



# The Arizona Orchidist

Published monthly by  
The Orchid Society of Arizona, Inc.  
Founding Editor- Clarence S. Lindsten

1966

Volume 52

April 2014

## NEXT OSA MEETING

The next regular society meeting will be

**Monday, April 7th at 7:00 P.M.**

Meetings are held at the

**Training Center**

at the

**Arizona State Veteran Home**

**4141 S. Herrera Way, Phoenix.**

**(Formerly North 3rd Street)**

OSA meetings are open to all  
plant enthusiasts

**Refreshments will be provided**

**beverage –**

**Beverley Fender**

**snacks –**

**Karen Barber and Bob MacLeod**

Refreshment Coordinators:

Barbara Parnell ( 602) 451-5952

Lou Ann Remeikis (602) 803-6889

Jo Anne Waddoups 480-654-9883

## Board Meeting

**Sunday, April 13 at 1PM**

at **Panda Express,**

998 E. Indian School

on the north side of E. Indian School Rd.

- next to MacDonald's.

## Grower on Call

Lou Ann Remeikis

(602) 803-6889

lou.remeikis@gmail.com

## APRIL PROGRAM

### PLANT AUCTION OF BLOOMING PLANTS AT BARGAIN PRICES!

Bring your check books and/or cash. Easter is April 20, and this would be an excellent chance for you to do one-stop shopping for living gifts. Giving an orchid to a person who has no experience with orchids, isn't a problem. Simply tell the recipient that after the blooms have faded, they have two choices: return the plant to you so that you might be able to get it to re bloom or...donate the plant for our raffle table. (There is a third option, but it's best **not** to mention to throw away the plant. Tossing healthy plants is against our "religion". ☺)

Why not hold remainder plants in inventory for future auctions? It's not fair to Julie to take care of society plants plus taking care of her own plants except for a short period of time. She's never complained about housing our plants, but abusing our fearless leader is taking advantage of her good nature.

W. Stimmell

### Raffle Donors

Iva Dobson, Carol Erwin, Bob MacLeod, Julie Rathbun, Wilella  
Stimmell, and non-member, Mark Obermayer

**THANK YOU ALL !**

### New Member

**BRAD DANA**

Seek him out, introduce yourself  
and make him welcome

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## From the President's Desk

### Julie Rathbun

Before I report on our March meeting, I want to thank the workers who were a tremendous help in our booth at the Home and Garden Show on March 7-9. The names of the workers are included in alphabetical order.

**Joe Bacik  
John and Karen Barber  
Bob and CeCe Blue  
Carol Erwin  
Dana and Dolly Floyd  
Kitten Harmon  
Richard Holle  
Gary Law  
Bob MacLeod  
Pat Miller and Tony Duran  
Barbara Parnell  
Randy Ricardi  
Lou Ann Remeikis  
Wilella Stimmell  
Dean Toms**

**Bob M, Dean, Wilella and I worked all 3 days of the show.**

**On Friday morning, the first day of the show, Dean Toms was a huge help with loading the plants (that were stored at my house) into my truck. On Sunday evening, Dean also followed me home and hauled orchids that wouldn't fit in my vehicle. AND he stayed and helped me unload the plants.**

If I forgot to mention a worker, please know that it was unintentional.

We had another financially successful show. Thanks to everyone for their teamwork!

At our March 3 meeting, we had a full house, including several visitors. One of our visitors became our newest OSA member! This was the third meeting this year, and we had another outstanding raffle table!

We had planned for Eric Elsberry to be our March speaker, but after the March newsletters were circulated, Eric notified us that on the 3<sup>rd</sup>, he would have to be in China. We knew that Eric might not be able to speak to us, so we had a plan B ready. For our meeting program, we showed the **DVD: Stig Dalstrom, Wild Orchid Man in the Land of the White Bear**. Everyone enjoyed seeing new orchids that Stig found in Manitoba, Canada, and also enjoyed his humorous comments. For most of us, this was the first time that we saw live polar bears in their native habitat.

**For our April 7<sup>th</sup> meeting program, we will hold an auction of the plants that were unsold at the Garden Show.**

Also on **April 7<sup>th</sup>**, in the morning, on our behalf, Lou Ann has graciously agreed to present an Orchids 101 program for the members of the **Desert Pointe Garden Club**.

For benefit of new members: we do have a **Librarian, Lou Ann Remeikis**. She has **current copies of ORCHIDS magazine**. She keeps them at her home unless a member requests that she bring a particular issue to a meeting. To contact her, phone or e-mail her by using the contact information for her on page 1. Lou Ann is the Grower on Call for April.

See you on April 7!

Julie

## Less profit for Taiwan in China

"Taiwanese orchid farmers selling to a thinning China market ...Taiwan... is known for its cultivation of the... Phalaenopsis...

Taiwanese orchid breeders were confident when they made an investment in China and successfully opened the Chinese market to the beautiful species.

Taiwanese orchid farmers invested in China because of the cheap land and low wages for laborers. Under their business model, their Taiwanese contact accepted the order, and the flowers were shipped from China.

Since China has never grown... [phalaenopsis] the... flower gradually attracted attention in the Chinese flower market in 2000 with the rise of the economy.

The moth orchid market grew rapidly in China between 2002 and 2008. A pot of orchids was priced at about 1,000 yuan (US\$164) at its peak.

Now, after rises in wages and the decline of flower prices, profits are hard to come by.

...  
In 2005, the daily wages for a temporary worker were around 20 yuan (US\$3.30), and a single orchid could be sold at 65 yuan (US\$10.70). The wages have since risen to 100 yuan (US\$10.60) per person per day, and the flower price has dropped to 25 yuan (US\$4.10).

According to statistics compiled by the Council of Agriculture, the export of flowers and seedlings grown in Taiwan reached a value of US \$177.18 million in 2012. Of those, 93%, or US \$165.66 million, were orchids.

Japan, the United States and Europe are the largest markets for Taiwan's orchid exports. The total orchid exports to Japan and the United States were worth US\$50.42 million and US\$42.87 million in 2012, respectively.

Of all the exported orchid species, ... [phalaenopsis] accounted for 68.9%.

The plantation area for orchids in Taiwan was 726 hectares in 2011, producing some 83 million plots of orchids. Most of these orchids are cultivated in the southern city of Tainan."

URL : <http://www.wantchinatimes.com/news-subclass-cnt.aspx?id=20131202000001&cid=1502>

The Arizona Orchidist is published monthly by the  
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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 Arizona Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. , and The Nature Conservancy.

**From The Arizona Orchidist Archives:  
Deacon Bell's Experiment – Water Culture of Phalaenopsis –  
Part 1, December 1996; Part 2, April, 1997**

Part 1: "For years, all of the culture experts have preached 'damp but not too wet or you will kill the roots.'

I prepared three small wine carafes (any hour-glass shaped, inexpensive glass receptacle that is wide at the top, would be acceptable. I used carafes because they were available) with a net pot in the top of each.

Next I selected three phals that were well on their way to the compost heap. I anchored them in the net pots with pumice pebbles and filled each one with reverse osmosis water fortified with 23-19-17 fertilizer at the rate of one-quarter teaspoon per gallon. The water level was at the base of the leaves.

The containers were kept in my greenhouse with my other phals. One month later, to my surprise, all three plants started to make new leaves! All of the long roots of the plants had died before I put the plants in water, and each plant had only stubby roots not over one-quarter inch long.

Several months passed, and finally the roots were growing a little, but the leaves seemed to be growing normally.

In March, 1996, I moved to Santa Fe, New Mexico, and I decided that I would not have a greenhouse there. I took a few of my favorite orchids with me in two aquariums. Into the 10-gallon aquarium that was 'home' for the three phals in water, I placed pebbles and water on the bottom and a sheet of plastic on the top.

(The normal relative humidity in Santa Fe is on the order of 5%, which is even drier than Phoenix.)

I placed the aquarium in a west window so that its top was about level with the windowsill. Here the plants have been growing with little attention, no fan for air movement, and in 100% humidity.

On one of the phals, a bloom spike appeared in October, 1996! Since the object of growing orchids is to get them to bloom, I felt the time had come to report my successful experiment.

The plant in spike was *P. palens* 'Shaffer', and its flowering habit is to produce one half-inch yellow flower at a time and probably a keiki on the spike.

The second best plant was *P. DuPage's* Sun 'Lenette' x *P. equestris rosea* #4. It had five leaves, all grown in water culture, but it showed no sign of spiking. The third plant was a lost tag, no-name and didn't grow much, but it was still growing.

All three plants looked exceedingly healthy with no signs of bacteria or fungus on the leaves. A good bit of algae grew in the water, but it might have helped since it released oxygen into the water. I have COMPLETELY CHANGED THE WATER ONLY ONCE IN EIGHTEEN MONTHS.

It seems to me that water culture in aquariums offers the windowsill grower a rare opportunity to experiment and possibly produce the same or even better results."

## Part 2: FINAL REPORT ON PHALAENOPSIS WATER CULTURE

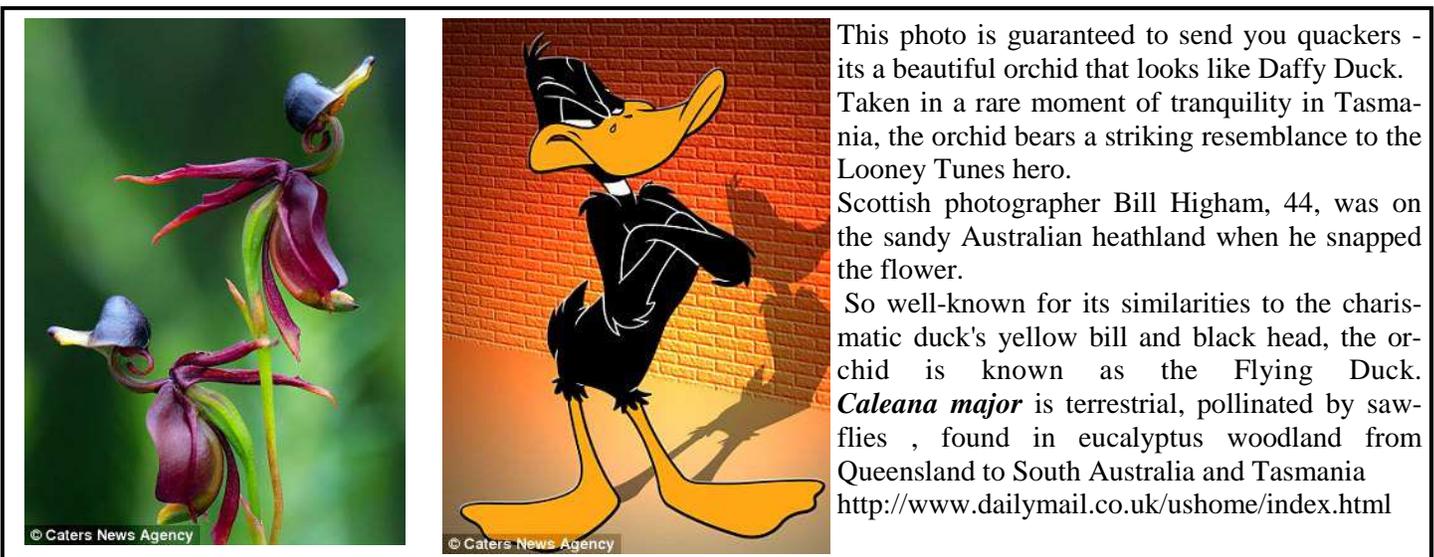
“The equestris hybrid which had been growing so robustly when I reported its progress in December, 1996, began to lose its leaves in April, 1997. This sorry turn of events prompted me to remove all three plants from their containers and closely examine the roots of the plants. ALL of the roots on the equestris hybrid showed signs of rot. The lost tag hybrid had not grown since the December, 1996 report, and it also showed signs of rot. The *P. pallens* showed no rot. In the summer of 1996, I had added a *P. cornu-cervi* to the experiment, and one of its five roots showed a little rot.

The *P. pallens* was left in the water culture, but the other three phals were converted to a hydroponic system by anchoring them in a plastic jar with pumice pebbles. A small hole in the bottom of each jar was fitted with a plug, and each jar was filled with water. Depending on how busy I was with other chores, I left the plants in fortified water from one to twenty-four hours before draining the water. The pumice retains some moisture, but the roots are not continuously submerged in water. These plants are still situated in the aquarium which contains wet pebbles and is covered with a tight lid. Because the plants are growing in high humidity, I do not soak the roots more frequently than about once a month.

In the three months since I converted the three phals from water culture to hydroponics, all of the plants are growing. Only the *P. pallens* remains in water culture. It has bloomed twice. A comparison of the growth habit of the *P. pallens* in water culture versus the same plant grown in fir bark in my greenhouse in Phoenix is worth noting: In my greenhouse, the plant continuously made keikis (sometimes a sign that a plant is not ‘happy’). In water culture, the plant made no keikis, and the leaves were not as pale green as they were in my greenhouse. There might be other variables that account for the recent floriferousness of the plant, but water culture might have provided the optimum growing condition that enabled the plant to bloom to its genetic potential.

My conclusion from this experiment is two-fold: 1) Under my growing conditions, *P. pallens* appeared to be amenable to water culture. There might be other species that would also thrive in water culture, but experimentation with each one would be necessary to prove or disprove the theory. 2) Hybrids AND species can be held for long periods in water culture BEFORE REPOTTING using potting media such as fir bark, New Zealand sphagnum moss, etc. Constant monitoring of the progress of the plants in water culture is essential.

Water culture of some plants is an easy option for the windowsill grower, but it also provides some leeway for any grower who would prefer to repot his or her plants at a more convenient time.”



This photo is guaranteed to send you quackers - it's a beautiful orchid that looks like Daffy Duck. Taken in a rare moment of tranquility in Tasmania, the orchid bears a striking resemblance to the Looney Tunes hero.

Scottish photographer Bill Higham, 44, was on the sandy Australian heathland when he snapped the flower.

So well-known for its similarities to the charismatic duck's yellow bill and black head, the orchid is known as the Flying Duck. *Caleana major* is terrestrial, pollinated by sawflies, found in eucalyptus woodland from Queensland to South Australia and Tasmania <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/us/home/index.html>

# OSA April 2014 Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1  Phillip Liu Bob MacLeod	2	3  Richard Holle	4	5
6	7 <b>OSA Meeting 7 PM</b>	8	9	10	11	12  Sally Griffith
13 <b>Board Meeting 1 PM @ Panda Express</b>	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26  Mary Gar non Jan McVey
27	28	29	30  Susan Nahmias			



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