

Diablo View Orchid Society

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

June 2011

at Our next meeting Thursday, June 9th

Draculas & Masdevallias presented by Ken Cook

Ken began growing orchids 9 years ago. After 6 months of killing nearly every plant he bought, his wife, Barbara, made the mistake of buying him the book, "Orchid Growing for Wimps" (which she promptly revised to read, "Orchid Growing for Winners"). Ken's obsession truly began with a visit to the Pacific Orchid Exposition. There he experienced seeing the overwhelming beauty of massive orchid plants that had been grown by experts for over 20 years. The rest is history. After covering a western facing picture window in the dining room, Barbara declared, "You need to get a greenhouse". To which Ken replied, "Please don't throw me in the briar patch".

Intrigued by the beauty of Masdevallias, Ken asked the owner of the The Orchid Florist in Berkeley if they were as hard to grow as he had heard. Phillipe replied, "You live in El Cerrito, you can grow them on your porch!" Their relatives, Draculas, turned out to be just as happy with El Cerrito. As the porch filled up Ken tried growing them in his intermediate/cool greenhouse and found that many are happy there too. His growing efforts have resulted in several awards from the AOS.

So if you live East of the Hills or West of the Hills, please come and learn how to grow these fascinating plants. They are well worth learning how to make them happy."

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 Ken Cook

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

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

Map:

www.dvos.org/About/map.htm

Maynard Michel was our speaker in May

Helen and Maynard Michel were our guest speakers at the DVOS May meeting. Both are former nuclear chemists for Lawrence Livermore Laboratory. They were also the owners of Orchids Orinda which specialized in growing Phalaenopsis orchids. Maynard was the main spokesperson for the evening and his topic was Phalaenopsis orchids. Maynard used a few slides during his presentation, but mainly outlined the cultural requirements for Phalaenopsis, how humans are linear thinkers, and the intricacies of pH as it pertains to water. Yes, you read the subject matter correctly.



Light: Phalaenopsis require strong light in order to bloom. If you are growing Phals. indoors, near a window, you should have a sheer curtain to allow good light for blooming. Phalaenopsis also need a change in the temperature between the day and night of at least 5 degrees to initiate blooming. To get this temperature change, you may have to move your Phals. closer to the window so that the plant can feel the change in temperature through the glass.

Fertilizer: All Phalaenopsis like a reasonable amount of fertilizer. The nitrogen should be 200 ppm to be optimum . The phosphorous is not as important and can be low and is still O.K. for Phals. The calcium and magnesium are very important, as are iron and trace elements. If you are growing in bark, you will find that as it breaks down, the bark will give up a lot of these elements back to the orchid plant. To get your plant to bloom you don't need to stop using nitrogen or increase the amount of phosphorous. This formulation is found in some fertilizers such as Bloom-it, but is not needed to boost the bloom potential of your Phalaenopsis orchids. One source of nitrogen is urea. Using urea on orchids is not a good idea. Urea requires bacteria in the soil to break down the urea into ammonium nitrate which then can be used by the plant as food. Orchids don't have soil, hence, they cannot utilize nitrogen in the form of urea.

Water: pH is a measure of the acidity or alkalinity of water. pH is the negative log of the hydrogen ion concentration. For pure water this should be a pH of 7. The atmosphere has a lot of carbon dioxide, which dissolves in water and forms a weak acid. Most local water, therefore, has an acidic pH of less than 7. The water that you use on your orchids should have a pH of between 5.8-6.2. This will allow iron to be dissolved and then be available to the the orchids. Phalaenopsis should always kept wet . They are native to the Philippines and should never be allowed to dry out.

Potting media: The potting media for most Phals is fir bark. Maynard was quick to point out that using large and small particle potting mix will mimic the properties of the smaller mix as the small bark fills in all the large spaces between the mix. Uh, what? This he said was a great example of linear thinking.

Thanks, Maynard. It feels like I need to go back to class.....

- Brad Piini

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DVOS Meeting Schedule

Our meetings have been running a bit long. In part this is due to all the wonderful plants members have brought for our Show & Tell. Beginning with our May meeting we will try to stay on schedule so everyone gets home at a reasonable time.

7:30 - 7:45 Announcements

7:45 - 8:00 Table Topics

8:00 - 8:30 Speaker

8:30 - 8:45 Refreshments

8:45 - 9:45 Plant Show & Tell

9:45 - 10:00 Raffle

10:00 - 10:20 Clean-up



C. Noname

San Jose Orchid Exposition #6

San Jose Japantown June 3-5

Location: Miraido Village Club House,
550 N. Sixth St., San Jose, CA 95112

More info: 408.623.0413

Website: www.realorchidgrowers.com

Facebook page: Real Orchid Growers

- June 3: Preview Night-5:30pm-9:30pm: Orchid Conservation Alliance Fundraiser (100% contribution of \$10.00 admission per person to OCA) Vendors pay the sales tax this evening, reception food, wine tasting, special guest speaker
- June 4: Orchid Sales & Skill Sessions-9:00am-6:00pm: free admission, wine tasting, skill sessions, comp orchid drawing based on purchase of orchid following each skill session
- June 5: Orchid Sales & Skill Sessions-10:00am-5:00pm: free admission, wine tasting, skill sessions, comp orchid drawing based on purchase of orchid following each skill session

Refreshments for the June Meeting will be provided by:



Drac. gongora

FOOD:

Food must be cut into servings

Phyllis Arthur
Parky Parkison
Bayan Culhane
George McRae
Liz Charlton

DRINKS:

Dave Altman
Meg Crosby

ICE:

Miki Ichiyanagi

SET-UP/CLEAN-UP:

Brenda Aday
Karen Piini



Watermelon carved by
Shaylen Reisinger

Diablo View Orchid Society



Den. Silver Wings x Ray Tokunaga



C. Schilleriana v. coerulea

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THE
NINTH ORCHID DIGEST SPEAKER'S DAY!!
"ONCIDIINAE"**

Huntington Library and Botanical Gardens, San Marino
Saturday, June 18, 2011 – 12:30 pm to 8:00 pm in
Friends Hall

FEATURING: All Genera Flower Display – Orchid
Sales– Expert Lectures – Dinner
Remember!! AOS judging at 10:00 AM Open at
11:00AM to bring your blooming plants for
the flower display

Prize for best species and best hybrid

Lecturers: Cordelia Head, Jim Rassmann, Steve
Beckendorf, Howard Liebman
Dinner Speaker: Mark Chase

VENDORS: J & L Orchids; Cal Orchids; Andy's Orchids;
Sunset Valley Orchids, Orchid Inn

Tickets: \$60 (\$70 at door) for afternoon Seminars, Wine
and Cheese Happy Hour; Dinner and Entertainment

Please Contact: Simone Friend, 4349 Dogwood Ave.,
Seal Beach, CA 90740

Phone: (562) 431-1247 E-mail: orchidsimonef@aol.com
Make Your Reservations Now!

Upcoming Speakers and Events

- June 3-5:** San Jose Orchid Exposition Show and Sale (p. 6)
- June 12:** DVOS meeting - Ken Cook - *Draculas & Masdevallias*
- June 19:** DVOS board meeting - at the home of Parky & Nancy Parkison
- June 18:** Orchid Digest 9th annual Speaker's Day (P.9)
- July 14:** DVOS meeting - David Wasserman - *Photographing Orchids*
Ice Cream Social
- Aug 6:** AOS Speaker's Day (P.10)
- Aug 20:** DVOS Annual BBQ at the home of Bob & Mary Lou Van Galder
- Sept 8:** DVOS meeting - Carol Klonowski - *Paphiopedilum v. alba*
- Oct 13:** DVOS meeting - Jason Fisher - *Neofinetia falcata*
- Nov 10:** DVOS meeting - Orchids 101
- Dec:** DVOS Christmas Party



V. Sansai Blue 'Acker's Pride'



Cym. Noname

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Awards DVOS May



Cym. Vidar 'Harlequin'

Advanced

- 1st *V. Sansai Blue* Ken Cook
2nd *Phrag. Suzanne Decker 'Pretty 'n Pink'*
Cheryl Phillipson
3rd *Den. chrysotoxum* Liz Charlton

Intermediate

- 1st *C. Schilleriana v. coerlulea*
Phyllis Arthur
2nd *C. Noname* Jinnie Tom
3rd *Phal. Golden Emperor*
Linda Castleton

Novice

- 1st *Cym. Vidar 'Harlequin'*
Judith Johnston
2nd *Den. Silver Wings x Roy Tokunaga*
Lindon Horn
3rd *Cym. Noname* Susan Fetter

Lancer Smith (species/under 6")

- Drac. gongora* Ken Cook

AOS Corner

By Lynn Fuller

affiliated_societies@aos.org

AOS is on the move. At the members meeting held in April, it was announced that all members with email addresses would receive an invitation in early May to explore the AOS web site that has been under development which also included the new Orchids Plus program and to provide feedback. During that time, both web sites will run simultaneously. When the new site is made active you'll notice a new, fresh look to the AOS website. Its more than a cosmetic change. Along with upgrades and added material, the new Orchids Plus program will be available. If you are a current subscriber to AQ+, you will need to re-register in the new program. AOS also anticipates a 'social network' component to the website and it is currently under development.

In addition, at the Members meeting, the Board of Trustees announced that a committee has been formed to assess the future strategic partners for the AOS. Possible strategic partners are Huntington Gardens in California, Fairchild Botanical Garden in Florida and Longwood Gardens in Pennsylvania. The current AOS property in Delray is under contract for purchase and the potential purchaser is going through some local zoning change requirements. It is anticipated that sale will be completed in the last quarter of 2011.

The traditional Affiliated Societies breakfast was well attended. We had a conversation of what the AOS means to the affiliated societies and what can the societies do to further promote the AOS. The AOS reps present at the meeting asked for more communication between the AOS and the affiliated societies. The Affiliated Societies Committee members will be reaching out to the societies throughout the upcoming months with the goal of getting all the contact information corrected and updated.



Phal. Golden Emperor

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AOS Awards Kathie Barrett

5/2011 - CSNJC - Sacramento

Lycaste Chita Sunset 'Red Glory', AM 80
(Lyc. Shoalhaven x Lyc. Wyld Sunset),
Exhibited by Ken and Amy Jacobsen

Sarcochilus Judith 'Golfball', HCC 78
(Sarco. Fitzhart x Sarco. Melba),
Exhibited by James Morris

Sarcochilus unnamed hybrid 'Julie Ann', HCC 78 (prov)
(Sarco. Melba x Sarco. Sharon),
Exhibited by James Morris



Phrag. Suzanne Decker 'Pretty 'n Pink'

The Annual CSNJC Speaker's Day

will be Saturday, August 6th at the Oddfellow's Building in Sacramento.

Speakers will be Marc Hatchadorian, Tom Parker, and Erich Michel. Topics still need to be announced but will include some orchid biology and Angraecums.

Pricing is \$10 in advance for our sponsoring societies and AOS members, \$15 at the door for our sponsoring societies and AOS members, and \$25 for non-AOS or non-sponsoring society.

As always there's a gift if you join the AOS at the meeting.

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 Johnson
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.
Bollinas, (415) 868-0203
www.californiaorchids.com



Den. chrysotoxum