

FEBRUARY 2013

Diablo View



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

DVOS meets the second Thursday of each month at the
Contra Costa Water District boardroom 7:30-10:00 pm
1331 Concord Ave. Concord, CA.

AT OUR NEXT MEETING:

Fred Shull will discuss Cultivating Cattleyas

See P 3 for details

PLANT TABLE PROVIDED BY:

Fred Shull will provide the raffle table plants including an extra special plant in bloom

REFRESHMENTS:

*We do not have the use of the break room this month, so
There will be no refreshments.*

SPEAKER'S DINNER:

*Speaker's Dinner will be at Pasta Pomodoro
45 Crescent Dr., Pleasant Hill*

Join us at 5:30 to meet our speaker and enjoy fine Italian cuisine



Visit: [Diablo View Orchid Society](#)

AT OUR NEXT MEETING FEB. 14

Fred Shull has a passion for Cattleyas which he has indulged for over 40 years. He loves Brazilian Laelias too, but they're all Cattleyas now. Fred is active in the Bay Area orchid scene as a member and past officer of the San Francisco Orchid Society, the Peninsula Orchid Society, and the Orchid Society of California (based in Oakland). Fred has served as an AOS judge for over 20 years and he has attended numerous World Orchid Conferences. He has traveled extensively in Brazil and Mexico to visit growers and shows and to see orchids in their native habitat.

Fred will discuss Cattleya cultivation, using a number of his own plants as examples. He'll also take questions on Cattleya lore and growing.

We're very excited to have an expert grower speaking on Cattleya cultivation and we're equally excited to give everyone a chance to win some of Fred's plants via the raffle.



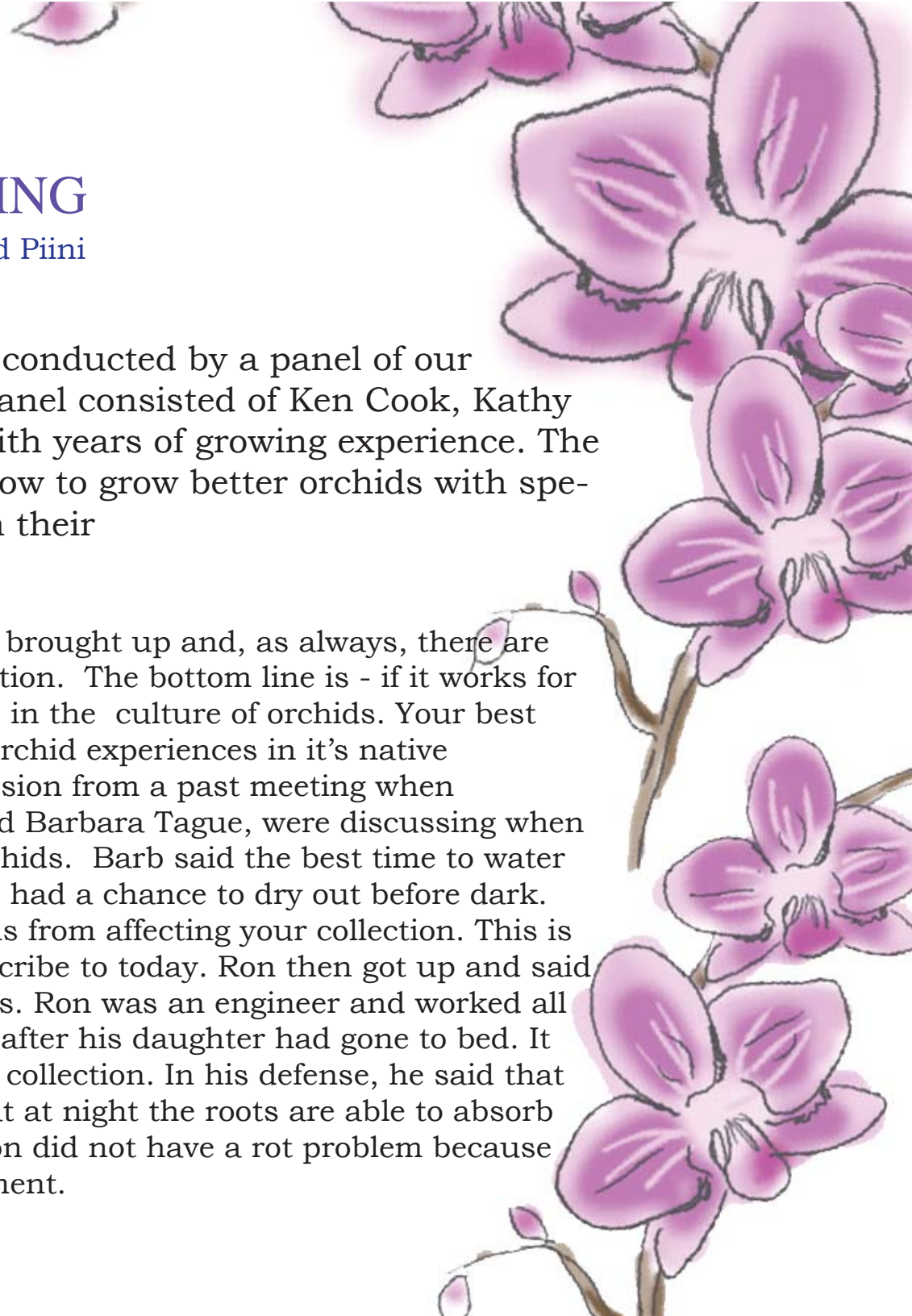
R/c. Nacouchee 'Mission Valley'

AT OUR JANUARY MEETING

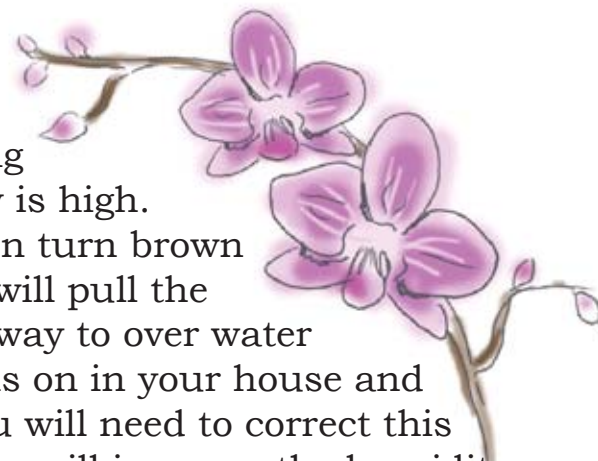
by Brad Piini

The DVOS New Year's meeting was conducted by a panel of our club's own expert orchid growers. The panel consisted of Ken Cook, Kathy Barrett and Eileen Jackson, each one with years of growing experience. The topic was a round table discussion on how to grow better orchids with special techniques that each grower uses in their personal collection.

During the discussion many topics were brought up and, as always, there are many different ways of treating any one condition. The bottom line is - if it works for you then keep doing it. There are no absolutes in the culture of orchids. Your best bet is to always try and duplicate what your orchid experiences in its native environment. I will always remember a discussion from a past meeting when a couple of good growers, Ron Bettencourt and Barbara Tague, were discussing when was the best time of the day to water your orchids. Barb said the best time to water was always in the morning, so that the plants had a chance to dry out before dark. This will prevent bacteria and fungal infections from affecting your collection. This is still the thought process that most of us subscribe to today. Ron then got up and said he does just the opposite and has no problems. Ron was an engineer and worked all day and his only free time was in the evening after his daughter had gone to bed. It was in the evenings that Ron would water his collection. In his defense, he said that in nature it rains at night all the time and that at night the roots are able to absorb more water due to the lower temperatures. Ron did not have a rot problem because he used several fans to insure good air movement.



Our panel's first topic of discussion was the difficulty of growing orchids in the winter when the temperature is cold but the humidity is high. Many of us find that if you water in the wintertime the roots will soon turn brown and rot. Ken Cook said that if he experiences these rotting roots he will pull the plant and mount it on a piece of bark. This insures that there is no way to over water your orchid. For the indoor home grower, winter means the heater is on in your house and your orchids will dry out and the humidity will be compromised. You will need to correct this by watering weekly. In the greenhouse, a 15-gallon drum full of water will increase the humidity or, as Eileen suggested, just install a humidifier and a humidistat which will accurately control the humidity. Kathy was curious about what other growers do with their shade cloth covering the greenhouse in the winter. Do you remove it or leave it covering the greenhouse? Taking it off will allow more light to enter on these short winter days, but removing the shade cloth also removes layer of insulation from the greenhouse roof allowing the greenhouse to get colder. The panel was split on this subject . Some take the cover off in the winter, others don't.



Phrag. calorum v. roseum

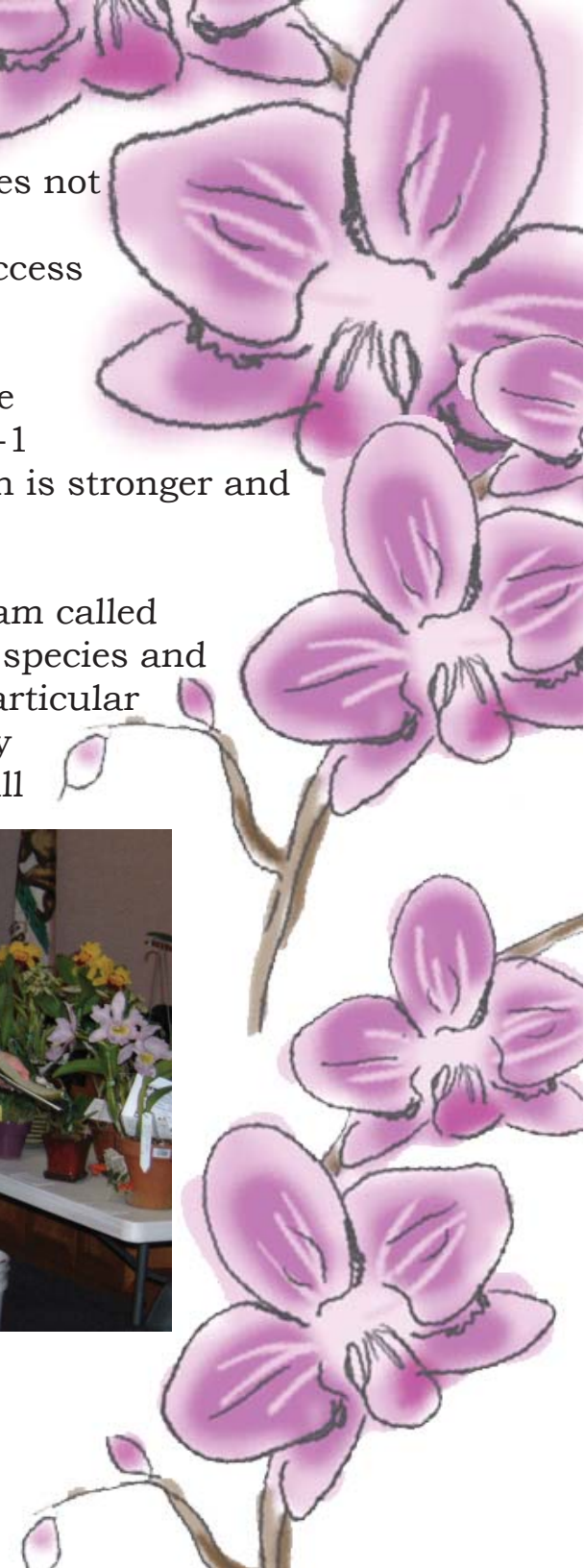
The topic of flowering as a function of the amount of light that the plant receives was brought up. The panel said that it is the length of time that a plant is exposed to light that is important to forming blossoms. Exposing your orchid to intense light for a short period of time is not as effective as 12-14 hours of moderate light to produce quality blooms.

The topic of potting media was addressed as it relates to bark. There are two popular types of bark that most growers use to re-pot their orchids in. One is Rexius fir bark and the other is Orchiata pine bark.

Orchiata does not absorb as much water as the fir bark and, therefore, does not break down as fast . This allows you to go longer between re-potting your orchids. Most of the panel said that they have used both and have had success with both.

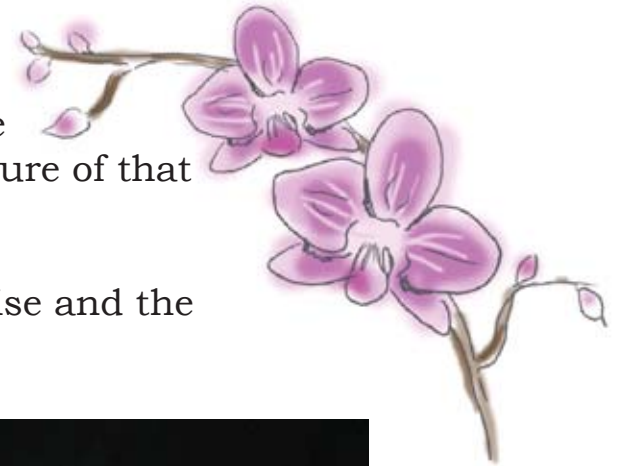
On the topic of pest control, most orchids have two main pests. They are mealy bugs and scale. Some of the panel has had success with Bayer 3-in-1 pesticide but others said skip the Bayer product and just use Safari, which is stronger and is more effective than Bayer 3-in-1.

Finally, the panel discussed the merits of using an orchid computer program called Orchid Wiz. This program allows the grower to look up almost any orchid species and find out it's native environment and the cultural requirements that that particular orchid requires. Orchid Wiz will provide the average temperature, humidity and the weather on a monthly basis for each orchids native area and it will



tell you when that orchid typically blooms . This seems to be a huge advantage to everyone on the panel to significantly improve the culture of that particular orchid species.

Thank you to all of the panel members for their significant expertise and the generosity of their time.



Membership News

courtesy of Ulrike Ahlborn,
Membership Chair

membership@dvos.org

**Membership Dues are Now Due for
2013.**

General Members/Families \$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:

www.dvos.org/About/membersh.htm



Paph. (Charhill 'Athena' x Carneros Creek
'Macro')

UPCOMING SPEAKERS AND EVENTS

- Feb 14: **DVOS meeting 7:30 - Fred Shull speaker**
- Feb 21-24: **POE**
- Feb 28: **Board meeting at the home of Yunor & Greg 7:30**
- March 14: **DVOS meeting 7:30 - Mary Nisbet speaker**
- April 11: **DVOS meeting 7:30 - Jacob Neck**



Please bring your show quality (bug free) plants to the Feb. meeting to be placed in our display at POE. Plants will be taken from our meeting to the show. You may pick them up at the show, or at our next meeting.

Awards DVOS May

Novice

- 1st *V. Noname* Yenifer Yang
- 2nd *Paph. Noname* Bob Akbarian
- 3rd *Den. Angel Baby* 'Love Pocket' Barbara Ungersma

Intermediate

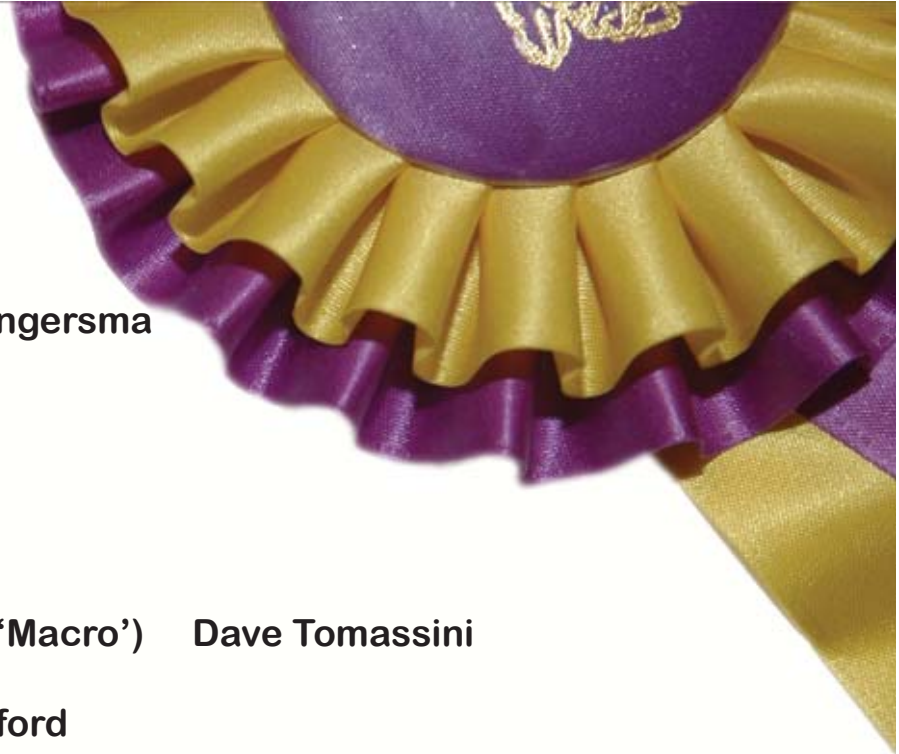
- 1st *L. anceps* 'Mendenhall' George Cooper
- 2nd *Phrag. calorum v. roseum* Eileen Jackson

Advanced

- 1st *Paph.* (Charhill 'Athena' x Carneros Creek 'Macro') Dave Tomassini
- 2nd *Den. Wondernishii* Ken Cook
- 3rd *Rlc. Nacouchee* 'Mission Valley' Tom Pickford

Lancer Smith (species/under 6")

- Epi. polybulbon* 'Maya Maria' Ken Cook



Den. Wondernishii



L. anceps 'Mendenhall'





Den. Angel Baby 'Love Pocket'

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MEMBERSHIP: ULRIKE AHLBORN membership@dvos.org
NEWSLETTER: JAMIE WASSON, LIZ CHARLTON
dvosnews@gmail.com
WEBMASTER: ULRIKE AHLBORN
webmaster@dvos.org

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Epi. polybulbon 'Maya Maria'