



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 7, 2006
at 7:00 p.m.

OSA meetings are open to all
plant enthusiasts

Refreshments will be provided.

This month beverages
will be provided by:

Lois Sauer

snacks by

Teddy Cohen and

David Wehrli

Refreshment Coordinators:

Barbara Parnell (480) 948-0714

Mary Gannon (623) 878-4173

OSABOARD MEETING

The next OSA board meeting
will be held Sunday, August 20th

in Prescott following
the NAVAHCS visit

Board Meetings

are open to all members

GROWER ON CALL

Julie Rathbun

jandfent@aol.com

August Program

CONSERVATION & PROPAGATION with PLANT GROWTH REGULATORS

Conservation & Propagation with Plant Growth Regulators is a new CD-ROM produced by James Brasch, creator of Keikigrow and other plant growth regulators. The CD is a PowerPoint presentation which offers a detailed look at the issues of conservation and propagation. The subject matter on the CD is essentially the same as that which Jim presented at an orchid conference in Costa Rica in 2001. It was my privilege to attend that conference, and at the time, I thought that our members would enjoy Jim's program. However, due to an assortment of health problems, Jim no longer travels far from his home in Burlington, Ontario. The new CD is a welcome addition to any orchid library.

W. Stimmell

PASSING OF AN ORCHID LEGEND

Mary Noble McQuerry, 88, long-time ambassador and contributor to the AOS and orchid community passed away on June 20, 2006 in Jacksonville, Florida following a series of health setbacks.

A writer and educator, she authored eight extremely popular books about orchids and home gardening. She founded the Jacksonville Orchid Society, was an AOS Honorary Vice President, AOS Gold Medal recipient and multi term Trustee and committee Chair. McQuerry Orchid Books has been, for decades, the place for orchid book fanciers to shop. If she did not have that special publication or periodical, she would know where and how to track it down.

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From the President's Desk

Julie Rathbun

Summer is vacation time, so we expect attendance at a meeting, especially the day before a holiday, to be less than usual. Barbara Parnell placed patriotic decorations on our refreshments' table, and the refreshments looked especially appealing against a colorful background. Thanks, Barbara! And thanks to those who brought refreshments!

We were especially pleased to welcome back our most youthful member, Madeleine Heberling, to our meeting! (Last year, she moved with her parents to Godfrey, IL. When she's visiting her aunt, Lou Ann, Madeleine attends OSA meetings.)

For those of you who didn't attend our July 3rd meeting, you missed an excellent PowerPoint presentation by Kathryn Mauz! The week before our meeting, Kathryn had returned from a 5000 mile trip during which she visited several herbaria on the east coast. The only known record of the plants that had grown in the former rivers in the Tucson Basin is found in herbaria. Passing through Arizona between 1855 and 1920, botanists randomly collected plants that interested them and preserved the specimens.

After she returned to Tucson, Kathryn sent us an e-mail in which she stated: "It is a great privilege to have been sponsored by such nice people. I'll keep you updated on the *Phalaenopsis* and the progress of the publication of my thesis work (which will 'bloom' first?). Please convey my thanks to all. Kathryn"
(During our raffle, Kathryn won a *Phalaenopsis* plant – her first orchid!)

Some of you have inquired about the progress of **the Hopi Handbook of Flora and Fauna** that are of cultural significance to Hopi Indians. (In 2004, OSA donated funds to Hopi student interns.) Drawings are still being accepted for inclusion in the handbook. When the handbook is ready for publication, Kristin Huisinga (our first scholarship recipient and the mentor of Hopi student artists) will notify us.

We're looking forward to our **annual caravan trip to the Northern Arizona VA Health Care System in Prescott!** The date for our trip is **Sunday, August 20**. In the morning, we depart Phoenix, and in late afternoon, we return home. The time and place where we will meet in Phoenix for our day-long trip will be mentioned at our August 7th meeting. If you can't attend our August meeting but want to go to Prescott, let me know. If you can't go to Prescott but have donations for us to haul to the VA, phone or e-mail me. (You will find the VA wish list in this newsletter.) The weather in Prescott is always a surprise. Since our first field trip to the VA greenhouse, sometimes it has rained, and the temperature was cool compared to Phoenix, and there have been times when the temperature was warmer than we expected. There have also been times when the temperature was pleasant. (Sounds a bit like the story of Goldilocks, doesn't it?) Regardless of the weather, we always have a great time visiting with Bill Starkman, Chief of Greenhouse Operations, Paula Moran, Lead Recreation Therapist, other staff members, and patients. After we arrive at the VA, we will help transport patients from the nursing home to the greenhouse. Then we will enjoy coffee and snacks in the greenhouse. After lunch in the picnic area which is located outside of the greenhouse, we will help return the patients to the nursing home. Then we will hold our **August board meeting**. At approximately 3 PM, we begin the trip back to Phoenix. You might want to note that on our way back to Phoenix, this will be the last time that our caravan will be able to stop at Young's Farm in Dewey. Young's Farm will be closing at the end of 2006.

I hope that your orchids are surviving our summer heat! I haven't heard any reports of power outages and "cooked" orchids.

See you at our August 7 meeting!

Julie

COMMUNITY SERVICE REPORT

By Wilella Stimmell, CSP Coordinator

On June 14, TEDDY COHEN, SHARON DAVIS, MARY GANNON, JIM LAUCK, BOB MACLEOD, JAN MCVEY, JULIE RATHBUN, and I presented two hands-on repotting programs for children enrolled in summer classes at the GLENDALE BOYS & GIRLS CLUB, 5850 W. Northview Ave., Glendale.

Becky Macias, the staff person who contacted us about our programs, placed 6 and 7 year-old children in the first program, and 8-12 year-olds in the second program. A total of approximately 60 children participated. We presented the programs in the club's courtyard. By 10 AM the outside temperature was already hot; however, our program team members, their display plants, and the students were protected from the scorching sun by the shade from large trees in the courtyard. By making our usual bark mess outside, we could simply sweep the mess off of the picnic tables and onto the ground around the trees! This was the first time that we had to delay repotting instructions until the noise made by a nearby train ended!

The children brought milk jugs which our team members cut to accommodate the students' newly repotted Phalaenopsis seedlings. The enthusiastic students appreciated that we provided them with a special activity. And they especially enjoyed the coconut fragrance of *Maxillaria tenuifolia*, one of the display plants. This was the first time that Mary Gannon and Jan McVey participated in our hands-on repotting programs! We hope that they enjoyed the experience and will help us again – when their day-job schedules permit.

REMINDER: THE FLOWERING AMAZON Exhibit at the Arizona Sonora Desert Museum, 2021 N. Kinney Rd., Tucson: In our April, 2005 newsletter, we mentioned the upcoming exhibit. If you didn't save that issue of our newsletter, you can access it on our website. To refresh your memory, the exhibit (on loan from the Royal Botanic Garden) will run from **September 2, 2006 to November 26, 2006**. The exhibit features 30 watercolor drawings and field sketches by Margaret Mee, native Brazilian artifacts, plant models, and specimen sheets from the Kew Herbarium. ASDM is open every day of the year. Admission for adults is \$12, \$2 for children ages 6-12, and for children 5 and younger, admission is free. September hours are 7:30 AM – 5:00 PM, and in October and November, the hours are 8:30 AM – 5:00 PM. The phone number for ASDM is (520) 883-2702, and for the ASDM Art Institute (the web page where the Margaret Mee exhibit is described), the phone number listed is (520) 883-3024.

For newcomers to AZ: ASDM is a world-renowned zoo, natural history museum, and botanical garden. It first opened September 1, 1952. Plan to spend a couple of hours and visit the Flowering Amazon and other exhibits. (Except for guide dogs, pets should be left at home.)

ARIZONA VANILLA COMPANY AT LOCAL EVENT: OSA's May 1 speaker, Eric Elsberry, President of the Arizona Vanilla Company, will have a booth at the 2nd Annual ARIZONA COOKS, which will be held at the Arizona Biltmore Resort, 2400 E. Missouri Ave., Phoenix, on Saturday, September 2, 10 AM – 4 PM. Advance tickets (\$65 per person) : 1-888-695-0888 or <http://phxc-ip.clearchannel.com/tickets.html> On Sept. 2, at the "door", tickets will be \$75 per person. In addition to the baking samples by AVC's guest chef, the event will also feature: treats from Arizona's best chefs, interactive cooking demonstrations, the latest cooking products and accessories, raffle prizes **benefiting Phoenix Children's Hospital**, and more.

In other Arizona Vanilla Company News: Patty Elsberry and chef Matt Bolus have collaborated on a new book, SIMPLY VANILLA, which will be available in bookstores on September 10. The retail price will be \$22.95, BUT if you **preorder** at <http://www.arizonavanilla.com/Store/simplyvanillacookbook.html> the purchase price will be \$19.95 AND 6 Madagascar vanilla beans will be included! If you are internet-impaired, you can pre-order at (480) 254-5369.

Shalom The Orchids of Israel

I began to write this article on the evening of Sunday, July 9th while staying at Kibbutz Hagoshrim which lies at the northern end of the Hula valley at the base of the Golan Heights, 35 km from Damascus and 60 km from Beirut .

My family and I had begun the day at Rosh Hanikra at the northwestern most border crossing on the Lebanon Israeli border. We had visited with an IDF (Israeli Defense Force) guard and Judi and Kaitlyn had their pictures taken with him. I remember him saying how calm and peaceful the border was. Who would have known that within a few short hours the Hezbollah would cross that very border , murder eight Israeli soldiers and kidnap two more, beginning the current crisis?

The Hula valley which extends roughly from the Sea of Galilee north to the Syrian Lebanon border is home to six of the orchids indigenous to Israel. It is situated at the edge of four climatic zones and influenced by each: the temperate European, the Mediterranean, the Asian Steppe and the Arabian desert. The area is very much like San Diego in climate and vegetation. I observed many oleander, bougainvillea, lantana, olive trees and palms.

The orchids in the Hula valley all bloom in the meadows from mid February to April and are protected by the State of Israel. The pink butterfly orchid (*Orchis Papilionacea*) is the most common and first to bloom. This is followed by the toothed orchid (*Orchis tridentata*) with its dense clusters of flowers, the Anatolian orchid (*Orchis anatolica*) with distinctive dark red spots on its leaves, the loose flowered orchid (*Orchis laxifolia*), and two bee orchids (*Ophrys transhyrcana*) with two shiny blue stripes on the labellum and the Carmel bee orchid (*Ophrys umbilicata*) which actually does resemble its pollinator, a bee!

Unfortunately since our visit was in July I was unable to see any of these orchids in bloom.

It might interest you to know that a three spike hybrid Phalaenopsis at the street markets of Jerusalem sells for 140 NIS (new Israeli shekel) or at the current exchange rate, \$31.00 US.....I didn't buy one!

Keith Mead

Orchid Growers Fear Wilt in Sales

From an article by Craig Gima of the Honolulu Star-Bulletin

Hawaii's flower and nursery industry enjoyed their best year ever in 2005, some nursery operators say they fear their industry will go the way of sugar and pineapple after a federal judge rejected their bid to block Taiwanese imports.

On June 29, U.S. District Court Judge Royce Lamberth in Washington, D.C., ruled against Hawaii growers who sued the U.S. Department of Agriculture trying to stop the importation of potted orchids from Taiwan. It was the second such court setback for the growers.

The Hawaii Orchid Growers Association alleged that the department did not fully consider the impact of insects and other invasive pests potentially introduced to Hawaii by orchids growing in moss and other potting material from Taiwan.

In 2004 the Agriculture Department, at the request of the Taiwanese government, changed a plant quarantine rule to allow the importation of the phalaenopsis., or moth orchid, in potting materials like moss.

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Because they can be shipped in potting material, the orchid plants can now be sent to the United States by sea in shipping containers, cutting costs for the Taiwanese growers and allowing the mass importation of phalaenopsis orchids.

Last year, Hawaii growers lost their first lawsuit seeking a restraining order against the rule change.

Now the Hawaii growers have 60 days to decide if they want to appeal the decision in the second lawsuit and are polling the 144 members of the association about whether to continue.

The cost to appeal is about \$4000 and the vote could be close. Some members say they believe the lawsuit is a waste of time and money.

Richard Takafuji of the Orchid Center in Waianae said his business will survive by selling to local stores and consumers even against competition from Taiwan.

Takafuji noted that Taiwanese orchids have been coming in to the mainland since last year, but he said the cost of shipping the orchids from California keeps the price of locally grown orchids competitive.

U.S. Agriculture Department officials say there have been no direct imports of orchids from Taiwan to Hawaii so far.

However, Carol Okada of the state Agriculture Department plant quarantine branch said she has received inquiries from local growers who are looking into bringing potted orchids from Taiwan.

Okada said the state's lawyers reviewed the lawsuit and decided not to join it. However, the state filed an amicus brief and technical assistance from a University of Hawaii researcher in support of the growers' arguments.

The state's focus is now on trying to set up a joint inspection center so that state inspectors can look at shipments of foreign orchids and other plants alongside federal inspectors., Okada said

Agriculture statistics show local orchid sales have declined from \$23.4 million in 2003 to \$22.2 million last year, but that figure also includes cut flowers.

Local agriculture statistics show some growers are apparently switching their production away from potted phalaenopsis plants in anticipation of Taiwanese competition.

In 2004 there were 32 farms in Hawaii... reporting raising and selling phalaenopsis plants. But last year, only 23 farms raised the orchid variety, and sales dropped from 174,000 plants with a value of \$1 million in 2004 to \$717,000 for the sale of about 80,000 phalaenopsis plants lastyear.

Carmela Watanabe of S&W Orchids Inc. said the price locally for phalaenopsis orchids has not changed. However, her company also sells plants at mainland orchid shows, and Watanabe said she no longer brings phalaenopsis orchids from Hawaii to sell on the mainland because prices have dropped since the rule change.

Orchid plants that she used to sell for \$50 to \$75 now command only \$20 on the mainland, Watanabe said."

*From an article published July 20, 2006 in the Honolulu Star-Bulletin
Written by Craig Gima
Reprinted with permission of the Editor, Frank Bridgewater*

JULY RAFFLE TABLE DONORS

Bob MacLeod, Lou Ann Remeikis,
Cynthia Schnitzer, and Wilella Stimmell

Non-members - Ken and Judy Vincent

Thank you !

MEMBER NEWS

Marleny Castillo has been accepted into the Phoenix College Honors Program. Congratulations, Marleny!

NAVAHCS WISH LIST FOR AUGUST 20 FIELD TRIP:

For the nursing home -

*personal size toiletries (nothing containing alcohol; no glass containers)

*books (nothing war-related)

*sweat pants for men

*small decorative items that will move or make noise for stimulation

For gardening programs for the patients -

*metal markers that can be placed in the ground so that the patients know what has been planted

*ceramic, decorative pots - to accommodate large palms, etc. (Southwestern accent colors)

*macramé plant hangers - at least 3 feet long - to accommodate 12" pots (Southwestern colors)

*small decorative garden items to place in pots or in the ground

*wind chimes

*wind socks

*flags

*other decorative items that will brighten the garden area

NOVEMBER SHOW FLYER: On July 15, our November show flyer was uploaded onto our website by our ace webmaster, **Jim Johnson**. Thanks, Jim! To view the flyer, click on the link to our Events page. And special thanks to **Marleny Castillo** for creating yet another outstanding show flyer!

The *Arizona Orchidist* is published monthly by the

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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. The Nature Conservancy.

How Some Orchids Got Their Names

Many orchid names are drawn from Greek words and are descriptive of the flower for instance:

Arachnis comes from the word for spider: arachne.

Coelogyne comes from two words: koilos (hollow) and gyne (female, indicating the deep set stigma).

Coryanthes is the combination of korys (helmet) and anthos (flower).

Cymbidium refers to the kymbes (boat like shape) of the lip.

Dendrobium comes from the dendron (tree) and bios (life), indicating the fact that the plants live on trees.

Encyclia comes from enkyklein (to encircle), describing the way the side lobes of the lip grow around the column.

Epidendrum has a similar meaning as Dendrobium; epi (upon) and dendron (tree).

Oncidium tells us that there is a noticeable swelling or wart (onkos) on the lip.

Paphiopedilum and **Cypripedium** are both genera of the Lady or Venus Slipper group; Paphos is a city on Crete and had a famous temple dedicated to Venus, and pedilum translates into slipper.

Phalaenopsis is from phaliana (moth) and opsis (appearance), describing the fact that the first collector of this genus saw a group of these flowers at a distance and thought they were a group of moths hovering above a plant.

Psychopsis is from psyche (butterfly) and opsis (appearance) therefore, looks like a butterfly.

Vanda is a borrowed Sanskrit name.

Other orchids are named after people, for example:

Brassavola is named after Antonio Musa Brassavola, an Italian nobleman and scientist.

Brassia is after William Brass, a collector who worked for Sir Josef Banks.

Cattleya after William Cattley who flowered the first *C. abiata* in England.

Masdevallia after Dr. Jose Masdevall, Spanish physician

Miltonia after Earl Fitzwilliam Milton.

Now don't you feel much smarter?

OSA August 2006 Calendar

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|---|---|-----|---|-----|-----|
| | | 1 | 2 | 3  <i>Ramona Jungwirth</i> | 4 | 5 |
| 6 | 7 OSA MEETING 7:00 PM | 8  <i>Ann Cherny</i> <i>Mona Brooks</i> | 9 | 10  <i>Linda Bonds</i> | 11 | 12 |
| 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 |
| 20 <i>Annual Prescott trip to NAVAHCS Board Meeting</i> | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24  <i>Joe Freasier</i> <i>Bridget Hunter</i> | 25 | 26 |
| 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | | |



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