



The Arizona Orchidist

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NEXT OSA MEETING

The next regular society meeting
will be **Monday, April 5th at 7:00 P.M.**

Meetings are held at the

Training Center

at the

**Arizona State Veteran Home
4141 N. S. Herrera Way, Phoenix.**

OSA meetings are open to all
plant enthusiasts

Refreshments will be provided by

Dan Kruger and Dave Nunamacher

Beverages by

Barbara Parnell

Refreshment Coordinators:

Barbara Parnell (480) 948-0714

Lou Ann Remeikis (602) 803-6889

Jo Anne Waddoups

480-654-9883

Show Planning/Board Meeting

April 25th

noon at the home of

Julie Rathbun

Grower on Call

Joe Bacik

602 363-1598

or bacikj@cox.net

April Program

ORCHID HUNTING IN CENTRAL AMERICA

Tom Mirenda is the Orchid Collection Specialist at the Smithsonian Institution. In his position, he nurtures more than 10,000 varieties of orchids. For the past four years, he has also written two popular monthly columns in Orchids magazine: "The Orchid Checklist" and "The Genus of the Month".

"Through most of his adult life, Tom has been fortunate to have a family member living in that orchid paradise, Costa Rica. The Central American country is blessed with rugged topography, myriad ecological zones, excellent climate, and thousands of potential pollinators. Many hundreds of orchid species can be found flourishing in very diverse habitats in Costa Rica.

After traveling extensively through Central America (Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras, and Panama), Tom will show the types of orchids that grow in very different conditions: desert-like, seasonally dry forest, mid-elevation tropical wet forests, and cool, ever-moist cloud forests.

Travel with Tom as he explores these habitats. See the orchids (as well as their plant and animal companions) as they grow in the wild. The journey is incredibly insightful for orchid lovers who seek to recreate and understand the natural habitats of the orchid species that they grow."

Editor's Note: Tom last spoke to OSA in September, 2005.

Welcome back, Tom!

(Comments enclosed in quotation marks by Tom Mirenda)

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Julie Rathbun

Some of you might already know that Aaron Hicks has resigned as OSA's 1st Vice President. Even though he plans to do something other than orchids for a while, he knows that we still consider him a part of our orchid family. We wish him well and will keep in touch with him. According to OSA's By-laws, the President may appoint another person to fill a vacancy on the board. I asked Bob MacLeod if he would be willing to complete Aaron's term, and he graciously accepted. Thanks, Bob, for your team spirit!

We received a thank you note from the family of Janet Jurn. (Janet's In Memoriam was included in our March newsletter.) On February 9, Ann Cherny, Bob MacLeod, Lou Ann Remeikis, and Wilella Stimmell attended the visitation and presented Janet's children with an orchid plant and several cut orchids in flower tubes. In the note, Janet's daughter wrote: "It was great listening to your [orchid] stories about mom. She loved coming to your meetings." Also inside the card there is an orchid graphic and typed text: "This is the time to celebrate the people who have a special place in our hearts. For the beauty of...the carefully nurtured orchids...and warm hugs, our gratitude is endless. Thank you for helping us honor our mother." The card is signed by Janet's four children: Arnold, Carol, Darol, and Marshall.

Our March 1 hands-on repotting meeting was enjoyed by everyone who attended the meeting. After the meeting, several members commented that the hands-on meeting was fun! We had 3 Paph compots and exactly enough seedlings for the number of members who wanted one. Three potting media were available: potting soil, small fir bark, and sphagnum moss. Each member potted his/her own seedling. Some members chose to pot their seedlings in fine fir bark only; others used a mixture of the 3 media; and one member potted his seedling only in potting soil. In March 2011, it will be interesting to compare notes on how well the seedlings grew in the various media. We had placed newspaper on the front table, and each member repotted his/her seedling on the covered table. When we were finished, we collected the newspaper, so there was no evidence of a mess in the room.

Our participation in the Southwest Flower Show on March 5, 6, and 7 was another success, even on the 7th when it rained hard!! We had **beautiful plants** for sale – ALL of which were hand selected by Wilella Stimmell and me. Even before the show opened to the public, one of the stadium workers came to our booth and asked us about our school programs! Soon after she left, another teacher asked about our school programs. So we were very pleased at the interest in our outreach agenda! Another bonus happened when we mentioned to several visitors at our booth that we support the Arizona State Veteran Home on a monthly basis and have done so since the home opened. Our donations are and have been freely given with no expectation of thanks. The visitors seemed very pleased that we support the veteran home, and they said, "Thank you!" Thanks to the following members for their hard work in our booth: **Joe Bacik, Tony Duran and Pat Miller** (they worked as a team), **Debra Hartill, Kimberly Levingston, Bob MacLeod, Diane Norman, Barbara Parnell, and Wilella Stimmell**. To ensure the financial success of our participation in the flower show, several of us, including me, were in our booth for all three days. And last, but certainly not least, thanks to **Dusty Hartill** (Debra's son), for helping with the heavy lifting. Dusty is not an OSA member...yet. At the very least, Dusty saw that our members have fun while we work! (For next year, perhaps one of our members will give us a lead on where to purchase a padded carpet that stretches the length of our booth. The carpet doesn't have to be wider than 2 feet. Standing on concrete for an entire day is...less than enjoyable.)

On a personal note: Some of you might remember that when my grandson, Tim Michels, was 13 years old, he was an OSA member. His interests changed, and now he's a grown man. This leads me to announce that I am now a Great Grandmother! Of course I am pleased to have a Great Grandson (Ryder) and to know that the baby is healthy. But please do not refer to me as "Great Granny".

Tom Mirenda will be our April speaker and my house guest while he's in Phoenix.

See you on April 5th

Julie

March Raffle Donors

Bob MacLeod, Wilella Stimmell,
and non-members
Mark Obermayer and Craig Pearson

THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT

Reminder: There will not be a monthly meeting in July or September due to holiday interference. Our June/July newsletter will be a combined issue, and the August/September newsletter will also be a combined issue.



Tom Miranda examining an *Odontoglossum* in Ecuador

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www.orchidsocietyaz.org

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. , and The Nature Conservancy.

Ghost Orchid Comes Back From Extinction

Juliet Jowit for guardian.co.uk

Three species thought to be extinct have been found again, to the delight of conservationists.

In the UK, the rare ghost orchid, declared extinct in this country just last year, has been found in England, and a caddisfly – a small flying insect – last seen more than a century ago has been discovered again in Scotland. On the global stage the yellow-spotted bell frog, presumed "possibly extinct" by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature, has been seen on a creek-bed in Australia.

The good news stories follow a warning by a leading IUCN expert that humans are now driving plants and animals to extinction faster than new species can evolve.

Simon Stuart, the IUCN expert who chairs the Species Survival Commission which declares species endangered or extinct, said that although roughly one "possibly extinct" species each year was re-discovered, many more plants and animals were added to the list.

There will also be continuing concern for species that are re-discovered in very small numbers. For example only a single 5cm high ghost orchid was found by the botanists who revealed it is still alive in the UK. The sighting of the caddisfly by a PhD student beside a river in north-west Scotland – 350 miles north of the previous record, according to the conservation charity Buglife – could further suggest the influence of climate change in driving species out of their traditional habitats, something some plants and animals will be able to adapt to better than others..

"The whole point of the 'possibly extinct' list is they can come in and out," said Stuart. "But we're adding species on to the 'possibly extinct' list much faster than we're taking them off it."

The IUCN has much stricter rules about declaring a species fully extinct, including that it must have been actively searched for by teams of experts in the field. However in 2008 the Switzerland-based organization did have to move the Miles' robber frog (*Craugastor milesi*) from the extinct to critically endangered list after a single specimen was found in Honduras.

Among the reasons conservationists dislike a species being declared extinct are that it is no longer possible to get money to research and preserve its habitat. The locations of the orchid and the Australian frog are both being kept secret to protect them, however one of the bell frogs and a tadpole have been taken to Taronga zoo in Sydney for a captive breeding programme.

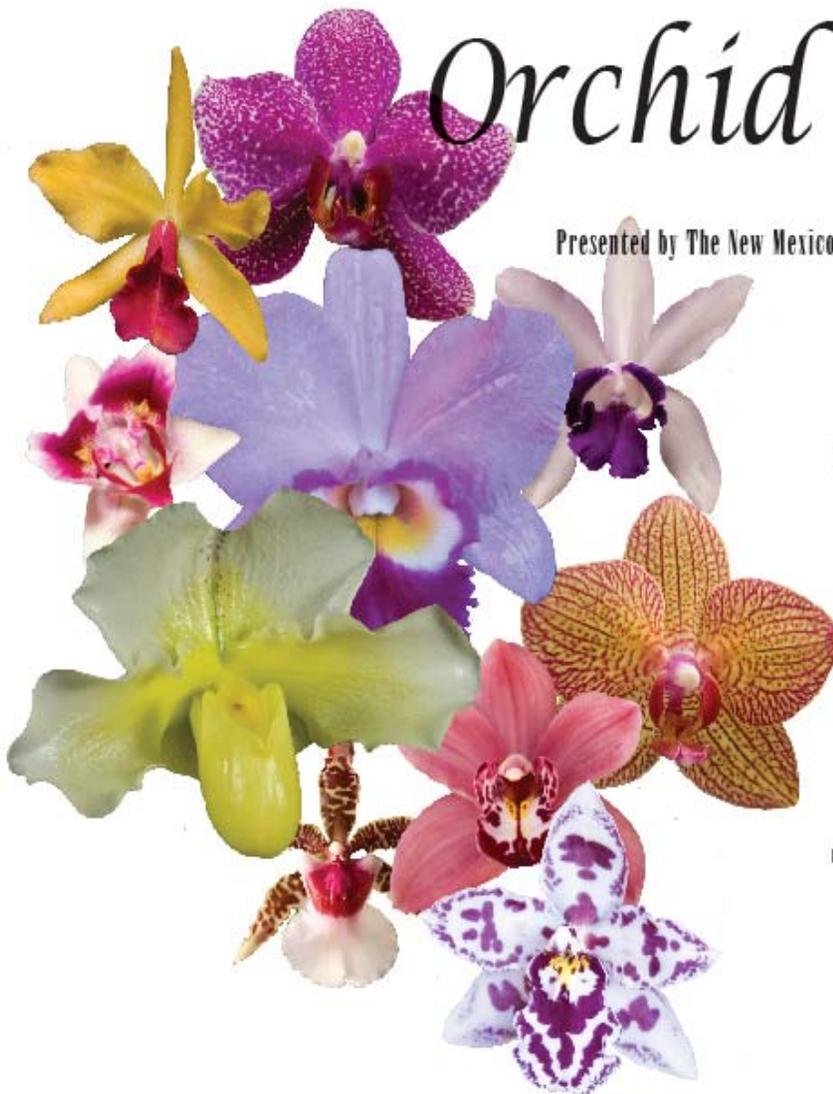


Ghost orchids, declared extinct in the UK last year, have recently been sighted in this country.

Request from U of A Grad Student

I am a graduate student at the University of Arizona who conducts research on aphids. I am currently initiating a project on the fringed orchid aphid, *Cerataphis orchidearum*. They are most often associated with *Dendrobium* and *Cymbidium* orchids, though they are found on most genera. This aphid is often mistaken for a scale insect. Adults are sedentary, about 1mm in diameter. They are a reddish-brown to black color with a white fringe around the aphid. I am interested in obtaining live aphids and need to know the genera of the plant they are collected from. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you think you might have these aphids, I would be happy to answer any questions you might have about them. Any help you could provide would be greatly appreciated.

Kevin Vogel
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Orchid Odyssey

Presented by The New Mexico Orchid Guild and The Rio Grande Botanic Garden

April 30–May 2, 2010
9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Orchid Show and Sales
Children's Activities
Orchid Art Display
Workshops

Rio Grande Botanic Garden
2601 Central Ave. N.W.
Albuquerque, New Mexico

Cost is included with Rio Grande Botanic Garden Admission
More Information: www.nmog.org or www.cabq.gov/biopark
The BioPark is a division of the City of Albuquerque's
Cultural Services Department



OSA April 2010 Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1  <i>Bob MacLeod</i>	2  <i>August Lorenzini</i>	3
4 <i>Easter</i> 	5 OSA Meeting 7:00 PM	6	7	8	9	10
11	12  <i>Sally Griffith</i>	13	14	15  <i>David Nunamacher</i>	16	17
18	19	20	21	22 Earth Day 	23	24
25	26  <i>Mary Gannon</i> <i>Jan McVey</i>	27	28	29	30	



Orchid Society of Arizona
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