

# Diablo View Orchid Society

<http://www.dvos.org>

a 501 (c) (3) corp.

December 2009

## NEXT MEETING

Thur. Dec. 10th 7 p.m.  
Xmas party  
Dinner and  
Gift Exchange

directions to Shadelands  
on Page 8

[www.diabloviewos.org](http://www.diabloviewos.org)

President:  
**Eileen Jackson**

Immediate Past  
President:  
**Brian Wraxall**

Vice-President:  
**Liz Charlton**

Secretary:  
**Rodney Kline**

Treasurer:  
**Brian Wraxall**

*At Our next meeting*

**It's time for our annual Christmas Potluck party!**

Your "ticket" for entrance is a two-part affair! First, you need to bring a side dish, salad or dessert, enough for 8, according to the alphabetized schedule on Page 7. Second, bring a gift orchid or orchid related item (something that you'd like to receive yourself) for the Annual Gift Exchange. Make sure any plants are bug free.

**To keep things lively Santa and his helper Tinkle may show up and determine which little Diablo View Member has been naughty or nice!**

The Christmas Potluck begins at 7:00 PM at the  
**Shadelands Arts Center,**  
111 N. Wiget at Ygnacio Valley Road, Walnut Creek.  
(directions on P.8)



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*Our speaker in November was  
Deborah Atwood of Napa Valley Orchids*

DVOS Board Members:

Ken Cook

Parky Parkison

Brad Piini

Dave Tomassini

Alice Tomassini

Jamie Wasson



Debra was in the hospitality business for many years and then decided to grow orchids as a business venture. She has been growing orchids professionally for about nine years.

Debra's topic for D.V.O.S. was Maxillarias and Encylias. Both of these plant species are relatively easy to grow. Some are fragrant, and most produce ample flowers. Both of these species are adaptable to a wide variety of conditions including light and temperature.

There are about 650 species of Maxillarias. They are considered weeds to some due to their ease of growth. Most grow from Central America into South America.

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Some consider Maxillarias to be cool growing, but they actually tolerate a wider degree of cultural variation. Maxillarias can grow in intermediate conditions and require the humidity a bit moister than Cattleyas. Some species produce chain like growths, with pseudo-bulbs stacking up one on top of the other. When replanting these chain plants, bury a few growths under the media to anchor the plants better. Many Maxillarias can be mounted successfully and will not actually do well unless mounted

Encylbias have about 250 species. Their range is from the southern part of North America into South America. Most Encylbias grow well in intermediate temperatures. They prefer to dry out between watering and can take the conditions of their close relatives, Cattleyas. There are a number of Encycias that have fiddle shaped pseudo-bulbs and produce long successions of blooms that can last almost a year.

Thanks again to Debra Atwood for her presentation and to Rodney Kline for providing the notes for this review.



Pot. Golden Circle

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Membership:

**Ulrike Ahlborn**

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

Greenhouse Tours:

**Parky Parkison**

Refreshments:

**Linda Castleton**

**Bernice Lindner**

**Madge Fordyce**

**Melissa Sadler**

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:

**Brian Wraxall**

SFOS Show Chairman:

**Brad Piini**

DVOS Show Chairman:

**Dennis Olivas**

## How to Grow Phalaenopsis Orchids

By MaKayla Shields

### Introduction

Did you know that there are 30,000 different species of orchids and over 200,000 orchid hybrids in the world? Today, I'm going to teach you how to grow America's favorite orchid, a Phalaenopsis. When you grow orchids, you should pick a species that is easy to grow, like a Phalaenopsis. They come in all different colors like white, pink, red and yellow. They can also be solid colors, striped, spotted or blotched. The blossoms appear in late winter and last till spring. They are inexpensive and widely available. A Phalaenopsis is Monopodial meaning it has a single upright stem with leaves opposite each other along the stem.

### Selecting the Perfect Orchid

The first thing to do when selecting your Phalaenopsis is to check the leaves for bugs and diseases. Look for tiny insects or white spots on the leaves. If you find something you can spray the plant with a mixture of isopropyl alcohol, water and soap to kill the disease or bugs.

### Environment

Next, create a proper environment with correct light, temperature and humidity. Your Phalaenopsis needs at least 12 to 14 hours of light a day and likes Southeast facing windows. If you can't get enough light you can always use artificial lights. Two 40 watt incandescent bulbs or four 40 watt fluorescent tubes work best, but keep the plants 6 to 8 inches away from the light or they will get burned. Phalaenopsis like daytime temperatures of 75-80 degrees Fahrenheit and nighttime temperatures between 60-65 degrees Fahrenheit. Phalaenopsis also like 80-90% humidity, but they will still survive with lower humidity. You can create humidity in your house by using a humidifier or filling a tray with rocks and water. Place your potted Phalaenopsis in the tray and the moisture created by the evaporating water will help your plant.

### Watering

Orchids should be watered once a week. They can not sit in water-logged pots or the plant will suffocate and die. Orchids do better with drought than with over watering! They also like to be misted with water. The media that they are growing in should dry out between waterings.

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## Growing Media

When choosing a media it is important to pick one that has good air circulation and drains quickly. Fir bark nuggets are the most popular and they come in different sizes. You can use other media like peat moss, stones, and lava rock. Some orchids can also grow in air, because they have fleshy roots covered in white sponge layer called Velamen which acts as a sponge at absorbing water.

## Fertilizer

Orchids need to be fertilized regularly because their media does not have a lot of nutrients. The rule for fertilizing your orchid is weakly weekly, which means to use one quarter to one half of the recommended dilution every week. For extra nutrients you can mist your orchid with fish emulsion or seaweed.

## Potting

Finally, orchids like their roots crowded in small pots. Plastic pots are preferred because when it is time to repot the plant, the roots can be removed easily or the pots can be cut open. You should only repot when necessary. Repot when the roots are creeping out beyond the pot, the media breaks down or the plant is unbalanced. Usually you only need to repot every two to seven years! Repotting is best done in late spring. Even though there are more than 200,000 types of orchids, if you follow my easy steps for caring for a Phalaenopsis your orchid will look like a first place winner!



MaKayla Shields was born on November 4<sup>th</sup>, 1998. MaKayla loves to read and her favorite books are stories about animals. In the summer she swims for the Pleasant Hill Dolphins swim team. She is a member of the Briones 4-H Club. MaKayla volunteers at the Veteran's Hospital, and sponsors a US Army Canine Unit in Iraq by sending the dogs treats and toys. She has a fundraiser birthday party every year to raise money and awareness for the Alzheimer's Association. In lieu of presents, MaKayla collects donations and sends them to the Alzheimer's Association to help fund research and hopefully find a cure.

MaKayla loves growing plants, especially orchids. She has fourteen orchids in her collection and is a member of the Diablo View Orchid Society. MaKayla is all about being green. She recycles paper, plastics and glass. MaKayla also loves animals especially wolves and butterflies. When she grows up, MaKayla would like to be a Veterinarian.

# Diablo View Orchid Society

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Photo by Ben Plazons

Peninsula Orchid Society  
Presents  
**ORCHIDS!**  
2010 Show and Sale

Community Activities Building  
1400 Roosevelt Avenue  
Redwood City, CA

Saturday, January 23  
Sunday, January 24  
10 am-5 pm

Featuring a Show Exhibit of Incredible Orchids,  
Orchid Vendors,  
Informative Seminars, and Member Sales

Admission \$5 Adults, \$3 Seniors,  
Disabled & Children 12-16  
Information: <http://penorchidsoc.org>

## *AOS is on Facebook!*

If you're an avid user of Facebook or a newbie, just getting started, be sure to join the American Orchid Society's Facebook Membership Page. It was set up to create a forum for discussion, questions and news all about the national headquarters and affiliate organizations of AOS. People from New Hampshire to Florida are already members, sharing their orchid-related news.

Just log-on to your Facebook account (or create one at [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com); it's free and easy!), then in the Search box, type in "American Orchid Society.." Click on the icon with two, blue people on it, indicating a Membership page. Once you're in, become a Member and join the conversation.

## Help us Plan our display at

### *Pacific Orchid Exhibition*

This year's theme is **CARNAVAL**  
Come and bring your ideas to the home of  
Brad and Karen Piini  
Friday December 4 at 7 p.m.

POE show & sale is Feb. Fri. 26, Sat. 27, Sun. 28  
Set-up Wed. 24, Judging Thur. 25  
Fort Mason Center, S.F. [www.orchidsanfrancisco.org](http://www.orchidsanfrancisco.org)

# 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)

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



**NO  
GLITTER!**



## Christmas Party

Food assignments:

A-H dessert

I-O salad

P-Z hot dish

**Don't forget the \$50 prize for the best  
Xmas decorated orchid!!!**

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## FROM OAKLAND, BERKELEY, ETC.

Highway 24 east exiting left onto Highway 680 north. Take the Ygnacio Valley Rd. exit and go 1.1 mi to the light. Turn right on Ygnacio Valley Rd. and go 2.9 mi. Turn left on North Wiget Ln. and go 0.1 mi. The Shadelands Arts Center parking lot. is on the left.

## FROM SACRAMENTO, CONCORD, PLEASANT HILL, ETC.

Highway 680 south to Exit 48 Treat Blvd./Geary Rd. Take exit and go 0.3 mi. to the light. Turn left on N. Main and go 0.2 mi. to the next light. Turn left on Treat Blvd and go 1.1 mi. to Bancroft Rd and turn right. Go 0.7 mi. to Ygnacio Valley Rd and turn left. Go 0.7 miles to North Wiget Ln. Turn left on North Wiget and go 0.1 mi. The Shadelands Arts Center parking lot. is on the left.

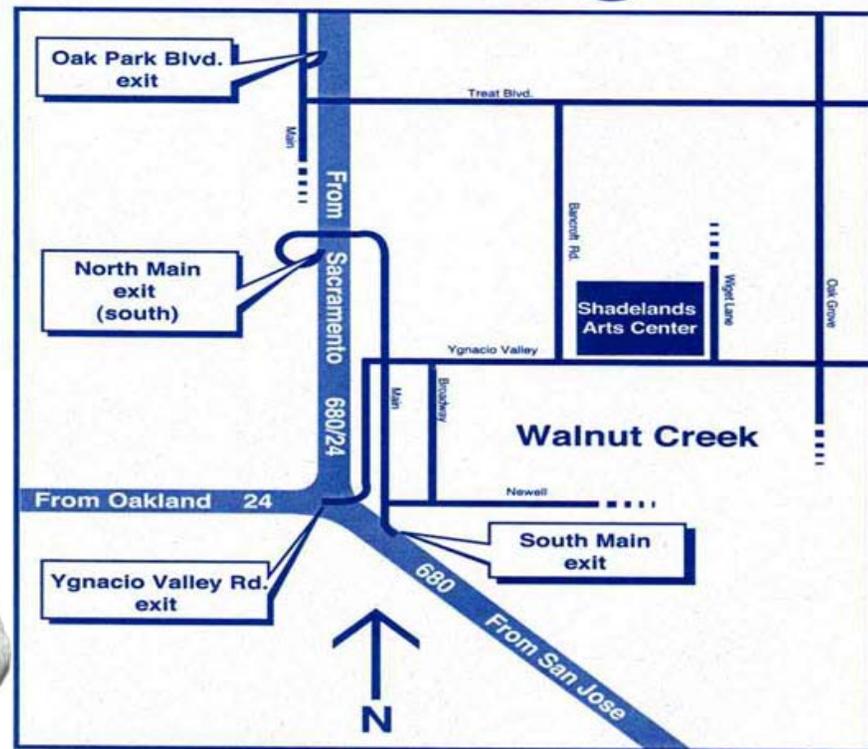
## FROM SAN JOSE, DANVILLE, ALAMO, ETC.

Highway 680 north to South Main St. off ramp. Stay on South Main 0.5 mi. to Newell. Turn right on Newell and go 0.2 mi. to stop light. Turn left on Broadway and go 0.7 mi. to Civic Dr. Turn right on Civic and go 0.3 mi. Turn right on Ygnacio Valley Rd and go 2.5 mi.. Turn left on North Wiget Ln. and go 0.1 mi. The Shadelands Arts Center parking lot. is on the left.

111 North Wiget Lane  
at Ygnacio Valley Rd.



# SHADELANDS CHRISTMAS PARTY Arts Center



# Diablo View Orchid Society

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## *Upcoming Speakers and Events*

DVOS  
Commercial Members

Livermore  
Fordyce Orchids  
Frank and Sue Fordyce  
(925) 600 - 8406

Pleasant Hill  
Orchid Gulch  
Liz Charlton &  
Jamie Wasson  
104 Brandon Rd.  
(925) 818-3600  
by appointment

Orchid Wiz  
software for orchid growers  
[www.orchidwiz.com](http://www.orchidwiz.com)

- Dec 10: **Christmas Party**  Shadelands, Walnut Creek  
set-up 6 pm Party 7 pm
- Dec 4: Meeting to plan POE at the home of Brad & Karen Piini 7 p.m.
- Jan 14: Weyman Bussey on Mexican species
- Jan 23-24: Peninsula Orchid Society Show and Sale <http://penorchidsoc.org>
- Feb 26-28: Pacific Orchid Exhibition
- April 28-May 2: Oklahoma City from April 28 – May 2, 2010. The American Orchid Society Members Meeting. This event is open to any orchid lover. Information under “Events” at the AOS web site or at [http:// www.2010aosshow.oosorchids.org](http://www.2010aosshow.oosorchids.org)



Sed. japonica

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

## *The next Board Meeting*

will be on Dec. 17th at 7:30 p.m.  
at the home of Bryan & Joan  
Wraxall



# Diablo View Orchid Society

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## *Awarded Plants in October*

Newsletter:  
**Liz Charlton**  
**Jamie Wasson**  
[dvosnews@gmail.com](mailto:dvosnews@gmail.com)

Webmaster:  
**Nick Doe**  
**Ulrike Ahlborn**  
[webmaster@dvos.org](mailto:webmaster@dvos.org)

1<sup>st</sup> **Pot. Golden Circle (Blc. Goldenzelle x Slc. Circle of Life)**

**Kathy Barrett**

2<sup>nd</sup> **Rth. Gisela Hymmen 'Gary'**  
**AM/AOS**

**Ted McClellan**

3<sup>rd</sup> **Den. Violetta**

**Calvin & Charis Anderson**



**Den. Violetta**

**Lancer Smith:**  
(species or miniature orchids)  
**Sed. japonica**  
**Ken Cook**

# Diablo View Orchid Society

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## Membership News

DVOS has 88 members as of 11/20/2009.

Let's give a warm welcome to the new members who joined us in October and November :

Diana Angela from San Pablo

Patricia Arnold-Kempton from Pleasant Hill,

Cynthia Battershall from Sonoma,

Gus Kritikos from Marinex,

Doris & Tom Pickford from Napa,

Angelica-Maria Somoza from Livermore,

Teresa Samoza from San Ramon,

Welcome back to Dan Chiappone & Nancy Pak from Walnut Creek who rejoined DVOS in October.

In the past I have automatically prepared nametags for new members and took them to the monthly meeting. Many of them have never been picked up. I will make nametags upon request only. So if you have not yet received a nametag and would like one, please see me at the meeting or better yet, give me a call or send me an email message at least a couple of days before the meeting so I can prepare a nametag for you.

Membership dues for 2010 are due in January!

Get a head start by filling out the renewal form and bringing it with a check made out to DVOS to the December meeting - Christmas party

General membership dues are \$20, for business \$25. Out of State member (email recipients) \$10. If you want to receive the newsletter by mail add \$ 10.

Attached to the newsletter is the membership form. Please be so kind and fill out the form for me. This is my best and only chance to keep our database up to date and find errors and changes. Also please indicate if you belong to AOS or Orchid Digest as we report this information to them with our club membership.

Some people have **already paid dues for 2010**. This includes

- all members who joined since October 2009
- all Lifetime members (you know who you are)
- and all of the following members:

Elizabeth Michaelson, Jinnie & Denyu Tom

You can bring your check made out to DVOS with the renewal form to the next meeting on December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2009 or mail it to

**Diablo View Orchid Society Attn. Ulrike Ahlborn,  
membership Chair 202 Gaucho Ct \* San Ramon \*  
CA 94583 [www.membership@DVOS.org](http://www.membership@DVOS.org)**

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

# Diablo View Orchid Society

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## *AOS Awards November 2009*

Courtesy of Kathy Barrett

### 10/6/09 - Pacific Central Judging Center - San Francisco Center

**Cattleya Purple Splendor 'Solar Flares'**

(C. Mini Purple x C. Culminant) (Lc. Mini Purple x Lc. Culminant) HCC 76

Exhibited by Japheth Ko

**Paphiopedilum Gloria Naugle 'Dragonfly'**

(Paph. rothschildianum x Paph. micranthum) HCC 77

Exhibited by Heather T. Drobos

**Masdevallia Owen Neil 'Winston'**

(Masd. Copper Angel x Masd. sanatae-insae) HCC 78

Exhibited by Amy and Ken Jacobsen

### 10/7/09 - CSNJC Sacramento

**Rth. Gisela Hymmen 'Gary'**

(Rth. Demi Diva x C. Circle of Life) AM 80

Exhibited by Nancy and Ted McLellan

**Vanda Ellbell Wolfson 'D's Delight'**

(V. Gomalco's Blue Magic x V. Sirisak) AM 83

Exhibited by Donna and Dick Murrill

Pictures can be seen at Pacific Central <http://www.aospacificcentral.org>

California Sierra Nevada <http://www.csnjc.org>

Here's a link to time-lapse photography of a Bulb medusae flowers opening:

<http://orchidaceaemalaysiana2.blogspot.com>

by Donald G.H Tan



***Rth. Gisela  
Hymmen 'Gary'  
AM/AOS***

# Diablo View Orchid Society

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## Diablo View Orchid Society Membership

Membership \$20 (\_\_\_), Business \$25 (\_\_\_), Life \$300 (\_\_\_) Add \$10 (\_\_\_) if you wish to receive the monthly newsletter by mail.

(All memberships are valid January 1 to December 31 of the current year. If you do not renew your membership dues by March 1 the following year, your privileges will cease.

Monthly newsletter will be by e-mail unless you do not have an e-mail address.

PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY

New (\_\_\_) Renewal (\_\_\_) Date: \_\_\_\_\_

For General Membership: Principal Member: \_\_\_\_\_

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

For Business Membership: Name of Business \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Business Contact:/Owner: \_\_\_\_\_

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 Director ( ) Committees: Equipment ( ) Library ( ) BBQ/Auction ( ) Advertising ( ) Refreshments ( ) Newsletter ( ) Xmas Party ( ) San Francisco Show ( )

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, 202 Gaucho Ct, San Ramon, CA 94583-2113**