A background image of several pink orchids in clear glass vases, set against a light pink background with a subtle floral pattern.

Diablo View Orchid Society

www.DVOS.org 501(c)(3) corporation

at Our next meeting **Friday, Mar. 9th**
Ron Parsons will talk to us about

His recent trip to photograph Australian Orchids

Our speaker is the renowned Ron Parsons. Ron's botanical knowledge is extraordinary! Whether it's orchids or mariposa lilies (calochortus) or anything in between, he's the go-to guy! Ron Parsons is considered by many to be one of the finest flower photographers in the United States. His photography and encyclopedic knowledge of orchids is known both nationally and internationally. He has been photographing orchids, wildflowers, and almost every other kind of plant for over 25 years, and has a slide collection that numbers well over 80,000 slides! He went "digital" just over a year ago, and in this short time has taken thousands of photos of orchids, wildflowers and other rare plants. See the orchid photogallery for some of his new digital photographs. Ron loves to travel, photograph orchids and wildflowers in situ, visit orchid and other plant enthusiasts collections, and most of all, to take photographs of plants and flowers that he likes. Ron also knows the very best spots to find native California orchids so keep a lookout for announcements of his tours.

Plant table will be provided by D & D Orchids.

Speaker's Dinner with Ron Parsons is on Friday, February 9th at 5:30 p.m. at the Pasta Pomodoro at 45 Crescent Dr #C Pleasant Hill. Everyone is welcome to attend and meet our speaker before the meeting. If you can join us, please call George McRae at (510) 233-7374 to be included in the reservation.

Next Meeting:

Fri. Mar. 9th

7:30- 10:00 p.m.

Contra Costa Waster District Board
Room
1331 Concord Blvd.
Concord Ca.

Map: www.diabloweos.org/About/map.htm

Diablo View Orchid Society

Alan Koch was our speaker in February



February's spring lecturer was the very charismatic Alan Koch. Alan's talk was entitled "How To Water Your Orchids". His lecture encompassed knowledge that was applicable for the novice to advanced growers. For the sake of this review I will break down the information from that night into general or beginning information then put some more advanced concepts at the end.

Most orchids are epiphytes which means, in nature, they grow in the forest canopy without soil. They attach their roots to the tree for support only. How do they get nutrients when they are in the tree tops? It's not from a bird droppings. It's from the tree canopy. When the trees of the forest canopy grow they absorb nutrients through their roots and transport them to their leaves where they are used to photosynthesize. When it rains excess nutrients are leached out of the leaves of the tree and drip onto the orchids and thereby transfer the nutrients to the orchid plant for absorption.



L. anceps v. guerrero 'Mendenhall'

Alan Koch continued

When you are watering your orchids at home you need to know that there are two ways to fertilize your orchid. Most people are familiar with watering the orchid through the root system, which is the first way. The second way is to fertilize the orchid through their leaves. This is called foliar feeding. Orchids have small pores on the underside of their leaves called stoma. These stoma are always open and can absorb nutrients. Most fertilizers that you have contain three nutrients nitrogen, potassium and phosphorous. These are best absorbed through the roots of your orchid. There are other nutrients called micro nutrients that are best absorbed through the underside of the orchid leaf. These are iron, calcium, magnesium, zinc and copper.

When is it time to fertilize your orchid? To determine when your orchid needs to be fertilized you need to look at the roots. The roots have two surfaces the white spongy part is called velamen and is responsible for absorbing water to the plant. The green part is the tip of the root and when you see that your orchid has these green tips then you need to fertilize. All of your fertilizer is absorbed through these green tips. No fertilizer is absorbed through the white part of the root (velamen). If there are no green tips on your roots then your orchid is dormant and does not need to be fertilized. When you do fertilize remember that all of the fertilizer is absorbed by the orchid in the first 20-25 minutes. After that you need to wash off the excess fertilizer because it contains salts and excess salts can harm your orchid.

For those of you that are intermediate to advanced growers, Alan went into depth about how important micro nutrients are to the health and growing potential of your orchids. In the following I will try to summarize his main points.

Diablo View Orchid Society

Alan Koch continued

When the temperature and humidity increase in the summer your orchids' calcium needs go up. Calcium needs to be added in a 2:1 ratio with magnesium in order for the plant to use the calcium. This means you would use 2 parts calcium nitrate to 1 part magnesium sulfate (Epsom's salt). An other source of calcium is oyster shells, egg shells or dolomite. These can be added to your Phaphiopedilums to increase their growing potential. Iron, zinc and copper prevent your orchid roots from dying due to excess water. They will also prevent your roots from turning brown. If your plants are exposed to increased light levels then you need to increase the iron and zinc levels to prevent the leaves from burning. When you are watering the ideal pH is 6.2, but anything between 6-7 is acceptable. Any pH outside of this range will not allow the plant to absorb micro or macro nutrients. Lastly, 30 minutes after you have fertilized you need to flush your orchids with water to remove excess salt buildup and may want to add peroxide to prevent fungal growth .

Thank you Alan for your very knowledgeable and entertaining lecture.

- Brad Piini



Onc. Ardentissimum



Den. Noname

President's Message by George McRae

March looks to be coming like a lamb this year. It may be too early to tell, but we ought to give some serious thought to water conservation. With nearly ten million human beings here in the Bay Area alone, the issue of conservation is going to spell out a harsh regimen for us all. In your president's humble opinion, and evaluation, we as human beings need to seriously either stop our rampant over population, or satisfy ourselves with the eventuality of no resources, renewable or otherwise, at an amount that even reasonably resembles our current standard of living. One estimate I have read is that California has the second highest population growth factor, next to Nigeria, in the world. It is clearly unsupportable. We only get the rain we get, and there is no magic dance or ancient juju to make it otherwise. As an orchid enthusiast and dedicated environmentalist I look at this as a crisis for not only human beings but also the great natural gifts we seem eager to squander. It is food for thought, certainly. I wonder if we are approaching the tipping point, or whether we are long past it and just haven't reaped the just desserts (or deserts!) we seem to be destined to deserve. This resembles the drought of the late 1970's when Marinites went without and a huge water pipe was built across the San Raphael bridge to save them. The pipe is gone but the population of California is doubled and more. Time to take very close look in the mirror.

Yr hmbl srvt,
George McRae, President

Mar. 2012

Diablo View Orchid Society



It is with great sadness we report the passing of long time DVOS member, and husband of Kathy Barrett

Joseph J. Molnar III, DDS

Dr. Joseph Molnar III, DDS, 60, passed away 2/17/2012 of a heart attack stemming from complications of diabetes.

Joseph is the son of Joseph J. Molnar and Dolores Hatfield and was raised in Alameda, CA. He attended Saint Phillip Neri Elementary School and graduated from Saint Joseph's High School, Alameda in 1969. He attended Laney College in Oakland and graduated from UC Berkeley and UCSF School of Dentistry in 1982, where he met his wife, Kathleen. They practiced general dentistry, opening their office in Pleasant Hill, CA in 1988. As an avid audiophile he enjoyed music and electronics. He enjoyed playing the guitar and was in a high school band 'Highway Taxes' that toured local military bases. He loved his cats; he loved cooking and no recipe was too challenging! He enjoyed his patients and considered many of them friends.

He wants you to keep flossing!

He is survived by his wife Kathleen Barrett, DDS, his sister Carolyn Shipman, RN, nephew Sam McFann, Aunt Margery Schutze and many lifelong friends. At his request, there will not be any services. In lieu of flowers, donations to the American Diabetes Association or your local school music or science/electronics program would be appreciated.

Membership News
courtesy of Ulrike Ahlborn,
Membership Chair
membership@dvos.org

We start 2012 with 141 members

2012 Dues are now due

General Members \$20

Commercial Members \$25

Lifetime Members \$300

If you are unable to receive the newsletter by email and need a B&W copy mailed to you, there is an additional \$10 charge for copying and postage.

New Member/ Renewal application:

www.dvos.org/About/membersh.htm

If you joined at our Show in November you do not owe for 2012

Be sure you have paid in order to have your name printed in our 2012 Roster



Slc. Fire Magic 'Solar Flare'



Masd. MacInnes 'Golden Heart'

Mar. 2012

Diablo View Orchid Society

Coming Shows and Sales

Napa Valley Orchid Society

19th Annual Show & Sale

March 24-25 9-5 Napa Senior Center 1

1500 Jefferson St

Admission FREE

Info: 707.363.4506

67th Santa Barbara International Orchid Show

March 16-18 9am - 5pm

Earl Warren Showgrounds

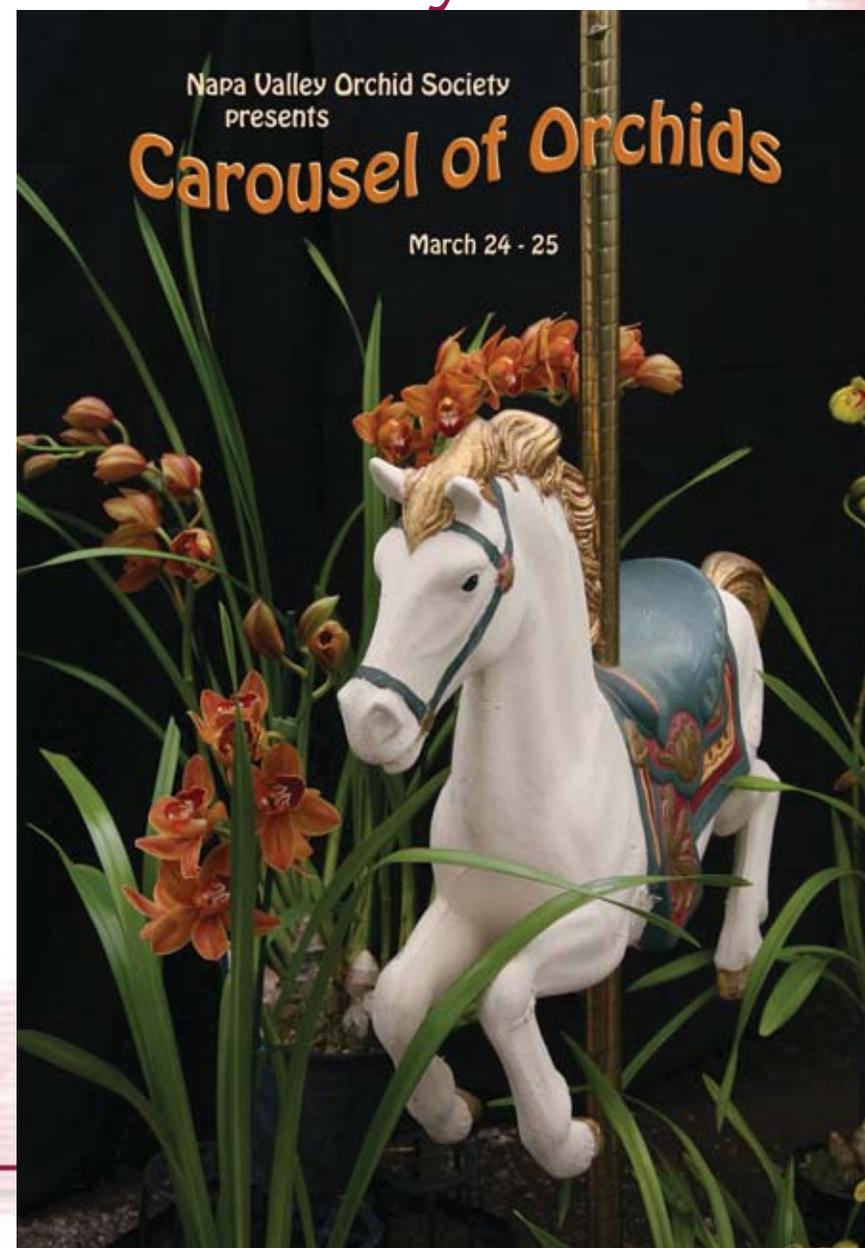
Hwy 101 & Las Positas Rd.

General admission \$12

Seniors/students \$10

Children under 12 free

www.sborchidshow.com



Coming Shows and Sales continued



California Orchids Spring Sale

Saturday, March 24th 9am-4pm

Huge variety of Orchids Seedlings,
Specimens, Supplies, Gorgeous outdoor ferns!

515 Aspen Rd. Bolinas, Ca. 94924

(415) 868-0203

info@californiaorchids.com

www.californiaorchids.com

Santa Clara Valley Orchid Society Show and Sale

March 30-April 1 - Westgate Mall, 1600

Saratoga Ave., San Jose - FREE Admission.

For information call (408) 229-2747. For full entry information, classes, and show times go to <http://www.santaclaravalleyorchidsociety.org/>. Plant entry is from 3:00 to 6:30 PM.

Gold Coast Cymbidium Growers Show and Sale

April 21 Woodside Road United Methodist Church, 2000 Woodside Rd., Redwood City,
10AM-4PM, FREE admission and parking.

Sacramento Orchid Society Show and Sale

April 21-22 - Scottish Rite Temple, 6151 H Street, Sacramento.

Saturday 10-5, Sunday 10-4. Free parking, Admission \$6, seniors \$4.

Diablo View Orchid Society

Mar. 2012

Potting Party

Our April meeting will be a hands-on event. We will have a brief demonstration of re-potting technique and preparing mounted orchids.

Each member will have the opportunity to repot or mount a plant they bring. Please do not bring plants larger than --- size.

Back by popular demand: our April plant table will be a Grab Bag event.



L. anceps 'GLW'

CalWest Tropicals order

Miki Ichiyannagi is coordinating a group order from CalWest. This is a great opportunity to purchase supplies you need for spring. They are an excellent source for pots & baskets, supplies (including media, fertilizer, trays, tools, tags) and books.

View their catalog at:

<http://www.orchid-supplies.com/Calwest2011.pdf>

To add your needs to the order email or call Miki (contact info in your directory) before March 17



Epi. Wedding Valley

*Friend DVOS on
Facebook*

at

Diablo View Orchid Society



Upcoming Speakers and Events

In Honor

DVOS has made a donation to Orchid Digest in honor of Parky Parkison, for his many years of service to our club.



**2011
DVOS Club Pins
are still available \$8
Get yours at our next meeting**

March 9: Ron Parsons - Australian Orchids

March 15: DVOS Board Meeting at the home of Liz and Jamie

March 16-18: Santa Barbara Orchid Show (P. 8)

March 24-25 Napa Valley Orchid Society Show and Sale (P. 8)

March 24: California Orchids Spring Sale (P.9)

Mar 30-April 1: Santa Clara Valley Orchid Society Show and Sale (P. 9)

April 12: DVOS potting party

April 21: Gold Coast Cymbidium Growers Society Show and Sale (P.9)

Diablo View Orchid Society

Awards DVOS Sept.

Novice

1st	<i>L. anceps v. guerrero</i>	Paul Reeve
2nd	<i>Onc. Ardentissimum</i>	Paul Reeve
3rd	<i>Den. Noname</i>	Lori Maher

Intermediate

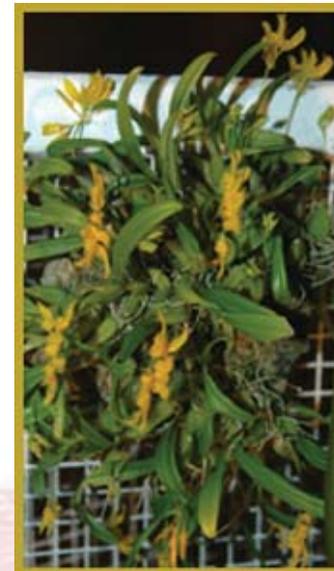
1st	<i>L. anceps</i> 'GLW'	Yunar Peralta
2nd	<i>Cym. New Horizon</i>	Eileen Jackson
3rd	<i>Epi. Wedding Valley</i>	Eileen Jackson

Advanced

1st	<i>Den. wenzelii</i> 'Jeff's Red Wheat'	Ken Cook
2nd	<i>Slc. Fire Magic</i> 'Solar Flare'	Ted McClellan
3rd	<i>Masd. MacInnes</i> 'Golden Heart'	Diana Vavrek

Lancer Smith (species/under 6")

<i>Bulb. sulphureanum</i>	Liz Charlton
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Bulb. sulphureanum

AOS Corner

Lynn Fuller, Chair, AOS Affiliated Societies Committee

Are you in need of a gift for your favorite orchid hobbyist? As a member of the American Orchid Society, you may get a 5% discount on all purchases from the following vendors as an added benefit of membership: Exotic Orchids of Maui, June's Orchid Estate, Krull-Smith, Orchid Doctor, Orchid Inn, Ltd., Seagrove Orchids, Sunset Valley Orchids, and Woodstream Orchids.

Another gift option could be to purchase an AOS gift membership or renewal -- for a 2 year renewal they will receive directly from AOS headquarters a certificate worth worth \$30 off of an order of \$100 or more from your choice of one of the following vendors: Carmela Orchids, Carter & Holmes, Dan & Margie Orchids, Exotic Orchids of Maui, Gold Country Orchids, Hillview Gardens, Indoor Gardening Supplies (IGS), June's Orchid Estate, Kelley's Korner Orchid Supplies, Krull-Smith, Little Brook Orchids, Marsh Hollow Orchids, Mountain View Orchids, New Earth Orchids, Norman's Orchids, OFE International, Orchid Doctor, Orchid Inn Ltd., Piping Rock Orchids, Quest Orchids, RF Orchids, Ravenvision, Roberts Flower Supply, Soroa Orchids, Inc., Sunset Valley Orchids, Tropical Gardens Orchids. Some of these vendors allow these certificates to be used at the shows if they are vending (be sure to have the certificates in hand however in order to take advantage of this benefit). Information on how to contact these vendors, as well as many others, may be found in the 2012 Orchid Source Directory (OSD) which was mailed to all AOS members last fall. This directory also has a listing of the then-current Affiliated Societies of AOS (a more current updated list is on the AOS website). I have been told by some that they never leave home without their OSD and that it is a great tool for discovering local orchid 'spots' while on a road trip. An orchid event not to miss coming up (April 25 – 29, 2012) is the AOS Trustees and Members meeting at the Hyatt Regency in Wichita, Kansas, sponsored by the Kansas Orchid Society – besides a show and all the AOS Committee meetings, the annual election of officers and trustees will take place. More detailed information and registration forms may be found on their website at www.kansasorchidsociety.com or on the AOS website under Events/Orchid Event Calendars/Members Meeting Datebook. There are also many regional local shows coming up in the near future. They are all listed in the new calendar format on the AOS website under Events/ Event Calendar/Show Schedule. Be sure to check out all the possibilities in your region. Orchidists, through their affiliated societies work very hard to put these shows together and we should all support their efforts by attending or participating in the staging of the shows.

Diablo View Orchid Society

AOS Awards

2/1/2012

Sacramento CSNJC

Cymbidium Alan Porter 'Phyllis'
(Cym. Coratea x Cym. Red Beauty)
AM 82
Exhibited by Paul H. Chim

Cymbidium Julie Hawks 'Phyllis'*
(Cym. Red Beauty x Cym. Kellys Winter)
HCC 77 (prov)
Exhibited by Paul H. Chim

Dendrobium macrophyllum var. macrophyllum
'Kathleen'
species
HCC 78
Exhibited by Bob Conaty

Fredclarkeara After Dark 'Betty Westrup Gean'
(Mo. Painted Desert x Ctsm. Donna Wise)
AM 83
Exhibited by Curtis Gean

Phragmipedium Paul Eugene Conroy 'Willow-creek'
(Phrag. wallisii x Phrag. longifolium)
HCC 75
Exhibited by Jay Klock

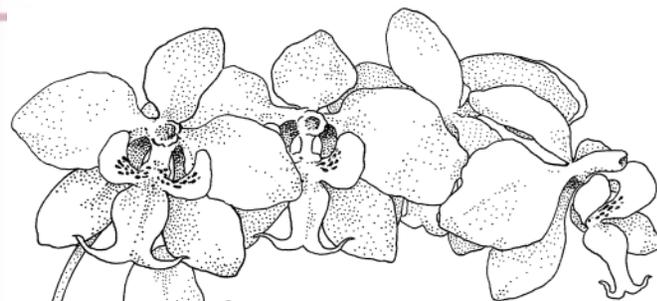
Rhyncattleanthe Momilani Rainbow
'The Gypsy'
(Lc. Mari's Song x Blc. Orange Nugget)
AM 82
Exhibited by Dennis and Janet Wade

Images can be seen at <http://www.csnjc.org>

DVOS Officers 2012

President: George McRae
Immediate Past President: Liz Charlton
Vice-President: Kathy Barrett
Treasurer for Life: Brian Wraxall
Secretary: Rodney Kline
Board Members: Brad Piini, Meg Crosby, Parky Parkison
Eileen Jackson, Jamie Wasson
Membership: Ulrike Ahlborn membership@dvos.org
Newsletter: Jamie Wasson, Liz Charlton
dvosnews@gmail.com
Webmaster: Nick Doe, Ulrike Ahlborn
webmaster@dvos.org
Committee Chairs:
Greenhouse Tours: Parky Parkison
Refreshments: Eileen Jackson
Raffle and Sales: Carol and Casey Campell
Judging: Nancy and Ted McClellan
Equipment and Lights: Dave Tomassini
Librarian: Phyllis Arthur
AOS Representative: Dennis Olivas
Orchid Digest Representative: Brian Wraxall
SFOS Show Chairman: Brad Piini
DVOS Show Chairs Liz Charlton and Kathy Barrett

Commercial Members



Commercial Plant Services

David & Alice Tomassini, 3 Woodside Ct.,
Danville, (925) 736-7630

atomassini@aol.com

White Oak Orchids, Inc.

Sales and Boarding, 1204 Linda Mar Blve.,
(650) 355-8767

www.whiteoakorchids.com

California Orchids

Mary Nisbet, 515 Aspen Rd.

Bolinas, (415) 868-0203

www.californiaorchids.com

Diablo View Orchid Society