



The

# Arizona Orchidist

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## NEXT OSA MEETING

The next regular society meeting  
will be **Monday, June 2, 2008**  
at **6:45 P.M.**

Meetings are held at the  
Encanto Park Clubhouse  
2605 N. 15th Ave., Phoenix, Arizona  
North of Encanto Blvd. on 15th Ave.

OSA meetings are open to all  
plant enthusiasts

Refreshments will be provided.

Snacks by

Carol Erwin and Debra Hartill

Beverage by

Bob MacLeod

Refreshment Coordinators:

Barbara Parnell (480) 948-0714

Mary Gannon (623) 878-4173

Carol Erwin (602) 996-1696

## OSA BOARD MEETING

Board Meetings

are open to all members

The next Board meeting will be

Sunday, June 29th at 1 P.M.

Following the noon show meeting  
at the home of Harry and Barbara Parnell

## GROWER ON CALL

Jim Johnson

[jim1958@nphs.us](mailto:jim1958@nphs.us)

## June Program

**REMEMBER MEETINGS NOW BEGIN AT 6:45 PM**

### **THE ENTIRE PROGRAM WILL BE DEVOTED TO MEMBERS' DISPLAY PLANTS.**

The members of your Board of Directors realize that to tighten up the time frame of our monthly meetings, we have often had to eliminate or greatly reduce the time spent on Show and Tell. Here's your chance to bring your blooming plants, tell us about them, and not feel rushed. If you want to bring a "problem" plant, don't hesitate to bring it – just be sure to separate it from other plants on the display tables. Or...if you just have a nifty gadget that you use to help you repot your plants, feel free to bring it and let us guess its use BEFORE you tell us its purpose. Or if you have neither display plants nor gadgets but are having problems maintaining your orchid collection, feel free to express your concerns. Maybe we can help solve your problems. Then again...maybe we can't. But we'll try!

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## From the President's Desk

Julie Rathbun

For those of you who missed our May meeting, you missed seeing a very interesting and educational program presented by **Aaron Hicks** with the expert lighting assistance of **Doug Baldwin**. Aaron selected display plants from the Show and Tell table and pollinated several flowers. In books, many of us have seen drawings of a flower's pollinia, but this time, with the use of our multimedia projector and expert lighting, we actually saw live pollinia and watched as Aaron gently teased the pollinia to be released from anther caps. It was truly amazing to watch. Doug also was kind enough to tell us that the lighting equipment he used for the program was minimal, inexpensive, and available locally. Programs like this one benefit both veteran and newer growers. Thanks, Aaron and Doug!

After our May newsletter was published, I received a thank you note from Grace Kokesch, the WWII WAC who has been volunteering at the Arizona State Veteran Home for as long as OSA has been donating soda pop and snacks for the residents. She wanted us to know that our donations have been greatly appreciated by the veterans and that she knows that over the years, our members have spent a lot of money to help make the residents happy.

I keep forgetting to mention that I have been working on a king size orchid quilt which we will raffle off at our December meeting. About two years ago, the material was donated to us by an out-of-state non-member who read our Mission Statement on our website and was inspired to help us by donating orchid fabric - LOTS of it! At the time we received the fabric, I was dealing with my husband's health problems, so it was necessary for me to stash the fabric and wait to make something with it at a later date. Later has finally arrived! I hope that the quilt will generate a lot of interest and that we will sell a lot of raffle tickets. The fabric, my labor, and the supplies needed to make the quilt into a finished product are donations for the benefit of OSA, so there is no cost basis for the quilt. As soon as possible, we'll place a picture of the quilt on our website. Stay tuned!

The date for our annual field trip to the Northern Arizona VA Health Care System greenhouse in Prescott has been set: Sunday, August 17. Mark your calendars. We will carpool and caravan to Prescott. An NAVAHCS Wish List was available at our May meeting. The list will also be available at our June, July, and August meetings, and it will be found in the June, July, and August newsletters. For anyone who can't go to Prescott but who would like to donate items on the wish list or funds, this advance notice will give you time to purchase items.

Our SECOND planning meeting for our November show will be held on June 29 at noon at the home of Barbara and Harry Parnell. Plan to participate. We need your ideas!

See you on June 2nd!

Julie

## May Raffle Donors

Bob MacLeod, OSA, Julie Rathbun,  
Lou Ann Remeikis, Wilella Stimmell,  
the family of Ken Gettys,  
and Orchids Alive

THANKS TO YOU ALL FOR YOUR SUPPORT

## Recent Change at the AOS

The AOS has endorsed a new logo. When we see the new logo, it reminds us that the AOS mission statement has three elements or aspects: education, conservation and research. The new logo's graceful, yet contemporary form translates: "AOS", while the three points of the form represent the three characteristics of the mission.



**June 29 – show planning meeting at noon, followed by the Board meeting at the home of Barbara and Harry Parnell**

**Orchid Trivia:** "The earliest record we have of the introduction of a tropical orchid into cultivation is that by Peter Collinson in 1731 who sent a plant of *Bletia verecunda* to Mr. Wager in England, but no record exists of its survival to flowering. The first orchids which we know to have survived, albeit for only a short time, in cultivation are a *Vanilla* species possibly *Vanilla planifolia* and several *Epidendrum* species recorded by Phillip Miller in the second edition of his *Dictionary of Gardening* (1768)." "Ref.: ***The Manual of Cultivated Orchid Species, Third Edition***; Helmut Bechtel, Phillip Cribb, Edmund Launert; 1992; p. 24)

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[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. , and The Nature Conservancy.

## COMMUNITY SERVICE REPORT

Wilella Stimmell, CSP Coordinator

On Saturday, April 19, 2008, I represented OSA at Berridge Nurseries' Annual Art in the Garden event. We were asked to present a seminar on orchid culture, and since I live closer to the nursery than other program team members, I volunteered to present the seminar. The event coincided with Berridge's 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary. I had been told that there would be blooming orchid plants available for a display, but when I arrived at the nursery, all but two of the orchids were cymbidiums! Longtime acquaintance and Berridge employee, Maria Rosales, helped me locate a phal and a paph that had been set back in the area where plants are repotted. The paph wasn't in bloom, and the phal was "past its prime" but still useful for demonstration purposes. Maria also loaned her two well-used books that contained color photos so that the audience could see examples of orchids that were not available in the nursery on the 19<sup>th</sup>.

Standard materials used in Orchids 101 programs for adults are my death bucket (it always generates chuckles from the members of the audience!) and our culture sheets. Maria's young daughter attended the program and took notes. (I didn't ask whether the third generation of Rosales women was working at the nursery. Maria's mother, Angelina, has worked at Berridge's for 33 years, but she was not on duty on the 19<sup>th</sup>, so I missed seeing her. Maria's older sister, Adela, is also working at the nursery. This was the first time that I met her, and had they not been together, I would never have known that Adela was Maria's sister.)

Whether a program is presented for adults or school children, there is always something new that happens and is often humorous. This time it was necessary for me to use FAKE dendrobium and oncidium flower sprays. I spotted them in vases in the nursery and was desperate to demonstrate the shape and size of more flowers than those of a phal.

Several of the members of the audience had some experience growing orchids, and one person brought her phal for diagnosis. The question and answer period needed to fit within the 45 minute time allotted for orchids (a local chef was standing by the amphitheater and was patiently waiting for me to finish talking so that he could begin his program).

Newer members might be interested to know that OSA has a history with Berridge Nurseries: most recently, in March, 2005, we presented an Orchids 101 seminar. And in the early 1990's, we presented annual Easter displays in the greenhouse.

**Arizona State Veteran Home** – The Recreation Therapy Department has recently received a donation of four bread machines – one for each ward. The donation was from VFW Post 9400, and in particular from "Pup Tent 11 Cooties". (The name is NOT a joke. The Military Order of the Cooties is an Honor Degree of the VFW. The emblem for the group features an insect that might represent a cootie, but since I've never seen a cootie, I don't know whether the symbol is accurate or stylized.) When I delivered our May contribution of soda pop to Rec Therapy, Mindy Morales, Rec Therapy Program Manager, asked me if OSA would be interested in donating boxes of bread machine mix. I told her that I would pass the word to our members.

## NAVAHCS WISH LIST FOR August 17<sup>th</sup>, 2008 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 Health Care System, 500 N. Highway 89, Prescott, AZ 86313-5001**

For benefit of new members: 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.

# Fragrant Orchids

By [Sonia Uyterhoeven](#)

From Sonia's Garden, Tips from a New York Botanical Garden Expert

While we revel in the [wonderful fragrance of many orchids](#), it is important to remember that fragrance plays an essential role in their survival strategy. Just as we often wear perfumes to seduce a mate, orchids spice up their lives in order to attract pollinators.

Flowers that are pollinated by insects are often brightly colored and fragrant. They are advertising the fact that they offer nectar or other substances for different creatures to feed on. Pollinators pick up the sticky pollen as they feed and transfer it to other flowers.

[Every orchid species has its own unique strategy to attract pollinators](#). Some have wonderful fragrances yet produce no nectar and trick insects into thinking there is a free meal. Other orchids produce odors that mimic the pheromones of bees and wasps (some even look like female insects) so that males try to mate with the orchids. Some bees even collect the orchid's fragrance and store it on their hind legs to use, perhaps, to attract their own mates.

Orchids are pollinated by bees, wasps, flies, butterflies, hummingbirds, moths, gnats, and beetles. Flies, gnats, and beetles are attracted to dull-green and reddish-brown orchids with foul odors. *Bulbophyllum beccarii* attracts flies by smelling like decaying animals. Butterflies and hummingbirds tend to gravitate to bright yellow and red flowers that are full of sweet nectar. Bees love nectar and cheerful flowers that range from purples and blues to bright yellows.

Most orchids smell best in the morning hours when the light is bright. The fragrance fades in the afternoon when the temperature increases. This corresponds with the pollination practices of insects that are more active in early hours. Other orchids are fragrant in the evening. The well-known Queen of the Night, *Brassavola nodosa*, starts exuding its heavenly fragrance at dusk when its pollinators, nocturnal moths, come out.

Fragrances are volatile. They often develop and become more complex the longer you smell them. A fragrance may catch your attention with a strong citrus smell that sweetens and becomes floral after a few minutes. At first *Dendrobium anosmum* smells like raspberry, shifts to strawberry, then rhubarb, and finally hyacinth.

Some fragrances are mild, while others are intoxicating. There are many factors that affect fragrance. Orchids tend to be more fragrant on sunny rather than shady days, when the volatile oils warm up and diffuse. Fragrances tend to linger longer in areas of high humidity. Locations where the air is still tend to trap fragrances, while smells will dissipate in breezy sites.

Over the past several decades, a greater emphasis has been placed on hybridizing fragrant orchids. The ever popular moth orchid, *Phalaenopsis*, is now being bred for fragrance (although it tends to be delicate). Cymbidiums, which generally challenge the average homeowner, are now being bred in miniature, easier-to-grow forms that have fragrance. *Cymbidium* Golden Elf 'Stardust' is one example with a subtle rose perfume.

If you prefer strong fragrances, *Rhynchostylis* or *Zygopetalum* are two good options for the orchid connoisseur. If you are a beginner, you are better off trying a *Cattleya* or an *Oncidium*. Remember that not all orchids are fragrant, so stick your nose into it before you buy it (not literally, otherwise you will damage the flower). *Cattleyas* have fragrances that either revive you or make you swoon - they are complex fragrances (many layers) that range from citrus to beautiful, rose-like floral. *Oncidiums* have fragrances that make you hungry - they range from chocolate and vanilla to tropical punch.

When orchids are judged for fragrances, experts take several qualities into consideration. They evaluate the orchid based on the intensity (strength) of the fragrance, the distance the smell travels, its general appeal (pleasant smell), and the complexity (well-roundedness) of the fragrance. Expert perfumers train for 5 to 6 years and can identify 3,000 distinct odors.

Continued from page 6

How then should we smell orchids? Some say the best thing to do is to just stick your nose into the plants. Remember not to handle the flowers; otherwise you will damage the petals. Others wave their hand above the orchid in the hope of drawing the odor out of the flower, while some people take a few short sniffs right above the flower to fill their nostrils. Which ever one you decide is your chosen method; take time in your day to smell the orchids.

### [Popular Fragrant Orchids](#)

(The majority of the orchids listed below are appropriate for the beginner/early intermediate grower.)

*Brassavola nodosa* (lily-of-the-valley)

*Brassavola* 'Little Stars' (sweet)

Cattleya alliance: includes *Cattleya* (C.), *Laeliocattleya* (Lc.) and *Brassolaeliocattleya* (Blc.). Orchids from the Cattleya alliance tend to have floral, sweet, citrus fragrances.

*Cochleanthes amazonica* (spicy, candy)

*Dendrobuim anosmum* (raspberry, strawberry or rhubarb)

*Dendrobuim parishii* (berries)

*Dendrobium nobile* (floral)

*Encyclia fragrans* (vanilla, honey)

*Encyclia radiata* (coconut)

*Lycaste aromatica* (cinnamon)

*Maxillaria tenuifolia* (coconut)

*Miltoniopsis* (rose)

*Neofinetia falcata* (coconut and jasmine)

*Oncidium* Sharry Baby (chocolate and vanilla)

*Oncidium* Twinkle (vanilla)

*Oncidium* Hawaiian Sunset (floral)

*Oncidium cheirophorum* (sweet, citrus)

*Oncidium ornithorhynchum* (vanilla)

*Phalaenopsis* Caribbean Sunset (rose)

*Phalaenopsis* Coral Isles (citrus)

*Phalaenopsis* Orchid World ~Roman Holiday' (spicy)

*Phalaenopsis schilleriana* (rose)

*Phalaenopsis violacea* (floral)

*Rhynchostylis* (floral)

*Vanda coerulescens* (grape bubble gum)

*Zygopetalum* (hyacinth)

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# OSA June 2008 Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 <i>OSA Meeting 6:45 PM</i>	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26  <i>Suz Cramer</i>	27	28
29 <i>OSA Board &amp; Show plan- ning meeting</i>	30					



Orchid Society of Arizona

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