



The Arizona Orchidist

Published monthly by
The Orchid Society of Arizona, Inc.
Founding Editor- Clarence S. Lindsten,
1966
Volume 41 January 2004 Number 1

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, January 5th, 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: Lou Ann Remeikis

Edibles will be provided by:
Sarah Heberling and Jeanette Socaciu

Refreshment Coordinators:

Julie Langston
Ramona Jungwirth

NEXT OSA BOARD MEETING

The next OSA board meeting will be
Sunday, December 28, 2003 at 2:00 p.m.

Hosted by Julie Rathbun

Please contact Julie at (602) 843-0223
for directions to her home,

if you plan to attend

The meeting is open to all OSA members

GROWER ON CALL

Lou Ann Remeikis (602) 803-6889
Email: remeikis@dancris.com

HAPPY NEW YEAR

January Program

WONDER WHAT THAT BUG IS ?

January's meeting will be on orchid pests and pathogens. Wonder what that bug is? What ails your plants? Well, we probably can't tell you, but we'll sure give it a shot!

Along with a presentation by Aaron, you can bring in your plants for a diagnosis. It may be right, it may be wrong, but dumb looks are still free.



Copies of the latest printing of the AOS publication "Orchid Pests and Diseases" will be for sale. A copy of this handbook should be in the collection of every grower, novice and expert alike.



Aaron Hicks

IN THIS ISSUE

From the President's Desk
Community Service Report
From the Archives

Page 2
Page 4
Page 5



From the President's Desk

Lou Ann Remeikis

It Has Been A Privilege

I want to thank the membership for your cherished faith and support for almost five years! Although I acquired the title of President for OSA by default (when Cathy Nelson resigned the position after only two months in office), the following four years YOU voted to keep me in office. I know you had more faith in me than I had in myself, and holding this office helped me grow as a person. I no longer shake in my shoes when I have to stand up and speak to a group of people! Let me tell you, I REALLY was scared to do this in the beginning!

Honestly, though, I was just the “front person” for a group of people who truly keep the Orchid Society of Arizona running forward with purpose – to serve our membership, present and represent the Society in a positive way to the public and orchid community, and safeguard the financial integrity of our treasury. This is not always easy to accomplish and requires great dedication and selflessness to OSA’s purpose.

I have been graced with five different groups that made up the Board of Directors during my five-year tenure as President. Each Board I was honored to work with have excelled in meeting the challenges of maintaining our non-profit status, yet keeping the programs and events fun and rewarding for the members, both individually and collectively.

For those of you who are not familiar with the responsibilities of the President of the Board of Directors, I had no voting privileges (unless to break a tie). The business end of running OSA is truly accomplished by the other Board Members. My job was to facilitate the meetings –Board meetings and regular Society meetings – and communicate the Board decisions and general information to everyone (verbally and written). They made me look good, and I want to thank each and every person who served on the Board. Every Board member played an instrumental part in making OSA a great Society and they made me proud to be a part of such a wonderful group!

I will be continuing to make my personal contribution to OSA by holding the Past-President position (a voting position – yeah!), and I have also accepted Norma’s appointment as the Librarian. I look forward to working with the 2004 Board of Directors, and also to working side-by-side with other members during future OSA events.

I encourage each and every one of you to become more involved in the Orchid Society of Arizona. You will be filled with a great feeling of accomplishment and purpose, and I know your efforts will be appreciated by all!

Please know I will be forever grateful for your support! And...as always...

Happy Growing –

Lou Ann Remeikis

FROM OUR NEW PRESIDENT

The first order of this New Year is to thank Lou Ann for her leadership. It was thrust on her and we were all very glad she was in the vice president's spot. Lou Ann pitched in and got the job done and liked it so well, she stayed. Speaking of pitching in, no job seems overwhelming when the members pitch in and help with various tasks. That makes all the difference in just a gathering of people and a club in the true spirit. Thank you for making each individual job a bit easier, from Janet's job of making sure we have refreshments to Joe who was show chair this year. And, this year's show chair is Sharon Davis. She jumped right in and accepted the show which will have a theme of Orchid Magic. Willie is already buying, are we surprised? And a special thanks to those who are the unsung heroes, who work day in and day out. Keith, Lou Ann, Julie, and Willie. With all the cooperation, this should be an easy job and I look forward to continuing the goals set the previous years by our Board of Directors.

Norma Kafer

DECEMBER PROGRAM NOTES

A BIG thank you to everyone involved in December's Holiday Buffet & Auction!

I cannot begin to thank all members who donated items to be auctioned – YOUR gesture is truly appreciated. Doug Baldwin did a great job getting the live auction underway and handled it so quickly that Joe Freasier didn't even have to help. Madeleine Heberling also was a wonderful little Auction helper, staying busy all night delivering the auctioned items to the winning bidders!

Thanks are also due to everyone who contributed to the buffet – it was fabulous! I think everyone else thought so too because there was not much food left for people to take home (or to leave for the workers at the Clubhouse who set-up our meeting area). I believe everyone enjoyed themselves!

The Annual Auction and Holiday Buffet is a collaborative effort put forth by OSA Board and Regular Members, and enjoyed by many participants – guests and members. This event was a success because of YOU!

Lou Ann

The Arizona Orchidist is published monthly by the

Orchid Society of Arizona, Inc.

Direct inquiries to our website at:

[Http://welcome.to/orchidsocietyaz](http://welcome.to/orchidsocietyaz)

Or to any of the board officers or trustees

Board of Directors for 2004

President	Norma Kafer	nfk54401@cox.net
First VP	Aaron Hicks	ahicks51@cox.net
Second VP	Joe Bacik	bacikj@cox.net
Secretary	Jennifer Schmitt	
Treasurer	Wilella Stimmell	willellas@worldnet.att.net
Librarian	Lou Ann Remeikis	remeikis@dancris.com
Editor	Keith Mead	kjkm@att.net
<u>Trustees</u>		
	Bob MacLeod	
	Julie Rathbun	jandfent@prodigy.net
	Julie Langston	
	Sharon Davis	
	show chair	schatzied_az@yahoo.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., The Nature Conservancy, and Biosphere 2 Center.

Next OSA Board Meeting:

The next OSA Board Meeting will be on Sunday, December 28, 2003, at 1:00 p.m. **THIS IS A JOINT BOARD MEETING (2003 & 2004 OFFICERS)**. Julie Rathbun will host this meeting. Please call Julie (602-843-0223) for directions if you plan on attending. The meeting is open to all OSA members.

COMMUNITY SERVICE REPORT

by Wilella Stimmell, CSP Coordinator

OSA's NEW YEAR of community service begins on Saturday, JANUARY 10, at 11:30 a.m. We will present an orchid seminar at the HOME and GARDEN SHOW, State Fairgrounds, 1826 W. McDowell Rd., Phoenix. A blooming phalaenopsis plant is needed for a doorprize drawing, and we need to have the plant by January 9. Since our January meeting is on the 5th, any member who wishes to donate a plant for the doorprize, has the opportunity to bring the plant to our meeting. The reason we need the plant prior to our presentation is that Diana Johns, Arizona Federation of Garden Clubs' Home and Garden Show Chair, would like to display the blooming plant at AFGC's booth. She will take the plant home on Friday night and bring it to the show on Saturday morning.

On Saturday, JANUARY 24, OSA will once again participate as helpers in the EQUESTRIAN SPECIAL OLYMPICS. The event will be held at the WESTERN SADDLE CLUB, 12425 N. 7th St., Phoenix. At our January 5 meeting, Julie Rathbun will announce the time we need to be at the arena on the 24th. But if you plan to help, I'm fairly certain that if you are at the arena by 8:30, for a start time of 9 a.m., you will be there in plenty of time. Those of us who have participated in this annual event, know that our presence is greatly appreciated by both the contestants and organizers of the event.

What did OSA do with the Money We Earned in 2003?

OSA's BUSY BEE VOLUNTEERS WORKED EXCEEDINGLY HARD IN 2003 AND **RETURNED TO THE COMMUNITY, 98% OF THE MONEY WE EARNED FROM THE SALE OF PLANTS.** I hope that figure is etched in your brains because...I know of NO other non-profit group that returns that high a percentage of their income, to the community. This was money we earned the hard way!! And if you recall, it's a greater percentage than we returned to the community in 2002 (96%). Also be aware that the 98% figure does NOT include our bequest money that we distributed in its totality (see Dec., 2002 newsletter, page 4); nor does it include membership dues (which barely cover the costs of "importing" speakers), AND we earned less money than we earned in 2002!

It bears repeating: NO OSA Board members receive financial compensation for their hard work. OSA does reimburse Board members for Board authorized purchases, but sometimes board members "forget" to submit bills for reimbursement, which means the money they were authorized to expend, comes out of their own pockets! Yes, such donations could be counted as deductions on income taxes, but most often the people who donate to OSA, do NOT ask for a letter. Our membership includes far more givers, than takers!

Wilella Stimmell, OSA Treasurer

THANK YOU TO OUR MEMBERSHIP for making our December, 2003 FUND-RAISER a success. For our 2002 fund-raiser, our members donated more items (cost basis to our Treasury: ZERO) that we sold, but that doesn't necessarily mean that fewer items were donated for our 2003 auction. It simply means that during the 2003 fund-raiser, we sold fewer of the donated items. OSA has never operated on a greed basis. We're thankful for ALL donated items! When sold, they contribute money to our Treasury that we did not have before our fund-raiser!

And a special note from Julie Rathbun about the buffet table at our Dec. 1 meeting. She wants EVERYBODY to know: "It was the BEST buffet we've ever had!"! (Read: more members brought a greater variety of entrees than deserts.) Some of the worker bees arrived at the clubhouse at 5 p.m.! They needed a meal, and...they got it!

W. Stimmell

From the Archives

"ORCHID CULTURAL CALENDAR FOR JANUARY: What to do in the Southwest"

by William G. Barfield, American Orchid Society Bulletin,

Vol. 31, #1, January, 1962, pp. 11-13.

"January and February are the worst months in the Southwest with respect to the weather. The greenhouse stoves must be on most of the time, and you will have to watch your watering. One week there will be cold misty weather, and the next week there will be a cold, dry 4-mile north wind with a hot spell in between, so there is a constant change in watering interval. Watch for drips due to condensation; move any plants that are directly under the drip, otherwise rot may start.

In the southern part of the Southwest, repotting of Cattleyas should be started in time to finish by the middle of March. Up in 'Yankeeland' around Dallas, the first part of April may be a better date for completion of potting. Many plants start root activity by the branching of old roots in February, and it is best to have these plants repotted before this occurs. The plant activity in late winter depends on the watering schedule and the night temperature of the greenhouse. A little extra water and a high greenhouse night temperature will induce the plants to start new growths. Late spring and summer bloomers pose a problem in repotting as our high temperatures create excessive dehydration. It is impossible to repot a plant in the summer without some dehydration, and it will be winter before the pseudobulbs become plump.

It is best to wait until the late spring and summer bloomers have made their fall growth before repotting. Then they become re-established while making their winter-spring growth.

Proper potting is a must for good orchid culture, and there is more to potting than just placing the plant in a pot and adding potting media. Growers can improve their culture by standardizing on pots in respect to height, porosity and color. Height and porosity are some of the determining factors in the watering interval. Height is directly related to volume, and as the pot volume increases so must the watering interval. The porosity of pots varies to such an extent that one pot may have to be watered twice as often as another pot. It is impossible to do a thorough and proper job of watering when there is a 'duke's mixture' of pots.

Arrangements of pots by size is also an aid in watering and the reason why is best explained in this manner. The volume of an eight-inch pot is approximately twice the volume of a six-inch pot, so potting characteristics being the same, the eight-inch pot will retain moisture for a longer period of time. The use of all pots of the same color is primarily an improvement in appearance, but different colored clays very likely have different grain size which will affect the porosity.

Since there is a difference in watering interval between small and large pots, it is best to arrange all pots of one size together. This also gives the greenhouse a neat appearance. The watering interval also changes when plants are repotted, regardless of the potting media. Fresh medium requires more frequent watering than a pot of the same medium that is a year or two old. Freshly potted plants can be given better care when they are placed in one group and arranged by pot size. It is impossible to tell someone that they should water every so many days with some variations due to weather conditions because conditions in each greenhouse are different.

continued on page 6

Continued from page 5

"ORCHID CULTURAL CALENDAR FOR JANUARY: What to do in the Southwest"

Growers using fir bark should use unslotted pots, with the bottom piece of crock being large and slightly curved, fitting closely to the bottom of the pot. There is a good reason for this as it enables the pot to be filled with water, using a minimum amount of water. It also helps to contain within the pot any solid fertilizer that may be used.

By now, the phalaenopsis-type of Dendrobiums should be finished blooming and should be maintained on the dry side. Give just enough water to keep the bulbs or canes from shriveling. Continue this watering program until the new growths start in the spring and there is a ring of roots around the new growth entering the potting medium. At that time start increasing the sunlight, water, and fertilizer. Dendrobiums are heavy feeders and will stand almost full sunlight. The best time to repot is when the circle of new roots is just entering the potting medium.

January is a peak month of blooms for Cypripediums, but there are generally a few early bloomers, not past flowering, which should be examined for dividing and repotting. Any plant that needs it should be repotted immediately so that the plant will get a good start for the coming growing season, which generally results in the production of top-quality flowers.

Due to the heat or hot days that the Southwest has in the middle of winter, the stems may require staking. A flower on an upright stem presents the most attractive picture.

Laelia anceps is a wonderful orchid plant for this section of the country, blooming under hot or cold conditions. Plants in bud, attached to trees, will withstand 26 degrees F. temperature without any damage. ...

Brassavola digbyana...will also withstand freezing temperature; however, they must be protected when the temperature drops to 28 degrees F."

[Editor's Note: William Barfield was a grower who lived in Corpus Christi, TX. In 1962, he contributed an orchid cultural calendar for the Southwest for each month of the year. All of these articles are found in volume 31 of the AOS Bulletin. In 1964, he contributed an article about the development of Potinaras.]

2004 OSA Membership Dues are Due!

OSA operates on a calendar year, which means that on Jan. 1, unless you joined as a new OSA member after September 1, 2003, your membership dues are due on Jan. 1. If you wish to send your dues in early or wish to pay them at our Dec. 1 meeting, a renewal form has herein been included for your convenience. PLEASE DO NOT PAY YOUR MEMBERSHIP DUES WITHOUT FILLING OUT A RENEWAL FORM TO ACCOMPANY YOUR CHECK OR CASH!!! OSA's Treasurer DOES have a non-orchid life! Unless you present a signed statement from your doctor that you have a broken arm and are therefore unable to write, she will NOT spend time going back through old rosters to gather information to include in the 2004 roster. In other words, if your growing environment has recently changed, if you have a new e-mail address, phone number, snail mail address, or have recently joined another orchid group listed on the renewal form, those changes need to be reflected on your renewal form.

BITS AND PIECES

NEW MEMBERS:

WELCOME TO
Roberta Donahue
Beatrice Terry Fitzpatrick
Christine Franck

SICK CALL :

Please join me in wishing a speedy recovery to **Heidi Owens**. Heidi recently endured a very lengthy surgical procedure and spent Thanksgiving in the hospital. I am VERY happy to report she is doing well and recuperating at home.

OSA CONTACT INFORMATION:

Contact information changes (President, Secretary, and Public Information Contact Person) will be made on culture sheets, but not until we use up the culture sheets we already have on hand, will we PRINT sheets with the new information. In the interests of saving at least one tree, new culture sheets will be printed when we have exhausted the supply we have on hand.

COMING SOON TO THE ENCANTO CLUBHOUSE:

OSA's Locking Bookcase! The bookcase will house OSA's Library and will be located on the second floor of the Clubhouse. Special thanks to **Fred Stimmell** for spending MANY HOURS assembling the bookcase.

FYI: There is an interesting article regarding the correlation between the continuing destruction of the Amazon rainforest and the rise in malaria-bearing mosquitoes, in the online version of Nature magazine. The article states that for every 1% rise in deforestation, there is an 8% rise in malaria mosquitoes. For you internet buffs, the article can be found at
<http://www.nature.com/nsu/031123/031124-12.html>

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.



OSA January 2004 Calendar



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	.			1	2	3
4 Lucy Redmond-Hall	5 OSA MEETING 7:00 P.M	6	7	8	9	10 Christine Franck
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23 Jeannie McGill	24
25	26	27	28 Kristin Huisinga	29	30	31



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

January 2004 Newsletter