

# Diablo View Orchid Society

www.DVOS.org 501(c)(3) corporation

July 2011

at Our next meeting Thursday, July 14th

## Photographing Orchids presented by David Wasserman

Ok, so you've learned to grow your charges, and by golly, you beam with pride!  
Now, how about a photograph, to preserve the lovelies, or to even to brag.  
Photographing flowers isn't as easy as you'd like it to be. Our speaker this July,  
David Wasserman is going to help sort that out. His lecture is entitled: "WHY IS  
PHOTOGRAPHING AN ORCHID SO DIFFICULT? - Ways to make it a lot easier".

Dave has been a professional photographer for over 30 years, mostly specializing in scientific and technical areas. Originally, he was trained as a biologist, and initially learned both photography and cinematography to help with research on animal behavior studies. In the early 1980s, he transitioned from biological consulting to freelance photography and has been there ever since. Besides working on both assignments and personal work, he has taught at the Academy of Art University in San Francisco for over a decade. He primarily teaches conceptual classes along with color theory. Areas of photographic expertise are macro/micro photography, lighting on location, and landscape photography. His work can be seen at his web site, [cactitransects.com](http://cactitransects.com), and at [GettyImages.com](http://GettyImages.com). He is presently in the final stages of publishing a macrophotography book on ROCKS.

**Next Meeting:**  
Thur. July 14th  
7:30- 10:00 p.m.

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

[www.dvos.org/About/map.htm](http://www.dvos.org/About/map.htm)

Speaker's Dinner will be at 5:30 at the Sichuan Fortune House, 41 Woodsworth Ln. in Pleasant Hill.

Everyone is welcome to attend and meet our speakers before the meeting. If you can join us, please call George McRae at (510) 233-7374 to be included in the reservation.

**Plant table will be provided by Tropical Orchid Farm**

## Ken Cook was our speaker in June

**W**e finally learned the secrets of growing fabulous orchids from the master orchid grower, Ken Cook. Ken has always had the ability to WOW you with his beautiful and varied orchid collection. After listening to his June lecture at DVOS, you come to the realization that his superior culturing ability comes from his tremendous dedication both in time and attention to his orchid collection. Ken puts more effort into his collection than most of the other orchid hobbyists present that night.



Courtesy  
Brad Piini



**K**en has always shown an amazing ability to grow Masdevallias and Draculas. The majority of his presentation was geared toward the raising of these two types of orchids. Part of Ken's success with Masdevallias and Draculas is the location where Ken is growing his orchids. Ken lives in El Cerrito, which has a coastal climate influenced by close proximity to San Francisco Bay. This allows Ken to grow many of his orchids outdoors in the prevailing cool to moderate temperatures and constant humidity.

**K**en went into the cultural requirements needed to grow Masdevallias and Draculas. Most of these orchids are found in the mountains of Ecuador, which provide a wet and humid environment with cool temperatures. To try and duplicate these conditions in your greenhouse Ken recommends that you place the Masdevallias or Draculas directly over the fogger to keep them cool and moist. Masdevallias and Draculas will tolerate cool much better than warm or hot conditions. They will survive down to 30 degrees Fahrenheit, but below this temperature they will start to lose their leaves. Most Masdevallias and Draculas don't require a lot of light and will grow well in the shade. They also prefer light air movement, but too much wind will dry them out.



*Masd. Bay Breeze*  
'Empress'

**T**he big difference between growing Masdevallias and Draculas is the way you pot or mount the orchid. Draculas will almost always send their blossoms from the bottom of the plant. This means that if you plant it in a plastic pot, you will never see the plant bloom. Draculas need to be mounted on some type of wood or placed in a mesh basket or a wooden slat basket. This will allow the flower spikes to emerge from the bottom of the plant and flower. Masdevallias, on the other hand, are good in pots since they almost always flower from the top of the plant. Ken plants all of

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his Masdevallias and Draculas in sphagnum moss. The plants love this media. 80% of his Masdevallia collection is planted in 3 inch clay pots with two styrofoam peanuts in the bottom and the rest sphagnum moss. The sphagnum moss will require repotting every year to keep the media fresh.

**M**asdevallias and Draculas are not heavy feeders. Ken uses 1 tsp. Dynagrow growth formula mixed with 1 tsp. Maxisea for the micronutrients along with 2 drops of Super Thrive diluted in 2 gallons of water. Once a week he will foliar feed his orchids (sprays the fertilizer on the leaves only). If it is very hot or very cold, Ken suspends the feeding for another week.

**K**en then listed some suppliers of Masdevallias and Draculas (see P.7) Ken concluded his lecture with slides of his home growing conditions. Ken's orchids extend from his front porch to the backyard and into the greenhouse. He showed numerous ways to increase the amount of orchids you can put into a limited amount of space. Using bars, poles, chains, and shelves, Ken is able to squeeze more orchids into every available space. Only a Black Hole, in outer space, is packed more densely than Ken's orchid collection. The night was full of good ideas, which I'm sure Ken will be happy to share with you. Thanks again Ken for sharing some of your secrets of success.

*Brs. brachiata*



## Refreshments for the July Meeting will be provided by:

### Cookies:

Bernice Lindner  
Renate Johnson  
Meg Crosby  
Judith Johnston  
Marcia Hart  
Sue Davis  
Jo Ann Kappesser  
Carol Campbell

### Ice Crean & Drinks:

DVOS Board

### Ice:

Barbara Ungersma

### Set-Up/Clean-Up:

Irmchen Matull  
Marcia Hart



### Servers:

Tom Pickford  
Ken Cook

### July is our *Ice Cream Social* featuring Root Beer Floats

The root beer float or “black cow” dates to 1893 in Cripple Creek, Colorado. Frank J. Wisner, owner of the Cripple Creek Cow Mountain Gold Mining Company, produced a line of soda waters for the citizens of the then-booming Cripple Creek gold mining district. He created a special drink for the children of Cripple Creek and came up with an idea while staring out at his properties on Cow Mountain on a moonlit night. The full moon’s glow on the snow capped Cow Mountain reminded him of a dollop of vanilla ice cream floating on top of his blackened Cow Mountain. He was inspired by this view to add a big scoop of vanilla ice cream to the one soda water he produced that the children of Cripple Creek seemed to like best - Myers Avenue Red root beer - and served it. The drink was an instant hit. Originally named “Black Cow Mountain”, the local children shortened this to “black cow”.

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## Upcoming Speakers and Events



*Masd. Copper Angel*



*Gojo-Fukurin*

- July 14:** DVOS meeting -  
David Wasserman  
- *Photographing Orchids*  
Ice Cream Social
- July 21:** Board Meeting at the home  
of Brian and Joan Wraxall
- Aug 6:** CSNJC Speaker's Day (P.7)
- Aug 20:** DVOS BBQ and Auction at  
the home of Bob & Mary  
Lou Van Galder (P.11)
- Sept 8:** DVOS meeting -  
Carol Klonowski  
- *Paphiopedilum v. alba*
- Oct 13:** DVOS meeting -  
Jason Fisher  
- *Neofinetia falcata*
- Nov 10:** DVOS meeting -  
Orchids 101
- Dec 14:** DVOS Christmas Party  
Note this is a Wednesday

# Recommended Reading

courtesy of Ken Cook

Masdevallias: Gems of the Orchid World  
by Mary E. Gerritsen and Ron Parsons

Draculas of Ecuador  
by Franco Pupulin, Gilbert Merino, and Hugo Medina



*L. purpurata*

Orchid Dig (Oct., Nov., Dec. 2008)  
Four Articles on Masdevallias and Draculas.

OS Bulletin Article (1989) titled *The Care and Feeding of Draculas* by Marguerite Webb

The Slight Edge by Jeff Olson

## Sources

### Plants

Hawk Hill Orchids, Pacifica  
<http://colombianorchidimports.com/>  
Golden Gate Orchids, So. SF  
Mountain Orchids, VT  
J&L Orchids, CT  
Ecuagenera, Ecuador

### Supplies

Golden Gate Orchids: Orchiata  
Calwest Tropical Supply: Tree fern,  
wire hangers, wooden  
baskets, sphagnum moss  
Kelly's Korner Orchid Supplies, ME:  
Nets pots, wires for staking

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## Awards DVOS June



*Blc. Merrily Murison*  
'Larry'



*Cym. Noname*

### Advanced

- 1st *Masd. Bay Breeze* Ken Cook  
2nd *Paph. St. Swithin*  
Dave Tomassini  
3rd *Masd. Pat Arkhurst* George McRae

### Intermediate

- 1st *Masd. Copper Angel* Brian Wraxall  
2nd *Brs.. brachiata* Eileen Jackson  
3rd *L. purpurata* Renate Johnson

### Novice

- 1st *Cym. unknown* Miki Ichiyanagi  
2nd *Blc. Merrily Murison* Marcia Hart  
3rd *Masd. Geneva Spots* Walt James

### Lancer Smith (species/under 6")

*Gojo-Fukurin (Neofinetia falcata)*

George McRae

Welcome to new member Sue Davis and  
returning member Calvin Anderson



## CSNJC Speaker's D

**CSNJC Speakers Day**  
will be Saturday, August 6th at the  
Oddfellow's Building in Sacramento.

1831 Howe Ave at Alta Arden  
Sacramento, Ca. 95838  
9am - 5 pm

### Speakers:

Marc Hatchadourian curator of the New York  
Botanical Gardens

Tom Harper of Stones River Orchids  
The Twelve Most Important Phalaenopsis  
Species in Today's Hybrids

Erich Michel of Michel Orchid Nursery  
Unusual Orchid Species from Madagascar

\$10 for AOS member/sponsoring society - in advance.  
\$15 for AOS member/sponsoring society - at the door.  
\$25 door for non AOS member/sponsoring society  
(\$10 refunded when you join the AOS at the event.)



*Paph. St. Swithin*



*Masd. Geneva Spots*

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## AOS Awards Kathy Barrett

### June 1/2011 - CSNJC - Sacramento

**Cattleya Fuchsia Doll 'ShouldbeanFCC', AM 88**  
(*C. sincorana* x *C. Sierra Doll*), Exhibited by Gold Country Orchids  
(The clonal name is Alan's gentle joke to the judging team. It'll probably be changed before its published in the AQ...or not! \*G\*!)

**Cyrtochilum McBeanianum 'Sheila', AM 81**  
(*Cyr. macranthum* x *Cyr. superbians*), Exhibited by Golden Gate Orchids (McBeanianum has been around since the early 1900s. Tom Perlite has been doing great work with this genus.)

**Paph. unnamed hybrid 'Chianti'\*, HCC 78 (prov)**  
(*Paph. Avalon Mist* x *Paph. liemianum*), Exhibited by Dave Sorokowsky (This is a provisional award because the hybrid needs to be registered with the RHS.)

**Phragmipedium caudatum 'Penthus', HCC 77**  
species, Exhibited by Ramon de los Santos (Penthus is the Greek god of mourning)

Pictures of all awarded orchids can be seen at <http://www.csnjc.org>

**O**ur annual picnic and auction will be at the home of Bob and MaryLou Van Galder (look in your Membership Roster for the address in Lafayette Sat, Aug. 20th.



This year's theme is *"We're having a BBQ"*. That's right, you don't have to come in costume.

The Society will provide the Barbeque and drinks. Members bring a side dish and a plant or other orchid-related donation for the raffle.

If your last name

<u>begins with:</u>	<u>You bring:</u>	<u>Set-up</u>	<u>10:30 - 11:30</u>
J - Q	Side Dish	Lunch	12:30 - 1:30
R - Z	Salad	Auction	2:00 - 3:30
A - E	Hors d'oeuvres	Clean-up	4:00 - 5:00
F - I	Dessert	Everyone should plan to help with either Set-up or Clean-up	

Bring enough to serve 10      This event is open to Members and their guests.

*Diablo View Orchid Society*

# Diablo View Orchid Society

## 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](mailto:membership@dvos.org)

Newsletter: Jamie Wasson, Liz Charlton  
[dvosnews@gmail.com](mailto:dvosnews@gmail.com)

Webmaster: Nick Doe, Ulrike Ahlborn  
[webmaster@dvos.org](mailto:webmaster@dvos.org)

Greenhouse Tours: Parky Parkison

Refreshments: vacant

Raffles and Sales: Rita Tischler, Judith Johnston

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: Liz Charlton

## Commercial Members

### Commercial Plant Services

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

[atomassini@aol.com](mailto:atomassini@aol.com)

### White Oak Orchids, Inc.

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

[www.whiteoakorchids.com](http://www.whiteoakorchids.com)

### California Orchids

Mary Nisbet, 515 Aspen Rd.

Bolinas, (415) 868-0203

[www.californiaorchids.com](http://www.californiaorchids.com)

*Masd. Pat*  
Ackhurst

