



The

Arizona Orchidist

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Founding Editor- Clarence S. Lindsten
1966

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NEXT OSA MEETING

The next regular society meeting
will be **Monday, August 4, 2008**
at **6:45 P.M.**

Meetings are held at the
Encanto Park Clubhouse
2605 N. 15th Ave., Phoenix, Arizona
North of Encanto Blvd. on 15th Ave.

OSA meetings are open to all
plant enthusiasts

Refreshments will be provided.

Snacks thoughtfully provided by
Carol Erwin and Kriss Beggs (donation)

Beverage by

Lou Ann Remeikis

Refreshment Coordinators:

Barbara Parnell (480) 948-0714

Mary Gannon (623) 878-4173

Carol Erwin (602) 996-1696

OSA BOARD MEETING

Board Meetings

are open to all members

The next Board meeting will be
Sunday, August 17th at NAVAHCS

GROWER ON CALL

Julie Rathbun

(602) 843-0223

August Program

REMEMBER MEETINGS NOW BEGIN AT 6:45 PM

PAIN AT THE PUMP

The impact of higher gas prices and the current recession on the commercial state of the orchid business.

Chris does NOT speak to orchid societies, but he makes an exception for us! For benefit of our newer members and guests: Chris majored in Ornamental Horticulture with minors in Botany and Marketing and graduated from California Polytechnic, Pomona. There are very few orchid nurseries in the US that are owned and successfully operated by third generation orchid growers. Gubler Orchids is one of those few nurseries.

Chris has been extremely generous with OSA. From him, and at rock-bottom prices, we purchase seedlings and supplies for our school programs, plants for sale at our shows, and he helps us fund our community service agenda by donating the proceeds from the adult programs we do each year at the Morongo Basin Orchid Festival. This year's festival will be held on Oct. 4th and 5th at Gubler Orchids. We will again happily participate, and this will be our 10th year of participation!

In May, Chris had knee surgery. His rehabilitation was a test of his patience, but he is sufficiently recovered to be able to travel.

The last time Chris spoke to us was in April, 2004. Welcome back, Chris!

W. Stimmell

Editor's Note: During the meeting, there will be a silent auction of plants from Gubler Orchids. For those who cannot attend the meeting, check out Gubler Orchids' website at www.gublers.com/.

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From the President's Desk

Julie Rathbun

I suspect that some of you who missed our July 7th meeting were vacationing in cooler climates. Madeleine Heberling, our youngest member, who lives in Godfrey, IL and attends school there, came to our July meeting. Since we only see Madeleine once a year, we are usually surprised at how tall she's grown since her previous visit. Auntie Lou Ann Remeikis brought Madeleine and her young friend, Kayla, to our meeting. Both young ladies seemed to enjoy our meeting, and both took home plants from the raffle table.

Barbara Parnell had arthroscopic knee surgery less than one week before our meeting, but she was present, peppy, and tended our July meeting refreshments' table! (She was wearing shorts so we could see her "colorful" right knee.)

Thanks to Lou Ann and Willie for bringing a few of their prized art work possessions to the meeting. One of the paintings brought by Lou Ann was painted by the Founding Editor of our newsletter, Clarence Lindsten. I'm not 100% certain, but I believe it might be the only painting in existence that was painted by Clarence.

A couple of framed lithographs that Willie brought were selected by her based on an album that contained stamps showing all 203 of the Reichenbachia series of 19th century plates. She said that during the 1980's, book dealers merely described the plates without pictures. Not wanting to buy something that she might not want to hang on the walls of her home, she bought the stamps and used them as a guide. (She also said that the late Deacon Bell also bought a complete set of Reichenbachia stamps and used them as a guide to help him decide which lithographs that he wanted to purchase.) Members were interested in looking at the album of stamps!

Among various other art work, Willie also brought her "most prized possession", a framed lithograph of a White House Orchid, a lithograph which was made available to the public in 1892. The original watercolor was painted by U.S. President Benjamin Harrison's first wife, Caroline. Willie wrote an article about Caroline and the painting in our June, 2005 newsletter, but none of us had seen the lithograph until our meeting.

I brought a framed photograph that was taken by my daughter, Kim, during her freshman year of high school. The orchid in the photo is one of my plants. I treasure the photo, but I've never found a good spot to hang it in my home, so no members who have been to my home had seen it.

I hope that your orchids have survived the summer! If it's any consolation, your plants "only" have to struggle one more month until our temperatures start to cool down a bit.

Chris Gubler, of Gubler Orchids, Landers, CA, will be our speaker at our August 4th meeting. You won't want to miss our August meeting!

And August 17th is our annual caravan trip to the Northern Arizona VA Health Care System greenhouse. If you haven't seen the greenhouse and are able to join our caravan to Prescott, you won't want to miss this event! If you can't join us but have donations for NAVAHCS, bring them to our August 4th meeting. During the meeting, I'll mention our departure time and meeting place on the 17th.

See you on August 4th!

Julie

Orchid Society of Arizona

www.orchidsocietyaz.org

The words “orchid” and “desert” aren’t often used in the same sentence, and it’s hard for me to imagine growing orchids in a place where annual rainfall averages 8” (20 cm) and the daily high temperature exceeds 100 degrees F (37.8 C) for three months each year. That challenge is met by the members of the Orchid Society of Arizona, an organization established in Phoenix over 45 years ago. The society’s web site contains very useful information, including a “Desert Culture” section with an article about native orchids of Arizona as well as numerous suggestions for how to grow orchids successfully in a hot, dry climate. The site also has an archive of monthly OSA newsletters dating back to 1998 and full of interesting articles such as how to make vanilla extract from vanilla beans, what makes blue orchids blue and home recipes for eliminating pests. Those with a literary orientation should check out the Poetry Corner for selections that are both clever and entertaining. The Photo Gallery also is very nice, but the most distinctive feature of the site is the Card Shoppe, where you can create your own e-Card, complete with a photograph of an orchid. Even if you can’t make the trip to Phoenix to attend a society meeting, you still may want to take a journey through the OSA web site.

Orchid Digest July, August, Sept. 2008

“Webwatch” Ron Kaufmann, PhD, Department of Marine Science and Environmental Studies, University of San Diego, page 186.

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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. , and The Nature Conservancy.

BRAZIL: BELO MONTE DAM

What will be left of the Xingu river for the people of Xingu?

Ademir Alfeu Federicci, murdered opponent of the Belo Monte Dam Brazil's state dam company, Electro-norte, is moving ahead with plans to build one of the Amazon's most controversial development projects - the Belo Monte dam on the Xingu River in the state of Pará. The Belo Monte dam replaces an old proposal for hydroelectric construction on the Xingu, abandoned over a decade ago in the face of massive international and national protest.

The Belo Monte reservoir will flood 400 square kilometers of agricultural lands and forest and will directly impact the Paquiçamba reserve of the Juruna indigenous people. Thousands of families will be relocated. Yet Electronorte launched a public relations campaign to discredit opponents advertising Belo Monte as a 'blessing from God'.

Belo Monte will open the way for a series of large dams on the Xingu and tributaries that will impact on forests and many forest peoples. Belo Monte will generate no energy during the 3-5 dry months of the year making it one of the most inefficient dams in the world. Other dams upstream will be needed to guarantee an adequate, year-round flow of water into Belo Monte's turbines.

The Brazilian government is now openly stating its plans to construct the Altamira (6,588 MW) Ipixuna (1900 MW), Kakraimoro (1490 mil MW) and Jarina (620 MW) dams upstream from Belo Monte. Various Kayapó reserves and the homelands of peoples such as the Araweté, Assuriní and Arara would be flooded. Altamira alone will flood more than 6,000 km² of forests.

In August 2001, Brazilian Energy Minister Jose Jorge announced that dam construction was due to start in early 2002. However, a legal ruling recently declared the completed Environmental Impact Assessment for Belo Monte invalid because Electronorte had not conducted competitive bidding for the EIA contract. In addition, the environmental consulting company contracted by Electronorte is implicated in a fraud scandal surrounding the Araguaia-Tocantins industrial waterway project. With or without completed environmental studies, Jorge insists the project will be offered to private companies on a concession basis no later than April 2002, so that the dam may be completed by 2008.

The new dam is expected to cost \$3 billion and will be the second largest hydroelectric dam in the country with a capacity of 11,000MW. In terms of installed generating capacity, Belo Monte would be among the world's three largest dams. A further \$2.5 billion would be needed to construct transmission lines from the new dam.

Electronorte expects to contribute 30% of project costs while private investors will provide the remaining 70%. The Brazilian National Development Bank (BNDES) could finance up to 40% of private contributions . . .

Continued on page 5

However, investors could be put off by Belo Monte's association with the problematical upstream dams on which Belo Monte depends.

The massive expansion of hydroelectric production on the Xingu River is part of the Brazilian government's Ten Year Plan to intensively develop the Amazon region. Hydroelectric production is touted as the only way out of Brazil's current energy crisis. Opponents argue that Brazil's model of development is unsustainable, shortsighted, and incompatible with the region's needs. They recommend meeting the country's future energy needs through more cost-effective investment in energy efficiency and conservation and in alternative energy sources including co-generation, biomass and wind.

Critics also fear that the Ten Year Plan will intensify the war for Amazonian resources in which indigenous peoples and traditional communities find themselves lined up against powerful landowners, cattle ranchers and industrialists seeking to exploit their land without heed to social and environmental costs.

The undeclared resource war being waged in the Amazon against opponents of industrial mega-projects has cost the lives of six activists in the last three months. Among them was Belo Monte's most prominent critic, Ademir Alfeu Federicci (known as Dema), shot dead on 25 August 2001. Dema was an outspoken leader of the Movement for the Development of the Transamazon and Xingu (MDTX), a broad-based grassroots forum against the Belo Monte dam. Dema recently denounced corruption among Xingu politicians and government officials who stand to gain from Electronorte's compensation payments.

Amazonian NGOs spotlight the climate of impunity and fear surrounding the Belo Monte project as reminiscent of the dark days of Brazil's military dictatorship. Instead of opening serious democratic debate about the project, Electronorte has intimidated opposition groups by filming their gatherings.

Social and environmental impacts of the Belo Monte dam are foretold in the destruction wreaked by existing Amazonian dams such as Tucuruí, built by Electronorte in the 1980s. Inadequately compensated, the 40,000 people displaced by Tucuruí were pushed deeper into poverty while submerged rotting vegetation from the dam now contributes one-sixth of Brazil's total greenhouse gas emissions according to the National Institute for Amazonian Research. Electronorte claims that hydroelectric power production is 'pollution-free'.

For Xingu's poor farmers, temporary employment created by the dam is not a viable replacement for lost agricultural lands and the river's fish supply. Considered an 'obstacle' to business interests, indigenous peoples are particularly vulnerable. Mega-projects typically confront indigenous communities with disease, loss of food and clean water sources, cultural disintegration and human rights abuses by lumber cutters, migrant workers and land speculators. The indirect and long term impacts of Belo Monte are of even greater concern as other unsustainable industries such as aluminum and metal refineries, soy plantations, logging, and mining expand into the area.

Electronorte's approach to Belo Monte's first Environmental Impact Assessment and project licensing was called into question for several reasons. Even before the project received its first license, Electronorte had already reached agreement with the state governor on its compensation package for local authorities. Critics also decried the narrow geographical focus, limited scientific scope and superficial analytical methods of the dam's EIA. Moreover, there were no consultation mechanisms in place for affected populations.

The swelling opposition movement to Belo Monte is calling for alternative long-term projects such as eco-tourism, fishing and recreation that effectively administer the Amazon's exceptional biodiversity. Arguing that most Xingu people cannot afford the electricity provided by Belo Monte, they seek sustainable development alternatives to meet the real needs of the region's inhabitants who are among the most marginalized in Brazil.

Weeks before his death, Dema wrote an appeal to the world about Belo Monte entitled 'SOS Xingu' asking "What will be left of the Xingu river for the people of Xingu?"

Sources

Movimento Pelo Desenvolvimento da Transamazonica e Xingu email: fvpp@amazoncoop.com.br

Forum of the Eastern Amazon email: guilherme@fase-pa.org.br

Comissao Pastoral da Terra email: cptam@argo.com.br

Cepasp email: cepasp@skorpionet.com.br

International Rivers Network website: www.irn.org

Reuters

Inter Press Service

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July Raffle Donors

Mary Alice Baumberger, Bob MacLeod, OSA, Harry Parnell, Wilella Stimmell,
and Orchids Alive

THANKS TO YOU ALL FOR YOUR SUPPORT

NAVAHCS WISH LIST FOR August 17th, 2008 FIELD TRIP :

For the nursing home -

- *personal size toiletries (nothing containing alcohol)
- *books (nothing war-related)
- *puzzles
- *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

*****To donate funds in lieu of items, a check should be made payable to NAVAHCS, and on the memo line, write: Acct. #GPF 9017. If you mail the check, send it to: Paula Moran, Northern AZ Health Care System, 500 N. Highway 89, Prescott, AZ 86313-5001**

For benefit of new members: Our annual field trip to Prescott is an all-day trip. (We depart Phoenix in the morning and return in late afternoon.) Bill Starkman, VA Greenhouse Supervisor, always has coffee waiting for us when we arrive. We can choose to tour the greenhouse, check the veggies in the garden adjacent to the greenhouse, and/or check the trees in the orchard for apples and peaches. After we help bring patients to the picnic area, all of us (staff, patients, and OSA members) enjoy lunch which is provided by OSA. (The picnic area is located near the greenhouse.) After lunch, before we hold an abbreviated board meeting, we help return the patients to the nursing home. And after the board meeting, we head back to Phoenix.

Patients, staff members, and OSA members always enjoy this annual event.

OSA August 2008 Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4 OSA Meeting 6:45 PM Kimberly Levingston 	5	6	7	8  Ann Cherny	9
10  Linda Bonds	11	12	13	14	15  Crystal Lu	16
17 NAVAHCS Caravan	18	19	20	21	22	23
24  Joe Freasier	25 31	26	27	28	29	30



Orchid Society of Arizona

c/o Keith Mead

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