

Diablo View Orchid Society

www.DVOS.org

501c3 corporation

February 2011

at Our next meeting Thursday, February 10th
Mount-up (The science and art of mounting orchids)
presented by Liz Charlton

Are you awash in mushy roots? Do you have a collection of miniature orchids that started life as standards?

Don't give up. Give in. Surrender to your orchids; put them where they long to be ... mounted on a shapely piece of fruit wood, treefern, grapewood or cork.

Liz will demonstrate how to mount orchids on a variety of materials and give hard-won advice on their care.

Liz discovered orchids back in 2006 at the DVOS Show and Sale. Persuaded by the Show membership deal, **'14 months for the price of 12, a Bargain!'**, she and Jamie joined on the spot.

Fast forward to 2011. They have an over-capacity greenhouse, an eBay-based business, Orchid Gulch, serve on the DVOS Board and Liz is a Student Judge with CSNJ. Whew! Today, their orchids are no longer committing suicide as they are slowly, but surely moving to mounts.

Next Meeting:
Thur. Feb 10th
7:30- 10:00 p.m.

Contra Costa Waster District
Building Board Room
1331 Concord Blvd.
Concord Ca.
Map:

www.dvos.org/About/map.htm

Speaker's Dinner will be at 5:30 at Sichuan Fortune House, 41 Woodsworth Ln. Pleasant Hill. Everyone is welcome to attend and meet our speaker before the meeting. Call Liz at (925) 280-1671 if you can join us, so that you can be included in the reservation.

Plant table will be provided by Orchid Gulch

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Cindy Hill was our speaker in January

The 2011 DVOS New Year was kicked off with the very knowledgeable and outstanding lecturer, Cynthia Hill. Her topic, "The Challenges and Satisfactions of Growing Specimen Orchids", is a lecture that every orchid grower should listen to and strive to achieve.

Cynthia started by explaining what a specimen orchid is and what are its traits. A specimen orchid is a mature individual plant that is healthy, robust, and large for its type. The following traits are typical of a specimen orchid. They will bear more flowers than the typical orchid plant with a high proportion of flowers to plant. The specimen plant is usually well grown and well established with its leaves free of sunburn, disease, insects and slugs. The stems and pseudo bulbs are plump, firm, and turgid. The specimen plant is shown at its peak in the blooming cycle and the color of the blooms are usually vibrant.

Why do people want to grow a specimen orchid? According to Cynthia, there are several reasons. Growing a specimen size plant is a challenge, requiring good cultural technique, lots of attention, and years of consistency. It will also allow you to see the pinnacle of your plant's life cycle. You will get an appreciation for how the plant's natural form and architecture appear in nature. Best of all, people want to grow a specimen plant because it makes an amazing show all by itself.

How do you choose a potential specimen plant? Start by finding the types of orchids for which you can already provide ideal growing conditions. Look for orchids that are vigorous growers, ones that ideally produce multiple leads and growths from each pseudobulb. Pick a plant that has multiple flowers on upright stems with bright, clear flowers that open simultaneously. Consider a plant that will fit in your available space and how large the plant will become at maturity. Choose a plant with a short rhizomes so the plant will remain manageable and compact. Cynthia is the first to admit that growing specimen orchids can be challenging. They require constant care and take up a lot of bench space. Re-potting these plants annually gets involved due to their heavy, awkward size. They are difficult to transport and are easily damaged in the process.

There are several keys to success in growing these specimens. You need to be observant. Try to spend a few minutes with your plant everyday to look for potential issues. Optimize your cultural conditions, keeping written records if possible. Try to water the entire plant thoroughly. This means the leaves, roots, pot and or mount. Provide good air circulation to your plants. Always get the right size pot or mount for your plant before you begin. Err on the side of under-potting rather than over-potting. Choose a pot that will accommodate one year's growth, but choose a mount that can safely carry the plant for years. Use a potting mix that does not decompose quickly. If you use a plastic pot, your plant's roots will stay wetter than in a clay pot. A larger pot will always stay wetter at the center than a smaller pot. To alleviate this situation, place an inverted net pot in the bottom of your large pot



Den. glumaceum 'Vistamont'

or use Styrofoam peanuts to avoid stagnation. When re-potting keep the best 3-6 growths and form them in a circular shape. Orient the plant evenly to the light using a fishing line swivel or lazy susan so that all parts of the plant get an equal amount of sun. Groom your plant removing dead sheaths and leaves and stake the new growths. To stimulate the development of the dormant eyes, Cynthia recommends partially cutting through the rhizome between pseudo bulbs. This will stimulate the new eyes to develop. Twist, bend, and rotate the rhizome that has been cut, to form the plant to the size and shape of the pot. Peel back the dry sheath at the base of your cattleyas to let more light into the dormant eyes on the plant. Use Keiki-Pro to awaken sleepy eyes on your plants. Try to orient the

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the new growths of your plant away from the sun to encourage the slow side to grow. When your flowers begin to emerge, you need to rotate your plant to get uniform blooming.

The following is a list of orchids that Cynthia considers good choices for potential specimen plants: *Dendrobium cuthbertsonii* "mango", *D. Lanyaiaea* (small size- 10 inches across), *D. helwigianum*, *D. agathodoemonis*, *D. brymerianum*, *D. hercoglossum* (wants to be a specimen size plant), *D. infundibum* (re-blooms on old growth) *Dendrochilum glumaceum* and *cootesii*, *Mastevallia strobelli* and *lucernule*, *Dracula simia* "rocha", *Bulbophyllum thiurium*, *Coelogyne corymbosa* (gets 2 feet across), *Miltoniopsis phaleonopsis* "john leathers" (gets 1 1/2 feet across), *cymbidium sweet devan* and *emburneum*, and *cynorchis villosa*.



Cynthia, thanks so much for the wonderful pictures and outstanding knowledge on specimen orchids.

-Brad Piini



Onc. Gower Ramsey



Slc. Circle of Life

Slc. Hazel Boyd



Ams. monticola

Upcoming Speakers and Events

Feb 5: SCOS show and sale (below)
Feb 10: DVOS meeting: Liz Charlton "Mount-Up"
Feb 17: Board Meeting 7:30 at home of Liz & Jamie
Mar 4-6: 59th POE SFOC "Natural Wonders"



Vanda Robert's
Delight 'Black'

Sonoma County Orchid Society Show & Sale

Waves of Orchids

Sat. Feb. 5 10-5 and Sun. Feb. 6 10-4 Admission \$7
Santa Rosa Veterans Building 1351 Maple Santa Rosa

www.sonomaorchids.com

*Refreshments for the
February Meeting
will be provided by:*

FOOD:

Mary Ann Gschwend
Louisa Luce-Horton
Barbara Ungersma
Noble Emery
Lauren Sadler

DRINKS:

George Cooper
Irmchen Matull

ICE:

Anne Nounou

SET-UP/CLEAN-UP:

Brenda Aday
Barbara Ungersma

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AOS Awards January 2010 Courtesy of Kathy Barrett

5 Jan. California Sierra Nevada JC - Sacramento

Cattleya Circle of Life 'Mesmerize', AM 80 (C. coccinea x C. Culminant),
Exhibited by Nancy and Ted McClellan

Paphiopedilum Fanaticum 'Green Goblin', AM 81
(Paph. malipoense x Paph. micranthum), Exhibited by Ramon de los Santos

Phalaenopsis reichenbachiana 'Pikachu', AM 80
species, Exhibited by Ramon de los Santos

17 Jan. Pacific Central - Oakland

Potinara Oconee Circle 'Winston' Slc Circle of Life x Blc Oconee HCC 78
Exhibited by Amy and Ken Jacobsen

20 Dec. Pacific Central JC - San Francisco

Lycaste Shoalhaven 'Memoria Kuang-Hsin Ko' (Lyc. skinneri x Lyc. Kooleana) AM 85
Exhibited by Japheth Ko



Adgm Summit 'Frenchtown'

Awards can be seen at:

Pacific Central Judging Center www.aospacificcentral.org

California Sierra Nevada Judging Center: www.csnjc.org

CSNJC on Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/#!/pages/California-Sierra-Nevada-Judging-Center/104769679585467>

At our last DVOS Meeting we began our new judging system.

In order to make judging more fair we have divided the membership into three groups: Advanced/Commercial, Intermediate, and Novice/Under 18.

Each group will award a 1st, 2nd and 3rd place. The Lancer Smith award, for species under 6", is open to everyone.



Pot. Golden Circle



Paph. Valerie Tonkin

<u>Advanced/Commercial</u>		<u>Intermediate</u>	<u>Novice/Under 18</u>
Kathy B	Ted Mc	Linda C	Everyone else
Mei C	Diana V	George C	
Ken C	George Mc	Dan C	
Frank F	Sharon D	Noble E	
Bernice L	Frank D	Diane E	
Gregory M		Eileen J	
Liz C		Renate J	
Dennis O		Akiko O	
Dave T		Jamie W	
Nancy Mc		Phyllis A	

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Masd. floribunda



Dennis Olivas was given
an award in recognition of his
long-time service to DVOS

Winner of this year's
Founder's Trophy:
Kathy Barrett

Top Point Winner 2010: Ken Cook



**DVOS 2010
Awards**

Membership News

courtesy of Ulrike Ahlborn,
Membership Chair

membership@dvos.org

2011 Dues are now due

General Members \$20

Commercial Members \$25

Lifetime Members \$300

If you are unable to receive the newsletter by email and need a B&W copy mailed to you, there is an additional \$10 charge for copying and postage.

New Member/ Renewal application:

dvos.org/About/membersh.htm

In order to be included in the
2011 DVOS Roster your dues must
be paid by Feb. 15



Visit: Diablo View Orchid Society

<http://www.facebook.com#!/pages/Diablo-View-Orchid-Society/179662375396031>

Awards DVOS January

Advanced

1st	<i>Lc. Irene Finney</i>	Ken Cook
2nd	<i>Slc. Circle of Life</i>	Ted McClellan
3rd	<i>Slc. Hazel Boyd</i>	Ted McClellan

Intermediate

1st	<i>Pot. Golden Circle</i>	Eileen Jackson
2nd	<i>Paph. Valerie Tonkin</i>	Brian Wraxall
3rd	<i>Adgm. Summit</i>	George Cooper

Novice

1st	<i>V. Robert's Delight</i>	Lindon Horn
2nd	<i>Onc. Gower Ramsey</i>	Mary Ann Gschwend
3rd	<i>Amsiellia monticola</i>	Miki Icheyamati

Lancer Smith (species/under 6")

<i>Masd. floribunda</i>	Brian Wraxall
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Greenhouse Available

Greenhouse available in Montecito. The main building is 40 x 60 and the side building is 14 x 40 approx. The Owner is willing to give away the building if someone would come in and disassemble it and take it away.

The original erection plans, from the manufacturer, are available if you want to re-build it.

Contact Dave Burke - Burke Design
David Burke, AIA DLBurke@Burke-Design.BIZ
www.burke-design.biz
Office: 805-964-8800 Cell: 805-453-6464 141

More Pictures of this greenhouse are posted on the Diablo View Orchid Society facebook page.



DVOS will place a group order from Cal West - 10% discount if we get together a big enough order!

CalWest sells orchid supplies including books, baskets, fertilizer, mounting supplies, tools and much more.

To view their website go to:

<http://www.calwesttropical.com>

If you want to take part in the order, bring your list to George McRae at the next DVOS meeting. He will need a 50% downpayment with your order.



AOS Corner By Lynn Fuller

To continue on the various benefits of an AOS membership, one benefit I feel is often overlooked is the Reciprocal Admissions Program which is provided through AOS' affiliation with the American Horticultural Society. As an AOS member you will have access to a wide array of botanical gardens, arboreta, and conservatories throughout North America offering special admission privileges and many other benefits. For those AOS members who currently use this program, it provides benefits beyond their cost of AOS membership. For more information and a listing of reciprocal locations in your, visit the AHS website at: http://www.ahs.org/events/reciprocal_events_online_directory.htm. There is an online directory which has the reciprocal admissions by state. The AHS also provides the following tips on using the Reciprocal Admissions Program:

- Before visiting any garden check the garden's website or call to verify hours of operation, confirm admission policy, and get the latest updates on programs and other information. For easy access, gardens have links to their web pages in the AHS online directory.
- Be aware that some special events are not included in the reciprocal benefits of the program. If you have any questions, please contact the garden you plan to visit.
- Present your current AOS membership card at the admissions counter or gift shop to receive the RAP benefit listed for that garden. Each card will only admit the individual(s) whose name is listed on the card. Some gardens may require a photo ID.
- Remember that the gardens you visit rely on admissions and donations to maintain their property and gardens for all to enjoy. Please support them by visiting their gift shops and/or making a contribution.
- The gardens with an asterisk next to their name do not offer reciprocal benefits but encourage you to visit.

I hope you all will explore this AOS membership benefit and support your local reciprocal botanical gardens, arboreta and conservatories soon.

affiliated_societies@aos.org

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DVOS Officers 2011

President: Liz Charlton
Immediate Past President: Eileen Jackson
Vice-President: George McRae
Treasurer: Brian Wraxall
Secretary: Rodney Kline
Board Members: Brad Piini, Karen Piini,
Ken Cook, Jamie Wasson, Parky Parkison

Membership: Ulrike Ahlborn membership@dvos.org
Newsletter: Jamie Wasson, Liz Charlton
dvosnews@gmail.com
Webmaster: Nick Doe, Ulrike Ahlborn
webmaster@dvos.org

Greenhouse Tours: Parky Parkison
Refreshments: vacant
Raffles and Sales: Rita Tischler
Equipment and Lights: Dave Tomassini
Librarian: Phyllis Arthur
AOS Representative: Dennis Olivas
Orchid Digest Representative: Brian Wraxall
SFOS Show Chairman: Brad Piini
DVOS Show Chairman: Dennis Olivas

Commercial Members

Commercial Plant Services

David & Alice Tomassini, 3 Woodside Ct., Danville, (925)
736-7630
atomassini@aol.com

D & D Flowers

Dennis Olivas, 62 Oceanside Dr., Half Moon Bay, (925)
696-1246
dolivas@comcast.net (by appointment only)

Fordyce Orchids

Frank and Sue Fordyce (925) 600-8406

White Oak Orchids, Inc.

Sales and Boarding, 1204 Linda Mar Blve., (650) 355-8767
www.whiteoakorchids.com

Diablo Orchids

Huei-Mei Chen and Gregory Mayfield (925) 946-9740
www.diabloorchids.com

California Orchids

Mary Nisbet, 515 Aspen Rd. Bolinas, (415) 868-0203
www.californiaorchids.com