



# The Arizona Orchidist

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## NEXT OSA MEETING

The next regular society meeting will be

**Monday, February 6th at 7:00 P.M.**

Meetings are held at the

**Training Center**

**at the**

**Arizona State Veteran Home**

**4141 N. S. Herrera Way, Phoenix.**

OSA meetings are open to all  
plant enthusiasts

Refreshments will be provided

Beverage by

Sarah Heberling

Snacks by

Carol Erwin and Lou Ann Remeikis

Refreshment Coordinators:

Barbara Parnell (480) 948-0714

Lou Ann Remeikis (602) 803-6889

Jo Anne Waddoups

480-654-9883

## Board Meeting

Feb. 26<sup>th</sup> at 1 PM at the home of Julie Rathbun. **Note:** Due to Julie's work schedule, if a change of venue for the meeting is necessary, all board members will be notified by phone.

## Grower on Call

**Jim Johnson jim@nphs.us**

## FEBRUARY PROGRAM

### Orchid Species Face Threats in Many Places

**Marge From**, Head of the Laboratory for Rare and Endangered Plants at Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo, will present a PowerPoint program that will show, in addition to Madagascar, threatened areas in Panama and North America. Her program will inform us about what is at stake with the continuing loss of biodiversity.

Marge received her graduate degree in plant tissue culture from the University of Nebraska at Lincoln. She has conducted field biology work in North America, Costa Rica, and Madagascar. She is a member of the Orchid Specialist Group for IUCN, North American Region, and the Reintroduction Specialist Group for IUCN. (IUCN is an acronym for the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources. Since 1990, IUCN has also been known as "World Conservation Union", the world's largest conservation network. The Union is headquartered in Switzerland.)

This is Marge's third visit to Arizona. She last spoke at OSA's April, 2009 meeting. Please extend a warm OSA welcome to Marge.

Wilella Stimmell

### IN THIS ISSUE

From The Presidents Desk	Julie Rathbun	Page 2
Commentary on "Taiwan Yellows" disease	Wilella Stimmell	Page 4
Night Blooming Orchid Discovered	GardenNews.biz	Page 5



## Julie Rathbun

I'm hoping that the "packed house" of members at our first meeting in 2012, is a good omen for the rest of the year! We were especially pleased to see Sarah Heberling, our only "snowbird" member, return to us. And we were very happy to see Pamela Albright. For quite a while, she had not been able to attend meetings.

For those of you who missed our January 9<sup>th</sup> meeting, you missed an outstanding selection of silent auction plants provided by our speaker, Chris Gubler. All plants were in bud/bloom, and most of them had been placed in fancy, ceramic outer pots.

Chris's PowerPoint program: Highlights of the 20<sup>th</sup> World Orchid Conference in Singapore, was a treat for all of us. Not only did the program feature the spectacular orchid exhibits, but his program also included a mini-tour of other sites in Singapore. From a couple of the photos of exhibits at the WOC, we spotted a couple of props that BOB MACLEOD can surely build for our 50<sup>th</sup> Golden Anniversary Orchid Show!

Starting with our February 6<sup>th</sup> meeting, we will return to our first Monday of the month meetings. Our February speaker will be Marge From, Head of the Laboratory for Rare and Endangered Plants at Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo.

February is always a very busy month for me because I work at the Arabian Horse Show, and at the end of the month, Wilella and I will travel to Gubler Orchids and purchase plants for the **Home/Garden Show** at the **University of Phoenix Stadium**. The home/garden show happens on March 2-4, with set-up of our booth on March 1. **WE NEED WORKERS!** Since our March meeting is on the 5<sup>th</sup>, the day **AFTER** the show, **a work sign-up sheet will be available at our February meeting.**

And while you're marking your calendars for the March show, you might as well also note that the **Fred Rathbun Horse Show** is on **Saturday, March 10**. Since 2001, each year OSA has been represented at the Equestrian Special Olympics.

After being e-mail impaired for several weeks, my computer has been repaired. If anyone sent me an orchid-related message during the time that my computer was being fixed, and I did not answer, please resend your message.

See you on February 6!

Julie

## January Raffle Donors



**Members** - Ann Cherny, Richard Holle, Bob MacLeod, Barbara Parnell, Wilella Stimmell, and Rhonda Woodward; **non-members** – Michael Hillner, Mark Obermayer, and the family of August Lorenzini.

Thanks to all !

### Last Reminder for 2012 OSA Membership Renewal

Attached to 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 2012 membership dues to the Treasurer's address that is listed on the form, or bring your completed form with cash or check to our February 6th meeting. **Please** do not pay your dues without completing your renewal form!

If you didn't receive a renewal form, contact our newsletter Editor, Keith Mead, at [kjkm@comcast.net](mailto:kjkm@comcast.net)

W. Stimmell

### Upcoming Orchid Events of Interest

60th annual Pacific Orchid Expo  
Fort Mason Festival Pavilion,  
San Francisco, California  
February 24th-26th



67th annual Santa Barbara  
Orchid Show  
Earl Warren Showgrounds  
March 16th-18th  
Santa Barbara, California

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Orchid Society of Arizona, Inc.  
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 2012

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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 Arizona Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. , and The Nature Conservancy.

## Commentary on “Taiwan Yellows” Disease

For those of you who read the online orchids Digest, in V5 #15 (January 15, 2012), there was a lengthy post about “Taiwan Yellows” disease. The posting appeared to me to be a veiled attempt to discourage the purchase of “mass produced plants sold at ‘Big Box’ stores” by associating them to this disease. There was also a negative connotation regarding plants being shipped by sea in container ships. Mention was also made of plants exposed to cold temperatures when they are shipped by sea. (Several years ago, OSA members attended orchid shows in San Francisco, and the plants we purchased were shipped in very large packing cartons that were stowed as “baggage” in airplanes. I am sure that those plants were also exposed to cold temperatures, and yet not one of those plants suffered from exposure to the cold temperatures at high altitudes.)

If I’ve learned one thing from my 30 years’ experience with growing orchids, it’s that a kernel of truth can be expanded into an unwarranted panic. In order to understand the motivation behind the post, I researched several items: 1) the author of the post has an orchid business in the US, and he propagates some of the plants that he sells; 2) I searched the internet for information on “Taiwan Yellows” disease and found no such name for the particular disease mentioned in the long posting. However, I did find an outstanding pdf article that is 54 pages in length and contains high resolution color photos. The “icogo” in the URL is the acronym for International Commercial Orchid Growers Organization.

[http://www.icogo.org/images/Dr.Ching-An Chang-OrchidViruses.pdf](http://www.icogo.org/images/Dr.Ching-An%20Chang-OrchidViruses.pdf)

It is a well known fact that Taiwan’s orchid exports have been growing at a healthy rate, so much so that the value of these exports, in US dollars, amounts to many millions of dollars. I like to think that common sense should prevail in every situation. It simply doesn’t make sense that the commercial growers in Taiwan would risk losing market share if they continued to ship plants to US finishing greenhouses, only to be informed later that their plants died. If they did that, their export business would shrink in a short time because bad news usually travels faster than good news.

If any OSA member does not subscribe to the online orchids Digest and wants to read the Jan. 15th post in the above reference edition, let me know. I will gladly print a copy for you. (I haven’t even mentioned the political agenda that was included with the “digest” post.)

(To read a positive article about purchasing orchids at “big box” stores, see the Arizona Orchidist March, 1998 newsletter on our website. (<http://jimni.Ocatch.com/0398.htm> ) Granted, the article is dated, but it’s as true today as it was in 1998. No matter where a plant is purchased, if it looks healthy and the price is right, I have no problem buying a plant from a “big box” store. In any case, the plant will surely last longer than a bouquet of fresh cut flowers!

In the past 30 years, I’ve killed my share of plants, and the majority of the plants had been purchased from US commercial growers whose plants were propagated by them. Do I blame the commercial growers for sending apparently healthy plants which died later? Of course not! In the majority of plant deaths, I was at fault for not providing enough water, leaving water in the crown of a plant and/or leaf axils, incorrect temperature for particular plants, or not enough light. Often times, my plant deaths were the result of a combination of all four!

Taiwan is a convenient target because...it’s far away from us. But fair is fair. Let’s not participate in the “blame game”.

Wilella Stimmell

# World's first night flowering orchid discovered on the island of New Britain

Botanists from the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew and the Netherlands Centre for Biodiversity Naturalis have described the first night-flowering orchid known to science. The discovery is published in the *Botanical Journal of the Linnean Society*.

The new night flowering species, *Bulbophyllum nocturnum*, from the island of New Britain near Papua New Guinea, is the first known example of an orchid species with flowers that consistently open after dark and close in the morning. Its flowers last one night only.

A relatively small number of plant species have flowers that open at night and close during the day. Until now, no orchids were known among them. This in spite of the fact that many orchids are pollinated by moths. But these moth-pollinated orchids all have flowers that remain open during the day, even if they are mainly pollinated after dark.

*Bulbophyllum nocturnum* was discovered by Dutch orchid specialist Ed de Vogel on a field trip to the island of New Britain, where he was allowed to collect some orchids in a logging area for cultivation at the Hortus Botanicus in Leiden, the Netherlands.

Under the care of garden manager Art Vogel one of these plants soon produced buds. Their opening was eagerly anticipated as de Vogel and his colleagues had already established that this plant was a member of the *Epicriantes* group of orchids of the genus *Bulbophyllum*. *Epicriantes* contains many rare and bizarre species, most of which have only been discovered recently as they occur in some of the remotest jungle habitats on earth.

Frustratingly, however, the buds all withered once they had seemingly reached the size at which they should open. Wanting to get to the bottom of this, de Vogel took the plant home with him one evening in order to find out exactly what happened to the buds.

To his surprise, the bud that was then present opened up at ten in the evening, long after dark, revealing the flower of an undescribed species.

Observations on subsequent buds confirmed that they all opened around 10pm, and closed the next morning around 10am. The flowers lasted only one night, which explained why the buds were seemingly about to open one day and withered the next.

Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew orchid specialist, André Schuiteman, and Leiden *Bulbophyllum* expert, Jaap Vermeulen, teamed up with de Vogel to investigate and describe this remarkable new species.

Says André Schuiteman of the discovery, "This is another reminder that surprising discoveries can still be made. But it is a race against time to find species like this that only occur in primeval tropical forests. As we all know, such forests are disappearing fast. It is therefore increasingly important to obtain funding for the fieldwork required to make such discoveries."

Why *Bulbophyllum nocturnum* has adopted a night flowering habit is unknown and requires further investigation. However, it may be speculated that its pollinators are midges that forage at night.

# OSA February 2012 Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2  Carol Erwin	3	4
5	6 <b>OSA Meeting</b> 7:00 PM	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14 	15	16	17	18
19  Jim Johnson	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29			



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