

# Diablo View Orchid Society

*Zoom meeting! WE START AT 6:00!*

## President's Letter

Greetings Orchid Friends,

June 1, 2021

The seasons are moving on with my orchids. I had a beautiful flush of Masdevallia blooms and of course the Cymbidiums, Dendrobiums and spring Cattleyas. But their time is coming to an end (for this season!). They will need my attention as far as repotting and divisions but I am starting to look to the summer blooming plants. I have a couple Cattleya seedlings that I haven't seen in bloom yet that are sending up buds! That will be exciting. I love to go out to the orchids early in the morning to see what new developments have taken place. I found that a squirrel has decided to dig in the Cymbidium pots. He is going to learn the meaning of zero tolerance if he is not careful! I hope you are all enjoying the new growth (and the surprises) as much as I am.

Peter chose another fascinating speaker for us last month. I hope all of you enjoyed Leslie Ee's talk about culture and breeding with Cattleya warscewiczii. I am sure that Peter has another fascinating speaker for this month. See details in Speakers Corner in this newsletter.

What's going on with your orchids? If you are repotting- remember DVOS and keep a nice division aside to donate to the fall auction. I hope you get a chance to get out and enjoy your plants. Take some pictures to share with all of us.

Stay safe, healthy and happy. I hope to be able to see all of you in July for our California Orchids field trip (see details below).

Regards,

*Diane*



## Now for a few reminders and updates:

There are a couple time sensitive items to cover here. Make sure you don't miss anything!

- Speakers corner
  - See Peters comments later in the newsletter for details
- Show and tell links
  - See details below
- Fall Auction preparation
  - See details below
- Trip to California Orchids in July
  - See details below

## Virtual Show and tell

It is a new month. We need to see what you have blooming in June. Take pictures of your blooms and send them in.

### April Winners

See the photos of the winners we chose below and on the website. We have good participation in the voting last month. Keep up the good work for June.

### May Show and Tell Voting

We have a wonderful collection of plants this month. We have many new entrants and a total of 44 submissions! It is great to see everyone's plants and I think I can confidently say that it is Cymbidium season. Vote for your favorite May Show and Tell plants (voting closes June 30):

Lancer Smith

<https://forms.gle/eVC7LGgtBg99cKGR8>

Novice

<https://forms.gle/ipd2wFwpngau48GWA>

Intermediate

<https://forms.gle/BchnZqootV2n9BW78>

Advanced

<https://forms.gle/vjHuLxznzqdo2JnaN7>

## June Show and Tell Submission

June entries are currently being accepted (thru June 30). We are going to have to work hard to beat last month but I have confidence in us. I want to see all of those beautiful blooms! C'mon- everybody can take a quick pic to share with all of us.

- Enter photos of your June blooms
- All images should be labeled with the name of the **plant** and the name of the **grower**. This ID can be in the name of the file or you can actually label the photo itself.
- If your plant is eligible for the Lancer Smith award (entire plant is 6 inches or less) please indicate that in the name of the file or on the photo itself.
- Drop your entry into this folder:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1rHAuJFBjcuu3L1GvIHmn-HwocokDjlYA?usp=sharing>

If you have any problem with this, you can always mail it to me at [bondiane9@gmail.com](mailto:bondiane9@gmail.com).



## DVOS Fall Auction

The Fall DVOS auction is the main fundraiser that we have this year. Fundraising is important so that we can continue to have the wonderful speakers and random drawings that Peter arranges for us each month. We would like to ask EVERY ONE to participate in the auction this year. That means

- 1- Donate plants. It is repotting time for many of us. Keep back some nice juicy divisions to donate to the DVOS auction. You need to pot up these plants now so that they will be well adjusted and growing by the time of the auction. By planning for the auction now, we can have vigorous, established plants when it is time for the auction.
- 2- Come to the auction and bid on some beautiful plants. We have all been cooped up at home without many of our routine orchid buying opportunities for the last year. This is the time to exercise your orchid shopping muscles. Everyone can find a little space for a new orchid. This might be your opportunity to get a division of one of those plants you saw in Show and Tell or on Facebook that you were so interested in.

It is looking like we are going to have our fall auction some time in mid August. We will tell you details as they develop.

Let's plan ahead this year and produce a good collection of plants for the auction.

## DVOS Field Trip to California Orchids on July 10,2021

Due to conflicts at California Orchids, our field trip has been rescheduled to **July 10**. We apologize for any inconvenience but would love you to join us for a greenhouse tour, plant purchasing and a picnic with you DVOS friends. Remember **July 10**.

Mary Nisbet of California Orchids in Bolinas has invited a group of DVOS members to come up and visit her greenhouse (yes- she WILL sell orchids to you!) and have a picnic on July 10. The only request that she has is that we **MUST BE VACCINATED**.

So come out and enjoy Mary's wonderful greenhouse and expertise. We will have a picnic after our visit so bring something to share. There might be carpool opportunities for those of you who don't want to drive that distance. Also- if you are willing to be a carpool driver, please let us know.

If you would like to join us on the first DVOS outing of 2021 please **RSVP to [bond Diane9@gmail.com](mailto:bond Diane9@gmail.com)**. Please respond promptly. **Mary has asked that we tell her how many of us will be by June 12**. We need to get our numbers to her soon. The only requirement for joining this outing is that you are completely vaccinated against COVID19. **Please send a photo of your vaccination card along with your RSVP before June 12**.

*Diane*



## About our May Meeting's speaker

As someone who does not grow Cattleyas (no space, wrong light) I had a suspicion Dr Leslie Ee's talk last month would have left me somewhat out in the cold. I could not have been more wrong, I was fascinated. He started by explaining how the term "blue" when applied to Cattleyas means pinkish lavender and ash gray shades rather than the blue you might see looking out of your window. The color question clarified we were introduced to *C. warscewiczii* the topic for the evening and the ability of the genes of its *coerulea* species to contribute to big "blue" flowers.

Leslie laid out the history of *C. warscewiczii* from its discovery in the mountains of Columbia some 150 years ago. He explained that it and its species were little used for hybridizing until relatively recently because their rarity limited the pollen available. They are also difficult to grow and when mature become huge plants. More recently only the species *sandriana*, with few but large flowers, and *inperialis*, with more but smaller flowers, were initially used. Both these species showed another strength of *C. warscewiczii* by their upright nature which did not require staking. We were shown many beautiful images of these and other cultivars added in recent years in addition to the *coerulea* species itself. We saw famous progeny created by hybridizers from these resources including Cattleya "Francis Melanie" from 1904, the original plant of which still exists. A division from it would sell for over \$1000 today. While showing these images, Leslie explained that the "blue" tones can appear to change significantly depending upon the light. They are most evident in sunlight between roughly 11:00AM and 3:00PM.

We learned the key factors which influence the "blue" in Cattleya flowers. The desired color pigments vary not only with the food and light available to the plant but also with the pH of its flower parts. Increased alkalinity there seems to increase available "blue" pigments. Temperature, particularly cool nights, also appears to help pigment production.

Following up on his introductory comments we saw a detailed history of "blue" breeding in general from the 1930s to today. We saw many award winning "blues" all with *C. warscewiczii* in their parentage and Leslie identified for us which aspects of each one could be traced back to it. There was an opportunity to see the effect of the various individual species added to the hybridizing mix, their pluses and their minuses. After discussing many of the *possible* future "ingredients", Leslie showed us charts delineating ways in which various breeding lines of Cattleyas could be blended together to continue the search for the ultimate "Big blue flower". This section was a remarkable primer on hybridizing and left me amazed at the diligence and endless patience that he and many others must apply to their quest.

In a final section, our speaker shared the secrets of growing this admittedly difficult species. Perhaps the two most unusual features of his recipe for success were that, like *Catasetinae*, heavy watering and feeding should not begin each year until the new growth was 3-4 inches long and that *C. warscewiczii* needs a photoperiod of 12 hours



year-round and will not flower if it is not correctly provided. In addition to following these and other strictures, Leslie is experimenting with semi-hydroponic cultivation which for Cattleyas seemed counter intuitive. We learned his methods and his success was obvious from the images provided.

In closing, Dr. Ee shared his all-time favorite Cattleya, *C. warscewiczii* semi-alba 'Katia'. For those of you unable to attend, her beauty is clearly on display in **the attached**.

## June's Speaker

Last month's topic was definitely "Big". This month we go in the opposite direction.

Our guest on Zoom on **June 10**, at **6:00PM PST** will be Dr. Kristen Uthus. She will be joining us from Michigan to share her love of miniature orchids with a talk entitled "**Honey, I Shrunk the Orchids**". Kristen studied both plant and animal ecology and evolution in university and then taught biology and ecology at several colleges. The daughter of a plant fanatic, she has been growing orchids for many years and in 2014



fulfilled her dream of making orchids a full-time commitment by purchasing New World Orchids in Manchester MI. She is supported in her orchid pursuits by her husband, Dr. Kevin Wehrly, and their two sons, Henry and Gus.

Although Kristen enjoys growing many varieties of orchids, miniatures remain her passion—the weirder the better. New World Orchids specializes in Japanese species including *Neofinetia falcata*, *Dendrobium moniliforme*, and *Sederia japonica*, but her selection includes choice species from many other genera. Although she claims it is never *entirely* up to date, you can check out some of her offerings at <https://newworldorchids.com/>.

**To attend Dr. Uthus's presentation, please follow the steps below. If you would like to invite a friend**, just send me the name and email address and your guest will receive the sign-in information when you do.



- **Before the event, please check to be sure you have the latest version of the "Zoom Client for Meetings" from:** <https://zoom.us/download>. There have been upgrades since our last meeting.
- **RSVP** to [padvos@attglobal.net](mailto:padvos@attglobal.net) not later than **June 6**.
- If you RSVP, you will receive the sign-in data and other final information before the meeting. Be sure to look for an email message headed **DVOS-KUINFO**. You do not need to respond to that message.

As usual, there will be a drawing from members present for \$50 gift certificates provided by DVOS to be used at our speaker's website. The winners will be announced during the evening. If you are a winner, you will receive your gift certificate and redemption instructions by email.

Please remember that some files referred to in past editions of Speakers' Corner are still available for personal viewing. Should you be interested in any of them, just send me a message at the RSVP address. Here is the current list:

- "*Shangri-La*", a documentary on Yunan, China from the 2008.
- "*The Judge, the Thief, the Hunter and the Black Orchid*", a 2010 documentary directed by Rich Walton featuring Fred Clarke and other orchid luminaries.
- "*The Culture of Hybrid Phragmipediums*", based on the knowledge of Leo Schordje.
- "*10 Species of Orchids you can Grow Outside*", by Jeff Trimble.
- "*Fred's Catasetinae Tips*", by Fred Clarke.
- "*How to Grow Happy, Healthy Scale and Mealy Bugs*", by Deborah Dillon-Townes.
- "*What Do Orchids Eat?*", text slides from Rick Lockwood's 2/21 Zoom presentation to DVOS.

**Continuing** last month's personal topic, our 2021 auction, I have been looking through my inventory to see who would enjoy a new home. I think this year I will include some mature plants along with any seedlings and divisions. I guess there is always a desire *not* to part with an old friend or one-of-a-kind in a collection of any size, but, when it is for a cause that gives me so much pleasure...

Stay safe and well.

**Until the 10th at 6:00 PM**

*Peter*



## May 2021 Show and Tell Winners

*Laelia anceps* 'Shapely'

Novice: 1<sup>st</sup> Place

Grown by Kaitlyn Strom



*Laeliocattleya* Stone House

Novice: 2<sup>nd</sup> Place (tie)

Grown by Daniel Neighbors





Cattleya Janice Evans  
'Sweet16'

Novice: 2<sup>nd</sup> Place (tie)

Grown by Francine Donner



Dendrobium Nagasaki 'Cherry Blossom'

Novice: 3<sup>rd</sup> Place

Grown by Kaitlyn Strom





*Phalaenopsis modesta*  
 Novice: Honorable Mention  
 Grown by Peter Ansdell

Suara Rick Beverly  
 'Valentine's Gift' -2  
 Intermediate: 1<sup>st</sup> Place  
 Grown by George Su





Cattlianthe Busy Bev  
'Blue Jewel' AM/AOS

Intermediate: 2<sup>nd</sup> Place

Grown by George Su



Cymbidium Dorothy Stockstill  
'Forgotten Fruits'

Intermediate: 3<sup>rd</sup> Place

Grown by Henry Shaw





*Dendrobium moniliforme*

Intermediate: Honorable Mention

Grown by Henry Shaw



*Dendrobium chrysotoxum*

Advanced: 1<sup>st</sup> Place

Grown by Eileen Jackson



*Dendrobium speciosum*

Advanced: 2<sup>nd</sup> Place

Grown by Miki Ichiyanagi



Ascofenitia Cherry Blossom 'Carmela'

Advanced: 3<sup>rd</sup> Place

Grown by Diane Bond





*Coelogyne flaccida*

Advanced: H M 1<sup>st</sup>

Grown by Eileen Jackson



*Cymbidium Pinata* x  
*Cymbidium Kirby Lesh*

Advanced: H M 2<sup>nd</sup> (tie)

Grown by Miki Ichiyanagi





*Sedirea japonica*

Advanced: H M 2<sup>nd</sup> (tie)

Grown by Barbara Ungersma



*Paph wenshanense*  
Fire Spots x  
*Paph wenshanense* Wow

Lancer Smith: 1<sup>st</sup> Place

Grown by Diane Bond





*Restrepia elegans*  
(striped variety)

Lancer Smith: HM 1<sup>st</sup>

Grown by Eileen Jackson



*Restrepia elegantula*

Lancer Smith: HM 2<sup>nd</sup>

Grown by Eileen Jackson





## **DVOS Officers and Board**

President: Diane Bond

Vice President: Peter Ansdell

Treasurer: Liz Charlton

Secretary: Brittany Miller

Board Member: Ulrike Ahlborn

Board Member: Daniel Neighbors

Board Member: George Su

Board Member: Henry Shaw

Board Member: Yunor Peralta

Board Member: Greg Scown

Past President: Marcia Hart

New Member Mentor: Eileen Jackson

Newsletter Editor: Barry Hart

Refreshment Chair: Helen Ratto

Membership and Website: Ulrike Ahlborn

Show Committee Chair: Eileen Jackson