



The Arizona Orchidist

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1966
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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, February 2nd, 2004 at 7:00 p.m.

OSA meetings are open to all
plant enthusiasts

Refreshments will be provided
This month beverages will be furnished
by: Pamela Albright

Edibles will be provided by:
Julie Langston and Wilella Stimmell

Refreshment Coordinators:
Julie Langston
Ramona Jungwirth

NEXT OSA BOARD MEETING

The next OSA board meeting will be
Sunday, January 25th at 2:00 p.m.

Hosted by Julie Rathbun
Please contact Julie
for directions to her home,
if you plan to attend

The meeting is open to all OSA members

GROWER ON CALL

Norma Kafer
nfk54401@cox.net



Happy Valentines Day

February Program

This month we are fortunate to welcome Paul Storm of Meke Aloha Orchids in Sarasota, Florida. Paul and his wife, Mary, will be joining us on their way to speak at the San Diego County Orchid Society (OSA is sharing transportation costs with SDCOS). Paul will be speaking on "*The Wonderful World of Schomburgkias*". He is bringing WARM growing plants for our silent auction. Please join in welcoming Paul and Mary.

Read more about Paul on page 5.

editor

ARIZONA STATE VETERAN HOME

As many of you know OSA and the ASVH have enjoyed a long relationship. What many of you may not know is that the ASVH gift shop relies on OSA for donations of soda pop to be sold to the veterans. Each month the residents anxiously await our delivery. To date fulfillment of this monthly commitment has been generously accomplished by very few of our members. Please help us with this worthy community service activity by picking up an extra 12 pack next time you are at the grocery store. Bring your donation to the next meeting and we will see that it is delivered.

If you are not able to bring a donation of soda pop, please consider a monetary contribution. The Treasurer would be happy to accept your check!

editor

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From the President's Desk

Norma Kafer

The first duty that I had was probably the most rewarding that I will have as President. Lou Ann was presented with an absolutely beautiful crystal paperweight with cymbidiums etched on the glass. We thank her for jumping in five years ago when the President abruptly resigned. Lou Ann liked the position and we liked her so well that she did the job for five years.

Also in the thanking department, Janet Jurn has done a wonderful job with the refreshment table. We have always been fed well. Thank you Janet.

Sat. Jan 10th Willie and I will do a presentation at the Home and Garden Show at the State Fairgrounds.

Julie is coordinating volunteers for the Equestrian Special Olympic Sat. Jan. 24th.

On Feb. 6th, 7th, and 8th we will sell plants at the Chinese Festival to be held at the Chinese Cultural Center. That has always been a lot of fun.

Our show dates are Nov. 13th & 14th with set up on the 12th. Our show chair is Sharon Davis and the theme is "Orchid Magic".

People have asked me about all the extra work required being President. My reply is that with so many willing people to help, that this is really an easy job. Thank you to all of those of you who make this job easy.

Our guest speaker for January was Aaron Hicks. He joined us after he moved from the "Land of Enchantment" and we have been very happy that he made the move. Aaron works in the plant lab at ASU doing mysterious things to plants.

He talked to us about pests that sometimes plague orchids. The insects that like orchids are mealy bugs and scale. Aaron suggests that you clean off the sheath of the catts and that will help reduce mealy bugs. For scale he uses a systemic pesticide. Others find that spraying rubbing alcohol works well. Mites can be a problem and it seems that the natural predators keep down the population. There seems to be a natural balance here. Thrips like moisture where slugs and snails like the soft tissue of plants. Earwigs, sow bugs, pill bugs, and potato bugs are not native and are introduced pests. Cinnamon and talc have been successfully used to clear up bacterial fungus rot.

Next month we have Paul Storm as our guest speaker and he will bring Schomburgkias for the silent auction. He assures us that they are warm growers.

Norma Kafer

THANK YOU

BELATED, BUT HEART-FELT THANKS TO ORCHID VENDORS WHO DONATED PLANTS AND/OR GIFT CERTIFICATES FOR OUR DEC. 1, 2003 FUND-RAISER:

COUNTRYSIDE ORCHIDS
P.O. BOX 958
CORRALES, NM 87048
(505)263-6888
<http://members.aol.com/CSOrchids/>
E-mail: <billschn@aol.com>

LENETTE GREENHOUSES
1440 POM ORCHID LANE
KANNAPOLIS, NC 28081
(704)938-2042
<http://www.lenetteorchids.com>

Whenever possible, please patronize the vendors who have generously donated.

Welcome New Members

Bridget Lawrence
and
Alex Arce

OBITUARY

Before the first overnight low temperature that hovered close to freezing, my vandas were growing and blooming beautifully. However, early in the afternoon the next day after the "freeze", when I watered my plants, I committed two bonehead errors: 1) Since I water with tap water and a watering wand, I forgot to take the chill off the water before watering warm growing plants. I could easily have warmed the tap water by placing warm water in the bucket with the siphon mixer that I use to fertilize my orchids and used the siphon mixer to mix warm water from the bucket with the tap water coming out of the end of the hose. 2) I watered too late in the day for the water to dry in the leaf axils by sunset. Water left in the leaf axils after the sun sets, will cause the leaves to drop. I apparently also got water into the crown of some of my vandas, and rot happened! I paid dearly for my mistakes: I lost at least half my vandas. The moral: water in haste; repent at leisure! AND...exercise common sense!

W. Stimmell

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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.

JANUARY RAFFLE TABLE DONATIONS

THANKS TO:

Wilella Stimmell, Julie Rathbun, Richard Donley Fox, Cynthia Schnitzer,
Pamela Albright, Jeanette Socaciu and OSA



COMMUNITY SERVICE REPORT

by Wilella Stimmell, CSP Coordinator

On January 10, NORMA KAFER and I presented an orchid seminar at the MARICOPA COUNTY HOME AND GARDEN SHOW, State Fairgrounds, Phoenix. We not only represented OSA but also the Arizona Federation of Garden Clubs. (For those of you who do not know, OSA has been affiliated with AFGC since 1995.)

Our colorful display plants were greatly admired by the group of potential orchid growers who attended our seminar. A few people photographed our plants, others made notes with pad and pen, and one person with some experience growing orchids, also spoke quietly into a tape recorder as he was filming the presentation. Those who attended the seminar said that we had inspired them to try again, after suffering a few plant losses, to grow orchids. The blooming door prize phalaenopsis, from OSA's plant inventory, was won by an AFGC member.

JULIE RATHBUN will report on OSA's participation in the EQUESTRIAN SPECIAL OLYMPICS, January 24, in our March newsletter.

We have no community service programs, per se, scheduled for February, and there are reasons for that: 1) We will be busy with the **Chinese Cultural Festival** on **Feb. 6, 7, and 8. It can't be stressed enough: WE NEED WORKERS for the Chinese Festival!** 2) A number of OSA's Program Team Members will be going to Pacific Orchid Exposition the third week in February. And 3) an unusual duty has befallen OSA's Community Service Program Coordinator. On **February 28**, I will serve as auctioneer for the **Arizona Federation of Garden Clubs Fund-raiser!** (AFGC has not held a fund-raiser for the past couple of years. In fact, the last AFGC fund-raiser was co-chaired by me and Roberta Lothian, who recently moved to Washington state. Roberta and I were frugal with overhead expenses, and even our nationally-known speaker declined his usual speaker's fee and reimbursement for travel expenses. Perhaps we made so much money for AFGC that there was no need for another fund-raiser until now? ☺☺)

Anyone who would like to see your Treasurer and CSP Coordinator dressed in an Aunt Sam (NOT Uncle Sam!) costume, is free to attend the AFGC Fund-raiser! The theme of the fund-raiser is: **All American Country Affair** (thus the theme for my costume). The event will be held at the **Mesa Country Club**, from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. The **cost for luncheon is \$28.00**. Betty Groves is the Reservation Chair, phone (602) 866-7767. The **deadline for reservations is February 13**. All clubs in all 5 AFGC Districts are asked to donate items for the fund-raiser. OSA's district, West Central, is in charge of the Plant Sale Table. There will also be a Flea Market, Cook Book Barn, Bakery Booth, Live and Silent Auction, Gift Basket Raffle, and Garden Art and Crafts.

Already on our Community Service Calendar: On **March 10 AND 11**, NORMA KAFER and I will journey to **Lake Havasu City, Bullhead City, and Kingman**, where we will present hands-on repotting programs for the Master Gardeners. On **March 12** at 11:45 a.m., we will present a demonstration at the **Mohave County Home and Garden Expo**, in Kingman.

We could still schedule school programs for a date in March, and as some of you know, we schedule strictly on a first-come, first-serve basis. If you know of a school where we have not yet presented our hands-on program, alert a teacher to contact me as soon as possible!

PAUL STORM AND THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF SCHOMBURGKIAS

PAUL STORM WAS BORN AND RAISED IN BUFFALO, NEW YORK WHERE HE NEVER EVEN SAW AN ORCHID! WHEN HIS FAMILY RETIRED IN FLORIDA, PAUL GRADUATED FROM STETSON UNIVERSITY AND MOVED, MARRIED AND WORKED IN MIAMI - WHERE HE *STILL* NEVER SAW AN ORCHID ALTHOUGH THEY LIVED AROUND THE CORNER FROM SOME OF MIAMI 'S LEADING ORCHID NURSERIES - BUT WHEN THE STORMS MOVED TO SARASOTA AND FOR SOME UNKNOWN REASON PAUL ATTENDED AN ORCHID SALE AND PURCHASED A SMALL DIVISION OF SCHOMBURGKIA TIBICINIS – THEIR WORLD CHANGED *FOREVER!!*

APPROXIMATELY EIGHT YEARS AGO THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF SCHOMBURGKIAS AND SCHOMBO-HYBRIDS BECAME AN OBSESSION TO PAUL AND AGAINST THE INITIAL DISINTEREST OF THEM BY HIS WIFE AND DERISION BY HIS FRIENDS, PAUL REALIZED THAT HE WAS BORN TO CONVERT THE WORLD TO "SCHOMBO-APPRECIATION"! TOGETHER PAUL AND MARY HAVE TRAVELLED THE COUNTRY, WESTERN EUROPE'S CONSERVATORIES, THE CARIBBEAN, AND HAWAII SEEKING THE BEST CLONE'S OF EACH SPECIES AND COLLECTING THE SCHOM-HYBRIDS WHICH HAD ALREADY BEEN MADE AND REGISTERED. VERY QUICKLY THEY DISCOVERED THAT THERE WERE GORGEOUS HYBRIDS AND REALLY UGLY ONES (JUST LIKE *ALL* ORCHID SPECIES) - AND THERE WAS A PUZZLE WAITING TO BE UNLOCKED AND A PUBLIC-RELATIONS CAMPAIGN WAITING TO BE WAGED.

THE STORMS' SCHOMBURGKIA SEARCH HAS LED THEM TO FRIENDSHIP WITH SOME OF THE FINEST ORCHID SPECIALISTS AND GROWERS, AS WELL AS ENTHUSIASTIC ORCHID HOBBYISTS AROUND THE WORLD. TWO BREEDING SPECIALISTS HAVE EACH NAMED A NEW HYBRID FOR PAUL - ROBERT BENEVIDES (RAYMOND BURR'S ORCHID PARTNER AT SEA GOD NURSERY) AND TOM MOORE (CREATOR OF THE SCHOM GENUS 'MOOREARA'). IN TURN, PAUL HAS NAMED ONE OF THE MOST BEAUTIFUL HYBRIDS FOR HIS BELOVED WIFE, MARY, WHO HAS LOYALLY SUPPORTED HIM IN THIS ADVENTURE. TOGETHER THEY HAVE MADE LITERALLY HUNDREDS OF NEW CROSSES -SOME MERELY TO UNLOCK GENETIC SECRETS AND SOME OF WHICH HE TRULY BELIEVES (TRANSLATE THAT:"HOPES!") WILL MAKE SCHOM HISTORY. ONE OF PAUL'S GREATEST MOMENTS WAS RECEIVING PIECES OF THE PERSONAL SCHOM COLLECTION OF HIS HERO AND THE AUTHOR OF THE FINEST SCHOMBURGKIA BOOK EVER WRITTEN : DR. CARL WITHNER.

PAUL IS CURRENTLY WORKING ON A BOOK ABOUT SCHOMBURGKIA SPECIES WITH A HISTORY AND DISCOURSE ON THEIR USE IN HYBRIDIZING. HE IS WORKING ON A FEW NEW GENUS OF SCHOMBURGKIA-HYBRIDS, AND HE BELIEVES THAT THERE IS A WHOLE NEW WORLD OF SCHOM-HYBRIDS WAITING TO BE OPENED. BUT MOST OF ALL - PAUL IS ON A MISSION TO HELP BRING SCHOMBURGKIAS AND THEIR HYBRIDS THE RESPECT AND APPRECIATION THEY SO JUSTLY DESERVE AND TO CONVERT THE ORCHID WORLD TO "SCHOMBO-LOVE".

Paul Storm

International Orchid Conservation Congress II Registration Forms Available

At each of our monthly meetings from June, 2003 through April, 2004, registration forms for the International Orchid Conservation Congress II, will be available on our raffle ticket sales table. The Congress will be held at Selby Gardens, Sarasota, FL, May 16-21, 2004.

OSA was the FIRST orchid society to donate funds for the IOCC! The goal of the organizing committee is to have funds available so that scientists from Third World countries will be able to attend the congress. Your OSA Board of Directors voted unanimously at our March 2 Board Meeting, to donate funds for the IOCC.

FROM THE ARCHIVES OF "THE ARIZONA ORCHIDIST"

Since our January program was devoted to orchid pests, and since we have so many new members who might not have been members in 1992 or 1995, two articles about "bugs" that appeared in back issues of our newsletter might be of interest. Both articles were written by Deacon Bell.

From our October, 1992 issue, pages 3 and 4:

"On Fleas and Mites

'So, naturalists observe, a flea
Hath smaller fleas that on him prey;
And these have smaller still to bite 'em;
And so proceed ad infinitum."

Jonathan Swift, British Satirist, Eighteenth Century

'Great fleas have little fleas upon their
back to bite 'em.

And little fleas have lesser fleas, and
so ad infinitum.

And the great fleas themselves in turn
have greater fleas to go on,

While these again have greater still,
and greater still, and so on.'

Augustus De Morgan, British mathematician, Nineteenth century

These astute observations were made long before the vast array of pests and viruses was known, but they seem to apply also to spider mites and false spider mites on orchids.

I have yet to see a false spider mite, yet I feel sure that some of my plants have been victims. Rebecca Northen says that small white spots on the leaves, the molted skins of the mites, are evidence of their presence. Of course, other things can cause small white spots on leaves. Since we know that false spider mites exist, might not a horde of other mites even smaller, also exist?

Years ago, I visited Oscar Kirsch's greenhouse in Honolulu. I noticed that many of the dendrobium leaves on his plants had small black spots. I asked him whether or not the spots could be a virus. He said that it wasn't a virus and that the spots didn't seem to hurt the plants. Now I think it might have been small bacterial infections, but how did the bacteria penetrate the skin of the plant? Could a micro-mite with a juice sucking drill have let in the bacteria?

I have had a few similar black spots on dendrobium leaves and have found that the New Zealand mite spray seems to stop its spread. In any case, it is easy to use and harmless to people, so I will repeat the formula: 2 tablespoons cold water (liquid) Surf detergent, 1 tablespoon methyl alcohol (shellac thinner), and 1 tablespoon cooking oil. Mix thoroughly in one gallon of water. If a precipitate forms, strain the solution through fine cheese cloth before putting it into a spray bottle. Apply at 10 day intervals or as needed."

continued on page 7

Continued from page 6

From our June, 1995 issue, pages 3 and 4:
"Reflections on the Prime Orchid Pest"

One of the most insidious orchid pests is the boisduval scale. The name, wood of the valley, suggests that it is not limited to orchids.

An amateur orchid grower, lacking extensive laboratory equipment, has to close the gaps by speculation. The following observations are partly fact and partly educated guesses.

To begin, consider the animal itself. Scales have no mouth at one end and an 'exit' at the other. They have a sucking tube in the middle of the body which they insert into the plant and pull up vital fluids from the plant and excrete viruses and poisons. The male is able to fly, but the female can only crawl. After mating, the female selects a location, sinks her drinking tube and constructs a plastic dome overhead, sealed at the edges. Then she starts laying eggs. The males now seem to prefer male-only company and congregate closely, usually on the underside of a leaf. Each one puts up a single white hair which forms a water-impervious cover. As the eggs hatch, the baby scales break through the edge of their cover and repeat the cycle.

Many commercial growers use a systemic insecticide to control this scale, but it is dangerous and difficult for amateurs to use. Also it can cause distortion in the blooms. Rubbing alcohol will kill the scale on contact and will penetrate the male protective cover. However, the alcohol spray does not seem to penetrate the female canopy which can be hidden in ANY crevice available. A vigorous scrubbing with a toothbrush dipped in alcohol might reach the scale. In any case, the plant treated should be wiped clean with a paper towel, isolated, and observed for a month before being placed with other plants.

Scale usually starts on the upper part of the plant and spreads in ALL directions. If caught early, it does not seem to hurt the plant very much, but on cattleya-type plants, if it reaches the bottom of the pseudobulb, it can kill the 'eyes' (buds). When the eyes are dead, the plant should be discarded. An orchid collection was donated to our society by a member who had severe health problems. The plants had been neglected for some time, and the scale had penetrated into the fir bark medium. Despite heroic efforts by two of our experienced growers, not one of the plants could be saved.

When Gene Crocker, of Carter and Holmes, was a guest in my home, he told me that he found two female scales about 6 feet apart in a supposedly clean seedling house. Possibly they had been carried in by someone who had handled an infested plant in another greenhouse. The female domes are round and about a millimeter in diameter, so I was impressed by Gene's visual acumen.

I have grown orchids in Dallas, New Orleans, and Phoenix. To the best of my recollection, no growers in Dallas and New Orleans had a problem with scale. It has only been in the past twenty years, in Phoenix, that I have become aware of the increasing problem of relentless scale.

The following statements from Lenette Greenhouses' booklet on orchid culture might be helpful regarding the treatment of scale: 'We recommend spraying your plants twice in the Spring and twice in the Fall as an absolute minimum. We normally wait two weeks between each spraying. You might need to spray more often. If you have only a few plants, you might prefer to dip the entire plant as opposed to spraying. When spraying, you must use a systemic insecticide if you are going to be successful in combatting scale. Cygon and Orthene (wetttable power) are two of the more commonly used insecticides for scale. Use at the rate of 2 teaspoons per gallon of water.' I quote the above passage NOT to recommend that hobbyists use potent products such as Cygon, but to stress the aggressive approach and constant vigilance necessary to control scale. If just ONE female is left hiding under perhaps the dry sheath of a rhizome, the battle to control scale will have been only temporarily 'won'."

Editor's Note: For an outstanding close-up picture of both male and female boisduval scale, see page 37 of the 2002 Revised Edition of the American Orchid Society's ORCHID PESTS AND DISEASES.



OSA February 2004 Calendar



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 <i>OSA Meeting</i> 7:00 P.M.	3	4	5	6 <i>Chinese Cultural Festival</i>	7 <i>Chinese Cultural Festival</i>
8 <i>Chinese Cultural Festival</i>	9	10	11 <i>DeLea Morrissey</i>	12	13 <i>Wayne Baker</i>	14 VALENTINES DAY
15	16 PRESIDENTS DAY	17	18	19 <i>Jim Johnson</i> <i>James Lauck</i>	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29 <i>Del Pace</i>						



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