



# 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, February 7, 2005 at 7:00 p.m.

OSA meetings are open to all  
plant enthusiasts

Refreshments will be provided.

This month's beverages by  
Wilella Stimmell  
Snacks by

Bridget Lawrence and Wilella Stimmell

Refreshment Coordinators:

Julie Langston  
Ramona Jungwirth

## OSABOARD MEETING

The next OSA board meeting  
will be held

Sunday, January 30th at 1 P.M.

hosted by Norma Kafer

Please call Norma for directions  
to her home

Board meetings are open to all OSA  
members

## GROWER ON CALL

Lou Ann Remeikis  
remeikis@dancriis.com

## *February Program*

### **Botanical Collections of Cyrus Pringle in Arizona (1881-1884), and contributions toward an historic riparian flora at Tucson**

Presented by **Kathryn Mauz**, University of Arizona doctoral candidate and recipient of the **OSA Deacon Bell Memorial Scholarship Fund**

"Kathryn Mauz is a graduate student in Arid Land Resource Sciences at the University of Arizona. Since coming to Arizona, she has divided her time between floristic work in small, dry mountain ranges of the low desert, herbarium collections research, and contributing to the conservation of large and amazing natural areas in the Sonoran Desert.

The first of these floristic endeavors was in the Sawtooth Mountains, later incorporated by the Ironwood Forest National Monument. Looming to the west was Table Top Mountain, where she began work on that flora as part of what was to become the Sonoran Desert National Monument. She has contributed sections in the geology and plant life of the SDNM to the forthcoming edited volume, DRY BORDERS: GREAT NATURAL AREAS OF THE GRAN DESIERTO AND UPPER GULF OF CALIFORNIA. Locally, her field work produced a floristic inventory of the West Branch of the Santa Cruz, a relict mesquite-lined channel in the heart of Tucson now owned by Pima County as a conservation property.

Recently, Kathryn's graduate fellowship-supported research has been devoted to describing phenology in dry forests of West Mexico, measuring saguaros and spatial variability in their growth rates, and documenting historic plant taxonomic changes in the former riparian areas of the Tucson Basin. She is currently gathering materials and data toward a monographic treatment of Cyrus Pringle's botanical career in the western United States.

The OSA Deacon Bell Memorial Scholarship Fund has helped support my local field work and enabled me to travel to important eastern herbaria where Cyrus Pringle's materials are housed."

*Editor's Note: For more in-depth information on Kathryn's publications, visit her web page at <http://www.u.arizona.edu/~kmauz/>*

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## From the President's Desk

Norma Kafer

It was a dark and stormy night, but many people ventured out to hear Hermann Pigors talk about papahs at our January meeting. He showed slides of an amazing variety of shapes and colors. My appreciation for them is steadily growing. Actually we can blame it on Keith who kept showing different ones when we were over at Chris Gubler's. "Look at this one, how do you like this color?" And he is such a nice guy, one had to be polite, so look I did. Actually he did point out some details that I had previously not noticed. So thanks.

The program for February will be presented by Kathryn Mauz. Kathryn is our scholarship recipient and will speak about Botanical Collections of Cyrus Pringle in Arizona (1881-1884), and contributions toward an historic riparian flora at Tucson

Teddy Cohen, Julie Rathbun, and Willie Stimmell journeyed to Kingman. Hopefully the weather was better than our last trip where we were rained out. They have a fully packed agenda including a number of school classes and the garden club presentation.

We hope you all are optimistic and looking forward to the new year and all the surprises that it may hold.

### What did OSA do with the Money We Earned in 2004?

OSA's BUSY BEE VOLUNTEERS WORKED EXCEEDINGLY HARD IN 2004 AND RETURNED TO THE COMMUNITY MORE MONEY THAN WE EARNED! How is that possible? I'm glad you asked. We received generous donations of funds, which we in turn passed along to the community in the form of scholarships, donations to upgrade our meeting facility, grant money awarded to Hopi interns working on a handbook of the flora and fauna of cultural significance on the Hopi reservation, purchasing seedlings and potting supplies for our hands-on school programs, donating funds for botanical illustrations which, when completed, will be available online at no cost to orchidists, and donating funds for the special year-end issue of ORCHID DIGEST, to name just a few recipients of OSA funds. We also make annual donations of orchid journals and orchid reference works to Phoenix Public Library and are generous with our support of the Northern Arizona Health Care System and the Arizona State Veteran Home. Actually, **we earned less money from sales in 2004 than we earned in 2003**. Surplus funds raised through sales throughout 2004 plus donations of funds, enabled us to donate more than **93%** of funds from ALL sources.

Also note that NO OSA Board member receives a salary.

It is also worth noting that membership dues did NOT cover the cost in 2004 of "importing" speakers. That statement takes into account the fact that a few members generously opened their homes to house speakers, and a few others provided meals for speakers so that the funds did not need to be deducted from OSA's Treasury. With a few exceptions, OSA's membership is comprised of members who are team players.

OSA members are welcome to attend any/all board meetings. During each board meeting a Treasurer's report is given.

*Wilella Stimmell, Treasurer*



## SCALE

Scale insects resemble tiny turtles . . . but they're even lazier. Like turtles, scale have hard shells-1/16 to 1/8 inch in diameter, usually brown or green in color. Unlike turtles, scale don't move around after they mature; instead, they affix themselves to a plant leaf or stem and feed off its juices.

You can easily spot wart-like adults lined up along a leaf vein or attached barnacle-fashion to stems. Baby scale are a different matter. Shell-less and invisible to the naked eye, they crawl about seeking fresh foliage to get their teeth into. Boisduval scale can sometimes be mistaken for mealy bugs, but are far more difficult to get rid of.

**Symptoms** Scale can sometimes be mistaken for mealy bugs. Look closely, though, and you'll see a shell instead of the mealy bug's waxy white covering. Many scale shells are simply round or oval domes. Others look like miniature oyster shells. Scratch one with your fingernail or the blade of a knife and it'll pop free.

Also like mealy bugs, most scale excrete droplets of a sweetish, sticky "honeydew" that gives foliage a shiny look. This gooey stuff attracts black mold, and sometimes ants as well.

**Life cycle** When babies-called crawlers-leave home they have legs and antennae to help them in their wanderings. Since they can travel for as long as two days without feeding, they're hardy enough to drop off one plant and seek out another. Once a crawler finds a likely homestead, it sinks its mouth into the leaf or stem, then tucks its legs under its body and settles down. Eventually the legs and antennae disappear and a shell begins to form. This continues to enlarge, providing protection for new generations of scale born underneath. Females produce three to seven broods in a year's time.

**Controls:** High humidity levels make it difficult for scale insects to make headway. In dry winter months you might want to consider running a humidifier near susceptible plants.

For light infestations, dislodge scale with a soft toothbrush or wet cloth-or dab with denatured alcohol, just as you would for mealy bugs. Once you've popped off a shell, make sure you also get the eggs underneath. Wash with soapy water and quarantine the plant for several weeks. You may have to repeat the treatment several times. Discard heavily infested plants or they'll infect healthy ones.

## SPIDER MITES

To a spider mite, the leaf of a medium-size houseplant must seem as vast as the state of California. These eight-legged critters---cousins of ordinary spiders and sometimes called red spiders-measure only about 1/50 of an inch long, so don't expect to get a good look at one without the help of a strong magnifying glass. In good light, though, you can see colonies with your naked eye. Look at the undersides of leaves, especially along the veins and edges where mites like to congregate; a bronze or reddish hue means they're at work sucking away your plant's vital juices.

**Symptoms** Whitish or yellowish speckled spots on the tops of leaves are your first clue that spider mites have arrived. Eventually, leaves take on a bronze or yellow look and may die or drop off. Silky webbing means your plant has a bad case.

**Life cycle:** Spider mites begin life as eggs and live for about a month. During that time, the number of eggs one of these characters can lay depends largely upon temperature. At 60 degrees, one female will produce only about 20 eggs-not a big family in the mite world. Increase the temperature to 80 degrees and her tribe could potentially reach 13 million! The eggs like it hot, too. At 80 degrees, they'll hatch in about five days-at 60 degrees, almost 15 days. Seven days is typical. This explains why spider mites seem to go wild in warm locations or during those first hot days of spring or summer. They thrive in dry environments, too.

As populations explode, mite-gration begins. Young females glide on their silky threads to other leaves-or ride air currents, clothes, or your hands to other plants. Some even set out on foot.

**Controls:** Since cooler temperatures and higher humidity levels greatly inhibit mites, try to provide these conditions for susceptible plants.

Periodically check all plants for spider mites, as explained above. Be especially vigilant during warm periods. And if you happen to take your plant outdoors, check it carefully before you bring it in. Isolate it from your other plants for a week or two, then check again. Spider mites abound in outside vegetation.

If you spot evidence of mites, isolate the plant immediately and bathe it weekly with mildly soapy water. Be sure to wash away any webbing and give the undersides of leaves a good scrubbing. This will remove all or most of the adults, but it won't affect the eggs. To get these, you have to wait a week until they hatch, then wash again. Repeat once more a week later.

*Reprinted with permission: Ray Barkalow, First Rays Orchids*

## OSA'S KINGMAN TRIP NETS 170 NEW ORCHID FANS

By Teddy Cohen

OSA members JULIE RATHBUN, WILLELLA STIMMELL, and TEDDY COHEN traveled to Kingman, Arizona this month as part of the society's continuing effort to introduce students to the love of orchids.

The Cerbat Garden Club invited OSA to Kingman for "Hands-On-Orchid Programs" in two schools. Wednesday morning, January 12th, started with the drive to Kingman, where WILLIE presented a basic Orchid 101 program to the Garden Club. After a lovely luncheon spread prepared by Cerbat members, the two organizations worked together to present programs to 90 4<sup>th</sup> graders at Kingman Academy of Learning. TEDDY was overheard telling these 90 students that *Phalaenopsis* would be on their spelling test this week. Only one of the kids challenged this fantasy, the other 89 just looked shocked! Cerbat members who assisted at KAOL were SU KALANITHI, SHIRLEY WOLFE, and SANDIE WOMACK.

Cerbat Garden Club generously provided lovely rooms at Kings Inn for the night. Thursday morning brought OSA three classes of 3<sup>rd</sup> graders at Cerbat Elementary. Those helping at Cerbat were GENIE SANDERS, BEV JOHNSON, and SANDIE WOMACK. We were also assisted at Cerbat Elementary by our old friend BARBARA KUZMA of the Mohave County Extension Office. One hundred seventy students learned about orchids and potted their own *Phalaenopsis* seedling in a "milk jug" greenhouse..

Kingman Academy students were from the 4<sup>th</sup> grade classes of Mrs. Perrine, Mrs. Snelling, Mrs. Jennings, and Mrs. Moore. Cerbat Elementary 3<sup>rd</sup> graders were from the classes of Mrs. Klein, Mrs. Harris, and Mrs. Williams. Mrs. Klein's class was so impressed with our efforts that they hand delivered a thank you note before OSA had finished packing up to leave!

The students provided their own milk jugs. OSA provided the seedlings, pots, and plastic grids. The fir bark medium was generously donated by our own CHRIS GUBLER, who made sure that a last minute supply of extra seedlings arrived in time for the trip. Kingman Home Depot's TOM BIRKETT, a Cerbat Garden Club member helped arrange for the donation of that heavy lava rock from Home Depot.

As we left Cerbat Elementary, students were just lining up for lunch. When we passed by carrying Willie and Julie's blooming beauties, the line of kids lit up like neon. Curiosity and wonder filled their faces. They will be there waiting for us next year, milk jugs in hand!

## JANUARY RAFFLE TABLE DONATIONS

Mary Alice Baumberger, Bob MacLeod, Wilella Stimmell, OSA  
and Santa Barbara International Orchid Show Committee



SPECIAL THANKS TO ALL

## FROM THE ARCHIVES - 50 YEARS AGO

"Sales Trends of Orchids Since the War"

by G. Ferguson Beall,  
AMERICAN ORCHID SOCIETY BULLETIN,  
February, 1955, pages 80-82.

"The Society of American Florists made a survey of the large commercial orchid firms across the country in 1952 and 1953 when combating an express rate increase. The figures from this report as well as our own figures since then show that the following has taken place in Cattleya prices in the past eight years, and the next two years have been estimated from this trend to complete the table.

We take Cattleyas because they show the trend of all orchids including Cymbidium prices, and Cattleyas, of course, are still the backbone of the orchid industry today.

Average sales price for a ten-year period beginning 1946 for Cattleyas:

1946 \$2.84	1948 \$2.04
1950 \$1.55	1952 \$1.29
1954 (\$1.12)	1956 (\$1.01)

The highest and lowest prices reported during the same period follows:

High Reported	Low Reported
1946 \$3.34	1946 \$1.75
1948 \$2.49	1948 \$1.50
1950 \$1.97	1950 \$1.28
1952 \$1.66	1952 \$ .99
1954 \$1.49	1954 \$ .73
1956 (\$1.40)	1956 (\$.51)

The 1954 high, low, and average were worked out by comparing our own company's figures with the others and carrying out the figures across curved graphs.

Another method used to ascertain sales prices since the war has been to take the reported figures from trade journals reporting market prices across the country.

In 1945 choice white orchids were bringing on large wholesale markets as high as \$18.00 each at holidays. This rapidly dropped off to \$12.50 reported high for the same type bloom at the same holiday in 1946, to \$10.00 in 1948, to \$7.50 in 1949, to \$6.00 in 1950, to \$5.00 in 1951, to \$4.50 in 1952, to \$4.00 in 1953, and to \$3.50 in 1954.

The same trend shows in colored Cattleyas starting at \$7.50 for a good Cattleya in holiday time in 1946, \$5.50 in 1947, \$4.50 in 1948, \$4.00 in 1949, \$3.50 in 1950, \$3.00 in 1951, \$2.75 in 1952, \$2.50 in 1953, and \$2.25 in 1954.

Now these prices are approximate, but they show the average prices asked at the wholesale markets for the same type customer through those times.

The same information can be obtained for the species and for inferior type orchids. However, here we find that many times the market does not sell them out on the holiday, especially if there is bad weather holding down sales, or a particularly heavy crop of good orchids in. It is impossible to tell the amount of dumpage through our present type of setup of consignment to wholesalers, but it is terrifically wasteful to say the least. It resembles the situation in Holland before they put in their present system of buying flowers outright. There were thousands of flowers being thrown away when average people couldn't afford to pay the price necessary for flowers.

Before we go into future trends and effects let us look at all of the causes of this situation. Orchids are not and probably never will be protected by any type of subsidy since they are a luxury item. It is strictly a supply and demand business.

*continued on page 7*

*Continued from page 6*

The demand for orchids since 1946 has gone down for the following reasons:

1. Overtime rates of pay for war work went down as war contracts were completed or cancelled.
2. War bonds and money saved during rationing gradually were absorbed as hard goods and homes became available.
3. The cost of living went up causing a tightening of the budget with less night club and consequently orchid spending.
4. Income taxes became stiffer causing a cut down on luxuries.
5. The advent of television cut all sorts of social night life down tremendously. Taxicab records show this very plainly.

The supply, on the other hand, has gone up since 1946 for the following reasons:

1. Many commercial growers and others found the excess profits taxes could be avoided by investing heavily in orchid plants, since these are regarded in most books as an expense of doing business. This caused a terrific build up of so-called "war-baby" collections.
2. High prices after the war caused a heavy build-up of seedling stock and imported species.
3. Many hobbyists found they could deduct taxes for a losing business and started selling their flowers commercially.
4. The advent of DDT wiped out the constant scale threat in growing plants.

This and other technological advances caused plants to continue bearing indefinitely, growing prolifically and being divided vegetatively.

The sum total of all these supply factors is that there are more orchid plants bearing than was ever thought probable. At the same time the demand has dropped off, and although this decline has slowed, the trend still persists. From a practical standpoint this is serious since our labor, fuel, glass, shipping, and material costs have all gone up - in some cases doubled or tripled.

Now that we have looked at the darkest possible facets of the picture let's see what the bright side looks like.

1. It is still one of the best crops in the cut-flower industry - which resembles the orchid industry in ill health, by the way.
2. We are now able to time our crops to hit the peak seasons and holidays, and avoid seasonal slumps.
3. Marginal operators and inferior species will be forced off the market as time marches on. -  
Vashon, Washington."

*Editor's Note: This article was presented at the Professional Growers' Session at the First World Orchid Conference in St. Louis, MO. Also note that the percentage drops from year to year were excluded from our newsletter to conserve space.*

*G. Ferguson Beall of Vashon, Washington, was the President of the American Orchid Society in 1961 and 1962. He received much credit for his years of work with BC. Deesse and for breeding many other cattleyas. In the November, 1988 issue of the AMERICAN ORCHID SOCIETY BULLETIN, Ernest Hetherington wrote an article, "Giants of the Cattleya World". On page 1211, Hetherington praises the cattleya breeding done by G. Ferguson Beall.*

*Excerpts from The "In Memoriam" to G.F. Beall from the February, 1977 issue of THE AMERICAN ORCHID SOCIETY BULLETIN, page 105: "On Tuesday, October 19, 1976, G. Ferguson Beall died after an extended illness. Born December 20, 1915 on Vashon Island, Washington, he received his formal education at the University of Washington, Oregon State, and Cornell University. For his service during World War II, 'Fergie' was awarded the Air Medal with seven oak leaf clusters and the Distinguished Flying Cross."*

*G. Ferguson Beall was Vice-President and Director of The Beall Company. "During the 1930's Fergie's travels led him to South and Central American where many of the odontoglossums and labiate cattleyas he collected formed the basis for his superb hybridizing achievements.*

*Undoubtedly, Fergie's best-known hybrid was Bc. Mount Hood, named for the beloved, dormant volcano just outside Portland, Oregon. ... Two hybrid genera were named in honor of Fergie. The first [was] Beallara Tahoma Glacier...and more recently, The Beall Company registered Fergusonara Shishaldin Volcano..."*

*Your Editor realizes that many OSA members are too young to remember World War II, but the historical perspective demonstrated in this article is interesting when contrasted to today's orchid prices!*

*By way of comparison, in 1950 a postage stamp was 3 cents, a loaf of bread was 14 cents and a gallon of gas was 20 cents.*

# OSA February 2005 Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7 <b>OSA MEETING</b> <b>7:00 PM</b>	8	9	10	11  <i>DeLea Morrissey</i> <b>CHINESE WEEK</b>	12  <b>CULTURAL</b>
13  <i>Wayne Baker</i> <b>FESTIVAL</b>	14  <i>Bob Gordon</i>	15	16	17	18	19  <i>Jim Johnson</i> <i>Jim Lauck</i>
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27  <i>Teddy Cohen</i>	28  <i>Del Pace (29th)</i>					



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

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