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# Diablo View Orchid Society

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

## September 14, 2006

5:30 Speaker's Dinner, 7:30 Meeting Starts, Presentation ~8:00  
Contra Costa Water District, 1331 Concord Ave, Concord

### Dr. Eric Christenson: The Genus Phalaenopsis

Eric started growing orchids at age 14, in Westport Connecticut. At 16 he built a home greenhouse. His interest in tropical orchids led to an undergraduate degree in horticulture at the University in Storrs, with the idea of becoming a commercial orchid grower. He went on for a Masters Degree in genetics during which time he had a part-time job in the University's herbarium. Two semesters in tropical taxonomy convinced him that he liked, and was good at it. He returned for a Ph.D. in orchid taxonomy working on the genus Aerides.

With his co-author in Peru, Eric has described something like 150 new species and has an additional 50 in the works, including the world's tallest orchid, *Sobralia altissima*, which is typically 27 feet tall but has longer stems to 44 feet tall. His studies on Asian vandaceous orchids led to 2 new genera - *Dyakia* and *Taprobanea* - named for the aborigines of Borneo and the Greek name for Sri Lanka, respectively, and a saprophytic genus from New Zealand, which he co-authored (*Danhatchia*). A Czech botanist honored him by naming a genus endemic to southern Vietnam *Christensonia*, and the genus has appeared on a Vietnamese postage stamp!

Finding and resolving old problematic species is a great intellectual payoff for Eric. He has spent more than 25 years poking around the world's great museums working with collections by everyone from Cook (his 3rd Voyage of Discovery) to as early as Magellan. The past few years, working mostly in Cusco, he has had a greater thrill of training young Peruvian students. "Helping a 20 year old student navigate their first published article - highlighting part of their national heritage - beats finding a new species in the field any day of the week."

Eric tells us he is forever amazed at what we take for granted and what the orchid community in the US chooses to quibble about. "Truth be told, these days field work's greatest joy is getting away from the insanity of the US and the tedium of day to day life. While on the road, wondering how indescribable the next lodging and (or) "toilet" will be in the boonies of Peru, I look out the window of the van and say "cool, that is what chinchillas look like in the wild" or "I wonder if that troupe of monkeys will be there on the way back so I can get a better picture." It beats worrying about talking heads on television, unanswered e-mails, and the other surreal mileposts of life in these here United States. Listening to a toucan trill puts worrying about the increase in the cable bill into perspective."

Eric is a wonderful story teller and an internationally known taxonomist. Come hear him speak at our September meeting on Phalaenopsis.

Dinner with the speaker will be at Thai Osha, 1968 Contra Costa Blvd. in Pleasant Hill (tel. 925.825.21448) at 5:30pm. If you would like to attend please call Eileen Jackson at 707-642-5915 or email [Jackson.eileen@att.net](mailto:Jackson.eileen@att.net)

The plant table will be provided by Dennis Olivas

The next board meeting will be held at the Tomassinis' home on Sept. 21 at 7:30 PM

## Awarded Plants for July Meeting

### 1<sup>st</sup> Place (3 pts)

*Brassia arcuigera 'Santa Barbara'*  
Nick Doe

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Place (2 pts)

*Phragmipedium Les Dirouilles*  
Brad Piini

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Place (1 pt)

*Vanda Hildago*  
Bernice Lindner

### Lancer P. Smith Medallion (1 pt)

*Phalaenopsis pulcherrima*  
Ulrike Ahlborn

### Look What I Bloomed For The Very First Time Ribbon (1pt)

*Oncidium Susan Kaufman*  
Brian Wraxall



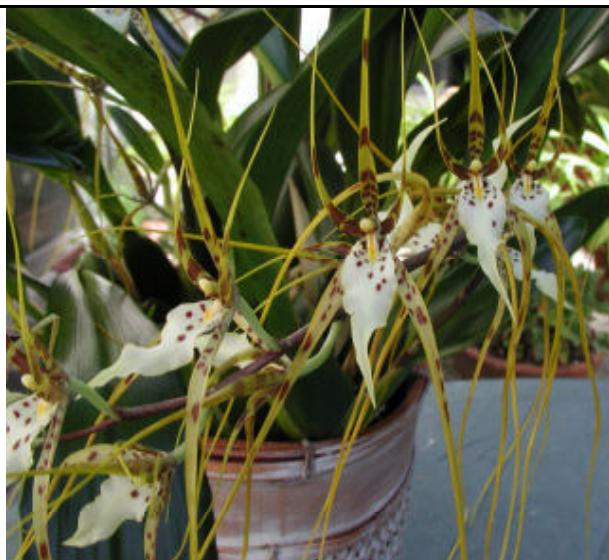
**Phalaenopsis pulcherrima**



**Vanda Hildago**



**Phragmipedium Les Dirouilles**



**Brassia arcuigera 'Santa Barbara'**

## AUGUST SPEAKER REVIEW



Joe Grillo was our August guest speaker. Joe is an experienced orchid hobbyist and has talked to the society in the past about greenhouse construction and phragmipedium culture. The talk on this night was on the species bulbophyllums.

Joe likes the bulbophyllums because they have interesting flowers with odd shapes and smells but most importantly, they are easy to grow.

There are four basic culture tips to raising bulbophyllums.



1) They like wet to dry culture. This means they like to almost dry out before you water them in the summer months. In the winter they also need to go almost bone dry, which means letting them go without water for several weeks in a row since they are not in active growth. They are very susceptible to temperatures below 50 degrees during the winter months. This will cause black spots on the leaves.

2) Fertilize every time you water with 1/4 strength fertilizer. Any brand will work. Joe says this could be up to every 2 days in the summer months. Even at this high rate of fertilization Joe has never seen leaf tip burn on his bulbophyllums.

3) They need good light to throw flowers. If there is not enough light, you'll get great growth but no flowers.

4) Bulbophyllums need good air circulation to thrive. They like to be hung up in the greenhouse.

Joe went on to demonstrate the re-potting of *Bulbophyllum longissimum*. He showed the transplanting into either a basket, cork bark, or clay pot. If you decide to put them in a pot here are a few tips from Joe. You need 4-5 bulbs to make a division. Start with a 4 inch clay bulb pot and put a layer of Styrofoam peanuts in the bottom. Follow this with a layer of sphagnum moss and perlite. Place the bulbs on top of this and secure the bulbs with a wire to prevent them from wobbling. Beware... these plants tend to sulk and do nothing for 3-4 months after transplanting.

Thanks Joe.

Brad Piini



Photo N. Doe

<p><b>Events for DVOS 2006</b></p> <p><b>October 12<sup>th</sup></b> Gerardus Staal speaking on: Pests, Diseases and other Nuisances.</p> <p><b>October 14<sup>th</sup> &amp; 15<sup>th</sup></b> DVOS Annual Show &amp; Sale</p> <p><b>November 9<sup>th</sup></b> Harry Phillips from Andy's Orchids speaking on mounted orchids.</p> <p><b>December 14<sup>th</sup></b> Holiday pot luck</p>	<p><b>Refreshments for September Meeting:</b></p> <p>Thanks to the following members who volunteered to bring refreshments/drinks:</p> <p>Refreshments: Phyllis Arthur, Donna Haselow, Eileen Jackson, and Luz Gannon. Beverages: Brad Piini and Bernice Lindner.</p> <p>If you are unable to attend/bring refreshment, please contact Esther Yee.</p>
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### Great Deals!

Our November speaker, Harry Phillips of Andy's Orchids has offered to bring a plant table to the meeting at a significant discount to Andy's retail prices. He is also willing to bring pre-orders for members. If we can coordinate a single group order, any amount over \$200 qualifies for a 5% discount and any amount over \$500 qualifies for a 10% discount with no charge for shipping. Check out [www.andysorchids.com](http://www.andysorchids.com) and bring your wish list to the October meeting. Let's get this order coordinated!

AOS	Awards
<p><b>August 1, 2006 Pacific Central Supplemental Center, San Francisco</b></p> <p>Cynorkis purpurascens 'Saint Germain's Blessing' HCC 78 species, Exhibited by Walter M. Shinn</p> <p><b>August 2, 2006 California Sierra Nevada Judging Center, Sacramento</b></p> <p>Cattleya Landate 'Laura' - HCC 76 (C. aclandiae x C. guttata) Exhibited by Jeff Tyler</p> <p>Slc. Purple Fantasy 'Big Ben' - AM 80 (Slc Precious Stones x Lc. Mini Purple) Exhibited by Gold Country Orchids</p>	<p><b>August 21, 2006 Pacific Central Judging Center, Oakland</b></p> <p>Dendrobium cinnabarinum 'Vistamont', CBR species Exhibited by Cynthia Hill</p> <p>Kefersteinia taurina 'Racha', CCM 83 species Exhibited by Steve Beckendorf</p> <p>Photos can be seen at Pacific Central: <a href="http://www.aospacificcentral.org">http://www.aospacificcentral.org</a> California Sierra Nevada: <a href="http://www.csnjc.org">http://www.csnjc.org</a></p>

## Annual Picnic/Potluck *Mardi Gras*



Saturday, August 19<sup>th</sup> dawned warm and bright. A perfect day for DVOS' Annual Picnic and Auction fundraiser. Bob and Mary Lou van Galder once again opened their home and beautiful grounds to the Club. *Mardi Gras* decor was provided by the **Alice Crewe** whose expert application of purple, green and gold beads, crepe paper and balloons lent the perfect touch of excess to the event. Continuing with that theme, the overloaded tables full of home-cooked delicacies were a delight to the eye and to the palate. The

### **Barbara Crewe**

arranged for a

magnificent entrée of whole roast suckling pig. (Note: you only get crispy skin if the pig is absolutely fresh). Finally, in this epic of excess, we come to the auction itself. I need only say that the **Dan and Dennis Crewe** served as auctioneers to set the stage for the near-operatic frenzy that ensued. A mountain of fabulous orchids and valuable supplies sold for mere pennies, all assiduously tracked by the **Beane Counting Crewe**. Oh, the drama, the elation, the disappointments, the highs and the lows.



Those who attended would have to confess: 'A good time was had by all'.



# D & D Flowers

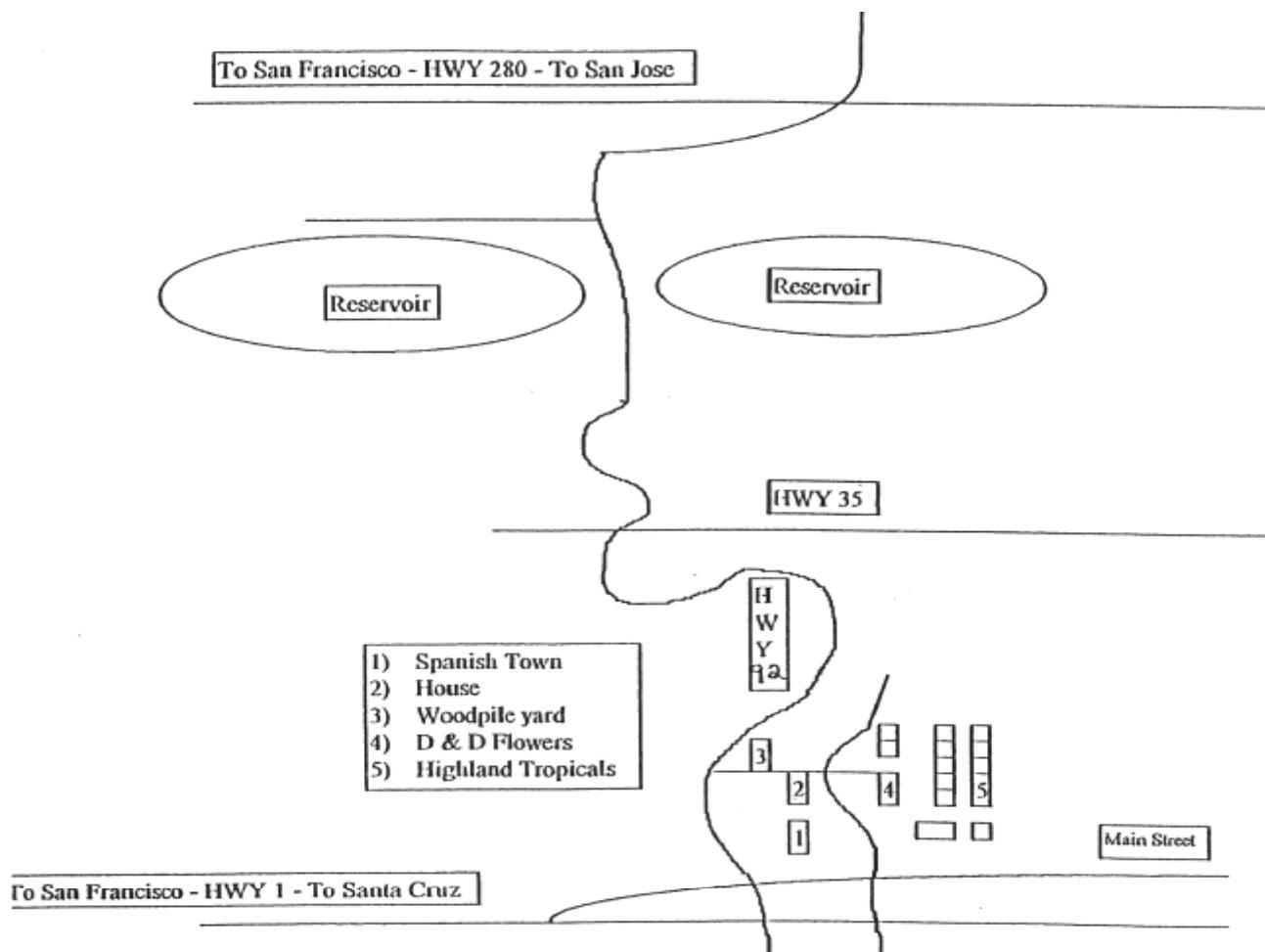
## Fall Open House

(D & D Flowers is not open to the public except for our Spring & Fall open house events.)

**September 23 & 24, 2006**  
**Food & Fun from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM**

We will be selling divisions of species & hybrids from our personal collection of the Cattleya, Oncidium, Pleurothallid, Vanda and Cymbidium Alliances as well as many original hybrids created by the late Bartley Schwarz of Highland Tropicals.

We are featuring cymbidium divisions, seedlings and meristems from the Pat Kajikawa collection and the Mary Ayres collection. Lots of good mini, intermediate, standard and pendulous types from hybridizers Andy Eastern, Grant Cole, and many others from southern California.



Half Moon Bay 1/3 mile east of Main Street off Hwy 92

Just east of Spanish Town on Hwy. 92 there is a house and firewood business. Turn onto the street between the house and the firewood business and go over the bridge into the greenhouse complex. D&D Flowers is the first greenhouse on the right. If you go beyond the large dinosaur statues in front of the house and Spanish Town and you are at Main Street, you've gone too far.

# Fall Orchid Festival Show & Sale



presented by  
**Diablo View Orchid Society**

**Sat. - Oct. 14, 2006      Sun. - Oct. 15, 2006**  
**9:00am - 5:00pm            10:00am - 4:00pm**

**Adults : \$ 2.00 - Children : Free**

**Pleasant Hill Community Center**  
**320 Civic Drive ~ Pleasant Hill**  
**(see map on back)**

**[www.dvos.org](http://www.dvos.org)**

**Orchid Displays \* Orchid Sales & Raffles \* Plant Doctor  
Potting & Culture Demonstrations**  
**10:00 am \* 12:00 pm \* 2:00 pm**

# You Can Grow Orchids in Sacramento!

Orchid Forum of Sacramento

Annual Show and Sale

**September 16 and 17, 2006**

**Saturday 10:30–5:30, Sunday 10:00–4:00**

**Sacramento Garden & Arts Center**

**3330 McKinley Blvd.**

**Sacramento, CA 95816**



The annual flower show and plant sale,  
features extensive displays of orchids in natural settings and  
useful information to help you grow orchids successfully.

**Free parking & admission. Orchid lectures and demonstrations.  
Award winning orchid vendors and plant sales.**

## *Diablo View Orchid Society - Commercial Members*

### **Danville**

#### ***Commercial Plant Services***

David and Alice Tomassini  
586 El Capitan Dr.  
(925) 648-7667  
[atomassini@aol.com](mailto:atomassini@aol.com)

### **Half Moon Bay**

#### ***D&D Flowers***

Dennis Olivas  
62 Oceanside Dr.  
(925) 969-1246  
[dolivas@comcast.com](mailto:dolivas@comcast.com)  
(By appointment only)

### **Livermore**

#### ***Fordyce Orchids***

Frank and Sue Fordyce  
(925) 447-1659  
[www.fordyceorchids.com](http://www.fordyceorchids.com)

### **Pacifica**

#### ***White Oak Orchids, Inc.***

Sales and Boarding

(650) 355-8767  
[www.whiteoakorchids.com](http://www.whiteoakorchids.com)

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