



The Arizona Orchidist

Published monthly by

The Orchid Society of Arizona, Inc.

Founding Editor- Clarence S. Lindsten

1966

Volume 49

June-July 2011

NEXT OSA MEETING

The next regular society meeting will be

Monday, June 6th at 7:00 P.M.

Meetings are held at the

Training Center

at the

Arizona State Veteran Home

4141 N. S. Herrera Way, Phoenix.

OSA meetings are open to all
plant enthusiasts

Refreshments will be provided

Beverages by

?? We Need a Volunteer??

**Please contact a coordinator
to volunteer**

Snacks by

Carol Erwin and Julie Rathbun

Refreshment Coordinators:

Barbara Parnell (480) 948-0714

Lou Ann Remeikis (602) 803-6889

Jo Anne Waddoups

480-654-9883

Grower on Call

June - Joe Bacik

backikj@cox.net;

July – Bob MacLeod

(623) 810-3967

JUNE PROGRAM

The "How To" on Mounting Orchids

This program may be a review for some members, and for others it may be your first opportunity to see how to mount an orchid. In nature, most orchids are found growing in a mounted fashion. You will find their roots clinging to the bark of trees and shrubs, on the side outcropping of rock cliffs, all without the benefit of fir bark and terra-cotta pots.

Mounted orchids do have benefits not afforded a regularly potted orchid. Mounting simulates nature's way of perfect drainage during watering. As you may imagine, water does not accumulate in the crown of the plants during watering, therefore crown rot is minimized if not eliminated altogether. A grower must take into consideration that with the faster drainage, a mounted orchid requires more frequent waterings, and will benefit from a higher humidity range. You will have to decide if your growing environment can provide a mounted orchid's needs, but everyone can benefit from learning the basics of mounting orchids.

We look forward to seeing you in June. As usual, we love having an interactive meeting and would like your input or questions regarding mounting orchids. Let us know if you have had success, or not, in growing your plants in this manner.

Submitted by Lou Ann Remeikis

May Raffle Donors

Julie Rathbun, Lou Ann Remeikis, Wilella Stimmell,
and non-members

Family of August Lorenzini, Michael Hillner,
Northern AZ VA Health Care System, and Mark Obermayer

THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT

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From the President's Desk

Julie Rathbun

At our May meeting, attendance was excellent, and everyone truly seemed to enjoy seeing the alternative growing areas of several of our members. Thanks to the members who made the effort to bring their indoor growing areas (or photos of their areas) to the meeting. A number of members – new and veteran growers – commented on the helpfulness of seeing what can be done on a budget.

During our meeting, three new members joined our happy orchid family. And one member who had taken a break from orchids, rejoined. Welcome to all!

I announced that there would be **NO July meeting** due to the holiday and that this issue of our newsletter is a combined June/July newsletter.

Early notice to those who were unable to attend our May meeting: our **annual field trip to the Northern Arizona VA Health Care System greenhouse in Prescott** will happen on **Sunday, August 21**. This is a fun day trip, so mark your calendars. Paula Moran, Supervisory Recreation Therapist at the VA, confirmed the date. Our caravan of members departs from my home at 8 AM on the 21st. We carpool to the VA. After members arrive at my home, we count heads to see how many vehicles we will need to transport our group.

We plan to arrive at the greenhouse by 10:00 AM. At least 2 members always bring cookies for light morning refreshment to munch on with coffee provided by the VA. Before lunch (provided by OSA for members, patients, and staff members), you have a chance to explore the garden, orchard, picnic area, and of course, the greenhouse. You might even want to take photos. After lunch, we will hold a short board meeting and then we head back to Phoenix.

No OSA members should feel obligated to donate items for the nursing home. If you want to donate items, there is a list included in this newsletter. Last year, your board decided that in order to take the pressure off members in our down economy, OSA would donate funds for the greenhouse. So if you have nothing to donate for the nursing home, the check from OSA includes our entire membership.

We never know what the weather will be like in Prescott. One year, just as we had finished eating lunch, it poured rain. We held the shortest board meeting ever in the greenhouse. That's when we discovered that the greenhouse roof leaked! If you bring a jacket and an umbrella, then the weather will probably be sunny and warm. It's better to be dry than soaked!

On the way home, some members might want to stop at the former Young's Farm in Dewey. It closed 5 years ago, and the Young Family moved its operation to Oregon. (The housing development that had been planned for the property, didn't happen.) This year the Mortimer Family is tilling the soil and planting crops in the same location. According to our local paper, the first sweet corn crop is expected to be ready in July.

Our June board meeting will be held on June 26th at 1:00 PM at the home of Barbara and Harry Parnell. There will be no July board meeting. If a time-sensitive business matter needs to be discussed in July, we will discuss it via e-mail or telephone.

See you on June 6th!

If we don't see you in June, have a safe holiday on July 4th!

Julie

Welcome New Members

**Bob and Cece Blue, Wayne Teske,
and the return of Rhonda Woodward**

Board Meeting

June 26th at 1 PM at the home of
Barbara and Harry Parnell
(NO July board meeting)

Reminder

No July or September meetings this year.

The June/July newsletter will be a combined issue, and the August/September issue will also be a combined issue.

ADDENDUM to the May Article on Pressing an Orchid Specimen

After reading the May article on Pressing an Orchid Specimen, **John Atwood** added the following comments: "One thing I have done if I have a freezer handy is to actually freeze the plant after removing the inflorescence for separate pressing. Sometimes these orchids are so resilient [resistant?] to drying that even after several days, they can germinate on the herbarium sheet! That once happened to me with *Oncidium cebolleta* and *Laelia rubescens*. I only used the freezing method when I had grown the plants myself and, of course, had a freezer handy. "

Editor's Note: Not mentioned in our May newsletter- the pressed specimen of *C. bicolor v. brasiliensis* was sent to SEL in 1998.

2011 OSA MEMBERSHIP ROSTER

The 2011 roster is available electronically. If you indicated an e-mail address on your membership renewal form, you may request an electronic roster. To request a roster, send an e-mail to:
willellas@att.net

Internet website for orchid books

Balogh International, Inc., of Champaign, IL has a variety of orchid books, microfiche, and color slides. Balogh offers rare books and books about most orchid flora in the world.

The URL for Balogh's website is:

www.balogh.com/catalogs/orchids.html

The *Arizona Orchidist* is published monthly by the
Orchid Society of Arizona, Inc.
Direct Inquiries to our website at:
www.orchidsocietyaz.org

Or to any of the Board Officers or Trustees:

Board of Directors for 2011

President	(602) 843-0223
Julie Rathbun	jandfent@aol.com
First Vice President	(623) 810-3967
Bob Macleod	In House Program Chairman
Second Vice President	(480) 785-2251
Joe Bacik	bacikj@cox.net
	Outside Speaker Program Chairman
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Barbara Parnell	birdie552002@yahoo.com
Treasurer	(480) 947-8479
Wilella Stimmell	willellas@att.net
Librarian	(602) 803-6889
Lou Ann Remeikis	remeikis@andiamo-tel.com
Editor	(505) 898-0975
Keith Mead	kjkm@comcast.net
Trustees	
Carol Erwin	(602) 996-1696 nerwin2@cox.net
Chris Gubler	(760) 364-2282 Chris@gublers.com
Debra Hartill	(602) 404-0302 dhartill@hotmail.com
Diane Norman	(623) 692-7422 dlnorman31300@yahoo.com

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

Wilella Stimmell, CSP Coordinator

In our May newsletter, I mentioned the 14 centerpieces donated by OSA for the closing banquet (April 15th) at the Pacific Region Convention in Scottsdale. What I didn't mention was the fact that our centerpieces **preceded** the program for the evening: **floral designs**. Imagine how delighted we were to receive the following thank you note (from the AFGC Centerpiece Chair, Orvalita Hopkins): "Your orchid centerpieces were the hit of the design program. Everyone was fascinated by the coconut shells. I'm so glad that you provided information on how to care for these beautiful gems. Thank you very much for your participation in the Pacific Region Convention." If we're ever asked to donate centerpieces for future conventions, I can't imagine how we could top the coconut shell creations. (Most of our members know that the creator of the coconut shell centerpiece was Bob MacLeod.)

On **April 20**, **Carol Erwin**, **Bob MacLeod**, **Julie Rathbun**, **Lou Ann Remeikis**, **Jo Anne Waddoups**, and I presented our hands-on repotting program for Mark Obermayer's 4th grade class at **Kiva Elementary School** in Scottsdale. The weather was sunny but not hot, so we made our "mess" outside in the ramada. Two male parents also helped us with the repotting, and another parent took photos. Our display plants were greatly admired by the students, parents, and Mr. O. We had enough team members and other adults to give the students a one-on-one experience with repotting their phal orchid seedlings. It's always a pleasure to work with students who are enthusiastic. They enjoyed sniffing the display plants and identifying the fragrance of the flowers, and they were amazed to see a blooming vanda growing in a basket with no medium.

NAVAHCS WISH LIST FOR AUGUST 21, 2011 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

*****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**

The Babocomari: The River, the Army and a Ranching Heritage – In the Spring, 2011 issue of Field Notes (for members of The Nature Conservancy in Arizona), there is a three-page article (pages 4 through 6) devoted to the Babocomari in southern Arizona. Of interest to OSA members is the statement that the wetlands of the Babocomari River are home to "...Canelo ladies tresses orchid, known to exist in just four locations within the area's Canelo Hills." (page 5). This issue of TNC's Field Notes will be available for viewing at our June 6 meeting.

GROWING BLETILLA ORCHIDS IN THE LOW DESERT



Yokohama 'Kate'

OSA member, Bob MacLeod, became interested in growing Asian terrestrial orchids. Since it is widely known amongst OSA members that Bob does not use the internet, the only catalog in which he could find Bletilla orchids was in a hard copy that he received from a general plant nursery in CT. At different times, he ordered several different Bletilla orchids, and he gave one to OSA member, Seelye Smith. Bob didn't have luck growing his Bletilla orchids outside, but he had success growing them indoors. Seelye chose to plant her Bletilla outside in a mixture of compost, perlite, and sand. Seelye's Bletilla Yokohama 'Kate' p.p.a.f. (plant patent applied for) rebloomed this year, and there were more flowers than last year, and the plant itself was much larger. Bletilla Yokohama is a hybrid of *striata*

and *formosana*. The photos of Bob's plant are also labeled as Bletilla Yokohama

'Kate', but the flowers on his plant are white. The seller might have mislabeled Bob's plant. (Bletilla *striata* is typically purple, but a pigment-free white color is available.)

According to the Internet Orchid Species Photo website <http://orchidspecies.com>, there are 9 species in this genus. Each has plicate ("pleated") leaves and a corm at the base of the stem. An internet search revealed several websites that include Bletilla culture tips. One of those websites is <http://culturesheet.org/orchidaceae:bletilla>. There are also websites that offer both species and hybrids. Bletilla *Striata* 'Big Bob' blooms 2-3 weeks earlier than 'Kate' and has larger blooms. (Bletillas are dormant in winter.)

Editors Note: The New Mexico Orchid Guild offered members Bletilla seedlings of Ble.striata 'Big Bob' and Ble ochracea.... Members were instructed that the plants needed a winter cold "snap" similar to tulips and daffodils in order to bloom. It will be interesting to see if New Mexico culture can produce flowers any where near as spectacular as these!



Bob's Bletilla Yokohama



Bob's Yokohama



Seelye's Yokohama 'Kate'

OSA June 2011 Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6 <i>OSA Meeting 7:00 PM</i>	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14  <i>Flag Day</i>	15	16	17	18
19 <i>Father's Day</i>	20	21	22	23	24	25
26  <i>Suz Cramer</i>	27	28	29	30		



Orchid Society of Arizona
 c/o Keith Mead
 5425 Thomas Drive NE
 Albuquerque, NM 87111

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