



The

# Arizona Orchidist

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## NEXT OSA MEETING

The next regular society meeting  
will be **Monday, January 5, 2009**  
at 7:00 P.M.

Meetings are held at the  
**Training Center**  
**at the**  
**Arizona State Veteran Home**  
**4141 N. 3<sup>rd</sup> St., Phoenix.**

See map on page 5

OSA meetings are open to all  
plant enthusiasts

Refreshments will be provided.

Snacks and Beverages by

## **OSA Board Members**

Refreshment Coordinators:

Barbara Parnell (480) 948-0714

Mary Gannon (623) 878-4173

Carol Erwin (602) 996-1696

## **Board Meeting**

**January 18<sup>th</sup> at 1 PM**

**at the home of Julie Rathbun**

## **GROWER ON CALL**

Julie Rathbun

[jandfent@aol.com](mailto:jandfent@aol.com)

## January Program

### Note New Meeting Place and Time

Our resident orchid conservationist extraordinaire, AARON HICKS, will present a program on the conservation work that he's doing with *Spiranthes delitescens*. For those of you who didn't receive our November, 2008 newsletter and didn't read Aaron's biographical notes, this issue contains a repeat of the comments in the November newsletter.

Aaron's addiction with orchids began at the age of 12. While he was in graduate school, his addiction was dormant. In 1994, his passion for orchids was rekindled with an introduction to the Internet.

In December, 1996, Aaron recognized the need to preserve seeds of orchid species and started the Orchid Seedbank Project in Socorro, NM. (Until the OSP was formed, there was no central clearinghouse by which conservationists, researchers, commercial and hobbyist growers could go to specifically for orchid seed.) The OSP, currently located in Chandler, AZ, is an orchid seed clearinghouse for growers interested in orchid conservation. Aaron has advanced degrees in a variety of scientific disciplines and OSA members fondly refer to him as "our mad scientist". When he used to have time for hobbies, he was a volunteer firefighter and rescue worker. The OSP's website is a treasure trove of information, including descriptions of Aaron's experiments with gathering, preserving, classifying, distributing, and exchanging orchid seeds. He has published numerous papers and three books: **Asymbiotic Technique of Orchid Seed Germination**, **Orchid Seed Germination Media**, and **The Orchid Seed Germination Manual**. In the May, 1999, issue of *Orchids* magazine, there is a feature article on the Orchid Seedbank Project. The OSP was also featured in the July, 2003 issue of Phoenix Home and Garden Magazine. Check out the OSP website at <http://members.cox.net/ahicks51/osp/>

Biographical Embellishment by W. Stimmell

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## From the President's Desk

Julie Rathbun

It's the start of a new year and the beginning of my FOURTH term as your OSA President. In 2008, both board and non-board members made my job easier by offering to assist me in various ways. I needed moral support, and I received it WITHOUT asking for it! I'm hoping that in 2009, even more members will pitch in and help with our community service agenda. Our first community service programs are scheduled for Tuesday, January 20. For details about the programs, check the Community Service Schedule elsewhere in this issue.

Thanks to **DOUG BALDWIN** and **AARON HICKS** for conducting our live December auction. Doug and Aaron moved the plants and non-plant items along at a fast pace, and Aaron, as usual, added humorous comments. They made this annual event lively and fun for both members and visitors. Thanks, guys!

**BARBARA PARNELL** presided over the refreshment tables! Thanks, Barbara! **WILELLA STIMMELL**, our Treasurer, kept track of the winning bids of plants sold from OSA's inventory. **LOU ANN REMEIKIS** and **BOB MACLEOD** kept track of **all** winning bids for both plant and non-plant items. Thanks to the "trackers"! And thanks to everyone who donated orchids and orchid-related items for both the live and silent auction, and for bringing a variety of food for the refreshment tables. Your donations were greatly appreciated! And last, but certainly not least, thanks to all of you who purchased items!

Starting with our January 5<sup>th</sup> meeting, **all** of our **monthly meetings** in the new year will be held in the **Training Center at the Arizona State Veteran Home**, 4141 N. 3<sup>rd</sup> St., Phoenix. As you enter the lobby, the Training Center is behind the first door to your left. We're very pleased about our new meeting location! It's spacious, brightly lit, has kitchen facilities, excellent acoustics, and a projector screen that, with a touch of a button, descends from the ceiling. Our November show will also be held at ASVH, but the show will be held in Liberty Hall, where we held our November, 2002 show. **The dates for our show are Nov. 7 and 8, with set up on Nov. 6.**

**Lou Ann Remeikis has volunteered to be our 2009 Show Chair!** **Barbara Parnell** served as our November Show Chair for **three consecutive November shows**, and we thank her for her outstanding service to OSA!

The first opportunity to pass around the 2009 refreshments sign-up sheet will be during our January 5 meeting. If you enjoy refreshments at our meetings, it's only fair that you take your turn providing refreshments.

Our January board meeting will be held on January 18 at 1 PM at my home. All OSA members are welcome to attend board meetings, but if you plan to attend, please have the courtesy to phone or e-mail me and let me know that you plan to attend.

Happy New Year and see you on January 5!

Julie

## COMMUNITY SERVICE REPORT

Wilella Stimmell, CSP Coordinator

We start our new year of community service on **Tuesday, January 20**, at **FALCON HILL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, 1645 N. Sterling St., Mesa**. We will present hands-on repotting programs for three groups of second grade students. The parents of one of the second grade students, attended our show. They notified their daughter's teacher, and the teacher immediately contacted me. A total of 75 students will benefit from an introduction to orchids. **We need program team volunteers!!! The first program will begin at 12:15 PM.**

A report on the Falcon Hill programs will appear in our March newsletter.

On November 26, 2008, we received the following letter from Leslie Goin, Therapeutic Programs Manager at the Arizona State Veteran Home: "Thanks to the Orchid Society of Arizona, the residents of the Arizona State Veteran Home enjoy your monthly donations of soda pop, non-alcoholic beer, flavored water, and bread machine mix.

We use the bread mix on all 4 units, but emphasize the use on the Alzheimer's Unit. We have found it works miracles as a sensory cue to residents that a meal is coming. It seems to help stimulate their appetites when they smell the aroma of fresh baked bread. Thank you so much for 'adopting' our home and for continuing to be such a strong supporter.

Since 1995, the Arizona State Veteran Home has been caring for veterans who can no longer care for themselves. Our mission is to serve America's heroes by providing compassionate, professional care in a comfortable home-like environment. It is difficult for these men and women, who in their younger years fought to keep America free, to now admit that they need the help of professional nurses 24 hours a day. The Recreation Department is honored to have the Orchid Society of Arizona as such an integral part of our program to enrich the lives of ASVH residents."

On a personal note, **thank you** to generous OSA members who contributed funds throughout 2008 for the purchase of the above items mentioned by Leslie. I use my living room as a storage area for the items which will be taken to the veteran home. Obviously, I have a husband who tolerates clutter! Also, I enjoy delivering the items to ASVH because it gives me a chance to speak with the residents. Some of them receive NO visitors, and that saddens me. But the residents have also given me reasons to chuckle. A couple of the male residents tell very funny jokes!

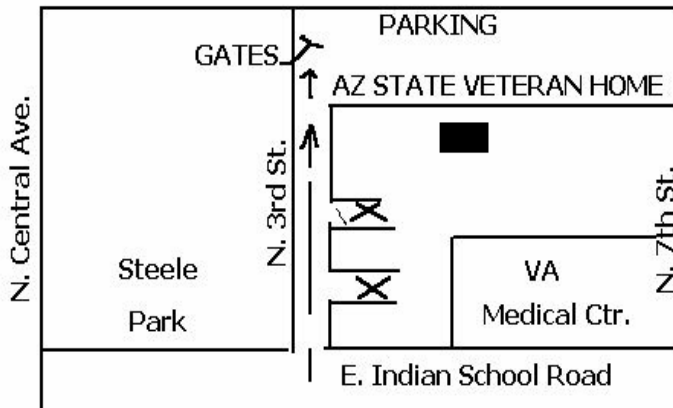
Also, **thank you** to **Bob MacLeod, Julie Rathbun, and Seelye Smith** for volunteering to help serve the Thanksgiving meal to the ASVH residents. Leslie had hoped to have 20 volunteers, but on Thanksgiving, she was pleasantly surprised to find at least twice that number of volunteers! The interaction between the volunteers and the residents was a joy to behold. I am rarely "conned" by anyone, but on Thanksgiving, one of "my" residents seemed not to be able to feed himself, so I hand-fed him. George savored every bite. One of the staff members noted the hand-feeding, and she said, "George, where are your hands?" He grinned, turned to me, and said, "She's a sweetheart."

## MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME

If you have not yet paid your 2009 membership dues, a renewal form has been included in this newsletter. 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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](mailto:kjkm@comcast.net)

## NEW MEETING PLACE

**Training Center  
at the Arizona State Veteran Home,  
4141 N. 3<sup>rd</sup> St., Phoenix.  
7:00 P.M.**



### DENDROBIUM LEAF DROP

Dendrobiums are "cane" orchids which store their energy in tall bamboo type canes. The Phalaenopsis varieties with flowers and long inflorescences resembling Phals will drop their leaves when the temperature goes below 50 degrees Fahrenheit or 10 degrees Celsius. In their native habitat the temperature rarely goes below 60 degrees Fahrenheit and they need year round watering and fertilizer as well as warm temperatures. They will also tend to lose leaves if the humidity is too low, so this is something that indoor growers should watch out for. Leaf loss is simply a mechanism to preserve their energy and does no harm to the plant. They will generally bloom on the old back bulbs, so don't cut them off.

Bellaonline.com

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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 2008

<b>President</b>		(602) 843-0223
	Julie Rathbun	jandfent@aol.com
<b>First Vice President</b>		(480) 722-9328
	Aaron Hicks	ahicks51@cox.net
	In House Program Chairman	
<b>Second Vice President</b>		(480) 785-2251
	Joe Bacik	bacikj@cox.net
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<b>Secretary</b>		(480) 948-0714
	Barbara Parnell	birdie552002@yahoo.com
<b>Treasurer</b>		(480) 947-8479
	Wilella Stimmell	willellas@worldnet.att.net
<b>Librarian</b>		(602) 803-6889
	Lou Ann Remeikis	remeikis@andiamo-tel.com
<b>Editor</b>		(505) 898-0975
	Keith Mead	kjkm@comcast.net
<b>Trustees</b>	Frank Bopp	(623) 937-0019
		fgbopp@cox.net
	Carol Erwin	(602) 996-1696
		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.

## Special Thanks

To the following businesses for generously donating items  
for our December 2008 Fund-raiser

### **AGDIA, INC.**

3150 Windsor Court  
Elkhart, IN 46514  
Phone orders: 1-800-622-4342  
[www.agdia.com](http://www.agdia.com)

### **JEWELL ORCHIDS**

25 Good Hope Rd.  
Colbert, GA 30628  
Phone: (706) 742-5065  
orchids@jewellorchids.com  
[www.jewellorchids.com](http://www.jewellorchids.com)

### **KIM NGUYEN**

8100 Hermisillo Rd.  
Arlington, TX 76002  
Phone: (817) 705-3079  
[mikpoppy@hotmail.com](mailto:mikpoppy@hotmail.com)

### **OAK HILL GARDENS**

P.O. Box 25  
Dundee, IL 60118  
Phone: (847) 428-8500  
[oakhillgardens@sprintmail.com](mailto:oakhillgardens@sprintmail.com)  
[www.oakhillgardens.com](http://www.oakhillgardens.com)

### **ORCHIDS ALIVE**

150 S. Hwy. 160 C8-306  
Pahrump, NV 89048  
Phone: (702) 290-9048  
[orchidsalive@hotmail.com](mailto:orchidsalive@hotmail.com)






## **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/](http://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.

Your 2008 OSA Board of Directors discussed the fact that 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

# OSA January 2009 Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 <i>HAPPY NEW YEAR</i>	2	3
4	5 <i>OSA Meeting 7:00 PM</i>	6	7	8	9  <i>Omar Rios</i>	10
11  <i>Debra Hartill</i>	12	13	14	15	16	17
18  <i>Mimi Brophy</i>	19  <i>Frank Bopp</i>	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28  <i>Kristin Huisinga</i>	29	30	31



Orchid Society of Arizona

c/o Keith Mead

5425 Thomas Drive NE

Albuquerque, NM 87111

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