



# The Arizona Orchidist



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## NEXT OSA MEETING

The next regular society meeting will be

**Monday, August 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

Beverage by Wilella Stimmell

Snacks by Terri Jackson &

Wilella Stimmell

Refreshment Coordinators:

Barbara Parnell (602) 451-5952

Lou Ann Remeikis (602) 803-6889

Jo Anne Waddoups

480-654-9883

## Second Show Planning and- Board Meeting

**June 24 at 1 PM at the new home**

**of Barbara Parnell**

### Grower on Call

June – Julie Rathbun  
jandfent@aol.com

July – Wilella Stimmell  
willellas@att.net

## JUNE PROGRAM

### **Orchid Hunting in the Venezuelan Guayana.**

**Gustavo Romero, Keeper of the Orchid Herbarium at Harvard University Herbaria, Editor of Harvard Papers in Botany, and a member of the Global Plant Initiative\*, will present a PowerPoint presentation.**

*\*The Global Plant Initiative is funded by the Mellon Foundation.  
The mission of the GPI is the digitalization of all of the plant types in the world!*

For new members who might not know, Gustavo is originally from Venezuela where he worked for the Council of Agricultural Research. In 1986, he received his PhD in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology from Indiana University.

In 1988, he was appointed Keeper of the Orchid Herbarium and Editor of Harvard Papers in Botany. Both are positions which he still holds.

Gustavo has published a multitude of scientific papers on Orchidaceae, and since 2001, he has dedicated much of his research time to the orchid flora of the Yavita-Maroa road, an incredibly diverse area in southern Venezuela.

Since 2001, OSA has annually donated funds to help defray the costs of Gustavo's annual expeditions. He is always grateful for our assistance and acknowledges our support in the articles which he submits for publication in The Arizona Orchidist. Even with our contributions for his field work, Gustavo endures hardships in the jungle that most of us would never volunteer to experience! (We are accustomed to indoor plumbing, food purchased from supermarkets, comfortable transportation in our cars (not paddling in dug-out canoes), and bug free homes with beds, not hammocks.)

This will be Gustavo's third presentation for OSA. He last spoke at our March, 2007 meeting. Welcome back, Gustavo!

Wilella Stimmell

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## From the President's Desk

### Julie Rathbun

At our May 7<sup>th</sup> meeting, members and guests enjoyed repotting seedlings from 3 donated community pots. By the end of the program, all seedlings had been repotted and claimed. The seedlings were quite large, and since they were miniature and/or compact cattleyas, they might bloom in about a year. At our April board meeting, we thought we had covered everything about what we would need for the program, but on meeting night, we discovered that we had no plant labels, no newspapers to cover the tables, and no tiny pruners to cut off dead roots. I happen to always carry a small pruners in my purse, and Bob MacLeod also had a small scissors. Thank goodness! We were very careful to clean up our mess so that the Training Center was as clean when we left as it was before our meeting. (Bob had black plastic bags which he keeps in his vehicle, and we laid those bags on the tables. The plastic bags made cleaning up an easy chore.) There were photos available of the cattleya hybrids we repotted, but for those of you who might have forgotten which plant you have, elsewhere in this issue, you will find photos of the hybrids.

I also announced that we will NOT hold a meeting in July and that we have **June hands-on programs scheduled for two schools** that offer summer school sessions. Elsewhere in this **combined June/July newsletter**, you will find the names, addresses of the schools, and dates. Even if you have never helped with our school programs, we need as many helpers as possible. If you have a day job and can't help us, we can still use the loan of any of your blooming plants! We need as many varieties of blooming plants as possible so that we have a colorful display table to start our programs and excite the students. Any plants that you loan for the programs, will be returned to you!

Our annual field trip to the **Northern Arizona VA Health Care System greenhouse** has been scheduled for **August 26**. Mark your calendars! Each year, we look forward to our annual picnic with the residents, their guests, and staff. While all of us eat lunch, we have an opportunity to chat with the residents and staff. OSA provides the picnic lunch. For more than 20 years, we've been making our annual field trip to Prescott. Our newer members who have not seen the greenhouse, will be impressed with the sheer size of it. There's also a large garden plot maintained by the residents. We hold our picnic in a lovely shaded area that is located close to the greenhouse. It's a very relaxing experience. We carpool to Prescott, so if any members want to ride with another driver, just let any of your board members know that you need a ride. There will be more details in our August/September newsletter. Also, at our June and August meetings, I will mention additional details – such as where and what time in the morning we will meet to start our day trip to Prescott.

Our June 4 meeting will feature Gustavo Romero as our speaker. We are very honored that Gustavo made time in his busy schedule to include a trip to Phoenix! During his stay in Phoenix, Gustavo will be my houseguest. Five years ago, when he was my houseguest, he really enjoyed playing with my Yorkies. This time he will find more Yorkies than last time. (In case you didn't know, in my custody, a loaner Yorkie "mom" gave birth to 5 puppies. Eventually, the mother and one puppy will be returned to the CA owner, but I get to keep 4 of the puppies for my dog-tending services. If anyone is interested in purchasing a Yorkie puppy, **please** let me know!)

Our June 24<sup>th</sup> show planning and board meeting will be held at Barbara Parnell's new home in Litchfield Park. Board members will have her exact street address, but for anyone who wants to attend at least the show planning portion of the meeting, please phone me for the address. We encourage ride-sharing, and we value your ideas for our fall show. But for the show planning committee to consider your ideas, first you have to share them with us!

Our show flyer is already on our website. Thanks to **Jim Johnson** for fixing a couple of problem areas with the flyer and for then posting it with lightning speed. Also, on our website home page, Jim placed a link to an accurate street map to the veteran home, and the same map is located below our flyer on our Events page. You can download both the map AND the flyer. Jim, you're the best!

Remember: **NO July meeting.**

See you on June 4!

Julie

## May Raffle Donors

**Tony Duran, Carol Erwin, Bob MacLeod,  
Barbara Parnell, Lou Ann Remeikis,  
Wilella Stimmell, and non-members –  
Michael Hillner, Penny Post,  
and the family of August Lorenzini**

**Thank You !**

## Members on the Mend

**Frank Bopp is sporting a back brace after he broke several vertebrae (again). At home, he's busy designing a new back brace that he thinks will be better than the one he's wearing.**

**Kathleen Luther broke her left hip and is recovering comfortably at home.**

**We wish both members a speedy recovery.**

## COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM SCHEDULE

Wilella Stimmell, CSP Coordinator

We have two schools on the schedule for June programs. Both schools offer summer school programs. We need as many volunteers as are available to help with our programs.

**Wednesday, June 13, 2 programs at Morristown Elementary School, 2950 Rockaway Hills Dr., Morristown, 85342.** The first program begins at 10 AM, and the second program will follow the first. There will be 30 students participating in each program, so we need as many volunteers as possible so that each student receives as close to a one-on-one experience as possible. We realize that Morristown is outside of the Phoenix Metro Area, but Morristown students will be appreciative of our efforts to give them a special experience. In fact, Lucy Thompson, the Lead Teacher, said that her students are "thrilled" that we agreed to introduce a new group of students to orchids. (In March, 1999, we first visited Morristown Elementary.)

**Thursday, June 21, 2 programs at the Children's Center for Neurodevelopment Studies, 5430 W. Glendale, 85301.** The first program begins at 10 AM, and the second one will follow the first. These students are high-functioning Autistic children. There will be at least 12 students participating in each program.

These programs are not the first programs that we've done in June, but in previous years, June programs have been presented for Boys and Girls Clubs in the Phoenix Metro area.

For those members who are unavailable to help with the programs, but who have **blooming plants** to loan us for our display table, we would appreciate receiving them. **Bring them to our June 4<sup>th</sup> meeting.**

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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 2012

<b>President</b>	(602) 843-0223
Julie Rathbun	jandfent@aol.com
<b>First Vice President</b>	(623) 810-3967
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Outside Speaker Program Chairman	
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<b>Librarian</b>	(602) 803-6889
Lou Ann Remeikis	remeikis@andiamo-tel.com
<b>Editor</b>	(505) 898-0975
Keith Mead	kjkm@comcast.net
<b>Trustees</b>	
Carol Erwin	(602) 996-1696
	nerwin2@cox.net
Chris Gubler	(760) 364-2282
	Chris@gublers.com
Terri Jackson	(602) 276-0402
	tjacksonj@aol.com
Rhonda Woodward	(602) 230-8877.
	rawoodward@cox.net

. 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.

# ANTICIPATION



Lc Mari's Song

For those of you participating in our May meeting compot program. Here is what you can look forward to !

This is one of the best tri color splash petal flowers of all time! 4"bright fuchsia-lavender flares over a yellow and white background. Fragrant.

(Blc.Toshie Aoki x Pot.Mem.Seichi Iwasaki )

Great for Phoenix! Loves high light and warm temperatures.



Potinara Wainanae Appeal 'Aloha'



Slc. Rajah's Ruby

Slc. Rajah's Ruby is an awarded HCC/AOS hybrid that produces clusters of lava colored flowers. This vigorous grower is a prolific fragrant bloomer. It consistently blooms off of each new growth and flowers in large waxy textured clusters. Flowers will be 3-4 inches in diameter.

## From the Archives

Two Informative Articles: "**ORCHID CULTURAL CALENDAR FOR JUNE: What to do in the Southwest**" and "**ORCHID CULTURAL CALENDAR for July**", by William G. Barfield, American Orchid Society Bulletin, Vol. 31, #6, 1962, pp. 448-449; and #7, pp. 546-547.

### FOR JUNE:

"Growing time is in full swing and the quality of the blooms that you see at a later date will depend on how well you grow your plants at this time. Plants in active growth require more water than plants that have not started new growth. With repotting finished, you have time to observe the plants and decide if they are growing properly. Plants that appear to be weak should be removed from the pot and examined for live roots. Most of the time there will be few if any roots. Too much water or the breakdown of the potting medium can cause the loss of roots. Should this occur, after roots have attempted to form on the new growth, it may be best to place the plant in a plastic bag. This will stop the dehydration that can continue is completed and new roots are formed. The writer has been successful in saving sick plants by placing them in plastic bags containing 3 inches of fir bark and 1 inch of water. For some unknown reason the plants do not rot even though the rhizome may be submerged in the water. Due to the difference in growing methods and conditions, this procedure may not work for everyone. For this reason, the above procedure should be first tried on a few inexpensive backbulbs.

The writer received two yellow leafless backbulbs of a good plant over two years ago, and they have been in a plastic bag since that time without breaking an eye. In an effort to stimulate growth, Bud-Sprout has been applied with the result that a new growth is developing.

It is late in the year to be discussing division of plants, but the phase of removing rootless backbulbs and placing them in plastic bags is appropriate. Rootless backbulbs are a drain on the front bulbs of the plant, and, whenever possible, they should be removed. This applies especially to fine *Cattleya* plants. Why leave the rootless backbulbs on the plant until they are so weak that they won't produce a new growth? By removing the backbulbs the owner may gain in three respects: first, there may be a backbulb propagation; second, the removal of the backbulbs will enable the front bulbs to produce better growths; and third, the removal of the old backbulbs gives the plant a better appearance."

### FOR JULY:

"July is a month when most orchids are in active growth. Due to this active growth and the high temperature in the Southwest, the frequency of watering will have to be increased. Even then it may be impossible to keep the *Cattleya* pseudobulbs plump, and it will be fall before the bulbs again become plump. This is the time of year when it helps to dampen between the pots during the hot hours of the day. Always remember that the plants should be dry by late afternoon. As night temperatures are in the seventies [or higher], orchid growers in the Southwest are not bothered very much by rot, but if the night temperatures [ever] dip into the low sixties and the plants are wet, in all probability there will be some rot.

Growers using high light intensity should watch their plants for indications of too much light. The leaves feel hot to the touch of a hand and take on a yellow color. The use of high light intensity shortens the life of the pseudobulbs by several years, and evidence of this is seen when leaves turn yellow and drop off during the growing season. It is more normal for the pseudobulbs to lose their leaves in the fall and winter. *Cattleya* seem to produce about the same number of flowers per spike whether they are grown in moderate or high light intensity. The plants grown in high light intensity seem to bloom more often; that is, the plant will tend to bloom at the completion of each growth instead of waiting for the normal blooming period. An example is *Cattleya* Bow Bells and *Cattleya* Pearl Harbor which will bloom in the late spring or early summer and then bloom during their normal blooming season which is fall and early winter. There are indications that flowers of *Cattleya* plants which are grown and flowered in high light intensity do not have good lasting qualities after being removed from the plant.

**Seedlings** should be making good growth, with each new growth being considerably larger than the previous growth. It is easy to say but not so simple to do, because the requirements for seedlings are different from the requirements for mature plants. Optimum conditions are of this order: high humidity (70%), medium temperature (75-85 degrees F), potting material moist but not soggy, moderate light intensity (2500 foot candles), and if grown in pots, small pots allowing for only one year's growth. Some of the commercial growers grow their seedlings in flats which makes the maintenance of a uniform moisture content more simply. Seedlings grow better when they can be sprayed lightly every day, keeping in mind that they should be dry by nighttime. The seedlings should be fertilized ...those in bark with a high nitrogen fertilizer. The writer believes in spraying with a weak solution of a soluble fertilizer once a week. By fogging the seedlings, foliar and root feeding is accomplished at the same time. Any soluble fertilizer may be considered as a foliar fertilizer. As the purity of the chemicals increases, there is the possibility of the need to add trace elements and iron chelates so that the feeding will give maximum results."

*Editor's Notes: The author wrote the above from his home in Corpus Christi, Texas. In the Phoenix Metro Area, the ambient humidity is lower than it is along the Gulf Coast, and our nighttime temperatures are higher. Also, when the author discusses the care of seedlings, he is apparently referring to cattleyas.*

# OSA June 2012 Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4 <i>OSA Meeting 7:00 PM</i>	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17 <i>Father's Day</i>	18	19	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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