



The Arizona Orchidist

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NEXT OSA MEETING

The next regular society meeting
will be **Monday, January 4th at 7:00 P.M.**

Meetings are held at the

Training Center

at the

Arizona State Veteran Home

4141 N. 3rd St., Phoenix.

OSA meetings are open to all
plant enthusiasts

Refreshments will be provided.

Beverages by Wilella Stimmell

Snacks by OSA

Refreshment Coordinators:

Barbara Parnell (480) 948-0714

Mary Gannon (623) 878-4173

Carol Erwin (602) 996-1696

Board Meeting

January 24

1 PM at the home of

Barbara and Harry Parnell

Grower on Call

Keith Mead

kjkm@comcast.net

January Program

REPOTTING SESSION
with our own Aaron J. Hicks

Paphs and phrags have it rough in the Valley of the Sun, but some crazy people still grow them so we may as well show how they're repotted.

Bring in your overgrown, rootless, beaten-down and otherwise ailing paphs and phrags that need repotting; Aaron will show the repotting techniques he's found are least likely to kill these terrestrials. We'll try to have newspaper on hand, but if you bring a larger pot and your favorite medium, it'll go faster.



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From the President's Desk

Julie Rathbun

On December 7, it rained hard throughout the valley for most of the day. In the 14 years that I've been a member of OSA, I can't remember that it ever rained on the day of our annual fundraising auction. I'm sure that the "bad" weather was the reason that some members chose not to venture out in traffic, and I certainly don't fault them for using common sense. Still, those who didn't attend our annual auction missed out on purchasing gorgeous orchid plants at bargain prices, unusual orchid-related items (a few were one-of-a-kind gifts), and another fun time! We always have fun at our auction, and one of the main reasons for that is the interaction between our live auctioneers, **Doug Baldwin** and **Aaron Hicks**. Thanks guys! You two always set the tone of our auctions. A few of us who sat in the back of the audience decided that next year it might be fun to have Joe Bacik videotape our auction and then post it on YouTube!

Thanks to everyone who brought food for the expanded refreshment table. We had a large variety of delicious food from which to choose.

One of our members won the 50/50 raffle drawing, and generous person that he is, he asked that his share be used to purchase items for the veterans.

This was our first December auction held in Liberty Hall at the veteran home, and we did not expect that one of the residents would attend the auction. He bought a plant for his wife. We have no idea whether she knows how to care for a Phalaenopsis orchid, so we gave him a culture sheet.

As we departed from the veteran home, we discovered that the rain had stopped. It was replaced by high winds which gusted up to 74 miles per hour. I hope that none of your homes suffered structural damage. My home escaped damage, but the roof over my horse stall ended up on my neighbor's property, and the water pipe that is used to water my horses was snapped in two. The next morning, both items needed to be immediately repaired.

It's the start of a new year, and I hope that board members and general members will be as helpful as they were in 2009.

Our January board meeting will be held on the 24th at 1 PM at the home of Barbara and Harry Parnell. OSA board meetings are open to all members, and all members are welcome. If you are not a board member but want to know more about the business of successfully operating a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization, feel free to attend one or more board meetings. Please notify the host or hostess that you plan to attend a meeting. Since food is always a part of any OSA meeting, the host/hostess needs to know how many people expect to attend.

Happy holidays to all! And to our members who are in poor health and/or to those members whom we have not seen in 2009, may 2010 be a better year for you!

See you on January 4!

Julie

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME

Enclosed with this issue is a membership renewal form. OSA's calendar year ends on December 31st.

At your earliest convenience, please complete all areas of the form and return it with your 2010 membership dues to the Treasurer's address that is listed on the form, or if you wish to save a stamp, bring your completed form with cash or check to our January meeting. Please do not pay your dues without completing your renewal form!

For those who receive their newsletters via e-mail, a separate attachment is (or should be!) included with this month's newsletter. If you didn't receive a renewal form, contact our newsletter Editor, Keith Mead, at kjkm@comcast.net

W. Stimmell

Restoration in the Orchid and Botanical Garden of Puyo, Ecuador

The Jardín Botánico las Orquídeas is a small botanical reserve located in the Ecuadorian Amazon, on the outskirts of the growing city of Puyo. The reserve was founded 30 years ago by an Ecuadorian family, and has been restored from a denuded pasture to a healthy secondary forest, complete with more than 250 species of orchids from Ecuadorian cloud forest and rainforest. Recently the number of birds and mammals such as monkeys, sloths, guatusas, and anteaters visiting the reserve has significantly increased; however, the reserve is too small to provide a permanent habitat.

Neighboring land to the orchid reserve, a potential corridor between the reserve and the lower Rio Puyo watershed, is currently for sale. The land is 25 hectares (61.78 acres) for \$250,000 US dollars (Ecuador's currency is the US dollar). Currently looking for \$125,000.00 in donations with the rest to come in matching funds. The land is owned by one family and currently used for agriculture, and if not purchased soon, the owner has plans to subdivide into housing lots. The danger of the land going to housing will increase as the road bordering the land is going to be paved in the next year or two, which will most likely increase the demand and/or raise the price.

The Orchid and Botanical Garden is interested in purchasing the land outright or in some kind of partnership purchase with the local government, another NGO, or private donor(s). The Jardín Botánico Las Orquídeas would then assume the work of restoring the land to forest, applying techniques and lessons learned from the past 30 years of restoration. This new land presents a once in a lifetime opportunity to capitalize on a generation's worth of ecological restoration, and provide crucial habitat for generations to come.

Orchid Conservation Coalition

The *Arizona Orchidist* is published monthly by the Orchid Society of Arizona, Inc.

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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., and The Nature Conservancy.

COMMUNITY SERVICE REPORT

Wilella Stimmell, CSP Coordinator

Our new year of community service begins on **Friday, January 8**, with an Orchids 101 program for Washington Garden Club. In June, 2009, we were approached about a program for the January date. (The gal who organizes programs certainly was on the ball and contacted us **7 months** in advance of the desired date.) At the time we were contacted, I didn't even have a 2010 calendar, so I wrote the time, date, and place for the January program in the top left margin of the December, 2009 calendar page. At the same time, the same scheduler asked us to do a hands-on repotting program on **May 6** for another group. I wrote that information in the top right margin of the December, 2009 calendar page. A few months later, I acquired a 2010 calendar and transferred my scribbles from the December, 2009 page to the 2010 calendar.

To refresh your memory: we schedule hands-on repotting programs for schools on a first-come, first-serve basis. So he or she, teacher and/or parent, who contacts us first, moves to the "head of the line". We request that the person who contacts us gives us several dates from which to choose because one or more of our volunteer program team members might be otherwise occupied on a particular date.

Even in this difficult economic environment, OSA is ready and willing to introduce more school children to orchids. There is no cost to the schools for our programs. We provide the seedlings and all potting supplies free of charge.

Thanks to those members who, throughout the year, donated funds for the purchase of comfort items for the residents at the Arizona State Veteran Home. Not only did we receive a monthly thank you letter from Leslie Goin, Manager of ASVH Therapeutic Programs, but also several of the residents know us and when they see us, personally thank us for all that we do for their benefit. Future thank you letters for our monthly donations will be sent by Candy Covarrubiaz, the new Volunteer Coordinator at the veteran home. Candy also schedules meetings and other events at ASVH, and she's very pleasant and helpful. Her office is on the second floor next to the aviary. (In December, 2009, the administration recognized that Leslie, serving as both Volunteer Coordinator AND Manager of therapeutic Programs, needed help.)

Special Thanks

**To the following businesses for generously donating items for our
December, 2009 Fund-raiser**

BOTANICA LTD.

3112 S. 3rd St. W
Missoula, MT 59804
Phone: (406) 721-3256
<http://botanicaltd.com>
billn@bresnan.net

JEWELL ORCHIDS

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

OAK HILL GARDENS

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

RAINBOW BAY ORCHIDS

33 SE Meadowlark Lane
Waldport, OR 97394
Phone: (541) 563-5396
Mijo730@aol.com
www.rborchids.com

SEATTLE ORCHID.COM

E-mail: brian@SeattleOrchid.com
Brian Schlittenhardt (co-owner)
Phone: (206) 979-9116
www.seattleorchid.com

American Botanist Lou Jost Discovers World's Smallest Orchid

American botanist Lou Jost, one of the world's leading orchid hunters, has discovered the smallest orchid in the world among the roots of a larger plant in a nature reserve in Bolivia, South America. The 2.1mm wide flowers have transparent petals, which are only one cell thick. The finding tops the previous record of *Platystele jungermannioides* with 2.5mm flowers.

Lou Jost discovered the new species accidentally, looking at a bigger plant from the Cerro Candelaria reserve in the eastern Andes. The reserve was created by a British organization World Land Trust in partnership with *Fundacion EcoMinga*, for which the discoverer works. In fact, Ecuador is the place of discovery of more than 1,000 new species of orchids in the past century.

"I found it among the roots of another plant that I had collected, another small orchid which I took back to grow in my greenhouse to get it to flower. A few months later I saw that down among the roots was a tiny little plant that I realised was more interesting than the bigger orchid. Looking at the flower is often the best way to be able to identify which species of orchid you've got hold of – and can tell you whether you're looking at an unknown species or not." he said.

The finding was identified as belonging to genus *Platystele*, like the previous record holder, and is the 60th new species of orchid that Dr Jost had discovered in the past decade.

Wikipedia wikinews



OSA January 2010 Calendar

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



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