

Diablo View Orchid Society

The meeting is Mar. 14 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

The March meeting's topic is Orchids 101



This month our speakers will be a group of members:

- Diane Bond will introduce orchids and five interesting genera.
- Eileen will talk about orchid culture
- Liz Charlton and Mara Kauffman-Puchall will cover repotting

Dinner with the Speakers

Members of DVOS are invited to a no-host, pre-meeting dinner with our speakers. We will meet for dinner at 5 PM on Thursday March 14th 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 bonddiane9@gmail.com by 5PM Wednesday, March 13th so that Diane can make reservations.

The President's Letter

Greetings Orchid Afficionados

Our 2024 orchid Show and Sale seems to have been a great success. Although there were fewer attendees than last year (~185 non-member attendees this year vs. ~250 last year), we had record attendance for our 2023 Show, perhaps due to pent-up demand because it was our first show after a COVID-induced 3-year hiatus. Our attendance this year was quite good considering we had moved to a new venue and it was more in line with attendance at previous shows. Although attendance was lower this year, the Society brought in a little more funding than last year due to robust member plant sales; a somewhat less expensive venue; and an increase in the number of vendors, something the new venue allowed us to accommodate. (Speaking of which, do any of you have opinions on how well, or not well, the new location worked? If so, I encourage you to speak with one of our Board members to give us your feedback.) We were also successful in recruiting one or two new members and enticed a few lapsed members to rejoin. Our vendors were quite happy with their sales and one of them told me that our Show is the most remunerative show he attends. We like it when our vendors are happy.

It goes without saying (but I'm going to say it anyway) that our Show would not have been possible without the volunteer efforts of our members. Thank you all. Special thanks go to Diane Bond, who was this year's Show Chair and responsible for recruiting vendors and AOS judges, dealing with plant displays and labels, assigning other volunteers to the various necessary roles, as well as many things I'm probably not aware of. Her organization was critical to the Show's success. Other member volunteers of note include Liz Charleton for being the member plant sales cashier all day; George Su for stepping in at the check-in table when a volunteer didn't show up; the Harts for hosting the post-setup pizza gathering on Friday evening and letting people store their plants at their home prior to the Show; the Woos for getting lunch pizzas for the volunteers; and the AOS judges who took the time to come lead the Show judging and then conduct an official AOS judging event. I can't single out everyone who pitched in to make the event a success, so once again thank you all. Everything went pretty smoothly, especially considering that this was the first time we've used this venue. We should be proud of the event.

My orchids, especially my Australian Dendrobiums, are blooming or in spike and I hope to have a couple of examples to bring in for Show & Tell in March. My *Coelogyne* Jannine Banks is blooming for the second time in six months, this time with two spikes. My *Aerangis luteoalba* v. *rhodosticta*, a miniature variety of this genus, is blooming for the first time. A *Dendrobium moniliforme* is starting to bloom as is my red variety of *Maxillaria tenuifolia* (and I'm looking forward to when there are enough open blooms to make our entire kitchen smell like a piña colada!) I encourage everyone, especially our Novice growers, to bring their blooms to our next meeting and participate in our Show & Tell activity! If you are a newer member and not familiar with the Show & Tell segment of our meetings, see the article that begins on the next page.

Henry

Show & Tell at our meetings– What the heck is that all about?

One of the regular features of our monthly meetings is the display and discussion of blooming plants our members bring in to display. We call that meeting segment “Show & Tell”. The purpose of this part of our meeting is to expose our members and guests to the wide variety of orchids, and to familiarize them to the names and cultural requirements of various genera and species of orchids. It’s an opportunity for attendees see new varieties and to talk with the growers to learn how they grow their plants. It’s also a way to show off your favorite plants and get some bragging rights!

Because there is a large range of orchid-growing expertise among our members, DVOS has established four categories of growers:

Novice: Generally, anyone who has fewer than ~50 plants and who has been growing orchids for fewer than five years.

Intermediate: Anyone who exceeds the limits for a Novice but does not qualify as an advanced grower.

Advanced: Growers who have one or more greenhouses **or** who have won multiple top awards as a member of orchid societies or at orchid shows.

Master: Anyone who grows orchids commercially, or highly experienced growers who have one or more greenhouses **and** have won multiple top awards as a member of orchid societies or at orchid shows.

If you want to participate in Show & Tell but are not certain of your category, talk to our New Member Mentor (currently Eileen Jackson) and after a short discussion, you will be assigned a category based on your experience.

At each meeting, plants are displayed and “judged”. This process is coordinated by our Show & Tell Coordinator (currently Jan Dancinger). Plants are judged on an informal and subjective basis (*i.e.*, their popularity with the members) not on American Orchid Society standards. Any member can be a judge and judges are tasked with making their choices simply by asking themselves: “Which of these plants would I most like to take home, assuming I don’t already own one?” If you are asked to be a judge, please take part. It’s fun and educational!

If you are bringing plants to display, you should fill out an entry card for each plant that lists the name of the plant and your name. Entry cards are available at each meeting. Fold the card so that your name is not visible (judging is done “blind”) and place it on or near your plant on the display table. Entry cards are labeled and color-coded according to the grower category. If you want to enter plant(s) for Show & Tell, please plan to arrive at least 15 minutes before the nominal 7:00 pm starting time of our meeting so you have time to fill out your entry card(s) and position your plant(s) on the appropriate display table.

Plants eligible for judging must have been owned by the displayer for at least 3 months or must have generated the blooming inflorescence entirely while in the member’s growing environment. Plants can only be entered for judging once in each blooming cycle of the plant. Plants not meeting these requirements may be brought in and displayed but are not eligible for judging; their labels should be clearly marked “Do Not Judge”.

The judges give First, Second, and Third Place awards to each of the first three categories of growers. Plants in the Master Grower category are neither judged nor awarded. Because small plants can't compete with large plants for "showiness" and "WOW! Factor", DVOS has an additional judging category known as the "Lancer Smith" category. In addition to meeting the other criteria for eligibility, plants displayed for judging in this category must either be officially classified as a "miniature" orchid species **or** a plant that does not exceed 6" in any direction, excluding roots and inflorescences. Only one plant in the Lancer Smith category is given an award.

Getting bragging rights for having the most popular blooms at a meeting ought to be sufficient incentive for members to want to display their plants! (Pictures of their blooms and the names of the growers are also featured every month on our website.) But in case it's not, members who bring one or more plants for display receive a special ticket for our monthly "opportunity table" (*i.e.*, the drawing for a free plant). But wait, there's even more!.... DVOS also keeps track of the awarded plants at each meeting throughout the year, and members accumulate points for each awarded plant in each of the display categories:

- 1st place: 3 points
- 2nd place: 2 points
- 3rd place: 1 point
- Lancer Smith: 2 points

The members in each experience category (Novice, Intermediate, Advanced) who receive the most points each year are recognized at our December meeting (usually the Holiday Dinner) and receive a cash award and are promoted to the next category of grower. The member who accumulates the most points overall receives the "Grower of the Year" award in the form of a personalized certificate.

Please share your blooms with us at our monthly meeting Show & Tell!

Here are the volunteers that helped make the show a great success!

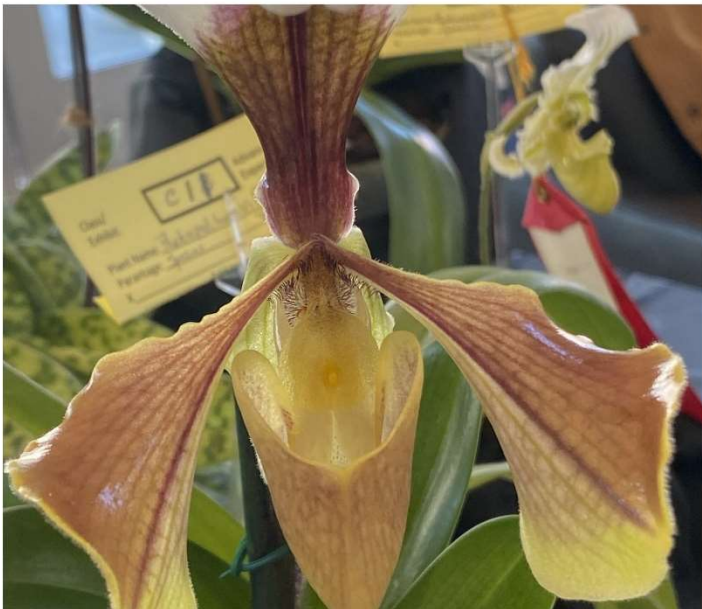
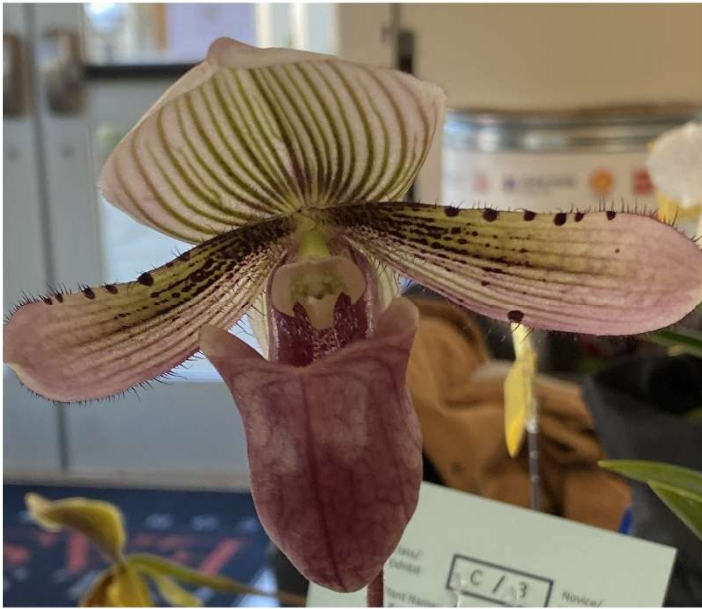


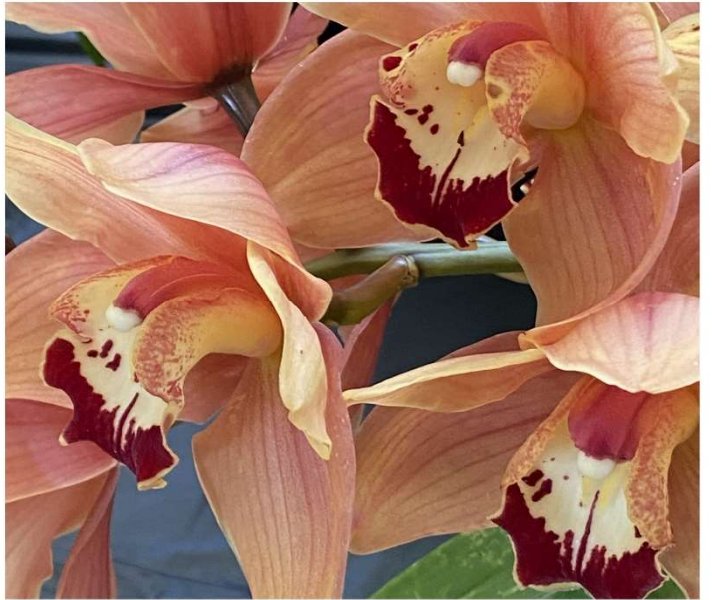


**These are the two
winners of our
perpetual trophies!**

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The 3 pages that
follow are flowers
from the show!**









Photos by B. Hart