



# Diablo View Orchid Society Newsletter

<http://www.geocities.com/diabloviewos/>

February 2001

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## Program: Club Auction (see article on pg. 7)

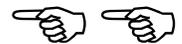
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### Meeting Date, Time and Location



**When: Friday, Feb. 9, 2001 @ 7:30 P.M. (note date)**

**Where: Contra Costa Water Dept. Auditorium  
1331 Concord Ave., Concord**



## Upcoming Events: (topics in parenthesis)

### February

9 Club auction at general meeting  
(NOTE DATE)

22-25 Pacific Orchid Expo.  
Ft. Mason Expo Center

### March

8 General meeting.  
Speaker: Heather Drobis (Cymbidiums)

23-25 Santa Barbara Orchid Show

### April

12 General meeting.  
Speaker: Bill Thoms

22 DVOS Orchid Sale  
at the Orchid Ranch

### May

10 General meeting.  
Speaker: Nick Burnett (Gen'l care)

### June

14 General meeting.  
Speaker: Dennis Olivas (Equitants)

### July

12 General meeting,  
Speaker: Stephen Monkhouse  
(Australian orchids)

### September

13 General meeting  
Speaker: George Carr

### October

11 General meeting.  
Speaker: Weyman Bussey

### November

8 General meeting  
Proposed speaker: Francisco Miranda  
(Brazilian species)

## President's Message

The Diablo View Orchid Society will host its third annual Winter Orchid Auction in February. Please note the change in meeting date from Thursday, February 8th TO Friday, February 9th. The Auction will be held at our usual meeting location, the Contra Costa Water District Auditorium. We expect to have the following orchids for auction: orchids purchased from vendors; orchids donated by vendors; orchids donated by members and other items that our generous members bring down such as fertilizer, flasks, vases, pots, etc.

All donated orchids must be disease and bug free as they will be inspected prior to being accepted and registered. FOR THOSE DONATING ORCHIDS - PLEASE SHOW UP AT 7:00 WITH YOUR PLANT(S). Try to bring orchids in bloom if possible. If not try to include a photo or brief description of what the flower looks like and/or its color(s). This is a great opportunity to pick up some good plants at reasonable prices. See the article on pg. 7 for more details.

In January we had a last minute change in date for our regular meeting. We hope everyone noticed the large print on the front of the newsletter detailing the change. For those that didn't or for those that don't read the newsletter, we hope it didn't cause too much of an inconvenience. Please check the newsletter each month for the date and time of each meeting as these changes may occur from time to time. Fortunately, this has not been the case very often.

**ARTICLE DEADLINE FOR  
MARCH NEWSLETTER  
IS MONDAY, FEB. 19**

## DVOS STAFF

*President* - Dan Chiappone  
*Vice-President* - Pauline Brault  
*Secretary* - Karen Moonitz  
*Treasurer* - John Chamberlain

*AOS Rep.* - Barbara Tague  
*BBQ* - Bob VanGalder  
*Culture Sessions* - Pauline Brault  
*Greenhouse Tours* - Open  
*Historian* - Open  
*Indoor/Outdoor Group* - Open  
*Librarian* - Phyllis Arthur  
*Lights&Equipment* - Juan Bofill  
*Membership* - Ulrike Ahlborn  
*Newsletter Ads* - Karen Moonitz  
*Plant Sales* - Jeanette Bean  
Madge Fordyce  
*Raffle/Other sales* - Nancy Pak  
*Refreshments* - Brenda Aday  
*S.F. Show* - Ron Bettencourt  
*Sound System* - Dave Tomassini  
*Webmaster* - Nick Doe  
*Welcome Hostess*-Madge Fordyce

*Board Members* - Phyllis Arthur;  
Juan Bofill; Charlotte Leong; Alice &  
David Tomassini  
*Newsletter Editor*

Mark Rotter (925) 833-3787  
DVOSnews@home.com

## Membership News

In January Carl Feighner from Livermore was a guest at the General Meeting and Gail and Nicole Moore from Alameda joined our society in January. A hearty Welcome to all! See you at the next meeting.

Including the new members, DVOS is 114 members strong. I want to thank all of our members who have promptly sent in their dues for 2001. If you cannot remember if you sent you check yet, please look at the address label of this newsletter. If you see 2000 next to your name, it means that your membership for the year 2001 is due. I am planning on printing the roster in February. If your dues are not received by the February 10th, your name will not be in it.

The membership fee is still \$15 for one or \$25 for two years. If you are an out of state member who would like to renew and receive the monthly newsletter, we ask you for \$10. Please fill out the attached renewal form and send it together with your check to

Ulrike Ahlborn  
117 Laredo Court  
San Ramon. CA 94583

or give it to me at the next meeting.

A note to our guests who attended our general meetings prior to December 2000. Please be aware that this will be your last newsletter. If you would like to continue receiving it and enjoy the meetings and participate in the club's benefits, send in your application and dues before the end of this month or just bring them to the next general meeting.

I want to produce an up-to-date roster, so please let me know if I spelled your name wrong or you changed your address, phone-, fax number. If you just got e-mail or changed your e-mail provider, please send a short message

to [ulrikea@usa.net](mailto:ulrikea@usa.net) so I will not forget to add you to my address book. In the rare event that we have to change the place or date, as for the January general meeting, I then will be able to notify you by e-mail.

You can also call me during the day at (510) 741-6762 or in the evening at (925)830-8830 .

Ulrike Ahlborn  
Membership

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## Refreshment Corner

There will be no refreshments at the February Meeting; the auction will take up the entire evening. A very special thanks to those who brought goodies in January, as well as the following people who signed up for MARCH: Shirley Nedham, Renata Johnson, Bill Morse, Brad Piini, Patricia Gagne, Clarence Parkison, Susan Fetter, Nat Smith and Bob Akbarian.

- Brenda Aday

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## San Francisco Orchid Show

If you are planning to donate a plant(s) to the show, here are some things to note: 1) Do not put plant in baskets or special containers unless they are needed to prop up the plant. 2) All supports need to be natural material like bamboo (no metal or plastic). 3) Plants should be clean and bug-free. 4) Trim and remove any blackened or discolored spots. 5) Put your name on the pot with the help of a piece of masking tape (also put one on the bottom in case the one on the side falls off). 6) Bring a list of plants donated so that we can keep track of what you've loaned. 7) Shine leaves using milk.

Plants may be dropped off between 2/17 and 2/20 at the home of Charlotte Leong in San Ramon (925-833-0840) or Juan Bofill in Pleasant Hill (925-609-8443). Please call to arrange a drop-off time.

## A Plea for Housing

Our society will be bringing out-of-town speakers for your enjoyment during the months of April, July, September, October and November. Please see our schedule for the year in this newsletter. These speakers travel among three other Bay area societies to present their programs. During this time-frame we need to house them and usually their spouses/guests. We are asking for volunteers to house them for one or two nights (second Wednesday and possibly Thursday of the month) during their stay. If we cannot find volunteers the society will have to incur the cost of placing them in hotels, etc. This can be very costly. If you think you can accommodate some of them please let me know the dates/nights you can do so. Contact me (925)-943-2022 or e-mail me at Dchiapej@aol.com. I'm certain the speakers will be very appreciative and I know the society definitely will.

Dan Chiappone

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## Should I Specialize in One Genus?

by FRANK FORDYCE

It is my belief that one of the prime reasons people are attracted to orchids is the tremendous variety the family offers. The Orchid family encompasses one of the widest ranges of color found in the floral kingdom, while flower sizes range from a minute fraction of an inch to 1½ feet.

Of additional interest is the fact that orchids are found in practically all regions of the world. Hobbyists often find new friends in far away places, exchange plants, methods of culture and frequently their mutual hobby stimulates the interest to visit each other. In doing this each hobbyist involved widens his knowledge and understanding of his world neighbor.

While most hobbyists like to specialize in one

genus, learning as much as possible about its culture and its allied hybrids, they add further interest by acquiring additional species as they become aware of their intrigue. Let us take for example a *Cymbidium* hobbyist. He usually endeavors to collect exhibition mid-season varieties branching into early and late types to extend the blooming season. He may become intrigued with the miniatures and polymorphs or perhaps he prefers certain brilliant color ranges. He undoubtedly buys seedlings hoping to bloom that choice FCC variety himself (naming it after his wife), but playing it safe adds mericlones of proven value to his collection as well. He observes distinctive plants at commercial ranges and purchases either back-bulb or green bulb divisions. To build such a diversified collection would seem to present a full time interest all its own yet more and more cymbidium hobbyists are branching into other types of orchids compatible to their first love.

Cattleya hobbyists seem to branch into other genera most frequently, for although cattleyas have a wide range of color, season, and size, they usually bloom only once per year and for a relatively short period of time. The Cattleya hobbyist who wishes to have orchids continually in bloom must possess a huge collection, thus insuring constant bloom, or he must add interest in the form of compatible plants such as phalaenopsis, vandaceous types, oncidiums, warm odonts, and miltonias, warm "paphs." and a myriad of other fascinating types.

My recommendation is to specialize in one genera, striving for perfection in plant and flower production but do not restrict your interest to that one type. Like the man who prefers blondes, upon second glance you may find redheads have an intriguing appeal all their own!

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## Donations wanted!

Want to get a great tax deduction? The DVOS will gladly accept your donation of good-running vehicles, or other real property! Contact Dan Chiappone or any of the board members for details.

## Hints and Kinks

The photo below is that of a Cattleya sheath. The culture tip here is that when you water a sheath that is only partway opened like this it will collect water and rot out the buds. What to do?? You can take a pair of nail clippers and cut a notch at the base of the sheath to allow any trapped water to drain out! Cool, huh!

The other pictures are a 'before and after' of oxalis crowding a Stanhopea pot. A long time ago someone wondered what would happen if you painted oxalis with the common weedkiller 'RoundUp', being very careful not to get any RoundUp on the orchid. Well, I tried it. Lo and behold it works!! I must stress you must be very careful only to paint the weed, not the orchid. An artist's brush or something similar should be used to paint the fine new growths. This technique could also be used against ferns which inhabit baskets, and the like. I chose the Stanhopea because it had a particularly ingrown stand of oxalis. The oxalis did not respond to tweezing at all, hence I used it as the candidate for the artist's brush/Roundup method. (Actually I used a cheap plastic BBQ sauce brush, but I wouldn't want anyone else to be so cavalier with their orchids!! The stuff can drip all over the place!)

- Kathy Barrett



*Cattleya sheath*



*Oxalis before the Round-Up treatment*



*Oxalis after the Round-Up treatment -  
no more yucky Oxalis!*

## The DVOS Library

[*Ed. note: This is the first of several articles detailing the contents of the DVOS lending library. This "base list" valid as of Feb. 2000. For further details, see Phyllis Arthur*]

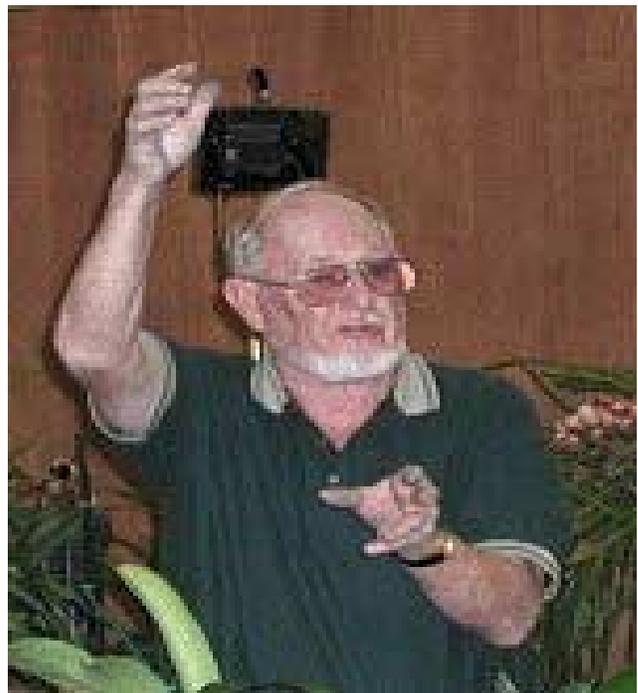
Author	Title
American Orchid Society	ORCHID PESTS AND DISEASES
Ardette, Joseph	ORCHID BIOLOGY REVIEWS 1
Ardette, Joseph	ORCHID BIOLOGY REVIEWS 11
Barrett, Kathy	Video: ORCHID CULTURE - FERTILIZER
Bettencourt, Ron	Video: ORCHID CULTURE - WATERING
Black, Peter M.	ORCHIDS
Brooklyn Bot. Garden Record	GREENHOUSES & GARDEN BOOKS
Fitch, Charles M	GROWING ORCHIDS UNDER LIGHTS
Gordon, Bob	BEGINNERS GUIDE TO PHALENOPSIS
Gordon, Bob	CULTURE OF PHALENOPSIS ORCHIDS
Gordon, Bob	ORCHID SEEDLING CARE
Heaps, Gordon	NEW GROWERS GUIDE TO ORCHIDS
Hunt, Francis P.	INTERNATIONAL BOOK OF ORCHIDS
Jaworski, Henry	ORCHIDS SIMPLIFIED, INDOOR GROWING
Lubberman, Mimi	EASY ORCHIDS
Motes, Martin	VANDAS, BOTANY, HISTORY & CULTURE
Moulin, Fred	ORCHIDS IN AUSTRALIA
Noble, Mary	YOU CAN GROW CATTLEYA ORCHIDS
Noble, Mary	YOU CAN GROW ORCHIDS
Northern, Rebecca Tyson	HOME ORCHID GROWING
Northern, Rebecca Tyson	MINATURE ORCHIDS & HOW TO GROW
Northern, Rebecca Tyson	ORCHIDS AS HOUSE PLANTS
Ortho Books	GREENHOUSES
Pridgeon, Alex	ORCHIDS, ILLUSTRATED ENCYCLOPEDIA
Rentoul, J.N.	SPECIALIST ORCHID GROWER
Scott, Dean	Video: ORCHID CULTURE - HUMIDITY
Stewart, Joyce	ORCHIDS KEW GARDENING GUIDES
Stewart, J / Schelpe, S.	DENDROBIUMS, intro to SPECIES CULT
Smith & Hawken	100 ORCHIDS FOR AMERICAN GARDENER
Taylor, T.M.	SECRETS SUCCESSFUL GREENHOUSE BUS
Walls, Ian	COMPLETE BOOK OF GREENHOUSE

## News from the Judging World

The Pacific Central Judging Center is always ready to provide assistance to our DVOS. If any of our society member should have any questions about American Orchid Society Judging, or wish to observe the judging process in person at one of the monthly center judging, please feel free to contact Susan Wedegaertner, Judging Chair of Pacific Central Judging Center @ (209)545-0814, evenings.

Better yet, get in touch with Kathy Barrett, she is well into her second year of training with the Pacific Central Judging Center. After you talk with Kathy or Susan, maybe, just maybe you'd enjoy becoming an AOS judge.

- Barbara Tague



*Frank Fordyce explaining orchids  
at the Jan, 2001 club meeting*

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### **THE AUCTION IS HERE!!! THE AUCTION IS HERE!!!**

The mid-winter auction is finally here! The date is FRIDAY, February 11, 2000. The place is our customary meeting location; the Contra Costa Water Department Auditorium. We will be able to preview the plant selection being offered for auction from 7:00 to 7:30 PM. **IF YOU ARE PLANNING ON DONATING A PLANT(S), PLEASE SHOW UP AT THE AUDITORIUM AT 7:00 SO THAT THEY MAY BE REGISTERED BEFORE THE AUCTION.** (It is quite possible that those who arrive a little earlier may get a sneak preview while helping to set up a table or two for our auctioneer, Dennis Olivas.) The meeting for the evening (which is in place of our regularly scheduled monthly meeting) will begin at 7:30 with some brief instructions on the auction process, how to pay for plants (cash or checks only please) and some of the pertinent DVOS communications.

DVOS is fortunate to have Dennis Olivas return to assist with the auction. Dennis is a member of

DVOS and has a long-term addiction to orchids as well as an extremely generous spirit in providing help and assistance to organizations and their members as he is doing for us on 2/9. He will *assist* in plant identification and be the principal auctioneer for the evening. As plants are sold, he will direct a "runner" to bring the plant to the seat of the successful bidder. When the plant purchasers wish to leave the auction (hopefully no one will leave until the auction is over!), they will be asked to leave at the rear of the auditorium in order to pay for the plant on the way out. Each plant will have a unique number that will identify the plant during the auctioning process; this same number will be the identification number that the cashiers will refer to when tallying up the cost of your plant purchases...**DON'T FORGET TO RECORD THE AMOUNT YOU BID!**

Please note that the auction is BYOB (bring your own boxes). In all; there will be a very diverse cross section of plants, species and hybrids, in spike and near blooming size, the unusual and the popular. Since there will be over 100 plants for auction you will not be disappointed in the selection and variety. Plan on attending! Mark your calendar! Bring a friend! FRIDAY, February 9th at 7:30 PM.

**Livermore**

\*The Orchid Ranch\*;  
Fordyce Orchids - Cattleyas 925-447-1659  
Orchids Orinda - Phalaenopsis  
Tonkins Orchids - Paphiopedilums

**Oakland**

\*Orchids Fiori D'Amore\*  
Paolo & Nina DiCandia  
510-530-4884 (by appt. only)

**Hawaii**

\*Yamada's Orchid Nursery\*  
Allen Yamada  
5087-A Kawaihau Rd.  
Kapaa, HI 96746

**Yuba City**

\*Orchid Obsession\*  
Brent & Toni Cushenbery  
1477 Oswald Rd., Yuba City, CA 95993  
916-673-6763

**Walnut Creek**

\*Orchid Gallery\*  
Jing Ho  
1501 N. California Blvd.

**Martinez**

\*MGM Orchids\*  
Mariano G Morales  
718 Main Street  
Martinez, CA. 94553

**San Leandro**

\*The Paph House\*  
Francisco Baptista & Fred Jernigan  
375 Warwick Avenue, San Leandro, CA  
510/ 635-2845, (by appt. only)

**Concord**

\*San Miguel Greenhouses\*  
Pamela Leaver  
936 San Miguel Rd.  
925-798-0476 (by appt. only)

**Concord**

Nathalie Smith  
1507 Lavetta Way; 925-685-8904  
(by appt. only); orchid supplies

**Danville**

\*Commercial Plant Services\*  
David & Alice Tomassini  
586 El Capitan Dr.; 925-837-1780

**Half Moon Bay**

\*D & D Flowers\*  
Dennis Olivas; 62 Oceanside Dr.  
650-994-7465 (call in advance)



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