

# Diablo View Orchid Society

<http://www.dvos.org>

a 501c3 corp.

March 2008



*At Our next meeting*

*March 13*

## Chinese Cymbidiums by Paul Chim

**Chinese cymbidiums have been in cultivation for centuries throughout the orient, where they have been prized for their graceful leaves, dainty flowers and delicate fragrances.**

This month's speaker has been growing cymbidiums for over 40 years. He is a co-founder of the Golden Gate Cymbidium Society. He served as past president for several orchid societies including San Francisco Orchid Society, and the Orchid Society of California. He is an accredited Cymbidium Society of America judge and has served as the head judge for the Pacific Central area. Paul specializes in cool growing orchids, both species and hybrids. He leads groups of orchid enthusiasts into China, and other South Asian destinations. Paul will be showing pictures from his most recent trip to China.

Speaker's Dinner will be at Pasta Pomodoro located in Pleasant Hill at 45 Crescent Dr. Everyone is welcome to attend and meet our speaker. If you plan to attend, please notify Liz Charlton at (925) 280-1671 or email [dvosnews@gmail.com](mailto:dvosnews@gmail.com)

Plant table will be provided by Paul Chim.

### NEXT MEETING

Thur Mar 13

5:30 Speaker's Dinner

7:30 Meeting Begins

8:00 Presentation

Contra Costa Water  
District Board Room  
1331 Concord Ave.  
Concord map:  
[www.diabloviewos.org](http://www.diabloviewos.org)

President:

**Eileen Jackson**

Immediate Past

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**Brian Wraxall**

Vice-President:

**Liz Charlton**

Secretary:

**Diana Vavrek**

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# Diablo View Orchid Society

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**Jamie Wasson**

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**Nick Doe**

**Ulrike Ahlborn**

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*Our speaker in February was Alan Koch  
Valentine's Day ...*



If you were not lucky in love on Valentine's Day, then DVOS was the next best thing. Alan Koch from Gold country Orchids was our guest speaker. His personality filled the room with smiles and lots of information for the beginner to the advanced growers.

Alan specializes in breeding miniature Cattleyas on 10 acres in Lincoln, CA. Why minis? Because they take up less bench space and the flowers last longer and have better color than the standard cattleyas.

The subject Alan engaged in was how to grow better orchids. This comes down to four factors: light, water, potting mix, and fertilizer.

**First, light.** Those of you growing your orchids in windows need a southern facing window in order to get adequate light. The plants need to be next to the window in order to bloom. They need the temperature drop that comes with the contrast of sunlight (heat) and the cold that radiates off of the glass pane at night in order to stimulate the orchids to flower. Flowers placed under a skylight in the center of a room get plenty of light but will rarely bloom due to the lack of temperature drop.

# Diablo View Orchid Society

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Membership:

**Ulrike Ahlborn**

[membership@dvos.org](mailto:membership@dvos.org)

Greenhouse Tours:

**Joe Grillo**

Refreshments:

**Linda Castleton**

**Bernice Lindner**

**Madge Fordyce**

**Jennifer English**

Greeters:

**Sharon Duffy**

**Jill Chambers**

**Bernice Lindner**

Raffles and Sales:

**Rita Tischler**

Equipment and Lights:

**Dave Tomassini**

Librarian:

**Phyllis Arthur**

AOS Representative:

**Dennis Olivas**

Orchid Digest

Representative:

**Barbara Tague**

SFOS Show Chairman:

**Brad Piini**

DVOS Show

Chairwoman:

**Kathy Barrett**

Second, water quality. Better orchids result from higher quality water. Better water means less dissolved minerals. Rainwater is better than hard water. With better water quality you will spend less time having to leach out the salts that build up during fertilization. If you use R.O. (reverse osmosis) water, Alan says that the green root tips are longer and grow healthier than with tap water.

R.O. water has most of the minerals removed and so a balanced fertilizer is needed to provide them for the plants.

Third, potting mix. It just doesn't matter. Anything works, but a loose mix is preferable. Air pockets in the mix allows the water to go through the mix and pull air through at the same time. For this reason, Alan likes to water his plants from the top and let the water go through the pot pulling air through the medium. Don't go to the sink and soak your plants...this doesn't get a good air exchange.

Fourth, fertilizers. You need to feed your orchids. Orchids assimilate nutrients foliarly; specifically, micro nutrients are absorbed through the leaves of your orchid. Micro nutrients include copper, iron, calcium, magnesium, zinc, and boron.

Orchids have the highest rate of foliar feeding. This occurs in the macro-pore located in the stomata. These stomata are found on the underside of the orchid leaf and are open day and night. When applying fertilizer foliarly, you need to spray it on the underside of the leaves to get the orchid to uptake the nutrients. This is where the macro-pores are located.

Where do you go to find these trace elements? Maxsea Balanced is a good, high quality fertilizer made from seaweed. Seaweed is a great source of trace elements to use as a foliar feed. (Editor's note: Maxsea is missing one thing - magnesium).

Calcium uptake in the plants is dependent on magnesium and vice versa. If you have one without the other, you will get improper growth.

# Diablo View Orchid Society

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## DVOS Commercial Members

### Danville Commercial Plant Services

David and Alice Tomassini  
3 Woodside Ct.  
(925) 736-7630  
[atomassini@aol.com](mailto:atomassini@aol.com)

### Half Moon Bay D & D Flowers

Dennis Olivas  
62 Oceanside Dr.  
(925) 696 -1246  
[dolivas@comcast.com](mailto:dolivas@comcast.com)  
(By appointment only)

### Livermore Fordyce Orchids

Frank and Sue Fordyce  
(925) 600 - 8406

### Pacifica White Oak Orchids, Inc.

Sales and Boarding  
1204 Linda Mar Blvd.  
(650) 355 - 8767  
[www.whiteoakorchids.com](http://www.whiteoakorchids.com)

### Oakland Orchids Fiori D'Amore

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

For root fertilizing, the standard macro-nutrients are nitrogen (N), phosphorous (P), and potassium (K), but for orchids Alan says that calcium (Ca) and magnesium (Mg) should also be considered. The nutrients N, P, and K are brought up mostly through the roots.

When watering with fertilizers, make sure that the pH is about 6.2 when it comes out of the bottom of the plants. Anything between 5.5 and 7 (acidic) is acceptable. Your municipal water supply is usually at a pH of 8 to 8.2, which is basic. This condition is ideal for preventing the dissolution of the lead solder joints in the copper water pipes. Great for our drinking water and the pipes, but not for the orchids.

Alan waters his 10 acres of orchids as follows. The first week he drenches his orchids' roots with macro-nutrients N, P, and K. The second week he switches to a foliar feeding. The third week he uses a seaweed foliar feed. The fourth week is water only - no fertilizer.

Remember to always pre-water before you fertilize so that the root tips don't burn. When the root tips are long and green the plant is in active growth and needs fertilizer. The plant is in rest when white velum covers the root tips and they are no longer growing. When the plants are going dormant, you need to pull back the fertilizer.

One last tidbit. For spider mites, aphids, and mealy bugs use a spray bottle filled with 1/3 diluted Murphy's Oil Soap or 409 cleaner, 1/3 rubbing alcohol, and 1/3 distilled water. Distilled water is required in order to maintain the chemistry of the soap.

The best fungicide for orchids is peroxide right out of the bottle. Once you open the bottle and the solution is exposed to air, the peroxide concentration drops from 3% to 1%. Pour the peroxide directly on black spots or soft, mushy areas of your orchids.

Thank you, Alan, for the great presentation!

-Brad Piini

P.S. For those of you who want to follow the University of Michigan fertilizer program listed in the July 2003 issue of "Orchids," Alan recommends using Greencare fertilizer found on the web at The Blackmore Company.



# Diablo View Orchid Society

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## *Awarded Plants in January*

DVOS  
Commercial Members

Pleasant Hill  
Diablo Orchids  
Huei-Mei Chen &  
Gregory Mayfield  
101 Lockwood Ln.  
(925) 946-9740  
[www.diabloorchids.com](http://www.diabloorchids.com)

1<sup>st</sup> **Cymb. Strawberry Milk**  
Diane Ecoffey

2<sup>nd</sup> **Cymb. Vidar 'Harlequin'**  
Diane Ecoffey

3<sup>rd</sup> **Pths. restrepioides 'Dragonstone'**  
**CBR/AOS** George McRae



*Bulb. sulfureaurum*

*Cymb. Vidar 'Harlequin'*



Beginner's Corner:  
**Paph. Pinocchio**  
Kevin Carroll

Lancer Smith:  
(species or miniature orchids)  
**Bulb. sulfureum**  
Akiko Ogawa

Financial statement  
available upon written  
request to the Board:  
DVOS c/o Barbara Tague  
716 Skyline Dr.  
Martinez, Ca. 94553

# Diablo View Orchid Society

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the 56th Annual  
Pacific Orchid Expo  
**Orchids Gone Wild**





# Diablo View Orchid Society

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DVOS won Best Exhibit By a Visiting Orchid Society and  
Best Exhibit Illustrating Show Theme  
Liz Charlton won Best Cattleya Alliance shown by a Novice  
Exhibitor *Slc. Peaches and Cream 'Crown 'O Gold'*  
Diane Ecoffey won Best Cymbidium shown by a Novice  
Exhibitor *Cym. Vidar 'Harlequin'*  
Joe Grillo won Best Cymbidium shown by an Intermediate  
Exhibitor *Cym. Greenezelle x Lemon Butter*  
Sharon Duffy won Best Phalaenopsis / Doritis shown by a  
Novice Exhibitor *Phal. aphrodite*  
Brad Piini won Best Paphiopedilum / Phragmipedium shown by  
a Novice Exhibitor *Phrag. Ainsworthii*

# Diablo View Orchid Society

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# 2008 *Potting Party*

The annual DVOS Potting Party will be on April 19, from 10 am - 2 pm  
at the home of Jennifer English (3963 Los Arabis Dr, Lafayette.)

Come learn the right way to repot your orchids.

The society will provide the bark to pot 2 orchids, 1 gallon or smaller pots.  
More than 2 pots will cost \$10/ pot (if enough bark is available).  
Friends are welcome at the \$10/ pot rate.

## *DVOS* Club Business



### Selling your plants at Club meetings:

Members are welcome to sell their extra plants and divisions at Club meetings. Sales will be conducted at a table outside the entrance to the meeting room.

Sellers are responsible for set-up and clean-up.

*Please* bring no more than 10 plants per meeting.





# Diablo View Orchid Society

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## *Upcoming Speakers and Events*

- March 8-9: 5 Cities Orchid Show & Sale, 800 W. Branch, Arroyo Grande, [www.fcoss.org](http://www.fcoss.org)  
March 14: DVOS meeting, Paul Chim speaking on Chinese Cymbidiums  
March 22: California Orchids Fall Sale [info@californiaorchids.com](mailto:info@californiaorchids.com)  
April 10: Dan Newman speaking on Growing Intermediate to Warm Miniatures  
April 19: Potting Party at the home of Jennifer English

## *The next Board Meeting*

March 20th at 7:30 p.m. will be  
at Liz and Jamie's home.



*Cymb.* Strawberry  
Milk



*Pths. restrepioides* 'Dragonstone'  
CBR/AOS

## *Refreshments for the March Meeting*

**Food:** Barbara North, Bernice Lindner, Renate Johnson, George McRae, David Shaw, Dixie-Steve Horspool, Jenna C, Ashley Bean

**Beverages:** Brad Piini, Melissa Sadler, Bob Akbarian

**Please bring baked goods CUT into serving size pieces.**

See what is available in our library:

[www.diabloviewos.org/Library/library.htm](http://www.diabloviewos.org/Library/library.htm)

To check-out an item, contact

Phyllis Arthur

# Diablo View Orchid Society

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## *AOS Awards February 2008*

### **2/02/08 - Sonoma County Orchid Society Show**

Paphiopedilum Crazy Jolly 'Chico's Eagle', AM 80 (Paph. Crazy Horse x Paph. Jolly Green Gem) Exhibited by Francisco Baptista  
Vanda Apec Blue 'Gerry', HCC 78 (V. Faye Bennett x V. Bangkok Blue) Exhibited by Gerry and Jerome Smith

### **2/03/08 - California Sierra Nevada - Sacramento**

Epidendrum gonzales-tamayoi v. alba\* 'Joan' species, CCM 83 (prov) Exhibited by Howard Gunn \* shown as Epi. (Nanodes) schlecterianum  
Paphiopedilum emersonii 'Pinot Blanc' species, HCC 79 Exhibited by Dave Sorokowsky  
Paphiopedilum fairrieianum 'Cabernet' species AM 82 Exhibited by Dave Sorokowsky

### **2/18/08 - Pacific Central - Oakland**

Polystachya anceps 'Pui Chin' species, CHM 83 (prov) Exhibited by Chen-Hao Hsu

### **2/28/08 - Pacific Orchid Exposition**

Cattleya mossiae 'Dark Prince' species, HCC 78 Exhibited by Steven Christoffersen  
Cymbidium eburnum 'Vistamont' species, CCM 83 Exhibited by Cynthia Hill  
Lepanthes intonsa 'Rosie' species, CBR (prov) Exhibited by Mike Fong  
Lycaste Shoalhaven 'Cow Hollow', AM 81 (Lyc. skinneri x Lyc. Koolena) Exhibited by Anna S. Chai  
Masdevallia ignea 'Tetra Red' species, AM 82 Exhibited by Golden Gate Orchids  
Miltoniopsis Arthur Cobble Dick 'Camano Joy', AM 83 (Milt. vexellaria x Milt. Meadowdale) Exhibited by Golden Gate Orchids  
Odontioda unnamed hybrid 'x', AM 81 (Oda. Petit Port x Oda. Wearside Pattern) Exhibited by Golden Gate Orchids  
Paphiopedilum unnamed hybrid 'Berry Wine', AM 81 (Paph. Voodoo Magic x Paph Ruby Pulsar) Exhibited by Margaret and Terry Boomer  
Pleione aurita 'Cow Hollow' species, HCC 78 Exhibited by Anna S. Chai  
Vuylstekeara Aloha Passion 'x', AM 87 (Vuyl. Mem. Mary Kavanaugh x Oda. Alcatraz) Exhibited by Golden Gate Orchids AM 87

Pictures can be seen at the Pacific Central web page <http://www.aospacificcentral.org> California Sierra Nevada Judging Center <http://www.csnjc.org>

-Kathy Barrett

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## *Membership News*

This is the last newsletter for those who have not renewed their 2008 membership!

General Membership is \$20; If you want to receive the newsletter by mail the cost is \$30. Please be so kind and fill out the renewal form for me. This is my best and only chance to keep our database up to date and find errors and changes. It is also the only evidence that you paid your dues since the check or cash will be handed to the treasurer immediately after I update the database.

I hope all of the 115 members will join DVOS again in 2008. As of 2/24/08 we have 77 members.

If you receive the newsletter by mail and you see 2008 on the address label you have paid dues for 2008 already.

You can bring your check made out to DVOS with the renewal form to the next meeting on March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2007 or mail it to:

Diablo View Orchid Society \* Attn. Ulrike Ahlborn, membership Chair \* 117 Laredo Ct \* San Ramon \* CA 94583-2116

Sorry, we are not yet set up for PayPal and credit card.

[www.membership@DVOS.org](mailto:www.membership@DVOS.org)

I plan to have the 2008 Roster completed and ready for distribution at the March meeting.

If you want your name in the 2008 roster I need to receive your check and renewal form by 2/29/2008.

*Paph. Pinocchio*





# Diablo View Orchid Society Membership

General Membership \$20 (\_\_\_) Member/newsletter \$30 ( ) Business \$25 (\_\_\_) Life \$300 (\_\_\_)

(All memberships are valid January 1 to December 31 of the current year. If you do not renew your membership dues by March 31 the following year, your privileges will cease. Monthly newsletter will be by e-mail unless you do not have an e-mail address)

New (\_\_\_) Renewal (\_\_\_)

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## For General Membership:

Principal Member: \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse or Significant Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## For Business Membership:

Name of Business: \_\_\_\_\_

## Mailing Address (Must fill in)

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: (\_\_\_) \_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ Work or Cell Phone (Opt.): (\_\_\_) \_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

Website: \_\_\_\_\_

Are you a member of the American Orchid Society (AOS): Y/N (\_\_\_\_); Orchid Digest Corporation (ODC): Y/N **Cultivation (Check all that applicable):**

Indoor (\_\_\_) Outdoor (\_\_\_) Greenhouse (\_\_\_) Hobbyist (\_\_\_) Commercial (\_\_\_)

What is your favorite genus to grow? Phalaenopsis ( ) Cattleya ( ) Cymbidium ( ) Dendrobium ( )  
Vanda ( ) Masdevallia ( ) Paphiopedilum ( ) Phragmipedium ( ) Pleurothallids ( )  
Zygopetalum ( ) List others:

**DVOS perpetuates with the fun and diligent work performed by our membership. We would like to know if you would be interested in participating in the various functions in order to keep this fun, educational, and friendly environment.**

## **I would like to participate in present or future: (Check all that is applicable)**

Elected Officer/Board of Directors ( ) Committees: Equipment ( ) Library ( ) BBQ/Auction ( )

Advertising ( ) Refreshments ( ) Newsletter ( ) Xmas Party ( ) San Francisco Show –

POE ( ) Raffle/Sales ( ) Book Meeting Room ( ) Greenhouse Tours ( )

DVOS Show & Sale ( ) Welcome ( ) Hostess ( ) Assist when needed ( )

Endorse check payable to: **Diablo View Orchid Society, Inc.** Please send application and check to:

**Diablo View Orchid Society c/o Ulrike Ahlborn 117 Laredo Court, San Ramon, CA 94583-2116**