



The

Arizona Orchidist

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NEXT OSA MEETING

The next regular society meeting
will be **Monday, February 2, 2009**
at 7:00 P.M.

Meetings are held at the

**Training Center
at the**

**Arizona State Veteran Home
4141 N. 3rd St., Phoenix.**

See map on page 4

OSA meetings are open to all
plant enthusiasts

Refreshments will be provided.

**SNACKS - CYNTHIA SCHNITZER
(donation) & KIMBERLY LEVINGSTON**

BEVERAGES - BARBARA PARNELL

Refreshment Coordinators:

Barbara Parnell (480) 948-0714

Mary Gannon (623) 878-4173

Carol Erwin (602) 996-1696

Board Meeting

February 22nd at 1:00 PM

at the home of Seelye Smith

Please call or e-mail Seelye

for directions

GROWER ON CALL

Lou Ann Remeikis

(602) 803-6889

Lou.remeikis@gmail.com

February Program

Note New Meeting Place and Time

MINI-CATTS: DELIGHTFUL CATTLEYS IN MINIATURE

PETER LIN, an avid orchid grower and hybridizer of mini-catts, lives in Southern California. He will present a PowerPoint program that reviews miniature species, early hybrids, and some of the relevant, current hybrids, and he will also answer questions about how to grow these plants.

Our speaker enjoys meeting with other orchid enthusiasts and can often be found at various orchid shows and societies around the country. He also has hundreds of photos of his orchids posted on the internet. To view the photos, visit <http://www.flickr.com/photos/minicatt/collections/>

Due to Peter's limited growing space (3 small greenhouses), he specializes in miniature orchids, both species and hybrids. In addition to mini-catts, our speaker also grows Dendrobiums, Angraeoids, and Masdevallias. He maintains a collection of several hundred orchids in his home greenhouses and also grows orchids under fluorescent lights in his home.

Peter will be bringing plants for our silent auction table!

Speaker biographical information edited by W. Stimmell

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From the President's Desk

Julie Rathbun

Everyone who attended our January meeting at our new home - the Training Center on the ground floor of the Arizona State Veteran Home - expressed pleasure at the accommodations AND the location of the building in central Phoenix. Only one member had toured the Training Center, so the rest of us were pleased that everything she said we would find in our new home, was as she described it. The only item she forgot to mention was that the chair seats are soft and comfortable.

Thanks to **Aaron Hicks** for presenting an educational and entertaining PowerPoint program on his conservation work with *Spiranthes delitescens*. Aaron is an excellent teacher!

During our January meeting, Barbara Parnell passed around the refreshments sign up sheet. She will also pass around the sheet at our February 2nd meeting because not all of the spaces have been filled for the year. If you haven't signed up, please take your turn to bring refreshments!

We had one of the most beautiful and colorful display Show and Tell tables in many months. Thanks to those who brought plants! Thanks also to Bob MacLeod for showing us two of his cattleyas that he is growing and blooming in NO potting medium. He places water in an outer container and then sets a plant "potted" in a clay pot, into the larger container. The roots and the plant look healthy and happy, and the blooms were gorgeous! I would never have believed it if I hadn't seen the plants. A word of caution: Bob is experimenting with only a few plants. He is NOT growing his entire collection without benefit of a potting medium - at least...not yet! If any members would like to try Bob's experiment using no potting medium, I suggest that you talk to Bob before you try a similar experiment. (Many years ago, Bob Gordon stated that orchids could be grown in ANY medium as long as the watering and fertilizing were adjusted accordingly. But I don't think that Bob G's comment included NO potting medium.)

If you haven't yet paid your 2009 dues, please renew your membership as soon as possible.

Our February 22nd board meeting will be held at Seelye Smith's home. For directions to her home, please e-mail or phone Seelye.

See you at our regular meeting on February 2!

Julie

JANUARY RAFFLE DONORS

BOB MACLEOD, LOU ANN REMEIKIS,

WILLELLA STIMMELL, AND non-members KEN & JUDY VINCENT

THANKS TO ALL

COMMUNITY SERVICE REPORT

Wilella Stimmell, CSP Coordinator

On December 31st, OSA members Lou Ann and Gary Remeikis and I spent the afternoon helping at the Arizona State Veteran Home's New Year's party. Gary is a Viet Nam veteran, and he and several of his "biker" buddies helped at the party! One American Legion post sponsored the party, but it was the members of Gary's American Legion post 2 who surprised the residents and appeared in their motorcycle riding gear. Gary also donated a case of non-alcoholic beer for the party. Thanks, Gary! And please thank your fellow riders for helping to brighten the residents' New Year's Eve party!

There was a variety of food, and the residents enjoyed everything. The countdown was at 3 PM which was midnight in Iceland! It's always rewarding to spend time with the residents. A belly dancer performed before the countdown and some of the residents "danced" with her. Most of the residents are in wheelchairs, so their dancing consisted of shaking tambourines and/or moving their arms. Even the Recreation Therapy Director joined in the fun. A good time was had by all! I forgot to take my camera! Several people took pictures, and I hope that I can get a few of the photos taken by others.

If anyone would like to read the online ASVH monthly newsletter, let me know. Each month, Leslie Goin, Director of Therapeutics Programs, sends me an e-mail with the link to the current newsletter. I would be happy to forward the link to you.

Also, if anyone would like to do something special for the residents, you might like to know that each newsletter issue includes a Wish List. If you want to donate funds towards the purchase of an item listed on the Wish List, write your check payable to the Veterans Donation Fund and on the memo line, state the item for which you want your donation to be used. Mail your check to: Arizona State Veteran Home, Attention: Leslie Goin, 4141 N. 3rd St., Phoenix, AZ 85012

Southwest Flower & Garden Show

Reminder: A new event has been launched in the Phoenix Metro area, and OSA has been invited to participate. The **first Southwest Flower & Garden Show** will be held **March 6, 7, and 8, 2009** at the **University of Phoenix Stadium**. The URL is: www.swflowershow.com/ To find mention of OSA (and other non-profit groups), from the SWFS home page, click on the Attend the Show tab and then click on The Club Forum. Scroll down to find mention of OSA. Hours for the show are: Friday, March 6 and Saturday, March 7 – 10 AM-7 PM. Sunday, March 8, hours are 10 AM-5PM. Also under the Attend the Show tab, you will find directions to the University of Phoenix Stadium (formerly Cardinals' Stadium). **We need volunteers** to work in our booth.

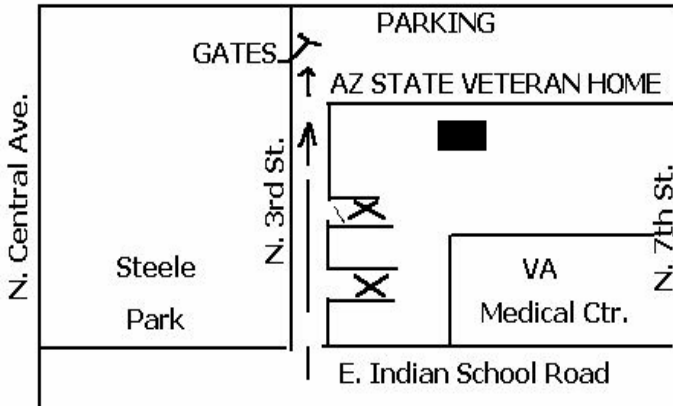
The population in the west valley is expanding at a fast pace. Participation in the SWFS is an opportunity for us to introduce OSA to residents.

If you want to volunteer for OSA's booth (#1915), contact me by e-mail or phone! I will gladly give you directions to the stadium.

Julie

**NEW OSA MEMBER
DIANE NORMAN
WELCOME TO THE FAMILY**

**NEW MEETING PLACE
Training Center
at the Arizona State Veteran Home,**



MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME

If you have not yet paid your 2009 membership dues, please complete your renewal form and pay your dues as soon as possible. Any changes in your snail mail address, e-mail address, phone number, or growing environments, etc. should be indicated on your renewal form. Suggestions for speakers are passed along to our Program Chair, and suggestions for in-house programs are passed along to our 1st VP. Also, if you would like to begin receiving your newsletter via e-mail, please indicate your desire on your renewal form OR contact our Editor, Keith Mead, at kjkm@comcast.net

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:

Board of Directors for 2009

- | | |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| President | (602) 843-0223 |
| Julie Rathbun | jandfent@aol.com |
| First Vice President | (480) 722-9328 |
| Aaron Hicks | ahicks51@cox.net |
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| Second Vice President | (480) 785-2251 |
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| Wilella Stimmell | wilellas@worldnet.att.net |
| Librarian | (602) 803-6889 |
| Lou Ann Remeikis | remeikis@andiamo-tel.com |
| Editor | (505) 898-0975 |
| Keith Mead | kjkm@comcast.net |
| Trustees | |
| Frank Bopp | (623) 937-0019 |
| | fgbopp@cox.net |
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| | nerwin2@cox.net |
| Kimberly Levingston | |
| | (602) 843-6213 |
| | kimberlydahle@yahoo.com |
| Seelye Smith | (602) 404-1013 |
| | sss3301@hotmail.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.

Amazon Deforestation Trend On The Increase

ScienceDaily (Jan. 6, 2009) — Deforestation in Brazil's Amazon forests has flipped from a decreasing to an increasing trend, according to new annual figures recently released by the country's space agency INPE.

Commenting on the figures, Brazilian environment minister Carlos Minc confirmed that the government will on Monday announce forest related carbon emission reduction targets, which will link halting deforestation to the national climate change campaign.

From August 2007 to July 2008, Brazil deforested 11,968 square kilometers of forests in the area designated as the Legal Amazon, a 3.8 per cent increase over the previous year and an unwelcome surprise following declines of 18 per cent over the previous period.

From 2003-2004 to 2006-2007, annual deforestation totals from the agency fell from 27,423 km² to 11,532 km². There were fears that the current trend could have been worse but for new measures introduced part way through the year when it became apparent that annual deforestation was accelerating towards a possible 15,000 hectare level.

WWF-Brazil has praised in particular restraints on credit for properties not complying with environmental rules on deforestation licenses, legal reserve and permanent preservation areas, strengthened land ownership rules, increased patrolling activity and a sharing of responsibility for halting deforestation with states and municipalities.

“Credit restraint prevents effects linked to illegal land occupation and exploitation (“grilagem”), which is the main direct and specific cause for deforestation in the Amazon”, says WWF-Brazil’s CEO, Denise Hamú.

“Nevertheless, we are concerned with such a deforestation which is equivalent to almost 40% the size of Belgium or the size of Jamaica.

“WWF-Brazil favors that which was established in the Amazon Pact for Forest Value Acknowledgement and Deforestation Decrease, which proposes concrete actions and urges the government and society to endeavor all efforts to curb deforestation to zero level in seven years”.

The Pact was an initiative by a group of NGOs and the proposed actions have an estimate cost of R\$ 1 billion (1,000,000,000 reais) per year, which is relatively cheap as compared to the social costs (droughts, floods, deaths, economic difficulties and so forth) inflicted on everyone by deforestation.

WWF-Brazil’s CEO says that it is necessary to adopt a wider conservation strategy. “We favor a definition of clear deforestation mitigation targets, besides economic and fiscal mechanisms to encourage conservation and the sustainable use of natural resources, as well as to discourage predatory practices”, says Denise Hamú.

WWF Brazil welcomed the forthcoming carbon emission reduction targets, noting that deforestation and forest fires together are responsible for 75% of Brazilian green house gas emissions. The targets add to a range of other new measures announced in October, following preliminary assessments that deforestation rates in August 2008 had reached triple those a year earlier.

“Negligence towards our forests causes Brazil to rank fourth among the larger contributors to the planet warming,” Hamú said.

The decrease in the Amazon deforestation rate achieved in the last two years shows that it is viable for Brazil to adopt emission curb targets. The adoption of targets to decrease emissions from deforestation could place Brazil in a forefront position for the international climate negotiations due to start in a few days, in Poznan, Poland.

WWF-Brazil’s Conservation Director, Carlos Alberto de Mattos Scaramuzza, explains that actions to fight deforestation must run on four tracks. The first one is the effective protection of forests through creation and implementation of protected areas. Secondly, there is the promotion of sustainable use of natural resources, through forest management capacity building in the Amazon states. Then there are patrolling actions to tackle illegal activity threats which are linked to land property and occupation (“grilagem”), to agribusiness and to large infrastructure works. Finally, we must have financial offset actions to reward those who protect the forest.

“We acknowledge some positive actions taken by the federal government, but we urge some improvements,” Scaramuzza said. “In particular, we call for the continuation of the protected areas creation process, the strengthening of implementation efforts in the already created protected areas, the allocation of personnel and their management capacity building, plus the effective implementation of the new forest policy, including forest management capacity development in the Amazon states.”



The Amazon Fund, created by the government in August 2008, is also an important policy to make financial offset viable for those who protect the forest. Nevertheless, WWF-Brazil claims that funds should be applied in the end of the chain.

“It is crucial that funds reach the field, direct to local communities, land owners and protected areas”, Scaramuzza said. “We hope that the Amazon Fund implementation will encourage innovation, creativity, experimentation and the involvement of civil society; and that it will be complemented by public funds, instead of being used to fulfill the blanks and gaps in governmental programs”.

Adapted from materials provided by [World Wildlife Fund](#).

ScienceDaily. Retrieved January 12, 2009, from <http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2009/01/090104093542.htm>

OSA February 2009 Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 GO CARDINALS	2 <i>OSA Meeting 7:00 PM</i> <i>Carol Erwin</i> 	3	4	5	6	7
8	9  <i>Tami Ryall</i>	10	11	12	13	14 <i>Bob Gordon</i>  
15	16	17	18	19  <i>Jim Johnson</i>	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28



Orchid Society of Arizona

c/o Keith Mead

5425 Thomas Drive NE

Albuquerque, NM 87111