



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 1, 2005 at 7:00 p.m.

OSA meetings are open to all
plant enthusiasts
Refreshments will be provided.
This month's beverages by
Joe Freasier and Wayne Baker
Snacks by
Jim Lauck and Marleny Castillo

Refreshment Coordinators:
Julie Langston (602) 955-5694
Ramona Jungwirth (602) 320-6124

OSABOARD MEETING

The next OSA board meeting
will be held at 1 PM
Sunday, July 24th
at Teddy Cohen's home
in Pine

The Board meeting will
be preceded by a show planning
meeting at noon.

Please contact Teddy at
(928) 476-2220
TaylorBaron@msn.com
for directions

Board meetings are open to all OSA
members

August Program

"Digital Photography of Orchids: Take a Byte of Light"

OSA member and Professional Photographer Par Excellence, **DOUG BALDWIN**, will be teaching us how to use those new digital cameras to photograph our treasures. Don't miss this one !

AUGUST SPECIAL SILENT AUCTION

Proceeds from the August silent auction will benefit the OSA Multimedia Projector Fund. This fund has been created to purchase a projector with which power point presentations (used by many of our guest speakers) can be shown during our meetings.
There will be an HID light, RO water system and Hydrofogger among the items on which you may bid. Members are welcome to donate books, HEALTHY (bug free!) plants, and other related orchid items for the auction.....CASH donations will also be accepted !

THANKS TO THE JUNE RAFFLE TABLE DONORS

Joe Civello, Bob MacLeod, Julie Rathbun, Lou Ann Remeikis,
Cynthia Schnitzer and Wilella Stimmell
Non-member, Pepper Webb, also donated items for the June raffle table.

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO ALL WHO DONATED

Grower on Call for August

Bridget Lawrence Hunter (602) 305-5196 email Dragonbeuti@cs.com

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From the President's Desk

Norma Kafer

Since I missed our last meeting, I thought I'd tell you my good excuse. About ten years ago my daughter had a foreign exchange student from Slovakia. We had to look up the country on a map. It's east of Austria, south of Poland and the Czech Republic, and north of Hungary. The student, Kristina, has grown up and invited us to her wedding, so we HAD to go. We decided that since we were over there, we'd visit my cousin whom I hadn't seen for forty years. He and his wife live just north of Nuremberg in Germany. They are both M.D.s. When we walked into their house, just what did I see? Lots and lots of orchids! What a nice surprise! They had them growing in the south facing windows of all three floors of their house. Phals, dendrobs, cymbidiums, etc. They were so proud of their gardening abilities, and it must be difficult to grow orchids in Germany. We attended the wedding, and what a wedding. The church ceremony started at 3:30 pm and then on to the reception. There were about one hundred guests and we had a full dinner at 6 pm. then another full dinner at 9 pm. and then a third dinner at midnight. Open bar and dancing all night, nobody got drunk. A succession of young men came to sit by me so they could practice their English. One had learned in South Africa. It was a thoroughly wonderful time. Then back to the heat.

We are having Doug Baldwin give us another wonderful program for the August meeting. Last time I learned what "depth of field" meant. And several times he has answered my camera questions graciously. Doug also volunteers as auctioneer at the annual Christmas auction. We appreciate Doug taking the time to give us another learning experience. And, thanks Aaron for filling in for me !

GREAT NEWS !

"I have good news, We went out to the *Lepanthes caritensis* site on Friday and we found two, yes two fruits, one is much larger than the other. I collected both of them, they were from pollinations (cross pollinations) made by my students the previous time they went to the field. I put them each in a separate envelope. I'll be mailing them to you on Tuesday. So you'll finally be able to start sowing the little critters. "

email 7/3/05 Raymond L Tremblay (University of Puerto Rico) to Aaron J. Hicks

"Capsules arrived today in very good condition, thank you. I had thought they would be tiny, but broke out one of my better dissecting scopes in order to recover the seeds.

A total of 9 baby food flasks from one capsule is a new record for me, even considering the tiny capsule size. Spread across three disinfection regimes, and three different germination formulae, provided I don't get massive contamination, I'd say things look pretty good.

The seeds... are small. They make those of *Oncidium* and *Vanda* look like coconuts. If I had an ultrabalance once again, I would weigh some when dry. They might very well set a new record for smallest seeds ever recorded. For their size, they are remarkably well-behaved. The second capsule went into the 'fridge for drying at low temperature over calcium chloride."

excerpts from an email 7/6/05 Aaron J. Hicks to Raymond L Tremblay

*We wanted members to know that progress has been made, and it's the result of our donation of funds for the "Save the *Lepanthes caritensis* Project". Let's hope that the seeds germinate because the 2005 Caribbean hurricane season has begun and doesn't end until November 30! (As of July 7, Hurricane Dennis had not caused damage in Puerto Rico.) Aaron, please keep us informed. Editor*

Member News

On July 2, OSA member, **Bridget Lawrence**, married Robert Hunter in Las Vegas!

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Hunter! (Let's hope that Bridget can coax Robert to join our happy orchid family.)"

Jay Munn sends his greetings to all OSA members who remember him. He really misses us, and he wanted to hear all about our school programs. In the next couple of months, he's moving from Federal Way, WA, to Cincinnati, OH. One of Jay's daughters lives in Cincinnati. He promised to keep in touch with us after he's settled in his new condo. He is legally blind, and his wife, Mercedes, has the same problem with macular degeneration and cannot drive.

Special thanks to Marleny Castillo for the delicious spice cake that she made for our June meeting. (She was **not** one of the members who had signed up to bring refreshments for the June meeting.) The cake was HUGE and delicious! Best of all, Marleny appropriately decorated the cake with a realistic-looking projector made of frosting. We're very fortunate to have such a creative, talented, and capable member. Thanks, Marleny! All of us who tasted the cake, thoroughly enjoyed it. Please keep those cakes coming!!

Arizona State Veteran Home Wish List: soda pop (both diet and regular Coke, Pepsi, and Sprite), flavored water, sugar free chocolate bars, and 36-count boxes of microwavable popcorn (butter flavor only) Please don't forget the ASVH when you do your shopping.

Polo Shirts with the OSA logo embroidered on them are available by special order from Tease Shirts, Yucca Valley, CA, email teshirts@gte.net phone (760) 365-0406. Some of our members who do not attend the Morongo Basin Orchid Festival, have seen the embroidered polo shirts worn by those of us who attend the Festival. Debbie Gubler is the polo shirt "wizard". The shirts are \$21.95. If anyone is interested in ordering a shirt, we would be happy to bring back your shirt with us on Oct. 3, when we return from the Festival. Please take care of the ordering and payment aspect as soon as possible. This year Debbie is in charge of the Festival, and she will need to attend to organizational business for the Festival.

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.

COMMUNITY SERVICE REPORT

By Wilella Stimmell, CSP Coordinator

On May 27, it was my privilege to represent OSA at the **Arizona State Veteran Home's Volunteer Recognition Day**. The certificate which I accepted on OSA's behalf, states: "In appreciation of your commitment to our veterans and your support of the Volunteer Services Department." When I received the certificate, I told the audience that I was simply the courier and that I found it hard to believe that those who had generously donated items for the residents, would pass up an opportunity for a FREE lunch!

I was invited by the WACs who were present, to sit with them. The "head WAC", Grace Kobesch, declared me an "honorary WAC"! (Grace served in the Pacific during WWII, and although she's "no spring chicken", her sense of humor is still intact! In 2003, Grace was inducted into the Arizona State Veterans Hall of Fame.)

During the festivities on May 27, Grace was recognized as the Volunteer of the Year. If you knew Grace, you would know that she's a very unassuming person who thinks everybody else deserves honors more than she does. BUT...Grace logs in 2 days per week in the ASVH gift shop, and she has volunteered **2850** (cumulative) **hours** of her time at the veteran home. She certainly deserved to be recognized for her commitment to the residents! The fact that her fellow volunteers knew about her award AND kept the secret from her, is testimony that women CAN keep secrets!! When Grace's name was called by staff members, she was caught off-guard and became visibly tearful. She received two framed certificates and yet another medal to hang on the ribbon that she ALWAYS wears around her neck. Grace has so many pieces of medal on her chest that they cover up the fact that she's a "petite" gal...if you catch my drift! If she receives one more piece of medal to place on the ribbon, she'll be top-heavy!

OSA's Certificate of Appreciation will be on display on the raffle ticket sales table during our August 1 meeting.

There were no residents present during the festivities, and I missed having the opportunity to chat with some of them. However, the following week, I made a point to visit the gift shop on a day when I knew that Grace would be on duty. (Grace volunteers on Wednesdays and Fridays, so if you're ever in the vicinity of ASVH on one of those days, visit the gift shop and meet Grace.) During my return visit, I had an opportunity to chat with some of the "Wheelchair brigade"!

NAVAHCS VISIT CONFIRMED

The August Board Meeting will be held at the NAVAHCS on Sunday, August 21st. This has become an annual, much anticipated journey to Prescott. Details regarding NAVAHCS greenhouse "needs" and trip details will be shared at the August 1st meeting. If you can't make the meeting you are welcome to phone any board member for time/meeting location or to arrange to drop off your donation.

TEASER

Did you know that the **Shrine Clown Unit** will be performing at **our November show**? For information about the **September, 2005 Shrine Circus locations in Arizona and ticket information**, check out their website at <http://www.el-zaribah.org/Circus2.htm>

A Shade Product for Your Greenhouse: (thanks to **Pete Heckel** for sharing this information) There is a coating that can be sprayed or painted on your greenhouse. "It dries a milky white and reduces the light into the greenhouse. When it rains, the coating turns clear to let in more light. And when it dries again, it goes back to milky white." The product is also available with a green dye to keep out more light. If you want more information on this product, e-mail Pete at <pheckel@cablone.net>

Editor's Note: This is a much better way to shade a glass roof than by using "whitewash" which...washes off a roof after a hard rain.

Recap of the June Program

Lou Ann Remeikis

I was happy to see a great turn-out for our June meeting! Sadly, most in-house programs see a much smaller attendance than when we are honored with a guest speaker. However, those who did attend the June meeting were entertained well...with the DVD presentation of "Deep Jungle".

The three-part nature program was much too long to be shown during one meeting, so I chose Part One to play on the nice big screen TV rented from Latta's TV Rentals. Not only was the presentation enjoyed by everyone, it provided a few hysterical outbursts of laughter. We learned about, and observed, the elusive Sumatran tigers that had only been caught on film once, and watched an amazing unfolding of the very long proboscis of the giant moth that sips nectar from the long spur of an orchid. The funniest segment was the filming of the male mannekin bird's courtship dance! It is a cute little bird that is faster than a hummingbird. With modern technology, this little "dancer" was captured on film for everyone's delightful reaction – laughter. He really does do the "moon walk" backwards *and* sideways!

I had a great deal of feedback from those in attendance who thoroughly enjoyed the presentation, and several people wanted to know where they could purchase the series. I didn't have an answer, and still don't. If you are interested, ask Wilella. She generously purchased the "Deep Jungle" program and allowed us to use it for our June Program. Thanks, Wilella!

I hope to see everyone at the August meeting, and hope you had a great Fourth of July!

P/S – I had fun helping Aaron run the meeting in Norma's absence! Thanks, Aaron!

WANTS & NEEDS

Teddy Cohen

OSA is a 501 (c) (3) non profit organization, so please feel free to deduct any of your purchases for the society from your taxes! Right now, OSA could use some help with the following items:

For our snacks at the monthly meetings (see Julie Langston):

Paper plates, cups, and napkins, plastic spoons, forks & knives

For the November Show & Sale:

Anything **CIRCUS** related including:

Stuffed animals, clown items, carousel items & calliope items,
white bed sheets of any size

Your most beautiful plants for display at the show,

Your time to help with set-up on November 11th (5:00 pm)

Your time to help break down the show on the 13th

For the NAVAHCS:

Various sizes of orchid bark and small garden decorations, paperback books,
(no war stories please) used clothing for men and women, and personal size
toiletries (no mouthwash or anything with alcohol in it.)

Please note that anything you donate to the November show will be given to the New Life Center in Avondale following the event unless you have your name attached to the item!

From the Archives - 50 years ago

*Miltonia roezlii****

by J.F. Gadka,

American Orchid Society Bulletin, Vol. 24, No. 6, June, 1955, pp. 375-376.

"One of the finest species in the genus *Miltonia* is *Miltonia roezlii* and its many desirable traits warrant its inclusion in anyone's collection. It takes up but little space, pays its way handsomely with an abundance of bloom, has quite large and rather handsome flowers of the pansy type, and is not too difficult for the average amateur. The blooms, too, are long lasting if permitted to remain on the plant. A well-established specimen is a sight to behold during the main blooming season. The scapes bear from 1 to 4 flowers, typically about 3 inches wide, flat, and pansy-like. Sepals and petals are white with a purple blotch at the base of each petal. Lip is white, about 2 inches wide, with a tinge of yellow and purple near the crest. The variety *alba* is rather commonly grown, and I believe the prettier of the two, in which the flowers are entirely white, except for the yellow shading at the base of the lip. All of the *alba* varieties I have encountered are very fragrant, having a scent similar to that of the fragrant narcissus. Its native habitat is said to be warm and humid. It is one of the *Miltonias* that is reported to be grown successfully in the warm climates, but it seems to be rather accommodating in its temperature requirements. Practically all the literature relative to the culture of this species which was available to me when I acquired my first plants advised growing them warm with high humidity. In fact, some advised to grow them with the *Phalaenopsis*. It has been usually considered a difficult species to grow satisfactorily. When I tried to grow them in the advised manner, I met with rather indifferent success. Upon observing superior performances in other collections, I found that these improved results were obtained by growing the plants on the cool side in the late spring, summer and early fall, and growing warmer, that is under about intermediate conditions, or with the *Cattleyas*, the rest of the year - rather in the manner that other species of this genus are usually grown. Upon changing over to this regime, I, too, obtained much better results, and would therefore advise anyone else to apply this procedure. The flowers were far superior to those that had bloomed previously...

During the active growing season the plants require an abundance of water and, therefore, ideal drainage conditions should be provided. Three-fourths drainage crock in the pot is often advocated. In fact the copious waterings necessary seem to decay the potting medium sooner than that of other plants, and for that reason, annual repotting is advisable, as the plants are especially intolerant of a decomposed compost. A sweet, healthy compost is really one of their requisites, and a noticeable lift is given the plants when fresh compost is provided. If the plants are placed on a mound of the compost, as is sometimes advised, care should be taken that the plant is embedded firmly, or placed so that the roots may enter the material easily, as they will not grow as freely as when the rooting medium is within easy reach.

After potting, the usual care in not overwatering is necessary and moderation in watering should be exercised until the roots are seen creeping towards the edge of the pot. Also do not overpot - they demand small pots. I believe the best time to repot this species is in late winter or early spring, just as or just prior to its new root activity, which in my plants usually occurs around the end of January or early February. At that time I repot them, although they can also be repotted in the fall, or at any time they are without blooms or buds. But one should catch them at the time the new growths, which are more or less continuously being formed on good sized plants, are ready to throw out new roots. It is usually advised for *Miltonias* not to pot them in the warmer months.

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Composts recommended are varied, but osmunda is usually advised. I believe if the osmunda is chopped, where a plant is to be repotted annually, it is advantageous as it is easier to remove when the compost is renewed. Some growers advise the addition of sphagnum. A small portion of decayed oak or beech leaves is also said to be beneficial. Other growers recommend peat and sphagnum, and some add crock or charcoal to this. Of late I have also seen leafmold soil advocated, and recently I received a *Miltonia* (although not *M. roezlii*) from a prominent orchid establishment which was potted in what seemed to be mostly ordinary garden soil. But I do think that other composts are superior to soil. I grow mine in E-Z-R-Gro (a prepared leafmold-type mixture) and crock. This is a loose potting medium, and any new roots are not apt to be broken. Results have been very satisfactory.

The plants must be shaded from bright summer sunshine, although the winter sun in northern latitudes is not harmful. The foliage as in most *Miltonias* is apt to assume a yellowish shade which is rather natural, but if kept well watered, this condition is not so pronounced. During the growing season the leaves often adhere to one another and these should be separated, or they may assume a crippled appearance when mature.

The plants are easily propagated by dividing, but this should not be done until they attain some size. If allowed to become large specimens with many leads, the scattered bloomings mentioned above are increased, so that the plant has a tendency to become an almost constant bloomer during its season of activity. It might be added here too that the size of the flowers depends on the culture given. I feed those plants regularly along with most of the other orchids, which is rather frequently, but with very diluted amounts, and of course only during the active growing season.

The plants are said to be susceptible to thrip and to a lesser degree to red spider or red mite. One should be on guard for any infestation of this nature. So far my plants have never been bothered with these pests. If the humidity is kept up there is little danger from red spiders.

The blooming season, which practically all descriptive literature gives as spring and winter, has been rather varied with my plants. Blooms may appear any time that the plants are active. My plants go into a dormant stage during our dull winter days, usually around the end and first part of the year, for a rather short period, during which time there are of course no blooms. They put on a grand display usually about May, and again in the fall. In between these periods and after, even into December, there will be an occasional blooming. Though the blooms are of good quality on these scattered bloomings, the effect does not compare with the spectacle presented at the main blooming periods, when the plant becomes a gorgeous bouquet. - 912 Main Street, Oregon City, Oregon."


****Editor's Note:** Since this article was published, a number of reference works refer to *Miltonia roezlii* as *Milioniopsis roezlii*. The native habitat for *Milioniopsis roezlii* is in wet tropical forests ranging in altitude from 600 feet to 3000 feet. The species is native to Colombia, Ecuador, and Panama.

Although the author of the above article resided in a climate different than the climate in the Phoenix Metro area, it should be noted that each growing environment, whether in a household in the low desert or in a greenhouse, has micro climates where the temperature varies by several degrees.

And

Special Thanks to Wilella Stimmell for her continuing support and contributions to this newsletter.

OSA August 2005 Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 <i>OSA MEETING</i> <i>7:00 PM</i>	2	3  <i>Ramona Jungwirth</i>	4	5	6
7	8  <i>Ann Cherny</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 <i>NAVAHCS</i> <i>Field Trip</i>	22	23  <i>Vic Polk</i>	24  <i>Joe Freasier</i> <i>Bridget Lawrence</i>	25	26  <i>Rosalie Banasiak</i>	27
28	29	30	31			



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