Carol Klonowski has been growing orchids since the 1980’s when a friend in Berkeley gave her a cattleya and it bloomed out with three big, dark lavender flowers with an intoxicating fragrance. She built an entire greenhouse in her backyard to accommodate the precious plant, which only led her to buy more orchids. Then another friend gave her a gift membership to the Orchid Society of California in the early 1990’s and it’s been a serious hobby and passion ever since. She can recall going to monthly meetings where orchid legends such as the late Frank Fordyce would be available to answer the many questions an eager hobbyist could ask. Her talk on White Complex Paphiopedilums stems from a fascination with the breeding effort that produces these elegant, large, long-lasting blooms on plants that carry the genetic material of up to seven species of paphs. She will discuss the history of complex paphs in general, then focus on the effort to create bigger and better white complexes for the past several decades, and the reasons why white complex paphs should be a part of every orchid lover’s collection.

Carol has served as Director, Vice President, President and Past President of the Orchid Society of California for most of the past decade, and currently is an accredited judge, Probationary, with the American Orchid Society, California Sierra Nevada Judging Center.

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 speaker 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 a grab bag provided by Exotic Orchids of Maui
Diablo View Annual Picnic
Ken plants all of his Masdevallias and Draculas in Sphagnum moss. The plants love this media. 80% of his Masdevallia collection is planted in 3 inch clay pots with two styrofoam peanuts in the bottom and the rest sphagnum moss. The sphagnum moss will require repotting every year to keep the media fresh.

Masdevallias and Draculas are not heavy feeders. Ken uses 1 tsp. Dynagrow growth formula mixed with 1 tsp. Maxima for the micronutrients along with 2 drops of Super Thrive diluted in 2 gallons of water. Once a week he will foliar feed his orchids (sprays the fertilizer on the leaves only). If it is very hot or very cold, Ken suspends the feeding for another week.

Ken then listed some suppliers of Masdevallias and Draculas that he has used.

For plants: Hawk Hill in Pacifica, California, Columbia Co. in Pacifica, JLOrchids in Connecticut, and Hill Gardens in Oregon. For supplies he uses Kelly’s Corner in Maine and Orcheata owned by Tom Perlite.

Ken concluded his lecture with slides of his home growing conditions. Ken’s orchids extend from his front porch to the backyard and into the greenhouse. He showed numerous ways to increase the amount of orchids you can put into a limited amount of space. Using bars, poles, chains, and shelves, Ken is able to squeeze more orchids into every available space. Only a Black Hole, in outer space, is packed more densely than Ken’s orchid collection. The night was full of good ideas, which I’m sure Ken will be happy to share with you. Thanks again Ken for sharing some of your secrets of success.
Refreshments for the September Meeting will be provided by:

**FOOD:**  *Food must be cut into servings*

Anne Nounou  
Bayan Culhane  
Evelyn Powell  
Greg Scown  
Dennis Olivas

**DRINKS:**  
Lori Maher  
Dave Altman

**ICE:**  
Irmchen Matull

**SET-UP/CLEAN-UP:**
Peninsula Orchid Society 2011 Auction
Saturday, September 24th
Auction Begins at 1:30 PM
Everyone Welcome!
San Mateo Garden Center
605 Parkside Way, San Mateo, CA
All plants being auctioned are POS member plants or donations
Rare plants, awarded plants, food and fun!
Doors open for previewing at 12:00 PM
Beginning September 10
pre-registered plant listing may be viewed at
http://auction.penorchidsoc.org/auction/
Cash or Checks only
Take the Alameda de las Pulgas
exit off of Hwy. 92. The Garden Center is located between 26th and 28th Avenues

Sept 9: DVOS meeting - Friday
Carol Klonowski
- White Complex
  Paphiopedilums
Sept 24: CA Orchids Fall Sale (P.7)
Sept 24: Penninsula Orchid Society Auction (P.6)
Oct 13: DVOS meeting -
  Jason Fisher
  - Neofinetia falcata
Nov 10: DVOS meeting -
  Kathy Barrett & ....
  - Orchids 101
Dec 14: DVOS Christmas Party
  Note this is a Wednesday

Grab Bag Raffle Table for September
Everyone who buys a $10 raffle ticket will go home with a quality plant in bud or spike from Exotic Orchids of Maui. Each member may buy one ticket before the break. If there are tickets left over, members may buy additional tickets after the break. Plants will be inside paper sleeves.
California Orchids Fall Sale!

Saturday, September 24
9am-4pm

515 Aspen Rd Bolinas, CA 94924
(415) 868-0203
www.californiaorchids.com
info@californiaorchids.com

Great variety of species & hybrids for indoor or outdoor growing.
Supplies and sound advice.
Email to request our presale order discount list.
We are sad to report that Frank Fordyce passed away at the age of 87 on Sept. 17th after a brief illness. His passing was quiet with both Madge and Sue at his side. There will be a celebration of Frank’s life on Saturday, September 17th at the Trinity Baptist Church, 557 Olivevina Avenue, Livermore, California, at 1:00PM, with a reception and buffet dinner following. All are invited to attend this public tribute to the life of a legend in the world of orchids.

Frank was one of the orchid world’s most revered and iconic figures. Frank and Madge were childhood sweethearts, having known each other for eighty years. During his military service in WWII, Frank was captured by the enemy and was a POW from 1943-1945. In 1946, he began his career in orchids that spanned the remainder of his life when he was hired by Mr. Fred Stewart of Stewart Orchids. Frank worked at Stewart’s from 1946 until 1960, when he opened his own orchid business in Oceanside, California. In 1970, he closed his business and began a ten year career with the Rod McLellan Company. In 1980, Frank and his able partner, Madge maintained their “Orchid Ranch” business in Livermore, California, until it was closed in 2006. Frank Fordyce was one of the most gifted hybridizers of cattleyas and his legacy continues to glean countless awards to the present day. He was a long time member, founder of DVOS, and it’s first president.
In 1998 Frank gave an interview to the DVOS newsletter

Frank has a long history with orchids, dating all the way back to the end of World War II. Returning from the war as a graduate of a German POW camp, Frank was anxious to start a productive career. He worked briefly for a rare plant nursery before starting a 17 year learning experience with Stewart’s Orchids. Frank began his own nursery with his wife Madge in 1962 in Carlsbad, Ca. and specialized in Cattleyas, Cymbidiums and Phalaenopsis. In 1969, the call came from the Rod McLellan Co. to become Orchid Department Manager, so Frank and Madge packed up the kids, sold the nursery and headed to Northern California. With a yearning to return to his love of hybridizing, in 1980 Frank and Madge once again opened shop, this time at the Orchid Ranch in Livermore. Frank and his daughter Sue are well known speakers on the subject of Cattleyas. They travel extensively to educate the general public about the fascinating world of orchids. Frank is known and respected worldwide for his hybridizing skills and is a leader in the introduction of miniature Cattleyas.

When asked how he got involved with the DVOS in the first place, Frank responded: I was asked if I would be interested in an orchid society over the hill in Concord and replied that I would. You see, back in those days the view of Livermore from San Francisco was that it was about 900 miles out in the desert. Its a long ways away from San Francisco until you have made the trip a few times. I said that I would be a party to creating a new society if it didn’t split other societies. So, with the blessings from the Orchid Society of California’s Board about 12 or 14 of us met one night at Dick Emery’s house to discuss forming a separate group from the California Orchid Society of Oakland. The reasons that the group wanted to form
their own society were several. They felt that a lot of the meeting presentations were over the heads of some of the members and the judges met in their own rooms and didn’t join in with the rest to share their vast knowledge of orchids and hence, many of the lesser experienced felt left out and wanted to form a group of their own. They asked me if I had done any of this before? When I replied that I had, they asked me to preside over the meetings. I told them that could only be until there were elections. The officers should be elected, not just appointed by someone. The original objective was to have a society that was more relaxed, not so formal where we could have fun and still learn about orchids and not be too political. We had to register as a non-profit organization. Someone found the Contra Costa Water Department as a place to meet. We discovered that we could make money for the club by renting orchids to restaurants. That provided us with some funding and dinner credits, too. That was how our dinners for the speakers originated. Our basic idea was to keep the meeting simple and informal. Keep it fun.

**New Club Pin**

Many years ago DVOS had a Society pin. The DVOS Board has decided to issue a new pin to honor Frank Fordyce. The pin features three of Frank’s hybrids There will be a limited number of these available (100). The pins will be available at our October Show and Sale.
Speaking of which, here’s a

DVOS Show Update

This year we are on track for the best DVOS Show and Sale - ever. Our old venue at the Pleasant Hill Community Center was no longer available, so the Board weighed its options and decided to make the show bigger and better. As one of our members remarked “If we do the same things we’ve always done, we’ll get the same results”.

What has changed this year? First of all, we are moving to the Concord Hilton across from the Willows Shopping Center. It’s a much larger space in a busy commercial district. We expect a lot of visitors, especially since we have made this a FREE show. DVOS will put together it’s usual fabulous exhibit and we will be hosting a larger number of vendors: Gold Country Orchids (Alan Koch), Golden Gate Orchids (Tom Perlite), Orchids and Gardens (Sue Hamilton), Napa Valley Orchids (Deborah Atwood), Olompali Orchids (Sergio Garcia), Barsch Tropicals (Jimmy Barsh - Carnivores and Bromeliads), Paphiness Orchids (Dean Hung) and Orchids by Neal (Neal Tadlock). We will have member sales, a silent auction, and several raffles that will serve as fund raisers. Dennis Olivas’ donation of plants for first-time members was a great success at last year’s show, so we will be continuing the program this year.

As you can imagine, it has been a lot of work to get a new show underway. We’ve got the venue and the vendors (thanks to Rodney, Kathy, Jamie and George). There will be magazine and newspaper articles (thank you Jamie and Kathy). We will have new, professionally made road signs and banners (thanks to Brad and Jamie). We are advertised on patch.com (thanks, Heidi).

Now it’s going to be up to all of us to make the show a success. It takes a lot of people to help with building the exhibit and setting up the show. On the days of the show, we’ll need to staff membership, hospitality, raffles, orchid education, member sales and the plant hotel. If we all pitch in, it won’t feel like work.

Stay tuned.

Liz

Diablo View Orchid Society

Sept 2011
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

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