

Diablo View Orchid Society

www.DVOS.org

501c3 corporation

March 2011

at Our next meeting Thursday, March 10th

Growing Sobralias presented by Bruce Rogers

I WAS IN MY EARLY 20S AND LIVING in Berkeley, California. My Russian grandmother, to keep me off the streets (and being aware of my love of plants), arranged for me to work with her friends, the Amens. I began helping in their garden, which included a greenhouse (beautiful vintage at that time, Lord and Burnham, with a brick base) and a yard overflowing with plants and trees. I had been reading and started showing off by naming a few of her plants, at which point Mrs. Amen led me to a potted plant and asked if I knew what it was. The plant had stiff-leaved bamboolike foliage with amazing dense spikes of lovely smaller white flowers. I was totally baffled. I had never experienced a plant like that. I made a silly guess of a type of flowering bamboo. She turned to me, and in a tone of voice I knew she reserved for children, informed me was not even close. She told me it was a Sobralia multiflora and it was pollinated by hummingbirds. Although my first Sobralia encounter left me scarred, it was a meaningful experience. Later in life, I was captivated by a little hand-drawn illustration in the lovely little Golden Guide nature book series, which showed a Sobralia plant dwarfing a man and illustrating the Cattleya-like flower. I have been chasing Sobralias ever since.

I find them to be stunning and exciting plants with beautiful growth and unforgettable flowers. The foliage and growth of Sobralias has to be among the most handsome of all orchids, and their wide range of climate adaptability makes them ideal as greenhouse, garden and patio plants.

Next Meeting:
Thur. Mar 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 Jack's - 60 Crescent Dr. 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 Bruce Rogers

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Liz Charlton was our speaker in February

With Valentine's Day occurring this month, love was in the air. It was a perfect setting for our monthly guest speaker, our very own Liz Chariton.

Nothing says love more to a guy, especially this guy, than power tools (drills), sharp objects (razor blades), and 12 pound-test fishing line. I must admit I have used all of the above items extensively in my life, some resulting in greater pleasure than others. Power tools, in the form of drills, are part of my daily livelihood. Razors are how I start my day, with a nice clean shave. If I see fishing line out, it must be trout season. It turns out that Liz's talk was a big tease for me. All of this beautiful hardware was used in the pursuit of attaching a plant (orchid) to a piece of wood. If you have 30 feet of mono filament line off the spool with one end in your hand, then the other end better smell like fish. This was not the case with Liz. It was just her way of wrapping things up literally. It was that orchid and a piece of cork oak, and occasionally Liz, that got connected.

Everyone in the audience found Liz to be informative and highly entertaining. It was not one of those sit back and listen evenings. It was an audience vocal participation, interactive, raucous, very fun to be a member evening as Liz presented "How to Mount an Orchid". For those of you who missed it the following outline is printed for your viewing pleasure.

-Brad Piini

Mounting Orchids

Why mount orchids?

1. Many orchids that we like to grow are epiphytes – plants that cling to trees and shrubs for support in their natural habitat. Mounting an orchid imitates nature.
2. It's very hard to over water a mount. Short of running it over with a truck, the quickest way to kill an orchid is by overwatering.
3. Mounts are works of art. The grower combines an orchid with the shapes and textures of wood or cork to create a 'bio-sculpture'. Add water, light, and fertilizer to conspire with Nature in the creation of something beautiful.

What you need to mount an orchid

Materials:

Epiphytic orchid, Shapely piece of fruit wood, grapewood, treefern or cork, Damp sphagnum moss, 12 lb monofilament fishing line, 18 ga. (for sm. cork or treefern) or 12 ga. (for wood), steel wire, small cable ties, plant tags, masking tape, KLN rooting solution in spray bottle

Tools:

Cordless drill with 3/32" bit, needle nose pliers with cutter, heavy-duty cutter for heavy wire, small dikes (portmanteau word for diagonal cutters), small, sharp scissors, razor blades and used blade receptacle or other sterile cutter



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How to mount your orchid:

1. Drill a hole in a plant tag. Make up the tag with the plant name and the date.
2. Unpot the orchid. Clean up the plant. Trim off all old roots and most healthy roots back to rhizome. Leave 2 or 3 healthy roots about ¼" long. Spray with KLN solution.
3. Decide where you will position the plant on the mount. Estimate the suspension point.
4. Drill a hole in the mount for its hanger. The point of suspension should be at least 3/8" below the edge of the mount.
5. Cut a piece of wire for the hanger. Thread it through the hole in the mount and bend one end to make a hook tying off the other end to the hook's shank.
6. Fasten the plant tag to the hanger on the back of the mount with a cable tie.
7. Cut a piece of monofilament long enough to secure the orchid to the mount. Better to have too much than too little. Tie a loop into the piece of monofilament leaving good tail. Bring the end of the monofilament through the loop to make a noose. Put the noose over your wrist and pull to secure it.
8. Lay a thin pad of damp sphagnum moss on the mount and position the plant so the cut roots are on the moss. Keep moss to a minimum.
9. Pull the monofilament noose off your wrist and onto the mount over the plant and moss. Tighten so the loop and tail are on the

back of the mount.

10. Spiral the monofilament up and around the mount tying the plant securely, but not cutting into it. Strands of moss can be used to protect the plant from the line.
11. Spiral the monofilament back down the mount to your starting point. Tie off the monofilament to the tail on the original loop using a fisherman's knot. Trim the ends of the monofilament.
12. Trim off unruly tufts of sphagnum moss with small scissors, taking care not to cut the monofilament.
13. Et voilà!

How to care for a mounted orchid:

1. The usual drill - fertilize weekly, weakly. If the weather is hot or you are growing the mount outdoors, water several times a week. I spray down the orchid until its roots start to green up. When fertilizing, I spray the orchid with plain water and then with the fertilizing solution.
2. Observe your orchid. If the pseudobulbs shrivel, it won't be a case of overwatering. Water more often.
3. Once the new roots take hold, I pull off any sphagnum moss that comes away easily. If the moss is too thick it will stay saturated and rot the roots that it contacts.
4. Admire the strong new roots that your plant throws. Allow it to bask in your admiration. Share your success - bring it to a meeting.

Upcoming Speakers and Events

- Mar 4-6:** 59th POE SFOC "Natural Wonders"
Mar 10: Bruce Rogers will talk on Sobralias
Mar 11-13: Santa Barbara Orchid Show
Mar 24: Board Meeting at the home of Karen and Brad Piini
April 2: California Orchids Sale (p.10)
April 14: Dan Newman will speak on Maxillarias



Cymbidium



Masd. veitchiana

Refreshments for the March Meeting will be provided by:

FOOD:

George Cooper
Marcia Hart
Yunor Peralta
Evelyne Powell
Lauren Sadler



March is cupcake month

DRINKS:

Miki Ichiyanagi
Dave Altman

ICE:

Irmchen Matull

SET-UP/CLEAN-UP:

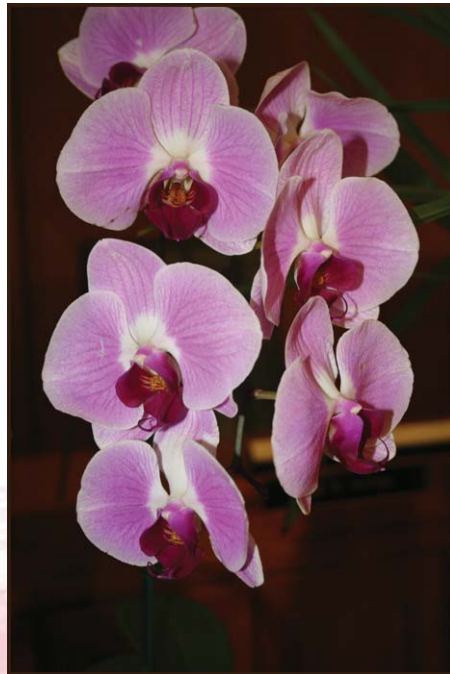
Cicily Briant (set up)
Karen Piini (clean up)

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Awards DVOS January



Cirr. sulfureum



Phalaenopsis

Advanced

- 1st *Masd. veitchiana* Ken Cook
- 2nd *Bulb. medusae* Liz Charlton
- 3rd *Pot. Golden Circle*
Ted & Nancy McClellan

Intermediate

- 1st *Cymbidium* George Cooper
- 2nd *Paph. Banjarmasin* Brian Wraxall
- 3rd *Lc. Drumbeat 'Heritage'* HCC/AOS
Linda Castleton

Novice

- 1st *Phalaenopsis* Shaylen Reisinger
- 2nd *Lc. Orange Embers 'Santa Barbra'*
Yunor Peralta
- 3rd *Cym. Enzan 'Shiny Yellow'*
Tom Pickford

Lancer Smith (species/under 6")

- Bulb. sulfureum* Liz Charlton

Membership News
courtesy of Ulrike Ahlborn,
Membership Chair
membership@dvos.org

Please welcome new member

Shaylen Reisinger
and guests

Alicia Gory, Kathy Hieb, Walt James

2011 Dues are now past 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



Phal. Banjarmasin



Bulb. medusae

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AOS Corner By Lynn Fuller

SPRING FORWARD! We are always reminded of this catch phrase as we approach the beginning of Daylight Savings Time. You might also use it as a reminder to spring forward -- i.e. stepping up during National Volunteer Month (April).

The rewards of volunteerism are abundant but perhaps the biggest payoff is the satisfaction of knowing you have contributed your time, talent and energy to a good cause. In addition, it provides social activity where you are with other like-minded people sharing a common bond or passion. Certainly the orchid world is filled with volunteer opportunities at your local society level or within the regional and national organizations to which you belong. You might consider taking refreshments to your society meeting, exhibiting your blooming plants or greeting visitors at a local orchid show or helping to repot orchids at a nearby botanical garden. All regional and national orchid organizations need volunteers to serve on committees or to assist in planning meetings or speaker days. The American Orchid Society depends on national volunteers to serve on the many committees that make the organization function and prosper. Our entire judging system is made up of dedicated volunteers who spend years preparing for and later conducting the business of the many judging centers around the country in such a professional manner. Please consider being a volunteer.

SPRING TIME IS PRIMETIME FOR ORCHID SHOWS! Check the AOS site (www.aos.org) for an updated listing of orchid shows and events. Get involved if your society is hosting a show...you will enjoy the backstage peek at what it takes to produce these events. If you can't volunteer your time at a show, you can support local shows by attending to listen and learn from the speakers and workshops plus shopping to support the show's vendors.

SPRING AOS MEMBERS MEETING

Orchids à la Louisiane April 27-May 1 Shreveport, LA will be hosted by The Shreveport Orchid Society whose volunteers have been working hard to plan a schedule for your enjoyment. For more information and registration, check their website at <http://www.shreveportorchidsociety.com/aos-show.html>. By attending this special event you will be supporting not only the AOS, but the local society that is sponsoring it. Members meetings provide the perfect opportunity to find out what's new in the orchid world, hear first-class speakers, purchase plants from select vendors and enjoy meeting your orchid friends in a collegial atmosphere.

- Lynn Fuller

affiliated_societies@aos.org

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

California Orchids Spring Sale!

Saturday, April 2nd

9am - 4pm



Variety!

Plants in and out of flower

Seedling to specimen sizes

Repotting supplies

Sound Advice

6 – 17 foot cork oak logs covered with orchids (see the September issue of *ORCHIDS* for our article about them)

Email us for an out of flower price list. We will have pre ordered plants boxed and ready for pick at the sale.

California Orchids 515 Aspen Rd Bolinas, Ca. 94924

(415) 868-0203

www.californiaorchids.com

mnisbet@pacbell.net