



The Arizona Orchidist

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The Orchid Society of Arizona, Inc.
Founding Editor- Clarence S. Lindsten,
1966
Volume 38 August 2001 Number 8

NEXT OS A MEETING

Meetings are held at the
Valley Garden Center
1809 N. 15th Ave., Phoenix, Arizona
Phone (602) 252-2120

The next regular society meeting will be
Thursday, August 2, 2001 at 7:00 p.m.
OSA meetings are open to all
plant enthusiasts.

Refreshments will be provided.
This month Beverages will be
furnished by: Lucy Redmond-Hall
Edibles will be furnished by:
Connie Hall and Valerie Rekve

Janet Jurn,
Refreshment Coordinator
(623) 386-2741

NEXT OS A BOARD MEETING

The next OSA board meeting will be
Sunday, July 29, 2001 at 1:00 p.m.
At the Northern Arizona Veteran's
Administration Health Care Systems
Facility in Prescott.
Meet at VGC at 7:30 a.m.
Details on page three.

GROWER ON CALL

Julie Rathbun
(602) 843-0223
E-mail at jandfent@prodigy.net

August Program Culture Tips on Australian Orchids: Dendrobium and Sarcophilus

George Kenner of Kenner & Sons, Australian Orchids, La Mesa, CA, will present a slide program which will also include a mini-travelogue of his most recent orchid expedition to the Australian Outback.

A retired United States Marine Corps officer, George has been growing orchids for over 50 years. Since 1989, he has specialized almost exclusively in Australian native orchids. He has served as President of the San Diego County Orchid Society and as Vice President/Treasurer of the Botanic Garden of San Diego. As a Graduate Gemologist of the Gemological Institute of America, George also lectures on Australian gemstones such as diamonds, opals, and sapphires.

OSA members who were a part of our field trip to the San Diego Orchid Fair on September 27, 1997, will recall that after we departed the Fair at Quail Botanical Gardens, George hosted a sumptuous feast for us at his home in La Mesa. And some OSA members will also recall that George was the speaker at our March, 1994 meeting.

Members and visitors won't want to miss this opportunity to hear George speak on Australian Dendrobium and Sarcophilus. G'day, mate!

GEORGE WILL BE BRINGING PLANTS FOR A SILENT AUCTION
which will be held during our meeting!

OSA members can check out Kenner & Sons Dendrobium and Sarcophilus Lists at:

<http://downunderorchids.com/dens.html> and

<http://downunderorchids.com/sarcos.html>

George will be happy to bring special requests for members if the plants are available.

W. Stimmell

This issue of "The Arizona Orchidist" is dedicated in memory of Dr. Robert Hull, Sunswept Laboratories, Studio City, CA. Bob died on July 6, 2001. His funeral service was held on July 12 in Weston, Missouri.

A sympathy card was sent on behalf of OSA members to Bob's family in Missouri. And in memory of Bob's generosity, OSA has made a donation to the ORCHID DIGEST, Jack Fowlie Color Fund, in Bob's name. (The late Dr. J.A. Fowlie, longtime editor of ORCHID DIGEST, assisted Sunswept's breeding program, and Bob accompanied Jack on orchid expeditions.)

In January, 1993, Bob was the speaker at our meeting. Bob was also very generous in his donations of flasks and plants which generated income in support of our community

The Arizona Orchidist is published monthly by the

Orchid Society of Arizona, Inc.

Direct inquiries to our website at:

[Http://welcome.to/orchidsocietyaz](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., and The Nature Conservancy.

NEWS: NEW ORCHID REGISTRAR APPOINTED

The office address of the International Registration Authority for orchid hybrids has changed. Please ensure that all correspondence is sent to the new International Orchid Registrar, Mr. Julian M. H. Shay, at the following address:

International Orchid Registrar, 2 Albert Street, Stapleford, Nottingham NG9 8DB, England.

E-mail: orcereg@rhs.org.uk



From the President's Desk

Lou Ann Remeikis

Want to become more active in YOUR Orchid Society of Arizona? It is time again to put together this year's nominating committee for the Society election, to be held during the November meeting. If you are interested in a Board position or assisting with the nominating committee, please let me know of your willingness to participate (Lou Ann Remeikis, 602-803-6889). To avoid conflicts of interest, OSA's by-laws indicate that to be eligible to hold a Board position, you must be a member of OSA and not in an officer's position on any other orchid society's Board of Directors. If you, or someone you know, qualifies as an OSA Board member nominee and wishes to contribute to the continued success of the Orchid Society of Arizona, I want to hear from YOU soon!

Anyone wishing to participate in the trip to Prescott (Northern Arizona Veteran's Administration Health Care System) should meet at the Valley Garden Center between 7:15 a.m. and 7:30 a.m. on Sunday, July 29th. The carpooling caravan will leave the VGC no later than 8:00 a.m., and will arrive in Prescott (hopefully) no later than 10:00 a.m. Your Board members will be delivering much needed donations to the greenhouse operation and any collected personal items for the residents of the facility. OSA furnishes lunch for the NAVAHCS participants and our members who represent the Society. The Board will conduct a business meeting after lunch and will depart for Phoenix before it gets too dark. We do need to have an approximate head count so we can order the appropriate quantity of food and beverages. If you plan to attend, please call me (602-803-6889) so we can plan the carpooling arrangements and food accordingly.

If you receive this newsletter in time, and you have anything you are willing to donate to the veterans, contact your nearest Board member so arrangements can be made to collect your donations. For those of you who are familiar with OSA's efforts in supporting the NAVAHCS, the same type of donations are needed by the residents as were needed in the previous years. If you are new to OSA, the Society and our members support the veterans who live at the facility by donating items in need. Appropriate items that make the residents very happy are such things as toiletries, current magazines, books, articles of clothing, puzzles, games, hobby items, coffee makers, television sets to name a few. Men and women live at the facility and all will benefit by your donations. OSA donates needed items for the greenhouse operation, however should you have some pots, fir bark or orchids you are willing to part with for a good cause, either now or in the future, don't hesitate to contact your "friendly neighborhood Board member" to arrange for pickup of your donations! We will make sure your donations are delivered to the veterans.

OSA has made a suggestion to the Arizona Federation of Garden Clubs (AFGC) which will salvage a large sum of postage dollars and a few trees in the process. We have requested that the Greenleaf Bulletin be sent to the current OSA President, who will make the bulletin available at the regular monthly meetings. As I stated earlier, this will save the AFGC's treasury a great deal of money and, on a conservation level, will save some of our disappearing forests. Any conservation efforts that we, as a human race, can participate in will make a difference – particularly if others follow in our footsteps!

The first Orchids in Toyland show planning meeting was held on July 15, 2001, at Rhonda Woodward's home. I believe that everyone in attendance was pleased with the progress made in just a few short hours. Collectively, we have some creative minds and hope to bring our visions to fruition this coming November. Future show planning meetings will obviously be held, and I hope YOU will be able to join in on the fun and bring other fresh ideas to the table. Each year our show and sale has improved and this year's theme has so many possibilities. Look and listen for the next show planning meeting announcement!

The Santa Barbara Orchid Estate Show and Sale will be only a memory by the time you receive your copy of the newsletter. I'm sure you will hear all about it from other members who went on the field trip. As long as the weather stays good on the 21st, I believe everyone who goes will have a hard time deciding what orchids to buy! From my previous orchid buying field trips, the hardest decisions to make were which orchids NOT to buy. I definitely ran out of money before I ran out of orchids I wanted to buy!

I'm glad to report that a few members, who I know have been under the weather recently, are doing much better. Julie Rathbun came through her surgery well and she is home and doing exactly what the doctor told her to do, right Julie? Dolores MacLeod is gaining her strength back after a bout with pneumonia, however, Dolores and Bob had to cancel their vacation to Sweden! Best wishes to Norma Kafer in New Mexico. Kelly Thomas is getting along pretty well with her walking cane, but she may have to undergo surgery to correct the ligament damage. We'll keep you posted on her.

If you know of any other members who are ailing, I would appreciate you advising me or our Editor, Ainsley LaCour. We want all of our members to know that we think about them, and wish them a fast and speedy recovery. To my knowledge, psychic abilities do not exist in any of our members, and we have to rely on other members to keep us up-to-date with our extended family.

I look forward to seeing you at the August meeting, unless you are planning on going to Santa Barbara or Prescott at which time I'll see you sooner. Until then...

Happy Growing,

Lou Ann Remeikis
President



Welcome to OSA's
newest members!

Dale and Jeanne James
and
Robin Warner



Orchid calendars for 2002 have arrived and will be on sale at our August meeting. These are 16 month calendars which begin with the month of September, 2001, and were published by Avalanche. Price is \$10.00.

Thank you for your donations
to the July raffle table



Jane Heckel, Scott Emerson, Bob MacLeod,
Lucy Redmond-Hall, Ainsley and Bryan
LaCour, Steve and Sally Grass, Ken and
Judy Vincent, Pam and Bruce Knapp,
Wilella Stimmell, and OSA.

The results are in- Your top 10 list of favorite orchid reference books compiled from OSA member's e-mail responses:

EDITOR'S
NOTES



1. *Home Orchid Growing*, Rebecca Northen
2. *The Illustrated Encyclopedia of Orchids*, Pridgeon (Ed.)
3. *The Manual of Cultivated Orchid Species*, Bechtel, Helmut, Cribb, Launert
4. *Orchid Biology, Reviews and Perspectives*, Arditti (Ed.)
5. *Ortho's All About Orchids*, Rogers (Ed.)
6. *The Cattleyas and their Relatives*, series, Carl Withner
7. *Orchid Pests and Diseases*, American Orchid Society
8. *Orchids As House Plants*, Rebecca Northen
9. *Fundamentals of Orchid Biology*, Joseph Arditti
10. *Phalaenopsis Culture, A Worldwide Survey*, Bob Gordon

For all members without e-mail access that would like to participate in the reference book survey, bring your top 10 list to the August meeting and they will be published in the September issue of *The Orchidist*.

21st Annual Santa Barbara International Orchid Fair

Some might call it Christmas in July. Wish lists in hand, 23 OSA members made the annual pilgrimage to California to attend the 21st Annual Santa Barbara International Orchid Fair and a smaller festival at Cal Orchids next door.

Rafael, our wonderful driver from last year, had the bus waiting for us upon our arrival at the Burbank airport. After a quick head count, we were on our way.

As we rode the tree-lined streets of Burbank, many members "oohed" and "aahed" at the marvels of non-desert vegetation, wishing aloud that they could afford to live in Southern California. That is, until we were stuck in our first of many traffic jams of the day moments after entering the freeway. Suddenly, Phoenix didn't look so bad.

Two hours later, the bus came to a complete stop in front of the Santa Barbara Orchid Estate and our group hit the ground running. Within minutes, OSA members fanned out, making our presence known to the vendors.

The long-term relationships OSA members have formed with different orchid growers are a great benefit to our group. Many vendors inquired with Del Pace as to whether our group would attend the show this year. Del, with an eye on her watch, assured our out-of-state friends we were on our way. And more than one vendor lowered the price upon seeing our name badges. (I believe they fear the wrath of Willie.)

Three hours later, the sounds of bubble wrap, masking tape, and shredded paper

filled the bus as we meandered through even more traffic on our journey back to the Burbank airport. We arrived just in time to board the plane.

In the end, we all came home with some new treasures to add to our collections. Only one person (who shall remain nameless) had so many orchids that she needed to check the box as luggage rather than carry it on the plane. (As an aside to those who witnessed this person packing 22 fairly large orchids into a box smaller than a golf-club bag, nothing was damaged in transit, not even the vanda blooms.)

If you missed the trip, remember there's always next year!

- K e l l y T h o m a s



Saturday, July 29, 2001 Northern Arizona Veteran's Health Care Center in Prescott:

Greenhouse supplies, personal items, clothing, orchid care books, plants needed

Donations/ Items Needed

**Community
Service
Opportunities**

The ASVH gift shop: Cans of soda pop, Individual size cartons of juice

School programs: 10 1/2" x 13 1/2" plastic grid sheets, clear, 7 mesh, purchased from craft stores

Orchids in Toyland Show: New unwrapped toys to donate to Toys for Tots organization

Q. What would cause the petals and sepals on one of my phalaenopsis to stick together and not open fully? – **Mildred Dzikas, 923 Baldwin Road, Woodbridge, Connecticut 06525.**

A. Assuming that this is a plant that has flowered normally before, there are several possible causes. Atmospheric dryness can prevent normal opening, and this is certainly a possibility in your area during cold winter months. It can be a passing anomalous blooming, or it can be genetic. It could also be that the plant is exuding sap and the sticky material is causing the flower parts to stick. - **Ned Nash, Director of Conservation, American Orchid Society (e-mail TheAOS@compuserve.com) Orchids- The Magazine of the American Orchid Society, Q&A May 2000**

CITES Update: Ban on Flasks Utilizing Agar with charcoal

Ban on Flasks utilizing agar with charcoal, which was to have gone into effect July 15, 2001, has been postponed.

In a letter to the American Orchid Society, Bud Petit de Mange, CITES and Plant Inspection Station Coordinator, states, " We have decided to postpone any further actions regarding agar with charcoal until the Center for Plant

Health Science and Technology (CPHST) completes an evaluation of this practice and provides us with its recommendations. When the work being performed by CPHST is completed, a determination will be made as to whether or not a change to the current restrictions is warranted. However, during the interim, plants imported on agar with charcoal will be allowed entry subject to in-

spection and any other restrictions that may apply. I will contact you again after the work being performed by CPHST is completed. Thank you again for your willingness to make this decision known to the members of the American Orchid Society.

(Reference: <http://orchidweb.org/>)

OPEN HOUSE AT WHITE RIVER ORCHIDS

To clear out her inventory of plants, Janice Hanson will hold an Open House at White River Orchids

August 11 and August 12

P.O. Box 1682, Buckley, WA 98321, phone: (253) 862-6015,

e-mail: <orchids@wolfenet.com> website: <http://www.whiteriverorchids.com>

Janice is also including all plants from her private collection.

A copy of her plant list will be available at the August 2 meeting.



On June 22, BRYAN LACOUR, JAY MUNN, and I presented three orchid programs for children ages 9 and older, in the gymnasium at the Thornwood Boys & Girls Club, 301 E. Western Ave., Avondale.

The youngsters admired our blooming display plants, and then, with our assistance, they set to work repotting their seedlings. All seemed to enjoy their introduction to orchids. After one child discovered a juvenile earthworm in the old potting mix, at least a dozen girls passed the worm around so that they could each hold it in their hands. They seemed to have no experiences with worms, and they were clearly fascinated with this one.

The pots from which the seedlings were removed and the old fir bark mix, were left in the custody of a Thornwood staff member, who intended to use the recycled items for a gardening project.

We don't know if Avondale is a high crime area, but the children felt the need to write their names in three places: on the plastic jug mini-greenhouses, on the plant pots, and on the outside of the plastic bags that covered their greenhouses.

Due to summer vacations, fewer OSA program team members were available to assist with the Thornwood presentations. Several Thornwood staff members helped the children repot their seedlings.

Charlotte Buchanan, Thornwood Branch Manager, observed the children while they were working with

their seedlings. She assumed OSA received grant money to fund our school programs and was impressed when we informed her that no grant money funds our community service agenda.

In an e-mail message we received from Charlotte, she thanked us for bringing orchids to the Thornwood boys and girls and said: "The kids are still talking about their plants!"

Prior to the Thornwood programs, our lava rock supply was depleted. SPECIAL THANKS TO BRYAN LACOUR for donating his time and the use of his truck in order to replenish our lava rock supply!!

Although JULIE RATHBUN was not available to assist with the Thornwood programs, before she left town, she cut and shortened the 90 pots we needed to use in the programs on the 22nd.

On June 29, JAY MUNN, JULIE RATHBUN, and I presented orchid programs in the art room at Stewart Boys & Girls Club, 6629 W. Clarendon Ave., Phoenix. We welcomed the assistance of LUCY BRADLEY, Extension Agent, Urban Horticulture, Maricopa County, and EMMA FIGUEIRA, Youth and Community Gardening Program Coordinator, U of A, Maricopa County Cooperative Extension. Lucy and Emma knew of OSA's school programs and asked us if they might be permitted to observe us in action. They "observed" for a matter of minutes. When they witnessed the enthusiasm of the children, the ladies, with no prompting from us, became OSA program

helpers!

With the assistance of Lucy and Emma and two Stewart staff members, we were able to give the children one-on-one help in repotting their Phalaenopsis seedlings.

The children in the first of the three programs, were 1st grade students who were very eager to get started working with their seedlings. While they admired the blooming plants, they were more anxious to get busy with their seedlings than to listen to further commentary on the display plants. One boy said that he didn't mean to be rude or show disrespect, but he would really like to start working. The repotting commenced immediately! Later, another boy observed the seedlings in a plant tray and asked where the seedling "factory" was located. Kids really do say the darndest things!

Following the programs, both ladies from the Cooperative Extension sent e-mail messages and thanked us for including them in our presentations. "We had a wonderful time, and it was great to see first hand what a super job OSA is doing with young people! Thanks for all your hard work!"

The next community service programs are scheduled for September. That schedule will appear in our September newsletter.





Ants play an important role in the life of many orchids, both in the wild and even in cultivation. Few people realize that the total combined weight of ants and termites in tropical forests by far outweighs the weight of all the other animals in the forest. Ants form many intimate relationships with plants, because they either use them for food or use them as places to herd their farm animals: aphids, scale, and mealy-bugs that can be milked for their secretions. Some plants provide shelter and nests for the ants. In return the plants gain by having ants that will protect them from other herbivores that could damage them. Plants also gain by utilizing the ant droppings and other debris that ants leave among their roots.

You will notice that orchids have not been mentioned yet, but orchids and ants also have all these interactions. One thing that many orchids do that hobbyists may be aware of but not know the significance of has to do with the development of flower spikes. The spikes of many species secrete droplets of sugar solution that make them sticky. Some scientists believe that the ants collect the sugar and in turn patrol the spikes and protect the buds from herbivores.

In many species of orchids, ants build their nests among and between the intertwined masses of roots. They may incorporate soil particles as well as decaying vegetation into the walls of the nest. It is also thought that these and perhaps the ants' droppings and nest detritus eventually become available as nutrients for the host plants. Attempts to dislodge the orchid plant arouse the ants that come out to protect their domain. Many an orchid collector has encountered ferocious ants while trying to loosen a plant of a tree limb.

Myrmecophily (literally ant-lover) is the term used to describe plants that have evolved adaptations that facilitate their interactions with ants. A famous example is several species of *Schomburgkia*, such as *S. tibicinis* where the foot-long pseudobulbs are naturally hollow and are provided with a basal pore to allow ants to take up residence within the stem. The dried hollow pseudobulbs are said to have been used as musical instruments.

Generally there are few observations about other roles that ants play in the flower biology of orchids, but their component may be much larger than previously suspected.

We know of one interesting example. In Zimbabwe we have seen large black ants patrolling *Aerangis verdickii*, and in those populations there is very little herbivore damage. Here the orchids do not provide shelter, but the flowers make copious amounts of nectar. Ants rob the nectaries during periods of drought. During those seasons, fewer flowers get pollinated. However, the orchids make up for those losses during the rainy years when the ants no longer rob the nectaries, and more than usual numbers of flowers are visited by pollinators. In other non-orchids, ants are very common, scurrying around the flowers not only patrolling them but also pirating nectar. It is surprising how few observations orchid biologists have made about the ants on wild orchid flowers.

Harold Koopowitz is the Associate Editor of the *Orchid Digest*.

Orchid Digest, Volume 65, No. 2, April-May-June, 2001. p. 87.



If you do not share Harold Koopowitz's view of the virtues of ants, Jim Brasch, Ph.D., Director, Plant Hormones Canada, offers the following recommendations in the *OrchidGuide Digest V3, #152*:

For ants in your greenhouse pots, make a fairly thick paste of borax and carnation milk. Mix thoroughly and drop with a teaspoon onto wax paper. Let dry for 2-3 days depending on your temperature. Put one pellet in each inflicted pot. These will survive many waterings and are safe to use. Ants carry the borax back to nests and should disappear in a week or two. I suppose that I should add that these are for most temperate zone ants and not tropical monsters!!!

- A. LaCour

HAPPY IN HAWAII:

JENNIFER BUSCH HAPPILY REPORTS THAT ALMOST EVERY HORIZONTAL SPACE IN HER NEW HOME IS COVERED WITH ORCHIDS AND THAT A SHADE HOUSE IS ON THE WAY

FYI

The 4th OSA membership roster update page will be available at the August meeting

VIRTUAL GOODIES



<http://www.pe.net/~profpam/pag3.html>
Everything Orchid Management System


Virtual Goodies: <http://www.pe.net/~profpam/pag3.html> - This is the website of Pam and Bruce Knapp, visitors to July's OSA meeting. Pam's website will introduce you to "Everything Orchid Management System" which you can purchase. This system allows you to keep a detailed record of your orchid collection, including photographs of your plants in bloom, and assistance tools such as culture information on the various orchids you would find in your personal collection. Check it out!

(P/S - Pam and Bruce donated a program CD to July's Raffle Table!)
Any questions about the program can be directed to Pam at profpam@pe.net.



OSA August 2001 Calendar



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 <i>OSA Meeting</i> 7:00 p.m.	3	4
5	6	7	8 <i>Ann Cherny</i>  <i>James Labrie</i>	9	10	11
12	13  <i>Ellin Labrie</i>	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21  <i>Glena Petro</i>	22	23  <i>Vic Polk</i>	24  <i>Joe Freasier</i>	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	



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