



# The Arizona Orchidist

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## NEXT OSA MEETING

The next regular society meeting will be

**Monday, January 7th at 7:00 P.M.**

Meetings are held at the

**Training Center**

at the

**Arizona State Veteran Home**

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

**(Formerly North 3rd Street)**

OSA meetings are open to all  
plant enthusiasts

Refreshments will be provided by

**OSA Board Members**

Refreshment Coordinators:

Barbara Parnell (480) 948-0714

Lou Ann Remeikis (602) 803-6889

Jo Anne Waddoups

480-654-9883

**Board Meeting**

**January 27 th**

**1 PM at Hometown Buffet,  
Scottsdale**

**Grower on Call**

**Richard Holle  
(480) 202-6923**

**Richard@aerology.com**

## JANUARY PROGRAM

### Repotting Plants Acquired at our Recent Show, Auction, or... Many Years Ago!

Many of us have at least one orchid that has roots growing over the edges of the pot and is desperately in need of repotting. (Some of us have more than one plant with roots dangling in the breeze, but unless you intend to cut off and place bare root divisions of overgrown plants on the January raffle table, please limit the number of overgrown plants you bring to ONE plant per person.)

**Potting supplies that you need to bring:** the potting medium of your choice (pre-soaked moss, fir bark, or other); a pot one size larger than the pot your orchid is in now (some growers prefer plastic and some prefer clay); a cutting tool that has **not** been used on any other orchids (for cutting through the rhizome); and ground cinnamon (from your spice cabinet - for sealing rhizome cuts).

We will try to remember to bring newspaper to contain the mess we make. Several veteran members will conduct the program.

Also, for the benefit of those who missed our December auction and/or for those who believe they didn't buy enough plants at the auction, there will be a silent auction at the January meeting.

W. Stimmell

### What's Missing?

What **is** missing from this newsletter? **Your** color photos are missing. Since including color photos in issues this past year we have had favorable comments.....but.....we need **you** to share your pictures. Have a plant in bloom? Send your editor a photo to be included in the newsletter. See an interesting article about orchids? Share it with other members via this (your) newsletter.

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## From the President's Desk

Julie Rathbun

Happy holidays to all! And I hope that the new year brings health and happiness to everyone!

On a sad note, we recently learned that veteran member, Frank Bopp, died six months ago. There was no obituary in the newspaper, so none of us knew that Frank had died. His son, Tom, visited me and informed me of Frank's death. A couple of years ago, Frank donated his orchid books to us. Before he broke his back, Frank served as a Trustee on OSA's Board, enjoyed helping with our community service programs, and also made a trip with us to the Morongo Basin Orchid Festival in Landers, CA. After he could no longer attend meetings, he looked forward to receiving our newsletters and reading about our activities. OSA has lost a willing worker and good friend.

The weather on December 3 couldn't have been better for our annual fund-raiser, and attendance was excellent. Those who were unable to attend our annual auction missed out on purchasing beautiful, hand-selected orchid plants in bud and/or bloom, and unusual orchid-related items (several were one-of-a-kind gifts) at bargain prices in the live auction. On the silent auction, there were plants (donated by vendors and members) and orchid-related items donated by members and non-members. We always have fun at our auction, and this auction was no exception. Aaron Hicks served as our main auctioneer. **Thanks, Aaron!** At the start of the auction, I helped Aaron. Then Wilella relieved me from duty so that I could eat my supper. After Aaron left so that he could arrive on time at his paying job, **Dale Dobson** helped with the live auction. **Thanks, Dale.** And **thanks to Susan Nahmias** for tracking sales of plants that had been purchased for the auction. Willie usually does that, but...she couldn't be both auctioneer and track sales. **Thanks to coordinated teamwork, our auction was a financial success.**

Thanks to everyone who brought food for the expanded refreshment table. We had a large variety of delicious food from which to choose. And finally, thanks to all members and vendors who generously donated items for our annual fund-raiser.

In case you want to know who won the quilt that I had made: I won it! Dale Dobson drew the winning ticket.

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 2012. This is the beginning of my 8th year as your President. Serving as your President has been a labor of love (including a lot of **physical** labor).

Our January board meeting will be held on **January 27th at 1 PM at the Hometown Buffet restaurant on Scottsdale Rd., south of McDowell.** Since we hold most of our board meetings either at my home or at Barbara's home (both on the west side of the valley), board members agreed that one meeting could be held at a location a bit more convenient for members who live on the east side of the valley. Since each board member is responsible for paying for his/her own meal at the restaurant, if any board member does not want to attend this meeting, please give your proxy to a board member who will be present. No explanation is necessary.

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. Also, non-board members are welcome to volunteer their homes as a meeting location for a board meeting.

By request, our January 7<sup>th</sup> meeting will be a repotting program. (Thanks , Randy!)

See you on January 7!

Julie

## Membership Renewal Time

Attached to 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 2013 membership dues to the Treasurer's address that is listed on the form, or bring your completed form with cash or check to our January meeting. **Please** do not pay your dues without completing your renewal form! Several members have changed ISPs since they paid their 2012 dues, and the only way we know where to e-mail your newsletter to you is if you fill out the renewal form.

If you didn't receive a renewal form, contact our newsletter editor Keith Mead at orchidsinabq@gmail.com

## COMMUNITY SERVICE REPORT

Wilella Stimmell, CSP Coordinator

On Saturday, **November 10, 2012**, at 10:00 AM, **Barbara Parnell** and **Lou Ann Re-meikis** presented an Orchids 101/ repotting program at **Berridge Nurseries**, 4647 E. Camelback Rd., in Phoenix. The presenters reported that although the program was held in the amphitheater, and the temperature was cold, the members of the audience were eager to learn how to care for orchids.

On Monday, **November 12, 2012**, at 1:30 PM, **Bob MacLeod**, **Barbara Parnell**, **Julie Rathbun**, and I traveled to **Wickenburg** and presented an Orchids 101 program for members of the **Nice Dirt Garden Club**. Most of the members were female, but there were also two males in the group. All of the members asked questions and admired our display plants. Our usual 45 minute program lasted almost 2 hours! (And no, I wasn't the only one talking. All 4 of us contributed answers to questions.) **Julie Rathbun** donated the door prize plant. **Thanks, Julie!**

Since 1995, when we started our community service programs, this is the first garden club that we've encountered that has **no officers**, and the members pay **no membership dues**. (They do bring refreshments to meetings.) The garden club got its name, Nice Dirt, from the lady who formed the group. She wanted to plant a garden, so she phoned a local retailer and asked for "nice dirt".

**To our members who donated money in 2012 for the purchase of soda pop and other comfort items for the residents at the Arizona State Veteran Home, THANK YOU! Please know that the veterans appreciate our generosity.** It's a labor of love to comparison shop for the items, store purchases, and deliver our monthly donations. On more than one occasion, the staff mentioned that their inventory was so low that they weren't sure how they could "stretch" what remained until the end of the month. OSA to the rescue!

The Arizona Orchidist is published monthly by the

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:

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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.

## **SPECIAL THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING VENDORS WHO GENEROUSLY DONATED PLANTS FOR OUR FUND-RAISER:**

**GUBLER ORCHIDS**  
2200 BELFIELD BLVD.  
LANDERS, CA 992285  
(760) 364-2282  
Chris@gublers.com  
www.gublers.com

**JEWELL ORCHIDS**  
25 GOOD HOPE ROAD  
COLBERT, GA 30628  
(706) 742-5065  
orchids@jewellorchids.com  
www.jewellorchids.com

We also received donations from 3 other orchid vendors who, at their request, asked us not to mention them by name in our newsletter. Your generous donations were greatly appreciated, and we respect your privacy.

Information cards with the vendors' names, addresses, and website URLs were placed at the front of the silent auction tables.

### **My Experience Using Neem Oil**

by Wilella Stimmell

Many orchid growers in the low desert with our normally low humidity, have a battle at one time or another with mealy bugs and scale. Harry Tolen (Chula Orchids) has a section on his website about Neem Oil. You use it as a spray - 1 ounce of Neem Oil to 1 gallon of water plus a few drops of dishwashing liquid as a wetting agent.

When Harry was still growing orchids, he used Neem Oil on his orchids. He said that it has no odor. I beg to differ! I've smelled worse odors in my life than Neem Oil, but it DEFINITELY has an unpleasant odor. Harry also claimed that Neem Oil kills all bugs.

At the time I originally wrote this short piece on the use of Neem Oil, it had NOT been cleared for use on orchids. So if you try it, you try it at your own risk. I tried it on ONE plant and will not use it on any others. I tend to be cautious about using any new "hot" product. Neem Oil was intended to be used as a leaf polish. That being the case, it would seem logical that it could clog the stomata. As you know, orchids are unique in that their stomata are mainly located on the underside of the leaves. There are some on the upper surface of the leaves, but those aren't the ones I worry about clogging up with oil, wax, or similar products. I would recommend that if you try using the oil, you use a few plants that you wouldn't be upset if, as a result of the spraying, did not flourish. Orchid growers tend to look for a miracle spray that will kill all bugs. I live in the real world, and although I'm NOT from Missouri, my response is: SHOW me YOUR plants that are bug free after using Neem Oil, and then MAYBE I'll also become a believer. The leaves on my "test" plant were still oily at the time the plant died.

I followed the directions on the bottle, but oily leaves are unacceptable. Also, after 4 days, several of the leaves turned yellow (clogged stomata is the likely cause). The oil might well have killed all the scale that was hiding in hard to find spots, but when the plant died, what did I gain by using Neem oil on the plant except experience?

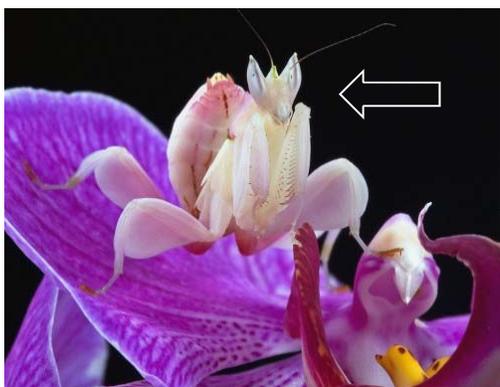
Some of our experienced/veteran growers have a nasty habit of drawing faulty conclusions from something bad that happened to their orchids and reporting this at our meetings. Our newer members think the remarks the veteran growers make "must" be true because they've been growing orchids longer than they have. Other factors could have been responsible for the "failure" besides the product itself. For example, coconut fiber is a perfectly fine growing medium. It degrades the same as any other organic medium, but cultural practices are more at "fault" than the medium itself. Watering practices and fertilizing routines affect the rate of decomposition. I've had nobile dendrobs potted in coconut fiber, and I haven't repotted them in two years. The plants are healthy and flourishing. I don't use coconut fiber on my other orchids because I fertilize them year round. I stop fertilizing nobile's in August, and that might account for the fact that the coconut fiber in which the nobile's are growing, has not decomposed. I firmly believe that much of orchid growing is based on common sense.

## ORCHID MANTIS



*Hymenopus coronatus* (known by a variety of common names including *Malaysian orchid mantis*, *Malaysian orchid praying mantis*, *pink orchid mantis* and *orchid mantis*) is a mantis from Malaysia, Indonesia, and Sumatran rain forests. These mantises thrive in humid, warm areas of south Asian rain forests. These mantids can be found on papaya trees, *orchids*, or frangipani trees with flowers. In captivity, the nymph's diet can consist mainly of fruit flies, but they will eat other small insects. Adults will eat anything they can catch; this includes small lizards, bees without stingers, house flies, butterflies, moths and other non-venomous flying insects. Although primarily carnivorous, orchid mantises have been observed eating little bits of banana, this behavior is thought to balance the mantis's vitamin intake through the juices of the banana (which are rich in potassium). When threatened, the mantis either tries to confuse the predator, or scare it. This species is characterized by brilliant and beautiful coloring and unusual structure; their four walking legs resemble flower petals, and the coloration of the bodies tends to match the environment in which they were raised. As the mantis grows in its environment, its color comes to more closely match the coloration of its surroundings with each passing molt. It has been theorized that humidity and intensity of light play a large role in the final coloration of the adult.

wikipedia



Photos [www.origamicupcake.com](http://www.origamicupcake.com)

# OSA January 2013 Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	HAPPY NEW YEAR	1  Diane Puppato	2	3	4	5
6	7 OSA Meeting 7:00 PM	8	9	10	11  Debra Hartill	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27 Board Meeting 1PM Home Town Buffet	28  Kristin Huisinga	29	30	31		



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