

Diablo View Orchid Society

Zoom meeting!

President's Letter

November 5, 2021

Greetings Orchid Friends,

Well, we got our first rain of the year! It was quite early and VERY impressive. I hope it is the start of a wonderful wet winter. I think my Cymbidiums were having a great time. The relative humidity and kinda cool weather suits them just fine. My fall blooming Cymbidiums seem to be a bit late this year, but my spring blooming Cymbidiums are already starting to send up shoots. This is an exciting time of year with Cymbidiums. You get to go search for new spikes every week (yes- I AM a cheap date)! On another outdoor front- I have seen evidence of squirrels munching on outside orchids. I am keeping some of the plants that the Littauer family donated to the society outside. I saw a couple plants knocked over/chewed on. THAT is where I draw the line. I will allow them to eat most of my figs but if you get into my orchids, you are in trouble. The only pesticide that I use outside is horticultural oil. To try to discourage squirrels I heated ~ ¼ cup horticultural oil to its smoke point then added about 2 tsp cayenne pepper (I hear rodents don't like pepper). I allowed that to steep until it was cool then filtered it and used it as usual (diluted with 1 gallon water and spray on all surfaces of the plant). I know this is anecdotal, but it looks like the squirrels have left me alone and the orchids did not mind at all. The saga continues.....

We had another wonderful meeting last month. Our speaker never showed up due to technical difficulties in Hawaii. But everything is OK in Hawaii again and we all got a nice long period of time to just visit. I think we all enjoyed ourselves. Peter has (of course) taken care of us and arranged for Tom Mirenda to speak in November, so all is well. I am sure you are all looking forward to that.

Henry Shaw is going to be taking over the administration of our virtual show and tell so please keep those photos coming. We all want to see what you are growing. And- be nice to Henry!

Stay safe, healthy, and happy. I am looking forward to seeing you for our virtual trip through Africa with Tom Mirenda on November 11 at 7:00P.

Regards,

Diane

Now for my reminders and updates:

Proposed DVOS Officers and Board of Supervisors 2022

We will be voting for officers and board members at the November meeting. Please be aware of the proposed group and be prepared to vote November 11. If you would like to be added to the list, please contact me and I will get your name added to the candidates (bonddiane9@gmail.com)

• President	Diane Bond
• Vice President	Henry Shaw
• Secretary	Brittany Miller
• Treasurer	Liz Charlton
• Board Member	Ulrike Ahlborn
• Board Member	Patricia Bachett
• Board Member	Rachel Brinkerhoff
• Board Member	Barry Hart
• Board Member	Eileen Jackson
• Board Member	George Su
• Editor	Barry Hart
• Web Master	Ulrike Ahlborn
• Membership Chairperson	Ulrike Ahlborn
• Past President	Marcia Hart
• New Member Mentor	Eileen Jackson
• Show and Sale Chairperson	Eileen Jackson
• Hospitality	open
• Raffle	Marcia Hart
• Show and Tell Supervisor	open

Habenaria Grower

The topic of Habenarias came up during our conversations at the October meeting. I mentioned a talk that I heard given by a grower in the Washington DC area that was amazing. Her plants were huge and healthy. Her name is Sarah Hurdell. She has a Facebook page and personal blog at <https://www.facebook.com/askmeaboutmyplants/>. There are beautiful photos of her plants as well as some how-to information that I found very helpful. I know that I am going to be trying to follow Sarah's recommendations to see if I can get my Habenaria medusa to grow 3 feet tall!

***** Special Notice about the upcoming Napa Orchid Auction *****

Hello Peter,

I was wondering if you might send out this link to your members for our **November 10th** Napa orchid auction coming up really soon. You could add that if someone wanted me to be their agent in purchasing an orchid or two they should call or email my info on the first slide.

Thank you, Karen Olson

https://www.dropbox.com//AABovdDFXS6jrw12mfaww4R_R_DZ-eXCr78

SPEAKERS' CORNER November, 2021

Speakers' Corner is truly a quick read this month. As those of you who attended already know, last month's scheduled speaker Tom Mirenda could not join us because of unanticipated problems in Hawaii. When I was finally able to reach him later that night he wanted me to express his sincere apologies to everyone and we rescheduled his presentation for this month. For those of you who could not be with us in October we have repeated his biographical information and look forward to seeing you at this month's meeting.

**This month's
Speaker is
Tom
Mirenda**

who *will* be with
us **from Hawaii**
at 7:00PM

on **November,**
11, to lead us
through his
month



long **orchid safari** to many different locations throughout **Africa**. Tom has been cultivating plants since his early childhood. Originally trained as a marine biologist, he moved to Hawaii in his early 20s where he worked on the trophic [nutritional] relationships between the denizens of coral reefs in the northwestern Hawaiian Islands (Midway and French Frigate Shoals).

Realizing he was better suited to horticultural pursuits he took positions at the New York Botanical Garden, Brooklyn Botanical Garden and at the Greentree [Whitney] Estate in Long Island where he cared for a first class orchid collection. Eventually, Tom accepted the Orchid Collection Specialist position at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington DC where he cultivated and curated its 8000+ plant collection for 17 years. In better times, the Smithsonian collection was used to create months long educational exhibits visited by millions of visitors each year. Last fall, Tom left the security of the Smithsonian to take a leadership position at the Hawaii Tropical Botanical Garden, a jewel on the lush Hamakua coast just north of Hilo. What Tom found there was an orchid paradise where myriad spectacular orchids of all types, both lowland and montane, species and hybrids, seem to thrive when simply placed thoughtfully in the trees in the landscape.

Tom has contributed articles to ORCHIDS magazine for many years and has developed an international following as a writer, speaker and advocate for orchid conservation. Three years ago Tom co-authored "The Book of Orchids" with two scientists from Kew. He has done speaking tours in the British isles for the last three summers and presented on conservation topics at the last three World Orchid Conferences and several IOC and AOC conventions. Tom was a founding member of the North American Orchid Conservation Center and continues his support of orchid conservation there and around the world.

Tom Mirenda believes that ultimately the concept of growing orchids in a garden settings will be a viable model for orchid conservation world-wide and that it is only with the cooperation of botanical garden professionals, commercial growers, academia and committed orchid collectors and backyard growers, that orchids will survive the vicissitudes of climate change.

To attend Tom's delayed 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 will have been upgrades since our last meeting.
- RSVP to padvos@attglobal.net not later than **November 7**.
- 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-TMINFO**. You do not need to respond to that message.

As usual, there will be a drawing from members present for gift certificates provided by DVOS to be used this month at <https://www.calorchid.com/> who carry African species in their inventory. The winners will be announced during the evening. If you are a winner, you will receive your certificate and redemption instructions by email.

Some files referred to in past editions of Speakers' Corner continue to be available for members' personal viewing. Should you be interested in any of them, just send me a message. Here is the current list:

- "*Shangri-La*", a documentary on Yunan, China from 2008.
- "*The Judge, the Thief, the Hunter and the Black Orchid*", a 2010 documentary movie directed by Rich Walton featuring Fred Clarke and other orchid luminaries.
- "*The Culture of Hybrid Phragmipediums*", a slide show based on the knowledge of Leo Schordje.
- "*10 Species of Orchids you can Grow Outside*", a slide show 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 a virtual presentation by Rick Lockwood.
- "*Honey I Shrunk the Orchids*" a virtual presentation by Kristen Uthus.

You may remember from the competition we ran in August that Vandas were one of two main genus not covered by any of our virtual speakers. We had hoped to get Martin Motes, a Vanda specialist, to speak to us from Florida on that topic but it was not possible to put it together. He apologized for having to turn us down but said he had something on the web that might stand in for him. Those of you who sent in an RSVP in October have already seen his video, but for everyone else I can honestly say it made my day when I saw it.

Hopefully, it will do the same for you. After

viewing <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gIrMs6eseVk> twice, I am even more regretful that we could not put Martin on our schedule. It is a "rough cut" video of an informal talk he gave at his nursery which shows him to be both erudite and humorous - a great combination. It includes ideas of value to any of us not only to Vanda *aficionados*.

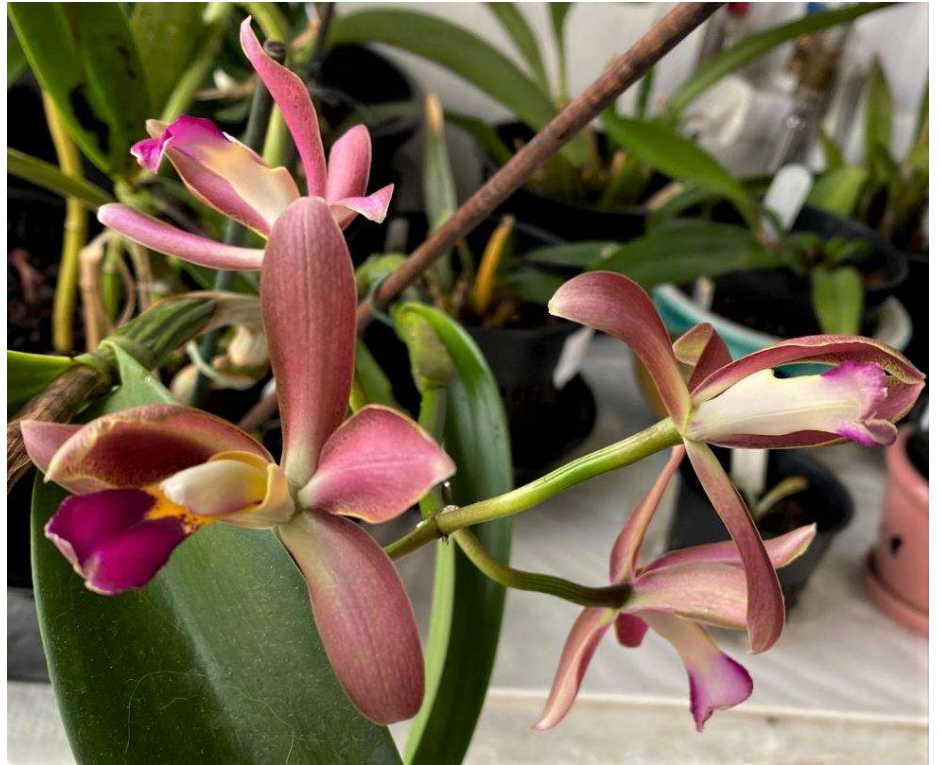
That's all from a subdued Speakers' Corner for this month, I look forward to seeing you again on the 11th for our virtual trip to Africa.

Santé,

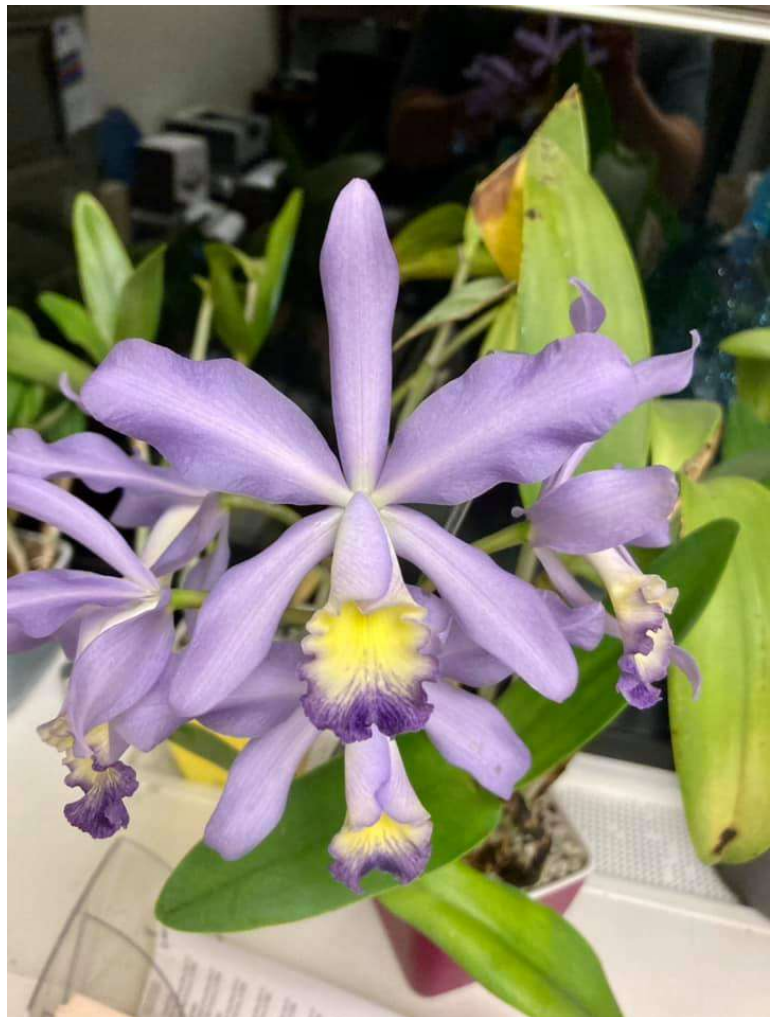
Peter

September 2021 Show and Tell Winners

Cattleya Peter Fleurens
'Mem Florafarm' HCC
Novice: 1st Place (only
entry in category)
Grown by Lisa Perla



Cattlianthe Minerva 2021-01
Intermediate: 1st Place
Grown by George Su



Brassolaeliocattleya Cherry Suisse
'Kauai' HCC/AOS
Intermediate: 2nd Place
Grown by Linda Castleton



Laeliocatonia Happy Face 'H&R'
Intermediate: 3rd Place
Grown by Renate Johnson



Rhyncholaeliocattleya Crispin
Rosales 'Sandra Spearman'
HCC/AOS
Intermediate: Honorable
Mention
Grown by Linda Castleton



Cattlianthe Sagarik Wax (C.
Summer land Girl x Ctt.
Chocolate Drop)
Advanced: 1st place
Grown by Tom Pickford



Rhyncholaelia digmyana
Advanced: 2nd place (tie)
Grown by Marcia Hart



Habenaria Raingreens Ice
Bird
Advanced: 2nd place (tie)
Grown by Miki Ichiyanagi



Stanhopea tigrina 'Hanging Gardens'

Advanced: 3rd place

Grown by Tom Pickford

No entries were received in September in the Lancer Smith category.



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