

Diablo View Orchid Society



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Judith Johnston and Jim Wert

Newsletter Editor: Barry Hart
DVOSEditor@aol.com

February Meeting:

**Thursday, Feb. 9 7:30pm
at the Contra Costa Water District**

Refreshments will be supplied by:

*Snacks: Judith Johnson, Don Taylor, Nancy
Harlander and others?*

Drinks: Wanda Nunez and Daniel Neighbors

February Meeting's Program:

February's meeting will be your chance to bring your good, your bad, or your beautiful plants to share.

Bring your plants if you want advice about them, or if you just want to show them off a bit and share your best practices, cultural tips, or solutions to problems.

Be sure to check out the pot luck field trip on page 3!

Review of our January speaker:

Fred Clarke, from Sunset Valley Orchids, was our January 2017 speaker. Fred spoke on the topic of Catasetum orchids and how to grow them. The topic could have alternately been titled: *Don't water your catasetums until the new roots are at least 3 to 8 inches long.*

Catasetums are related to cymbidium orchids. Cymbidiums and catasetums were both terrestrial orchids at one time, but 25 to 30 million years ago the catasetums became epiphytes, or tree dwellers. Catasetums are found in Mexico, Latin America and South America. They thrive in areas of monsoon summers and cool dry winters. They like lots of air movement and good light levels. Their favorite host is a palm tree and they prefer to live in the yoke formed by the leaf bracket and the trunk of the palm tree. This gives the Catasetum a semi-terrestrial, semi-epiphytic environment. The canopy of the palm trees protects the orchid from overhead midday sun, but allows morning and evening light to penetrate. The palm tree also allows lots of good air movement. During the dry season when the monsoons end, the catasetum orchid will become deciduous and drop its leaves. At this point the orchid will be reduced to a hard bulb.

There are 130 different species of Catasetums. They're capable of flowering between 1 to 5 times per season. When the blossoms flower they exhibit an unusual feature called sexual dimorphism. This means the plant has both male and female flowers. The male flowers are very showy. The female flowers of all 130 Catasetums species are virtually the same; they have what looks like a green helmet. The pollinator of the catasetum orchid is the male Euglossine bee. The male bee collects the oils/ fragrance as it pollinates the catasetum orchid flowers, which he then uses to attract the female Euglossine bee.

How do you grow Catasetum? Your Catasetum should be planted in sphagnum moss or a mix of fine bark and perlite. Regardless of which mix you use, it needs to drain well. If you are using sphagnum moss you need to pack the moss tight so that it holds less water. Loose moss will hold much more moisture and for too long, causing root rot. The moss should be no deeper than 3 inches and should be changed every two years. When your Catasetum is in active growth, you need to water it like it is in its natural monsoon conditions. For Fred Clarke this means watering every third day in the summertime. Catasetums are heavy feeders when they are growing, so you need to use ¼ teaspoon per gallon of fertilizer at each watering if your orchid is planted in sphagnum moss. If your Catasetum is planted in bark and perlite, you should fertilize every third day with fertilizer at strength of ½ teaspoon per gallon each time you water. Fred begins watering at the beginning of spring, but only when the new growths are developing and the roots are at least 3 to 8 inches long. Expect 90% of the roots to die off from the prior year growth during the winter dormancy. During the , your Catasetums leaves will start to yellow. This is a sign that you need to slowly taper off the amount of water you are supplying your orchid, but don't stop entirely. By January you should be withholding all watering.

If you want to repot your Catasetum, the time to do this is spring time when the new growths are starting. You need at least two front bulbs and two back bulbs to form a division. A four bulb clump is optimal.

Spider mites are the main pest of the catasetum. To test for spider mites you need to place a piece of white paper under the leaf and hit the leaf. Examine the paper for small dots which are indicative of spider mites. These mites leave small round marks on the leaves. These mite marks are where there is a lack of chlorophyll. Fred uses Safer Insecticidal Soap to control these pests. He sprays the underside of the leaves with it to kill the mites. You can also use any aerosol miticide product that can be used on roses. Avid is also a very effective miticide, but it cannot be purchased in California. It is available in Florida or Texas if you are planning a road trip. If you do get Avid, you will want to mix it with Safer soap and spray it on your orchids. Thank you for Fred for the enlightenment into the world of Catasetum orchids.

Upcoming Pot luck!

Date: March 4th

**Where: California Orchids
515 Aspen Road
Bollinas CA 94924**

We were there last year and had a great time, dining amongst their collection of amazing orchids!

This is was taken directly from their website:



CALIFORNIA ORCHIDS

Welcome

California Orchids is one of the oldest boarding facilities in the San Francisco Bay Area. We have been growing orchids professionally for over 30 years, and operating our Orchid Boarding business since 1985. The temperate nature of our location, West Marin County, allows us to grow a wide range of orchid genera.

At present we have 5 heated greenhouses and as well as a covered outdoor growing area. These areas give us over 15,000 square feet of space divided and heated according to the varying needs of some 12,000 orchid plants, from seedlings to very large specimens.

The central focus of California Orchids is to develop and grow orchid collections for our clients and we concentrate on this rather than wholesale or retail sales. The exception is our [Bi-annual Sale](#), which is open to the public each spring and fall.

[Directions to California Orchids](#)

Our Spring Sale will be Saturday March 25th, 2017, 9am-4pm. Fill out the form so we have your email address. [If you need directions](#) or would like to be notified about our sales just [fill out this form](#).

While these pages are primarily dedicated to our boarding clients we encourage you to browse our site, find out more about [boarding](#), sign up to be [notified about our sales](#), and enjoy our [favorite links](#).

Thanks for stopping by,
Mary Nisbet

California Orchids | P.O. Box 1110 Bollinas, CA 94924 | tel. 415.868.0203 | info@californiaorchids.com
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Results for the January Meeting's Judging

Novice

1st Place: Slc Circle of Life x Lc 'Tokyo Magic'
Entered By: Marcia Hart

2nd Place: Unnamed Cymbidium
Entered By: Daniel Neighbors

Intermediate

1st Place: Paph. Hengduan Sweetheart
Entered By: Miki Ichiyanagi

2nd Place: Dendrochilum tenellum
Entered By: Gordon Knight

3rd Place: Maxillaria elatior
Entered By: Barbara Ungersma

Advanced

1st Place: Cattleya Nancy Ann
Entered By: Ted & Nancy McClellan

2nd Place: Masd. Mem of Sang Sun
Entered By: Sung Lee

3rd Place: Lctna Flying Colors 'Mendenhall'
Entered By: Jim Wert

Lancer Smith Award

Awarded: Brassovola nodosa 'Mickey Mouse'
Entered By: Miki Ichiyanagi

Napa Valley Orchid Society

24th Annual Orchid Show

Exquisite Orchids

Napa Senior Activity Center

1500 Jefferson Street - Napa 94559

Sat. - Sun. March 11 & 12

10 am - 4 pm

Free Admission

For more info call (707) 738-4128

For details: **nv-os.org**

Quality Orchids - Art - Raffle

Orchid Care Supplies & Demos

Bienvenidos a la Fabulosa
Exposición y Venta de
Orquideas de America



MALIHINI
ORCHID SOCIETY

2017 ANNUAL

Orchid Show & Sale

AOS and CSA Judged Show

FREE ADMISSION

Fri. Feb. 10 6pm-9pm
(sale area only)

Sat. Feb. 11 10am-6pm

Sun. Feb. 12 10am-5pm

There will be displays, lectures
and demonstrations on orchids.
Special purchased orchids will
also be on sale

Information: www.malihini.org

MAINst
CUPERTINO

19369 Stevens Creek Blvd,
Cupertino, CA 95014
(next to Eureka Restaurant
Between N. Tantau Ave.
& N. Wolfe Road)



Some information about the POE Show in February...

We received this note from a vendor... you might be interested.

Dear Orchid friend:

We wish you great holydays and a wonderful and happy new year 2017.

On the other hand, we would like to let you know that **Peruflora** will be attending **the Pacific Orchid Exposition in San Francisco, California** between **February 24th and 26th**.

This is a great opportunity for you to order Andean and Amazon Orchids from us, for plants to be picked up at the Show, or being sent by postal service to you. Attached are our current price lists for flasks and plants.

Last day to receive the preorders for San Francisco Orchid Show is February 4th.

Orders will be accepted on a **first-come, first-served basis**. Please feel free to forward the attached lists to your friends and members of your society.

Please do not hesitate to contact us for further questions.
Kindest regards from South America,

Joselyn
Peruflora