



The Arizona Orchidist

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NEXT OSA MEETING

The next regular society meeting will be

Monday, January 5th 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 (602) 451-5952

Lou Ann Remeikis (602) 803-6889

Jo Anne Waddoups 480-654-9883

Grower on Call
Jim Johnson
480-677-9767
jim1958@nphs.us

Board Meeting
January 18 at 1 PM
at the home of Julie Rathbun

JANUARY PROGRAM

MINIATURES

GUILLERMO SALAZAR



Guillermo Salazar was born in Miami and grew up in El Salvador in Central America, as a child of a nursery owner Father and a interior and floral designer Mother, Guillermo was able to develop his natural design ability and appreciation for plants and flowers even before attending college. He followed his dream of becoming a professional landscape designer in Florida, receiving his degree in Landscape Design & Management, later he received a Master's in Science in Environmental Horticulture from the University of Florida. As a 9 year old living in El Salvador, Guillermo found orchids were the most attractive plants in this tropical environment and he started collecting them. He became the youngest member of the San Salvador Orchid Society, which is the largest orchid society in San Salvador the country's capital. During his college years back in Florida, he learned the importance of protecting natural resources especially orchids in Florida. He is an AOS student judge; board member of several orchid societies. A Florida Master Gardener, Guillermo has worked for several years as a professional Landscape Designer in private, municipal and governmental capacities in the South Florida area. He currently works as a private landscape designer & consultant, adjunct faculty for the Landscape Technology Department for Miami Dade College & Landscape Superintendent for City of Miami Lakes. His work entails teaching people how to design a garden successfully with the use of adequate plants and orchids to create functional & environmentally conscious environment. He has published several articles on home gardening, design and orchid articles for South Florida and international magazines. His credentials include: ISA certified Arborist, Certified Landscape Inspector and Certified Horticulturist. His specialty in orchids is Angraecoids, Bulbophyllums, and rare and miniature tropical species. In his spare time, Guillermo is a breeder of pedigree Persian and Himalayan cats, enjoys gardening & exploring tropical regions of the world.

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From the President's Desk

Julie Rathbun

I hope that everyone had a Merry Christmas and a safe New Year celebration. Also, I hope that the new year brings health and happiness to everyone and that your orchids flourish.

This is the start of my 10th year as your President. As long as OSA's board members and non-board members continue to volunteer to help where and when they can, I am willing to serve as President. Even with lots of help from our members, my job is a labor of love and...a lot of physical work!

The weather on December 1 was mild, but attendance could have been better. A few of our reliable members were on traveling vacations and missed out on purchasing beautiful orchid plants in bud and/or bloom at bargain prices! Thanks to members who donated plants and non-plant items for our auction.

Thanks to **Joe Bacik and Dean Toms** for volunteering to help our auctioneer, Wilella Stimmell. She knows plant names, particularly of species, and can rattle them off at a fast pace. For hybrids, she didn't spend more than a minute or two trying to decipher some of the ridiculous names given to the plants. None of our members suffer from "tag-itis", and the hybrid tags in the pots might have been incorrect, anyway. Plants in flower "speak" for themselves. **Lou Ann Remeikis** kept track of sales. Thanks, Lou!

On the silent auction, there were plants donated by **several** vendors. In this newsletter, only one vendor is acknowledged for his generosity; the others did not wish to be listed by name, but we certainly appreciated their donations. Several of our members also donated items and plants for the silent auction table. We appreciate their generosity. We always have fun at our auction, and this auction was no exception. **Thanks to coordinated teamwork, our fundraiser (both live and silent auctions) was a successful way to close out our calendar year.**

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 Jamie Cussen, ASVH Therapeutic Programs Manager, for reminding the maintenance staff to have the tables that we requested for the auction, in Liberty Hall.

Our January board meeting will be held on **January 18th** at 1 PM at my home.

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.

See you on January 5!

Julie

December Auction Donation from Commercial Vendor

JEWELL ORCHIDS
25 GOOD HOPE RD.
COLBERT, GA 30628
Www.jewellorchids.com

Whenever possible, please support this generous vendor!

(Unfortunately, since the other vendors who donated plants did not wish to be mentioned by name, you don't know the names of the other donors who donated plants. But if you really want to know, contact Wilella Stimmell. She knows who donated plants.)

Membership Renewal Time

It's membership renewal time again. OSA's calendar year ends on December 31st.

At your earliest convenience, please complete all areas of the renewal form and return it with your 2015 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!

If you don't receive a renewal form, contact our newsletter Editor, Keith Mead, at orchidsinabq@gmail.com or check the culture sheet box at our meetings. We always have extra copies of membership applications/renewals on hand.

W. Stimmell

An Orchid Medium from the Past

Many years ago, 'Gorilla Hair' was known as Palco Wool. If you can still find a source for it, it is not a good idea to use it as top dressing on pots of Cattleyas.

My orchid mentor tried it on a few plants and discontinued using it. Palco Wool is a redwood product and is too acidic for orchids.

If you want to learn more about Gorilla Hair, do an internet search. You might find some interesting information.

W. Stimmell

Check out the new LED grow light at
<http://greenray-led.com/>

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

COMMUNITY SERVICE REPORT AND SCHEDULE

Wilella Stimmell

Due to our show pictures included in our December newsletter, there was no space for a report on the hands-on reporting program that we did on Saturday, Nov. 15 at the **White Tank Branch Library** in Waddell, AZ. Program team members who assisted with the program were: **Bob MacLeod, Julie Rathbun, Lou Ann Remeikis, Dean Toms, and me.**

None of us had visited the new library, and we were very impressed by the new facility. It is located at the base of the White Tank Mountains and is well worth a visit just to see the library. To get to the library, if you drive west on Olive Ave., you pass quite a few agricultural fields and also several rose "farms". It was reassuring to know that there is still a part of the valley that is devoted to agriculture.

The large room in which we held our program, was packed with adults and students – all eager to learn about orchids. One female adult was so pleased with our program that she gave us a monetary donation!

Hanna Bozhko, the Librarian who contacted us, was so pleased with our program that she notified other librarians about our program. On Monday following our program, I was contacted by **5** Librarians from Anthem to Queen Creek. Also, a third grade teacher from Mabel Padgett Elementary School in Goodyear, requested our program for all **168** third grade students who attend the school. Program team members discussed how best we could accommodate all of the students, and we settled on a plan that deviates from our usual policy of not returning to the same school in the same calendar year. This deviation is a one-time only exception. (6 teachers will have to work together to coordinate the dates for our programs.)

Suffice to say that our schedule is full through June of 2015. We do not schedule programs for July or August. The only months left for scheduling any hands-on programs for 2015 are September and November. We have always operated on a first come, first serve basis. At this point, if any Librarian or teacher contacts us, the earliest we could accommodate them would be in September.

What a wonderful problem for us to have!

The programs scheduled for February will be listed in our February newsletter.

Cool, Intermediate or Warm?

Orchids are usually classified as either cool-, intermediate- or warm-growing depending on their temperature needs and the usual definitions of these ranges are: Warm 80-90F days and 65-70F nights, Intermediate 70-80F days and 55-65F nights and Cool 60-70F days and 50-55F nights.

First, these temperature ranges are for winter conditions. Obviously, cattleyas and many oncidiums tolerate summer days into the 90s or no one in three-quarters of the country would be able to grow them. However, temperatures above the low 90's do cause physiological stress on the plants and their ability to tolerate it is tied to a significant drop in night temperature as well as the typically short duration of summer heat. The same plants constantly exposed to high day temperature with little diurnal variation rapidly develop symptoms of heat stress such as black rot and calcium-deficiency induced leaf-tip dieback.

Second, these ranges are SAFE estimates. We all know individuals who routinely expose their plants to temperatures above and, more importantly below, these ranges without apparent damage but the ability to survive temperature extremes is closely tied to many other environmental and cultural practices as well as the duration. A few hours of temperatures in the 40's will have a remarkably different effect on phalaenopsis than a whole growing season of too-cool conditions. Think of these ranges like traffic hazard warning signs. Does a sign for a curve ahead at 35mph mean you can't take it at 50mph? Of course not, you might be able to but it helps if you are an experienced driver. The same is true of plants. If your plants have been grown under uniformly warm conditions they will be much more stressed by sudden cold snaps than they would be if they were allowed to gradually become acclimated to lower temperatures and wet plants can be more easily damaged by cold than dry plants. Some clones are much more tolerant of extreme conditions than others. That fact is the basis of the development of warmth tolerant or especially cold tolerant landscaping plants. These temperature ranges overlap somewhat and many genera are either adaptable to a wide range of conditions or have species with different cultural requires such that, with careful selection of micro-climates in your growing area, it's possible to successfully grow a wide range of plants. For those that want nights a bit cooler, moving them closer to the windows will help while those that want to be a bit warmer can be staged further away provided adequate light can be provided.

MEALYBUGS

Q: My orchid plants have tiny, white, hairy bugs. I tried washing them off with soap and water, but they return. What is this bug called? How can I get rid of it?



A: The insects on your orchids are mealybugs. You are right to be concerned about them, because they are not just resting innocently on the leaves but have inserted their beaks into the plant, like drinking straws, and are busily slurping the sap. A heavy infestation of mealybugs will kill a plant, and because they can multiply quickly, they can easily get out of control.

The entire life cycle of mealybugs takes only a couple of weeks, so there can be more than eight generations in a year. The insects you see are the females - flattish, oval creatures with a white waxy or filamentous covering. In most species, tiny, winged, short-lived males fertilize the females, which then lay eggs.

The young of both sexes, known as crawlers, are so tiny you usually won't see them without a hand lens while they feed and grow, shedding skins until they become either winged males or the slow-moving females.

Mealybugs could have been on your plant when you bought it. They also could have been on some other orchid or other houseplant in your collection. Or the tiny crawlers could have blown in your window on a breeze.

Mealybugs often escape notice early in an infestation because the eggs and crawlers are tiny and the adults try to stay in places where you don't notice them, on leaf undersides or deep in crevices. Most species that feed on orchids can also infest the roots.

A step that could halt the infestation is to dab the insects with 70 percent isopropyl alcohol (rubbing alcohol) on a cotton swab. When you do this, pay special attention to crevices and folds. You can also put the alcohol into a spray bottle, but move the plant to a sink or tub before you spray to avoid damaging the finish on furniture. Alcohol or any treatment to kill mealybugs will need to be repeated every 10 to 14 days to kill emerging crawlers.

It would also be a good idea to repot the plant, checking the roots and giving them a very gentle cleaning and spraying with alcohol if you find mealybugs. Scrub the pot and saucer, as they could harbor eggs or crawlers.

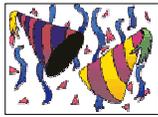
Also, replace the potting medium and discard the old medium in the compost pile or yard waste bin. Also, while you're at it, check nearby plants, plant supports and pots, because the insects do wander in search of food and may turn up in surprising locations. Several that feed on orchids will also live on other houseplants.

If rubbing alcohol treatments can't bring the infestation under control, you will need to decide whether you want to try other chemicals. Among the least hazardous choices are oils, including ones based on vegetable oils, like soy, canola and neem oil. Oil sprays smother the insects. Use according to directions and avoid getting them on the flowers, which they could damage.

Other insecticides are lethal to mealybugs, but the American Orchid Society warns that pesticides may damage orchids, or specific kinds of orchids, especially ones in sunlight or under grow lights. It recommends testing on a small area of the plant. Also, constant use of any one pesticide can lead to resistance, so that mealybugs are no longer killed by it. The American Orchid Society suggests that if a plant is declining from a severe infestation, you consider discarding it, "as the low likelihood of rejuvenating that plant may not justify the expense and effort of continued treatments."

<http://www.sfgate.com/homeandgarden/goldengategardener/article/Tips-on-protecting-orchids-from-mealybugs-4984386.php>

OSA January 2015 Calendar

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 	2  Dolly Floyd	3
4	5 OSA Meeting 7 PM	6	7	8	9	10
11	12  Kitten Harmon	13	14	15	16	17
18 Board Meeting 1 PM at Julie's	19	20	21	22	23	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

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