other hand, are good in pots since they almost always flower from the top of the plant. Ken plants all of

*Masd. Bay Breeze*  
*‘Empress’*
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, California, 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.

Brs. brachiata
July is our Ice Cream Social featuring Root Beer Floats

The root beer float or “black cow” dates to 1893 in Cripple Creek, Colorado. Frank J. Wisner, owner of the Cripple Creek Cow Mountain Gold Mining Company, produced a line of soda waters for the citizens of the then-booming Cripple Creek gold mining district. He created a special drink for the children of Cripple Creek and came up with an idea while staring out at his properties on Cow Mountain on a moonlit night. The full moon’s glow on the snow capped Cow Mountain reminded him of a dollop of vanilla ice cream floating on top of his blackened Cow Mountain. He was inspired by this view to add a big scoop of vanilla ice cream to the one soda water he produced that the children of Cripple Creek seemed to like best - Myers Avenue Red root beer - and served it. The drink was an instant hit. Originally named “Black Cow Mountain”, the local children shortened this to “black cow”.

Refreshments for the July Meeting will be provided by:

Cookies:
Bernice Lindner
Renate Johnson
Meg Crosby
Judith Johnston
Marcia Hart
Sue Davis
Jo Ann Kappesser
Carol Campbell

Ice Cream & Drinks:
DVOS Board

Ice:
Barbara Ungersma

Set-Up/Clean-Up:
Irmchen Matull
Marcia Hart

Servers:
Tom Pickford
Ken Cook
Upcoming Speakers and Events

July 14: DVOS meeting -
David Wasserman
- Photographing Orchids
Ice Cream Social

July 21: Board Meeting at the home of Brian and Joan Wraxall

Aug 6: CSNJC Speaker’s Day (P.7)
Aug 20: DVOS BBQ and Auction at the home of Bob & Mary Lou Van Galder (P.11)

Sept 8: DVOS meeting -
Carol Klonowski
- Paphiopedilum v. alba

Oct 13: DVOS meeting -
Jason Fisher
- Neofinetia falcata

Nov 10: DVOS meeting -
Orchids 101

Dec 14: DVOS Christmas Party
Note this is a Wednesday
Recommended Reading
courtesy of Ken Cook

Masdevallias: Gems of the Orchid World
by Mary E. Gerritsen and Ron Parsons

Draculas of Ecuador
by Franco Pupulin, Gilbert Merino, and Hugo Medina

Orchid Dig (Oct., Nov., Dec. 2008)
Four Articles on Masdevallias and Draculas.

OS Bulletin Article (1989) titled The Care and Feeding of Draculas by Marguerite Webb

The Slight Edge by Jeff Olson

Sources

Plants
Hawk Hill Orchids, Pacifica
http://colombianorchidimports.com/
Golden Gate Orchids, So. SF
Mountain Orchids, VT
J&L Orchids, CT
Ecuagenera, Ecuador

Supplies
Golden Gate Orchids: Orchiata
Calwest Tropical Supply: Tree fern, wire hangers, wooden baskets, sphagnum moss
Kelly’s Korner Orchid Supplies, ME: Nets pots, wires for staking

L. purpurata

Diablo View Orchid Society
July 2011
Awards DVOS June

Advanced
1st  *Masd. Bay Breeze*  Ken Cook
2nd  *Paph. St. Swithin*  Dave Tomassini
3rd  *Masd. Pat Arkhurst*  George McRae

Intermediate
1st  *Masd. Copper Angel*  Brian Wraxall
2nd  *Brs.. brachiata*  Eileen Jackson
3rd  *L. purpurata*  Renate Johnson

Novice
1st  *Cym. unknown*  Miki Ichiyanagi
2nd  *Blc. Merrily Murison*  Marcia Hart
3rd  *Masd. Geneva Spots*  Walt James

Lancer Smith (species/under 6”)
*Gojo-Fukurin (Neofinetia falcata)*
George McRae

Welcome to new member Sue Davis and returning member Calvin Anderson
CSNJC Speaker’s D

CSNJC Speakers Day
will be Saturday, August 6th at the
Oddfellow’s Building in Sacramento.

1831 Howe Ave at Alta Arden
Sacramento, Ca. 95838
9am - 5 pm

Speakers:
Marc Hatchadourian curator of the New York Botanical Gardens

Tom Harper of Stones River Orchids
The Twelve Most Important Phalaenopsis Species in Today’s Hybrids

Erich Michel of Michel Orchid Nursery
Unusual Orchid Species from Madagascar

$10 for AOS member/sponsoring society - in advance.
$15 for AOS member/sponsoring society - at the door.
$25 door for non AOS member/sponsoring society ($10 refunded when you join the AOS at the event.)
AOS Awards  Kathy Barrett

June 1/2011 - CSNJC - Sacramento

Cattleya Fuchsia Doll ‘ShouldbeanFCC’, AM 88
(C. sincorana x C. Sierra Doll), Exhibited by Gold Country Orchids
(The clonal name is Alan’s gentle joke to the judging team. It’ll probably be changed before its published in the AQ...or not! *G!*)

Cyrtochilum McBeanianum ‘Sheila’, AM 81
(Cyr. macranthum x Cyr. superbiens), Exhibited by Golden Gate Orchids (McBeanianum has been around since the early 1900s. Tom Perlite has been doing great work with this genus.)

Paph. unnamed hybrid ‘Chianti’*, HCC 78 (prov)
(Paph. Avalon Mist x Paph. iliemianum), Exhibited by Dave Sorokowsky (This is a provisional award because the hybrid needs to be registered with the RHS.)

Phragmipedium caudatum ‘Penthus’, HCC 77
species, Exhibited by Ramon de los Santos (Penthus is the Greek god of mourning)

Pictures of all awarded orchids can be seen at http://www.csnjc.org
Our annual picnic and auction will be at the home of Bob and MaryLou Van Galder (look in your Membership Roster for the address in Lafayette Sat, Aug. 20th.

This year’s theme is “We’re having a BBQ”. That’s right, you don’t have to come in costume.

The Society will provide the Barbeque and drinks. Members bring a side dish and a plant or other orchid-related donation for the raffle.

If your last name begins with: You bring: Set-up 10:30 - 11:30
J - Q Side Dish Lunch 12:30 - 1:30
R - Z Salad Auction 2:00 - 3:30
A - E Hors d’oeuvres Clean-up 4:00 - 5:00
F - I Dessert Everyone should plan to help with either Set-up or Clean-up

Bring enough to serve 10

This event is open to Members and their guests.

Diablo View Orchid Society
DVOS Officers 2011

President:  Liz Charlton
Immediate Past President:  Eileen Jackson
Vice-President:  George McRae
Treasurer:  Brian Wraxall
Secretary:  Rodney Kline
Board Members:  Brad Piini, Karen Piini, Ken Cook, Jamie Wasson, Parky Parkison

Membership: Ulrike Ahlborn  membership@dvos.org
Newsletter:  Jamie Wasson, Liz Charlton
dvosnews@gmail.com
Webmaster:  Nick Doe, Ulrike Ahlborn
webmaster@dvos.org
Greenhouse Tours:  Parky Parkison
Refreshments:  vacant
Raffles and Sales:  Rita Tischler, Judith Johnston
Equipment and Lights:  Dave Tomassini
Librarian:  Phyllis Arthur
AOS Representative:  Dennis Olivas
Orchid Digest Representative:  Brian Wraxall
SFOS Show Chairman:  Brad Piini
DVOS Show Chairman:  Liz Charlton

Commercial Members

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

White Oak Orchids, Inc.
Sales and Boarding, 1204 Linda Mar Blve., (650) 355-8767
www.whiteoakorchids.com

California Orchids
Mary Nisbet, 515 Aspen Rd.
Bolinas, (415) 868-0203
www.californiaorchids.com

Masd. Pat Ackhurst