



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 5, 2005 at 7:00 p.m.

OSA meetings are open to all
plant enthusiasts

This month beverages and snacks
will be provided by:

EVERYONE !

DON'T FORGET TO BRING
TREATS TO SHARE

Refreshment Coordinators:

Julie Langston (602) 955-5694
Ramona Jungwirth (602) 320-6124

OSABOARD MEETING

The next OSA board meeting
will be held at 1 PM
Sunday, December 18th
at Norma Kafer's home

This will be a
Joint Board Meeting of
retiring and newly elected
officers

Please call Norma for directions
Board meetings are open to all OSA
members

Grower on Call

Wilella Stimmell

wilellas@worldnet.att.net

December Program



Annual Auction Fundraiser



Our 11th annual Holiday buffet, live and silent auction will begin promptly at 7:00 PM on Monday, December 5th at the Encanto Park Clubhouse. Your donations of plants and other orchid related items and spirited bidding make this a major fundraiser for YOUR society.....and the food is always GREAT. The success of this event allows us to continue our community service programs. So, come early, bring items for the auction (see instructions on page two) and food to share (serving utensils, too, please). This is a great time to begin your holiday shopping, add to your collection, enjoy good food and the friendship of your fellow OSA members and guests.

Doug Baldwin has again graciously agreed to serve as our auctioneer.

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Norma Kafer

Thanks to Aaron for filling in for me while I've been away doing my continuing education hours. This last one was in Vegas, but for four days we start our sessions at 7 am (for the east coast people) and they end at 9 - 9:30 each night. The only time we get out of the hotel is when we go back to the airport. BUT, I get all my continuing ed hours done until next year.

Teddy did a great job with the show. Her organization skills plus Bob's building skills made this show the best ever. Our thanks to you. Many of us thought it was so charming that we wanted to use it again next year. Certainly that would give Bob a much needed break.

Keith mentioned yesterday that this was the last time he was able to "remind" me about getting something in for the newsletter. Thanks Keith. In that same vein, I appreciate all the cooperation and help that has been given to me during these past two years. Let's give Julie the same good will and help her while she assumes the reins of OSA.

Instructions for those donating to the December Auctions

Although the Dec. auction begins at 7 pm, members bringing donations need to do two things:

- 1) **A minimum bid should be CLEARLY written on the item** so that if it's an item for the **LIVE** auction our auctioneer will be able to READ the minimum bid. Items that don't fetch minimum bid will be returned to the donors, **ONLY** if they write **ON** the item – "return to ___ (name) if the item does not receive a minimum bid". The items so marked will be left on the live auction tables. The **donors'** responsibility is to retrieve the items at the end of the meeting.
- 2) **Members arriving later than 6 pm and who have items for the SILENT auction, need to physically take the items to the silent auction tables.** There will be a member stationed at the silent auction tables. He or she will NOT be able to see a donor who is standing at the ballroom door. While the member in charge of the silent auction tables will be a highly capable member, he or she is NOT clairvoyant and will neither approach the ballroom door nor know that an item should be placed on the silent auction tables. (See #1 regarding items that do not receive a minimum bid.)

Thank You

For donations to the November Raffle Table

Marleny Castillo and Alex Arce, Chris Gubler, Bob MacLeod,

OSA, Cynthia Schnitzer and Wilella Stimmell

2005 CIRCUS OF ORCHIDS IS A HIT!

By **Teddy Cohen, Show Chair**

Friday evening a huge group of devoted OSA members and friends arrived at the Encanto Park Clubhouse to set up this year's orchid show and sale. When we first walked in to that big, empty space, the task at hand was more than daunting. It seemed impossible that we could have a show up and ready by the next morning, let alone create the vision that had been in our heads for months!

Julie Rathbun soon had tables nearly buckled under the weight of the sale orchids. What had appeared to be a trailer full of green plants at the first of October, was now a breath-taking display of the most fragrant, glorious orchids in full bloom. **David Nunamacher** must have made a hundred trips with Julie to unload each one of these delights.

On the other side of the Clubhouse, **Dan Kruger** adeptly helped **Bob MacLeod** and **Marleny Castillo** put up our circus tents. The tents were a combination of Scottish engineering, Panamanian artistry, and New York City dazzle. Who could have guessed that a bit of tulle, some flags, crepe paper, and PVC pipe could turn Encanto into a full blown circus? Barnum and Bailey always have their elephants to do the heavy lifting; OSA relied on our own **Joe Bacik**. Not only did Joe help in every possible way, he filled 856 balloons with helium, making sure that each bouquet of balloons was refreshed each morning of the show.

Harry and **Barbara Parnell** arrived with a beautiful carousel horse that was loaned to OSA by friends of **Jennifer Schmitt**. Harry had obviously been practicing, because his circus-themed music at the show was out of this world!

When it came to going the distance, no one compared to our member **Sally Griffith** from Yuma. As always, Sally arrived with **Louise Worster** from the Yuma Orchid Society. These two gals filled in anywhere they were needed, offering help with table covering, plant set-up and organization. Working right along side the Yuma contingent was our new member, **Mary Gannon**. Mary helped string lights, move tables, arrange member display plants, and fill in anywhere we needed her.

Workers were treated to a quick dinner prepared by **Willie Stimmell**, **Teddy Cohen** and **Julie Langston**. **Norma Kafer** brought cookies. After the grab and run, the team went back to work.

The show committee had appointed **Wilella Stimmell** as the Acquisitions Chair. Willie more than outdid herself, providing the clown vignette with dozens of clowns. The animal display had elephants, lions, horses, and leopards. Willie also contributed by bringing display plants and a huge amount of orchid knowledge to the show.

Sharon Davis was on hand at the show to help buyers with questions. Sharon and Mike made the pre-show meetings possible by opening their home to OSA's show committee. Without their generosity, we might have been meeting in Pine! **Wayne Baker** and **Joe Freasier** were on hand to lend their support Saturday.

Jim Lauck, in addition to baking dozens of circus cupcakes, advised new orchid buyers on their purchases, with the able assistance of **Roy Castle**. Jim and Roy gave us invaluable help with the break-down on Sunday evening. They were seen folding table skirts, knocking down tables, and helping everyone load vehicles. **Kathleen Luther** was also able to help with packing up the event..

Fred Stimmell produced a few hundred show programs for us. **Tom Anderson** lent moral support to the group. Understanding and helpful spouses make an event like this a possibility.

Ann Cherny was one of our members who truly got into the spirit of the show and dressed in a clown outfit AND wore the ENTIRE ensemble as she drove from her home to the show!
The three clowns who dressed up were: Ann Cherny, Julie Rathbun, and Wilella Stimmell.

This was the first time that a November speaker attended our show. Marge From was so impressed with our creative vignettes and our educational displays that she took home a show flyer and show program to show her local orchid society!

Thanks to all of you who were able to participate in this year's show and sale. Your assistance was so much appreciated, and proof of the hard work was all on display at our fantastic circus.

Member News

Welcome new members

Kathleen and Gene Bischoff,
and

Winners of the free membership drawing at the
November show:

Dolores Gomez and Judy Sutton

Thank You!

On behalf of the membership of OSA the Board of Directors would like to take this opportunity to thank Norma Kafer for her service to the society as President for the past two years.

Time to Renew

Enclosed with this issue is a membership renewal form. Please complete all areas and return with your 2006 dues to our treasurer at the address listed on the form.

Planning your next vacation? How about this?

March 4th to 12th
Taiwan International Orchid Show 2006
International Floral Exposition Center
Taiwan Orchid Plantation
Taiwan, R.O.C.

For more information: www.tios.com.tw
info@tios.com.tw

Arizona State Veteran Home Wish List: soda pop (both diet and regular Coke, Pepsi, and Sprite), flavored water, sugar free chocolate bars, and 36-count boxes of microwavable popcorn (butter flavor only) Please don't forget the ASVH when you do your shopping.

The *Arizona Orchidist* is published monthly by the Orchid Society of Arizona, Inc.

Direct Inquiries to our website at:

<http://welcome.to/orchidsocietyaz>

Or to any of the Board Officers or Trustees

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Barbara Parnell (480) 948-0714
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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.

Recap of November Meeting Program

Members who came to our November meeting to hear the presentation by Marge From, Head of the Laboratory for Rare and Endangered Plants at Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo, not only were treated to an **audience-friendly** PowerPoint program about Marge's orchid conservation work, but also were surprised to meet two of Marge's graduate students from Madagascar! Rence (female) and Tahiana (male) also gave brief PowerPoint presentations about their orchid research work. We were **very** privileged to meet and speak with the Malagasy students. (For the students, English is their **third** language. Malagasy is their native language, and French is their second language. Both students spoke fluent English during their presentations for us!)

Rence and Tahiana arrived in Omaha on October 20. Within a three-week span, the students arrived in Omaha and then found themselves in the desert southwest! (On condition that both students would present a brief program at our meeting, the zoo provided the air tickets for the students and also their accommodation in Phoenix.) In Madagascar, Rence and Tahiana attend the University of Antananarivo. One graduate student is concentrating on plant genetics, and the other is concentrating on horticulture techniques. (At home, Tahiana is teaching Malagasy residents how to pollinate vanilla orchids.)

Marge serves as their mentor while the students remain in Omaha. In January, the students must return to Madagascar. Marge will accompany them. (Rence and Tahiana are not the first Malagasy students whom Marge has mentored.)

In Marge's presentation, she outlined the technology transfers between the zoo's Laboratory for Rare and Endangered Plants and the University of Antananarivo. (The capital city of Madagascar is Antananarivo.) She also discussed the major problems of deforestation and soil erosion on the island/nation and briefly alluded to the low annual income of Malagasy citizens.

Madagascar was a French colony for 64 years, until the island/nation regained its independence in 1960. For benefit of those members who were unable to attend our meeting and see the map that Marge included in her presentation: Madagascar is located in Southern Africa and is an island in the Indian Ocean, east of Mozambique.

Marge is such an excellent mentor that it would not surprise us to learn that after Tahiana completes his education, he returns to the US. To say that he was mightily impressed with the lifestyle of the Americans whom he met, would be an understatement.

Huge thanks to Aaron Hicks for suggesting that we invite Marge to speak to us **and** for entertaining Marge and the students while they were in Arizona. And thank you to all OSA members who welcomed Marge and her Malagasy students!

W. Stimmell

Unpredictable Climatic Changes in the Venezuelan Amazon

I would like to add the following observations regarding climate in the upper Río Negro region to the article just published in the November issue of your newsletter (volume 42, number 11, pages 3--6). Most rivers in this region are called "black-water rivers" because their waters are dark brown, almost reddish, resembling cola soda pop or strong tea. The color, however, is not due to sediments in the water, but rather to complex organic acids, basically humic acids.

I am sure that climatic changes are taking place in the region. During my expeditions to Yavita-Maroa and the Cerro Mesaque, indigenous people have told me that the advent of both the rainy and dry season is getting harder and harder to predict. People can generally adjust, but some plants and animals can be tremendously affected by these weather shifts. For example, as I mentioned in my most recent article, the fruits of some trees mature under water. When fruits depend on fish for their dispersal and fish depend on the fruits as a food source, what happens to the fruit and to the fish when the rainy season comes ahead of time and the water level is unseasonally high, or when the rainy season is delayed and the water level is unseasonally low?

The water of most of the rivers that I navigate is quite sterile: besides the complex organic acids that give it the dark color, it contains few nutrients (minerals like calcium, potassium, or any form of nitrogen). Basically you can use it as distilled water (after freezing whatever amount of it you need: the water molecules, as they crystallize, slowly displace the much larger molecules of the organic acids, which eventually end up in the center of the mass of ice forming a "dark ball". If you are careful, you get fairly clear, practically pure water if you avoid, as you crack the ice block, the "dark ball" in the center), except that the pH can be quite low (in the 4--5 range). This low pH apparently has no deleterious health effects (for comparison, according to the Environmental Protection Agency the pH of regular lemonade is 2.2 to 3, that of an apple 2.9 to 3.3), but local fishermen complain that their hooks rust out fast and do not last long at all!

The fish that live in these rivers derive their livelihood not from the rivers themselves but from whatever organic matter drops from the forest. In fact, many fish species depend on the fruits of the plants of the forest that they can reach when the river floods the forest. Summarizing, most river food chains start not in the river, but in the forest (I refer readers to the many books written by Michael Goulding that explore this subject in more detail).

Scenario one: the rainy season starts before it should, the water level of most rivers goes up before it should, covering trees either before they flower or before the flowers have had a chance to be pollinated. As a result, there are no fruits, either to be dispersed or to be eaten by the fish that depend on them to sustain their reproductive cycle.

Scenario two: the rainy season starts late. The flowers of many tree species do get pollinated, but the water level of most rivers does not go up in time to cover the fruits, which are exposed to bird and insect herbivores. If and when the water level goes up, the fruits are half eaten and then rot under water. The plants do not reproduce, and the fish perhaps do not get as much food as they had during more "predictable" seasons.

Both scenarios are apparently happening in the Venezuelan Amazon, and I imagine in Brazil and Colombia. Nobody knows what the long term implications of this unpredictability will be. I suppose that many fish species will have a hard time surviving. Trees can afford to miss a few reproductive seasons, but not too many without affecting their population dynamics. Who knows!

Gustavo A. Romero
Keeper
Orchid Herbarium of Oakes Ames
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Special Thanks

OSA would like to thank the following individuals and businesses for their support in making this year's show a success:

Anne Schwanz and Anna

**Easley's Fun Shop
509 W. McDowell Rd.
Phoenix, AZ 85003
Phone: (602)271-9146**

**Bebe and the Clown Unit
El Zaribah Shrine
552 N. 40th St.
Phoenix, AZ 85008
Phone: (602)231-0042**

**Rachel Brannan
City of Phoenix Parks Dept.**

Yuma Orchid Society

OSA 2006 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Trustee: *Jim Lauck* (Term Expires 12/2007)

Trustee: *Dan Kruger* (Term Expires 12/2007)

After the above slate of candidates prepared by the nominating committee was read at the November meeting, the motion to accept the slate by acclamation was made by Teddy Cohen and seconded by Lou Ann Remeikis. The motion passed unanimously.

OSA December 2005 Calendar

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



Orchid Society of Arizona
 c/o Keith Mead
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