

# Diablo View Orchid Society

*July might be our LAST Zoom meeting!*

## President's Letter



Greetings Orchid Friends,

July 4, 2021

The seasons continue moving on with my orchids. I love to go out to the orchids early in the morning to see what new developments have taken place. We are getting to the season where my *Gongora galeata* has a flush of blooms. It looks like it is going to outdo itself this year both size and numbers. I have two new plants that are going to bloom for the first time: *Lysudamuloa* Red Jewel 'Hilo Girl' and *Maxillaria fletcheriana*. They both have big beautiful buds and I am very excited. The *Phalaenopsis* are quietly blooming their hearts out in the corner. Yeah, I guess life is good. Keep on the lookout for bugs this time of year. I got myself a dandy infestation of mealy bug and finally had to treat the entire greenhouse. I hope you are all enjoying the new growth (and the surprises) as much as I am.

Peter found another fascinating speaker last month. I truly enjoyed Kristin Uthus' presentation on miniature orchids. I now have a list of plants that I am on the lookout for (including *Pleurothallis melanopoda*). I hear we are going to learn about *Bulbophyllum* this month. I am sure it will be wonderful. See details in Speakers Corner in this newsletter.

What's going on with your orchids? Take some pictures to share with all of us. Stay safe, healthy and happy. I am looking forward to seeing some of you next week for our California Orchids field trip. See last month's newsletter for details about it.

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
- Virus Test Kit Purchase
  - See details below
- Kiwi Bark Purchase
  - See details below

## Virtual Show and tell

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

## May 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 July.

## June 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 June Show and Tell plants (voting closes July 31):

Lancer Smith

<https://forms.gle/dGVDLcFdm6xzzSYyZ>

Novice

<https://forms.gle/kABUfmMiADH4FkCK6>

Intermediate

<https://forms.gle/aZARq38C1BwoRneV9>

Advanced

<https://forms.gle/1LpVYjitrFxbVuu9>

## July Show and Tell Submission

July entries are currently being accepted (thru July 31). 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 July 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/1F5BuSw91CKGrrAB0Sxgk105R0HdAwyKZ?usp=sharing>

If you have any problem with this, you can always mail it to me at [bondediane9@gmail.com](mailto:bondediane9@gmail.com).

## DVOS Fall Auction August 14 at the Contra Costa Water District Parking Lot

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.

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

## Agitest Plant Virus Test Kit Purchase

Cymbidium Mosaic Virus and Odontoglossum Ringspot Virus are commonly found in orchid collections. These viruses can cause loss of vigor and color breaks in blossoms. More importantly, they can travel to other plants in your collection via pests or contaminated tools. To protect your collection, it is prudent to test suspect plants and new introductions for the presence of these viruses.

This order will be placed soon so please contact Liz ([ko6xp51@gmail.com](mailto:ko6xp51@gmail.com)) if you are interested in getting some of these kits.

Manufactured by Regabio.. Detects Cymbidium Mosaic Virus and Odontoglossum Ringspot Virus  
Stable at room temperature. Officially good until August 2022; will probably last a few additional months  
Your price (including shipping):

**10 kits for \$45    25 kits for \$105    50 kits for \$185**

To reserve your kits, make out your check to **Diablo View Orchid Society** and mail to Liz Charlton, 104 Brandon Rd., Pleasant Hill, CA 94523.

**Checks must be received by Wednesday, July 7, 2021.** Any checks received after that date will be returned.

This is a good deal, everyone. Agdia virus tests cost at least \$5.00 each. (Probably more, since that was the 2020 price.)

## Kiwi Bark purchase

We will be purchasing a bulk order of Kiwi Bark instead of Orchiata this year. This order is going to be placed soon so please contact us if you are interested NOW (contact details below). **Checks must be received by Wednesday, July 7, 2021.** Pick up time and location will be communicated soon.

- Bag size: 50 liters
- Price per bag: \$38
- Sizes:
  - #2 Fine (1/8 - 1/4 ")
  - #3 Medium (1/4 - 1/2 ")
  - #4 Large (1/2 - 3/4 ")

To reserve your bark:

1. Send a message to **Diane Bond** ([bonddiane9@gmail.com](mailto:bonddiane9@gmail.com)) indicating the number of bags and sizes of bark that you want.
2. Make out your check for the amount owed (\$38 x total # of bags you want) to **Diablo View Orchid Society** and mail to Liz Charlton, 104 Brandon Rd., Pleasant Hill, CA 94523. **Checks must be received by Wednesday, July 7, 2021**

# ***SPEAKERS' CORNER July, 2021***

## ***About our June Meeting's speaker***

Greetings again everyone,

In her June presentation, Kristen Uthus took a different approach to many of our previous speakers. Rather than present dense technical information she was more philosophical, supporting her love of miniatures with an analysis of why she was so attracted to them. Her enthusiasm was infectious as she stressed that miniatures are no more difficult to cultivate than full-size orchids.

Kristen answered the question "What is a miniature?" by saying that there is no generally accepted definition of the term. Even the AOS has not opined on the subject. Various other expert sources have tried to set the size at anywhere from 6 inches, including inflorescence, to double that. There is also an even a more general definition out there "Something small for its genus." It was apparent as her presentation progressed that her own definition could be quite elastic.

As a preamble to discussing the various aspects of miniatures which should lead us to consider them for our collections Kristen, a biologist by training, explained how "smallness" arises naturally and how it can be created by breeding.

If you appreciate small things, Kristen said, the shapes of miniatures can be very attractive. For comparison we saw *Cattleya luteola*, *Dendrobium bellatulum* and others and compared them with their bigger relatives.

Lack of space, the bane of all orchid collectors, is where miniatures excel. To prove there is always room for more of them we saw the greenhouse at New World Orchids where multiple plants were hung one upon the other.

Our speaker pointed out that the foliage of miniatures is often very attractive even when the flowers are somewhat nondescript. She showed us many interesting leaf patterns and textures which occurred only in miniatures. We saw *Lepanthes calodictyon*, *Macodes petola* (one of the current "hot" Jewel Orchids) as well as miniature Maxillarias, Pleurothallis and other genera. There were orchids such as *Sedirea japonica* 'Minmaru Shima' with very attractive variegated foliage which rarely occurs in their full sized brethren. There were also unique leaf shapes including fanned, braided and pencil-shaped examples. Throughout, Kristen recommended plants for both under-waterers and over-waterers.

For lovers of flowers rather than form we were shown a host of miniatures with beautiful and sometimes dazzling blooms often bigger than the plants themselves. These included the well-known *Sophranitis coccinea*, which counter-intuitively should be watered less when the weather is *hot*, *Dendrobium jenkinsii* and *Dendrobium Hibiki* which was Kristen's all-time favorite hybrid *Dendrobium*. There were also *Aerangis*, *Draculas*,

Masdevallias and more all within her definition of miniature.

With respect to cultivation, Kristen told us that miniatures are no more tender than any other size of orchid. The rules for media, water and food are basically no different. Small pots are essential; she puts a Styrofoam peanut in the center of the roots and then wraps them in sphagnum before placing the plants in mesh pots. [An approach akin to the Japanese method with Neofinetias which are her specialty]. Throughout her talk and from the images of her own plants it was obvious that most miniatures can be mounted and that many prefer to be grown that way. As Kristen said at the beginning of her talk "If you are short of space, miniatures are for you!"

During her talk, Kristen Uthus touched lightly on Bulbophyllums. This month we go into them in depth.

## ***Our July Meeting's speaker***

Our virtual guest on **July 8**, at our usual time of **7:00PM PST** will be **Charles G. Wilson**. He will be joining us from Georgia to share his expertise on that largest of all genera with a presentation entitled simply **"The Bulbophyllums"**.

Charles has been an AOS member since 1981. He is currently a member of the Species Identification Task Force and chair of the Conservation Committee. He has been growing orchids for over 40 years and his special interests range from Bulbophyllums, Cattleyas and Coelogynes, to Dendrobiums and Paphs and about everything in-between!

Our speaker holds a Bachelor's and a Master's Degree in Zoology and Animal Behavior from Oklahoma State University. He is a past president and lifetime member of the Memphis Orchid Society and retired as Director of the Memphis Zoo in 2001.

Both he and his wife Susan are accredited judges with the Atlanta Judging Center. They live on a river east of Atlanta and enjoy travel, fishing and birding.



**To attend Charles' 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 **July 4**.
- 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-GWINFO**. 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 this month at <https://www.krullsmith.com/>. 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 continue to be 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.

**August** will be the first time in 16 months that DVOS computer screens will stay dark. As you all know, our annual auction, live this year (Hurrah!), will be the focus of intense attention that month. Our Auction Committee is working hard to ensure it is a great opportunity to acquire some excellent new plants; we all have room for at least one more don't we even if it is not a miniature? I know Eileen has been talking to many of you about supporting your favorite orchid society by adding a few choice plants from your own collection to the auction inventory. I have already designated some of my own for the event and hope you will do the same. The auction is our most important fundraising event each year without which the great speakers we have been fortunate enough to enjoy during our Zoom meetings might never have appeared.

Take care everyone,

**Until the 8th at 7:00PM**

*Peter*



## May 2021 Show and Tell Winners

*Encyclia alata*

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

Grown by Daniel Neighbors



*Epipactis gigantea*

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

Grown by Daniel Neighbors



*Phalaenopsis violacea* x  
*ambioensis*

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

Grown by Peter Ansdell



Siblings *Phalaenopsis* Orchid View Tabasco no. 1 x *Phalaenopsis* Mituo Sun Queen  
Novice: Honorable Mention  
Grown by Peter Ansdell





Brassolaeliocattleya Carolina Orange D'or 'Lenette' AM/AOS  
 Intermediate: 1<sup>st</sup> Place  
 Grown by Renate Johnson



Sophrolaeliocattleya Angel Eyes x Laeliocatonía Peggy San 'Gold Country' 4N  
 Intermediate: 2<sup>nd</sup> Place  
 Grown by Renate Johnson

*Sophrolaeliocattleya* Hsin  
Buu Lady 'Y-T'

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

Grown by Henry Shaw



*Leptotes* bicolor

Intermediate: HM

Grown by Henry Shaw





Paphiopedilum Julius

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

Grown by Diane Bond



Guarechea Black Comet 'Indigo Blue'

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

Grown by Diane Bond

*Bulbophyllum guttulatum*

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

Grown by Eileen Jackson



*Laeliocattleya*  
Fire Dance 'Patricia'

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

Grown by Miki Ichiyanagi





*Epidendrum* Green Hornet

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

Grown by Diane Bond



*Dendrobium loddigessii*

Lancer Smith: 1<sup>st</sup> (tie)

Grown by Marcia Hart



*Leptotes pohlitinocoi*

Lancer Smith: 1<sup>st</sup> (tie)

Grown by Peter Ansdell



*Euchile mariae*

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

Grown by Diane Bond



Dendrobium trigonopus

Lancer Smith: 3<sup>rd</sup> Place

Grown by Marcia Hart



## **DVOS Officers and Board**

President: Diane Bond

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Treasurer: Liz Charlton

Secretary: Brittany Miller

Board Member: Ulrike Ahlborn

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