

Diablo View Orchid Society

Zoom Meetings Continue

**Diablo View Orchid Society (DVOS)
Virtual monthly meeting for May 12, 2022**

Zoom meeting starts at 7:00pm PST

“Bugs and Juice”

(the use of beneficial microbes and phytochemical stimulants in orchid care)

Ray Barkalow, First Rays LLC

The May DVOS monthly meeting will be held in a “virtual” (Zoom) format once again, though we hope to return to in-person meetings in June.

Our May meeting will feature Ray Barkalow of First Rays LLC (www.firstways.com), a company he started to provide supplies for orchid enthusiasts and to disseminate his orchid expertise. His DVOS talk at our May meeting, entitled “Bugs and Juice”, will provide an overview of the use of beneficial microbes and phytochemical stimulants in orchid care, including curative, preventative, and supportive functions. He will cover plant “probiotics” to make them more disease resistant; biological bactericides, fungicides, and insecticides; plant growth stimulants; and nutritional uptake enhancers.

Ray's orchid-growing career began nearly 50 years ago when he was a Ceramics Engineering student at Georgia Tech. After a year as a volunteer at the public greenhouses at what is now the Atlanta Botanical Gardens, the orchid grower there gave him a big, “floofy” purple cattleya. Ray says it took him just two years to kill it *via* the typical root rot-desiccation torture cycle. Because he didn't want to be known as an orchid assassin, he became determined to learn more about orchid culture and, like many of us, became addicted to this fantastic family of plants. Nevertheless, he admits to killing his share of other orchids in the subsequent decades and quips: “Isn't it true that you're not an orchid-growing ‘pro’ until you have killed your weight in plants?”



Ray is known for his scientific approach to cultivation, looking at the factual “whys” behind the myths and dogma associated with orchid culture, allowing him to confirm or disprove them. For instance, he partnered with Rick Lockwood (our speaker at the Feb. 2021 DVOS meeting) to develop the formulation of the K-lite orchid fertilizer, a low-potassium formulation based on the compositional analysis of actual orchid tissues.

During his professional career in the chemical industry, Ray had many opportunities to travel internationally, and put together an extensive collection of orchids from around the world, mostly purchased from street vendors and shipped back to the U.S. on his (pre-CITES) import permit. His busy travel schedule led him to do much experimentation on how to keep his collection healthy and happy during his absences, and that led to his development of a semi-hydroponic method of raising orchids. Ray summarizes his work in this area in an American Orchid Society (AOS) webinar talk that’s available for AOS members to view :

<https://www.aos.org/orchids/webinars/member-only/semi-hydroponic-orchid-growing.aspx>
(AOS member login required).

Ray loves meeting and communicating with people from around the world to share his knowledge of orchids. For him, sharing his obsession is second only to growing the plants.

DVOS meetings are open to everyone. DVOS members are automatically sent the Zoom login link via e-mail. Non-members of DVOS who wish to attend should RSVP to: dvosshowandtell@gmail.com before 4/11/22 and you will be sent the login information for the meeting.

DVOS members who “attend” the meeting and who have paid their 2022 dues are automatically entered into the monthly drawing for one of three \$50 gift certificates, good towards a purchase of an orchid or supplies from a recognized orchid vendor.

**If you would be interested in buying a greenhouse – see
the last page of this newsletter (after the flowers)**

The President's Letter

Greetings Orchid Friends,

May 4, 2022

I enjoyed Robert Griesbach's presentation on breeding of white Phalaenopsis (or what I could see before I lost Wi-Fi!). There is so much history behind all those beautiful plants we can enjoy now. It is nice to get a peek back into that history. Another winner Henry! I can't wait to see what you have for us next week.

I feel like I am still coming down from the garden and greenhouse tours from last month. It looks like all of our sites had between 15 and 30 visitors. It was a nice time to get to see each other and enjoy all of those plants. For those of you who got out here to the wilds of Oakland-NOW my garden is in full bloom. Peonies and irises and roses, oh my! That is what gardening is. You have to keep looking because it is always changing. It was nice to share with those of you who stopped by. I am looking forward to seeing your flowers next.

My collection is continuing to roll through the seasons. The Cymbidiums are in their full glory. The Cattleyas are transitioning from spring into the summer bloomers. I hope I will see some beautiful Cattleya purpuratas in a month or so. My Masdevallias really liked that cool down that we had for April. Several have sent up nice flushes of spike, including Masdevallia coccinia and ignea.

Now is the time to start thinking about our late summer auction. Look at your collection. Repot and divide those plants that need it. Keep those divisions for the auction. This is our big fundraiser but also just a lot of fun. Your participation makes it that much more fun.

We are still going to continue Zoom meetings for a while but our ever-vigilant contact with CCWD will let us know when we can use the meeting room again. Thank you so much for taking such good care of our meeting schedule Phyllis Arther.

Get out there and enjoy that beautiful May weather. Enter photos in show and tell. I want to see what is blooming in YOUR garden.

Stay safe and healthy!

Regards,

Diane

Peninsula Orchid Society Show and Sale Mothers Day!

Come to our wonderful One Day Orchid Show & Sale

Sunday May 8th 10 AM - 4 PM

San Mateo Garden Center 605 Parkside Way, San Mateo

Free admission! AOS judging 10:00 AM - noon

Show indoors, sale outdoors, member sales plus two vendors

Virtual Show and tell

It's May, the days are getting longer and our winter-dormant plants are coming to life again. 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. We had a rather poor voting turnout last month. Let's see if we can do better in May.

Voting on April 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 May 31, 2022. Links to the voting forms are given below.

Novice:

<https://forms.gle/qps2HXw3VBmVsmoq7>

Intermediate:

<https://forms.gle/E5AnUKsSW2UxBywE9>

Advanced:

<https://forms.gle/SZBffYFHMgRAwfy5>

Master:

<https://forms.gle/hN2K8XTPdee9KwRp9>

Lancer Smith:

<https://forms.gle/2Lj2UyhQUZnrYWzw9>

Submitting May 2022 Show and Tell entries

We're ready to accept submissions of your May (thru May 31, 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). 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/1UGEik0cq0KQQCnZzhY1vQIRcK7yggkSSy?usp=sharing>

As always, if you have questions or problem uploading your images, you can e-mail me at dvosshowandtell@gmail.com

Henry

March Show and Tell Winners

Lancer Smith:

1st - *Polystachya ottonian*, grown by Elieen Jackson



2nd - *Dendrobium jenkinsii*, grown by Ted McClellan



Novice:

1st - *Dendrobium Gillieston Gold 'Natalie'*, grown by Daniel Neighbors



2nd - *Dendrobium Rainbow Dance*, grown by Kaitlyn Strom



3rd - *Dendrobium nobile*, grown by Daniel Neighbors



Intermediate:

1st - *Cattleya* Mari's Song 'Taka', grown by George Su



2nd (tie) - *Dendrobium moniliforme*, grown by Henry Shaw



2nd (tie) - *Cymbidium* Mount Vision 'Hallelujah', grown by Rachel Brinkerhoff



3rd - *Coelogyne* Unchained Melody, grown by Rachel Brinkerhoff



Advanced:

1st (tie) - *Phragmipedium* Fritz Schomberg (*kovachii* x *besseae*), grown by Eileen Jackson



1st (tie) - *Vanda tricolor*, grown by Tom Pickford



2nd (tie) - *Gongora truncate*, grown by Eileen Jackson



2nd (tie) - *Lycaste* Sunray, grown by Eileen Jackson



3rd - *Cattleya* Beautiful Sunset 'Grass Valley', grown by Ted McClellan



Master:

1st - *Chysis limminghei*, grown by Diane Bond



2nd - *Cattleya jongheana*, grown by Diane Bond





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

FOR SALE – A GREENHOUSE

For Sale: 8 x 14 Monticello Greenhouse. Extruded aluminum frame, very sturdy. Twin wall panels, roof vents, sliding greenhouse doors. Comes complete with bench supports and even a heater (if desired).

(link for 8 x 12)

https://planetgreenhouse.com/products/monticello-8ft-x-12ft-black-greenhouse?currency=USD&variant=42102014968025&utm_medium=cpc&utm_source=google&utm_campaign=Google%20Shopping&gclid=Cj0KCQjwma6TBhDIARIsAOKuANwumXUPO0Q9K12u1Dn8RJI6D7K2arSxHpDwSyOZjDZ6X_8hTvTDhMkaAq_EEALw_wcB

A few years old, dismantled, but all the parts and instruction manual available.

Will probably need new sealing tape and a few new bolts (have catalog numbers and sources), although what is included is sufficient to complete. New bolts will cost about \$50 to completely replace, for piece of mind.

If purchased new, this greenhouse kit is over \$5000. The size can be reduced by 2 foot intervals (spacing of the panels). I don't have an exact age, but approximately 10 years old. Purchaser may want to replace a few of the roof twin wall panels, although they are perfectly serviceable.

Price: \$500, but you will make the check out to the Orchid Conservation Alliance (and it will be a tax deductible donation).

Purchaser must pick up and transport to site, or delivery can be arranged for an extra cost. We have photos of the parts and assembly taken during the takedown of the greenhouse.

Contact for more information or to purchase:

Mary Gerritsen

Meg570@comcast.net