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membership@dvos.org

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Equipment/Lights:

HELP WANTED

Librarian:

Phyllis Arthur

AOS Rep:

Jill Chambers

DVOS Show

Chairman: **HELP!!**

SFOS Show

Chairman:

Ron Bettancourt

Newsletter:

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Financial statement
available upon written
request to the Board.

DVOS

PO Box 273021

Concord, Ca. 94520

Diablo View Orchid Society

<http://www.dvos.org> a 501c3 corp.

Contra Costa Water District 1331 Concord Blvd, Concord

Dinner with the speaker 5:30, meeting starts ~7:30 Speaker ~8:30

September 9, 2004

Get Yer Plants Ready, Mama! They're Going to A Show!

Ah! Fall is in the air! Cool crisp evenings. Leaves changing color. Birds migrating across the sky. Pumpkins ripening on the vine...

WAIT A MINUTE!

[screech!]

That ain't Fall in California! Fall in California means one thing and one thing only!

The upcoming

DIABLO VIEW ORCHID SOCIETY SHOW AND SALE!

This month we'll go over preparing your orchids for display, show registration for ribbon judging, and pass around signup sheets for volunteers. Thank goodness our members are experienced and can pretty much do the same tasks they did last year, so that part will be a no-brainer. Just sign up for the slots you want to work. But, who knows? Maybe there's something you wish you had participated in last year (like ribbon judging), or have more free time this year and want to hang out with your homeboys. I could think of worse things than spending some time with complete access to this year's vendors, their experience (and their tables).

And, as usual, there is always the great cultural information freely given during discussion of the Plant Show and Tell Table. Provided by our President Dennis Olivas and his Able Assistant (Noooo, I'm talking about Kathy Barrett). If you want to bring a bad plant we won't kick it off the table. I think we'll have time to talk about it.

No speaker's dinner is scheduled. Please arrive between 7 and 7:30 to get your plants arranged for the plant table. That way the meeting can start on time.

Thanks bunches.

Next Board Meeting September 16th, 2004

Alice Tomassini's House

3 Woodside Court, Danville (925) 648-7667

(you can come too!)

Refreshment Corner

Refreshments

Renata Johnson, Linda Daraskavich, Shirley Kerr,
Sharon Duffy, Marshall King and Kathy Ames

Beverages

Pam Wood and Jane Holcomb

Recap from Last Month

Last month we heard that Vandas are not as difficult to grow as we thought. Look for the flatter leaves that can absorb more light and hope for the best. Personally, I am happy to get my Phal to bloom occasionally. The slides were beautiful and the speaker informative and amusing. Add a nice piece of cake, win a plant and meet with friends. What more could a person ask for?

Roy

UPCOMING EVENTS

Oct - Haiku Maui Orchids?

Nov - Glen Decker - Phrags and maybe some P kovachii

Dec - Xmas party

Jan 05 - Gavin McDonald on African species

Feb 05 - Ivan Portillo, Ecuagenera.



Show & Tell Table Ribbons

1. Cot Ruby Love – Sharon Duffy
2. Paph Transvaal – Don Chiappone
3. B/C Balinese Dancer – Barbara Tague
4. Look What I bloomed!! Nonamy- Eileen Jackson
5. Lamar Smith Medallion – Kefersteinia lindneri – Bernice Linder



Ruby Love – Sharon Duffy



I just liked this one! Roy

Shamelessly Stolen From the Internet

Q: Any ideas on proper Paph staking would be welcome. Thanks.

A: Well, how to stake the flower depends on several factors. If the plant is a complex paph like Winston Churchill for instance it would be staked once the flower was completely open. You cut the wire about 2 1/4 of an inch taller than the total height from the top of the mix to the bottom of that portion of the pouch where it meets the petals. Form a loop at the end and insert it behind the pouch with a slight upward motion and at the same time insert the straight portion into the mix to support the stem. By doing it in this manner the flower is pushed slightly forward making a more dramatic presentation. When grooming complex paphs it is not unusual to place cotton balls behind the pouch to flatten the petals. They are removed just before presenting them for judging or for use in an orchid display at shows. In the case of primary hybrids, wait until near completely open, then simply cut a length of wire about 1 inch shorter than the height between the top of the mix and the bottom of the pouch. Form a loop and put the stem into the loop and insert the straight section into the mix.

For multi-blooming paphs you can handle them much like with phals except you want to have a more upright posture rather than the sweeping presentation favoring phal spikes. Pick the center point of the stem and put the stake in between the flowers much like you would stake phals. Hope this helps.

BTW: Grooming a paph does not violate any rules. In fact a multitude of awarded complex paphs would either never get awarded or would have scored lower points had they not been groomed. One other grooming trick is the use of adhesive tape to flatten petals but this requires a good bit of skill to prevent damage to the flower.

Preparing orchids for a show isn't as tough as it sounds. Usually its just a matter of cleaning the dust off the leaves and making sure they are properly staked according to the show rules. Each show has its own rules, so the exhibitor should familiarize themselves with them. For example, the rules for the San Francisco society's Pacific Orchid Exposition require that all pots be covered, plants staked with wooden or bamboo stakes, and all wire hangers removed. The Diablo View Orchid Society follows those same guidelines.

Let's go over a few points to cleaning up an orchid that are universal.

- 1) Whenever possible all dried sheathes should be removed, so the clean pseudobulb is shown. Old dried inflorescences should be cut off.
- 2) Dried or blackened leaf tips should be cut off in such a way to yield a natural appearance to the leaf. (do not cut them bluntly, or horizontally, across the leaf).
- 3) Wipe leaves with milk in order to clean off hard water spots and give a natural sheen to the leaf. Many people will use other products, like mayonnaise or the spray 'Leaf Shine', but to my eye the slight shine that milk produces appears natural. Amazingly there actually is an AOS rule against an unnaturally high shine on orchids exhibited for AOS awards.
- 4) Stake the inflorescence so that the flower presents itself to the viewer for maximum effect. Tall inflorescences, such as oncidiums, should be staked erect, or as erect as possible. Cut the stake (horizontally, so you don't poke your eye out) so it is not taller than the flower it is supporting. Hide any twist-tie ends out of the way, usually along the stake, so they don't stick out.

5) Tuck any tags or labels down into the pot out of sight.

6) Top off the plant with a layer of fresh bark, just so it looks freshly repotted. It smells good too.

7) Diseased or infested plants should not be displayed.

Are these rules cast in stone? No, of course not. However plants that are cleaned up will present themselves better when seen en masse and that makes the difference when it comes time for the judges to consider the best display in the show. That's where having a display full of clean, well-presented plants (with lots and lots of ribbons) comes into play!

Of course, rules are made to be broken. If I had to err it would be on the side of having the best presentation as possible for the plant. Who hasn't found that oncidium spike smashed up against the greenhouse glass, such that upright staking would show the individual flowers in disarray. By all means leave the inflorescence arching gracefully in that situation. If you have no time to desheath pseudobulbs, its best to leave them alone rather than do a botched job of it. If staking masdevallia blooms with bamboo stakes would yield a plant that looked more like a pincushion than an orchid, then either don't stake them or (gasp) use metal supports. Use your best judgment.

Two other helpful hints:

Put your name on the pot. I usually write on masking tape and place one label on the bottom of the pot and one on the side. You never know which will fall off in transit, or due to moisture, or whatever.

Make a master list of the orchids you are putting into the display. This way you know which orchids you loaned in the first place, and what to expect to get back. I know, it sounds like a no brainer, but in my case that's what we're dealing with - a no brainer! I can't remember from one second to the next what I'm doing or where I'm supposed to be, much less what orchids I put into the society display. So I give a list to the setup group. This helps them write up the display cards and enter orchids for ribbon judging without actually having the plant 'in hand' or trying to read my faded illegible tags. And I keep a copy of the list at home just so I can double check what comes back from the show. If you've ever torn down a display you know the bedlam that occurs! Stuff can get put in different boxes, or sent home with the wrong owners, so this way I'm know right away if I have to get on the phone an find out who went home with my prize Paph. sanderianum
- NOT!

But whatever you do, remember that this is fun! There's no stressing allowed!

Bring your clean, staked plants to the October meeting so we can transport them to the show for you!

Announcements

The Diablo View Orchid Society is having its 2nd annual Fall Show and Sales on Saturday, October 16, 2004 from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and on Sunday, October 17, 2004 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.. The event will be at the Pleasant Hill Community Center, 320 Civic Drive, Pleasant Hill, CA. Besides the beautiful array of blooming exotic orchids on display, there will be numerous vendors selling their plants. We will also have raffle plants, a plant doctor to offer advice and on both days, we will have potting and culture demonstrations at 10:00a.m., 12 noon and 2:00 p.m..

From the San Jose area, take 680 north to Concord. Exit at Willow Pass Road, turn left heading west and as you cross through Contra Costa Blvd., the name changes to Taylor Blvd.. Go pass the next stop light and Civic Drive will be just a bit further up on the right side. If you've driven up to the second stoplight after Contra Costa Blvd., you've gone too far.

From Sacramento to Fairfield, take 80 west to the 680 San Jose exit and go over the Benicia Bridge to Concord. Exit at Willow Pass Road, turn right heading west and as you cross through Contra Costa Blvd., the name changes to Taylor Blvd.. Go pass the next stop light and Civic Drive will be just a bit further up on the right side. If you've driven up to the second stoplight after Contra Costa Blvd., you've gone too far.

From the Bay Area, take 80 east to the 24 Concord exit. Continue on 24 east then 680 north to Concord. Exit at Willow Pass Road, turn left heading west and as you cross through Contra Costa Blvd., the name changes to Taylor Blvd.. Go pass the next stop light and Civic Drive will be just a bit further up on the right side. If you've driven up to the second stoplight after Contra Costa Blvd., you've gone too far.

Hope to see you at our board meeting. You've always come up with ideas that are helpful to the success of this organization.

Mahalal!!!!

Open House

D & D Flowers will have their Fall Open House on September 25 and 26, 2004 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. There will be lots of masdevallia, cumbidium, oncidium and cattleya hybrid and specie divisions at great prices. There will be lots of anthuriums also. Come for the company of friends, fun and food.

Driving from the north or south, take 101 or 280 to 92 west to Half Moon Bay. About a quarter of a mile before down town Half Moon Bay, you will see a fire wood business, a house, the statuary and Spanish Town, a small arts and craft complex. Turn left at the fire wood business and drive beyond the left side of the house over the bridge and up into the greenhouse complex. D & D Flowers is the first greenhouse to the right.

Orchid Forum of Sacramento Annual Show and Sale

September 18 and 19, 2004

Sacramento Garden and Arts Center

3330 McKinley Blvd., Sacramento, CA 95816

Saturday 10:30 to 6:30, Sunday 11:00 to 5:00.

Free Admission!

Local Vendors

Danville

“Commercial Plant Services”

David & Alice Tomassini
586 El Capitan Drive
(925) 648-7667
atomassini@aol.com

Half Moon Bay

“D & D Flowers”

Dennis Olivas
62 Oceanside Dr.
(925) 969-1246
dolivas@comcast.net
(By appointment only)

San Leandro

“The Paph House”

Francisco Baptista & Fred Jernigan
375 Warwick Ave.
(510) 635-2845
Paph@flash.net
(By appointment. only)

Livermore

“The Orchid Ranch”

“Fordyce Orchids” – Catleyas
www.fordyceorchids.com
“Orchids Orinda” –Phalaenopsis
“Tonkins Orchids” - Paphs
1330 Isabel Ave.
(925) 447-1659

Oakland

“Orchids Fiori D'Amore”

Paolo & Nina Di Candia
4526 Fair Ave.
(510) 530-4884
(By appointment only)

Pacifica

“White Oak Orchids, Inc.”

Sales and Boarding
(650) 655-8767
www.whiteoakorchids.com
(By appointment only)



Diablo View Orchid Society
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