



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 5th**, 2007
at 7:00 P.M.

OSA meetings are open to all
plant enthusiasts

Refreshments will be provided.
This month Barbara Parnell will
provide liquid refreshment
Janet Jurn and Wilella Stimmell
snacks

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

OSABOARDMEETING

The next OSA board meeting
will be held
Sunday, February 25, at 1 P.M.
at the home of
Barbara and Harry Parnell
Contact them at (480) 948-0714
for directions

Board Meetings
are open to all members

GROWER ON CALL

Julie Rathbun
jandfent@aol.com

February Program

Oncidium Species Culture Charles Baker

For those of you who have an orchid reference library, you are probably aware of the series of important works written by Charles and Margaret Baker.

Volume 1 of ORCHID SPECIES CULTURE (published in 1991) included *Pescatorea*, *Phaius*, *Phalaenopsis*, *Pholidota*, *Phragmipedium*, and *Pleione*. **Volume II**, published in 1996, was devoted to the culture of *Dendrobium* species. **Volume III**, published in 2006, is a huge book (970 pages NOT counting the bibliography) and is devoted to the *Oncidium/Odontoglossum* Alliance which includes 1300 species in 87 genera that are considered to be in the *Oncidium/Odontoglossum* alliance.

Prior to the publication of Volume III, Charlie's wife, Margaret, died on Sept. 15, 2005.

This is Charlie's first visit with us, so please extend a warm welcome to him.

After Charlie's slide presentation, he will autograph one or more of your copies of ORCHID SPECIES CULTURE,

(Note: Culture information is located on the internet at <http://www.orchidculture.com>)

Please see page 3 for Charlie's biographical sketch.

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From the President's Desk

Julie Rathbun

Even though our New Year's Day meeting was cancelled, I hope that you spent a portion of January 1 taking care of your orchids. (Our orchids don't celebrate holidays. They still need to be watered, inspected for "vermin", groomed, and repotted.) If you paid no attention at all to your plants, I hope that at least you made a New Year's resolution to take better care of your plants this year than you did last year!

I am sad to report that former OSA member, **Ken Gettys**, died on January 3. His sisters contacted me and offered their brother's plants and potting supplies to OSA. (For benefit of longtime OSA members: in 1987, Ken's parents, Elsy and Sam, were OSA members. In 1993, Ken joined OSA, and he and his widowed mother were active members until 1999. During 1995 through 1997, Ken served as OSA's 2nd Vice President. In 1998 and 1999, Ken served as the Editor of our monthly newsletter. Even though his mother's health had begun to deteriorate, Ken remained an inactive OSA member from 2000 until 2005.)

If any of you who knew Ken and Elsy would like to send sympathy cards to Elsy Gettys and Family, I'm sure that the family would appreciate the gesture. Send cards to 235 W. Country Gables Dr., Phoenix, AZ 85023-5352.

In non-orchid news, I am pleased that I am the new owner of a silver belt buckle which I won for participating in local horse shows in 2006. Actually, Willy, my chestnut quarter horse, did all of the work, and I just sat in his saddle and let him "do his thing".

Last year, in an attempt to simplify my life, I found a new home for my pot-bellied pigs, Wilbur and Charlotte. Unfortunately their life at a new home didn't last long, and my little "porkers" were returned to me. They weren't discipline problems for the new owner, but one of the new owner's neighbors complained that she had too many animals on her property. The City of Scottsdale agreed with the neighbor's complaint, which is the reason that Wilbur and Charlotte were returned to me. In case any of you are interested in piglets, there will soon be a new litter available for sale!

See you on February 5! You won't want to miss the presentation by our speaker, Charlie Baker!

Julie

The 62nd Annual Santa Barbara International Orchid Show

Will be held on March 16-18 at the Earl Warren Showgrounds, Highway 101 & Las Positas Road, Santa Barbara. Information about the show will be available on our raffle ticket sales table. The number of brochures is limited and will be available on a first come-first serve basis. Also, two FREE admission tickets to the show will be placed on our raffle table!

COMMUNITY SERVICE SCHEDULE

Wilella Stimmell, CSP Coordinator

Since submissions for our February newsletter need to be sent to our Editor by the 10th of the month, it is not possible to include in this issue a report on our participation in the Fred Rathbun Horse Show (aka Equestrian Special Olympics) which, if it isn't cancelled due to rain, will be held on January 20th. A report on our participation in the event will be included in our March newsletter. Also in our March newsletter there will be a report on our February 10th intergenerational program at the Northwest Regional Library in Surprise.

There will be **no** community service programs scheduled for March because OSA President, Julie Rathbun, and I will be attending the 3rd International Orchid Conservation Congress in Costa Rica.

Charles Baker

Charlie wrote the following humorous comments for his biographical sketch:

"...I assume that you are interested only in my orchid growing life, so I will skip my early formative years and puberty. Actually, I will skip most of it except to mention that I started my career in weather when I joined the Air Force to stem the tide of Communism in 1952. After saving the free world, I was released from active duty in 1956 and immediately went to work for the old Weather Bureau (the forerunner of the National Weather Service) in Alaska where I spent most of my career.

[Marg and I] left Alaska in 1979 and moved to Portland to be closer to Marg's parents during their last years. I had always been interested in orchids, and although I knew absolutely nothing about them, I had always thought I would try growing them when I retired. After I was selected to be in charge of the Weather Service office in Eugene, Oregon in 1984, Marg suggested that as we would not be trying to develop a garden in the few years there before retirement in 1988 and returning to our home in Portland, I could satisfy my urge to grow things by starting to mess around with orchids a few years early. Well, we did, and that is when the trouble started.

We very quickly became interested in the species, and then became extremely frustrated in the lack of cultural information available for them. After buying many books that promised 'culture information' and finding statements like, 'Very difficult to maintain in cultivation' or 'Grow like a Cattleya', that is when we figured we could at least get in the cultural ballpark if we could get fairly accurate habitat information and apply climatological data from that region to obtain some probably growing conditions for the plant. It seemed to work, so Marg would do the digging for habitat location for the species we were interested in, and I would do the climatological end of the deal.

Marg was the one who started building our library, did all the basic research, did the plant and flower descriptions, and then corrected my writing of the cultural part. I have always said that it was a partnership venture with a true division of labor: she did all the work, and I took all the credit. People soon started telling us we should do a book, so here I am today, buried neck deep in a taxonomic swamp of perpetual name changes and unable to even try to keep up with the name changes (real and proposed). After completing the research on a species, now I have to do ALL the writing because Marg isn't standing behind me to clean up my writing.

I have finished most of the work on the Vanda alliance, the Cattleya/Laelia alliance (except for all the recent name changes proposed by the taxonomic community), the Encyclias (again without the name changes indicated by Kew), and am working on the Epidendrums (including the 400+ new ones that have recently been described by Eric Hagsater). ...All of this keeps me off the street and out of trouble."

2007 OSA Membership Dues

If you intend to renew your OSA membership, there is still time for you to pay your dues at the February 5 meeting or by snail mail and remain on the newsletter mailing list. If you have discarded the membership renewal form that was included in both your December and January newsletter, feel free to pick up a form at our February meeting or download the form from our website.

Welcome New Members

Please extend a warm OSA welcome to new members **Dick and Peggy Nigbor** and **Tami Ryall**. Seek them out and introduce yourself.

Editor's Box

There are a few very diverse things on my mind as I write this, so please forgive me.

First, I remember Ken Gettys. We served together on the OSA board during my early years as a member. My most vivid memory of him is at a Sunday afternoon board meeting at the Scottsdale home of Ann Cherny.

Ken had brought a wonderful yellow Bulldog Paph in glorious bloom for all to enjoy.

(forgive me Willie!) I remarked I had never seen such a plant. At the end of the meeting Ken was at the door departing when I reminded him he had forgotten the plant. He said "It's not mine, it's yours now....enjoy"

That is how he was.

Next, is anyone out there using the new "wonder media" Aussie Gold.....I told you this was diverse.... and, if so, what do you have planted in it and how are they doing? Let me know.

I have a handful of Cattleya seedlings in their seedling mix. They seem to be doing well, but one needs to get past the impression that it is potting soil!

And finally, beginning with this issue the *Arizona Orchidist* monthly newsletter will be printed and mailed from Albuquerque, New Mexico.

If the US Postal Service cooperates you should not experience any change in when your copy is received. As always, you may receive your newsletter via email. Just send me a note requesting email.

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www.orchidsocietyaz.org

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. The Nature Conservancy.

Brazil Makes Unprecedented Conservation Announcement

Seven New Protected Areas Created in Pará State

Kate Barrett, Staff Writer, Conservation International

Dec. 4, 2006: The governor of the Brazilian state of Pará today announced seven new protected areas in Amazonia covering an area roughly the size of Illinois. The announcement is an enormous step in Brazil's world-leading efforts to protect Earth's remaining tropical rain forests.

Stretching from the border of Guyana and Suriname in the north to areas south of the Amazon River, these new protected areas encompass an unprecedented 37 million acres.

"I cannot remember any single announcement like this," says José Maria Cardoso da Silva, vice president of science for Conservation International (CI)-Brazil. "This is one of the major conservation announcements of the last decades."

Breaking Down The Benefits

For Brazil's species, people, and climate, these protected regions will play a valuable role.

Two of the seven new areas are designated as strictly protected areas, one of which is the world's largest strictly protected area ever created in a tropical forest. According to CI's Amazonia program manager Enrico Bernard, these two areas alone could be home to as many as 54 percent of all animal and plant species found in Amazonia.

With the addition of the protected areas named today, the region now boasts a mosaic of connected protected areas, which create a biodiversity conservation corridor that allows species to roam vast landscapes. Connecting various populations of species allows these groups to intermingle, strengthen their gene pool, and thereby increase their chances for long-term survival.

The people living in Amazonia also benefit from the contiguous protected ecosystem. For example, local people can be assured of their water supply by maintaining the health of these areas because almost 20 percent of the world's water runs through the region. The protected areas sit atop the Guayana Shield, a massive underlying rock formation containing the most significant freshwater reserves in the American tropics. Five of the newly protected areas also allow for sustainable use and limited production.

On a larger scale, healthy ecosystems will also contribute to efforts to stabilize the world's climate. Since 1970, an area of Amazon rain forest larger than France has been destroyed. As forests are cut, the carbon they store naturally is released as CO₂, further contributing to greenhouse gas emissions. By protecting these forests from continued destruction, additional emissions are avoided.

A Remarkable Achievement

Destructive human activities, including logging, mining, and development, threaten tropical forests around the world. Brazil's efforts to protect its forests place it at the forefront of worldwide efforts to preserve these critical landscapes.

"If any tropical rain forest on Earth remains intact a century from now, it will be in this portion of northern Amazonia, thanks in part to Governor Simão Jatene's visionary commitment," says CI President Russell A. Mittermeier.

This year, with major support from the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation, CI-Brazil, and its local partner IMAZON, Pará's state government was able to achieve this conservation goal.

"This is the greatest effort in history toward the creation of protected areas in tropical forests," says Adalberto Verissimo, senior researcher at IMAZON.

CI-Brazil will now help Pará implement these new protected areas to ensure that Jatene's commitments are carried out far beyond his term in office.

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*Conservation International believes that Earth's natural heritage must be maintained if future generations are to thrive spiritually, culturally and economically. **Our mission is to conserve the Earth's living heritage, our global biodiversity, and to demonstrate that human societies are able to live harmoniously with nature.***

A U.S.-based, international organization, Conservation International (CI) is a nonprofit, tax-exempt corporation under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

CI applies innovations in science, economics, policy and community participation to protect the Earth's richest regions of plant and animal diversity in the biodiversity hotspots, high-biodiversity wilderness areas as well as important marine regions around the globe. With headquarters near Washington, D.C., CI works in more than 40 countries on four continents.

OSA February 2007 Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9  <i>Tami Ryall</i>	10
11	12	13  <i>Wayne Baker</i>	14  <i>Bob Gordon</i> VALENTINES DAY	15	16	17
18	19  <i>Jim Lauck</i> <i>Jim Johnson</i> <i>Peggy Nigbor</i>	20	21	22	23	24
25 <i>OSA Board</i> <i>Meeting 1 PM</i>	26	27  <i>Teddy Cohen</i>	28			



Orchid Society of Arizona
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