



The Arizona Orchidist

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1966

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NEXT OSA MEETING

The July meeting will be held at the
Arizona State Veteran Home
Liberty Hall
4141 North 3rd Street, Phoenix
The next regular society meeting will be
Monday, July 5, 2004 at 7:00 p.m.
OSA meetings are open to all
plant enthusiasts

Refreshments will be provided
This month beverages will be furnished
by: Melissa Tackett and
Benjamin Nelson
Snacks will be provided by:
Ramona Jungwirth and
Jarka Kazda
Refreshment Coordinators:
Julie Langston
Ramona Jungwirth

OSABOARD MEETING

The OSA board meeting will be held
Sunday, June 27th at 1:00 PM
following the noon Show Meeting
Hosted by : Sharon Davis
Please call Sharon for directions to her
home if you plan to attend
schatzied-az@yahoo.com
Board meetings are open to all OSA
members

GROWER ON CALL

Lou Ann Remeikis
remeikis@dancris.com

July Program

For our July program, we will show an orchid video that features various orchid habitats around the world and many spectacular close-up pictures of brilliantly colored flowers being pollinated by a variety of insects.

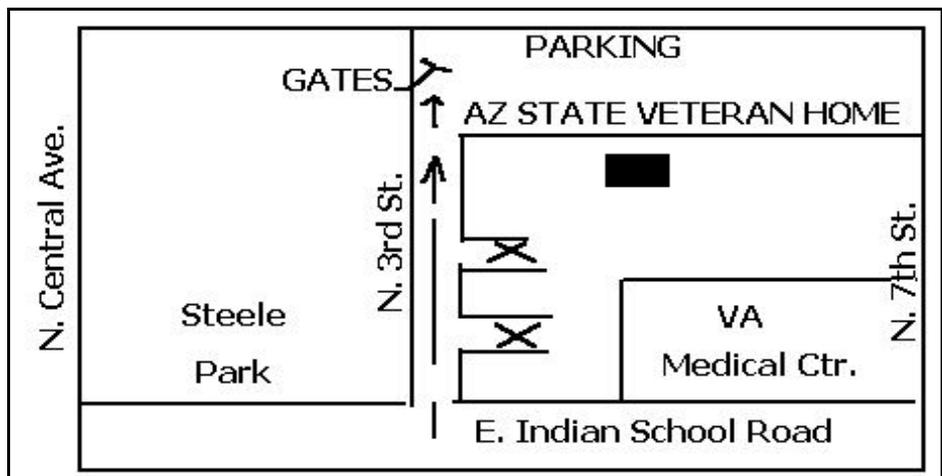
Panoramic views of commercial orchid farms located in places such as Thailand, are a part of this video. And there is also a segment that shows how orchid hybridizers work their magic in their laboratories. This is not only an educational video, suitable for even our youngest members, but it is also highly entertaining!

Liberty Hall, located on the second floor of the Arizona State Veteran Home, is the location for our July 5th meeting. There is a wide screen television set and a VCR in Liberty Hall!

W. Stimmell

SPECIAL NOTE

Our **July 5th** meeting will be held in **Liberty Hall, at the Arizona State Veteran Home, 4141 N. 3rd St., Phoenix.** The Encanto Park Clubhouse is closed on July 5th. Diane McGuire, Recreation Therapy Coordinator for ASVH, has graciously consented to let OSA hold our July 5th meeting at ASVH.



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From the President's Desk

Norma Kafer

Pamela Albright brought her daughter, Amy Hunsaker, to our June meeting. On May 18, 2000, our school program team traveled to Holbrook, spent the night and then the next morning, we drove the short distance from Holbrook to Joseph City, where we presented 3 hands-on orchid programs for approximately 100 students in Kindergarten through 3rd grade at Joseph City Elementary School, where Amy was a teacher. Amy reported that some orchids are still alive, quite an accomplishment. Congratulations to Amy for recently becoming a Registered Nurse. She has temporarily relocated to the valley and will decide whether she can tolerate the fast pace of city life. If she prefers a more tranquil environment, she might decide to take a nursing position at a hospital in Flagstaff.

Scott Dallas from White Oak Orchids was our June speaker, and as usual, he presented an informative program, complete with a hand-out sheet which described the various types of dendrobiums and their culture requirements. He brought a very generous assortment of species and hybrid plants for our silent auction. Thanks, Scott! White Oak Orchids' new greenhouse facilities in Pacifica have nearly doubled the growing space that was available in San Francisco. For those of us who annually attend Pacific Orchid Exposition in San Francisco, Scott issued a special invitation for a guided tour of his new facilities. He promises that we can stand upright in his new greenhouses. (In his "old" greenhouses, even moderately tall visitors couldn't stand upright for lack of head room.)

We have had to change our meeting place due to the 4th of July holiday. We will meet at the Veteran's Home at our usual time at 7 pm. If you turn north on to 3rd Street from Indian School and just wind around the road, you will end up at the Home. Willie has a special video on orchids for us to enjoy and we will answer any questions that members have on growing.

Don't forget to mark your calendars for the Sunday, August 22 field trip to NAVAHCS in Prescott! If any OSA member would like to join our caravan, but needs a ride, contact any board member. We will surely have enough room to accommodate all OSA members who wish to visit the fabulous greenhouse and meet some of the Recreation Therapy Staff members and the patients who use the greenhouse for therapy. OSA has been supportive of the NAVAHCS greenhouse for at least 20 YEARS, and for the past 10 years, we have also donated personal items used by the veterans who reside in the Domiciliary and the Nursing Home.

Sharon Davis is recovering from surgery to correct a deviated septum. David Wehrli is recuperating from knee replacement surgery. We wish both members a speedy recovery!



JUNE RAFFLE TABLE DONATIONS



**Pamela Albright, Mona Brooks, Teddy Cohen, Joe Freasier,
Santa Barbara Orchid Estate, Cynthia Schnitzer,
Wilella Stimmell, Ken and Judy Vincent.**

THANKS TO ALL

CONGRATULATIONS! To Diane McGuire, Recreation Therapy Program Manager at the Arizona State Veteran Home, on her recent marriage. Diane's new surname is Armstrong. The wedding ceremony took place at the Grand Canyon, and the newlyweds spent their honeymoon on Maui. Diane always expresses gratitude on behalf of the ASVH residents for our monthly donation of soda pop, flavored water, and snacks. So...keep those donations coming!!

THANKS! To Fred and Julie Rathbun for hosting our June speaker, Scott Dallas. Their generosity saved OSA's Treasury the expense of a hotel room! And thanks to Julie for driving Scott to Sky Harbor Airport so that he could catch an early morning flight back to San Francisco.

2004 OSA Roster Update Page Available: The only roster page update for 2004 will be available on the raffle ticket sales table at our July 5th meeting.

RHS Orchid Hybrid Registrations from Sept., 2000 through March, 2004 can be downloaded from the internet. However, if anyone without internet access would like to find out whether an orchid in his/her possession was registered during the abovementioned time frame, please let me know. The notebook that contains the pages I downloaded from the internet, is hefty. I will not normally bring the notebook to our meetings unless I am requested to do so.

W. Stimmell

****ATTENTION ORCHID DIGEST SUBSCRIBERS****

Effective September 1, 2004, membership dues will be raised from \$28.00 to \$32.00. Any new or renewing members will have the opportunity to join or renew at the old price of \$28 if they do so BEFORE September 1.

The Arizona Orchidist is published monthly by the Orchid Society of Arizona, Inc.
Direct Inquiries to our website at:
<http://welcome.to/orchidsocietyaz>
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.

INTERNATIONAL ORCHID CONSERVATION CONGRESS II:

The Conservation Balance

May 16-21, 2004, Marie Selby Gardens, Sarasota, FL

By Wilella Stimmell

For this congress, the emphasis on balance was indeed appropriate because registrants from 21 countries presented updates on the conservation work actually being done in their respective countries. Meetings on conservation are sometimes more conversation than about conservation, but this was not the case with the IOCC II. And from this registrant's viewpoint, the congress was a huge success! Scientists and laypersons from around the world ignored any unfortunate bad publicity they might have heard about Selby Gardens and gathered together to show solidarity of purpose.

The keynote speaker was Dr. Stuart Pimm, Chair of Conservation Ecology, Nicholas School of Environment and Earth Sciences at Duke University. Dr. Pimm titled his inspiring presentation: *It's a New Century, Do You Know Where Your Orchids Are?* In the abstract for his presentation, Dr. Pimm wrote: "Growing well in homes and botanical gardens' is not a sufficient answer, for surely we care about the ecosystems that are or too often were their homes. The news is not good: roughly half of all known plant species live in areas that, combined, cover only an eighth of Earth's ice-free land surface, about 17 million square kilometers. These 'hotspots', as Norman Myers has called them, are mostly tropical moist forests and include such places as Madagascar, Central America, and the Philippines. Of their original area, less than 10% remains." He offered practical solutions for setting priorities for conservation, and he concluded: "What we do not know [about damaged ecosystems], can most certainly hinder conservation efforts."

I was particularly impressed by the large number of Australian graduate students, many from Western Australia, who presented progress reports on their conservation efforts. Dr. Norris Williams, Florida Museum of Natural History, obviously took great pleasure in introducing some of the Australian speakers when he referred to them as "the King's Park Mafia"!

Lourens Grobler presented an update on his conservation work with South African orchids. (OSA members might recall that Lourens was the speaker for our November, 2002 meeting.)

It was my privilege to present a hands-on demonstration workshop for adults, of OSA's school programs. Our program team members know that for our school programs, we need empty, plastic, gallon water or milk jugs, scissors, seedlings, pots, and fir bark. (In my luggage, I had packed plastic grids, plastic bags, and one small plastic bag filled with lava rock.) Dr. Wesley Higgins, the conference organizer, took time from his conference duties and located water jugs and scissors. I had advised Wes that we would be making a mess, so he even covered the tables with plastic! Bob Clifford, of Orlando, FL, supplied the remaining needed items. Thank you, Wes and Bob! (Bob wants to start similar school programs for elementary students in the Orlando area.)

I was overwhelmed at the response to the demonstration workshop! A registrant from England said that he hadn't laughed so hard nor learned so much in such a short time as he did during my presentation. Selby wants to offer programs such as ours, and graduate students from Ecuador, Peru, Australia, etc. also want to do similar programs for school children in their countries. There is also a real possibility that the next time I attend a MesoAmerican Orchid Conference in Costa Rica, that I will extend my stay and teach local adult growers how to do programs like ours for elementary students in Costa Rica. So our school programs now have international exposure!

At the beginning of my demonstration, I mentioned to the audience that our program team usually consists of 5 OSA members, that we have been doing these programs for the past nine years, and to date, have presented programs for over 2300 Arizona school children. Upon hearing the length of time that we've been doing our school programs and the number of students who have benefited, the members in the audience appreciated the dedication and commitment of our team members!

INTERNATIONAL ORCHID CONSERVATION CONGRESS II: The Conservation Balance

Continued from page 4

To inject some levity into the program, I asked the audience to use their imagination and visualize a "virtual" display of colorful orchids because our programs always begin with a display of colorful orchids. I also mentioned that our program team members would never believe that I could speak for less than 30 minutes, but that since 30 minutes was the maximum time allowed for each presenter, I was going to speed up the program and end with enough time left to represent the Change The World Kids, a fantastic group of young adults deeply committed to conservation, but who were unable to attend the conference.

During my warp speed comments, I did not forget to pay homage to the originator, Deacon Bell, of the idea of the milk jug greenhouse. Without his inspiration, our school programs might never have happened.

After my presentation, I often heard registrants say: "It's such a simple idea. Why didn't WE ever think of it?" Deacon must have been smiling from orchid heaven!

And for those of you who know that I submitted a manuscript that will be published in the IOCC II Proceedings, you might like to know that on the page of Acknowledgments, I stated: "The author is deeply indebted to ALL of the volunteer program team members without whose continuing participation during the past nine years, Orchid Society of Arizona's school programs would not have been possible."

Also, for those OSA members who know that in October, 2003, OSA donated funds to the University of Puerto Rico for the purpose of conserving the remaining population of *Pleurothallis caritensis*, you might be interested to know that at the IOCC, Dr. Raymond Tremblay was anxious to give me an update on the progress of his conservation work. So far, his students have not been able to get the flowers of *P. caritensis* to set fruit. After the conclusion of the study, Ray wants to come to AZ and speak at one of our meetings. If his students can't get the few remaining plants in situ, to flower, Ray is considering getting permission to remove the plants to the lab and try to get them to flower under more controlled conditions. Ray said that no matter what the outcome, whatever they learn will be valuable information that, without our funds, they would not have known.

The American Orchid Society was conspicuously absent from the conference.

During a CITES(Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species)Forum,, Ms. Barry Walsh, Managing Editor of SELBYANA (the scientific journal published by Selby Botanical Gardens Press) presented a history of CITES. The next speaker was Dr. Calaway Dodson whose topic was: What Went Wrong with CITES? And Dr. Robert Dressler concluded the first portion of the CITES Forum with his topic: CITES and Science. The next portion of the CITES Forum was a panel discussion. Participants included: Roddy Gabel, from the US Fish and Wildlife Service, who lamented the fact that nobody at the conference was there to represent the AOS; Alexander Hirtz, from Ecuador; and Ted Green, from Green Plant Research, Hawaii. Roddy Gabel began his remarks by stating: "I feel the need to borrow a line from Dolly Parton: 'I feel like a bastard at a family picnic.'"

In the notebook that each conference registrant received upon registration, there were three editorials that I found particularly insightful about the problems with CITES. If any OSA member would like to have a copy of these editorials, please let me know. Carson Whitlow (speaker at OSA's September, 2002 meeting) titled his editorial: "The Insanity of CITES As Applied To Plants, A Theoretical Case Study"; Ted Green titled his editorial: "CITES, A Far Cry From Conservation"; and Harry Zelenko (author of THE PICTORIAL ENCYCLOPEDIA OF ONCIDIUM) titled his editorial: "It Is Time To Change CITES".

By including only a few highlights as a summary of the conference, my intent is not to minimize the importance of other presentations. The entire conference was an educational and highly-rewarding experience. And I look forward to IOCC III in 2007!

XCARET

PRESERVATION AND CONSERVATION IN QUINTANA ROO

By Keith Mead

Make no mistake. Xcaret **IS** the Disneyland/Seaworld of the Riviera Maya.

Located approximately one hour south of Cancun on the Yucatan Peninsula this well promoted nature park is a major tourist attraction for visitors from Cancun to Belize and the cruise ships docking frequently at nearby Cozumel. However, just as Seaworld dedicates part of its revenues to marine biology and research so Xcaret funds preservation and conservation. At Xcaret the beneficiaries are dolphins, the local endangered sea turtles, and orchids. During the school year 100 students a day are admitted free of charge to the park to participate in environmental education.

*“Tropical jungles around the world host 50% of the world’s species. Locally, the peninsula (Yucatan) is home to 500 species of bird, 318 species of butterfly, **109 species of orchid**, and a seemingly infinite list of fish, fauna, and flora. Its lush , humid climate attracts, nurtures and promotes life in great abundance and variety. Yet, many of the life forms in this area are, because of the sensitive ecology and rapid growth , facing endangerment and possible extinction. Many parks and organizations are currently involved with species preservation (keeping from harm) and conservation (protecting from loss).*

There are many ways to preserve and conserve. Sian Khan is a governmental reserve which maintains and protects 528,147 hectare of land south of Tulum. Other parks such as Xel-Ha, Xpu-Ha and Xcaret line the coast: protecting, preserving, teaching and entertaining in a unique ecotourism environment. The oldest, largest and most extensive of these is Xcaret which lies south of Cancun. Xcaret’s concept of environmental protection is far-reaching and includes intricate breeding programs of endangered species, expansive research projects which include resident science students from local universities, statewide rescues of local flora and fauna and a comprehensive educational program which embraces school children and visiting adults.

Xcaret’s interest and investment in research is unending. There are currently four technical and scientific laboratories on site, run by degreed chemists, biologists and engineers. They are constantly looking for new ways to preserve our present species and protect them from extinction.

Xcaret’s agronomical engineer and her staff dutifully prepare a carefully measured mix of vitamins, sugars, micronutrients, activated carbon and phytigel in their state of the art lab. Orchids are grown in vitro in the mixture and remain in the sterile lab environment for three years before being transplanted and transferred to the nearby orchid farm. Orchids are facing local endangerment due to weather catastrophes . It is Xcaret’s goal to help replenish the jungles throughout Quintana Roo with their supply of local species.”

*Merrilyn McDonald for the Cancun edition of the Miami Herald
June 11, 2004*

The orchid lab first opened in June of 1994 with stock obtained from a private collection. In July of 1996 the operation was moved to its current more modern facilities. From twenty five plants in 1996 the park has successfully cultivated 90 of the 109 regional species of orchids.

Note: Quintana Roo is the Mexican state occupying most of the eastern part of the Yucatan peninsula. Until recently wild, sparsely settled and populated almost entirely by the Maya. The economy is now dominated by resort tourism.

Pronunciation: When the Mayan “X” precedes another consonant it is generally pronounced “ish” so Xcaret would be pronounced Ish-ka-Ret.

Status of Flasked Seedlings Under CITES Unchanged

Recent postings on the Internet, as well as inquiries to the Fish and Wildlife Service, indicate that there is a misunderstanding regarding the status of flasked seedlings relative to CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora). Apparently, due to the manner in which the CITES Secretariat has posted the revised Appendices (list of species covered by CITES; see http://www.cites.org/eng/append/latest_append.shtml), some people have believed that a decision was taken to modify the exemption for flasked seedlings at the 12th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES (COP12) in Santiago, Chile, in November 2002. There was no discussion whatsoever of flasked seedlings at COP12, and no change has occurred in how flasked seedlings of Appendix-I orchids (especially *Paphiopedilum* and *Phragmipedium* spp.) are handled under the treaty. In its posting of the "new Appendices," reflecting changes adopted at COP12, the CITES Secretariat has included an annotation of the listing of orchid species included in Appendix I. The annotation is a paraphrasing of the actual exemption for flasked seedlings of Appendix-I orchids, which is contained in CITES Resolution Conf. 11.11, "Regulation of trade in plants." The full and complete text of the flasked seedling exemption is as follows:

"...flasked seedlings of orchid species listed in Appendix I [should] be interpreted as being exempt from CITES control, taking into account the provisions of Article VII, paragraph 4, and Article I, paragraph (b) (iii), and agreeing to a derogation from Resolution Conf. 9.6 (Rev.) for this exemption..."

The reference to CITES Article VII, paragraph 4, is regarding the exemption of Appendix-I species that are bred in captivity or artificially propagated for commercial purposes. Such specimens are only exempt if they meet the strict criteria adopted by the CITES Parties, and for artificially propagated plants — including flasked seedlings — this means that they must be derived from parental stock that was obtained legally and without detriment to the survival of the species in the wild. U.S. CITES authorities have consulted with the CITES Secretariat to ensure that our interpretation of the flasked seedling exemption is correct, and the Secretariat concurs with this interpretation. Therefore, flasked seedlings of species that have not been exported legally from their countries of origin (such as the recently described *Phragmipedium kovachii* and certain newly discovered species of *Paphiopedilum*) may not be imported as flasked seedlings because the parental stock does not meet CITES requirements.

The Fish and Wildlife Service, which is the lead agency for CITES implementation in the United States, is monitoring developments with respect to trade in any "new" species of Appendix-I orchid species to determine if these are available legally to the U.S. market. To accomplish this, we are contacting range countries, as well as other countries where we understand these plants are available from commercial nurseries. We will share any information we obtain with U.S. orchid growers to help them comply with the law and ensure their plants are from legitimate sources.

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June 19, 2004



OSA July 2004 Calendar



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4 <i>Independence Day</i>	5 OSA Meeting 7:00 PM At ASVH	6	7	8  <i>Gary Kooistra</i>	9	10
11	12	13	14  <i>Julie Langston</i>	15	16  <i>Christina Yamada</i>	17
18	19  <i>Mary Alice Baumberger</i>	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27  <i>Marilyn Pavelin</i>	28  <i>Joy MacLeod</i>	29	30	31



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