



The Arizona Orchidist

Published monthly by
The Orchid Society of Arizona, Inc.
Founding Editor- Clarence S. Lindsten
1966
Volume 42 April 2006 Number 4

NEXT OSA MEETING

Meetings are held at the
Encanto Park Clubhouse
2605 N. 15th Ave., Phoenix, Arizona
North of Encanto Blvd. on 15th Ave.
Phone (602) 261-8993

The next regular society meeting will
be Monday, April 3, 2006 at
7:00 p.m.

OSA meetings are open to all
plant enthusiasts

Refreshments will be provided.

This month beverages
will be provided by: Teddy Cohen
snacks by

Mary Gannon

Barbara and Harry Parnell

Refreshment Coordinators:

Barbara Parnell (480) 948-0714

Mary Gannon (623) 878-4173

OSABOARD MEETING

The next OSA board meeting
will be held at 1 PM

Sunday, April 23, 2006

at the home of Barbara Parnell

Board meetings are open to all OSA
members

Please call Barbara for directions
(480) 948-0714

Grower on Call

Lou Ann Remekis
remeikis@dancris.com (602) 803-6889

April Program

Orchids in all the Colors of the Rainbow

We are excited to have fellow OSA member and owner of White Oak Orchids, Scott Dallas, join us for a "hands on" presentation.

White Oak Orchids, Inc. has been caring for orchids professionally since the early 1980's. Its services include orchid sales, boarding, on site greenhouse, office or home maintenance and consulting. White Oaks has 25,000 square feet of growing space devoted exclusively to orchids. The nursery moved to extraordinary growing conditions in Pacifica in February of 2004. The newly refurbished high tech greenhouses offer a wide range of growing conditions from Vandas to Cyms. Scott and Gwen successfully cultivate some 350 genera with countless species and hybrids.

Scott Dallas has loved and grown orchids for 31 years. He fell into the early stages of the orchid collecting bug with species cattleyas. Soon thereafter miltonias and paphiopedilums were added to the "must" list. One species led to another great hybrid and soon Scott found himself in the business of growing orchids professionally.

Gwen Watson fell under the spell of a pink Cattleya as a teenager visiting a conservatory for the first time. In addition to a fascination with growing orchids, Gwen also has created a large photography portfolio of orchids.

Being true farmers, Scott and Gwen practice not only agriculture, but husbandry as well. Gwen founded the lambe Cattery several years ago. lambe specializes in the clowns of the cat world, European Burmese. The kitten photo on the opening page of the White Oak site will provide more information.

Scott has been President and has held many other offices for the Peninsula Orchid Society on the San Francisco Peninsula.

Scott will be bringing a nice selection of plants for our silent auction.

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From the President's Desk

Julie Rathbun

Those OSA members who usually help with the Equestrian Special Olympics will remember that last year, the event was scheduled for January and had to be cancelled due to rain. The children who would have participated were disappointed. The City of Phoenix, co-sponsor with the Western Saddle Club, decided to schedule the event this year for March 11 and avoid bad weather. Nobody could have foreseen that after 143 days WITHOUT rain in the low desert, ON March 11, it rained! **The event has been rescheduled for APRIL 22.** I had arranged for 12 horses to be used for the event, and I hope that the owners of the horses will work with me so that their horses are available on April 22. I also hope that OSA members who were ready and willing to help on March 11 will be available on April 22.

Also, you might like to know that I received a telephone call regarding the renaming of the event. In the late 1970's, my Fred was President of Arizona State Horsemen's Association and Board Member of the Western Saddle Club. He was one of the first members who worked with the Equestrian Special Olympics. The event will hereafter be known as the Fred Rathbun Equestrian Special Olympics.

During the daytime hours, March 11 would have been an excellent time for you windowsill growers to set your orchids outside so that they could benefit from the steady rain!

At the beginning of our March 6 meeting, I announced the resignation of Dan Kruger as OSA Trustee and my appointment of Bob MacLeod to complete Dan's term of office. Thanks, Bob, for not hesitating a second in accepting the appointment!

Also during our March meeting, I circulated the Refreshments Sign-up Sheet. A few more members signed up to bring refreshments. Thanks! There are still a few months where we need members to bring snacks. I'll pass around the sign-up sheet one more time - at our April 3 meeting. I also noticed that several members have signed up to bring refreshments more than once. There have been times when members who weren't signed up to bring refreshments to a meeting, took the initiative and brought liquid and snacks to add to the items brought by those who were responsible for refreshments for a particular meeting. For example, for our March meeting, Marleny brought freshly squeezed orange juice and Dan Kruger brought yummy cookies! Thanks guys!

During our March meeting, I also asked if any members were willing to relieve BARBARA PARNELL and MARY GANNON as Refreshments Co-chairs. Since NO members volunteered, Barbara and Mary agreed to continue as Refreshments Co-chairs. Thanks Barbara and Mary!

Thanks to AARON for demonstrating the OrchidWiz Encyclopedia at our March meeting! I enjoyed viewing the pictures, but if I ever want to know the parentage of one of the hybrids in my orchid collection, I'll ask a book "worm" for the information. I don't have the necessary time that it would take for me to learn how to use the software. I could be mistaken, but as I observed the members of the audience, I think that quite a few members came to the same conclusion that I did. At least we've seen what the software can do!

Our 2006 membership roster will NOT be available at our April meeting. There are two reasons for this: 1) Several members have been slow in renewing their membership, and it takes time for one person to edit the previous information and ready the new roster for distribution. And 2) Wilella Stimmell has been working on the roster at the same time that she's also sending the first bulletin regarding the International Orchid Conservation Congress III that will be held March 19-24, 2007 in Costa Rica. (Wilella is the lone female on the IOCC III Finance Committee. She's also proofread the content of the bulletin. At last report, she's sent the first bulletin to almost every country on the planet!)

FYI: We will have **an orchid quilt to raffle at our November show!** A board member donated the fabric, and I am doing the sewing. When the quilt is finished, we'll place a picture of it on our website.

Our speaker for our April 3 meeting is Scott Dallas. You won't want to miss Scott's presentation. He's an excellent teacher!

See you on April 3!

Julie

IT'S SHOW (PLANNING) TIME

The first of the **2006 Orchid Show** planning meetings will be held on April 23 at 12:00 noon before the regular Board of Directors meeting at Barbara Parnell's home, 13201 N. 69th Street. Please call if you need directions (480-948-0714). Our show will be held on November 4th and 5th and the theme this year is "Oasis of Orchids". We need all the input we can get from our members so please plan on attending this "brain storming" meeting! Being part of the planning of the show is a lot of fun and it is such a help to our organization. We hope to see you there!

Barbara Parnell, 2006 Show Chair

2006 Summer Interns at Selby Gardens

Sarasota, FL: Paula Viveros of Colombia will be returning this summer to Selby. Last summer Paula used some of the funds that OSA donated for travel by students from the tropics to Sarasota, to travel from Colombia to Sarasota. She's already in FL, so she will not be using our donated travel funds to get to Selby for her internship this summer. Selby has one confirmed orchid intern coming this summer, thanks to our travel funds, and possibly two! The confirmed summer intern is Delsy Trujillo from Peru. She will be working with Stig Dalstrom on the orchids of La Libertad. The other is tentative: Melissa Bocayuva from Brazil. She is interested in Pleurothallids, and if she comes to Sarasota, she will be using some of the funds that we donated for travel.

Thanks to Bruce Holst, Interim Director, Center for Tropical Plant Science & Conservation at Selby for updating us on the use of the travel funds that OSA donated a few years ago.

Wilella

MARCH RAFFLE TABLE DONORS

OSA members:

Marleny Castillo, Teddy Cohen, Bob MacLeod and Wilella Stimmell

Non members:

Ken and Judy Vincent

Thank you !

The *Arizona Orchidist* is published monthly by the

Orchid Society of Arizona, Inc.

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<http://welcome.to/orchidsocietyaz>

Or to any of the Board Officers or Trustees:

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The Orchid Society of Arizona, Inc. is a non-profit 501 (C) (3) organization dedicated to community service and the study of orchids. It is affiliated with the American Orchid Society, The Orchid Digest Corporation, the Arizona Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. The Nature Conservancy.

2006 COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM SCHEDULE

By Wilella Stimmell, CSP Coordinator

On **March 1 and 2**, TEDDY COHEN, BOB MACLEOD, JULIE RATHBUN, and I presented hands-on repotting programs for 3rd grade students enrolled in the following elementary schools in **Payson**: **FRONTIER ELEMENTARY**, 1000 E. Frontier St.; **JULIE RANDALL ELEMENTARY**, 902 W. Main St.; and **PAYSON ELEMENTARY**, 500 E. Rancho Road. A total of 194 students were scheduled to participate in our programs. Two master gardeners from the Gila County Extension Office helped us work at the Payson schools. A reporter from the PAYSON ROUNDUP was present at Frontier Elementary and photographed the students as they repotted their seedlings.

The most uncomfortable programs for both students and our program team members were the programs presented on March 1 at Frontier Elementary where tables were set up outside. Neither cold nor wind prevented us from helping the students repot their seedlings. But just as we finished the third program, raindrops started to fall!

BOB MACLEOD offered accommodation for the night to Julie and me. Because we didn't need to book a room for the night, we saved OSA a hotel bill. Thanks Bob and Dee!

The following morning, at 8 AM, we arrived at Julia Randall Elementary School. Instead of the three programs that had been scheduled for Julia Randall, the morning programs were reduced to two programs. However, each program involved two classes PER program. Yikes! Children in one class are noisy, but multiply the noise level by two, and you can imagine how difficult it was for program team members to be heard over the din of the children's voices. However, we considered the programs to be a success because each student repotted a seedling.

In the afternoon, we presented three programs at Payson Elementary School. Our program team members were very impressed with the organizational skills of Mr. Will Dunning, Principal of the school. Not only did ALL of his students have empty water or milk jugs, but Mr. Dunning personally led us from one classroom to the next. We prefer presenting our programs in one central location because then we don't have to haul plants and supplies from room to room. However, we didn't complain because Mr. Dunning was helpful. Students at Payson Elementary were also on their best behavior!

In the morning on **March 6** (our meeting day), **Desert Pointe Garden Club** (Awatukee) was treated to an Orchids 101 program presented by TEDDY COHEN. Thanks, Teddy, for traveling from Pine to Phoenix long before our evening meeting AND for representing OSA!

Mark your calendars: On **April 29**, we will return to **Payson**. From **10 AM to 3 PM**, we will hold a **mini-show/sale** at the **Presbyterian Church, 800 W. Main St. We need display plants!** If you are unable to help but have display plants, please contact a board member, and one of us will arrange to pick up your display plants!

Also on April 29 at the Presbyterian Church, we will present three hands-on repotting programs: at 10 AM, 11 AM, and 1 PM. The program at 10 AM will be a repotting program for children who did not participate in the March programs in Payson, and the other two hands-on repotting programs are for adults. Class size is limited to 20 individuals per program.

TEDDY has prepared a flyer announcing our mini-show/sale in Payson and has been distributing the flyers in Payson. Thanks, Teddy! Payson residents will need to contact Teddy and ask to be included in the repotting programs. However, without a reservation, any Payson resident may attend our mini-show/sale.

Sphag-n-Bag

OK, you've managed to rot the roots off of your plant, but you don't want to lose it. What can you do? Many orchid growers resort to the old "sphag-n-bag" technique. By the way, this is good for getting new imports established, too.

First, let's consider the needs of the plant: It needs water to survive - water is the life's blood of the plant. It provides turgidity to the tissues and cells, it is a chemical component used in the production of the sugars during photosynthesis, and it is used by the plant to control the osmotic pressure of ions inside- and outside of the cells. So if you have no roots, how does the plant get water?

Misting is of little value, as the plant cannot take up a substantial amount of liquid water through its leaves, and the brief period that the humidity is raised by periodic misting is likely insufficient to be of much benefit. The key is maintaining high humidity, not so much because of the easier absorption of water vapor (which is the case), but because a saturated environment prevents further loss of water from the plant tissues while it attempts to grow new roots. Basically, the "sphag-n-bag" concept uses a small bit of damp sphagnum as a moisture supply, and a plastic bag as a "micro-greenhouse" in which the elevated humidity can be easily maintained.

That's simple enough, but a big mistake that many folks make is placing the plant in direct contact with moss that's **too wet**.

The technique I use involves preparing the plant, then setting up the "rescue" environment:

Plant Preparation:

1. Remove any old organic media that may be sticking to the roots. If it's difficult to remove, just wait.
2. Using a sterile blade, trim off any dead or damaged roots.
3. Dissolve 1 cup of sugar, and 1/4 teaspoon of a rooting hormone compound (K-L-N, SuperThrive, etc.) in a gallon of 80°F water. If you have any soluble trace element mixture (STEM), also add 1/2 teaspoon of that.
4. Soak the plant for about 2 hours or more.
5. Remove any remaining organic media - it's bound to come off after the soaking.

Setting up the Environment (this is the easy part).

1. Get a clear plastic bag large enough to comfortably hold the plant.
2. Place a small amount of damp sphagnum moss in one corner of the bag. You may substitute a piece of folded-up paper towel for the moss, or just add a teaspoon of water to the bag.
3. Place the plant in the bag, oriented as if growing normally, and not in direct contact with the moss or any free liquid.
4. Seal the bag. If it's a Zip-Lock, that's easy, if not, fold over the top several times and hold it with a paper clip.
5. Place it in a warm, shady location and walk away.

Placing the plant in that warm, shady location (not dark) is important: The warmth will induce some growth activity, but the shade serves to moderate the vegetative growth while the plant develops new roots. Furthermore, warmth results in a higher moisture content of the air in the bag, and the shade prevents the bag from becoming a broiler, as it would become if direct sun hits it.

In a few weeks, the plant is likely to have developed a new root system, at which point it can be repotted.

Another idea for those of you who grow your plants in Semi-Hydroponic™ culture: Pot up your suffering plant and then place the plant - pot and all - in the bag. It will get all of the benefits of the "sphag-n-bag" environment, but has the bonus of growing its roots into the medium without the need for repotting afterward.

*Reprinted with permission: Ray Barkalow
First Ray's Orchids*

Editors note: Willie shared this "trick" with me years ago and I have observed Julie Rathbun use it also. Instead of using a plastic bag, try one of those large pretzel containers from Costco....and you get to eat the pretzels first. From experience I can only emphasize what Ray says above. Direct contact and too wet....BIG MISTAKES!

III

IOCCC

International Orchid



IUCN
The World Conservation Union



2007

Conservation Congress

Are our
orchids safe?

San José, Costa Rica
March 19-24, 2007

In concomitance with

2nd International Conference
on Neotropical Orchidology

and

International Orchid Show



JARDÍN BOTÁNICO
LANKESTER
Universidad de Costa Rica

Editor's Corner

As a "windowsill" grower with a constant need to weigh space available with feeding my terrible addiction to orchids, I am always on the lookout for plants that are compact, easy to care for, and reward me with blooms.

Many years ago I was introduced to Equitant Oncidiums (Tolumnia) when Anita Aldrich spoke at an OSA meeting. She brought a selection of plants and I purchased one, only to quickly dispatch it to orchid heaven.

Over the years I have sent many of them to that great greenhouse beyond (yes, Willie, I do appreciate and kill more than just Paphs!) I believe I may have finally found the answer to caring for these little beauties.

First. BUY MATURE PLANTS. This holds true for most orchids. Sure, it is great to build a collection with numerous "near blooming size" plants and seedlings and they are generally less expensive. Occasionally add a mature plant and you will be rewarded. Also, it has been said "it takes longer to kill them".

Next, don't over water. Equitants like to be on the drier side. "Equitant oncidiums are very particular about aeration of the roots. For the best culture, the roots of the plants must be exposed and they must dry off soon after being watered. If you must grow these in pots (as opposed to mounted) use small ones with pieces of tree fern or charcoal, leaving open spaces for air circulation."

My success is a mature plant in a 2" pot with a media consisting entirely of fine horticultural grade charcoal..... and not much of that. It is watered once a week, fertilized weakly, weekly and in bright light. As of this writing it is rewarding me with two bud laden bloom spikes. Celebrate even small victories!

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Something is Missing

Something is missing from the monthly newsletter. Do you have any idea what it could be?

I'll bet the "old-timers" know. It is YOUR contributions.

The past few days I have been reading old issues of the Arizona Orchidist. Some from the 1970's and 1980's, even to the original issue in 1966. While some people reading these archives might consider them "hokey", I found them to be very interesting, a warm chronology of this society we love. These monthly newsletters recount personal happenings of many members. Some names I recognize, many I do not, some still with us, some long departed, but they all shared our love of orchids and the fellowship provided in belonging to this society.

The obvious difference between the Arizona Orchidist then and our "award winning" newsletter today is the absence of these personal vignettes.

This is my plea: PLEASE contribute. You do not have to send some lengthy scientific article. Send me your successes, failures, growing tips.....whatever. Then some editor forty years from now will hold and enjoy another piece of history.....and YOU will be in it!

ed

SURF'S UP

Do you ever discover a website while "surfing the net" that contains information that might be of interest to your orchid buddies? Well, when you "happen" upon such a site and would like to share please send your editor an email (kjkm@comcast.net) with the address and a brief description of what can be found there.







This month visit the website of our April guest speaker and OSA member Scott Dallas.

www.whiteoakorchids.com

This site has an amazing color photo gallery of offerings from a to z.

Easy to navigate.

OSA April 2006 Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1  Bob MacLeod
2  August Lorenzini	3 OSA MEETING 7:00 PM	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12  Sally Griffith	13	14	15  David Nunamacher
16	17	18	19	20  Lois Sauer	21	22 Equestrian Special Olympics Earth Day
23 30	24	25	26  Mary Gannon	27	28	29



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