

Diablo View Orchid Society

Zoom meeting! December 9 at 7 PM

President's Letter

December 3, 2021

Greetings Orchid Friends,

I hope you all are enjoying the holiday season. It was a sad sight when the board finally decided that we should not hold the annual holiday party again this year. It seems like we are so close! But we need to continue to be careful with everyone's health. I do have to say that I will be very happy to be able to see you all in person. Speaking of seeing each other in person- we are going ahead with plans for the DVOS orchid show in February. See details below and get ready to participate! I am already out talking to my plants. Some need to hurry up, others need to put on the brakes. There are a lot of things that need to go right for plants to be ready for the show. Get out there and get your plants ready. I want to see what everyone is growing.

The meeting last month featured Tom Mirenda's presentation on his recent trip to Africa. I keep thinking that Peter can't find anyone more fascinating and then he does. Tom was certainly worth waiting for. Now he has several of us considering a trip to Africa! I can't wait to learn about jewel orchids this month.

Stay safe, healthy, and happy. I am looking forward to seeing you for our introduction to jewel orchids with Nicholas Rust on December 9 at 7:00PM.

Regards,

Diane

Now for my reminders and updates:

Voting- DVOS Officers and Board of Supervisors 2022

We are going to vote for officers and board members electronically this year. The voting form will be accepting votes until **Saturday December 11**. I ask you ALL to quickly take a moment **to go to the link below** and approve the proposed slate of officers and board members. The slate list is on the next page.

<https://forms.gle/dXNkR78zfxNy3fb77>

Proposed slate

• 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

Virtual Show and tell

It is a new month. We need to see what you have blooming in December! Take pictures of your blooms and send them in, and please vote for your fellow member's submissions for last month.

November Show and Tell Voting

We have a beautiful collection of plants this month. It will be difficult to decide how to vote. Make your preferences known and vote! Voting closes on New Year's Eve, January 31st.

Novice

<https://forms.gle/ujeee1DJBXTWmyuaA>

Intermediate

<https://forms.gle/KFDbDkD9hN12UKZf9>

Advanced

<https://forms.gle/JXycsDCEX7SPmw776>

Lancer Smith

<https://forms.gle/A7FnrFGdtZJu4psE8>

November Show and Tell Submissions

November entries are currently being accepted (thru December 31st). We all want to see those beautiful blooms! It's not hard to participate. Take a quick pic with your camera or phone and upload it to the website/folder listed below.

PLEASE REMEMBER – only submit photos of **YOUR OWN PLANTS, YOUR OWN PHOTOS**.

- All images should be labeled with the name of the plant, the name of the grower, and the experience level of the grower (novice, intermediate, advanced, or master). This information can be in the name of the file or you can label the photo itself. If you don't know what experience level you should choose, contact Eileen Jackson (eileen.jackson@att.net) and she will ask you a few questions and assign you a level.
- If your plant is eligible for the Lancer Smith award (the entire plant is 6 inches or less) please indicate that in the name of the file or on the photo itself.
- Drop your entries into this folder:
<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1UwM9kNXSnwk29maoDcxuPGwd2AiRU42W?usp=sharing>

If you have problem uploading your images, you can always mail them to me at hfshaw@sbcglobal.net.

SPEAKERS' CORNER December, 2021

Last month's speaker, Tom Mirenda, took us on his 2019 whirlwind tour on the African continent. He had originally been invited, as an AOS judge, to the annual show of the Kenya Orchid Society, the oldest in Africa. Through a remarkable turn of events which he explained, he extended his trip to include two additional countries both of which held there annual shows during his visit. The length of his presentation was more than offset by its fascinating content supported by innumerable photographs. Of necessity, this summary can only offer brief selections from the mass of information his peregrinations provided.

Tom's first stop was on the island of Mauritius [In the Indian Ocean but geographically part of Africa.] He showed us the Black River Gorges National Park (Petrin) and explained

its work and the damage done to the natural environment of Mauritius by the sugar industry. [Sugar growing was introduced in the 17th century and is still a major portion of the island's exports.] Tom explained how <5% of native habitats remain with much of the island overrun by invasive species. We saw the dry and scrubby landscape within the park and yet found *Angraecum* such as *pectinatum*, *cucullatum* and *mauritanium*, *Bulbophyllum occultum* and *Cryptopus elatus*. The *Cryptopus*, Tom explained, will only grow with *all* its roots totally exposed and if potted or otherwise constricted it will expire. We visited the Orchid Society of Mauritius annual show where the plants exhibited had been beautifully grown and presented. Highlights included *Ionopsis utricularioides*, *Guarianthes skinnerii* and *arantiaca*, *Trichoglottis smithii* and *Phaius villosus*. Before leaving Mauritius, which Tom mentioned a number of times reminded him of Kauai, we took a quick tour of The National Botanical Gardens, famous for its collection of palm trees including *Corypha umbraculifera*, the Talipot palm, with its gigantic leaves.

Our speaker's next stop was his original destination, Nairobi, Kenya where he found the climate surprisingly temperate and where plants seemed to be sold on every roadside. He showed us his host's shade house which was in a temperature "sweet spot" with *Vandas*, *Cymbiums* and *Oncidiums* growing happily side by side. We also saw a magnificent example of *Arpophyllum giganteum* and the extraordinary *Rangaeria amaniensis* a Kenya native.

Before attending the Kenya show, Tom took us with him on a true safari to the Maasai Mara Reserve where he had just missed the famous annual Wildebeest migration. Our disappointment was more than compensated for by the many different animals he was able to show us together with the few local flowering plants he saw in the heavily grazed area. The orchid show itself was *not* an anti-climax and we saw many excellently grown orchids including *Angraecum tridactylites*, *Phaius pulcher*, a magnificent, awarded *Polystachya paniculata* seedling in an unusual coral shade and examples of *Angraecopsis* and *Cyrtorchis* among others.

We also visited Tom's final orchid show of the trip, the South African triennial national orchid show. It was difficult to pick a favorite from the many in that display including *Dendrobiums transparens*, *senile* and the 1919 hybrid Gattin Sun-ray, numerous *Angraecoides* and *Aerangis modesta*. After the show, our speaker drove over multiple days to Cape Town showing us numerous species of wild flowers *en route*. We saw more native flora during his visit to the botanical gardens in Pietermaritzburg which held yet more photogenic African flowers including *Brunsvigias* with their 2ft wide inflorescences, *Stapeliads* and *Watsonias*. Tom celebrated his final arrival in Cape Town with a beautiful shoreline image of Table Mountain.

We went on a side trip to Cape Town's Kirstenbosch National Botanical Garden [Which is home to some 7000 species of native plants] including *Streptocarpella*, *Streptosolen*, *Protea cynaroides* and the remarkable cone bearing *Welwitschia mirabilis* [with separate male and female plants] which grows in the Namibian desert and produces only two ever-growing leaves during a lifetime which is estimated to range from 500 to 1500 years.

Since this *was* an orchid safari, Tom had to pay a special visit to the fynbos ecosystem part of the Cape Floral Region and famous for its exceptional biodiversity. [It is, in part, a UNESCO world heritage site.] There he found an abundance of new plants and orchids.

The orchids we saw included *Ceratandras*, *Evotellas*, *Satyriums*, *Bonatea speciosa* and the unusual *Holothrix*. There were also many *Disas* including eye-catching blue species and last but not least Tom's holy grail *Bartholina burmanniana*.

Tom Mirenda ended his presentation with a brief visit to the Central African Shade House network which is researching and conserving unknown African orchids: followed by a virtual firework display of plants in bloom from a previous trip to the continent. He made it very apparent he has much more to see in Africa on his next visit. After his talk, some members were only too happy to get ready to go with him!

Our final speaker for 2021, Nicholas Rust, will lead us through the mysteries of the most talked about orchid group this Holiday season - jewel orchids. His talk, perhaps reflecting the modern **Introduction into the Wild World of Jewel Orchids**" and will be at our usual time of **7:00PM PST on Thursday December 9**.

Nicholas is an up-and-coming hybridizer in the orchid community, seriously growing and studying orchids for about 7 years. His orchid passion arose during the end of high school when a Mini *Phalaenopsis* was gifted to him. Like a flame to gasoline, this gift quickly pulled him into the diverse world of orchids. Shortly after his interests were formed, he began exploring the culture of several unique genera of terrestrial orchids. He now specializes in *Habenaria* and other related genera, jewel orchids, and *Bulbophyllum*,



After studying biochemistry and molecular biology throughout college, Nicholas approached his orchids with the same scientific perspective he used while working in a research lab. This led to an interest in the entire growth cycle of orchids and the start of his own hybridization program which focuses on terrestrial orchids. His aim is to use rarely cultivated species and distinct variations of common species to create truly exceptional shapes and colors that will pave new directions for unique hybrids.

To attend Nick'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 not later than **December 5**.
- 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-NRINFO**. You do not need to respond to that message.

To add extra excitement to our final random drawing of the year for members present at the meeting we will award double the usual number of DVOS \$50 gift certificates. The winners will be announced during the evening. As usual, if you are a winner you will receive your certificate and redemption information by e-mail. This month, we have selected *three* exceptional vendors with whom you may use your certificate:

<https://andysorchids.com/> where you may choose from his almost infinite inventory of orchids mounted or in baskets. Andy often has special sales which could definitely increase the buying power of your certificate. If you do not see what you want, he probably has one somewhere! Ask him.

<https://www.blackjungleterrariumsupply.com/> where you will find one of the best inventories of jewel orchids.

<https://www.chadwickorchids.com/> where you can put your certificate towards that special heirloom Cattleya you promised yourself for Christmas.

On the subject of Cattleyas and Chadwick & Son, in recognition of the splendid stream of images many of our veteran Cattleya growers have provided for our virtual Show and Tell brightening the often dark days of the past two years, there will be a separate drawing from those veterans present (you know who you are) for a signed copy of the recently published "**The Classic Cattleyas**" - **2nd Edition** by Arthur and Art Chadwick provided by Speakers' Corner.

As we come to the end of this second volume of Speakers' Corner, I am reminded of the number of times I have seen the name of this newsletter spelled "Speakers Corner" or "Speaker's Corner" rather than with the s'. Why such pedantry? Well, that goes back to my English roots again. No, not because that was the way I was taught during my rather old-fashioned schooling, but because I have always been attracted to the freedoms implied by a location in Hyde Park in London which has long been known as "Speakers' Corner". I must admit I was not aware until recently, that until as late as 1999 *free speech* was not exactly that at Speakers' Corner despite the many famous historical figures who had taken to their soap boxes there. In that year a High Court decision removed all but one of the *unofficial* restrictions on speech at "The Corner" permitting "...the irritating, the contentious, the eccentric, the heretical, the unwelcome, and the provocative, as long as such speech does not tend to provoke violence". Close enough!

That finally explained, it is time for me to put my Speakers' Corner keyboard away for the last time as I hand over the reins to my successor Henry Shaw. I am delighted Henry has decided to become our new vice president and have a very secure feeling that as we return to our long awaited live meetings he will be the right person at the right time. I wish him every success.

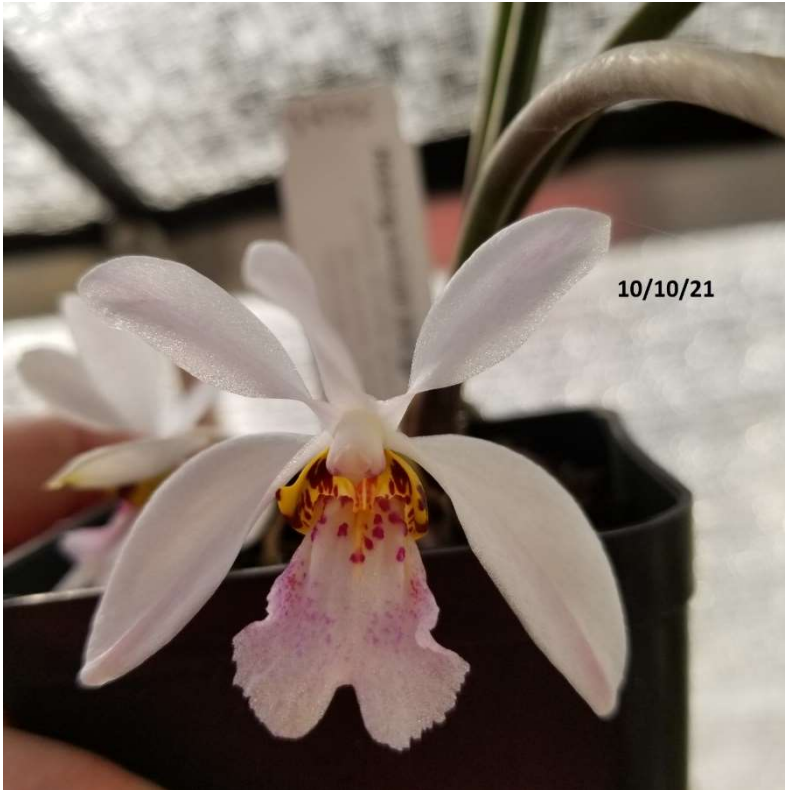
The virtual speakers this newsletter has been able to introduce have been, perhaps, one of the few positives to come from two difficult years for all of us. The ability to introduce and learn from guests who we might never have been able to entertain live has given me much pleasure. That said, even the virtual meetings themselves would not have been possible without the continuous support of my colleagues on our Board. They have my sincere thanks.

And that's all from me until we meet in the wild world of jewel orchids on the 9th.

Stay safe and well,

Peter

October 2021 Show and Tell Winners



Holcoglossum wangii
Novice: 1st Place
Grown by Carol Basset



Dendrobium Chocolate Chip
Novice 2nd Place
Grown by Rachael Brinkerhoff



Rhyncattleanthe Netrasiri Starbright
var. Spectacular
Novice 3rd Place
Grown by Rachael Brinkerhoff



Wilsonara Eye Candy Pinkie
Novice Honorable Mention
Grown by Rachael Brinkerhoff



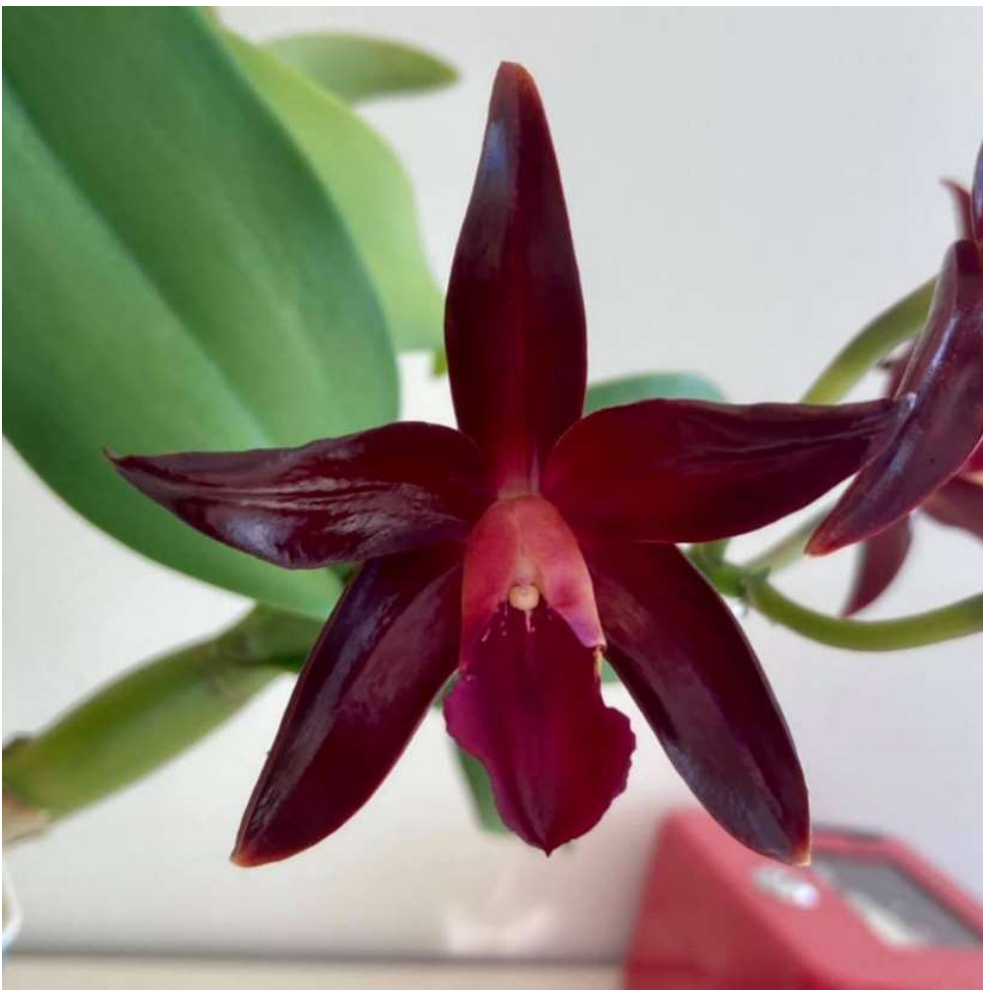
Phalaenopsis violacea var.
sumatrana 'Dark Devil' x
self
Novice Honorable Mention
Grown by Ulrike Ahlborn



Brassolaeliocattleya Waianae
Leopard x *Cattleytonia* Why Not
'Orange'
Novice Honorable Mention
Grown by Rachael
Brinkerhoff



Cattlianthe Mary Elizabeth
Bohn 'Royal Flare'
Intermediate 1st Place
Grown by George Su



Cattlianthe Chocolate
Drop 'Volcano Queen'
Intermediate 2nd Place
Grown by George Su



Rhyncholaeliocattleya
Kensie Kira Akatsuka
'Volcano Queen'
Intermediate 3rd Place
Grown by George Su



Gomesea coloratum
Advanced 1st Place
Grown by Sue Davis



Ascocenda Princess Mikasa 'Sapphire'
Advanced 2nd Place
Grown by Eileen Jackson



Cattleya Sierra Doll x
Circle Spirit
Advanced 3rd Place
(tie)
Grown by Ted
McClellan

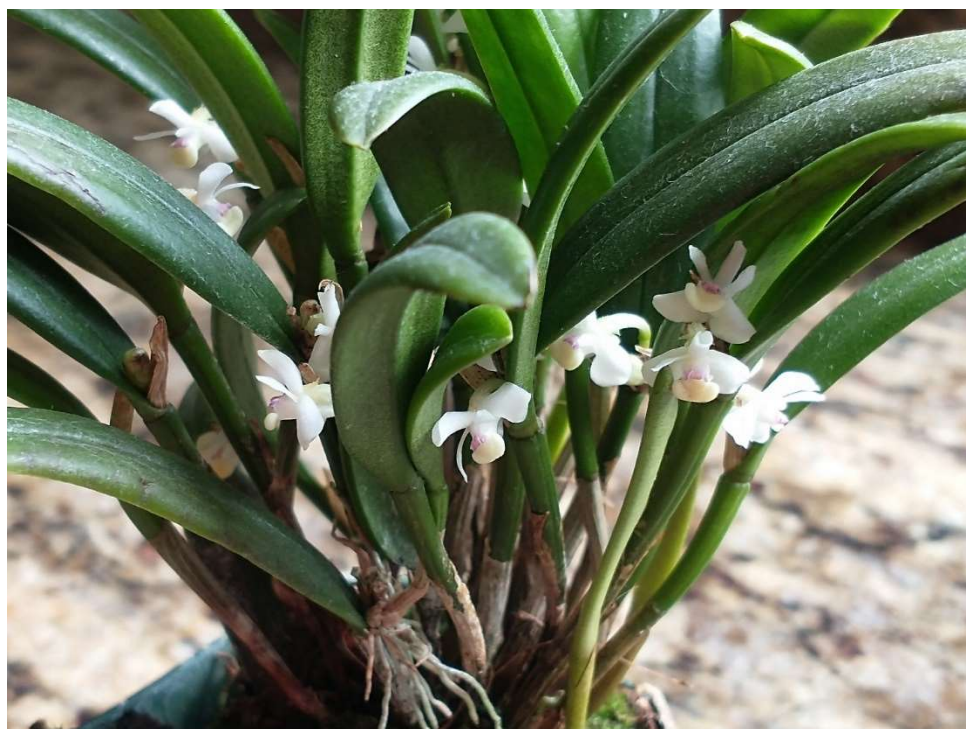


Habeneria Medusae

Habeneria medusae
Advanced 3rd Place (tie)
Grown by Marcia Hart



Sophronitis pygmaea
Lancer Smith 1st Place
Grown by Sue Davis



Cadetia taylori
Lancer Smith 2nd Place
Grown by Ulrike
Ahlborn

2021 Outgoing 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

Be sure you vote for the 2022 Incoming Board!