

FEBRUARY 2014

*Diablo View*

*Orchid  
Society*

[www.DVOS.org](http://www.DVOS.org) a 501 (c) (3) corporation

DVOS meets the second Thursday of each month at the  
Contra Costa Water District boardroom 7:30-10:00 pm  
1331 Concord Ave. Concord, CA.

**AT OUR NEXT MEETING:**

**Ron Parsons will speak on 'Orchids of China' and will show slides of his recent trip.**

**PLANT TABLE PROVIDED**

**BY: Yunor Peralta**



*L. anceps* 'Cobbledick'

**SPEAKER'S DINNER**

**BEFORE OUR NEXT MEETING**

**AT 5:30 PM:**

***Sichuan Fortune House,  
41 Woodsworth Lane,  
Pleasant Hill***

**BOARD MEETING:**

***Feb. 27th at 7:30 pm  
at the home of Eileen Jackson  
(note this is one week later than our usual time.)***



*V. Fuchs Delight*

# AT OUR NEXT MEETING FEB. 13

## Ron Parsons Orchids of China



Ron Parsons has been growing orchids for going on 40 years and has been interested in and has grown species orchids for most of that time. He loves to photograph orchids and other flowers whenever he can, whether it be in collections or trips to see them in nature. Ron has approximately 40,000 digital images, most of which are orchids, and has a slide library of flower photographs that exceeds 100,000 images. He has about 2500 published photos that have appeared in magazines, periodicals, journals, and books. He was co-authored three books, all with Mary Gerritsen. The first two are called *Masdevallias, Gems of the Orchid World* and *Calochortus, Mariposa Lilies and their Relatives*, and a third book has just been published in January of 2014, a two-volume set called *A Compendium of Miniature Orchid Species*. The last book has nearly 1200 pages, 1800 photographs, and features more than 500 species. Ron will be speaking on his orchid trip to the province of Sichuan in western China.

In 2013 Ron made his second trip to the province of Sichuan (known to most Americans as Szechwan) in China. In 2012 I went with my co-author, Mary Gerritsen on a tour led by slipper orchid specialist Holger Perner and his wife, Wenqing, to see various *Cypripedium* species (the temperate species of slipper orchids, found only in the northern hemisphere, and generally in colder climates) from June 09-23. I enjoyed that so immensely, so we signed up again for the 2013 tour, from June 17- July 01 to see these amazing orchids at different sites this time. We saw a good number of orchids as well as numerous other beautiful flowers and amazing scenery. This talk will feature the beauty of China seen on this trip.

Copies of Ron's new book *Miniature Orchid Species* by Ron Parsons and Mary Gerritsen will be available for purchase. See attached PDF for more information about this book.

## AT OUR JANUARY MEETING: *-Brad Piini* *Ken & Amy Jacobson*



Do you spend more time in your greenhouse than you do in church on Sundays? Are your workbenches your altars and your orchids your religion? If so, Ken and Amy Jacobson may have the answer you have been looking for. Why not buy a church with a 17 car asphalt parking lot and turn the whole thing into a religious orchid experience?

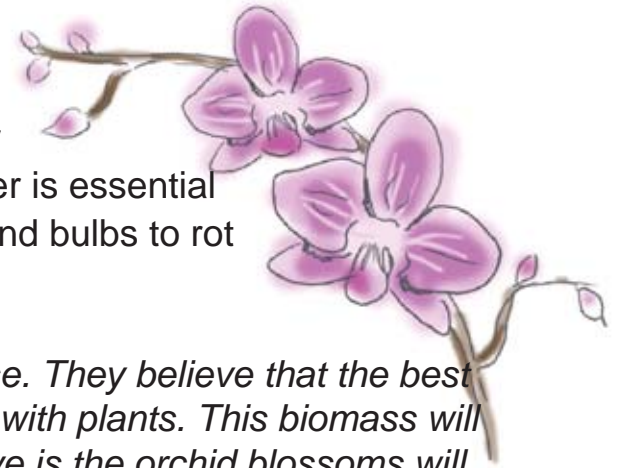


*Recently, Ken and Amy Jacobson bought a church with the large parking lot. Over the last year or so they have renovated it into a household with a large indoor and outdoor growing area to contain their passion - orchids. In January, the Jacobson's lectured the DVOS audience on how to grow orchids in these new surroundings.*

*The new property has a large 12 by 24 foot greenhouse. This greenhouse is heated and only allowed to get down to 53° F in the winter time. The outdoor area is a covered portion of the parking lot that is at least as big as the dimensions of the greenhouse. This area is open and subject to a wide range of temperatures that nature provides. This winter, for example, the temperature went down to 24° F. Most years the low is 30° F.*



Ken and Amy like to grow Cattleyas, Laelias, and Cymbidium orchids. Amy grows her Laelias outdoors in the covered area of the parking lot. The cover is essential to keep the moisture off the orchids. The winter rains will cause the roots and bulbs to rot from the cold wet conditions. Cold alone will not affect the Laelias.



*Amy admits that the easiest area to grow orchids is in the greenhouse. They believe that the best way to create some much-needed humidity is to overfill your growing area with plants. This biomass will create its own humidity. In the cold of winter, one of the problems they have is the orchid blossoms will form black spots called Botrytis from the cold humid conditions. Since the heating of the indoor and outdoor areas is cost prohibitive, they choose to use dehumidifiers in the winter. The temperatures are still cold, but without the humidity the orchid blossoms are not destroyed from the Botrytis. They run these dehumidifiers at night time only. This allows the humidity to return to normal during the daytime when the temperatures rise.*



*Max. tonsbergii*

Ken and Amy have their own secret formula for the potting mix that they use to plant their orchids. Since most orchids are epiphytes and prefer to have the roots exposed, Amy uses a very loose mix to plant her Laelias and Cattleyas. She never compacts the mix around the plant roots. This loose mix allows the roots to dry out between watering and allows a lot of air movement around the roots. Her potting mix consists of 50 percent 3/8-inch lava rock, 33 percent small coconut husks chips, 10 to 15 percent #3 perlite, and a dash of oyster shell and charcoal. The oyster shell provides calcium and magnesium. The calcium helps buffer the potting mix to an optimal pH of 6.5. The magnesium helps to promote the growth of the orchids. As we've learned from others before, you only repot your orchid when new roots are present not just when the plant is growing. Always re-pot so that you have room for two years worth of new growth in the container.

Finally, all orchids need light to bloom. If you want your orchids to bloom their best, then give them as much light as possible without burning them. If you do burn them, the leaves will look lousy for years to come. The leaves should be a light green color if given the proper amount of light. If you are pushing the light then the orchid will also require more water. This is to counteract the increased transpiration that the orchid will be going through with the increase light. It's actually the number of hours of light that is critical for the orchids to bloom, not the intensity of the light. To get the best blooms, you want longer days of light not necessarily the brightest light.

*Thank you Ken and Amy Jacobson*  
for the wonderful talk. Good luck on your tax  
exempt status for your new

*Church of the Orchids.*



*Den. aberrans*



*L. anceps 'Avalon'*  
and Yunor Peralta





*Paph. St. Low*



<http://www.orchidconservationcoalition.org>



*Membership News*  
courtesy of Ulrike Ahlborn,  
Membership Chair  
[membership@dvos.org](mailto:membership@dvos.org)

**2014 Dues are now due**

**General Members \$30**

**Commercial Members \$40**

**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](http://www.dvos.org/About/membersh.htm)

If you joined at the Art Jazz & Wine Festival in November you do not owe for 2014

# REFRESHMENTS FOR THE FEBRUARY MEETING WILL BE PROVIDED BY:



## FOOD:

*(Food must be cut into servings)*

**George McRae  
Barbara Ungersma  
Noble Emery  
Greg Scown  
Brad Piini**

## DRINKS:

**Dave Altman  
Grace Chan**

## ICE:

**Liz Charlton**

## SET-UP AND CLEAN-UP:

**Carol Klonowski**



*Cym. Noname*



*Bulb. blepharistes*



# Awards DVOS January

## Novice

1st *Cym.* Noname                      Jeanette Bean  
2nd *Phal.* Noname                      Jean Keim  
3rd *Blc.* Mem. Minerva Burr 'Colossal'      Marcia Hart

## Intermediate

1st *Max. tonsbergii*                      Paul Reeve  
2nd *V. Fuchs Delight*                      Renate Johnson  
3rd *Bulb. blepharistes*                      Mark Dillard

## Advanced

1st *L. anceps* 'Avalon'                      Yunor Peralta  
2nd *L. anceps* f. alba 'Cobbledick'      Tom Pickford  
3rd *Paph. St. Low*                              Ken Cook

## Lancer Smith (species/under 6")

*Den. aberrans*                      Ken Cook

California Sierra Nevada  
Judging Center Awards for  
January can be viewed at:  
<http://www.csnjc.org>



*Den.* Little Green Apples  
'Nikki' AM/AOS

Nikki, the somnolent, white  
chihuahua

***Den. Little Green Apples and Nikki belong  
to Liz Charlton and Jamie Wasson.***

# UPCOMING SPEAKERS AND EVENTS



**Feb 13: DVOS Meeting with speaker Ron Parsons**

**Feb 20-23: Pacific Orchid Expo**

<http://www.orchidsanfrancisco.org/poe.html>

**Feb 27: DVOS Board Meeting at Eileen Jackson's Home**

**March 29-30: Sacramento Orchid Society 66th Annual Show**

<http://www.sacorhidshow>

**April 5-6: Napa Valley Orchid Society  
21st Annual Show and Sale**



*Phal.* Noname



*Blc. Mem. Minerva*  
Burr 'Colossal'



**ORCHIDS** and all that **JAZZ**  
SAN FRANCISCO ORCHID SOCIETY'S 62ND ANNUAL  
**PACIFIC ORCHID EXPOSITION**  
GALA BENEFIT PREVIEW THURS. FEBRUARY 20, 6:30-10:00PM  
SHOW & PLANT SALE • FEBRUARY 21 - 23, 2014  
FRIDAY 10AM-6PM • SATURDAY 9AM-6PM • SUNDAY 10AM-5PM  
FESTIVAL PAVILION • FORT MASON CENTER • SAN FRANCISCO

Admission \$12 (incl. 1/2 of doc.) Senior \$10 (incl. 1/2 of doc.) Child \$6 (incl. 1/2 of doc.) 10 years & under free (supervisor/custodian required).  
Special discount on the tickets. Not applicable at other Pacific Society, San Francisco, California or Bay Area locations. See A, No refund. Complimentary meals.

For Tickets & Information please visit  
[www.orchidsanfrancisco.org](http://www.orchidsanfrancisco.org)  
Additional Information: The Service Group 800-543-6700  
A California Non-Profit for Emerging Botanical Conservation

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*The Pacific Orchid Exposition in San Francisco is in need of functioning warm bodies. Both Plant Hotel and Security need volunteers for Friday, Saturday and Sunday.*

*If you can help on any of those days, please contact Mary Gerritson and give her the times you are available. Her contact email is [meg570@comcast.net](mailto:meg570@comcast.net) In exchange you will receive a pass to enter the show for free and will receive a meal ticket for the time you are there. Show dates are February 21, 22 and 23.*

**DVOS Display:** If you have plants in bloom, you can bring them to our next meeting or bring them to Liz Charlton in Pleasant Hill (925-280-1671) **We need well grown, bug-free plants, so start looking through your collections!**

# DVOS OFFICERS 2014

PRESIDENT: EILEEN JACKSON

VICE PRESIDENT: SUNG LEE

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT: EILEEN JACKSON

SECRETARY: MARCIA HART

TREASURER: KATHY BARRETT

BOARD MEMBERS: PHYLLIS ARTHUR

LIZ CHARLTON

PASCUAL MACHIN

MIKI ICHIYANAGI

ULRIKE AHLBORN

## COMMERCIAL MEMBERS

### Commercial Plant Services

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

[www.commercialplantservices.com](http://www.commercialplantservices.com)

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COMMITTEE CHAIRS:

GREENHOUSE TOURS: PARKY PARKISON

REFRESHMENTS: BRENDA ADAY & MIKI ICHIYANGI

RAFFLE AND SALES: SUSAN FETTER

JUDGING: NANCY AND TED McCLELLAN

EQUIPMENT AND LIGHTS: DAVE TOMASSINI

LIBRARIAN: PHYLLIS ARTHUR

