



# Diablo View Orchid Society Newsletter

<http://www.geocities.com/diabloviewos/>

March 2001

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## Program: Heather Drobus Culture of Cymbidiums

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### Meeting Date, Time and Location

**When: Thursday, Mar. 8, 2001 @ 7:30 P.M. (usual date)**

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

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### Upcoming Events: (topics in parenthesis)

#### March

- 8 General meeting.  
Speaker: Heather Drobus (Cymbidiums)
- 16-18 San Diego Orchid Society Show & Sale  
Scottish Rite Memorial Center, S.D.
- 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)

#### December, 2001

- 13 DVOS Christmas Party

## President's Message

I want to thank everyone that helped and participated in our auction last month. It was very successful. I also want to thank our members, both collectors and commercial growers, for donating plants. The commercial growers are Dennis Olivas, Frank Fordyce, Dave Tomassini and the Paph House. Also, a big round of applause to Dennis Olivas for another outstanding job as auctioneer. We were entertained as well as excited as we bid for the terrific selection of plants provided. Special thanks go to Kathy Barrett and Dave Tomassini for the extra special effort of buying those plants. Finally, a special thanks to Carmela Nurseries of Hawaii for the great price and plants they gave the society.

Our first event of the year has given us a great start to providing the membership with exciting programs. Our Vice-president has gone to great efforts to provide a variety of speakers and topics. She has booked local as well as out-of-state speakers as our main presentation speakers. See the schedule in the newsletter. They are all supplying raffle tables as well as bringing plants for sale.

Come to the meetings. Listen to the Speaker tips and information. Enjoy their slides and experiences. And come get your share of rare and hard-to-get orchids (many from outside of the U.S.) I hope you enjoy this year's schedule of speakers and events. If you have any suggestions for the following year, write them down and give them to any of the Board members or Officers. Let us know what you want to see and hear. But more important, come and enjoy.

**ARTICLE DEADLINE FOR  
APRIL NEWSLETTER  
IS TUESDAY, MAR. 20**

## DVOS STAFF

*President* - Dan Chiappone  
*Vice-President* - Pauline Brault  
*Secretary* - Karen Moonitz  
*Treasurer* - John Chamberlain

*AOS Rep.* - Barbara Tague  
*BBQ* - Bob VanGalder  
*Culture Sessions* - Pauline Brault  
*Greenhouse Tours* - Open  
*Historian* - Open  
*Indoor/Outdoor Group* - Open

*Librarian* - Phyllis Arthur  
*Lights&Equipment* - Juan Bofill  
*Membership* - Ulrike Ahlborn  
*Newsletter Ads* - Karen Moonitz  
*Plant Sales* - Jeanette Bean  
Madge Fordyce

*Raffle/Other sales* - Nancy Pak  
*Refreshments* - Brenda Aday  
*S.F. Show* - Ron Bettencourt  
*Sound System* - Dave Tomassini  
*Webmaster* - Nick Doe  
*Welcome Hostess*-Madge Fordyce

*Board Members* - Phyllis Arthur;  
Juan Bofill; Charlotte Leong; Alice &  
David Tomassini  
*Newsletter Editor*

Mark Rotter (925) 833-3787  
DVOSnews@home.com

## **THIS MONTH'S SPEAKER**

Heather Drobus is a long-time member of the Orchid Society of California, the San Francisco Orchid Society, the Golden Gate Cymbidium Society, and she is a charter member of Gold Coast Cymbidium Growers. She is also past president of the Golden Gate Cymbidium Society

Heather is considered to be one of the best non-commercial cymbidium growers in the Bay Area. She has won best in show and many trophies at the local orchid shows and has done many culture programs for various societies. Heather's favorite cymys are hybrids of cymbidium tracyanum and cymbidium madidum. She is currently working for Cray Croft Cymbidiums, one of the largest cymbidium growers in Northern California.. Heather will talk about culture, fertilizer, and how to protect your plants from freezing. She will also give a potting demonstration.

The raffle table will be provided by Heather.

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## **Special Events**

1. Rod McLellan Botanicals Spring Open House and Plant Sale: Saturday March 17, 2001 from 9:00am to 4:00pm at the Aromas growing facility, Watsonville, Ca. Phone (831)726-1797 for directions.

2. Orchid Jubilee 2001: Joint Mid-American Orchid Congress, and AOS Trustees meeting. April 25-29,2001 at Columbus, Ohio. Held in conjunction with the Int'l Phalaenopsis Alliance and The Pleurothallid Alliance. Speakers: George Fuller, Roddy Gabel, Stephen Helbling, Dr. Wojciech Klikunas, Erich Michel, Emily Siegerist. To register for the Orchid Jubilee, contact: Tom Bell-Games, 1615 Andover Road, Columbus, OH 43212, or e-mail: [tbellgames@burnip.com](mailto:tbellgames@burnip.com)

Accommodations at Holiday Inn, 175 Hutchinson Ave. Columbus, Ohio.

Reservations call (614)885-3334.

3. Chicagoland Orchid Growers Association invites you to attend their 9th annual Orchid Festival. September 28 - 30, 2001. Log on [www.orchidfestival.com](http://www.orchidfestival.com) for more information.

- Barbara Tague

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## **ORCHIDIZING**

### **WHAT SHOULD A HOBBYIST LOOK FOR IN THE PURCHASE OF SEEDLINGS?**

by **Frank Fordyce**

There are certain signs one looks for in purchasing any merchandise. The homemaker looks for certain indications of freshness, ripeness, etc., as she shops for the family table. Her husband looks for certain "signs" as he shops for a second car at the used car lot, evenly worn tires, believable mileage, non-smoking exhaust fumes, etc. In the purchase of orchids there are certain "signs" we look for that indicate strong, healthy plants. The rules are not hard and fast but a few helpful tips that may mean the difference!

1. Note if the entire block of plants grow evenly. If the block is erratic, check the parentage to see why. If you understand the reason and still wish to buy, select the stronger plants.

2. Choose a seedling with the most robust new growth, making certain there has been a substantial increase in bulb or growth size from its original bulb or growth to its present growth.

3. Avoid weedy growers unless direct parentage denotes this habit of growth. Direct Sophronitis hybrids might well have small multiple growths without much progression in bulb size. Frequently large seedlings with an oversupply of weak growths never mature a bulb large enough to bloom.

*Please see **Orchidizing**, Pg. 4*

## 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

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## Refreshment Corner

A reminder for those who signed up to bring goodies to the March Meeting: Shirley Nedham, Renata Johnson, Bill Morse, Brad Piini, Patricia Gagne, Clarence Parkinson, Susan Fetter, Nat Smith and Bob Akbarian. Looking forward to seeing you all.

- Brenda Aday

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### *Orchidizing, from Pg. 3*

4. Inspect surface roots to see if they are solid or spongy and decayed. If decayed it could indicate too much moisture around the root system, and the plant living on foliar feeding alone.

5. If leaves are light green and fairly firm this usually indicates good health. If soft and floppy the seedlings have possibly been grown too wet and dark.

6. If advertised as a 3" pot seedling the plant should adequately fill a 3" pot. Some growers advertise a 3" pot at what appears to be an 2" pot size

overpotted into 3". Remember also that *the genus* involved often designates the size of plant. For example a Cymbidium seedling in a 3" pot is several years from blooming while a Sophronitis hybrid may be blooming size in the same pot size.

7. In genera that have new leaves emerging from the center of the new growth (such as Cymbidiums) be sure to choose a seedling where the center leaf is still growing. When the center leaves have finished their growth, the bulb or basal growth has reached its maturity. One desires as large a bulb as possible before reaching maturity, thereby insuring a stronger reservoir for the next new growth to draw from.

8. In larger clones choose plants that have a minimum of dormant bulbs. Too many dormant bulbs often indicate a poor root system.

9. Look for old flower stems, if plants are mature clones, to check if they bloom well.

10. Know your grower, ask questions as to the plant performance, possible deformities, etc. Guidelines, yes, but certainly not complete answers to the purchase of plants. That is part of the intrigue in our wonderful world of orchids!

### **DO MERICLONES REPLACE SEEDLINGS?**

Being among the pioneers in the field of mericlones I am continually pressed with the aforementioned question. From the beginning I have taken the following stand and today I am even more firmly convinced of its practicability.

a. Mericlones do not replace seedlings. Without seedlings we will soon have nothing new to meristem. We must continue to breed new varieties, select the finest and meristem them.

b. I believe mericlones are good for our trade. They may stimulate hybridizers into growing larger blocks of their own seedlings from which to choose clones to meristem. Certainly they will be more selective in their breeding programs if they are to grow quantities themselves!

c. Mericlones are certainly a most welcome addition for hobbyists who may now add proven varieties at low prices while they still continue the intrigue of buying seedlings.

Please see *Orchidizing, Pg. 5*

## Hints and Kinks

(Ed. note: *The following is a follow-up from Mike Gallagher to last month's H&K regarding the use of RoundUp to kill oxalis*)

A bit easier way is to get some long sleeve heavy-duty dishwashing gloves and put light cotton gloves on over the dishwashing gloves. Then you just dunk the hand into a container of RoundUp, make a fist to squeeze some of the excess liquid out, and then just grab hold of the weed you wish to kill. You can even do it two-handed and it is a lot easier than playing around with a paintbrush.

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Tired of getting large cattleya blooms on a short crowded spike? An old GH tip is to place the plant under the benchtop when the buds start to pop the sheath. The spike elongates as it reaches for the available light. I tried that - so far only one time - and it worked out well. Better than another trick I heard about placing a cut paper towel tube over the developing sheath. That is another way to limit the amount of light the spike 'sees' and makes it reach for the light. (Yes, I know I should call a 'spike' by the more proper botanical term 'inflorescence', but heck I'm among friends here!)

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For those of you who have *Encyclia citrina* (now *Euchile citrina*) or *Enc. mariae* (*Euchile mariae*) and can't get the suckers to bloom here's a tip.

They really do want a cool dry rest for the period coinciding with the Mexican winter season. That translates to November to the end of February. So that's 50% shade and not watered at all during that period. Once new growths start, begin copious watering and fertilizing. Of course once new growths start, whether inside that time frame or not, watering/fertilizing should begin.

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Funny how you find tips from all over the place. I subscribe to *Australian Orchid Review* where David Banks quoted these tips from Dorothy Stephenson.

Dorothy is a local Bay Area grower! So this tip traveled around the world in order to go across the Bay...

- Kathy Barrett

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### *Orchidizing, from Pg. 4*

d. Each person has within his being a driving desire to own something no one else owns. Call it a status symbol, selfishness or anything your heart desires, it is within all of us in one degree or another. In orchids we answer this desire by blooming a seedling - something we own in its entirety.

e. I sincerely believe mericlones are an asset to our industry and to your hobby. They will take their place in grower's catalogs as another page from which you may choose those items that please you most.

f. Mericlones do not take the place of seedlings—nor seedlings the place of mericlones. It is not seedlings or mericlones. *But seedlings and mericlones go hand in hand!*

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## For Sale

Large side discharge swamp cooler, approximately 5500 CFM, with new motor, \$120.00. Call Ken or Karen Moonitz at (925) 687-1461.

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## 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.

# The DVOS Library

[*Ed. note: This is the second of several articles detailing the contents of the DVOS lending library. These titles represent June, 2000 additions. For further details, see Phyllis Arthur*]

Title	Author
ORCHID PESTS & DISEASES( <i>video</i> )	AOS w/ Bob Webster
THE ART & CRAFT OF GROWING ORCHIDS	Leslie Bowen
ORCHIDS FOR HOME & GARDEN	Brooklyn Botanic Garden
WILD ORCHIDS OF CALIFORNIA	Ronald A. Coleman
ORCHID PHOTOGRAPHY	AOS - Charles Marden Fitch
LAELIAS OF MEXICO	Federico Halbinger, M. Soto
ORCHIDS, THEIR BOTANY & CULTURE	Alex D. Hawkes
INTRIGUING MASDEVALLIAS	Jo Kelleher
ORCHID GROWING BASICS	Dr. Gustav Schoser
ORCHIDS CARE & CULTIVATION	G. Leroy-Terquem & J. Parisot
GROWING CLASSIC ORCHIDS	Mike Tibbs & Ray Bilton
TAYLOR'S GUIDE TO ORCHIDS	Judy White
HOW TO CONTROL ORCHID VIRUSES	Gail C. Wisler
THE ORCHIDS, A SCIENTIFIC SURVEY	Carl L. Withner
CATTLEYAS & THEIR RELATIVES vol. V.	Carl L. Withner

## The DVOS Library - Periodicals List

AOS Bulletins (bound)	1970-1986	ORCHID DIGEST	1964-1978
AOS Bulletins (loose)	1974-1979		4/1967-12/1980
	1982-1983		Miscellaneous issues 4/99-3/94
	1985-1987	ORCHID REVIEW	1982-1993
	1989-1992		Miscellaneous pamphlets
	1996-1999		
AOS AWARDS QUARTERLY	1970-1988	NOTE: NOT ALL PERIODICAL YEARS ARE COMPLETE	
AUSTRALIAN ORCHID REVIEW	1982-1986		
CANADIAN ORCHID JOURNAL	1982-1986		
FLORIDA ORCHIDIST	1982-1987 (incomplete)		
LINDLEYANA	1986-1987		
ORCHID ADVOCATE	1987-1983 (bound)		
	1978-1989 (loose)		

# Breaking News from the San Francisco Orchid Show

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Diablo View Orchid Society Places Second at  
Pacific Orchid Exposition

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No three-peat For DVOS

The Diablo View Orchid Society's display in this year's Pacific Orchid Exposition took Second Place in the category for 'Display by a Visiting Society' and won the San Francisco Orchid Society's Trophy for 'Best Representation of Show Theme'. The Second Place showing pays \$500 into the DVOS coffers. The Best Theme trophy is a silver metal chafing dish.

This year's theme, '2001 - An Orchid Odyssey' was represented by the DVOS as an odyssey thru time past, present, and future, featuring contributions to orchid conservation made by 14 orchid personalities such as Charles Darwin, Rebecca T. Northen and Tom Nelson (from the book 'Orchid Fever'). A gigantic map of the world showed the locations where these people made their contributions.

The key to the theme and its highlight was the handpainted map of the world on three 4x6 sheets of plywood. This marvelous painting was meticulously hand drawn and painted by Alice Tomassini, Mary DeMattei, Linda Daraskavich, Charlotte Leong, and (ahem) Mark Rotter with help from Juan Bofill. From the comments overheard on Preview Night most people in the audience thought it was professionally done. Special notice should go to Alice Tomassini and Charlotte Leong for their artistic eye in placing and arranging the display's orchids. They really did a wonderful job making every color blend into the next yet still showing each plant to its best potential. How do they do that, year after year? "Fearless Leader" Ron Bettencourt, Dan West, Parky Parkison, Dave Tomassini and the ubiquitous Juan Bofill rebuilt on site Dan West's pond arrangement, did the

proper lighting, and arranged the many display tables which Linda Daraskavich helped to design and construct. Nancy Pak, Linda Daraskavich, Mary DeMattei lettered the placecards (designed by Mary) and entered plants for ribbon judging. Steady hands and good penmanship are required for that job, but its probably the best task for learning about orchids! Kathy Barrett showed up late, ate everyone's food, and generally got in everyone's way. Sheesh, the nerve of some people!

In addition to the Club's showing individual awards, crystal vases went to:

**Linda Daraskavich:** Best Cattleya in the Novice Class, for a Stamfordiana

**Bernice Lindner:** Best Pleurothallid in the Intermediate Class, for a Restrepia

**Dick Emory:** Best Dendrobium in the Advanced Class, for a Den. Andre Millar.

Additionally, **David Tomassini** got an AOS award on Paph. Yerba Buena x Green Gold. It got an AM/AOS of 81 points. That is Dave's first AOS award! I think it could be said that Dave is on Cloud 9!

Once again the DVOS display showed the most ribbons. Individual club members got 17 blue ribbons for 1st Place, 10 red ribbons for 2nd Place and 5 white ribbons for 3rd Place in their individual categories. And more individual members entered their plants in the 'Intermediate' category than ever before. Maybe we're not getting older, we're getting better! Display plants came from members all over the place, like Sheila Scott, Barbara Tague, Bill Morse (wow, what cymbidiums!), Bob Van Galder and Nathalie Smith. Next year we'd like to see YOUR plants in there too!

Also, the camera crew from National Geographic was on hand to record the POE, the behind the scenes judging, and the crowd at Preview Night for an upcoming television program. Bernice Lindner and Linda Daraskavich were interviewed and filmed in front of the DVOS display, however I don't think they knew it was for National Geographic. Surprise!

- Kathy Barrett

## DVOS GARNERS AWARDS AT SAN FRANCISCO ORCHID SHOW

DVOS members proudly exhibited an array of award winning orchids at this year's orchid show held at Fort Mason in San Francisco, with five members taking the prestigious 'Best in Show' categories. The awards are as follows:

### Third Place Winners

In the Novice category

**Linda Daraskavich** - *Onc. ornithorhynchum*

**Kathi Ames** - *Cym. hybrid*

In the Intermediate category

**Ron Bettencourt** - *Catt. Fort Motte 'Cheetah'*

**Bea and Noble Emery** - *Max. elatior*

**Bea and Noble Emery** - *Paph. Ledouxiae*

**Sheila Scott** - *Milt. Limelight 'Imogene Smith'*

### Second Place Winners

In the Novice category

**Nancy Pak** - *Onc. twinkle v. alba*

In the Intermediate category

**Bea and Noble Emery** - *Cym. Snow Court*

**Bernice Lindner** - *Dendrochilum Wenzelii*

**Bernice Lindner** - *Phrag. besseae*

**Sheila Scott** - *Colm. Wildcat*

**Dan West** - *Lyc. Frank Hoyt 'San Carlos'*

### First Place Winners

In the Novice category

**Charlotte Leong** - *Haraella retrocalla*

In the Intermediate category

**Bea and Noble Emery** - *Den. Telekron*

**Bernice Lindner** - *Ascda. Fisco Princess Mikasa*

**Bernice Lindner** - *Sara Jean 'Ice Cascades'*

**Barbara Tague** - *Paph. Stardust Flight*

**Dave Tomassini** - *Paph. Hells Chamber*

**Dave Tomassini** - *Paph. Niobe x Paph.*

*Spicerianum*

**Dave Tomassini** - *Paph. Pink Petals*

**Sheila Scott** - *C. Dar McKail x C. Pillila Camache*

**Sheila Scott** - *Slc. Tutankamen 'Pop'*

### Best in Show Winners

(For color photos, see our web page)

**Linda Daraskavich** - 'Best Catt. Alliance shown by a Novice Exhibitor - Stamfordiana unnamed (Sl. Psyche x Epi. Sunkist)



**Dick Emory** - 'Best Den shown by an Advanced Exhibitor' *Den. Andree Millar*








*The DVOS Display*

**Bernice Lindner** - 'Best Pleurothallid shown by an Intermediate Exhibitor - *Restrepia sanguin*



**Fordyce Orchids** - 'Best Catt. Alliance shown by a Commercial Exhibitor' - *Brot. sanguinea* 'Cherry Bates'



**Dave Tomassini** - 'Best Paph/Phrag shown by an Intermediate Exhibitor - *Paph. un-named* (Yerba Buena x Green Gold) 



**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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