



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 6th, 2007**
at 7:00 P.M.

OSA meetings are open to all
plant enthusiasts

Refreshments will be provided.

This month Ann Cherny will
provide liquid refreshment
Snacks by Janet Jurn
and Bob MacLeod

Refreshment Coordinators:
Barbara Parnell (480) 948-0714
Mary Gannon (623) 878-4173

OSA BOARD MEETING

Board Meetings
are open to all members
The next Board meeting will
follow the noon

Show Planning Meeting
August 26th at the home of
Harry and Barbara Parnell

GROWER ON CALL

Lou Ann Remeikis
remeikis@andiamo-tel.com

August Program

HOW TO GROW BULBOPHYLLUMS TWICE AS LARGE IN HALF THE TIME

Renowned orchid grower, world traveler and speaker, **BILL THOMS**, of Valrico, FL, will present a PowerPoint program on Bulbophyllums. Be prepared to learn culture information about this fascinating group of plants, the largest genus in the orchid world.

Bill collected his first orchid in 1969 when he rescued plants of *Enc. tampensis* in Ft. Lauderdale, FL. As a developer's bulldozer pushed over trees and cleared land for a new condo development, Bill rescued plants from the trees. Bill and his wife, Doris Dukes, have been growing and hybridizing orchids in central Florida for 35 years.

Whether you grow thousands of orchids, only a few, or none at all, you will have an entertaining and educational experience during Bill's presentation.

Don't miss this great opportunity to learn how to grow these fascinating plants. (Bill is scheduled to speak on October 21, 2007, at the American Orchid Society meeting in Florida.)

This is Bill's first visit to Orchid Society of Arizona, so please extend our usual warm welcome to him!

Editor's Note: During our meeting, there will be a silent auction of plants.

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From the President's Desk

Julie Rathbun

Quite a few of our members escaped our summer heat and vacationed in cooler places. I admit that I was one of the "escapees". For two weeks in June, I enjoyed cooler weather in Vista, CA and on my way home, I visited with Chris Gubler in Landers. I brought a DONATION from Chris of 10 BLOOMING PLANTS for our July meeting silent auction. THANKS, CHRIS!!

During my absence, Joe Bacik conducted our June board meeting. Thanks, Joe! I was told that on board meeting day you had to fly to Chicago at 6 PM! I really appreciate your effort to squeeze in attending the board meeting before you headed for the airport.

We were sorry to learn that due to poor health, Joe Freasier and Wayne Baker sold their orchid collection. On July 7th, I (as well as several other OSA members) attended the sale (conducted as a lottery) at their home. We know that it must have been a difficult decision for Joe and Wayne to sell the orchid collection that they spent many years building. But with persistent health problems, they made a wise decision.

For those of you who attended our July 2nd meeting, you know that my daughter, Kim, delivered the raffle plants and the plants donated by Chris Gubler to the Encanto Clubhouse. Thanks, Kim! And since I knew that Aaron and Lou Ann would be presenting the program, I asked Wilella to conduct the meeting for me. I had the "mother" of all headaches, had taken heavy-duty prescription pain meds and was in no condition to drive to the clubhouse or to conduct the meeting.

I already know that Aaron is a fountain of orchid information, and I understand that members and visitors who attended our July meeting were not disappointed in his running commentary about the various orchid species of Mexico. I'm sorry to have missed the meeting and Aaron's unique sense of humor! Thanks to Aaron and to his assistant, Lou Ann!

A new OSA member, SEELYE SMITH, was present at our July meeting. I hope to meet her in the near future. I also missed seeing Jennifer Schmitt! It's been a long time since she's been able to attend a meeting, and the first time that she's attended, I missed welcoming her back to her orchid family!

Thanks to Mary Gannon for helping Barbara with the raffle ticket drawing. (I usually help Barbara with the raffle, but, of course, I wasn't available.)

I'm feeling MUCH better now and am looking forward to meeting our August speaker, Bill Thoms, of Valrico, FL, and an expert on *Bulbophyllum* culture.

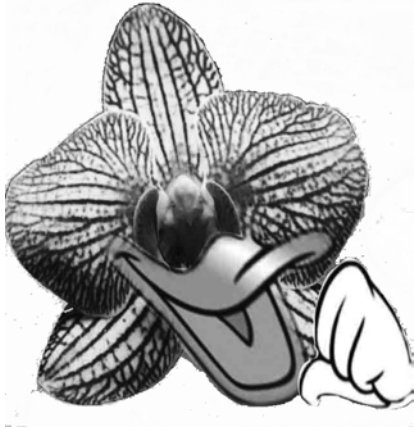
See you on August 6th! (Or if you receive your newsletter before July 29th, I hope to see you at the VA greenhouse in Prescott!) In the meantime, I'll try NOT to turn my neck the "wrong way". My bad headaches originate in my neck.

Julie

**WELCOME NEW MEMBER
SEELYE SMITH**

AFGC NEWS

In an effort to cut costs, the Arizona Federation of Garden Clubs (OSA is an affiliate of AFGC's West Central District) decided to offer *The Greenleaf Bulletin*, the AFGC newsletter, **only** on the internet. (The decision to discontinue sending hard copies to members will eliminate printing and mailing costs.) The first full issue of *The Greenleaf* was scheduled to be published on July 10, 2007. The URL for the *Greenleaf* is <http://www.afgcgreenleaf.com/>



**ANNUAL ORCHID SOCIETY OF
ARIZONA SHOW!
NOVEMBER 3 AND 4
This year's theme
Orchids and Disneyana
Join in the fun at Encanto Park
Clubhouse!
Get Involved !**

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

Or to any of the Board Officers or Trustees:

Board of Directors for 2007

President	(602) 843-0223
Julie Rathbun	jandfent@aol.com
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Librarian	(602) 803-6889
Lou Ann Remeikis	remeikis@andiamo-tel.com
Editor	(505) 898-0975
Keith Mead	kjkm@comcast.net
Trustees	
Bob MacLeod	(623) 935-4059
Marleny Castillo	(602) 441-4050
	corinc@hotmail.com
Mary Gannon	(623) 878-4173
	mggaz@cox.net

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 PROGRAM SCHEDULE

Wilella Stimmell, CSP Coordinator

On June 14, LOU ANN REMEIKIS and I presented an Orchids 101 program for the Arizona Rare Fruit Growers. AZRFG holds their monthly, evening meetings at the Cooperative Extension Office on Broadway Road, in Phoenix. This program was twice as long as the length of our school programs because so many members asked questions, and we answered them. (We received a thank you note from the AZRFG Program Chair, Jenny Hom, in which she stated: "The members of the Arizona Rare Fruit Growers are grateful for the splendid presentation from you and Lou Ann at our June 2007 meeting. I suspect that you have made a few converts for what, to us at least, is the most exotic field of horticulture. ... We were stunned by the wide array of gorgeous and spectacular varieties included in your exhibit... They would lighten one's attitude and brighten the atmosphere in any room of the house. You were very adept in answering our many questions, too. ...")

After our program ended, one of the female members of the group admitted to us that she had not attended an AZRFG meeting in 2 years, but when she discovered that the program would be about orchids, she was determined not to miss the presentation. Several of the male members in the audience asked questions that revealed that they had some knowledge about orchid culture. And a male member of the audience won the door prize plant! He was delighted!

FYI: **Kristin Huisinga** has informed us that the final editing has been done on **The Hopi Handbook of Flora and Fauna** that are of cultural significance to the Hopi people. This month (August) the Hopi elders will review the handbook, and then if they approve of the text and artwork, funding to publish the book will need to be found. Kristin will let us know when the handbook is available for sale!

For benefit of newer members, OSA donated funds to Hopi student interns, and we have a tri-fold display of some of the artwork done by the students. The display is always on view at our November show, but if someone would like me to bring the display board to a meeting, let me know! EVERYONE who has seen the artwork is astounded to learn that the drawings were done by students who had NO professional art training!.

Kristin was the first recipient of a scholarship donated by OSA to the Arizona Federation of Garden Clubs' Scholarship Fund. After completing her Master's Degree at Northern Arizona University, Kristin obtained a job working for the Hopi Cultural Preservation Office (a job which she enjoys and still holds). She and two colleagues have recently finished writing a book: RIVER and DESERT PLANTS of the GRAND CANYON. A portion of the proceeds from book sales will be donated "to nonprofit organizations dedicated to education and protection of the Grand Canyon". **(There is one orchid featured in the book. Can anyone guess which genus and species is included in the book?)** The 261 page book, published in 2006, is available from Mountain Press Publishing Company, P.O. Box 2399, Missoula, MT 59806. To order toll free, phone 1-800-234-5308. Anyone interested is also invited to send an e-mail to: info@mmpress.com, visit the website for Mountain Press at www.mountain-press.com or purchase a copy from a local bookstore. The paperback book costs \$22.00. If ordered from Mountain Press, include \$3.00 for shipping and handling.

I will bring my copy to our August 6th meeting.

W. Stimmell

JULY RAFFLE TABLE DONORS

Mary Alice Baumberger, Bob MacLeod, Julie Rathbun,

Demitris Sagias, Wilella Stimmell,

the family of Ken Gettys, and non-members Ken and Judy Vincent

THANK TO YOU ALL!

The University of Arizona Launches Major Scientific Research Initiative at Biosphere 2

By Mari N. Jensen

June 26, 2007

The University of Arizona on Tuesday announced a major new scientific initiative to tackle the grand challenges facing science and society, including global climate change, the fate of water and how energy travels through Earth's ecosystems.

The University will lease the 34.5-acre (14 hectare) Biosphere 2 campus in Oracle, Ariz. for a nominal annual fee to conduct such advanced research. A gift from the Philecology Foundation in Fort Worth, Texas, in conjunction with other grants and gifts, will fully support the University's research as well as the base costs of operating the Biosphere 2 facility for three years, with the potential for funding of up to 10 years.

"UA will develop Biosphere 2 into a center for research, outreach, teaching and life-long learning about Earth, its living systems and its place in the universe," said Joaquin Ruiz, dean of UA's College of Science. "The facilities and resources at this new campus will be an inspiring place for researchers to gather and to tackle problems that science and society will face now and in the future.

"At Biosphere 2, we will address not only the problems of our current condition, but also those of the 22nd century that are still below the horizon."

UA President Robert Shelton is excited by the potential that Biosphere 2 offers.

"The generous gift from the Philecology Foundation, founded by Edward P. Bass, substantially expands the University's ability to link teaching, scholarship and creativity to the needs of Arizona and our larger global community," President Shelton said. "Biosphere 2 will provide our faculty and students exceptional opportunities to address major environmental challenges facing Arizona and the Southwest such as global climate change, sustainability of water resources and land-use change. UA excels at the collaborative, multidisciplinary approach these global scientific issues require."

Under the UA's management, Biosphere 2 will continue as a major regional attraction and also serve as a laboratory for controlled scientific studies, an arena for scientific discovery and discussion, and a far-reaching public education center. B2 Earthscience, directed by UA Associate Professor of ecology and evolutionary biology Travis E. Huxman, will address issues of global environmental change using a multidisciplinary approach. B2 Institute, directed by UA Regents' Professor of physics and optical sciences Pierre Meystre, will conduct interdisciplinary programs to tackle scientific "Grand Challenges."

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In addition, the UA will operate the popular Biosphere 2 tours. From 1991-2007, the facility had 2.3 million visitors. Biosphere 2 will serve Arizona and the public through education and outreach at all levels -- K-12 and continuing through adults -- that highlights the exceptional research programs at the UA.

B2 Earthscience Director Huxman said, "As a research facility, Biosphere 2 is unique in its spatial scale. The facility provides us a bridge between our small-scale, controlled, laboratory-based understandings of earth processes and experiments in field settings where we cannot control all environmental conditions. Biosphere 2's size allows us to do controlled experimentation at an unprecedented scale.

"A unique aspect of this facility is its ability to support experiments that will provide us the missing link between laboratory and real world."

"I salute the University's deep commitment to conduct research in the Biosphere that will advance our understanding of the Earth, its biosphere and the impact upon it," said Ed Bass, co-founder of Biosphere 2 and president of the Philecology Foundation. "Biosphere 2 was initially created as a tool to probe the essential environmental questions we must ask in the 21st century, and I look forward with great anticipation to what UA will discover."

The controlled-environment facility, 3.14 acres (1.27 hectares) in area, is sealed from the earth below by a 500-ton (453,600 kg) welded stainless steel liner. Ninety-one feet (28 meters) at its highest point, it has 6,500 windows that enclose a volume of 7.2 million cubic feet (204,000 cubic meters) under glass.

One initial experiment addresses key interactions between plants and water. Within the facility, the researchers will build three hill slopes, each about 32 yards (30 meters) long and 22 yards (20 meters) wide, to test how water moves down, into and across the slopes.

"Then we will introduce plants and ask how having life on a landscape changes the behavior of water, both in the air and in the soil," Huxman said. "We are interested in how plants modify their environment -- how they change the amount of time a water molecule spends in the soil and how that affects the biogeochemical reactions that happen in soil only when it is wet."

The plants, grasses and shrubs, will be typical of the desert, grassland and savannah ecosystems that cover more than one-half of Arizona and about one-third of the Earth's total land area.

The Biosphere 2 facility will allow the researchers to control and measure what enters and leaves the huge experimental chamber. A large and sophisticated array of sensors deployed throughout the chamber's atmosphere and the hill slopes will monitor environmental factors, including water, carbon dioxide, temperature, trace gases and pH.

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Inside, the team will control temperature and rainfall to mimic the environmental conditions right outside the chamber. Just outside the chamber, the researchers will build replicas of the indoor hill slopes and conduct the same experiments. Mimicking the local conditions inside the chamber will let the scientists compare the gigantic indoor controlled-conditions experiment with the hill slopes outside that are exposed to natural conditions. All of these experiments will be linked to existing research projects throughout the Southwest.

"Quantifying these processes is key knowledge for managing our natural resources in periods of uncertainty now and in the future," Huxman said.

In addition to Huxman, the multidisciplinary research project involves UA researchers from a variety of disciplines, including College of Science researchers Scott R. Saleska, assistant professor of ecology and evolutionary biology, and Xubin Zeng, professor of atmospheric sciences; College of Agriculture and Life Sciences researchers David D. Breshears, professor of natural resources, and Jonathan D. Chorover, professor of soil, water and environmental science; and College of Engineering researcher Peter A. Troch, professor of hydrology and water resources.

The public will be able to watch the research as it unfolds, he said. "This is one of the only research facilities that will be completely open to the public. When people go on a tour, they won't just hear a wonderful description of the Biosphere 2's history. They will be able to watch research in action and learn what is going on moment-to-moment."

The state-of-the-art Biosphere 2 campus is located in the foothills of the Catalina Mountains, 35 miles from the UA campus. UA will manage and operate the controlled-environment facility itself, along with three conference rooms that can seat from 40 to 120 participants, a suite of 36 dual-occupancy offices, and modern housing facilities in a "village" of 28 furnished three-to five-bedroom casitas with fully equipped kitchens. The campus is fully networked.

In the 1800s, the property was part of the Samaniego's CDO Ranch. After several changes of ownership, it became a conference center in the 1960s and 1970s, first for Motorola, then for the UA. Space Biospheres Ventures bought the property in 1984 and began construction of the current facility in 1986. Human missions 1 and 2 lasted from 1991-1994. In 1994, Decisions Investments Corporation took over the property and Columbia University managed it from 1996-2003. The property was sold June 4, 2007, to CDO Ranching & Development, L.P.

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OSA August 2007 Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6 <i>OSA meeting</i> <i>7 PM</i>	7	8  <i>Ann Cherny</i> <i>Mona Brooks</i>	9	10  <i>Linda Bonds</i>	11
12	13	14	15  <i>Crystal Lu</i>	16	17	18
19  <i>Dick Nigbor</i>	20	21	22  <i>Mary Jean</i> <i>Wrobel</i>	23	24  <i>Joe Freasier</i>	25
26  <i>Rosalie Banasiak</i> <i>SHOW MTG</i>	27	28	29	30	31	



Orchid Society of Arizona

c/o Keith Mead

5425 Thomas Drive NE

Albuquerque, NM 87111

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