



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, December 6, 2004 at 7:00 p.m.
OSA meetings are open to all
plant enthusiasts

Refreshments will be provided.
This month beverages and snacks will
be provided by :
EVERYONE !

DON'T FORGET TO BRING TREATS TO SHARE

Refreshment Coordinators:
Julie Langston
Ramona Jungwirth

OSABOARD MEETING

The OSA board meeting will be held
at 1:00 PM , November 28th
Hosted by
Sharon Davis

Please phone Sharon for directions to her
home

Board meetings are open to all OSA
members

GROWER ON CALL

Norma Kafer
nfk54401@cox.net



December Program

10th ANNUAL LIVE and SILENT AUCTION

*Since 1994 this annual event has been one of the years most anticipated activities. Please join us for an evening of feasting and friendship. We will have a wide variety of orchid plants and orchid related items on which to bid. Doug Baldwin has agreed to be our auctioneer again this year. Don't forget to bring "finger foods" to share . If you bring items for either the live or silent auction please plan to arrive early. Donors should indicate if they would like the item removed from the auction and returned if the item does not elicit their minimum bid. This is our last fund raiser of the year. The success of this event allows us to continue our community service activities. All proceeds go into the OSA treasury . Bring your appetite and your pocket book ! It's a great time to holiday shop. The auction will begin **promptly at 7:00 PM** . Guests are always welcome.*

ELECTION RESULTS

The slate of officers for the 2005 OSA Board of Directors was unanimously approved at the November meeting.
The Board wishes to thank the nominating committee, Suzanne Cramer, Julie Rathbun, and Mike Davis (Chairman) for their efforts.

It is with sadness that we note the passing of Pearl Bays on November 8th. Pearl was a member of OSA for thirty-four years.
We extend our thoughts and prayers to Lois Sauer and family during this time of loss.

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From the President's Desk

Norma Kafer

It seems like the closer we get to the holidays the busier we become and Oct. was no exception. Willie and I were invited by the Arizona Highlands Garden Conference to speak about orchids. This annual event is sponsored by the Master Gardeners of Coconino, Gila, and Yavapai counties. There were about 60 people who attended the talk and Willie did her superb job of entertaining and educating the audience. We even had a couple of county agents who attended. Julie Rathbun helped Willie with transporting the plants. My sister and her boyfriend have an orchard in Clarkdale so I gave them some cymbidiums that I had won in the raffle. They have a greenhouse in Flagstaff where they live.

Then October 27th and 28th four of us traveled up to Kingman to do school programs. Teddy Cohen, Sharon Davis, Willie Stimmell and I took two vehicles and arrived a bit before noon on Wed. This trip turned into another adventure. During the drive up to Kingman we had some light rain, by the time we arrived in Kingman the rain had started to come down pretty good and it was cold and windy. We arrived at the High School north of town in Golden Valley and it was still raining. We had a very nice first class. By the second class, things had deteriorated and it was chaos. Evidently the rain had wrecked havoc with the dirt roads and the parents had been called to pick up their children. And the children had to go to the office to call their parents all the while the loud speaker was announcing which children needed to come to the office or that their parents were waiting for them. We managed the best that we could. The third class that day did not meet so we went to the motel cold and tired.

The next day we went to a school which was near the county extension office. The rain had stopped and we managed to do all three programs. The students in the first class seemed pretty interested asking about Botany class next year in high school and wanted to order some orchids in bloom. They also kept in mind that we provide scholarships. So, maybe we peaked a life long interest in plants.

Our special thanks go to Barbara Kuzma, Mohave County Extension Office, who made things SO easy for us. We didn't have to scrounge around to find out what room we would be teaching in and she had all of the teachers prepared. Dennis Schroeder, a master gardener, who owns a motel was as hospitable to us this time as he has been on a previous trip. Our thanks to them.

Thanks to Aaron Hicks for providing transportation for Dr. Root Gorelick, our November 1 speaker, for providing a Proxima projector that was necessary for the speaker's colorful Power Point presentation, and for treating Root to dinner before our meeting. Those who attended our Nov. 1 meeting enjoyed Root's presentation of his rafting adventure on the Colorado River in the Grand Canyon. Root proved with his excellent photography that *Epipactis gigantea* is found in Marble Canyon!

We're all looking forward to the annual December Auction. Doug Baldwin has again graciously volunteered to be the auctioneer. Don't forget to think of something special in the way of food to share. I know we have some wonderful cooks out there. This is a way to say "thank you" to those who always sign up to bring food from those who do not bring food. Christmas is all about sharing. . We expect to have our usual boisterous time -- "see you at the auction".

NOVEMBER RAFFLE TABLE DONATIONS



Alex Arce, Teddy Cohen, Shirley Engberg, Bob MacLeod, OSA,
Cynthia Schnitzer, Wilella Stimmell, and non-member, May Tran



SPECIAL THANKS TO ALL

COMMUNITY SERVICE REPORT

by Wilella Stimmell, CSP Coordinator

On October 18, NORMA KAFER, JULIE RATHBUN, and I presented an Orchids 101 program at the ARIZONA HIGHLANDS GARDEN CONFERENCE. The two-day event was sponsored by the Yavapai County Cooperative Extension and was held in the conference rooms at Cliff Castle Lodge, in Camp Verde. We were pleasantly surprised that so many attendees were interested in the cultivation of orchids. Quite a few members of the audience had both good and bad experiences with their orchids, and we tried to answer as many questions as we could in the time allotted for our program. A few months ago, Nora Graf, Yavapai County Cooperative Extension, had requested an assortment of orchid culture sheets. She included copies of our culture sheets in the notebook which each person received when he/she registered for the conference. We were pleasantly surprised when we spotted two members (Carol Clapp and Elin Doehne) of the Arizona Federation of Garden Clubs, in our audience. During the conference, Carol Clapp, Tucson, presented a program on cacti. And Elin Doehne, Sedona, presented a program on Arizona's wildflowers. The winner of our doorprize plant was a gardener who lives in Sedona. To say that she was delighted to win the plant is an understatement!

On October 27th, TEDDY COHEN, SHARON DAVIS, NORMA KAFER, and I presented programs for 9th grade science students at BLACK MOUNTAIN ELEMENTARY in Golden Valley, and on October 28, we presented 3 programs for advanced biology students at KINGMAN HIGH SOUTH. These programs were arranged for us by BARBARA KUZMA, Mohave County Cooperative Extension. We certainly appreciate the time and effort she put into scheduling programs for us. Barbara also helped us by locally procuring lava rocks so that we did not have to haul them from Phoenix. Even without hauling lava rocks, it was necessary for us to use TWO vehicles in order to accommodate all the display plants, and the seedlings and potting supplies needed for 195 students. JULIE RATHBUN did not directly participate in the Kingman programs, but she nevertheless helped in advance by cutting (reducing in height) ALL 195 pots that we would use during our programs. Thanks, Julie!

Every time we present school programs, our collective attitude is: expect the unexpected. That attitude served us well on Oct. 27th, the day of the worst downpour of rain in the Kingman area in 7 YEARS! Black Mountain Elementary School is located in Golden Valley, about 20 minutes outside of Kingman. The roads in Golden Valley are DIRT roads, so when it rains hard, the roads disappear, and the school buses can't get through. The torrential rain had already started by the time we departed from the Mohave County Extension Office and followed Barbara Kuzma to Black Mountain Elementary School. We had no idea where the school was located, so we tried to keep Barbara's vehicle in sight. (Okay, so we went through a few yellow traffic lights, but there was NO WAY we were going to lose sight of Barbara!) Having finally arrived at our destination, we were permitted to back our vehicles into a sheltered area outside the front of the school, and students quickly helped us unload display plants, seedlings, and potting supplies.

All the while we were presenting our first program, the rain kept falling. Soon we heard over the intercom, announcements such as: "John Adams, your mother is here to pick you up. Please go to the lobby." Soon the lobby became a sea of frantic parents and worried students! And the science teacher, Tanya Wright, was very upset that we would not be able to present the scheduled second and third programs. But since we had the seedlings and potting supplies, we decided that we would leave the plants and supplies with Tanya, and when the rain ceased, she would be able to work with the students who had not received their seedlings. Still...our program team felt that we had "gone the extra mile" by offering something special to students in an area of the state where specialty groups such as ours, rarely venture. AND the optimist in me feels the need to point out to our newsletter readers that the heavy rain gave my vehicle a good washing - one like no other it had seen in the past two YEARS!

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COMMUNITY SERVICE REPORT

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SANDIE WOMACK, Cerbat Garden Club, Kingman, also helped us during our programs. The Kingman programs were the FIRST time that a garden club member assisted OSA with our school programs. Sandie also arranged for the programs which we will be presenting in Kingman on January 12 and 13, 2005. She wanted to help us this time so that she had a better understanding of what it is we do! We greatly appreciated her help, and we thank her for arranging the programs for January.

We stayed the night at the HILL TOP MOTEL in Kingman. Dennis Schroeder, owner of the motel and also a master gardener, offered us reduced room rates. Thanks, Dennis!

By the following morning, the rain had ceased. At a totally "uncivilized" hour (7:30 a.m.), we presented the first of 3 hands-on programs for Kingman High South Advanced Biology students. Once again, Barbara Kuzma and Sandie Womack gave us a helping hand. We discovered that we didn't bring along quite enough fir bark for repotting the seedlings, so Barbara made a fast trip to the nearest garden supply store and brought us the needed fir bark. After the last program, we headed back to Phoenix. Photos of the Kingman programs will be on display at our December 6 meeting.

We have no community service or school programs scheduled for December. But our January schedule is already full! On January 12th, we will present 3 hands-on programs for 3rd grade students at Cerbat Elementary school, Kingman, and on January 13th, we will present 4 programs for 4th grade students at Kingman Academy of Learning. During our two-day stay in Kingman, a total of 170 students will receive our programs. Sandie Womack and other members of the Cerbat Garden Club plan to help us with our programs!

And on January 29th, we will again help with the Equestrian Special Olympics. For those of you who might have difficulty figuring out the connection between this event and orchids, you might like to know that the Master of Ceremonies thanks OSA members for our participation. For parents who were not aware of the existence of a local orchid group, the announcement lets parents know that we exist AND help others!

December 6, Fund-Raising Auction

If you are bringing items for either the silent OR the live auction, **PLEASE indicate the value of the item ON the item BEFORE you arrive at the clubhouse.**

We must get the auction started BY 7 p.m.! Last year, as some of you may remember, the auction started BEFORE we had a chance to place sales slips with donated items that were brought in late. This caused the donors to become upset, AND the auction workers to become even more upset! Our auction workers are speedy, but none of us can work at warp speed and maintain our "cool"!

DOUG BALDWIN has once again graciously volunteered to serve as our auctioneer! Thanks Doug!!

We will have one member stationed at the silent auction tables, and that person will accept donated items and write a sales slip with a minimum bid and place the slip with the item. **PLEASE try to arrive at the clubhouse no later than 6:30** so that a sales slip can be written and placed with your donation. If you arrive at 7 p.m. or later, and have something to donate for the silent auction, keep in mind that we will not have time to keep our eyes on the entrance to the ballroom and spot latecomers. And if, by necessity, you arrive late, kindly go directly to either the silent auction tables or the live auction tables and place your donation in the appropriate place.

SPECIAL YEAR-END THANK YOU!

It's time once again to reflect on the contributions of members who have helped OSA keep overhead expenses reduced throughout the year and otherwise provided VALUABLE service.

At the top of the list is **JIM GORDON!** Jim permits us to run copies of our newsletter at his office. This easily represents a minimum savings to our Treasury of \$700 PER year! 2004 represented at least the 6th YEAR that Jim has permitted us to use his office copier (and his paper and his ink!) and saved us REAL money!! Do the math! Thanks Jim!!

Some other members who deserve special thanks because of the large blocks of time they spent on OSA's behalf are (listed in alphabetical order):

MARLENY CASTILLO and **ALEX ARCE** produced our colorful, greatly admired 2004 November show flyer. Marleny designed the flyer and ran all the copies in MAY. (We've NEVER had a show flyer completed so early in the year!) Alex helped pay for the ink cartridges to run 500 copies on a laser color printer! Thanks!!

MIKE DAVIS, served as Chairman of the Nominating Committee for 2005 Officers and Trustees. Thanks Mike! And thanks to the two other members on your committee, **Suz Cramer** and **Julie Rathbun**, for a job well done!

SHARON DAVIS, our 2004 November Show Chair, needs a special thank you for readily agreeing to serve as Show Chair! Thanks Sharon!!

JIM JOHNSON, our Webmaster, kept our outstanding website updated in a timely manner. Thanks Jim!! Our website is often the first introduction new growers have to the existence of OSA.

JULIE LANGSTON and **RAMONA JUNGWIRTH**, our Refreshment Co-Chairs, kept us fed and "watered" during our monthly meetings.

KEITH MEAD, our Editor, edits our newsletter from Albuquerque! That is dedication to OSA! Thanks Keith!!

BOB MACLEOD, designer and builder EXTRAORDINAIRE of our annual show sets, endured (AGAIN) indecisive female show committee members, and built our vignettes in spite of our vague suggestions about exactly what we wanted him to build. Bob, you are a Prince of a Fellow! THANKS for your patience, your creative ability to translate somewhat bizarre ideas into reality, and for NOT smacking any of us on the head!

JULIE RATHBUN has housed, watered (and sometimes even repotted!), and hauled to our meetings and events, ALL of our sale plants. Thanks Julie!!

To our **school program team members**: There are not enough adjectives to describe how reliable and wonderful you have been this year. Thank you!

And to **all** our members who donated time and/or things throughout the year, thank you! Your contributions, no matter how great or how small, have been appreciated!

And finally, we would be remiss if we did not mention the help and generosity of OSA member, **CHRIS GUBLER**, who believes in our community service mission and has provided seedlings and fir bark for our school programs. Without his help, OSA would not be financially able to introduce so many children to orchids. Thanks Chris!!

W. Stimmell, OSA Treasurer and Community Service Program Coordinator

And a GREAT BIG THANK YOU to you too Willie, for ALL you do !

editor

OSA's 2004 ORCHID SHOW and SALE

By Teddy Cohen

The Magic of Orchids, OSA's 2004 Show and Sale, was held November 13th and 14th. The year of preparation that went into this year's effort jumped from each one of the three exquisite vignettes. Member's display plants bloomed in shiny black top hats, and tables laden with sale plants could take your breath away. Show Chair **SHARON DAVIS** put together a team that more than outdid itself.

If you missed the show, let's walk through it together, starting with **AARON HICKS'** educational display at the entrance. Aaron showed how baby orchids are created in the laboratory using story boards, wonderful photos, and samples of tiny new orchid plants in test tubes and flasks. Across the aisle was a collection of photos of recent educational classes that OSA members taught in Kingman, Arizona as part of our commitment to teach young people about orchids and encourage their interest in horticulture.

As you stepped through the double entry doors into the ballroom, you were greeted by dozens of white bunnies in magic hats, ready to lead you on to the displays. Live music filled the room, thanks to the piano stylings of our very talented **HARRY PARNELL**. The first display was a Harry Potter vignette. **BOB McLEOD's** castle creation, painted by **MARLENY CASTILLO**, was the backdrop for **JULIE RATHBUN's** steaming cauldron, a live wizard, and a beautiful display of blooming plants from our members. OSA's own **WILELLA STIMMELL** donated dozens of pairs of Harry Potter fun glasses for children to take home.

By continuing to follow the bunnies, we came to a magic box and inside the magic box was a turntable that illustrated what an orchid plant looks like with and without proper light. Next, one of our little bunnies disappeared and reappeared from a magic hat. The mechanics of these magical creations were some of Bob McLeod's finest work to date!

Our gypsy fortuneteller display was just a knockout! The only thing more impressive than the gypsy woman was the cluster of member display plants that surrounded her! Wilella dressed up as a fortune teller and read palms throughout the two days of the show. It was amazing how many folks had orchids in their future!

Our last vignette featured a yellow brick road, a Cowardly Lion, Tin Man, Scarecrow, Toto, and our own **JENNIFER SCHMITT** dressed as Dorothy, complete with ruby slippers! The member display plants on this table were outstanding!

The center of the room contained non-plant, orchid-related items such as books, soaps and almost anything an orchid lover could desire, including a book on Phalaenopsis culture by California author **BOB GORDON**, who took the time from his busy life to visit our show with his very lovely wife **ALICE!** It was certainly a great honor to have been able to spend time speaking to Bob, and we hope he can grace us with another visit very soon. Phal lovers would sure enjoy a presentation at a meeting some time soon.

The entire south wall of the ballroom was brimming with sale orchids which had been lovingly tended by Julie Rathbun. What would we do without Julie AND her greenhouse? We hope we never have to find out! Most of the sale plants were hand selected by Julie from the many greenhouses at GUBLER ORCHIDS! Julie did such an outstanding job of selecting plants in tight bud that they opened "on schedule" - in time for our show. All plants were extremely healthy; most had multiple bloom spikes; all plants were reasonably priced; and there was a huge assortment of colors of blooms from which to choose. **LOU ANN REMEIKIS, TEDDY COHEN** and Wilella manned the cash register at the check-out and information table while **ANN CHERNY, BARBARA PARNELL**, and **SHIRLEY ENGBERG** helped with plant sales.

PROFESSOR ROBB's Magic Show enchanted the little kid in all of us. Children of all ages gathered in the lounge to be charmed and amazed by his performance. Refreshments wouldn't have been the same without **JIM LAUCK's** cupcakes in assorted flavors with Harry Potter decorations on top.

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OSA's 2004 ORCHID SHOW and SALE

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Even though there were magic wands aplenty, none of this got done with a flick of the wrist and a quick incantation. Our webmaster **JIM JOHNSON** reported heavy traffic, and that 65% of all visitors also viewed the show flyer. **JOHN GAYLORD** of VR IMAGERS, Phoenix took professional photos that will be on his website on or about the first of December. OSA wishes to thank him for his pictures. **DANIEL PARKER**, an employee of Parks and Recreation, is to be commended for his outstanding assistance. Daniel works at the clubhouse on weekends and we might still be there if he hadn't been such a great facilitator!

Show setup on Friday afternoon was accomplished with the help of new member **DAN KRUGER** and not-yet-a-member **BOB PRICE**, both of whom learned how to get sets up in a hurry when they worked in New York City. **JOE BACIK** and his daughter **KAILA BACIK** were up and down ladders, repairing little booboos, and blowing up balloons like real pros. **PAMELA ALBRIGHT** could be found...spotting chores that we had not yet done, and she stepped in and did them for us. Also, after the show closed, Pamela delivered the Harry Potter mylar balloons to the Children's Hospital. The staff was extremely pleased to receive them and told Pamela that they were impressed that we would think of sharing our props with the children. It was Pamela's idea! Thanks Pamela! **JULIE LANGSTON** kept us fed with Wilella's delicious sloppy joe's and coffee. Bob McLeod and Marleny kept us on track as we assembled various parts of the displays. Julie Rathbun's horse trailer full of orchids was unloaded by an assembly line group that included **ROBERTA DONAHUE**, **CHRISTINE FRANCK**, plus OSA's **SALLY GRIFFITH** and her friend **LOUISE WORSTER**, both members of Yuma Orchid Club.

Breaking down the displays, chairs, tables, kitchen and more was accomplished in less than an hour, thanks to our set-up crew plus **DAVID NUNAMACHER**, **FRED STIMMELL**, JOE BACIK's son **SEAN BACIK**, and the ever present Dan Parker.

Special thanks to EASLEY'S FUN SHOP, 509 W. McDowell Road, Phoenix, for donating the loan of the head-dresses that were used in our vignettes and for loaning the Dorothy and Wizard costumes. For this and past orchid shows, Debbie Easley Murphy has been an enthusiastic supporter of our community service agenda. Please remember to thank her or any of her staff members, and patronize the shop whenever you have need for "fun" items or costume rentals.

Special thanks also to **ROBB FULLMER MAGICAL ENTERTAINMENT**, P.O. Box 35032, Phoenix, for his magic show. Professor Robb gave OSA a special rate for his presentation. All children, young AND old, who enjoyed his program, had fun! Thanks Professor Robb!!

If I have forgotten to mention any names of workers, please remember that I had less than 24 hours to write the review of our show! I was tired when I wrote this, but I tried the best I could to remember the names of all the workers who helped make our show another success.

FROM THE SHOW CHAIR

The Show was a wonderful success! It has been said that many hands make the work easier, and this weekend was proof. There are too many volunteers to list, but you KNOW who you are! Thank you for your help and support. The businesses and individuals who contributed have touched our hearts. Thanks also to all members who attended the event. Your presence was much appreciated. Your Annual Orchid Show cannot exist without all of you.

Thanks again and best wishes always,

Sharon Davis, 2004 Show Chair



OSA December 2004 Calendar



| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|-----|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| | | | 1 | 2  <i>Mary Sallee</i> | 3  <i>Connie Skinner</i> | 4  <i>Janet Jurn</i> |
| 5 | 6 OSA MEETING DECEMBER AUCTION 7:00 PM | 7  <i>Elizabeth Greenwood</i> | 8  <i>Bev Tall</i> | 9  <i>Shirley Engberg Eloise Koonce</i> | 10 | 11 |
| 12 | 13 | 14 | 15  <i>Alex Arce</i> | 16 | 17  <i>Norma Kafer</i> | 18 |
| 19 | 20 | 21  <i>Doug Baldwin</i> | 22  <i>Betty Stephens</i> | 23  <i>Pam Albright Jane Heckel</i> | 24 | 25  |
| 26 | 27  <i>Janella Bacik</i> | 28 | 29 | 30  <i>Roy Castle Jennifer Schmitt</i> | 31  <i>Jim Gordon</i> | |



Orchid Society of Arizona
 c/o Keith Mead
 5425 Thomas Drive NE
 Albuquerque, NM 87111

December 2004 Newsletter