



The

# Arizona Orchidist

Published monthly by  
The Orchid Society of Arizona, Inc.  
Founding Editor- Clarence S. Lindsten  
1966

Volume 43

July 2007 Number 7

## 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, July 2nd, 2007**  
at 7:00 P.M.

OSA meetings are open to all  
plant enthusiasts

Refreshments will be provided.

This month Pamela Albright will  
provide liquid refreshment  
Snacks by Lou Ann Remeikis and  
Julie Rathbun

Refreshment Coordinators:  
Barbara Parnell (480) 948-0714  
Mary Gannon (623) 878-4173

## • OSA BOARD MEETING

Board Meetings  
are open to all members  
The next Board meeting will be  
at 1:00 PM July 29th at the  
NAVAHCS picnic area  
Prescott

## GROWER ON CALL

Joe Bacik

bacikj@cox.net

## July Program

A CD of The Orchids of Mexico will be shown. The CD is "hot off the press" (2007). Anyone who has books about the orchids of Mexico is invited to bring the books for display.

Also, if anyone has an orchid for which he/she needs a consult, feel free to bring the plant to the meeting, and we will attempt to diagnose the plant's problem. PLEASE keep a potentially diseased or bug-infested plant away from members' display plants and from the plants on the raffle table.

## JUNE RAFFLE TABLE DONORS

**Bob MacLeod, Lou Ann Remeikis,**

**Wilella Stimmell,**

**The Family of Ken Gettys**

**and**

**Non Members Ken and Judy Vincent**

Your generous continued support helps  
to make our programs possible.

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## From the President's Desk

Julie Rathbun

For those of you who missed our June 4 meeting, I mentioned the **date of our annual caravan trek to the Northern Arizona VA Health Care System: Sunday, July 29th**. For the past several years, we've gone to Prescott in August, but this year, Paula Moran, Lead Recreation Therapist, informed us that there were schedule conflicts regarding VA activities that had already been planned for the Sundays in August. Unfortunately, the July 29th date could not be included in our June newsletter because copy must be submitted to our Editor by the 10th of the month, and the date for our trip to Prescott wasn't confirmed until May 16th.

Also available at our June meeting were copies of the VA Wish List. For those of you who missed the meeting, you will find the list elsewhere in THIS newsletter. At our July 2nd meeting, I will announce a time and place for our departure on July 29th from Phoenix. If you need a ride, phone me or any other board member. If you can't make the trip but would like to donate one or more items to the VA, we can arrange to pick up the items. If you can't go to Prescott and don't have time to purchase any of the items on the VA Wish List, you might be interested in donating funds to the VA.

Our annual field trip to Prescott is an all-day trip. (We depart Phoenix in the morning and return in late afternoon.) Bill Starkman, VA Greenhouse Supervisor, always has coffee waiting for us when we arrive. We can choose to tour the greenhouse, check the veggies in the garden adjacent to the greenhouse, and/or check the trees in the orchard for apples and peaches. After we help bring patients to the picnic area, all of us (staff, patients, and OSA members) enjoy lunch which is provided by OSA. (The picnic area is located near the greenhouse.) After lunch, before we hold an abbreviated board meeting, we help return the patients to the nursing home. And after the board meeting, we head back to Phoenix.

Patients, staff members, and OSA members always enjoy this annual event.

On our June silent auction were two flasks of *Cattleya dowiana* that had been donated by Marge From, Plant Lab Sciences, Henry Doorly Zoo, Omaha. During the IOCC III in March, Marge bought the two flasks from Lankester Garden's Gift Shop, and I brought them home in my carry-on luggage. She donated the flasks to us so that we could offer them on our silent auction and raise money for our school programs. THANKS, MARGE! (For newer members who did not hear Marge's presentation at our November, 2005 meeting, you can see a picture of Marge [located about half-way down the page] and read about the Omaha Zoo's conservation work at: <http://www.omahazoo.com/ccr/index.asp?page=ccr/horticulture.htm> )

Special thanks to **OMAR RIOS** for donating funds so that we had liquid and snacks at our June meeting. Barbara Parnell, co-refreshments coordinator, was unsuccessful in receiving responses from the two members who had signed up to bring refreshments for the meeting. Omar graciously and generously came to our rescue WITHOUT being asked to do so!

Thanks to **Lou Ann Remeikis** and **Aaron Hicks** for showing us the Orchids of Costa Rica CD. There were a few "technical" difficulties, but everyone in the audience was patient. I brought the photos that I had taken in Costa Rica, and Wilella Stimmell brought several books about Costa Rican orchids. The photos and books were placed on the raffle ticket sales table. If anyone who didn't attend the meeting, wants to see my photos, let me know.

See you on July 2nd!

Julie

## ABUNDANT FORESTS

We hear a great deal about the rainforests, but what about our forests here in the USA?

According to information at [abundantforest.org](http://abundantforest.org), there are 10 million more acres of forest today than there were 15 years ago, and some 4 million new trees planted **each day**. Of this the paper industry plants 1.7 million— more than making up for what they harvest.

According to the US Forest Service, 49 percent of America's forests are owned by family forest owners. Of the remaining forestlands, 20 percent are part of the National Forest System, 10 percent are owned by states, 13 percent by other federal agencies and less than 9 percent by industrial landowners.

More than 5,000 products are made from trees:

Houses, furniture, baseball bats, crutches, fences, garden mulch, books, newspapers, movie tickets— even clothing, carpeting and toothpaste!

Over a 50-year lifetime, one tree generates \$31,250 worth of oxygen, provides \$62,000 worth of air emissions control, recycles \$37,500 worth of water and controls \$31,350 worth of soil erosion.

For more information visit:

[abundantforests.org](http://abundantforests.org)

*ed*

## READING AND RESOURCE

Having an orchid resource library of your own is an important part of becoming a "better" grower.

Check out this amazing website and their extensive offerings at great prices:

[www.orchidsbooks.com](http://www.orchidsbooks.com)

You can even sign up for the monthly newsletter of special values.

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 Orchid Digest Corporation, the Arizona Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. The Nature Conservancy.

## COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM SCHEDULE

Wilella Stimmell, CSP Coordinator

On May 22, at 10 AM, JULIE RATHBUN and I presented an Orchids 101 program in the Activities Center of Friendship Village, 2645 E. Southern Ave., Tempe. In May, 1995, when we presented a program at the Beatitudes Campus of Care, 1616 W. Glendale Ave., Phoenix, Connie Aman-Shryock was the Activities Director at the Beatitudes. Since she lives in the East Valley, she changed jobs and is the Activities Director at Friendship Village.

Edie Kidney was delighted to win our blooming Phalaenopsis door prize plant. She already had one Phal, and now she has two!

After the program, we were invited to visit with the members of the audience and enjoy a buffet lunch. There was a variety of fresh fruit, sandwiches, and petit fours, and Julie and I sampled everything that was offered!

(A report on our June 14<sup>th</sup> Orchids 101 program for the Arizona Rare Fruit Growers will appear in our August newsletter.)

I am pleased to report that at least a few of the residents at the Arizona State Veteran Home drank the flavored water that we donated in May. I delivered more flavored water (plus the usual "load" of soda pop and snacks) in June. The June delivery was the first time that diabetic residents were waiting for my arrival so that they could be first in line to receive sugar-free chocolate bars.

OSA received our annual Certificate of Appreciation for donations, and I placed the certificate by the donation jar on the raffle ticket sales table so that our members could see it. The monthly ASVH newsletters include thanks to OSA for our generosity. I finally remembered to bring an ASVH newsletter to our June meeting. The Certificate of Appreciation was placed beside the newsletter on our raffle ticket sales table. Thanks to members who continue to donate funds for the purchase of items that the residents enjoy!

## VARIEGATION IN ORCHID LEAVES

In 1999, at the World Orchid Conference in Vancouver, British Columbia, I saw my first orchid with clearly defined, consistent variegation along the edges of the leaves. The hybrid was a Phalaenopsis and was offered for sale by a vendor from Taiwan. The plants offered for sale were not in bloom, and I was definitely not interested enough in the variegated leaves to pay \$200 for an oddity which I might kill from neglect. (At least 10 years ago, I purchased a couple of Chinese "Golden Lines" Cymbidium orchids. "Golden Lines" orchids are prized not for their flowers, but for the lines on the leaves. Some plants have been passed down from generation to generation in the same Chinese family. My plants were not so fortunate. First, with improper culture, the lines disappeared! And a couple of years later, they put themselves out of their misery and died!) More recently I have seen a Dendrobium hybrid with the same variegation along the edges of the leaves. I have also seen a photo of Vanilla planifolia with variegation along the edges of the leaves. I tried to research the cause of the variegation, but I could find only three articles on the subject.

I would be very interested to know if anyone else has researched the subject of variegation in orchid leaves and to learn about other genera that have variegated leaves. In the meantime, serious orchidists might find the following web page of interest:

<http://www.botgard.ucla.edu/html/botanytextbooks/generalbotany/shootfeatures/generalstructure/leafcolor/variegation.html>

I have pictures of the Dendrobium and Phalaenopsis hybrids with variegated leaves and will bring them to our July meeting. Please note: mottled leaves of Paphiopedilums with their light and dark patches throughout the leaves do not look like the variegation on the edges of the leaves of the Phalaenopsis and Dendrobium plants.

W. Stimmell

## ABOUT THE NORTHERN ARIZONA VA HEALTH CARE SYSTEM PATIENT GREENHOUSE AND GARDEN AREA

For benefit of newer members who have never visited the VA campus and for those members who have never read the brochure which is available at every OSA November show, the brochure contains the following information (minus the garden graphics):

Purpose – The Patient Greenhouse and Garden Area are maintained by the Recreation Therapy Section, Geriatrics & Extended Care Service Line, for use by hospitalized veterans as a leisure pursuit and as a resource for therapeutic recreation. Horticultural programs are provided in the Domiciliary and Extended Care Rehabilitative Center for those patients and residents unable to otherwise participate.

Staffed by patients, the greenhouse and garden offer year-round horticultural opportunities to patients who have 'green thumbs' and to those who would like to try their hands with plants for the first time.

History – In approximately 1975, money was donated for the construction of a greenhouse. After plans were drawn up, the project was put on hold for a decade. In a 1985 effort, led by Dave Murray, Chief of Recreation Service, the greenhouse was purchased in kit form from the Texas Greenhouse Company. In 1986, the greenhouse was completed. It was fully operational by the summer of 1987 thanks to the energy and expertise of Rene Feuille, Recreation Therapy Assistant.

A vegetable garden area was established on the north side of the greenhouse. The patients were becoming increasingly frustrated by problems with wild animals. Javelina in particular wreaked havoc on the crops. For his Eagle Scout Project, John Middlemore, with support from Boy Scout Troop 7, Global Wulfsburg Systems, and Disabled American Veteran chose the installation of a chain link fence around the patient garden. On June 23, 1992, the garden fence was dedicated.

As the greenhouse and garden were expanding, a need was recognized for an orchard. In 1992, Renee Bail, DAV Chapter 16, began coordination of this project. With much support from the community, veteran organizations, and medical center staff, the orchard was dedicated on May 19, 1993.

The DAV, Chapter 16, continues to provide our main financial support. **The Orchid Society of Arizona** provides support for maintenance of our orchid collection, and Yavapai County Cooperative Extension Master Gardeners provide expertise in planting, propagating, and landscaping. A number of other organizations and individuals provide donations, time, and expertise to keep the programs going.

The Greenhouse and Garden Area continue to change with the seasons and with the greenhouse supervisors. Milt Bay, supervisor for many years, was responsible for paving the walkways around the garden area. **Bill Starkman** is our current supervisor.

Many thanks to our supports, past and present!

Continued on page 6

## NAVAHCS CONTINUED

Greenhouse – The greenhouse is active year-round. Come see the special indoor projects that include an impressive orchid collection, propagation of seedlings, a stunning variety of blooming plants, and an array of cacti.

Vegetable Garden – Many successful vegetable gardens have been grown here in past years. Patients may cultivate individual plots, available on a first come basis, or may assist with a community garden. Check with the greenhouse staff for opportunities.

Adopt-A-Plant – Patients may adopt plants, as available, to keep in their rooms. Greenhouse staff will help with the selection and offer pointers for care.

Horticulture Education – Throughout the year, brief sessions are presented on various topics related to gardening. The topics range in complexity to match the skill level of the attendees.

Use of Greenhouse Grounds – Picnic tables and benches are available for use by patients and their guests between dawn and dusk. No reservations or special permission are necessary. Patients find the grounds a pleasant place to picnic with visiting family and to just ‘get away’.

Greenhouse Staff – Domiciliary and Outpatient Incentive Therapy patients staff the greenhouse. Available weekdays and often weekends, they can provide assistance and guidance with horticultural endeavors. The Greenhouse and Garden Project is overseen by **Paula Moran**, CTRS, Lead Recreation Therapist.

Hours – The Patient Greenhouse is normally open from 8 AM to 4 PM. It is often, but not always, open on weekends. Since patients staff the greenhouse, hours are subject to their clinical schedules. Check with the greenhouse...before making any plans.

Commonly Asked Questions – **Who can use the greenhouse and garden area?** All inpatients are invited to visit the greenhouse anytime that it is open. Garden plots are by assignment.

**What about outpatients?** Outpatients are welcome to visit the greenhouse and garden area. To be involved in the therapeutic activity, a physician referral for Recreation Therapy is required.

**Can I take plants from the greenhouse?** Inpatients are allowed to take two ‘Adopt-a-plants’. These are plants that have been propagated by Greenhouse Incentive Therapy staff specifically to give away. Within reason, inpatients may propagate cuttings to grow additional plants.

**What are the plants in the greenhouse used for?** The larger plants are used to provide greenery for special programs held in the theater. Smaller plants are often switched out to keep plants in offices and waiting areas looking attractive. Some of the plants are maintained as ‘mother plants’ and are used to take cuttings for propagation.”

*Editor’s Note: In 2002, when Betty Stephens was the Lead Recreation Therapist at NAVAHCS, she entrusted 5 large divisions of the fall-blooming C. Portia Cannizaro orchid plants to us. We displayed the plants at our November show, and visitors donated funds in exchange for the privilege of owning a plant that had been grown in the VA greenhouse. The donations were paid directly to NAVAHCS. Two plants remained after our show, and during our December fund-raising auction, those two plants were snapped up because of their history (the ‘mother’ plant was originally donated more than 20 years ago to the greenhouse by an OSA member). The money received for all 5 divisions was sent to the NAVAHCS.*

## NAVAHCS WISH LIST FOR JULY 29<sup>TH</sup>, 2007 FIELD TRIP

### For the nursing home -

- \*personal size toiletries (nothing containing alcohol)
- \*books (nothing war-related)
- \*puzzles
- \*sweat pants for men
- \*small decorative items that will move or make noise for stimulation

### For gardening programs for the patients -

- \*metal markers that can be placed in the ground so that the patients know what has been planted
- \*ceramic, decorative pots - to accommodate large palms, etc. (Southwestern accent colors)
- \*macramé plant hangers - at least 3 feet long - to accommodate 12" pots (Southwestern colors)
- \*small decorative garden items to place in pots or in the ground
- \*wind chimes
- \*wind socks
- \*flags
- \*other decorative items that will brighten the garden area

\*\*\*To donate funds in lieu of items, a check should be made payable to NAVAHCS, and on the memo line, write: Acct. #GPF 9017. If you mail the check, send it to: Paula Moran, Northern AZ VA Health Care System, 500 N. Highway 89, Prescott, AZ 86313-5001

ANNUAL ORCHID SOCIETY OF ARIZONA SHOW!

NOVEMBER 3 AND 4

**This year's theme**

**Orchids and Disneyana**

**Join in the fun at Encanto Park Clubhouse!**

**Get Involved !**

# OSA July 2007 Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 <i>OSA meeting</i> <i>7 PM</i>	3	4 <i>Independence</i> <i>Day</i>	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19  <i>Kriss Beggs</i> <i>Mary Alice</i> <i>Baumberger</i>	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29 <i>NAVAHCS</i> <i>Field Trip</i>	30	31				



Orchid Society of Arizona

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