



# Diablo View Orchid Society Newsletter

<http://www.diablovios.org>

September 2002

## **Program:** **“Trends and Advancements in Orchid Culture”** **Leonard Gines**

### **Meeting Date, Time and Location**

**When: Thursday, Sept. 12, 2002**

**Meeting Starts at 7:30 PM**

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

**Dinner with the speaker:** 5:30 PM @ Spring Garden Restaurant  
785 Oakgrove Rd., Concord

RSVP (925) 833-0840 or e-mail [DVOSNEWS@ATTBI.COM](mailto:DVOSNEWS@ATTBI.COM) by 9/10/02

---

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

### **September**

- 12 General meeting  
Speaker: Leonard Gines  
(Trends and Advancements in  
Orchid Culture)
- 19 Board meeting

### **October**

- 10 General meeting  
Speaker: Dr. Joanne Whitney  
(What's in a Name: Fact and some  
Fiction about the naming of Orchids)
- 17 Board meeting

### **November**

- 14 General meeting  
Speaker: Dr. Eric A. Christenson  
author of Phalaenopsis: A Monograph  
topic TBA

### **December**

- 12 General meeting  
- 1 - DVOS Holiday Party

## Message from the President

For those of you that could not make it, the Lancer P. Smith Memorial BBQ/Picnic and Auction was a fun day for all. Many had the opportunity to bid on some fine orchids at some real cheap prices.

Thank you to everyone who brought orchids for auctioning, especially Dennis Olivas, The Fordyce's and Fred & Francisco from the Paph House. I would also like to thank everyone who helped with the preparation, setup, and cleanup afterwards that made everything go smoothly ~ there are too many people to list.

Our thanks again to the auctioneers: Dennis Olivas, Sue Fordyce and Dan Chiappone. And a special thanks to our gracious hosts, Bob & Mary Lou Van Galder.

\* \* \* \* \*

Coming up at the December regular meeting will be the election of Officers for 2003. A Nominating Committee has been appointed, which includes Barbara Tague, Phyllis Arthur and Past President Dan Chiappone as chair. They will present their nominations at the November Meeting. If anyone would like to participate as an Officer or board member next year, please contact one of the above. We encourage you to come forward and help make a contribution to our society. Please feel free to attend our next board meeting to observe our proceedings. It will be on Thursday, Sept. 19th, 7:30pm at the Tomassini residence. (call ahead if you plan on attending).

Dave Tomassini

**ARTICLE DEADLINE FOR  
SEPT. NEWSLETTER  
IS FRIDAY, SEPT. 27**

- 2 -

## DVOS STAFF

*President* - David Tomassini

*Vice-President* - Charlotte Leong

*Secretary* - Alice Tomassini

*Treasurer* - Barbara Tague

*AOS Rep.* - Barbara Tague

*BBQ* - 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* - Juan Bofill, Linda Daraskavich, Nancy Pak, Parky Parkison, Mark Rotter

*Newsletter Editor*

Mark Rotter (925) 833-0840

DVOSnews@attbi.com

## Letter from the Editor

### POSITION AVAILABLE - NEWSLETTER EDITOR

After two years as newsletter editor, I have decided that it is time to move on and allow someone else the privilege of being the newsletter editor for DVOS. As the saying goes, it's been real, it's been fun, and it's also been real fun, but I believe it's time for someone else to have the opportunity.

So, December 2002 will be the last issue with yours truly as editor. If you're interested in the position, please e-mail me at [dvosnews@attbi.com](mailto:dvosnews@attbi.com). Of course, I will be happy to assist with the transition.

---



*Floyd Lundquist and Frank Fordyce  
at the BBQ*



*"Dan, that orchid would seem a whole lot bigger if you wore these glasses!"*

## This Month's Speaker - Leonard Gines

Leonard Gines is originally from the Los Angeles area and came to the Big Island of Hawaii in 1970. In addition to establishing his own orchid nursery, he worked for Akatsuka Orchids in Volcano and for Hawaii Tropical. His nursery, Gines Orchids is located in the sunny part of Hawaiian Paradise Park located 13 miles South of the city of Hilo.

Leonard grows *Oncidinae* Intergenerics, vandaceous orchids and miscellaneous species. He personally collects *Cattleya* species and botanical orchids. He is an accredited AOS judge and the current president of the Hawaiian Orchid Growers Association and a founding member of the Big Island Dendrobium Growers Association.

His program will show you an inside view of the various island orchid nurseries, some of their culture practices, and the current state of orchid production in Hawaii. Come learn why growers have discarded compots and now grow orchids in plugs. His presentation will include a discussion on some of the new media alternatives to the traditional bark. Hear about the growth advantages of using rainwater to water their orchids even though the local water quality is excellent and measures only 50 parts per million (ppm) total dissolved solids (tds). See how this area of the world has catered to non native species and compare and contrast the conditions to your own growing environment. See you there. Aloha!



## Culture Corner

It's amazing how many different ways there are to mount orchids. Here are a few tips I learned from Nathalie Smith, Bernice Lindner and Parky Parkison in preparing for the session.

If you have any friends that buy bales of hay for their animals, see if you can get their discarded baling wire. Most baling wire today is flexible and does not rust. You can use it for your mounting hooks. To secure the hook, form one end in a U shape then secure it into your mount like a 'staple' to the front of your mount. Have the long leg of the wire go through the full thickness of your mount. As the wire comes out the back of the mount, bend it up wards. Then about 2 inches from the free end make another bend to form a hook. By using the staple method, you can keep the mount from swinging around the wire.

(See illustration)

If you are using tree branches or some other narrow material for a mount, you can cut one inch rings out of discarded nylons. Just cut the legs of the nylons perpendicular to the long axis of the leg. Use these rings like a rubber band to secure your plant and moss to your mount.

You can also use fishing line or the stretch mesh plastic that are used for onion bags to secure the orchids on the mount.

The labels are less likely to fall off the plant if they are wired to the plant or pot. To make a hole in your label for the wire to pass, you can either purchase a 1/8" hole punch from a craft store for about \$6 (other sizes are also available). Or you can heat a heavy gauge wire with a propane torch and burn a hole into the label. I've tried both and find the hole punch is the fastest and easiest method.

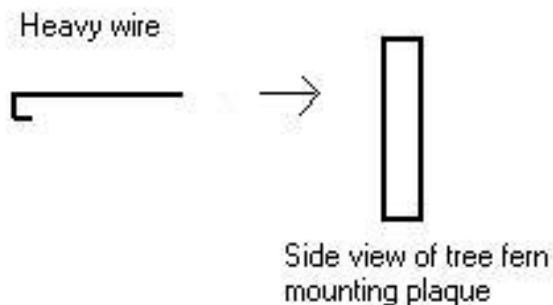
If you have access to old telephone cables, or other cable, you'll find they are comprised of hundreds of

coated wires that are great for wiring labels onto plants or pots. Just cut the cable into the desired lengths and pull out the wires as you need them. Thread the wire through the hole in your label and loosely secure them around the narrow portion of a pseudo bulb or a hole in your pot.

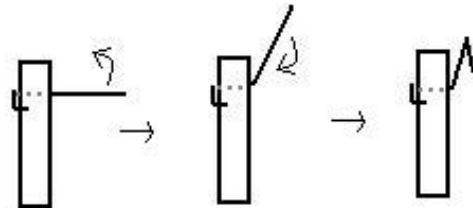
Use recycled materials to mount your orchids and you help the environment. Plus save you money so you can buy more orchids. What more can I say?

Happy growing,  
Charlotte

STEP 1: Insert bent wire in through front of mounting plaque



STEP 2: Bend free end of wire to form hook



*Sue Fordyce and Dennis Olivas getting ready to start the auction.*

# Results from the DVOS Competition

1st Place

**Karen Moonitz**

*Miltonia Bert Field "Leash" AM/AOS*

2nd Place

**Phyllis Arthur**

*Lc Little Ben "Freckles" x C Guttata "Green Mountain" HCC./AOS*

3rd Place

**Karen Moonitz**

*Phrag. Sedenii "Blush"*

Look What I Bloomed For the First Time

**No Entry**

Lancer Smith Award

**Barbara Tague**

*Den. Gonzalesi*

Many thanks to our judges **Nora Arbis and Rosie Galve**

---



*Bernice Lindner at the BBQ*

# Daily Question

Q: What's an AOS Judge got that you ain't got?

A: Pictures

Well, I take that back. Make that 'data and pictures'. Awarded orchids can now be seen on the AOS Pacific Central Center's web page located at <http://www.aospacificcentral.org> and linked from the DVOS homepage, too.

The intention is to provide pictures, measurements, descriptions not only for the monthly judging center awards in Oakland and San Francisco, but also for local shows. While the information and pictures are actually unofficial until published in the AOS 'Awards Quarterly', it's nice to know what's going on at the Centers and other shows. Just check the web page.

I have all 2002 for San Francisco Supplemental online already. I'm working on the data from the Oakland Center. I only have a few pictures of awarded plants from the 2001 Pacific Orchid Exposition, but all the plant statistics are online as well as data from a few of the other shows. As show season progresses I'll get whatever pictures I can from many local society shows for 2002, too. Keep your finger on the pulse of what's happening in the orchid world around you! Hope you like the site.

Kathy Barrett - [mormodes@hotmail.com](mailto:mormodes@hotmail.com)



*Charlotte Leong (l) and Barbara Tague*

## Annual Fall Orchid Sale

September 14 ~ 15  
10 ~ 5 PM

You won't want to miss this opportunity to add top hybrid Cattleyas and other orchids to your collection at **BARGAIN PRICES!**

- \* **Out of bloom specials**
  - \* **Seedling Sale**
  - \* **Foliage plant blow-out**
  - \* **Much more!**
- Fordyce Orchids (at the Orchid Ranch)**  
**1330 Isabel Ave., Livermore**  
**447-1659**



*Juan Bofill (l)  
and Parky  
Parkison  
share a joke at  
the BBQ*

## Greenhouse Tours

This is a little late, but I want to thank Mercedes Bell, Karen Moonitz and David and Alice Tomassini for opening their greenhouses to all those who joined us for the Greenhouse tour on June 29<sup>th</sup>.

A great time was had by all, and we saw a variety of growing techniques and environments. Mercedes' back yard was quite jungle-like with orchids everywhere, and she had a beautiful repast ready for us that morning including coffee, juices, and a huge bowl of fruit.

We then moved on to Karen Moonitz' brand new greenhouse that husband Ken built for her. It is a beautiful greenhouse and she shared with us some of the problems they ran into during its construction.

Lunch was served at the Tomassini's and we got to see where Dave grows his beautiful orchids. There were orchids for sale as well, courtesy of Nathalie Smith and Dave. Thank you again.

Linda Daraskavich

---



*Our newest lifetime membership inductees. From l-r: Floyd (and Marlene - not pictured) Lundquist, Dick Emory, Nathalie Smith, Bernice Lindner, and Bob and Mary Lou Van Galder*

## Have Dinner with the Speaker!

Come join us for dinner prior to the September meeting. Here is your opportunity to meet and talk with Leonard Gines of Gines Nurseries. Dinner reservations are for 5:30 PM at Gary's Spring Garden Restaurant, 785 Oak Grove Rd. at the corner of Oak Grove and Treat Blvd. in Concord. Gary puts on a nice family style dinner for all who attend. If you get lost, the phone number for the restaurant is 925-827-1900. Cost is \$15/person with tax and tip, drinks are an additional cost. Please RSVP with Charlotte at [dvosnews@attbi.com](mailto:dvosnews@attbi.com) or leave a message at 925-833-0840 by 9/10/02. 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



*Our hosts for the BBQ - Mary Lou and Bob Van Galder*

## Apron Orders

If anyone is interested in ordering an apron with "Diablo View Orchid Society" embroidered on it, please let Alice Tomassini know. The cost is \$17.00 including shipping & handling. We have a few people already signed up and some who we've lost names for. So please either call 648-7667 to confirm or place your order ~ or do so at the next meeting on September 12th. Thank You.

Alice Tomassini



*From L-R, Barbara Tague, Phyllis Arthur, and Alice Tomassini wait for the money to roll in at the BBQ.*

## Refreshment Room

First off, we want to thank all those that brought refreshments to the August meeting: **Juan Bofill, Shirley Kerr, Dennis Olivas, Nancy Pak, and Dave Altman.**

Those who have volunteered for September are: **Alice Tomassini, Karen Moonitz, Betty Michaelson, Clarence Parkison and Susan Fetter.** Beverages will be provided by: **Linda Castleton and Catherine Gardner.**

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  
Antonieta Bofill



*Brenda Aday*

## Last Month's Presentation

Last month we were treated with a variety of mini presentations by our fellow DVOS members Sue Fordyce, Bernice Lindner, and Barbara Tague. The Society provided materials and orchids for all participants to mount their own orchid. With the experienced guidance of Bernice Lindner and her able assistants Juan Bofill, Linda Daraskavich, and Parky Parkison, members and visitors alike learned how to mount and keep their own orchid. Now they have the exciting task of caring for their mounted orchid. We want to see those orchids at the Show and Tell sessions when they start to bloom. We also thank Brenda Aday and Phyllis Arthur for assisting with our speakers. Special thanks go to Carmella Orchids who gave our Society special pricing on select miniature phalenopsis for the mounting session and to CALWEST Tropical Supply for the discount pricing on the treefern plaques.

The following are a few tips garnered from each of the talks. Sue demonstrated various ways to use greenery and props to help hide the orchid pots. You can transplant small pots of greenery into plastic sandwich bags to help you insert greenery into tight spaces. Floral tubes can be used for additional greenery, or cut flowers.

Barbara grows *Den. cuthbertsonii* in clay pots using sphagnum moss as the media. This species likes to be kept cool and moist, but you need good drainage. She waters everyday and repots every year. This den. can bloom for 6 to 8 months. Depending on the size and variety, these miniatures can range from \$20 to \$200 a pot. Although this species might prove too difficult to grow for a beginner, these colorful miniatures can be an exciting challenge for those of you with a bit of experience in growing orchids.



*Bernice Lindner in action at the mounting session, with help from Linda Daraskavich, Juan Bofill, and Parky Parkison*



*Barbara Tague (r) explains *Den. Cuthbertsonii* with Phyllis Arthur assisting*



*Sue Fordyce shows how one can brighten up plant displays*





*These two pictures pretty much say it all.*



*Fred Jernigan (l) and Nick Doe*

## Yummy Recipes - Beet Cake

from Naomi Chamberlain

1 c oil                      1/2 c margarine or butter  
 3 eggs                      2 c sugar  
 2 tsp vanilla

3 c flour                    2 tsp cinnamon  
 2 tsp baking soda      2 tsp baking powder  
 1 tsp salt

1 small can drained crushed pineapple  
 1 small can of undrained diced beets  
 1/2 c cottage cheese  
 1 c walnuts                1 c coconut

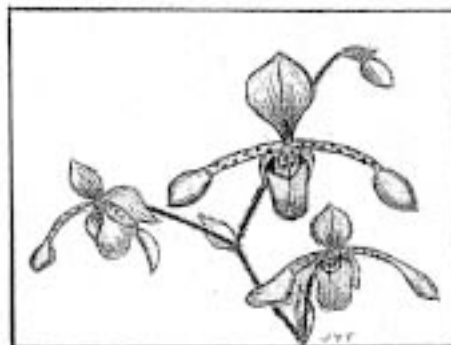
Melt margarine or butter and combine with oil. Beat in eggs, sugar, and vanilla. Add sifted dry ingredients. Fold in rest of ingredients. Pour in greased and floured pan and bake at 350 45-50 mins, or until done.

### FROSTING

1 8 oz pkg. cream cheese    1/2 c marg. or butter  
 4 c powdered sugar            1 tsp vanilla  
 1 c chopped walnuts

Soften cream cheese and beat in butter, sugar, and vanilla. Stir in walnuts

**October Orchid Fest**  
 October 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>, 2002  
 Saturday and Sunday 10am – 5pm  
 First Annual Fall Orchid Show and Sale



Featuring Locally and Nationally  
 Known Orchid Nurseries

Hall of Flowers, Golden Gate Park  
 9<sup>th</sup> Ave. and Lincoln, San Francisco  
 San Francisco Orchid Society  
 For information: call (510) 635-3260

Admission: \$2.00

**Livermore**

\*The Orchid Ranch\*  
Fordyce Orchids - Cattleyas 925-447-1659  
Orchids Orinda - Phalaenopsis  
Tonkins Orchids - Paphiodeliums

**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.

**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\*  
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\*  
Greenhouse located in Half Moon Bay  
(925) 969-1246 (by appt. only)

**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