



Diablo View Orchid Society Newsletter

<http://www.diabloviewos.org>

May 2002

Program:

“Disas in the Wild”

Michael Gallagher

Meeting Date, Time and Location

When: Thursday, May 9, 2002

Culture Session @ 7 PM: Michael Gallagher: “Growing disas in the East Bay”

Meeting Starts at 7:30 PM

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

Dinner with Michael Gallagher: 5:30 PM @ PepperMill Restaurant
1100 Concord Ave., Concord

RSVP (925) 833-0840 or e-mail DVOSNEWS@ATTBI.COM by 5/6/02

Upcoming Events:

(topics in parenthesis)

May

9 General meeting
Speaker: Michael Gallagher
(Disas in the Wild)

16 Board meeting @ Tomassini's

June

13 General meeting
Speaker: Matt Swift (Tolumnias)

August

11 General Meeting
Orchid round-robin with Sue Fordyce,

Bernice Lindner, and Barbara Tague
24 DVOS BBQ

September

12 General meeting
Speaker: Leonard Gines (TBA)

October

10 General meeting
Speaker: Dr. Joanne Whitney
(How did it get that name?)

December

12 General meeting
DVOS Holiday Party

Message from the President

This message is for people who are Cattleya growers. I've been hearing from Frank Fordyce that Cattleyas are becoming an endangered species. He says there are only a few growers raising Cats in any quantity and as we speak these companies are thinning out. He says the reason is because it takes too long from seedling to flower to sell, Also the demand is for Phalaenopsis and other orchids at this time.

I was told the same from Golden Gate Orchids at the S.F. Flower & Garden Show. Their complaint was that the orchid industry is being flooded by Phals, Paphs. & Oncidiums from Taiwan at below market prices. This is not good news for people like myself who enjoy growing Cattleyas.

We are lucky to have Frank Fordyce so close by, still growing & hybridizing Cattleyas. I can spend hours at his nursery and it only seems like minutes. A few weeks ago I was only supposed to deliver some plants and leave because I had an appointment to be at. After overstaying, I left in a hurry only to be stopped by a policeman who promptly gave me a ticket for speeding. All I could think of was "that money could have been better spent on more orchids."

Dave Tomassini

**ARTICLE DEADLINE FOR
JUNE NEWSLETTER
IS FRIDAY, MAY 31**

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DVOS STAFF

President - David Tomassini

Vice-President - Charlotte Leong

Secretary - Alice Tomassini

Treasurer - Barbara Tague

AOS Rep. - Barbara Tague

BBQ - Kathy Barret, Sue Fordyce

Culture Sessions - Charlotte Leong

Greenhouse Tours - Linda Daraskavich

Historian - Nathalie Smith

Indoor/Outdoor Group - Open

Librarian - Phyllis Arthur

Lights & Equipment - Juan Bofill, Parky Parkison

Membership - Ulrike Ahlborn

Newspaper Ads - Karen Moonitz

Raffle/Other sales - Nancy Pak

Refreshments - Linda Castleton, Tonky Bofill

S.F. Show - Ron Bettencourt

Sound System - Dave Tomassini

Webmaster - Nick Doe

Welcome Hostess - Madge Fordyce

Board Members - Kathy Barrett, Juan Bofill, Linda Daraskavich, Parky Parkison, Mark Rotter

Newsletter Editor

Mark Rotter (925) 833-3787

DVOSnews@attbi.com

AOS Judging Results

AOS Awards
Pacific Central Supplemental Center
San Francisco, CA
4/2/02

Name of plant: Den kingianum 'Ron Parsons'
Parentage: species
Award: AM 81
Exhibitor: Anna S. Chai

Name of plant: Phal. Brother Sara Gold 'Peach'
Parentage: Phal. Taipei Gold x Phal. Sara Gold
Award: HCC 78
Exhibitor: Japheth Ko

Name of plant: Cym. Un-named Hybrid 'J. G.'
Parentage: Cym. Mighty Sunset x Cym. Karen
Award: HCC 77 (prov)
Exhibitor: Jill and Jerry Rodder

(Pictures at the Diablo View Orchid Society
homepage: <<http://www.diabloviewos.org/>>)
- Kathy Barrett

Refreshment Room

April's refreshment table upheld our reputation as the best "refreshed" society in the Bay Area. The stakes have been raised for those who signed up for May: **Joe Nedham, Madge Fordyce, Jenny Louis, Renate Johnson, Shirley Kerr, Parky Parkison, Mercedes Bell and Juan & Tonky Bofill**. Beverages will be provided by: **Sybil McGowan, Charlotte Leong, James Clements and Linda Paige**.

If, for whatever reason, any of you can not attend the meeting, please call **Linda Castleton** (925-256-4628) or **Antonieta Bofill** (925-609-8443) in advance of the meeting.

Linda Castleton
Antonieta Bofill

This Month's Speaker

Michael Gallagher

The genus Disa contains some of the most beautiful flowers of all the orchids. The vibrant colors and large, long-lasting flowers make for a spectacular display. Unfortunately Disas have a reputation for being difficult to grow. As terrestrial orchids, their culture is quite different from that of the more commonly grown species. Many of our rules about "wet feet" or over-watering do not apply. Our speaker will guide us to the proper methods for growing these showy orchids in our area.

Michael Gallagher, our speaker, has become an expert in the Disa world, gaining a number of A.O.S. awards for his plants along the way. He has also registered almost 20 new Disa hybrids. He has visited Disas in their native habitats in South Africa and in their captive habitats of well-known international growers. He is a self-described "Disaphile" and frequent contributor to the DisaPhile newsletter. His business, Diablo Disas, is located in Lafayette, California. His website, www.disas.com <<http://www.disas.com>>, has fabulous photos of these beautiful orchids and plenty of information about the techniques for successful culture.

Next month Matt Swift from Rancho Cucamonga will discuss all you wanted to know about the delightful Caribbean orchids Equitant Oncidiums. Rancho Cucamonga has weather conditions similar to Concord so his culture tips should prove invaluable for those of you who are trying to grow these miniature orchids.

Hope you can join us!
Charlotte

Last Month's Presentation

Last month Marni Turkel of Stony Point Ceramic Design shared her experiences good and bad with growing orchids. Some of the tips she had to share are the following: 1) Use even sized bark in your mix. This slows down the degradation rate and allows you to extend repotting to 2 - 4 years. 2) Know your plants. Although some plants are best repotted during the early growth stage, some species, such as Promenaea, will suffer a set-back if disturbed at this stage. With Promenaea it can take 2 - 3 years to recover from the untimely disturbance. 3) For some water loving miniatures, you can keep more moisture around the roots by potting them in a 'tree-fern sandwich'. Loosely 'sandwich' the roots between two pieces of tree fern and place in an appropriate sized pot that holds the 'sandwich' together. 4) Know that some plants need to attain an optimum size before they will bloom. Keep this in mind when purchasing unbloomed plants. It may take many years before you see the flower. 5) Water quality can change over time and from season to season. Be sure to periodically check your water quality and read the annual reports sent by your water supplier.

ASK NICK - Last month I forgot to add that Nick Burnett has graciously allowed us to print his e-mail address if anyone wishes to contact him about the plants he discussed in his presentation. If you wish to contact Nick, he can be reached at nickburnet@aol.com.

Charlotte

Have Dinner with the Speaker!

Come join us for dinner prior to the June meeting. Hear inside tips and stories from our speaker Michael Gallagher. Dinner reservations are for 5:30 PM at PepperMill Restaurant, 1100 Concord Ave. at the corner just east of the Toyota Dealership in Concord.. If you get lost, the phone number for the restaurant is 925-671-2233. Please RSVP to Charlotte at dvosnews@attbi.com or leave a message at 925-833-0840 by 5/6/02. If you don't RSVP, but find you can come to dinner at the last minute, please join us. We can always accommodate a few extra people. Hope to see you there.

Charlotte - 4 -

Membership News

The guests at the April General Meeting were **Rochelle Hiatt** from San Leandro and **Felicia and Alex Teller** from Moraga.

As of April 2002 the Diablo View Orchid Society has 93 members. If you would like to know who they are and you are a member yourself, see me at the next meeting for a 2002 roster if you do not have one yet. Please let me know if you changed your address, phone number or e-mail address, so I can update my files. I will provide an Addendum to the roster, which will include all new members and any corrections.

A note to our guests who attended our general meeting prior to March 2002: 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 or just bring them to the next meeting.

You can contact me by e-mail ulrikea@usa.net, or by phone during the day at (510) 741-6762 or in the evening at (925) 830-8830.

Ulrike Ahlborn
Membership Chair



Lc Rojo owned by Kathy Barrett. First place in DVOS competition

Results from the DVOS Competition

1st Place

Kathy Barrett

Lc. Rojo

2nd Place

Fred LaFontaine

Tiger Crow 'Golden Girl'

3rd Place

Juan Bofill

Jose Marti

Look What I Bloomed For the First Time

Nancy Pak

Phal. Cassandra

Lancer Smith Award

Kathy Barrett

Maxillaria

Many thanks to our judges **Jeanette and Tom Bean,**
and **Shirley Kerr**



Tiger Crow 'Golden Girl' owned by Fred LaFontaine. Second place in DVOS competition



Phal. Cassandra owned by Nancy Pak. Look What I Bloomed for the First Time Award in DVOS competition.



Maxillaria owned by Kathy Barrett. Lancer Smith award in DVOS competition

Culture Corner

This month fellow Diablo View Orchid Society member, Michael Gallagher, will present a culture session on 'Growing Disas in the East Bay'. If you have any inkling of interest in growing Disas, or are curious as to their special culture requirements, this is one presentation that you won't want to miss. Michael has successfully grown award winning Disas in Contra Costa for years. Come learn from his experiences.

Next month Matt Swift will give a demonstration on repotting 'Tolumnias' aka 'Equitant Oncidiums'.

- Charlotte Leong

Greenhouse Tours

There is a tour planned for Saturday, June 29th. The tour will begin at Mercedes Bell's greenhouse in Clyde between 9:00-10:00. The next stop will be at Karen Moonitz' greenhouse in Concord between 10:30-11:30. You can spend as little or as much time at these stops as you wish, then the tour will finish up with lunch at Dave & Alice Tomassini's in Danville. There will also be plants for sale, provided by Dave Tomassini and Nathalie Smith.

A sign-up sheet will be passed around at the at the next General Meeting. The lunch will be \$6.75 and will include a sandwich, macaroni salad or fruit salad, chips, cookies, and drinks. Lunch money is due before the tour. I will pass out directions as we approach the tour date..

Linda Daraskavich

DVOS Plant Sale

Our annual sale at Fordyce Orchids was a great success. Thanks to **Frank, Madge, and Sue Fordyce** for allowing us to hold our sale at their nursery. We also want to thank our hard working volunteers

Phyllis Arthur, Jeanette and Tom Bean, Juan and Tonky Bofill, Linda Castleton, Fay Crociani, Linda Daraskavich, Fred LaFontaine, Charlotte Leong, Sybil McGowan, Karen Moonitz, Nancy Pak, and David and Alice Tomassini. I hope I didn't forget anyone.

The volunteers made our event happen. Special thanks to **Sue Fordyce** who coordinated the event and did a wonderful job of making sure all the plants were properly labeled and provided pictures of the flowers for those plants that were not in bloom. **Frank Fordyce** enthralled the newbie orchid growers with his potting demonstrations and sage orchid advice. He had such an interested crowd that the first potting session lasted over 3 hours! Good job Frank!

We also want to thank those individuals and companies that donated orchids to our sale. They were **Juan Bofill, Bernice Lindner, Nathalie Smith, Commercial Plant Services, H & R Nurseries, Tonkin's Orchids, and Tropical Orchids.** If you meet any of these donors, let them know you appreciate their donation to Diablo View Orchid Society. Please help support those companies that support us. There are still some DVOS plants for sale, and some good deals at \$5 and \$10. So if you missed the sale you may still be able to pick up some good plants.

- Charlotte Leong



Jose Marti owned by Juan Bofill. Third place in DVOS competition

Upcoming Events

Orchid Sale - May 18th & 19th

1000 + orchids to be sold at cheap prices - All day, both days

The Sumner residence

6887 Mountain View Terrace - Browns Valley, CA. 95918

Phone: 530-741-0500

Directions from Sacramento:

Take Rt. 99 north to 70; then Rt. 70 north to Marysville;

Turn right on Rt. 20 towards Grass Valley; Turn left onto Marysville Rd. (at 76 station).

Turn right onto Dolan-Harding/Peoria Rd. (about 7 miles up Marysville Rd).

Go straight past Peoria Rd. to turn right onto Township Rd. (about 1 mile).

Turn right onto Mountain View Terrace (about 1 mile down Township Rd.)

Turn right into second driveway on the right (#6887).

Be a Trendsetter!!

How would you like to be on the leading edge of communications, save the club money, save the environment, and see all the newsletter photos in glorious color? How would you like for me to stop nagging everyone on this subject? It's easy!! Simply elect to receive your newsletter via e-mail. You'll also get the satisfaction of receiving your newsletter before everyone else.

Simply e-mail me at DVOSNEWS@ATTBI.COM and say "I want to receive the newsletter via e-mail!" That's all there is to it. Thanks much,

Mark, your humble editor

Culture Thrills

by Frank Fordyce

You have undoubtedly noticed that Orchid People are creative. Seldom do they pass the opportunity to hybridize their prize blooms. And one of the real joys of hybridizing your own orchids is the satisfying experience of naming and registering your own hybrid with Royal Horticulture Society. This accomplishment is literally the climax to the years of hoping, planning, and waiting for those first magnificent blooms to appear.

Ah, but surely your horticultural "first born" deserves a name nearest and dearest to your heart; your beloved mate's name. So, as the lead bulb develops its first sheath with the promise of its tiny buds to unfold their magnificence, you announce to all the world that this elegant hybrid will dignify and commemorate the love and respect you have for your beloved by carrying their name for eternity.

And, as you prepare the necessary Royal Horticulture Society's hybrid registration form, you find to your horror that the last AOS Bulletin lists the identical parents you have used, newly registered by someone else as "Old Ironsides."

But, growing orchids is a delightful and rewarding challenge. You are very special people. You seek out the world's most distinctive genus to propagate and share with others. Surely you must have asked yourself what you did before "B.O." (before Orchids.) Did you know about the percentage of sodium salts per 100 gallons of water? Did you worry about ph balance? Had you heard of asymbiotic culture — or psuedo-copulation? And, you might have thought that photoperiodic temperature response was a condition your wife began at age 40.

Now that you're an accomplished Orchidist, you can amaze your friends with your knowledge and lead any conversation with such a learned statement as, "Did you know that *Angreacum Sesquipedale* of Madagascar is pollinated by the night-flying *Zanthopan morganii Praedicta* whose probuscis is 26cm in length?"

Just think of what Orchids have done to make you socially acceptable!

Livermore

The Orchid Ranch;
Fordyce Orchids - Cattleyas 925-447-1659
Orchids Orinda - Phalaenopsis
Tonkins Orchids - Paphiodeilums

Oakland

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

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)

Lafayette

Diablo Disas
Michael Gallagher
3 Maloyan Lane
925-283-8450

Concord

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

Danville

Commercial Plant Services
David & Alice Tomassini
3 Woodside Ct.; 925-736-7630

Half Moon Bay

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

Australia

Adelaide Orchids
Stephen and Robin Monkhouse
16 Pine Road
Woodcroft, South Australia 5162



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