



The

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NEXT OSA MEETING

The next regular society meeting
will be **Monday, April 7, 2008**
at **6:45 P.M.**

Meetings are held at the
Encanto Park Clubhouse

2605 N. 15th Ave., Phoenix, Arizona
North of Encanto Blvd. on 15th Ave.

OSA meetings are open to all
plant enthusiasts

Refreshments will be provided.

Snacks by

Barbara Parnell and Julie Rathbun

Beverage by

Bob MacLeod

Refreshment Coordinators:

Barbara Parnell (480) 948-0714

Mary Gannon (623) 878-4173

OSA BOARD MEETING

Board Meetings

are open to all members

The next Board meeting will be
at 1 P.M. Sunday, April 27, 2008
following the noon show meeting
at the home of Barbara Parnell

GROWER ON CALL

Keith Mead

kjkm@comcast.net

April Program

REMEMBER MEETINGS NOW BEGIN AT 6:45 PM

OSA is pleased to welcome back **HERMANN PIGORS**, of **OAK HILL GARDENS**, Dundee, IL. Hermann last spoke to us in January, 2005, and at that time his subject was **PAPHIOPEDILUM CULTURE**. This, Hermann's **THIRD** presentation for OSA, will concentrate on **CULTURE OF ORCHID SPECIES**.

The following biographical information was kindly submitted to us by Hermann's son-in-law, Greg Butler:

"Hermann Pigors is a professional floriculturist and founder of Oak Hill Gardens. In 1951, at age 14, he began his career in floriculture in Germany where he served a three-year apprenticeship. Since 1954 he has worked primarily with orchids in greenhouse firms in Germany and in Illinois since 1957.

In 1973 he bought an existing greenhouse in Dundee, Illinois and established Oak Hill Gardens. Here over 20,000 sq. ft. of greenhouses were used to grow orchids, bromeliads and tropical foliage plants for hobby, home and office use. Orchids are the main culture, being grown from seed, clones, and imports.

Oak Hill Gardens employs 6 full and part-time employees to help accomplish the workload. Today the bromeliads and tropical foliage plants are mostly replaced by more orchid varieties. The next generation is operating the greenhouses, with Greg and Liese Pigors Butler leading the firm in its fourth decade.

Mr. Pigors has served as President of the Illinois Orchid Society, is an American Orchid Society judge, and has served on the Board of Trustees of the American Orchid Society from 1980 to 1986. He also served as the President of the Mid-America Orchid Congress from 1990 to 1992.

In 2002 Hermann retired from the business to handle the laboratory with orchid propagation."

Welcome back, Hermann!

During our April meeting, there will be a silent auction of Oak Hill Gardens' plants.

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Julie Rathbun

Our March 3rd meeting was the first meeting that we officially started our meetings at 6:45 PM. I especially want to thank **Frank Bopp**, **Bob MacLeod**, and **Harry Parnell** for arriving early and setting up tables and chairs for our meeting so that we could start our meeting on time. Thanks, guys! Our meeting concluded at 8:20 with plenty of time left to take down the tables and chairs and exit the clubhouse by 8:30. I don't know whether the earlier start of meetings presents a problem for some of our members, but if it does, PLEASE contact me or other board members by e-mail or phone. For future reference, I'll make a list of "start time" complaints. Positive aspects of starting earlier are that we don't arrive after dark at the clubhouse, and some of us (depending on where we live in the valley) can arrive home by 9 PM.

Since **Joe Bacik** was in Chicago, I was unable to publicly thank him at our March meeting for conducting our February 24th board meeting. **Barbara Parnell** was also unavoidably absent from the board meeting, and **Seelye Smith** VOLUNTEERED to take the minutes of the meeting! Thanks, Seelye! I really appreciate the fact that board members help out whenever and wherever they are needed. Without your help, my job as President would be impossible!

For our March meeting, Lou Ann Remeikis presented an informative program complete with visual aids of the various potting media. **Thanks Lou Ann!** All of us enjoyed the program.

On March 8th, **Bob MacLeod**, **Barbara Parnell**, **Wilella Stimmell**, and I assisted with the Special Olympics Arizona Phoenix-Maricopa Area Fred Rathbun Horse Show and Equestrian Competition. In past years, it seemed like there were more participants, but when I looked at the lunch line, the number of people looked about the same as in past years. One reason that there might have been fewer participants is the high price of gasoline. Some families live far outside the Phoenix metro area, and the cost of transportation is probably a factor in whether they could afford to bring their children to the arena.

The speaker for our April 7th meeting will be Hermann Pigors, of Oak Hill Gardens, Dundee, IL.

Our April 27th board meeting will be preceded at NOON by our FIRST November show planning meeting. The meeting will be held at the home of our Show Chair, Barbara Parnell. I encourage the general membership to get involved and attend at least one show planning meeting. We need your ideas! (Our November shows are famous for the themes that we select and the creative vignettes in which we place our display plants.)

See you on April 7th!

Julie

March Raffle Donors:

Bob MacLeod, Julie Rathbun, Demitris Sagias, Seelye Smith, Wilella Stimmell,
the family of Ken Gettys, Orchids Alive, and OSA
THANKS TO YOU ALL FOR YOUR SUPPORT

**Did you know?
April is “officially” orchid month!
(But, then, aren’t they all?)**

NEW MEMBER

Please join in welcoming the newest member of our orchid family, **KIMBERLY LEVINGSTON**.

Hard to believe it's that time again!

It's not too early to start the plans for our annual Orchid Show! I know it's not until November, but as you all know time has a way of going very fast! So the first show planning meeting will be held at my home on April 27th at 12 noon, just before the board of directors meeting that will begin at 1 pm. I want to invite anyone interested to please attend this meeting as we need all the assistance and ideas you can give!

Barbara Parnell

YOU ARE INVITED

The New Mexico Orchid Guild (NMOG) and the City of Albuquerque Cultural Services Department extend an invitation to their annual show and sale themed “Orchid Fascination”.

Held May 2nd to May 4th, 2008, at the Rio Grande Botanic Garden, 2601 Central Avenue, N.W. Albuquerque, New Mexico, Orchid Fascination will include children’s activities, an orchid art display, workshops and sales.

For information contact :

Keith Mead kjkm@comcast.net

The *Arizona Orchidist* is published monthly by the
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Direct Inquiries to our website at:
www.orchidsocietyaz.org

Or to any of the Board Officers or Trustees:

Board of Directors for 2008

President		(602) 843-0223
	Julie Rathbun	jandfent@aol.com
First Vice President		(480) 722-9328
	Aaron Hicks	ahicks51@cox.net
	In House Program Chairman	
Second Vice President		(480) 785-2251
	Joe Bacik	bacikj@cox.net
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Secretary		(480) 948-0714
	Barbara Parnell	birdie552002@yahoo.com
Treasurer		(480) 947-8479
	Wilella Stimmell	wilellas@worldnet.att.net
Librarian		(602) 803-6889
	Lou Ann Remeikis	remeikis@andiamo-tel.com
Editor		(505) 898-0975
	Keith Mead	kjkm@comcast.net
Trustees	Frank Bopp	(623) 937-0019 fgbopp@cox.net
	Marleny Castillo	(602) 441-4050 corinc@hotmail.com
	Mary Gannon	(623) 878-4173 mggaz@cox.net
	Seelye Smith	(602) 404-1013 sss3301@hotmail.com

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. , and The Nature Conservancy.

COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM SCHEDULE

By Wilella Stimmell, CSP Coordinator

On March 8, **Bob MacLeod**, **Barbara Parnell**, **Julie Rathbun**, and I helped with the annual Equestrian Special Olympics. Bob, Barbara, and Julie served as spotters and walked around the arena many, many times. I hovered over the food that would be served at lunch time. The weather cooperated, and as noontime approached, the sun was shining, and everyone enjoyed their lunch. It's always a pleasure helping with the Equestrian Special Olympics when the weather cooperates! The participants are always grateful and courteous!

We were invited to participate On **April 19th** at the annual **Art in the Garden** event hosted by **Berridge Nurseries**, 4647 E. Camelback Road, Phoenix. I will represent OSA at the event and present an orchids seminar at 11:00 AM. Using the nursery's inventory as display plants, I will demonstrate the amazing diversity of Orchidaceae and try to dispel the popular notion that orchids are difficult to grow. The last time I presented a seminar at Berridge's, the participants were amused to see my "death bucket" that contains tags of many, but by no means all, of the plants that I've killed in the past 30 years. This time I'll also use my death bucket as a visual aid! Other plant organizations, artists, and their creations will also be featured during the event.

The Salvation of Nomenclature

Horticulturists have thrown up their hands in despair over all the changes in orchid names. First it was the species and then the hybrid names which began to change. The purpose of a classification system is to facilitate communication. It is a user tool based on scientific data, but it must be user-friendly. With the advent of molecular systematics, we have new insights into relationships within the orchid family. The DNA data has caused taxonomists to re-examine the morphology and to rethink generic concepts. What is a genus? How big should it be? Can it be too small to be useful? Unfortunately many of the recent changes in genera did not consider the impact on horticulturalists (the users).

The lectures at the 19th World Orchid Conference reflected a new trend where scientists have started consulting the users of the classification system. New data has mandated changes in orchid names, but the changes need to be compatible with the needs of the end users.

At the general meeting of the International Orchid Commission, Cassio van den Berg proposed moving the Brazilian *Laelias* into *Cattleya*. This recommendation was well received by the group. This change will greatly help with the nomenclature of this widely hybridized group. Alec Pridgeon stated that a supplement could be included to *Genera Orchidearum V* to rapidly disseminate this change. The only dissenter was someone who wanted to do away with nothogenera and use just breeding groups. The *Cattleya* proposal was forwarded to the Royal Horticultural Society (the hybrid registrar) for consideration.

What do we have to look forward to:

A large *Cattleya* genus,

A large *Epidendrum* genus,

A large *Pleurothallis* genus,

A large *Oncidium* genus,

and a stable system of hybrid names.

Dr. Wes Higgins, Selby Gardens

Invading Trees Put Rainforests At Risk

ScienceDaily (Mar. 6, 2008) — To the list of threats to tropical rainforests you can add a new one -- trees. It might seem that for a rainforest the more trees the merrier, but a new study by scientists at the Carnegie Institution warns that non-native trees invading a rainforest can change its basic ecological structure -- rendering it less hospitable to the myriad plant and animal species that depend on its resources. Results are published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.*

The research team, led by Gregory Asner of the Carnegie Institution's Department of Global Ecology, used innovative remote sensing technology on aircraft to survey the impact of invasives on more than 220,000 hectares (850 square miles) of rainforest on the island of Hawaii. Previous studies of the impact of invasive plants on forests were limited to small areas. Instruments aboard the Carnegie Airborne Observatory (CAO) penetrate the forest canopy to create a regional "CAT scan" of the ecosystem, identifying key plant species and mapping the forest's three-dimensional structure.

"Invasive tree species often show biochemical, physiological, and structural properties that are different from native species," says Asner. "We can use these 'fingerprints' combined with the 3-D images to see how the invasives are changing the forest."

This is the first use of this approach to track invasives in Hawaii, where roughly half of all organisms are non-native, and approximately 120 plant species are considered highly invasive. Undisturbed Hawaiian rainforests are often dominated by the ohia tree (*Metrosideros polymorpha*), but these slow-growing native trees are losing ground to newcomers, such as the tropical ash (*Fraxinus uhdei*) and the Canary Island fire tree (*Morella faya*).

CAO surveys of rainforest tracts on the Mauna Kea and Kilauea Volcanoes found that stands of these two invasive tree species form significantly denser canopies than the native ohia trees. Less light reaches lower forest levels, and as a result native understory plants such as tree ferns are suppressed.

Introduced trees can also pave the way for more invaders by altering soil fertility. The Moluccan albizia (*Falcataria moluccana*) "fixes" atmospheric nitrogen, concentrating it in the soil, which speeds the growth of a smaller invasive tree, the Strawberry Guava (*Psidium cattleianum*). The guava trees form a dense, mid-level thicket that blocks most light from reaching the ground and stifles young native plants.

"All of our invasive species detections were made in protected state and federal rainforest reserves," says Asner. "These species can spread across protected areas without the help of land use changes or other human activities, suggesting that traditional conservation approaches on the ground aren't enough for the long-term survival of Hawaii's rainforests."

"These new airborne technologies, which are sensitive enough to discern saplings and young trees, may make the problem more tractable," comments study co-author Flint Hughes of the US Forest Service. "They allow scientists to probe the make-up of forests over large areas and detect invasions at earlier stages."

Based on the success of this study, Asner and colleagues plan to expand CAO surveys of the ecological impacts of invaders in other forests on Hawaii and Kauai Islands, where premier, remote rainforest reserves remain virtually unmapped.

The Carnegie Airborne Observatory is made possible by the support of the W.M. Keck Foundation and William Hearst III.

* Authors: Gregory P. Asner, R. Flint Hughes, Peter M. Vitousek, David E. Knapp, Ty Kennedy-Bowdoin, Joseph Boardman, Roberta E. Martin, Michael Eastwood, and Robert O. Green

Adapted from materials provided by [Carnegie Institution](#)

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OSA April 2008 Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1  <i>Bob MacLeod</i>	2  <i>August Lorenzini</i>	3	4	5
6	7 <i>OSA Meeting 7PM</i>	8	9	10	11	12  <i>Sally Griffith</i>
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20  <i>Lois Sauer</i>	21	22	23	24	25	26  <i>Jan McVey Mary Gannon</i>
27 <i>Board Meeting Show Meeting</i>	28	29	30			



Orchid Society of Arizona

c/o Keith Mead

5425 Thomas Drive NE

Albuquerque, NM 87111

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