

Diablo View Orchid Society

<http://www.dvos.org>

a 501c3 corp

5:30PM Dinner with the Speaker Meeting starts 7:30!
~8:30 Speaker's Presentation

OK Folks! We Did It!!

November 13th, 2003

Alexis Pardo Isla

Venezuelan Catasetums

I hadn't realized the escarpment was so tall. Sure, I'd seen pictures of it. Who hadn't? 'The Land That Time Forgot' and all that. I wiped my brow, replaced my hat, cinched everything cinch-able just a little tighter and prepared to climb.

"What in the Sam Hill do you think you are doing?" my guide exclaimed.

"Well, you said to see the orchids we had to get to the top."

"You are making the small joke, no?" he asked with disbelief in his eyes. "These days we all just grab a cervesa, listen to Alex Pardo and watch his slides. We don't actually climb the escarpment!" He handed me a cold brew. "Its much more civilized that way."

I took the beer and listened to the welcome sound of its cap twisting off. And I thanked every god ever known that I had used a travel agent to book this trip.

"Not only has he the best slides of every species of Catasetum, he discusses the intricacies of their culture and care. So many people only think of Catasetums as that funny little orchid that shoots pollen at you if you trip its spring." Suddenly my guide was more eloquent than Peter O'Toole. "As I'm sure you are aware many Catasetums are found in Venezuela. Venezuela is a country of extreme beauty and geographic variety. These crafty Catasetums have evolved to take every advantage of that fact. They hail from the lovely coast side to the hot interior jungles. Each geographic zone has its own cultural peculiarities. The catasetums are quite the magicians."

"Plus, you are in luck, Miss. **Alex has many lovely plants to raffle off** after tonight's divertissement."

Could life get any better than this?

By all accounts, from volunteers, vendors and visitors, the DVOS 2003 Fall Orchid Festival Show and Sale was a complete success. This, in no small way, was due to the many members that volunteered their time. Forty three (43) members (actually forty two members and one ringer - sorry Ray but we had to disclose your cover) helped to set up the show, judge the orchids and displays, sell the plants, staff the entry desk, manage the plant hotel, provide security, give doctoral advise on plant problems and perform potting demonstrations. This is an incredible demonstration of group spirit, particularly when you consider that our membership doesn't quite reach one hundred members.

Our figures indicate that close to 350 people paid the admission fee. Plant sales by the Society and the three vendors were substantial. Participation in the potting demonstrations was large. The general mood of participants and visitors, during the two days of the show, was very positive.

The DVOS Board of Directors, encouraged by the results of this year's show, is already taking steps to plan next year's show and sale. So stay in touch there are better things yet to come.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, David Tomassini and I want to thank every one of you who volunteered and worked so hard during the two days of the event. Without your help and dedication the success achieved by the show and sale could have never been possible. Thank you, thank you, thank you.

Juan Bofill and David Tomassini, Show Co-Chairmen

2003 DVOS Show Results

- **Best of Show:** Cattleya bowringiana 'Spencer's Blue' – Fordyce Orchids
- **Best 1st Bloom Seedling:** Phrag Bouley Bay – Joe Grillo
- **Best Plant Grown Outdoors:** Paph. Laser Charlesworthii – Renate Johnson
- **Best Plant Grown Indoors/Under Lights:** Ascda. Zengyo Blue – Mercedes Bell

Speaker's Dinner DJ's Bistro, 1825 Sutter Street, Concord – \$15 per person, incl. tip, wine extra. Call Sybil: 975-5202	Board Meeting 11/20/03 Barbara Tague's House 719 Skyline Drive Martinez, Ca 925-229-0512
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Our Volunteers!

Show Co-Chairmen Juan Bofill and Dave Tomassini would like to thank all the members who made the show possible. Our show was a success because of them and their efforts! They gave their time and kept sunny dispositions through out the whole weekend. The time flew by and we had fun. Or at least I had fun and I hope everyone else did too! – K Barrett

In no apparent order:

David Tomassini	Renate Johnson
Alice Tomassini	Dan Chiappone
Tonky Bofill	Kathi Ames
Juan Bofill	Brenda Aday
Mercedes Bell	Brian McDonald
Linda Daraskavich	Zach Bjornson
Parky Parkison	Dennis Olivas
Sharon Duffy	Francisco Baptista
Jane Holcomb	Fred D. Jernigan
Akiko Ogawa	Ray Vickers-Traft
Jeanette Bean	Joe Grillo
Dan West	Jinnie Tom
Phyllis Arthur	Rita Tischler
Kathy Barrett	Jack Isacoff
Sybil Renee McGowan	Brad Piini
Bernice Lindner	Chris Piini
David Altman	Barbara Tague
Jill Chambers	Jeff Walpole
David Dunn	Takafumi Okajima
Esther Yee	Nancy Pak
Linda Castleton	Noble Emery
Jennifer English	

Refreshment Corner

We enjoyed and excellent refreshment table in October. Our appreciation goes to all the members who provided food and beverages. The following members have signed up for November: Shirley Kerr, Jeff Walpole, Jane Holcomb, Diana Vavreck, Jill Chambers and Bob Akbarian. Beverages will be provided by: Juan & Tonky Bofill, and Jinnie Tom.

If, for whatever reason, any of you can not attend the May meeting, please call Antonietta Bofill (925-609-8443) or Esther Yee (925-825-8194) in advance of the meeting.

Antonietta Bofill
Esther Yee

- **Best Plant Novice Class:** Den. Precious Dawn – Joe Grillo
- **Best Plant Intermediate Class:** Masd. Monarch ‘Sunset Gold’ am/aos – Frank Drake
- **Best Plant Advanced Class:** Den. Kiyoshi – Dave Tomassini
- **Best Plant Commercial Class:** Slc. Circle of Life – Fordyce Orchids
- **Best Cattleya Alliance:** Slc. Circle of Life – Fordyce Orchids
- **Best Plant Vandaceous Alliance:** Ascda. Zengo Blue – Mercedes Bell
- **Best Cypripedium Alliance:** Phrag Mem. Dick Clements – Joe Grillo
- **Best Dendrobium Alliance:** Den. Kiyoshi – Dave Tomassini
- **Best of Miscellaneous Group:** Cycdes. Wine Delight – Dave Tomassini
- **Best Pleurothallid Alliance:** Masd. Monarch ‘Sunset Gold’ am/aos – Frank Drake

Judges: (in no order)	Brenda Aday
Dennis Olivas	Zach Bjornson
Fred D. Jernigan	Bernice Lindner
Francisco Baptista	Kathi Ames
Renate Johnson	Brian McDonald
Sybil Renee McGowan	Akiko Ogawa
Linda Daraskavich	Ray Vickers-Traft

Learned @ the Show

Renate Johnson built a patio shade ‘house’ out of PVC pipe and draped it with white shade cloth Bernice Lindner gave her. Dissatisfied with her orchid’s lack of blooms she built her ‘hut’ and now has spikes galore. Enough so that she won a trophy for Best Plant Grown outdoors. Who says you gotta have a fancy greenhouse?

Mercedes Bell keeps her winning Ascda. Zengyo Blue over the kitchen sink where the steam from daily dish washing provides higher ambient humidity. It does so well she’s now washing more dishes by hand. Mercedes thinks that’s a ‘good’ thing.

Joe Grillo wasn’t going to bring in his Den Precious Dawn, thinking it was too ‘common’ for a show. It was so good the judges asked that it go to Oakland for AOS judging. Remember; never screen out your own plants!

Raffle Plant winners Amy and Antonio got to the Community Center around 8:15AM on Saturday. They almost froze outside waiting for the show to open. Tonky gave them some coffee to warm them up, but they insisted on giving a donation for the coffee. The DVOS is very happy that the first people through the doors won one of the Raffle Table Plants.

Been There, Done That

Q: OK, so I know it's a million to 1 shot, but does anyone know this hybrid?

http://willowisp.blockstackers.com/index.pl?node_id=1180811 Thanks for any ideas, Matthew

A: I recognized it right away! It is none other than Blc. NDL (No Damn Label) a cross of C. Lost Tag and Bl. No Name. All kidding aside, Matt, it is a very nice flower, enjoy it, but there is no way in the world that a hybrid can be positively identified once the tag is lost. It is possible to identify species but not hybrids. If you apply a name to it you are doing the growing public and anyone else who might get a division of the plant a disservice at the very least. Best, Tennis Maynard

*Shamelessly Stolen from the Internet**

Q: Linda asked: "The leaves of their specimen *Phalaenopsis violacea* has undulation. Is this true to *violacea* or is it just this particular plant. Also, is this specimen labeled correctly?"

A: Linda, I don't think the undulating leaves signify anything. In fact, in your photo the leaves don't appear to undulate to any significant extent. There is a slight deformation of the margin, but I've seen much worse on locally grown plants. *Phalaenopsis violacea* (the Sumatran form, which also occurs in Malaysia, and is known as the "Malay Form") has star-shaped flowers; the Malay plants are usually a single pink/rose/purple color. *Phalaenopsis bellina* (previously called the Borneo form of *P. violacea*) usually has multi-toned flowers with the lateral sepals being distinctly "bow-legged" in shape, although this trait has been removed in some modern line-bred clones. There are also minor differences in the lips of the 2 taxa.

Your plant has uniform pink flowers, (which suggests *P. violacea* of Peninsula Malay origin) but is intermediate in the flower shape; it is neither bow-legged, nor star-shaped. Unfortunately, the photo is not good enough to see the details of the lip, which may have been informative.

I would suggest that this plant is a hybrid between *P. violacea* and *P. bellina*. In the days before segregation, it would have been called *P. violacea* (since there was only one taxon) "Malay Form" (on account of the color). Post-segregation, it is probably impossible to pin down exactly what it is unless there are collection details on record. If I were you, I'd go back to the University and ask them to check their records on the origin of the plant. If it was wild-collected (by a reliable, known source) then follow the details on the label. If not, then I'd assume it is of test-tube origin, in which case it is probably a several-times mixture of *P. violacea* and *P. bellina*. In which case, I can see why the owner or creator would want to get rid of it. It has inherited the worst

aspects of its parents: poor color, poor shape, and not very floriferous.

A PhD student at Singapore University has recently completed a molecular study of *Phalaenopsis*. To get material for her work she went round all the local nurseries and orchid-growers. If they had any species, she took a leaf to extract the DNA. When she had analyzed the DNA from a large number of species, it became apparent that the majority of these plants were actually hybrids. Many were phenotypically extremely convincing but the DNA data left little doubt about their hybrid nature. The moral is, unless you can be totally certain that a *Phalaenopsis* is wild-collected it is safest to assume that it is manufactured. And you can't believe a nursery-man when (s)he says that is a genuine species since they usually purchase their plants, they weren't present when the plants were collected and they don't actually know the origins.

There are loads of *Phalaenopsis* hybrids around that are close to the species. Some are obvious, others are more subtle. The most obvious example is those *Phalaenopsis* hybrids with large white round-shape flowers, some of which are cultivated by the million for pot-plant sales. These things are the product of generations of crossing, re-crossing and back-crossing with *P. amabilis* & its hybrids. The flowers may be larger & rounder & whiter & fuller & thicker than the average wild plant, but for each of these variables they fall within the known range of wild specimens.

How do they differ from *P. amabilis sensu lato*? There must be several hundred registered crosses (and even more unregistered crosses) that are *P. amabilis* with 5 - 10% or something else in the family tree. Which does not mean that 5 - 10% of something else is actually present in the genotype of a particular specimen. It doesn't guarantee that the offspring of this specimen would contain half of 5 - 10% of something else. The offspring could genotypically be 0% of something else. Those % figures only tell you what could be present in an average plant, not what actually is present in an individual. (And average plants don't get used as studs, do they?)

So, the student found that plants in a local nursery, labelled "*P. mannii*", were almost certainly of hybrid origin. They differed from the Type only in having a reduced median mound on the epichile. Plants of "*P. pantherina*" with a large white clawed midlobe having a raised central mound but lacking trichomes also most likely of hybrid origin. Plants known to be of flask origin, now widely available as "*P. tetrapsis* var. *alba*" and "*P. speciosa* var. *tetrapsis*", differing from the Type only in having smaller, less fragrant, less colorful flowers the same conclusion. And so on, and so on, for "species" after "species".

Cheers, Peter O'Byrne, Singapore

(*used w/ permission)

Oct. Show & Tell Table Results

1. V. Manuel Torres x V. Mem. Lyle Swanson - Bea & Nobel Emery
 2. V. Motes Blue Centurion - Katie Pleasance
 3. Phal. Jungle Cat - Linda Castleton
- Lancer Smith Medallion- Den cuthbertsonii - Barbara Tague
LWIBFTVFT - Blc. Haleahi Starlight (Blc. Golden Tang x B. nodosa) - Nick Doe and Ulrike Ahlborn

Judges: Dave McDonald, Brian McDonald and Katie Pleasance. I understand all 3 were seen at the Mt Diablo's ER complaining of sprains, contusions & abrasions from wrestling over their choices.

October AOS Awards

San Francisco, Oct 7

- Bulbophyllum grandiflorum 'Petaluma', species, Exhibitor: Judy Carney CCM 84
- Den. alexanderae 'Belmont Highlands', species, Exhibitor: Walter M. Shinn HCC 79
- Encyclia cochleata 'Napa Valley', species, Exhibitor: Debra Atwood HCC 77

Oakland Oct 20

- No Awards

DVOS DOERS

President: **Linda Daraskavich**
Vice- President: **Sybil Renee McGowan**
Secretary: **Alice Tomassini**
Treasurer: **Barbara Tague**
Board Members: **Juan Bofill**
Naomi Chamberlain
Parky Parkison
Brad Piini
Phyllis Arthur
Membership: **Ulrike Ahlborn**
Greenhouse Tours: **Dan Chiappone**
Refreshments: **Esther Yee & Tonky Bofill**
Hostesses: **Madge Fordyce & Naomi Chamberlain**
Raffles and Sales: **Nancy Pak**
Librarian: **Phyllis Arthur**
Historian: **Nathalie Smith**
Newspaper Announcements/Ads: **Your Name Goes Here!!**
Newsletter: **Kathy Barrett** (orchidtrekker@hotmail.com)
Webmaster: **Nick Doe** (<http://www.dvos.org>)

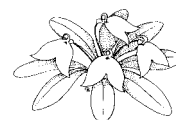
AOS Members Meeting Pics



Here's a picture of the DVOS display we put in at the AOS Member's Meeting held 10/23/03 in Sacramento.

It was a 5' x 5' floor display. We had three 8' tall redwoods in the display, which are out of the frame. All in all we showed about 24 orchids, from Linda Daraskavich, Dave Tomassini, Kathy Barrett, and Frank Fordyce. I'll have to go back and count the ribbons, but there were several best in category. Considering that the Sacramento Society lumps novice, hobbyist (both intermediate and advanced) and commercial together and judges each level against each other, that's saying something about the caliber of our orchids.

Alas, Alan Koch of Gold Country Orchids showed up with a phenomenal display of orchids some of which were about 3 ft in diameter EACH (huge!). So his flower quality kicked it up another notch (as Chef Emeril says). His display won the trophy for best theme and was awarded the AOS Show trophy.



Diablo View OS Show Pictures!



Diablo View's display



Fordyce Orchids's Display

The Paph House Display



D&D Orchids Display

Dennis Olivas's Paph. Awarded at the Member's meeting. A hybrid of Paph. Silver Fleuret x Paph. Alma Gavaert. The clonal name id for his cat 'Tamara'



(Photos: Nick Doe and Kathy Barrett)

Local Vendors

Livermore

The Orchid Ranch

Fordyce Orchids - Cattleyas 925-447-1659

<http://www.fordyceorchids.com>

Orchids Orinda - Phalaenopsis

Tonkins Orchids – Paphiodeilums

Concord

Nathalie Smith

1507 Lavetta Way; 925-685-8904

(by appt. only); orchid supplies

Oakland

Orchids Fiori D.Amore

Paolo & Nina DiCandia

510-530-4884 (by appt. only)

Walnut Creek

Orchid Gallery

Jing Ho

1501 N. California Blvd.

Vallejo

MGM Orchids Mariano G Morales

(707) 557-2716 (by appt. only)

San Leandro

The Paph House

Francisco Baptista & Fred Jernigan

375 Warwick Avenue, San Leandro, CA

510/ 635-2845, (by appt. only)

Lafayette

Diablo Disas <http://www.disas.com>

Michael Gallagher

3 Maloyan Lane

925-283-8450 (by appt. only)

Danville

Commercial Plant Services

David & Alice Tomassini

3 Woodside Ct.; 925-736-7630

Half Moon Bay

D & D Flowers

Greenhouse located in Half Moon Bay

(925) 969-1246 (by appt. only)

Australia

Adelaide Orchids <http://www.adelaideorchids.com>

Stephen and Robin Monkhouse

16 Pine Road

Woodcroft, South Australia 5162



Diablo View Orchid Society

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