My favorite tidbit about Dave Sorokowsky is that he used to love playing baseball. I’m not sure at what level he stopped playing, whether it was high school or college but we’d talk about recognizing the different pitches as the ball came at him going umpteen miles an hour. Look into his eyes sometime and you’ll see there’s something vaguely hawklike in their intensity. Baseball’s loss is our gain. Dave brings that same devotion to growing orchids or more specifically Paphiopedilums, the slipper orchids.

This month Dave will be speaking on albino (taxonomically “album”) Paphiopedilums. He has received many AOS awards for his album paphs and I believe he is using them in a breeding program. I hold great hopes for them if he is for he has some choice stock. Dave is a vintner for Gallo wines, producing some tasty zinfandel if I recall correctly. Unfortunately he cannot sell us any wine but he will be providing the raffle table plants and have a few tasty plants for sale, too.

Newcomers should realize that slipper orchids aficionados are very passionate about their hobby, seeking the best in color, shapes, and balance in these very unusual plants. This is an opportunity to see and learn about a completely different sort of orchid. They’re not often seen at a box-store because they can’t be cloned by the millions yet. So each plant is an individual or a piece of the original plant. Paphs are usually smaller plants that can be grown indoors and under lights and kept evenly moist in plastic pots. They like household temperatures but maybe want a bit more humidity than is found in the usual Contra Costa home. Come see if they become your passion too.
Patricia Harding spoke to DVOS in May on the subject of Brazilian Oncidiums. Patricia is an resident of Oregon, but has toured Brazil extensively and is the author of a book entitled “Brazilian Orchids.”

The country of Brazil is broken up into three geographic regions. The area that Pat dwelt on the most was the Cerrado region. This is an area with few trees and sparse vegetation. The elevation for this region is between 300-600 meters. During World War II this area was completely deforested. The war effort required large amounts of wood for fuel and building materials which was harvested from this region. This relatively barren area is the home to the Brazilian Oncidiums. Oncidium Copensia, Romosa, Hydrophila and Doriana are all endemic to this region. These oncidiums are typical, looking, they are yellow in color with multiple flowers per inflorescence.

Patricia then got off on an orchid tangent. The rest of her lecture was on the reclassification of orchids based on Deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) tests. This reclassification has been going on for years in the orchid world but as hobbyist, most of us have had a hard enough time learning what orchid genus the the orchids belong to in the old system. This reclassification would mean renaming the genus of many of the orchids that we already believe we know. Patricia's point was that the Brazilian Oncidiums are uniquely different from the rest of the Oncidiums out there. To place Brazilian Oncidiums into the same genus as other Oncidiums which look completely different makes no sense to Patricia. The Brazilian Oncidium Copensia looks nothing like the Oncidium Gomesa which the orchid aficionados believed are the same based on DNA evidence. Based on the photos that she showed I believe she is absolutely correct.

Patricia was a very knowledgeable and energetic speaker. DVOS thanks you.

- Brad Piini
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Trophy Category</th>
<th>Plant Description</th>
<th>Exhibitor</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>BEST IN SHOW</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>BEST PLANT IN SHOW</td>
<td>Ansellia gigantea (syn. Ansellia africana)</td>
<td>California Orchids</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BEST SPECIES IN SHOW</td>
<td>Dendrobium helix</td>
<td>California Orchids</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BEST SPECIMEN PLANT IN SHOW</td>
<td>Dendrobium sanderae var. major</td>
<td>Cynthia Hill</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BEST MINIATURE PLANT (under 8”) IN SHOW</td>
<td>Masdevallia decumana</td>
<td>Linda Tripp</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BEST CATTLEYA ALLIANCE IN SHOW</td>
<td>Laelia canariensis</td>
<td>Greg Corrales</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BEST PAPHIOPEDILUM / PHRAGMIPEDIUM IN SHOW</td>
<td>Paph. Smooth Sailing</td>
<td>G G Orchids</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BEST PHALAENOPSISIS IN SHOW</td>
<td>Phalaenopsis Sogo Yukidian ‘V3’</td>
<td>South Pacific Orchids</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BEST ONCIDIUM ALLIANCE IN SHOW</td>
<td>Miltoniopsis phalaenopsis</td>
<td>Golden Gate Orchids</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BEST DENDROBIUM IN SHOW</td>
<td>Dendrobium helix</td>
<td>California Orchids</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BEST PLANT OF OTHER GENUS IN SHOW</td>
<td>Ansellia gigantea (syn. Ansellia africana)</td>
<td>Calf Orchids</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BEST ORCHID SHOWN FOR FOLIAGE IN SHOW</td>
<td>Macodes lowii</td>
<td>California Orchids</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BEST NON-GREENHOUSE-GROWN PLANT IN SHOW</td>
<td>Den Little Green Applies</td>
<td>Carolyn Fisher</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BEST PLANT EXHIBITED BY GROWER 17 YEARS AND YOUNGER</td>
<td>Masdevallia hybrid</td>
<td>Jasen Liu</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**BEST of SECTION by SKILL LEVELS**

**CATTLEYA ALLIANCE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Skill Level</th>
<th>Plant Description</th>
<th>Exhibitor</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BEST CATTLEYA - NOVICE</td>
<td>Coelia bella</td>
<td>Bob Christensen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BEST CATTLEYA - ADVANCED</td>
<td>Laelia canariensis</td>
<td>Greg Corrales</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BEST CATTLEYA - COMMERCIAL</td>
<td>Laelia kautskyi</td>
<td>Gold Country Orchids</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**PAPHIOPEDILUM / PHRAGMIPEDIUM**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Skill Level</th>
<th>Plant Description</th>
<th>Exhibitor</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BEST PAPH/PHRAG - NOVICE</td>
<td>Cypripedium formosanum</td>
<td>Michael Fong</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BEST PAPH/PHRAG - ADVANCED</td>
<td>Paphiopedilum malipoense</td>
<td>Cynthia Hill</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
BEST PAPH/PHRAG - COMMERCIAL  Paphiopedilum Smooth Sailing  Exhibitor:  G G Orchids
PHALAENOPSIS / DORITIS  Phal. (Taisuco Moonriver x Phal. amabilis)
BEST PHAL/DORITIS - ADVANCED  None Entered
BEST PHAL/DORITIS - COMMERCIAL  Phal Sogo Yukidian ‘V3’  Exhibitor:  South Pacific Orchids
ONCIDIUM ALLIANCE
BEST ONCIDIUM - NOVICE  Odont FAGtastic Bob Henley  Exhibitor:  Ricki Kohn & Stanford Stapleton
BEST ONCIDIUM - ADVANCED  Oncidium macranthum  Exhibitor:  Solveig Erlingsson
BEST ONCIDIUM - COMMERCIAL  Miltoniopsis phalaenopsis  Exhibitor:  Golden Gate Orchids
CYMBIDIUM
BEST CYMBIDIUM - NOVICE  Cymbidium Procol Harum ‘Afterglow’  Exhibitor:  Nancy Starr
BEST CYMBIDIUM - ADVANCED  Cymbidium Pywacket ‘Stirling’  Exhibitor:  Barry Zimmerman
BEST CYMBIDIUM - COMMERCIAL  Cymbidium Kirby Lesh  Exhibitor:  Paul and Phyllis Chim
PLEUROTHALLID ALLIANCE
BEST PLEUROTHALLID - NOVICE  Dracula verticulosa var. xanthina ‘Buffy’  Exhibitor:  Gary Meyer
BEST PLEUROTHALLID - ADVANCED  Restrepia antennifera  Exhibitor:  Anna S. Chai
BEST PLEUROTHALLID - COMMERCIAL  Dracula chiroptera ‘Grendel’  Exhibitor:  John Leathers
DENDROBIUM
BEST DENDROBIUM - NOVICE  Dendrobium sanderae var. major  Exhibitor:  Jason Douglass
BEST DENDROBIUM - ADVANCED  Dendrobium sanderae var. major  Exhibitor:  Cynthia Hill
BEST DENDROBIUM - COMMERCIAL  Dendrobium helix  Exhibitor:  California Orchids
OTHER GENERA
BEST PLANT OF OTHER GENERA - NOVICE  Maxillaria ecuadorensis  Exhibitor:  Kay Klumb
BEST PLANT OF OTHER GENERA - ADVANCED  Dendrochilum cobbianum  Exhibitor:  Cynthia Hill
BEST PLANT OF OTHER GENERA - COMMERCIAL  

Ans gigantea (syn. Ansellia africana)  
Exhibitor: Cal Orchids

CULTURAL AWARDS (5)

1. Dendrobium teretifolium - Exhibited by Judy Carney
2. Coelogyne intermedia - Exhibited by Asuka Orchids
3. Dendrobium helix- Exhibited by California Orchids
4. Ansellia gigantea - Exhibited by California Orchids
5. Dendrochilum cobbianum - Exhibited by Cynthia Hill

EXHIBIT WINNERS

American Orchid Society (AOS) Show Trophy  
ANDY’S ORCHIDS

Orchid Digest Trophy  
FOUR ORCHID FRIENDS

Best Exhibit Illustrating The Show Theme  
CONSERVATORY OF FLOWERS

Best Exhibit By A Visiting Orchid Society
1st Place: SANTA CLARA VALLEY ORCHID SOCIETY
2nd Place: PLEUROTALLID ALLIANCE

Best Tabletop Exhibit By One Or More Non-Commercial Exhibitors: FOUR ORCHID FRIENDS

Coming Shows and Sales

Peninsula Orchid Society Greenhouse Bus Tour
We are heading North this year, to Napa Valley Orchids, California Orchids, and Hanging Gardens. Anyone is welcome to join us. We have a bus with bathroom, lunch is included and will be eaten at California Orchids. Please contact Dan Williamson at ENKI_29205@YAHOO.COM or call him at 650-963-9403 to arrange to go on the tour. The cost is $55. We would love to see you!
Just outside of Bend, Oregon there is a garden called Peterson Rock Garden. For most of us this garden would not be considered exceptional in any way; it is a garden constructed out of rocks and some crystals. There is however, a sign in the middle of the garden near a fountain made from crystals that says “It’s Later Than You Think”. This simple message is an idea that I have always tried to keep close to my daily consciousness.

In light of the recent losses of some loved ones in the orchid club, I think this message is something that we all need to remember as we move forward and try to make sense of these losses and bring meaning to our own lives. We will miss you Brian.

- Brad Piini
Our orchid world has lost two wonderful and tireless friends recently, Brian Wraxall and Walter James. Brian of course was our most recent treasurer, and was also our past president. Walter served the Orchid Society of California in Oakland as president, vice president and board member. Both men were around the same age, and both passed away only a few hours apart from the same illness. They both had kind and selfless spirits. And incredibly interesting vibrant lives. For me personally, this has been a tragedy of enormous proportions. I worked with both in supporting these societies. And I called both close friends.

For the local orchid world the consequences are equally severe. Our society has had to reshuffle board positions to keep this club current and hopefully thriving. In the case of the Oakland club, the future is not so bright. There is a movement to dissolve the society. Important board positions as well as positions that make a society a society remain unfilled. Legally, as is my understanding, they must disincorporate if board positions remain unfilled. They could get around this, if they cease collecting membership dues and distribute the society money, but then they can’t function at all as a society. Rent must be paid. Speakers must be paid. Plants must be purchased for raffle tables, web servers must be paid, etc. In the case of our society we have had to double up on positions to continue to function. But this can’t continue if our society expects to remain the fun, rewarding group it has been. We have had to cancel our annual show because of the recent heartbreaks we have gone through. And we nearly missed the Pacific Orchid Expo (POE) this year. If not for Brian, Eileen, Nancy, Ken and myself, largely and a few contributed plants from a very few members we couldn’t have pulled off this last minute project. I have wanted to see committees formed to continue the activities of our club. Our constitution specifically provides for this. The boards of societies, and not only our own, have a tendency to become the only functionaries. Not only, for example, is there a president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, etc, these people are also the chairs of hospitality, annual auction, show chair, Pacific Orchid Expo, Christmas party, etc....These positions need to be filled by regular members. It spreads the responsibilities and it also gives members something fun to do. We don’t have to do these activities, of course, but it is activities like these that gives a society life beyond the monthly power point-raffle table repetition.
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We have a core of dedicated members who continue to make this society function, like the Tomassinis who schlep the lights and screen month after month. The Piinis who write the reviews of our speakers, Liz Charlton who at the crack of dawn the first business day of the month makes sure we even have a place to meet. Jamie who puts together the finest society newsletter in the orchid world. Ulrike, our membership chair and web mistress, Parky our greenhouse tour coordinator and board member, and Phyllis who tirelessly continues to be our librarian. There are a few others I didn’t mention, and my hat is off to them all.

Our constitution guided us in the transitions we have had to make recently. We referred to it at our last board meeting, and as a result I can tell you that Kathy Barrett, who lost her dear husband Joseph this year, has graciously volunteered for the responsibility of treasurer as well as vice president. She worked out in advance our speaker program for the year and way into 2013. I continue to serve as president, and will be hospitality host for our speaker dinners. Rodney will remain as secretary. Our constitution provides for this, however these positions must be voted on at our December meeting/Christmas party. Many of the board positions will be needing new members, and except for treasurer the other positions can only be held by members for two terms (yearly) in a row and then must be repopulated. The constitution can be downloaded from our web site. If you want to get more involved, let myself or a board member know what you would like to do. We need you all to be as involved as you can. Even in the little ways, such as helping set up and take down the tables for our meetings and set up and cleanup at our world-rekowned refreshment break.

In closing, I want to say, Brian and Walter, thank you for all you did not only for us as a society(ies) but for your friendship and brotherhood to me personally and to so many others. Loving husbands and fathers and brothers. I miss you both so, so much.

- George McRae
AOS Corner  
Lynn Fuller, Chair, AOS Affiliated Societies Committee

New AOS officers: Sandra Svoboda, President, Tim Brooks, Vice President, Fred Missbach, Vice-President, Karen McBride, Treasurer, Max Thompson, Ass’t. Treasurer, Jean Hollebone, Secretary

Update on the progress of the move to Fairchild Botanic Gardens: The staff is still getting acclimated and are currently in a very small temporary space. As some construction is completed at Fairchild, AOS will be able to acquire more office space. In the meantime, most functions are up and running on schedule and most of the needs of the membership are being met.

AOS would like to thank all of you for your patience and understanding during their move to the Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden. The new phone and fax numbers have been installed and are: Phone: 305-740-2010; Fax: 305-740-2011.

Lc. Angel Heart ‘Hihimanu’
Refreshments for the June Meeting will be provided by:

**FOOD:**
(Food must be cut into servings)
Noble Emery  Renate Johnson
Judith Johnson  Sue Davis
Akiko Ogawa  Inge Brooks
Bob Akbarian

**DRINKS:**
Emmaye Luevano  Yenifer Yang
Yenifer Yang  Carol Campbell

**ICE:**
WE NEED SOMEONE TO BRING ICE

**SET-UP/CLEAN-UP:**
Barbara Ungersma
Brenda Aday

*Reminder:* Your raffle ticket for bringing food is like two tickets. If you are not picked in the food drawing, your ticket goes into the bucket with the purchased tickets, giving you a second chance to win.
Upcoming Speakers and Events

June 14: DVOS meeting Dave Sorokowsky on Album Paphs (P.1)

June 21: DVOS board meeting at the home Brad and Karen

June 23: Peninsula Orchid Society Green house Bus Tour (p. 4)

July 12: DVOS meeting annual Ice Cream Social

August 18: DVOS Annual Picnic & Auction ‘Caribbean Holiday’

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**Speaker’s Dinner** with Dave Sorokowsky is on Thur. June 21st 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.
Awards DVOS May

Novice
1st  *Eplc.* Haiku Twinkle ‘Red Elf’  Meg Crosby  
2nd  *Cym.* Mighty Sunset ‘Roxborough’  Jeanette Bean  
3rd  *Phal* Noname  Pascual Machin

Intermediate
1st  *Renanthera imschootiana* ‘Pololei Lava Flow‘  Yunor Peralta  
2nd  *Bletilla striata*  George Cooper  
3rd  *Lc.* Angel Heart ‘Hihimanu’  Akiko Ogawa

Advanced
1st  *L. grandis*  Dave Tomassini  
2nd  *Rhynchostele majalis*  Ken Cook  
3rd  *Coelogyne nitida*  Ken Cook

Lancer Smith (species/under 6”)
*Dryadella edwallii*  Ken Cook

Friend DVOS on Facebook at *Diablo View Orchid Society*
As of April we have 119 members
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
Epipactis gigantea ‘Linda’ species HCC 78 & CCM 83 Exhbitied by Bruce Ritter

Phalaenopsis lueddemanniana ‘Summer Solstice’ species HCC 79
Exhibited by Ramon de los Santos

Wilsonara Sheila Anne ‘Royal Tapestry’ (Odcdm. Tiger Crow x Odc. Wearside Pattern) AM 81
Exhibited by Golden Gate Orchids

L. grandis

Rhynchostele majalis
DVOS Officers 2012

President:  George McRae
Immediate Past President:  Liz Charlton
Vice-President:  Kathy Barrett
Treasurer:  Kathy Barrett
Secretary:  Rodney Kline
Board Members:  Meg Crosby, Parky Parkison
                    Eileen Jackson, Jamie Wasson
Membership:  Ulrike Ahlborn  membership@dvos.org
Newsletter:  Jamie Wasson, Liz Charlton
dvosnews@gmail.com
Webmaster:  Nick Doe, Ulrike Ahlborn
            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

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

Diablo View Orchid Society

June 2012