



Diablo View Orchid Society Newsletter

<http://www.diabloviewos.org>

June 2002

Program: **“Equitant Oncidiums - The Jewels of the Caribbean”** **Matt Swift**

Meeting Date, Time and Location

When: Thursday, June 13, 2002

**Culture Session @ 7 PM: Matt Swift: “Repotting Equitants”
Meeting Starts at 7:30 PM**

**Where: Contra Costa Water Dept. Auditorium
1331 Concord Ave., Concord**

**Dinner with Matt Swift: 5:30 PM at the Pepper Mill
1100 Concord Ave., Concord**

RSVP (925) 833-0840 or e-mail DVOSNEWS@ATTBI.COM by 5/6/02

Upcoming Events: **(topics in parenthesis)**

June

13 General meeting
Speaker: Matt Swift (Tolumnias)

August

8 General Meeting
Orchid round-robin with Sue Fordyce,
Bernice Lindner, and Barbara Tague
24 DVOS BBQ

September

12 General meeting
Speaker: Leonard Gines (TBA)

October

10 General meeting
Speaker: Dr. Joanne Whitney
(How did it get that name?)

December

12 General meeting
DVOS Holiday Party

Message from the President

For those who may have not heard before this issue of the Newsletter is received, Diablo View Orchid Society has recently lost one of its members. Bob Hilson passed away on May 24th.

Some of you may remember Hilson's Department Store, the family business that Bob developed until it closed in 1992. It was the vacant Concord store that Bob arranged to have DVOS use for several "Show & Sales" years ago.

Bob became interested in orchids when he inherited Cymbidiums from his dad. Then he bought a greenhouse from Marlene Lundquist, a member who moved to Hawaii. Both Bob and Jeanne volunteered together for several years bringing and setting up the refreshment supplies for our monthly meetings. They also helped with other DVOS activities.

On behalf of Diablo View Orchid Society, we extend our condolences to the Hilson family.

Dave Tomassini

DVOS Plant Sale - Redux

In last month's article about the DVOS plant sale, **The Paph House** was inadvertently left off the donor list. We apologize for the omission.

**ARTICLE DEADLINE FOR
JULY NEWSLETTER
IS FRIDAY, JUNE 28**

- 2 -

DVOS STAFF

President - David Tomassini

Vice-President - Charlotte Leong

Secretary - Alice Tomassini

Treasurer - Barbara Tague

AOS Rep. - Barbara Tague

BBQ - Kathy Barrett, Sue Fordyce

Culture Sessions - Charlotte Leong

Greenhouse Tours - Linda Daraskavich

Historian - Nathalie Smith

Indoor/Outdoor Group - Open

Librarian - Phyllis Arthur

Lights&Equipment - Juan Bofill, Parky Parkison

Membership - Ulrike Ahlborn

Newspaper Ads - Karen Moonitz

Raffle/Other sales - Nancy Pak

Refreshments - Linda Castleton, Tonky Bofill

S.F. Show - Ron Bettencourt

Sound System - Dave Tomassini

Webmaster - Nick Doe

Welcome Hostess - Madge Fordyce

Board Members - Kathy Barrett, Juan Bofill, Linda Daraskavich, Parky Parkison, Mark Rotter

Newsletter Editor

Mark Rotter (925) 833-3787

DVOSnews@attbi.com

This Month's Speaker

Matt Swift

“Equitant Oncidiums - The Jewels of the Caribbean” will be presented by Matthew Swift of Swift's Orchids in Rancho Cucamonga, CA. Rancho Cucamonga is located 40 miles East of Los Angeles and has quite a bit of coastal influence in its weather. The climate is similar to the Concord area. It is colder in winter and warmer in summer, but it is not in the desert.

Matt grew up around orchids since his Dad began growing them over 35 years ago. He has always taken a liking to them although his sister did not. His favorites are cattleyas and equitant oncidiums; however, he has recently begun collecting ultra-miniature cymbidiums [A potential topic for a future presentation? :o)]. After he dropped out of college with less than a year under his belt, he worked for Mervyn's Department Store for over 9 years. He then worked for Stewart Orchids and after that at Santa Barbara Orchid Estate from March 1998 to January 2000. Shortly afterwards, he and his dad decided to open up their own orchid retail store, which they did in March 2000. In reality, they've actually been in business for 20 years selling at most orchid shows throughout Southern California; but nothing like a full-time business. It was a rough beginning but they've really improved and hope to continue that way. Matt is past President (1996-1998) of the Riverside-San Bernardino Counties Orchid Society and will be 1st Vice President in a few months. He is currently Membership Secretary of the Cymbidium Society of America.

Come join us and learn how Matt successfully grows the delightful miniature oncidiums known as equitants and tolumnias. The raffle table will be provided by Swift's orchids.

If you would like to place a preorder with Matt, you can contact him at his web site: www.swiftorchids.com

The July speaker program is still in the works details to be announced.

Charlotte

Refreshment Room

May's refreshment table met all expectations, so our reputation continues to be upheld. It is now up to those who signed up for June to meet the challenge: **Esther Yee, Renate Johnson, Bernice Lindner, Nancy Pak, Phyllis Arthur, Kathy Barrett, Nathalie Smith and Kathy Ames.** Beverages will be provided by: **Jane Holcomb and Dennis Olivas.**

If for whatever reason any of you can't attend the meeting, please call **Linda Castleton** (925-256-4628) in advance of the meeting.

Linda Castleton
Antonietta Bofill

Last Month's Presentation

Last month fellow DVOS member, Michael Gallagher, gave us an 'up close' view of the natural habitats of Disas in South America. There are currently over 200 different species known in the genus Disa. They are deciduous or evergreen terrestrial plants with both tuberous and stoloniferous root systems. These orchids are found along mountain crevices, streams and atop Table Mountain; all are areas where water is plentiful. The easily grown evergreen species include *D. uniflora*, *D. cardinalis*, *D. aurata*, *D. tripetaloides*, and *D. racemosa*, *D. venosa*, and *D. caulescens*. A small number of deciduous Disas are also grown, although they can present quite a challenge. The evergreen species can be quite hardy and grown year round in a shade structure in the East Bay. Disas take two years to reach blooming size. Unlike most other orchids, disas can be found in bloom most of the year - a great 'selling point' for those of us who have a greenhouse full of green plants most of the year.

Due to scheduling conflicts with the Water District, our culture session on 'Growing Disas in the East Bay' has been rescheduled to July. We thank Michael for his patience and willingness to come back for the culture session. For those of you who need disa culture advice sooner, you can contact Michael and view culture information through his web site at www.disas.com <<http://www.disas.com>>.

Charlotte

Membership News

Lets give a warm welcome to the three new members who joined DVOS in April: **Nora Arbis** from Oakley **Laura Geary** from San Ramon and **Rosi Galve** from Vallejo. A fourth person gave me her dues but did not return the application form to me. I hope she will identify herself at the next meeting, so we can welcome her and also send her the newsletter. We also had a guest from Oakland, **Joseph Dougherty**. Welcome to all!

As of May 2002 the Diablo View Orchid Society has 98 members. If you would like to know who they are and you are a member yourself, see me at the next meeting for a 2002 roster if you do not have one yet. I want to keep the records up to date, so please let me know if you changed your address, phone number or e-mail address, so I can update my files. I will provide an Addendum to the roster, which will include all new members and any corrections.

A note to our guests who attended our general meeting prior to April 2002: Please be aware that this will be your last newsletter. If you would like to continue receiving it and enjoy the meetings and participate in the club's benefits, send in your application and dues or just bring them to the next meeting.

You can contact me by e-mail ulrikea@usa.net <<mailto:ulrikea@usa.net>>, or by phone during the day at (510) 741-6762 or in the evening at (925) 830-8830.

Ulrike Ahlborn
Membership Chair

Culture Corner

Last month's scheduled culture session "Growing Disas in the East Bay" will be rescheduled for July.

This month Matt Swift of Swift's Orchids will present "Repotting Equitants." Matt lives in Rancho Cucamonga, an area with similar climate to the Concord area. His potting techniques should prove to be useful for many of us trying to grow these delightful orchids.

- Charlotte Leong

Have Dinner with the Speaker!

Come join us for dinner prior to the June meeting. Hear inside tips and stories from our speaker Matt Swift. Dinner reservations are for 5:30 PM at PepperMill Restaurant, 1100 Concord Ave. at the corner just east of the Toyota Dealership in Concord.. If you get lost, the phone number for the restaurant is 925-671-2233. Please RSVP to Charlotte at dvosnews@attbi.com or leave a message at 925-833-0840 by 6/10/02. If you don't RSVP, but find you can come to dinner at the last minute, please join us. We can always accommodate a few extra people. Hope to see you there.

Charlotte

Greenhouse Tours

Just a reminder that if you have signed up for the greenhouse tour scheduled for June 29, 2002 and have not paid for your lunch, the lunches are \$6.75 and the money is due by June 13th. If I don't receive your lunch money, you won't get a lunch! Maps will be available at the meeting

Linda Daraskavich

AOS Special Offer

Many of our members are also members of the American Orchid Society (AOS). Their monthly publication, *Orchids*, is the world's best media source for orchid-related information - technical and popular. **Right now**, there is a special offer if you renew your AOS membership for two years. You will get a \$30 gift certificate to use on any order of \$100 or more from certain participating orchid nurseries. In this month's magazine, there is a list of the participants, including H & R, R. F. Orchids, and many more. So hurry!! This is a limited-time offer.

Barbara Tague

Results from the DVOS Competition

1st Place

Bernice Lindner

Miltonia

2nd Place

Tom and Jeanette Bean

Lc Rojo

3rd Place

Mercedes Bell

Coelogene Mooreana Brockhurst

Look What I Bloomed For the First Time

Ulrike Ahlborn & Nick Doe

Phalaenopsis

Lancer Smith Award

Katie Pleasance

Masd. Ted Khoe

Many thanks to our judges **Matt Piini**, *et. al.*

The DVOS BBQ is coming!

Our favorite event, the annual DVOS BBQ, is scheduled for Saturday August 24, 2002. Mark your calendars because this is one event you'll want to be sure to attend. The event is held at the beautiful Van Galder family estate. Details will be forthcoming. We will ask each member to donate a plant to our auction table, so start checking your collection and look for those plants may want to divide now and donate to the event. See you there!

Charlotte

Be a Trendsetter!!

How would you like to be on the leading edge of communications, save the club money, save the environment, and see all the newsletter photos in glorious color? How would you like for me to stop nagging everyone on this subject? It's easy!! Simply elect to receive your newsletter via e-mail. You'll also get the satisfaction of receiving your newsletter before everyone else.

Simply e-mail me at DVOSNEWS@ATTBI.COM and say "I want to receive the newsletter via e-mail!"

That's all there is to it. Thanks much,

Mark, your humble editor

Orchid Birds

by Frank Fordyce

Orchid people, worldwide, are all alike. They have predictable patterns of behavior. Those who have enjoyed the experience of bird-watching will be reminded of the similarity of certain birds to a certain orchid people. Take, for example, the Broad-Beamed Aisle Waddler, that robust bird who seems to knock over every other plant as they bounce from side-to-side down one's greenhouse walk.

Or, the delicate Hyper-Hummingbird type that flits from one flower to another in rapid succession, chirping with delight at every stop.

There is also the Curious-Crested Cuckoo, who must touch and feel every bloom. (This one is a first cousin to the Great Crested Flower-Twitcher.)

One of the most unusual birds is the seldom seen, difficult to identify, and not particularly attractive, bird that blends easily with its surroundings, the Long-Toed Pollen Snatcher.

A bird that everyone recognizes, being commonly seen in the company of Fan-Tailed Orchid Pigeons, is the blase, often bored looking, companion, the wonderful, enduring, patient and unruffled Mugwump.

But, without doubt, the bird that is most revered of all has currently been placed on the Endangered Species List. This stately and handsome bird has proven to be of tremendous value to Orchid Merchants worldwide. It never fails to seek out the most showy, rare and expensive orchids known to man, and takes them to its nest for their security and protection. Found primarily on the wide plains of Texas is the rare, and highly sought-after, opulent Green-Backed Southern Twanger.

Livermore

The Orchid Ranch;
Fordyce Orchids - Cattleyas 925-447-1659
Orchids Orinda - Phalaenopsis
Tonkins Orchids - Paphiodeilums

Oakland

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

Yuba City

Orchid Obsession
Brent & Toni Cushenbery
1477 Oswald Rd., Yuba City, CA 95993
916-673-6763

Walnut Creek

Orchid Gallery
Jing Ho
1501 N. California Blvd.

Martinez

MGM Orchids
Mariano G Morales
718 Main Street
Martinez, CA. 94553

San Leandro

The Paph House
Francisco Baptista & Fred Jernigan
375 Warwick Avenue, San Leandro, CA
510/ 635-2845, (by appt. only)

Lafayette

Diablo Disas
Michael Gallagher
3 Maloyan Lane
925-283-8450 (by appt. only)

Concord

Nathalie Smith
1507 Lavetta Way; 925-685-8904
(by appt. only); orchid supplies

Danville

Commercial Plant Services
David & Alice Tomassini
3 Woodside Ct.; 925-736-7630

Half Moon Bay

D & D Flowers
Dennis Olivas; 62 Oceanside Dr.
650-994-7465 (call in advance)

Australia

Adelaide Orchids
Stephen and Robin Monkhouse
16 Pine Road
Woodcroft, South Australia 5162



Diablo View Orchid Society
Mark Rotter, editor
7489 Hillsboro Ave.
San Ramon, CA 94583-3509