



The

# Arizona Orchidist

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## NEXT OSA MEETING

The next regular society meeting  
will be **Monday, December 3rd, 2007**  
at 7:00 P.M.

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

OSA meetings are open to all  
plant enthusiasts

Refreshments will be provided.

Snacks by

**EVERYONE**

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

## OSA BOARD MEETING

Board Meetings

are open to all members

The next Board meeting will be  
December 1st at 1:00 PM at  
the home of Julie Rathbun

## GROWER ON CALL

Julie Rathbun  
jandfent@aol.com

## December Program

### Annual December Fund-raising Auction

Our 13<sup>th</sup> annual holiday buffet and live auction fund-raiser will begin promptly at 7:00 PM on Monday, December 3rd, at the Encanto Park Clubhouse.

You are cordially invited to join in the fun of our fund-raising auction. There will be both a live and silent auction of orchid plants and orchid-related items. As you know, OSA is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization dedicated to community service, and we do NOT accept grant money. Our December auction is one of our major fund-raisers in the year.

We need your donations of plants and orchid-related items. If you don't have anything to donate for the live and/or silent auction, join in the bidding, and perhaps you'll take home one or more plants from your "wish list" or orchid-related items to give as holiday gifts. This is your one-stop shopping adventure!

An expanded refreshment table will be provided by OSA members.

Note to guests and new members who are attending their first OSA December auction: NO credit cards are accepted.

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## From the President's Desk

Julie Rathbun

Our November show on the 3rd and 4th was another successful show! There were more gorgeous display plants in this show than we have had in recent shows. Surely the most spectacular plant on display was the specimen *Cattleya Portia Cannizaro* plant owned by Bob MacLeod. Thanks to everyone who worked to make our Orchids and Disneyana show a memorable event. And special thanks to **Debbie Easley-Murphy, co-owner of Easley's Fun Shop** for continuing to support OSA by loaning us costumes to wear during the show. The costumes really helped some of the workers get into the spirit of our theme.

A few years ago, Pamela Albright located a crisis center in the valley, and after each show, various non-plant items used in our displays are donated to the crisis center. This year Bob MacLeod had a HUGE load of props to deliver. Thanks Bob!

Barbara Parnell, our November Show Chair for this show and last year's show, has agreed to serve as Show Chair for next year's show! She deserves praise for her team spirit and her willingness to work with yet another show committee.

Show workers, still tired from the show, attended our November 5th meeting. Our election of officers for OSA's 2008 Board of Directors was scheduled for the 5th. Thanks to Jim Johnson, Chairman, Ann Cherny, and Keith Mead for serving on the Nominating Committee. The slate of candidates was passed by acclamation. Elsewhere in this issue, you will find the list of newly elected officers whose terms begin on January 1, 2008.

Also during our November meeting, Aaron Hicks, using his laptop computer and OSA's multimedia projector, showed us Francisco Miranda's CD: *The Genus Laelia in Brazil*. Thanks Aaron! He brought a copy of his newest publication, *ORCHID SEED GERMINATION MEDIA*. I showed one copy to the members in attendance and noted that the cover photo was done by professional photographer and OSA member, DOUG BALDWIN.

Aaron did NOT ask me to do this, but I'm taking this opportunity to also mention Aaron's newly designed website home page. The address is <http://members.cox.net/ahicks51/osp/> From the Orchid Seedbank home page you will find a link to Aaron's books. Yes, Aaron has published more than one book, but the latest one is the one mentioned above.

Our December 3rd meeting will be our annual fund-raising auction. Both a live and silent auction will be held during our meeting. Doug Baldwin has graciously agreed to serve as our auctioneer, and he will be ably assisted by Aaron Hicks. If you haven't seen those two in action during an auction, you should know that they have fun and make the entire evening an enjoyable event. And the smorgasbord of food on our refreshment tables is an added attraction!

See you on December 3rd!

Julie

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

Although our December 3<sup>rd</sup> 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, **Doug Baldwin** and his assistant, **Aaron Hicks**, 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.** (See #1 regarding items that do not receive a minimum bid.) An OSA member will be stationed at the silent auction tables.

### **BRAND NEW BOOK: Hot off the Presses!**

**Aaron Hicks has finished his research and has published ORCHID SEED GERMINATION MEDIA.**

"Three years in the making, exhaustively referenced and researched - ORCHID SEED GERMINATION MEDIA is the definitive text on the subject. With over 125 different media formulations and variations, along with over 90 pages on media chemistry, mineral nutrition of orchids in vitro, specific considerations for individual genera, tables, charts - there is no substitute. For the serious hobbyist, advanced grower, and those willing to push the extent of their knowledge, this is the most up-to-date and complete text on the subject.

This book covers media for terrestrial orchids as well as epiphytes, temperate species and tropical orchids alike. 223 pages, softcover."

To purchase this book, contact the author at [ahicks51@cox.net](mailto:ahicks51@cox.net) or check the page <http://members.cox.net/osp/books/books.html> on the website of The Orchid Seedbank Project

### **NOVEMBER RAFFLE TABLE**

#### **DONORS**

**The Family of Ken Gettys,  
Bob MacLeod, Orchids Alive, OSA,  
Julie Rathbun, Lou Ann Remeikis and  
Willella Stimmell**

**THANKS TO YOU ALL!**

## Joint Board Meeting

The December board meeting is a joint meeting of the retiring and newly elected board members. The meeting will be held on December 30th, 1 PM, at the home of Julie Rathbun. Board meetings are open to all members.

## ANSWER

Do you recall the question posed in the November newsletter? The question was "How many Phalaenopsis does it take to fill an ocean container?" The answer: twenty-two thousand (22,000).

That's right folks. 22,000 four inch blooming size phals.....and what a sight to behold.

Each time the "Landers Team" participates in the Morongo Basin Orchid Festival we learn something new and exciting. Mark your calendars for the first weekend in October 2008 and join us.

## MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME

Enclosed with this issue is a membership renewal form. OSA's calendar year ends on December 31<sup>st</sup>.

Please complete all areas of the form and return it with your 2008 membership dues to our Treasurer at the address listed on the form, or bring your complete form with cash or check to our December or January meeting.

For those receiving their newsletters via e-mail a separate attachment is (should be) included with this month's issue. If you didn't receive a renewal form, contact our newsletter Editor, Keith Mead, at [kjkm@comcast.net](mailto:kjkm@comcast.net)

W. Stimmell, OSA Treasurer

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Direct Inquiries to our website at:

[www.orchidsocietyaz.org](http://www.orchidsocietyaz.org)

Or to any of the Board Officers or Trustees:

### Board of Directors for 2007

<b>President</b>	(602) 843-0223
Julie Rathbun	jandfent@aol.com
<b>First Vice President</b>	(480) 722-9328
Aaron Hicks	ahicks51@cox.net
In House Program Chairman	
<b>Second Vice President</b>	(480) 785-2251
Joe Bacik	bacikj@cox.net
Outside Speaker Program Chairman	
<b>Secretary</b>	(480) 948-0714
Barbara Parnell	birdie552002@yahoo.com
<b>Treasurer</b>	(480) 947-8479
Wilella Stimmell	wilellas@worldnet.att.net
<b>Librarian</b>	(602) 803-6889
Lou Ann Remeikis	remeikis@andiamo-tel.com
<b>Editor</b>	(505) 898-0975
Keith Mead	kjkm@comcast.net
<b>Trustees</b>	
Bob MacLeod	(623) 935-4059
Marleny Castillo	(602) 441-4050
	corinc@hotmail.com
Mary Gannon	(623) 878-4173
	mggaz@cox.net
Doug Baldwin	(480) 596-9220
	dougbaldwin@mindspring.com

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.

## From the Show Chairperson

The Orchid Society of Arizona annual show titled "Orchids & Disneyana" was held on November 3 & 4. There were several Disney characters in attendance including Snow White, Minnie Mouse and Tinkerbell. The displays were especially nice this year as many of our members had beautiful plants in full bloom that were placed among Disney characters. The center of attention, however, belonged to a spectacular Cattleya grown by our very own Bob MacLeod. Our members turned out to help set up and work the show as well as do the very unpopular tear-down. Those who gave of their time were: Willie Stimmell, Barbara Parnell, Julie Rathbun, Bob MacLeod, Mary Gannon, Marleny Castillo, Joe Bacik, Seelye Smith, Frank Bopp, Demitiris Sagias, LouAnn & Gary Remeikis, Jennifer Schmidt, Ann Cherny and music was provided by Harry Parnell. Many thanks also to Jim Lauck & Roy Castle for the wonderful refreshments. We all were especially pleased to have a special visit from Joe Freasier. It just would not be a complete show without him. We are already talking about next year and hope many more of you will take part in its planning.

Barbara Parnell

*Note: The board wishes to thank Barbara for chairing this year's show and we look forward to another wonderful extravaganza in 2008!*

## ANCIENT ORCHIDS

For an ancient bee, carrying a flower into the afterlife allowed it to deliver a rare gift to today's biologists. The extinct species of stingless bee was found encased in amber with a well preserved part of an ancient orchid attached to its back. The amber, dug up in a mine in the Dominican Republic, is 10 million to 15 million years old. The pollen bearing package represents the first known fossil of an orchid, researchers say. Orchids are the most diverse flowering plants on Earth, with more than 20,000 species, but until now the flowers have been absent from fossil record. In a paper describing the find in the journal Nature, Santiago R. Ramirez of Harvard University and colleagues note that the fossil flower, called *Melorchis caribea*, belongs to a living group of orchids called Goodyerinae. In addition to shedding new light on the orchid family tree, the find provides an unprecedented direct fossil observation of a plant-pollinator interaction. For example, when bees visit living members of Goodyerinae, the pollen parts become stuck to their mouths as they take nectar from the lip of the flower. But the fossil pollen was found stuck to the ancient bee's back. "This indicates that the flower of *M.caribea* was gullet shaped," the researchers write. "The anterior part of the bee would have had to enter the flower completely."

## 2008 OSA Board of Directors

President - Julie Rathbun

1st Vice President - Aaron Hicks

2nd Vice President - Joe Bacik

Secretary - Barbara Parnell

Treasurer - Wilella Stimmell

Trustee - Frank Bopp (term expiring 12/09)

Trustee - Seelye Smith (term expiring 12/09)

Marleny Castillo and Mary Gannon will continue to serve as Trustees until their terms expire on 12/31/08.

# OSA December 2007 Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3  <i>Connie Skinner</i> OSA Meeting 7PM	4  <i>Janet Jurn</i>	5	6	7	8  <i>Bev Tall</i>
9  <i>Shirley Engberg</i>	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23 / 30	24 / 31	25 <i>Christmas Day</i>	26	27	28	29



Orchid Society of Arizona

c/o Keith Mead

5425 Thomas Drive NE

Albuquerque, NM 87111

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