

Diablo View Orchid Society

It's our Annual Auction!



2017 Officers and Board Members

President: Renate Johnson

Co-Vice Presidents: Betty Chinn &
Lisa Chow

Treasurer: Nancy McClellan

Secretary: Miki Ichiyanagi

Board Member: Ulrike Ahlborn

Board Member: Eileen Jackson

Board Member: Yunor Peralta

Board Member: Greg Scown

Immediate Past President: Sung Lee

Alternate Board Members: Marcia Hart,
Judith Johnston and Jim Wert

Newsletter Editor: Barry Hart
DVOSEditor@aol.com

August Meeting:

Thursday, Aug 10 at 7:15 pm
at the Contra Costa Water District
1331 Concord Ave, Concord

*Refreshments will be supplied by:
Your Board*

***The room will be available starting at
6:30 for arranging your orchids for
the auction!***

Visit our website for the latest news about the club!

DVOS.ORG

President's Message

Dear DVOS Members,

How are your orchids adjusting to the summer heat??

My plants have survived the July heat by cool misting and by watering them a little more than I usually do. Just in case, a spare fan is a good idea!

* As you know, **Saturday, August 5th, our Greenhouse tour is taking place.** We look forward to visiting some well known growers in our area. Please contact Judith Johnston to reserve your seat on the bus.

* Per our announcement, the monthly meeting, **Thursday, August 10th**, will be of a different format.

This meeting will be an auction fundraiser, beginning at 7:15pm.

Our Meeting Room will be available at 6:30 until 7:15 to arrange orchids for display.
In addition to member's plants donated, we are pleased to confirm that we have received donations from professional, award winning growers.
If your plant is not in bloom, a small picture/photo is very helpful.

Our seasoned "auctioneers" have graciously agreed to perform this function on behalf of DVOS, and we appreciate their support.

We will **not** have a Show and Tell session. DVOS Board members are providing a light snack prior to the auction. Thank you for your cooperation. As a team, we can make this event a success again.

***Save the Date: Saturday, Oct. 7th DVOS October Show**

Local vendors will be offering their best orchid selections, and we will have a chance to show our own beautiful blooms!!

You will have an opportunity to volunteer for this event, more to come on this subject
In the interim, **please groom your plants to be exhibited and awarded.**

*** AOS**

if you're not a member yet of the American Orchid Society, please add your name to their roster!! **The information available to you at <http://www.aos.org> will make you a better grower** (that translates into a happier person).

Thank you to all who help make this society successful, time after time!!

Stay cool, and enjoy your orchids.

Renate Johnson

The July Meeting's Judging Results

July	Advanced	Lc canhamiana	Yuno Peralta	1
July	Advanced	Paphiopedilum Shin Yi Michael	Liz Charlton	2
July	Advanced	Prosthechea cochleata	Jim Wert	3
July	Intermediate	Cattleya hawaiian weding song	Renate Johnson	1
July	Intermediate	Cattleya irene finneya	Linda Castleton	2
July	Intermediate	Phal fasciata	Barbara Ungersma	3
July	Novice	Laliae Pacavia	Marcia Hart	1
July	Novice	Phal noname	Jeanette Beane	2
July	Novice			3
July	Lancer	Pleurothallis tibuloides	Sung Lee	

**Orchids
from
our
July
Meeting**



Hi Everybody –

Good News: Happily the Rainforest Trust has again recognized the value of EcoMinga's Dracula Reserve in northern Ecuador. They have offered to help raise \$319,310 to purchase 1,450 acres for the reserve, a price of \$220 per acre. **Their help is in the form of a one-for-one match; for every dollar donated, they will add another dollar.** Thus for every \$110 we can provide, EcoMinga can buy an acre of land for the reserve.



Why should we do this? A few months ago Gary Meyer, President of the Pleurothallid Alliance, wrote: "This area is special for a number of reasons. First and foremost, this is the region with the highest *Dracula* diversity that we know of - anywhere. At least 19 species have been found here; most of them were originally discovered in this area. Two are natural hybrids that keep recurring, and one very rare species that lives here is not in cultivation at all. There are things that get reported from the area occasionally that have not been identified yet; likely, species are waiting to be described. In fact, I and my Ecuadorian friend Luis Baquero described *Dracula trigonopetala* just a few years ago after it was found here. In all my travels to study *Draculas* in situ I have never seen an area with this density of *Dracula* diversity.

There is a historical significance to this area too. Over the decades, many members of the SFOS, as well as pleurothallid growers and scientists the world over, have visited this region and discovered new species here. Ron Hawley and Robert Levi, SFOS [San Francisco Orchid Society] members in the 70s/80s, both have species named for them that they discovered here. Many of the clones of *gigas* and *polyphemos* that we have in our greenhouses originated from plants that J & L Orchids collected here in the 1980s.

Unfortunately, even though this area is essentially the epicenter of *Dracula* diversity, it was also completely unprotected until a coalition of conservation groups, including the OCA and EcoMinga, bought the first property to be part of this *Dracula* reserve. It is not a coincidence that in my travels I find the best and most stable populations of *Draculas* inside protected lands. I do find them on unprotected lands, but I cannot tell you how often I and other pleurothallid hunters have returned to unprotected sites to find the plants poached or the forests obliterated.

This unique region is under threat from a variety of human activities that are hard to stop without **formal protection of the land**. We are aware that agriculture is a common cause of deforestation, and every time I visit this area more forest is gone for both crop and animal production. But there are other big threats: The forests are used for lumber. Last time I was there I found the largest wild plant of *Dracula andreettae* I had ever seen, hanging under a trunk that was about to get sliced into planks. That's not even where it ends – mountain forests like this are at high risk for illegal mining exploration. The best defense against this is to **have the borders of the reserve under regular surveillance**, which has been arranged for by the coalition building the *Dracula* reserve. Since I started visiting this area in 2005, there have been new roads built to make it faster and easier to connect Maldonado to the economic central corridor of Ecuador, and there are also efforts to increase road access from Maldonado to the Pacific coast. This construction is occurring solely to give greater human access to the area – and its resources. The pressures on biodiversity will only intensify as access improves.

The coalition building the *Dracula* reserve at Maldonado has succeeded in acquiring the first property, but more land needs to be purchased. The reserve has been started, but is not complete, and more funds and effort are needed to achieve the goal of protecting a full representation of the diversity in this habitat.

If you have stuck with me this far, thank you, and I hope you take away from my message that I feel this area is most deserving of attention from pleurothallid growers. I cannot think of any area I have visited in my 10+ years of traveling through Ecuador and Colombia that has this much unprotected pleurothallid diversity in one location, where it is also **still within the realm of possibility for us to do something now to protect it**. I can pinpoint microforests where rare individual species are clinging to existence, but the severity of the fragmentation at these sites may mean it is too late. It is not too late for Maldonado. -Gary Meyer

What you can do: Please send every penny you can spare to the OCA to expand the *Dracula* Reserve. Our goal is to reach \$110,000 in donations by the end of the year. When that is doubled by the RainForest Trust we will be able to purchase 1000 acres to be preserved in perpetuity. If you have already donated this year, please consider repeating that donation. If you have not yet donated, please put it on your calendar to donate at least twice before the end of the year. Donations can be made through our web site or by sending a check made out to the OCA to the address below.

The OCA is fully committed to raising these funds. We are going deeply into our cash reserves to provide \$30,000 toward our goal of raising \$110,000.

Margaret Mead said "Never believe that a few caring people can't change the world. For, indeed, that's all who ever have."

Let's do it!

Peter S. Tobias, President
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(This article is from Kathy Barrett)