

Diablo View Orchid Society

The meeting is Jan. 11 at 7:15 pm PST, at the
Concord Water District, 1331 Concord Ave, Concord 94521
Doors open at 6:30pm for Show & Tell setup and conversations

January 11, 2024 Speaker for the Meeting at Contra Costa Water District



This month our speaker is Mitch Schneider. Mitch will be speaking on Cattleya breeding that he is doing at New Earth Orchids. The meeting will be a hybrid IN PERSON/ZOOM meeting but Mitch will be at the Water District with us. Please contact Diane Bond (bonddiane9@gmail.com) if you want the link for the ZOOM meeting.

Dr. Mitch Schneider's interest in orchids started young in his teenage years. Mitch started orchids after seeing the orchid mania display in his hometown at the Cleveland Botanical Gardens. During his PhD studies Mitch worked at Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico. While at Los Alamos Mitch met Dr. Ron Midgett, who has been breeding orchids for over 55 years. Mitch learned the art of breeding orchids from Ron. When Ron started considering retirement, Mitch became a co-owner of [New Earth Orchids](#), and relocated operations from Santa Fe, New Mexico to Half Moon Bay, CA. After accepting a position to join the electron sources team for the Stanford linear accelerator Center (SLAC).

Mitch's primary interest in breeding orchids is in the Cattleya alliance, Oncidium alliance, and Zygopetalum alliance. Mitch has continued Ron's work of producing compact novelty size Cattleya's who have plants no larger than 18 inches tall with

flowers that are 5 to 6 inches in natural spread. He has a wide variety of color forms including large full segmented cerulean, green with a white lip, spots and stripes, and his favorite- art shade lines. Mitch also has started breeding to reintroduce high quality warmth tolerance *Odontoglossum* with the assistance of Bob Hamilton. Mitch is also working with a consortium of breeders to pioneer inter-generic *Zygopetalum* with full spectrum colors.

Mitch is active in the American Orchid Society Pacific Central Judging Center, has been serving on the SFOS show committee, and is now the Vice President. Mitch strives to encourage younger orchid growers to become more involved and to help partner them with experienced members to share their love of orchids, and to learn from each other.



Procatavola Key Lime Stars

'Bayou Moon' AM/AOS

Mitch's recently awarded plant

Dinner with the Speaker

Members of DVOS are invited to a no-host, pre-meeting dinner with Mitch, our guest speaker. We will meet for dinner at 5 PM on Thursday January 11th at:

Aung Burma, 2151 Salvio St Suite E, Concord, CA 94520

This restaurant is a 5-minute drive from the meeting venue. If you wish to attend, please RSVP to bondddiane9@gmail.com by 5PM Wednesday, January 10th so that I can make reservations.

The President's Letter

Greetings Orchid Friends,

I hope everyone had a happy, healthy, and fulfilling holiday season. We made a trek to Santa Fe NM to gather with friends and celebrate. Santa Fe at Christmas is beautiful, and we were graced with a light dusting of snow for our Christmas Eve. No orchids to be seen, but *ristras* and luminarias were everywhere.

2024 will be an exciting year for DVOS. Diane Bond has already lined up a series of speakers for our monthly meetings, beginning with a talk at our January meeting by Mitch Schneider on breeding cattleyas. On Saturday February 10th, we will once again hold our annual Show and Sale, this time at a new venue (for us): the Cal State East Bay campus in Concord. We will be looking for volunteers to help set up on Friday evening and Saturday morning. See the writeup elsewhere in this newsletter for more details. Note that our normal monthly meeting in February is just two days before the

Show. We will NOT have an outside speaker at the February meeting, but instead will gather and use that time to prepare for the Show.

I have just a few plants in bloom now. My *Cymbidium* Amaretto is still in flower, though some spikes have faded. My *Dendrobium* King Zip has sent up a precocious spike (it usually blooms in early spring). A small *Oncidium* Twinkle 'Pink Perfusion' has sent up several spikes of small, fragrant blossoms and its partner plant, an *Oncidium* Twinkle 'Yellow Bird' is about to bloom. The first of five spikes on my *Arpophyllum giganteum* has opened and it should be in good shape to bring for Show & Tell at the January meeting. Finally....you guessed it...my *Leomesezia* Lava Burst 'Puanani' is **still** blooming! The first blooms in this flush of spikes opened on September 10th and the plant has been in bloom ever since.

I hope you all have a wonderful 2024, and I look forward to seeing you at our events.

Henry

Our Show and Sale is February 10!

It's that time of year! I invite EVERYONE to participate. You don't have to be an expert grower to exhibit.

Our regular meeting time on Thursday February 08 at the Contra Costa Water District will be dedicated to preparing for the show.

If you have a blooming orchid- BRING IT! You will have something to talk and learn about and you will contribute to making our show beautiful!

If you DON'T have any blooming orchids- COME VOLUNTEER! There are many things that need to be done to pull off a successful show. Do your part and enjoy the company of your DVOS friends.

MANY Volunteers needed to help with set up and tear down on Thursday, Friday and Saturday.

There are things to do during set up time...

1. You can bring your blooming plants for display before the actual show set-up time, they will be kept at the Harts and then taken to CSEB-Concord on Friday.
2. You can fill out entry cards at this time.
3. You can bring plants for sale at the members sales table and fill out the paperwork at this time.

SET-UP TIME is Friday February 09 at Cal State East Bay 4-7 PM. 4700 Ygnacio Valley Rd, Concord 94521

1. Bring your blooming plants for display. Please get your plants there as early as possible so that we have time to set up the displays.

2. You can fill out entry cards at this time. You can enter in either Novice/Intermediate or Advanced/Expert divisions
3. You can bring plants for sale at the members sales table and fill out the paperwork at this time.

PLEASE MAKE A LIST OF ALL PLANTS THAT YOU BRING FOR DISPLAY. THIS WILL HELP ENSURE THAT YOU TAKE HOME THE PLANTS THAT YOU BROUGHT.

**DVOS Show and Sale
Cal State East Bay Concord Campus
4700 Ygnacio Valley Rd
Concord, CA 94521**

On Saturday February 10

8:30 AM Set up continues. Volunteers needed.

9 AM Judging

- Ribbon judging will be done by AOS judges and members of DVOS, please volunteer.

It's fun and you will probably learn a lot from the AOS judges.

- Any plants deemed worthy by the AOS judges will be judged independently after the ribbon judging. All DVOS members are welcome to listen in.

10 AM The Show will open to the public

We need volunteers during the show for many different functions including:

- Welcome table
- Members sales table
- Plant hotel
- Refreshments

Please sign up on sheets that will be at the January meeting. If you are able to volunteer but will not be at the January meeting, please contact Diane Bond (bonddiane9@gmail.com or (510-568-7516) and we will get you signed up.

Morning coffee and lunch will be provided for the volunteers.

Member's sales table: members are welcome to sell their plants with 15% going toward the society (members pay tax). Members wishing to sell plants will need to get the required paperwork from Liz Charlton. This will be available at the January meeting.

Take-down is from 4 pm to 5 pm. **Volunteers needed!** We need everyone to help to get everything put away.

Information for Exhibitors

- 1) The show is open to all DVOS members wishing to exhibit for ribbon judging and AOS judging. If you do not want your plant entered for AOS judging please clearly mark NO AOS JUDGING on the entry tag.
- 2) All plants to be displayed in competition shall have been grown by the exhibitor or in their possession for at least 90 days prior to the show.
- 3) All plants must be checked in by the entry clerk. There will be colored cards for Novice/Intermediate, Advanced/Expert. The card will show the name of the plant parentage, if known, and name of the grower.
- 4) Judges may transfer plants to other classes at their discretion. The decision of the judges is final. For any questions pertaining to judging, the decision of the show chairperson will govern.
- 5) For your protection and the protection of other growers, no plant with visible insects, pests or disease will be accepted for entry.
- 6) No exhibitor's plants may be removed before the end of the show except when the life of the plant is in danger, and only with the consent of the show chairperson. **All entries must be claimed promptly by 4.30 pm** on the day of the show.
- 7) All entries and entry forms must be received on Friday February 9
- 8) The society will endeavor to care for all exhibits; however, the society assumes no responsibility for loss or injury. Containers should be inconspicuously labelled with the owner's name.

