Program:
Club Auction
(see article on pg. 7)

Meeting Date, Time and Location
When: Friday, Feb. 9, 2001 @ 7:30 P.M. (note date)
Where: Contra Costa Water Dept. Auditorium
1331 Concord Ave., Concord

Upcoming Events:
(topics in parenthesis)

February
  9  Club auction at general meeting
      (NOTE DATE)
  22-25  Pacific Orchid Expo.
         Ft. Mason Expo Center

March
  8  General meeting.
     Speaker: Heather Drobis (Cymbidiums)
  23-25  Santa Barbara Orchid Show

April
  12  General meeting.
      Speaker: Bill Thoms
  22  DVOS Orchid Sale
      at the Orchid Ranch

May
  10  General meeting.
      Speaker: Nick Burnett (Gen’l care)

June
  14  General meeting.
      Speaker: Dennis Olivas (Equitants)

July
  12  General meeting.
      Speaker: Stephen Monkhouse
      (Australian orchids)

September
  13  General meeting
      Speaker: George Carr

October
  11  General meeting.
      Speaker: Weyman Bussey

November
  8  General meeting
     Proposed speaker: Francisco Miranda
      (Brazilian species)
President’s Message

The Diablo View Orchid Society will host its third annual Winter Orchid Auction in February. Please note the change in meeting date from Thursday, February 8th TO Friday, February 9th. The Auction will be held at our usual meeting location, the Contra Costa Water District Auditorium. We expect to have the following orchids for auction: orchids purchased from vendors; orchids donated by vendors; orchids donated by members and other items that our generous members bring down such as fertilizer, flasks, vases, pots, etc.

All donated orchids must be disease and bug free as they will be inspected prior to being accepted and registered. FOR THOSE DONATING ORCHIDS - PLEASE SHOW UP AT 7:00 WITH YOUR PLANT(S). Try to bring orchids in bloom if possible. If not try to include a photo or brief description of what the flower looks like and/or it's color(s). This is a great opportunity to pick up some good plants at reasonable prices. See the article on pg. 7 for more details.

In January we had a last minute change in date for our regular meeting. We hope everyone noticed the large print on the front of the newsletter detailing the change. For those that didn't or for those that don't read the newsletter, we hope it didn't cause too much of an inconvenience. Please check the newsletter each month for the date and time of each meeting as these changes may occur from time to time. Fortunately, this has not been the case very often.
Membership News

In January Carl Feighner from Livermore was a guest at the General Meeting and Gail and Nicole Moore from Alameda joined our society in January. A hearty Welcome to all! See you at the next meeting.

Including the new members, DVOS is 114 members strong. I want to thank all of our members who have promptly sent in their dues for 2001. If you cannot remember if you sent you check yet, please look at the address label of this newsletter. If you see 2000 next to your name, it means that your membership for the year 2001 is due. I am planning on printing the roster in February. If your dues are not received by the February 10th, your name will not be in it.

The membership fee is still $15 for one or $25 for two years. If you are an out of state member who would like to renew and receive the monthly newsletter, we ask you for $10. Please fill out the attached renewal form and send it together with your check to

    Ulrike Ahlborn
    117 Laredo Court
    San Ramon. CA 94583

or give it to me at the next meeting.

A note to our guests who attended our general meetings prior to December 2000. Please be aware that this will be your last newsletter. If you would like to continue receiving it and enjoy the meetings and participate in the club's benefits, send in your application and dues before the end of this month or just bring them to the next general meeting.

I want to produce an up-to-date roster, so please let me know if I spelled your name wrong or you changed your address, phone-, fax number. If you just got e-mail or changed your e-mail provider, please send a short message to ulrikea@usa.net so I will not forget to add you to my address book. In the rare event that we have to change the place or date, as for the January general meeting, I then will be able to notify you by e-mail.

You can also call me during the day at (510) 741-6762 or in the evening at (925)830-8830.

Ulrike Ahlborn
Membership

Refreshment Corner

There will be no refreshments at the February Meeting; the auction will take up the entire evening. A very special thanks to those who brought goodies in January, as well as the following people who signed up for MARCH: Shirley Nedham, Renata Johnson, Bill Morse, Brad Piini, Patricia Gagne, Clarence Parkison, Susan Fetter, Nat Smith and Bob Akbarian.

- Brenda Aday

San Francisco Orchid Show

If you are planning to donate a plant(s) to the show, here are some things to note: 1) Do not put plant in baskets or special containers unless they are needed to prop up the plant. 2) All supports need to be natural material like bamboo (no metal or plastic). 3) Plants should be clean and bug-free. 4) Trim and remove any blackened or discolored spots. 5) Put your name on the pot with the help of a piece of masking tape (also put one on the bottom in case the one on the side falls off). 6) Bring a list of plants donated so that we can keep track of what you’ve loaned. 7) Shine leaves using milk.

Plants may be dropped off between 2/17 and 2/20 at the home of Charlotte Leong in San Ramon (925-833-0840) or Juan Bofill in Pleasant Hill (925-609-8443). Please call to arrange a drop-off time.

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A Plea for Housing

Our society will be bringing out-of-town speakers for your enjoyment during the months of April, July, September, October and November. Please see our schedule for the year in this newsletter. These speakers travel among three other Bay area societies to present their programs. During this time-frame we need to house them and usually their spouses/guests. We are asking for volunteers to house them for one or two nights (second Wednesday and possibly Thursday of the month) during their stay. If we cannot find volunteers the society will have to incur the cost of placing them in hotels, etc. This can be very costly. If you think you can accommodate some of them please let me know the dates/nights you can do so. Contact me (925)-943-2022 or e-mail me at Dchiapej@aol.com. I'm certain the speakers will be very appreciative and I know the society definitely will.

Dan Chiappone

Should I Specialize in One Genus?
by FRANK FORDYCE

It is my belief that one of the prime reasons people are attracted to orchids is the tremendous variety the family offers. The Orchid family encompasses one of the widest ranges of color found in the floral kingdom, while flower sizes range from a minute fraction of an inch to 1½ feet.

Of additional interest is the fact that orchids are found in practically all regions of the world. Hobbyists often find new friends in far away places, exchange plants, methods of culture and frequently their mutual hobby stimulates the interest to visit each other. In doing this each hobbyist involved widens his knowledge and understanding of his world neighbor.

While most hobbyists like to specialize in one genus, learning as much as possible about its culture and its allied hybrids, they add further interest by acquiring additional species as they become aware of their intrigue. Let us take for example a Cymbidium hobbyist. He usually endeavors to collect exhibition mid-season varieties branching into early and late types to extend the blooming season. He may become intrigued with the miniatures and polymins or perhaps he prefers certain brilliant color ranges. He undoubtedly buys seedlings hoping to bloom that choice FCC variety himself (naming it after his wife), but playing it safe adds mericlones of proven value to his collection as well. He observes distinctive plants at commercial ranges and purchases either back-bulb or green bulb divisions. To build such a diversified collection would seem to present a full time interest all its own yet more and more cymbidium hobbyists are branching into other types of orchids compatible to their first love.

Cattleya hobbyists seem to branch into other genera most frequently, for although cattleyas have a wide range of color, season, and size, they usually bloom only once per year and for a relatively short period of time. The Cattleya hobbyist who wishes to have orchids continually in bloom must possess a huge collection, thus insuring constant bloom, or he must add interest in the form of compatible plants such as phalaenopsis, oncidiums, warm odonts, and miltonias, warm “paphs.” and a myriad of other fascinating types.

My recommendation is to specialize in one genus, striving for perfection in plant and flower production but do not restrict your interest to that one type. Like the man who prefers blondes, upon second glance you may find redheads have an intriguing appeal all their own!

Donations wanted!
Want to get a great tax deduction? The DVOS will gladly accept your donation of good-running vehicles, or other real property! Contact Dan Chiappone or any of the board members for details.
Hints and Kinks

The photo below is that of a Cattleya sheath. The culture tip here is that when you water a sheath that is only partway opened like this it will collect water and rot out the buds. What to do?? You can take a pair of nail clippers and cut a notch at the base of the sheath to allow any trapped water to drain out! Cool, huh!

The other pictures are a 'before and after' of oxalis crowding a Stanhopea pot. A long time ago someone wondered what would happen if you painted oxalis with the common weedkiller 'RoundUp', being very careful not to get any RoundUp on the orchid. Well, I tried it. Lo and behold it works!! I must stress you must be very careful only to paint the weed, not the orchid. An artist's brush or something similar should be used to paint the fine new growths. This technique could also be used against ferns which inhabit baskets, and the like. I chose the Stanhopea because it had a particularly ingrown stand of oxalis. The oxalis did not respond to tweezing at all, hence I used it as the candidate for the artist’s brush/Roundup method. (Actually I used a cheap plastic BBQ sauce brush, but I wouldn't want anyone else to be so cavalier with their orchids!! The stuff can drip all over the place!)

- Kathy Barrett

Oxalis before the Round-Up treatment

Cattleya sheath

Oxalis after the Round-Up treatment - no more yucky Oxalis!
The DVOS Library

[Ed. note:  This is the first of several articles detailing the contents of the DVOS lending library. This “base list” valid as of Feb. 2000. For further details, see Phyllis Arthur]  

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News from the Judging World

The Pacific Central Judging Center is always ready to provide assistance to our DVOS. If any of our society member should have any questions about American Orchid Society Judging, or wish to observe the judging process in person at one of the monthly center judging, please feel free to contact Susan Wedegaertner, Judging Chair of Pacific Central Judging Center @(209)545-0814, evenings.

Better yet, get in touch with Kathy Barrett, she is well into her second year of training with the Pacific Central Judging Center. After you talk with Kathy or Susan, maybe, just maybe you'd enjoy becoming an AOS judge.

- Barbara Tague

THE AUCTION IS HERE!!!
THE AUCTION IS HERE!!!

The mid-winter auction is finally here! The date is FRIDAY, February 11, 2000. The place is our customary meeting location; the Contra Costa Water Department Auditorium. We will be able to preview the plant selection being offered for auction from 7:00 to 7:30 PM. IF YOU ARE PLANNING ON DONATING A PLANT(S), PLEASE SHOW UP AT THE AUDITORIUM AT 7:00 SO THAT THEY MAY BE REGISTERED BEFORE THE AUCTION. (It is quite possible that those who arrive a little earlier may get a sneak preview while helping to set up a table or two for our auctioneer, Dennis Olivas.) The meeting for the evening (which is in place of our regularly scheduled monthly meeting) will begin at 7:30 with some brief instructions on the auction process, how to pay for plants (cash or checks only please) and some of the pertinent DVOS communications.

DVOS is fortunate to have Dennis Olivas return to assist with the auction. Dennis is a member of DVOS and has a long-term addiction to orchids as well as an extremely generous spirit in providing help and assistance to organizations and their members as he is doing for us on 2/9. He will assist in plant identification and be the principal auctioneer for the evening. As plants are sold, he will direct a “runner” to bring the plant to the seat of the successful bidder. When the plant purchasers wish to leave the auction (hopefully no one will leave until the auction is over!), they will be asked to leave at the rear of the auditorium in order to pay for the plant on the way out. Each plant will have a unique number that will identify the plant during the auctioning process; this same number will be the identification number that the cashiers will refer to when tallying up the cost of your plant purchases...DON’T FORGET TO RECORD THE AMOUNT YOU BID!

Please note that the auction is BYOB (bring your own boxes). In all; there will be a very diverse cross section of plants, species and hybrids, in spike and near blooming size, the unusual and the popular. Since there will be over 100 plants for auction you will not be disappointed in the selection and variety. Plan on attending! Mark your calendar! Bring a friend! FRIDAY, February 9th at 7:30 PM.

- 7 -
Livermore
*The Orchid Ranch*;
Fordyce Orchids - Cattleyas 925-447-1659
Orchids Orinda - Phalaenopsis
Tonkins Orchids - Paphiopedilums

Oakland
*Orchids Fiori D’Amore*
Paolo & Nina DiCandia
510-530-4884 (by appt. only)

Hawaii
*Yamada’s Orchid Nursery*
Allen Yamada
5087-A Kawaihau Rd.
Kapaa, HI 96746

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.

Martinez
*MGM Orchids*
Mariano G Morales
718 Main Street
Martinez, CA. 94553

San Leandro
*The Paph House*
Francisco Baptista & Fred Jernigan
375 Warwick Avenue, San Leandro, CA
510/635-2845, (by appt. only)

Concord
*San Miguel Greenhouses*
Pamela Leaver
936 San Miguel Rd.
925-798-0476 (by appt. only)

Concord
Nathalie Smith
1507 Lavetta Way; 925-685-8904
(by appt. only); orchid supplies

Danville
*Commercial Plant Services*
David & Alice Tomassini
586 El Capitan Dr.; 925-837-1780

Half Moon Bay
*D & D Flowers*
Dennis Olivas; 62 Oceanside Dr.
650-994-7465 (call in advance)

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