

# Diablo View Orchid Society

## Zoom Meetings Continue

**Diablo View Orchid Society (DVOS)**

**Virtual monthly meeting for April 2022**

**April 14, 2022**

**Zoom meeting starts at 7:00pm PST**

***Orchids have Pedigrees: The history of orchid breeding***

**Dr. Robert J. Griesbach, USDA-ARD (retired)**

DVOS monthly meetings will continue to be held in a “virtual” (Zoom) format through at least April 2022. Once again, we are taking advantage of this format to let us hear from another noted orchid expert, Dr. Robert Griesbach, who will speak on the history of orchid breeding, a topic with which he is intimately familiar.



Dr. Griesbach earned a B.S from DePaul University in 1977, and a Ph.D. in genetics from Michigan State University in 1980. After receiving his Ph.D., he joined the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Agricultural Research Service (USDA-ARS), retiring after 40 years of service in 2020. He spent his first 25 years at USDA-ARS executing a broad-based research program in plant genetics, focusing on the genetics of plant breeding and of flower coloration. During his last 15 years at USDA-ARS, he was the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Technology Transfer, providing leadership on policies, procedures, and programs to facilitate the adoption of USDA research results by the private sector.

In 2006, he was elected a Fellow of the American Society for Horticultural Science for his research contributions to horticulture. In 2010, he received the American Horticulture Society's H. Marc Cathey Award for his scientific contributions to gardening and horticulture, and in 2020, the Federal Laboratory Consortium awarded him its Harold Metcalf Award for his contributions to Federal technology transfer.

He has been an active member of the American Orchid Society since 1979, serving as an Accredited Judge, member and chair of the Research Committee, past-Trustee, and past-President. He is also a member of the Royal Horticultural Society's Orchid Registration Authority Committee. He regularly serves as a mentor to graduate students, as well as middle- and high-school students. He has been an instructor at various workshops his office conducted in high schools, providing a primer on genetics, and presenting his popular talk, *Thanking the USDA for Dinner*.

Beyond his scientific achievements, Dr. Griesbach served as an unofficial historian for the USDA and has published several papers on the history of the ARS's scientific research, including a 2013 USDA publication describing the highlights of the first 150 years of the Agency's programs for introducing and breeding new plants, which, although it does not mention orchids, is a fascinating read.

To attend Dr. Griesbach's presentation, please follow the instructions below.

- **RSVP to [dvosshowandtell@gmail.com](mailto:dvosshowandtell@gmail.com) no later than April 13<sup>th</sup>.**
- After you RSVP, you will receive the sign-in link and other final information before the meeting. Be sure to look for an email message from the e-mail address above. You do not need to respond to that message.
- 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 are frequent updates.

# The President's Letter

Greetings Orchid Friends!

April 8, 2022

It was wonderful getting to see some of you at the greenhouse and garden tour. It looked like everyone was having fun. I just wish I could have gotten out to everyone else's places! Well, you can only be in one place at a time. We owe a huge debt of gratitude to our greenhouse wrangler Marcia Hart (and of course Barry also!). Team Hart organized and pulled off a great event. We had great gardens and greenhouses:

Host- Marcia and Barry Hart with docents - Phyllis Arthur, Claire Conger and Carol Basset

Host- Eileen Jackson with docent Miki Ichiyanagi

Host- Cheryl Phillipson with docents - Helen Ratto and Kathy McCrarey

Host- Jim Wert with docents Henry Shaw, Lisa Chow and David Chow

Host- Sung Lee with docents Rachel Brinkerhoff and Ellen Muir

Host- Diane Bond and Bob Nutter with docent Pat Bacchetti

Thank you to everyone who participated. A good time was had by all. We attracted new members and made some money for the society! I hope we will have a more complete report out about the tours next month. I think everyone is exhausted and still recovering from the weekend.

I will be on vacation during this month's meeting, so you are completely in Henry's capable hands. I will try to peek in if I can find a good enough Wi-Fi signal. It should be fascinating. A solid understanding of orchid breeding gives us insight into the plants we are seeing at shows now.

Have a good April. Enjoy those cymbidiums and early summer cattleyas.

Stay safe and healthy!

Regards,

*Diane*

Sacramento Orchid Society is having their show and sale **THIS WEEKEND!**

April 9, 10 from 10AM – 5 PM

At the Scottish Rite Masonic Center

6151 H Street

Sacramento, CA

## For those who didn't see last week-end's fabulous gardens and greenhouses, here is what the owners said about their places:

### #1: Diane Bond's House

I remember going to Rod McClellans Acres of Orchids in the '70s and seeing the ladies working in the flow hoods cloning and germinating orchids. I decided that was what I wanted to do. Well, I never got to work at McClellans, but I did enjoy a happy career in plant molecular biology (yes, I spent many hours working in those flow hoods!).



My orchid collections rose and fell with all our traveling as itinerant scientists. We have had a greenhouse at most of our homes since leaving California so of course we built one in 1997 when we moved to the hills behind the Oakland Zoo. It was a nice little greenhouse but it grew to be like a cave. In 2019 we replaced it with a larger greenhouse.

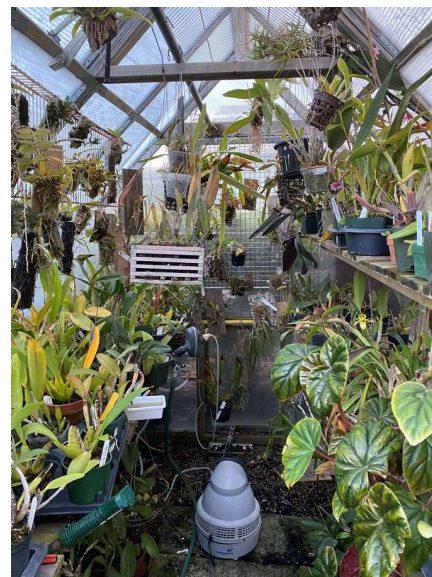
Now I have two layers of growing space because I can hang plants! The old greenhouse is still in use. I grow my cymbidiums there. They are very happy with the change of venue and have rewarded me with lush growth and blooms. And I haven't even gotten to the garden.....Come see for yourself!



### #2: Barry and Marcia Hart's House

What we love about our garden is having a great view from every window. We have flowers and edibles throughout the year. Although we do not have a large lot (only .18 acres), people are always amazed to learn that we have 20 fruit trees

The first thing you will see as you enter the backyard is the greenhouse. We've had it for 15 years. Before the greenhouse, we kept our orchids in a shower under lights. We weren't terribly successful, so we graduated to the greenhouse. It's only 6 by 8 feet, but the automatic fogger, misting system and heater keep it comfortable for the orchids. In addition, we also have quite a few orchids that live outside all year. So, as you walk around the house, keep turning your head because they are on the ground, on shelves and hanging in trees.



Marcia spends many hours every day working and enjoying the yard. Barry makes compost pretty much all year around and also has a worm farm that gives us castings to make worm tea for our plants.





### #3: Eileen Jackson's House

I have grown roses for about 30 years in my Vallejo garden. At one time I had about 120 roses but over time found I could not take care of them all, partly because I now had hundreds of orchids competing for my time and energy. I now have about 60 roses, some in the ground and many in pots.



My orchid addiction began about 18 years ago. I converted a spare room into an orchid room. Then I built a small greenhouse and moved them all out there. It was full before the end of the month. I managed for some years making space wherever I could, but when I retired, I treated myself to another slightly larger greenhouse which also is full. Many plants come inside the greenhouse for the winter so it gets very crowded, but as the nights warm up, I can put many of them back outside. The wonderful thing about having so many orchids is that I have something in bloom all the time. Many of my orchids are fragrant, in fact I probably have more fragrant orchids than roses.

Do come and see my greenhouses and my garden. I will have some pieces of stanhoepa to give away to anyone that can wrestle some from a huge plant that I cannot handle anymore.

### #4: Cheryl Phillipson's House

I always wanted a greenhouse but did not have enough room to build one. Then Sue Davis called me and said, "Come look at this yard!". So, I took her advice and at the house there was a 25ft x 40ft concrete slab with the word GREENHOUSE written all over it. So, I bought the house.

When it comes to my garden it's a work in progress. I have created everything you see. The yard was just weeds and debris everywhere. I am at peace with all the flowers around me.



## #5: Jim Wert's House

I built my greenhouse about 12 years ago from mostly used construction supplies. As I have worked construction all my life, I am stunned at the waste on these sites. Being a re-user of materials, I brought home redwood from a wheelchair ramp taken apart on a project. Posts, beams and bench tops came from a variety of projects. The glass is what put me over the top. The single pane tempered glass came from a library glass wall which was replaced over a weekend when the library was closed. The next day I was on site, saw the glass and thought to myself, "Hey that would make a nice greenhouse!" Later in the day I went back to the stack of glass, measured it, spoke with the superintendent who was happy to give it to me and get it reused. I took my list of measurements and was up until 2AM that night designing my greenhouse. I couldn't cut the glass because it would shatter, so I had to use the pieces in exactly the sizes which I had. The door was reused from cabinets built in the 1920's, which were being removed and thrown away to provide new storage.

Not only were there all these constraints, I had a tiny space in my backyard in which to fit it, between a garage and a raised planter bed with fruit trees in it. Long and short, it fit perfectly and I am happy to have it for my orchids!



## #6: Sung Lee's House

I started growing orchids in 1990 after I met Anna Chai at Peninsula Orchid Society orchid show. Pauline Braultt who was one of old timers of DVOS was moving and wanted to sell her greenhouse. I bought it!

That greenhouse filled up fast. However, my neighbor objected to it and reported me to the HOA. I paid a monthly fine for two years and then decided to move to Dublin.

The HOA of our new place was OK when we chose a better looking greenhouse from Charlie's catalog. It costed \$10k. But other issues popped up. Orchids were slowly dying. Almost all the Masdevalias were wiped out in the first year! Over 100 of them. I thought it was the heat (almost 100 every day!). Finally, I found out it was the water that was bad.

I installed a Reverse Osmosis system. But now the water was too pure! Then I started adding MSU fertilizer. It was getting better. It took 5 years to get it all dialed in. Finally, we moved to Castro Valley after 10 years in Dublin. That was 6 years ago.

What a difference! EBMUD water is perfect and I started seeing differences in the orchids from day one. I started collecting Masdevalias again. Four years ago, I got into beekeeping and I now manage over 60 hives at 7 different locations.

This year, I decided to take better care of my orchid collection which had been neglected for three years. I didn't kill many but they didn't really thrive. So I did a major cleaning of my greenhouse and also got my own act together.

I welcome you all and take your time to look around and if you find anything you like please let me know I will be more than happy to divide them





## **Virtual Show and tell**

It's April and spring has sprung! Please share images of your blooms with your fellow DVOS members. As you know, we are still meeting "virtually", so please take advantage of this online opportunity to show us what your plants are doing. Take pictures and send them in for others to enjoy.

As always, please vote for your fellow members' submissions from last month.

## **Voting on March submissions**

Once again, we have a beautiful and diverse collection of plants, especially in the Intermediate and Advanced categories. Make your preferences known and vote! Voting closes on April 30, 2022. Links to the voting forms are given below.

### **Novice:**

<https://forms.gle/sP1LM6q5c9U7DbB6A>

### **Intermediate:**

<https://forms.gle/nPj68NYtsKGjGFxS7>

### **Advanced:**

<https://forms.gle/qtfWkYSPgH4c1sXT6>

### **Master:**

<https://forms.gle/J6kt2EVhLPQJbVhMA>

### **Lancer Smith:**

<https://forms.gle/AaA1bfM2uWGJCu566>

## Submitting April 2022 Show and Tell Entries

We're ready to accept submissions of your April (thru April 30, 2022). Don't hold out on us; we want to see those beautiful blooms! It's not hard to participate.

Take a picture with your camera or phone and upload it to the website/folder listed below. Please remember -- only submit photos of **YOUR OWN PLANTS, and 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.
- Ideally, your filename should look like: [Category/experience]\_[Plantname]\_[Grower].jpg, *e.g.*, Intermediate\_Leptotes bicolor\_Henry Shaw.jpg.
- If you have any questions as to what grower category you are in, contact Eileen Jackson ([eileen.jackson@att.net](mailto:eileen.jackson@att.net)). 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" or less in any dimension, excluding roots and inflorescences) please indicate that in the name of the file (Category = LS) or on the photo itself. Growers of any experience can submit to the Lancer Smith category.
- Plants can only be entered into one category per month.
- Drop/upload your entries into the appropriate subfolder in this folder: [https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1Y3zb0Z-ptzdXpT\\_0tyGnrI2Z4zOq1U4-?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1Y3zb0Z-ptzdXpT_0tyGnrI2Z4zOq1U4-?usp=sharing)

As always, if you have questions or problem uploading your images, you can e-mail me at [dvosshowandtell@gmail.com](mailto:dvosshowandtell@gmail.com)

*Henry*



## February Show and Tell Winners

SLC Tutankamen  
Novice: 1<sup>st</sup> Place (tie)  
Grown by Francine Donner



RLC Volcano Plum 'Kilauea'  
Novice: 1<sup>st</sup> Place (tie)  
Grown by Rachel Brinkerhoff



Dend Peter Shen x Little Atro  
Novice: 2<sup>nd</sup> Place (tie)  
Grown by Francine Donner



BLC Bryce Canyon  
'Splendiferous' x 'SLC Circle  
of life 'Cherry Rose'  
Novice: 2<sup>nd</sup> Place (tie)  
Grown by Francine Donner





RLC Sharon King 'Volcano Queen'

Novice: 3<sup>rd</sup> Place (tie)

Grown by Rachel Brinkerhoff



Dend falcorostrum

Novice: 3<sup>rd</sup> Place (tie)

Grown by Pat Bacchetti



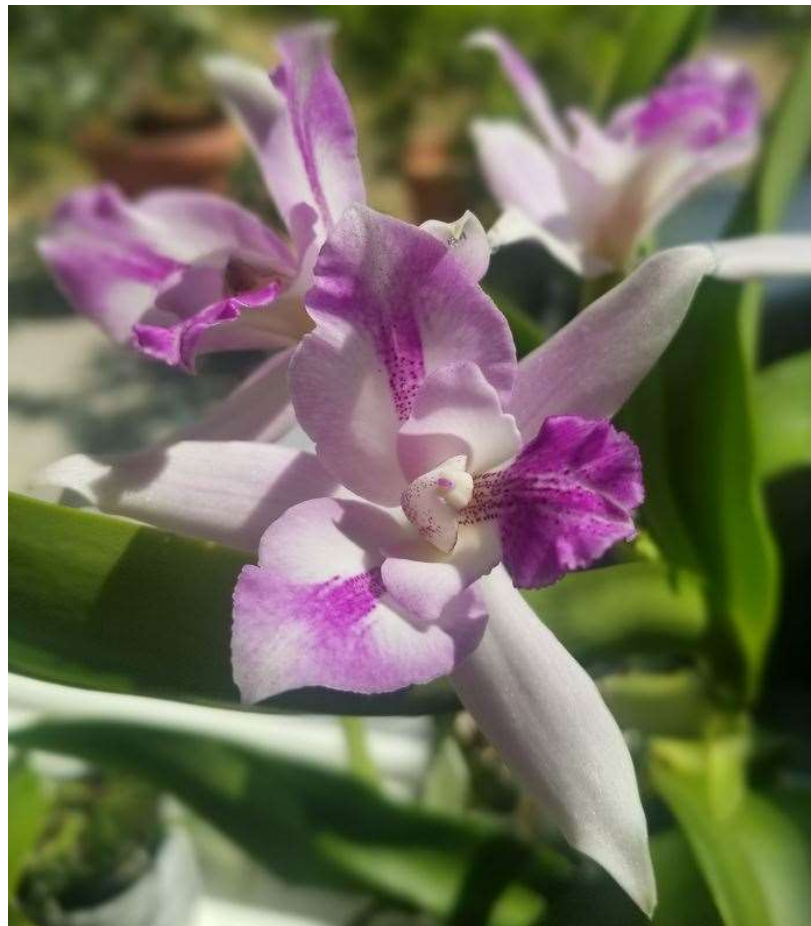
BLC Solar Flare 'Paradise'  
Novice: 3<sup>rd</sup> Place (tie)  
Grown by Rachel Brinkerhoff



*Arpophyllum giganteum*  
Intermediate: 1<sup>st</sup> Place  
Grown by Henry Shaw



Caulocattleya Ethel's Paradise  
'In Kalapana'  
Intermediate: 2<sup>nd</sup> Place  
Grown by Henry Shaw



SLC Hsin Buu Lady 'Y-T'  
Intermediate: 3<sup>rd</sup> Place  
Grown by Henry Shaw





Laelia Johnheana  
'Memoria Nick Burnett'  
Advanced: 1st Place  
Grown by Tom Pickford



Brassavola matriana x Cattleya harrisoniana  
Advanced: 2<sup>nd</sup> Place  
Grown by Liz Charleton



Masdevalia Bay Breeze  
'Empress'  
Advanced: 3<sup>rd</sup> Place  
Grown by Tom Pickford



Phalaenopsis lobbii  
Lancer Smith: 1<sup>st</sup> Place  
Grown by Liz Charleton



*Sophroriti mantequeirae*  
Lancer Smith: 2<sup>nd</sup> Place  
Grown by Pat Bacchetti



*Bulbophyllum ambrosia*  
Lancer Smith: 3<sup>rd</sup> Place  
Grown by Peter Ansdel





Masdevallia Memoria

Sang-Sub Lee

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

Grown by Sung Lee



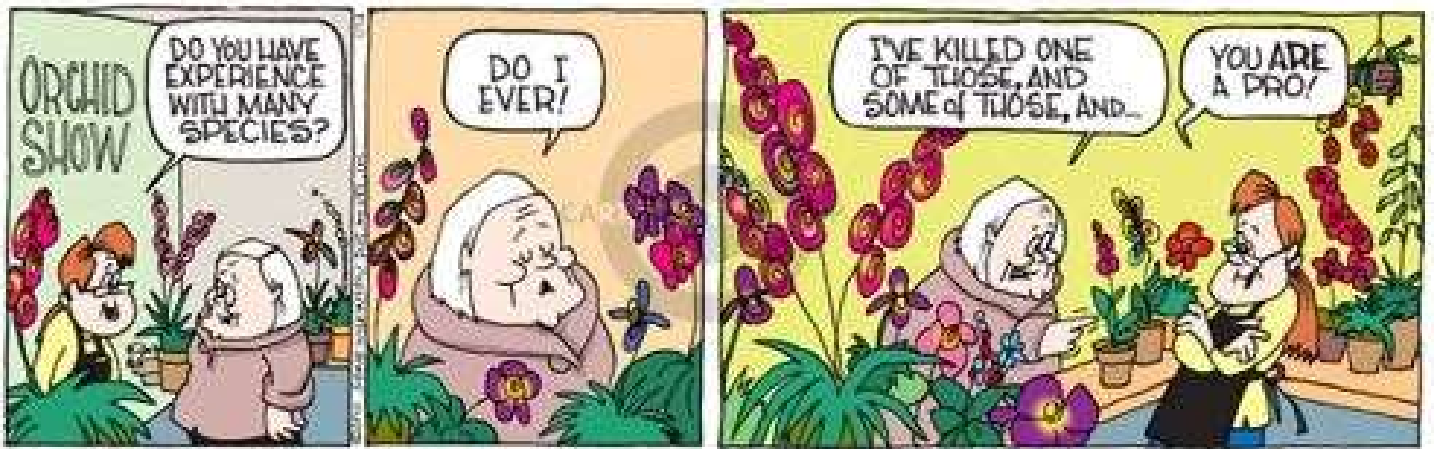
Cattleya Hawaiian Lovely

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

Grown by Sung Lee







## Your 2022 DVOC Leaders

- |                             |                    |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|
| • 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          |
| • Newsletter 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               |