



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 4, 2006
at 7:00 P.M.

OSA meetings are open to all
plant enthusiasts
Refreshments will be provided.

This month snacks and beverages
will be provided by
EVERYONE

Don't forget to bring
treats to share

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

OSABOARDMEETING

The next OSA board meeting
will be held

Sunday, December 17th
at the home of Julie Rathbun

Board Meetings
are open to all members

GROWER ON CALL

Keith Mead
Kjkm@comcast.net

December Program

Annual Auction Fundraiser

Our 12th annual Holiday buffet and live auction fundraiser will begin promptly at 7:00 PM on Monday, December 4th at the Encanto Park Clubhouse. Your donations of plants and other orchid related items and spirited bidding make this a major fundraiser for YOUR societyand 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 and food to share (please bring serving utensils also).

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 and Aaron Hicks have graciously agreed to act as auctioneers.

Please note the instructions for donations on page 3 of this newsletter.

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JOINT BOARD MEETING

The December board meeting is a joint meeting of the newly elected and retiring board members. The meeting will be held at 1:00 PM December 17th at the home of Julie Rathbun. Board meetings are open to all members.

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From the President's Desk

Julie Rathbun

With all of our orchid activities at this time of year, I forgot to thank Joe Bacik for conducting our October 22nd board meeting. Thanks, Joe! I truly appreciated the fact that during my unplanned absence, you willingly conducted the meeting for me.

Our November show, An Oasis of Orchids, was another creative success thanks to the efforts of master-builder, Bob MacLeod, and the "vision" of Marleny Castillo. The other "grunt" members who helped set up our show waited until Bob and Marleny were satisfied with the vignettes, and then we added our display plants and non-plant décor items to the vignettes. Special thanks to our 2006 Show Chair, Barbara Parnell, who did an OUTSTANDING job as Show Chair. She enjoyed her assignment and has agreed to serve as our 2007 Show Chair! And thanks to all members who pitched in and helped before, during, and after the show. A TEAM effort made our show a success!

Bob and Alice Gordon attended our show, and we were especially pleased to welcome them.

We were unable to hold our November 6 meeting in Encanto Park Clubhouse because on our meeting night, voting booths were set up in the ballroom. The clubhouse is a polling place. (Did all OSA members vote on November 7?) Our November meeting was held in Liberty Hall at the Arizona State Veteran Home, our "home away from home". Bob Gordon was our speaker, and members and guests remarked that they enjoyed his presentation. One member who shall remain nameless provided Bob with a "trick" bar stool on which he TRIED to sit during his presentation. The "trick" performed by the bar stool was that as Bob spoke, he became shorter as the seat lowered! Sorry about that, Bob!

Also during our November meeting, we held our election for our 2007 Board of Directors and Trustees. I called for other nominations from the floor. Since there were no nominations from the floor, Lou Ann Re-meikis moved and Bob MacLeod seconded the motion that eligible voting members accept the Nominating Committee's slate of candidates. By a show of hands, the slate of candidates was accepted unanimously. Thanks to the Nominating Committee for their service to OSA: Ann Cherny, Chairperson, Keith Mead, and Barbara Parnell. The 2007 Board of Directors and two new Trustees will begin service on January 1, 2007.

Please plan to attend our December 4th meeting. It's our LAST major fund-raising event in 2006. Even if you have nothing to donate for the live or silent auction, you will surely find something for yourself that you can't live without, and you might also find Christmas gifts for friends and family. Our auction might be your one-stop Christmas shopping! Doug Baldwin will conduct the live auction. Thanks, Doug! And Aaron Hicks will assist him. Doug and Aaron had fun with last year's auction, and we hope for a repeat performance this year. Barbara and Harry Parnell will "guard" the items on the silent auction tables. Thanks, guys!

Don't forget: NO Show and Tell table at our December meeting (unless you want your plants to be sold!), and **ALL** members bring finger foods to share. We usually have a fantastic smorgasbord of assorted, delicious foods prepared (or purchased) by members.

The "grand finale" to our December auction will be the drawing of the winning ticket for our orchid quilt! (My fingers are raw from quilting. I wonder if my raw fingers qualify me for "workman's compensation"?)

The joint board meeting of newly elected and retiring board members will be held on December 17 at my home. The meeting will begin at 1 PM.

This is just a heads-up notice: Because our January, 2007 meeting falls ON New Year's Day, **there will be NO January monthly meeting**. There WILL be a January board meeting. The date and location will be included in our January newsletter.

Happy holidays!

Julie

Instructions for those donating plants or orchid-related items for the December auction

Although our December 4th auction will begin promptly 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. It will be a **donor's** responsibility to retrieve unsold 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.** Barbara and Harry Parnell will be stationed at those tables. (See #1 regarding items that do not receive a minimum bid.)

NEW DEACON BELL SCHOLARSHIP FUND RECIPIENT

It is with great pleasure that OSA's Board of Directors announces that the search for an outstanding student to receive the scholarship money donated in Deacon's name, is over!

Anne Estes, a doctoral candidate majoring in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology with a minor in Plant Pathology and Microbiology at the University of Arizona, is the recipient of funds donated in Deacon's name. The background information that Anne furnished for her scholarship application reveals her obvious passion for her research, and if any OSA member would like to read it, you are welcome to do so. Included with Anne's application are enthusiastic recommendations from the Plant Pathology Department at the University of Arizona.

Anne has a 4.0 grade point average in extremely difficult, interdisciplinary fields of study!

After she receives her PhD, Anne plans to become a university professor and continue studying and sharing information regarding "general mechanisms of the establishment and maintenance of symbiotic interactions using cross-disciplinary training combining organismal biology, cell biology and physiology, with molecular and microbial genetics." We hope that in future, Anne can be persuaded to present a program for OSA.

OSA's Board of Directors thanks Mary Jo Wall, Scholarship Chair for the Arizona Federation of Garden Clubs, for her efforts in helping us find the student most suitable to receive the Deacon Bell Scholarship Fund!

NOVEMBER RAFFLE TABLE DONORS

Bob MacLeod, OSA, Lou Ann Remeikis and Wilella Stimmell

Thank you !

Welcome New Members

Omar Rios, Demitris Sagias
and
Mary Jean Wrobel

Seek them out and introduce yourself!
Make them feel at home.

Membership Renewal Time

Enclosed with this issue is a membership renewal form. OSA's calendar year ends on December 31.

Please complete all areas of the form and return it with your 2007 membership dues to our Treasurer at the address listed on the form, or bring you completed form with cash or check to our December or January meeting.

For those receiving their newsletter via email a separate attachment is (should be) included with this months issue.....if not, please email me at kjkm@comcast.net.

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SPECIAL THANK YOU

To Barbara Parnell for all her hard work and dedication in organizing and guiding the successful 2006 show "An Oasis of Orchids" I heard a rumor that she has accepted the 2007 Show Chair position? Well Done !

VOLUNTEERS

A New Year is almost upon us. Why not make one of your resolutions to volunteer to help YOUR society continue to be successful? Join the Community Service Program Team, be Grower on Call for a month, review an orchid related book for the newsletter. We need and appreciate your help.

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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:

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Joe Bacik	bacikj@cox.net
Outside Speaker Program Chairman	
Secretary	(928) 476-2220
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	jim_golf_phx@yahoo.com
Bob MacLeod	(623) 935-4059
Barbara Parnell	(480) 948-0714
2006 Show Chair	birdie552002@yahoo.com
Jennifer Schmitt	(602) 996-9833
	calligraphybyjennifer@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.

AN OASIS OF ORCHIDS

Our annual show is now history. "An Oasis of Orchids" took place on November 4th and 5th and was a great success. We began set-up on Friday afternoon under the direction of Marleny Castillo, whose creativity made the "oasis" itself possible, and master builder Bob MacLeod who never ceases to amaze us as he transformed the sketches on paper to the finished display.

Saturday morning began with visitors being greeted by not one but three "Queens of the Nile" (a.k.a. Willie Stimmell, Julie Rathbun, and me!) and entertained by our own music man, Harry Parnell.

Our thanks to those listed below who gave generously of their time to set-up and work as ambassadors for OSA during the show and also for providing the delicious treats for both workers and visitors. Thanks to the display plant donors for entrusting us with their lovely plants.

Penney Bachman (Yuma Orchid Society)
Joe Bacik
Wayne Baker
Marleny Castillo
Joe Freasier
Sally Griffith (OSA member and Yuma Orchid Society)
Yuka and Todd Hughes
Jim Johnson
Jim Lauck
Bob MacLeod
Barbara and Harry (aka Music Man) Parnell
Julie Rathbun
Lou Ann and Gary (aka Willie Nelson) Remeikis
Dimitris Sagias
Wilella and Fred Stimmell

Hopefully I have not forgotten to mention anyone.

We would also like to extend our appreciation to the Encanto Park Clubhouse staff. Thank you to Rachel Brannan, Fred and Thad for all your help.

Our display featured two beautiful Egyptian headdresses, compliments of Easley's Fun Shop who also loaned us the elegant costumes worn by our three "Queens of the Nile". We hope you will visit their website at www.easleys.com or stop by their retail store located at 509 West McDowell Road in Phoenix. Their phone number is (602) 271-9146.

A special thank you to Sphinx Date Ranch for their generous donation of the two baskets of dates that were part of the display and will be auctioned at the December 4th meeting. Please visit their website at www.sphinxdateranch.com as they have a full line of wonderful gifts and treats. Their retail store is located at 3039 North Scottsdale Road and their phone number is (800) 482-3283.

Thanks again to all who gave of their time and energy. We are looking forward to next year's show. This show is a "labor of love" and we hope more of you will take part next year.

Barbara Parnell
Show Chair 2006

Morongo Basin Orchid Festival Raises over \$10,000.00!

Landers, California, October 13, 2006.

Yucca Valley Sunset Rotary club announced today that the Morongo Basin Orchid Festival raised \$10,034.80 for various desert organizations. "This was the best Orchid Festival in its eleven-year history," declared Peter Banachi, President of the Yucca Valley Sunset Rotary. "We raised 23% more for basin charities than last year."

The increase was attributed to the wine and cheese tasting at the festival with support by Trader Joe's in Palm Desert. "Without TJ's support we would have had only a small increase over last year," Banachi said. "The jazz sounds by Jim Palmer & The Jazz Norwegians were enjoyed by all, and the blending of orchids, wine, and jazz was the perfect combination for the festival," Banachi concluded.

Hospice of Morongo Basin and Desert AIDS Project will each receive a check for \$2,508.70. The Orchid Society of Arizona received \$1,450 from the orchid classes. \$1000.00 will go towards the Yucca Valley High School Scholarship program. Landers Elementary School, Joshua Tree Tortoise Rescue, Morongo Basin Adult Health Services, and Theater 29 will each receive \$500.00. Yucca Valley Sunset Rotary will retain \$567.40, which they will use towards their Christmas Food Baskets and the Third-Grade Dictionary Project.

Sunset Rotary would like to thank all those who attended, volunteered, and supported this year's Orchid Festival. A special thanks to our sponsors Z-107.7, Hi-Desert Star, CBS-2 TV in Palm Springs, Trader Joe's, and the staff at Gubler Orchids.

Festival Dates for Next year are October 6th and 7th 2007.
Together we do make a difference!

When I was asked to write this piece for the December newsletter (space was at a premium in the November issue) I thought I could not possibly do a better job than was done in the above press release. It really, well almost, says it all. What it does not reflect is all the really hard work that goes into making this annual event a success. Hard work by the dedicated employees of Gubler Orchids in transforming the "packing room" into a classroom to be used by OSA for presenting orchid classes at no charge to children and re-potting/orchid 101 classes to adults. The presentation to the children is the same "milk jug greenhouse" class our community service programs are built upon.

The press release does not relate the hours it takes to prepare the Landers greenhouses for visits by hundreds of festival attendees. Or the hours and hours of planning and preparation by the Yucca Valley Sunset Rotary members.....or the work of the OSA "traveling team" in presenting the classes.

And I am willing to bet that no one involved would say "it is not worth it" I have come to look forward all year to being able to participate in this event, wouldn't miss it. I would like to offer YOU the opportunity of experiencing the overwhelming sight of the Landers and Lucerne greenhouses filled with blooming orchids, the incredible aroma of thousands of Cattleyas in flower, and the fellowship of those with the same passion for introducing others to the orchid affliction while raising money for good causes.

Plan on joining us on the "traveling team" to Landers, October 6th and 7th, 2007.

This is NOT an invitation only event. I guarantee you will not regret it. You will make a difference.

Thanks Chris and Heidi for everything.

Keith

Special Thanks

OSA thanks the following individuals and businesses for their support in making this year's November show a success:

Easley's Fun Shop
500 W. McDowell Rd.
Phoenix, AZ 85003
Phone: (602) 271-9146
www.easleys.com

Sphinx Date Ranch
3039 N. Scottsdale Rd.
Scottsdale, AZ 85251
Phone: (480) 941-2261
www.sphinxdateranch.com

Rachel Brannan; Fred and Thad
City of Phoenix Parks Dept.

Yuma Orchid Society

OSA Board of Directors 2007

Julie Rathbun President

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In House Program Chairman

Joe Bacik 2nd Vice President
Outside Speaker Program Chairman

Barbara Parnell Secretary

Wilella Stimmell Treasurer

Marleny Castillo and Mary Gannon
Trustees terms ending 12/08

Jim Lauck and Bob MacLeod
Trustees terms ending 12/07

OSA December 2006 Calendar

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



Orchid Society of Arizona
 c/o Keith Mead
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