



The Arizona Orchidist

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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, August 2, 2004 at 7:00 p.m.
OSA meetings are open to all
plant enthusiasts

Refreshments will be provided
This month beverages will be furnished
Bridget Lawrence
Snacks will be provided by:
Jim Lauck and Kathy Clifton
Refreshment Coordinators:
Julie Langston
Ramona Jungwirth

OSABOARD MEETING

The OSA board meeting will be held
Sunday, July 25, at 1:00 p.m.
Hosted by
Norma Kafer
Call Norma
for directions to her home
Board meetings are open to all OSA
members

GROWER ON CALL

August Lorenzini

August Program



INSECTS OF THE SONORAN DESERT

Our speaker this month will be Carl A. Olson, Associate Curator, Dept. of Entomology, University of Arizona and author of the new book *50 COMMON INSECTS OF THE SOUTHWEST*.

Carl last spoke to us in April, 1999. His program was fun and educational, and his return visit with us will likely be a repeat performance!

Carl's biography is on page 5

NOVEMBER, 2004 SHOW FLYER

Everyone who has seen the show flyer designed by **MARLENY CASTILLO**, has expressed their delight at the finished product. Marleny VOLUNTEERED to design AND print all of the flyers as her donation.

It is too early to distribute the flyer, but it has been uploaded onto our Events page on our website. An e-mail message was sent to Professor Robb, the magician who will perform on Sat., Nov. 13, at 1:30 p.m., to check out our show flyer, and he replied that he thought the flyer was "really cute!" ALL 500 flyers have already been printed and the cost of the ink necessary to print **laser** color copies of the flyers was absorbed by Marleny Castillo and Alex Arce. Thanks, Marleny and Alex!! One of our members who has seen the flyer stated that what she liked best about the flyer is "that it is very 'kid friendly' looking and helps illustrate our club's dedication to the orchid education of young people!"

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From the President's Desk

Norma Kafer

For those of you who were not able to attend July's meeting, you missed an fascinating video. The photography was excellent. We had a front row seat watching various insects pollinate orchid flowers. You have to admire the patience and skill required to make the film. Outstanding! For those of you who missed our July meeting, you might like to know that there were 5 young people present at the meeting – 4 of them are members and 1 of them, Chalet Hunsaker, was a visitor! (Her mother, Amy Hunsaker, reports that Chalet is anxious to hear our August speaker!) We were delighted that Lauren Tackett, age 7, brought a plant for our display table. This was the first time Lauren brought a plant for our display table, and she received free raffle tickets for bringing her plant.

Also, on display at our July meeting was a thank you letter from the Director of the Hopi Cultural Preservation Office, Leigh Kuwanwisiwma. In the letter, Leigh thanked OSA for our donation of funds for the Hopi youth art internship program, a program which will result in the publication of an educational handbook of flora and fauna that are of significance to the Hopi Tribe. Also on display from the packet sent by Leigh were: two Hopi newspapers that included pictures of the students who participated in April in the San Juan River trip and a booklet of artwork produced by the students following their river trip. The students had to perform community service in order to qualify for the river trip. After viewing the booklet of artwork, some of our members noted that there are several talented Hopi student-artists.

Factoids about Hopi High School: There are only 750 students, and the school is located in a remote canyon area. Many of the students are bused in from long distances. Some live as far away as 80 miles from the school! One Hopi student is in her second year at Dartmouth College, and a student who just graduated this year will also be attending Dartmouth. At Hopi High School, there is an Upward Bound program where students earn college credits at Northern Arizona University. And last summer 10 Hopi students attended classes for 5 weeks at Harvard Medical School! The graduation rate of students from Hopi High School is 87%!! (The graduation rate for ALL high schools in the US is only 76%.) The value that the students place on higher education, dedicated teachers on the reservation, and parents who are involved in their children's education, are probably the combination that produces such excellent scholastic results in such a small, isolated student population!

(Update on applications for our "scholarship" money for the interns: 5 students have applied!)

It was also a pleasure to see Jarka Kazda at our July meeting! We hope she can arrange her work schedule so that she can attend meetings more often!

Carl Olson, the Associate Curator of the Department of Entomology, U of A will be our speaker for August. He co-authored the book "Insects of the Southwest" and has just published a new book "50 Common Insects of the Southwest". Over the years, I have attended a number of classes taught by Carl and he is a first rate teacher. He makes it fun to learn and he brings live samples of his insects. Last fall our Master Gardener diagnostic class visited Carl's office where he keeps hundreds of insects, mostly dead. Beautiful jade colored scarab beetles, giant palo verde root borers, blister beetles, common grasshoppers, tarantula hawks, etc. All fun to see and admire.

Lou Ann's husband is home recovering and Jennifer has had surgery on her arm. We wish both of them a speedy recovery.

Thanks to Pamela Albright for obtaining another donation of orchids from her favorite Target Garden Center. And thanks to Julie Rathbun for picking up the donation AND for storing and tending the plants and subsequently delivering the plants to our raffle table!

continued on page 3

Continued from page 2

From the President's Desk

Our annual trip to Prescott is scheduled for Aug. 22nd. We will car pool up to the Veteran's Greenhouse where they will show off their plants. It is a nice trip, fun, and we get out of the heat for the day. Please consider donating personal size toiletries for the residents. If you will be going with us on the field trip, bring your donations with you. If you can't make the trip, please bring your donations to our Aug. 2 meeting OR call any board member to arrange for pick-up or delivery of your donations. The NAVAHCS staff distributes donations to residents in both the Nursing Home and the Domiciliary. Our departure time and place from Phoenix will be announced at our Aug. 2 meeting. We need to know how many members will be making the trip so that we know how many vehicles we will need to use! Used magazines and paperback books are also appreciated by the residents. (For obvious reasons, please do not include any books about war.) This year we have had a request for large (34 gallon), plastic garbage cans with wheels and lids for use in the VA greenhouse. OSA's Board authorized the purchase of 4 of these cans, and we will deliver them on the 22nd.

Also, we are in need of cookies for refreshments that will be served in the VA greenhouse at 10 a.m. If you wish to bake cookies for the occasion and demonstrate your baking skills, your efforts will be appreciated by staff and patients. But they will also eat purchased cookies! (Each year the staff and patients eagerly anticipate the arrival of the cookies that we bring for light refreshments before lunch. Bill Starkman, Greenhouse Manager, always furnishes the coffee. ALL complaints about the strength of the brew should be directed to Bill!)

CORRECT PHONE NUMBER FOR CO-REFRESHMENT CHAIR, RAMONA JUNGWIRTH:

Please make a note of the correct phone number on this issue's front page. Unfortunately the correct phone number was not reported until AFTER the July 1 roster correction page was prepared and printed for distribution at our July meeting. Ramona's correct phone number is:

(602) 320-6124.

The Arizona Orchidist is published monthly by the
Orchid Society of Arizona, Inc.
Direct Inquiries to our website at:
<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.

A SOBRALIA WITH A STRONG WILL TO LIVE!

By A Reluctant Reporter

In February, 2004, a grower purchased 3 bare root Sobralia species plants from a vendor at Pacific Orchid Exposition, San Francisco. The plants had each been wrapped in newspaper and placed in a plastic bag. For 3 months, while the plants remained in their newspaper/bag wrappings, whenever the grower's other plants were watered, the Sobralias were also watered. The grower noticed that one of the plants, *Sobralia atropubescens*, bloomed frequently.

About two months ago, on a day when the grower had a few spare moments and couldn't think of anything better to do, the plants were removed from the wet newspaper and were placed in clear pots containing fine fir bark. The *Sobralia atropubescens* did not suffer from the shock of being transferred from the newspaper to a pot; it kept blooming and hasn't been out of bloom since February! Plants that can take such abuse and continue to flower, are ideal plants for a grower who has many other things to do besides hover over plants! Unfortunately, Sobralia blooms only last a day, and the *S. atropubescens* always blooms the day BEFORE our monthly meeting. Therefore, it has not yet been brought in for our display table. But one of these days, the blooms will open ON the day of our meeting, and when they do, you will get a chance to see an "ideal" orchid. The blooms are mildly and pleasantly fragrant, but you have to sniff fast because if you don't, there's nothing to sniff the next day!

NEW RECREATION THERAPY PROGRAM MANAGER AT ARIZONA STATE VETERAN HOME

On July 23rd, Diane M. Armstrong, will be leaving Phoenix and moving to Albuquerque. (Diane has taken a job with the City of Albuquerque, and in her new job, she will not have the contact with patients that she had at ASVH. She's already worried that she will miss the contact with patients! Diane's new husband works in Albuquerque, and she decided that she'd like to try living with her husband rather than maintaining a long distance marriage. However...Diane has decided NOT to sell her house in Phoenix. She will rent it and...maybe one day she will return to Phoenix! We hope that she will return because the ASVH residents will miss her!) At the time this newsletter goes to press, we do not yet know the name of the new Recreation Therapy Program Manager, but we do know that one of the other two Certified Recreation Therapy Specialists now employed at ASVH will be promoted to Diane's former position. It has been a pleasure working with Diane, and we will miss her! But we look forward to working with the new Recreation Therapy Program Manager. OSA will continue to donate on a monthly basis, soda pop, flavored water, and snacks for the ASVH gift shop. So keep those donations coming!!

Wilella Stimmell

OSA'S DECEMBER FUND-RAISING AUCTION

It is not too early for OSA members to begin thinking about plants and orchid-related items to donate for our annual fund-raiser. This year, December 6th is the date of our fund-raiser. Some members have already begun accumulating items to donate for our auction. We welcome donations from commercial orchid vendors, but please do not request donations from vendors from whom you have NOT purchased plants in 2004.



Carl A. Olson,
Associate Curator, Dept. of Entomology,
University of Arizona



I received my B.S. in Zoology in 1969 from Miami University and an M.S. in Biology from Marshall University in 1972. I have been at the University of Arizona since 1975 as Associate Curator of the research collection, Assistant in Extension, and Lecturer. I have taught aquatic entomology, a beginning course for non-majors entitled "Insects & Society" and have co-taught with several faculty in various labs. I also work through the Extended University teaching a beginning course in Entomology.

My extension work includes handling the Insect Identification Laboratory, IPM Specialist for Pima County (and many others), running workshops for Master Gardener Programs in Arizona, providing the media (TV, radio and newspapers) with information about new bug problems and other related topics. I also work with the public schools, FFA, 4-H and many local organizations giving lectures. I have been involved with many segments of KUAT's program "The Desert Speaks", most recently talking about the many positive sides of having spiders in an urban setting and dispelling the myths about these wonderful animals.

I have co-authored a book (1994) with my former colleague and mentor, Floyd G. Werner, entitled **LEARNING ABOUT AND LIVING WITH INSECTS OF THE SOUTHWEST** published by Fisher books and available at most bookstores. It has received many favorable comments from people throughout Arizona and other states throughout the southwest. Also, I have authored or co-authored papers on many different insects in the southwest, from cockroaches to palm borer beetles, scorpions to stoneflies, insects in Packrat middens to ticks & Lyme disease. I was a consultant for the Biosphere when it was an interesting, novel place to look at the big picture of Ecology.

I enjoy volleyball, bicycle riding, hiking and the Arizona sunsets in my backyard. My passion is changing people's attitudes towards insects, hoping they will someday realize that without this micro-fauna, the rest of the world will not exist.

Carl A. Olson

Editors note: In May, 2004, a new book authored by Carl, 50 COMMON INSECTS OF THE SOUTHWEST, was published by Western National Parks Association.



JULY RAFFLE TABLE DONATIONS



**Pamela Albright, Dan MacLeod, Carolyn Phillips (former OSA member who recently returned to Phoenix), one of the local Target Garden Centers (donation obtained by OSA member Pamela Albright)
Cynthia Schnitzer, Wilella Stimmell, Ken and Judy Vincent.**

SPECIAL THANKS TO ALL



ORCHID SOCIETY OF ARIZONA
presents



The
Magic
of
Orchids



ORCHID SHOW AND SALE

November 13 and 14, 2004

**ENCANTO PARK CLUBHOUSE
2605 N. 15TH AVE.
PHOENIX, AZ**



**Free Admission
Hours: 9:00 am- 5:00 pm Both Days**



Professor Robb's Harry Potter Magic Show
November 13th, 1:30 P.M.

**Orchids, supplies, cultural information, gifts, children and adult raffle,
entertainment, refreshments**

**For information contact: Show Chairman: Sharon Davis (602) 843-3288
OSA President: Norma Kafer (602) 252-6197
OSA website - <http://welcome.to/orchidsocietyaz>**



“Sphag-n-Bag”

Ray Barkalow

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.

Reprinted with permission of the author, Ray Barkalow, First Rays Orchids



OSA August 2004 Calendar



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 <i>OSA Meeting</i> <i>7:00 PM</i>	3  <i>Ramona Jungwirth</i>	4	5	6	7
8  <i>Ann Cherney</i> <i>Mona Brooks</i>	9	10  <i>Linda Bonds</i> <i>Terry Fitzpatrick</i>	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22 <i>NAVAHCS</i> <i>Field Trip</i>	23  <i>Vic Polk</i>	24  <i>Joe Freasier</i> <i>Bridget Lawrence</i>	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				



Orchid Society of Arizona
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