



The Arizona Orchidist

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NEXT OSA MEETING

The next regular society meeting will be

Monday, June 2nd at 7:00 P.M.

Meetings are held at the

Training Center

at the

**Arizona State Veteran Home
4141 S. Herrera Way, Phoenix.
(Formerly North 3rd Street)**

OSA meetings are open to all
plant enthusiasts

Refreshments will be provided

June beverage

Barbara Parnell

July beverage

Wilella Stimmell

June snacks

Carol Erwin

and Lou Ann Remeikis

July snacks

Gary Law and Bob MacLeod

Refreshment Coordinators:

Barbara Parnell (602) 451-5952

Lou Ann Remeikis (602) 803-6889

Jo Anne Waddoups 480-654-9883

JUNE PROGRAM

Pesky Orchid Pests – diagnosis and treatment options.

Also feel free to bring any problem plant that is growing poorly. This is an informal program and will be conducted by “committee” (anyone who wants to share their pest control ideas).

JULY 7th PROGRAM

DVD on Orchid Basics

(something useful for the novice and veteran growers)

Growers on Call

June....Dean Toms

(602) 588-4028 datoms@msn.com

July....Lou Ann Remeikis

(602) 803-6889 lou.remeikis@gmail.com

Board Meetings

June board meeting – June 29 at 1 p.m. at the home of Julie Rathbun

July board meeting – date and location to be announced at our June 2 meeting

Raffle Donors

John Atwood, Carol Erwin, Keith Mead, Bob MacLeod,
Julie Rathbun, and Wilella Stimmell

THANK YOU ALL !

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From the President's Desk

Julie Rathbun

At our May 5th meeting, members and guests enjoyed the PowerPoint presentation by Brenda Oviatt, Botanica Ltd. We learned more about the importance of plant roots than from any other speaker we've ever had!

We also enjoyed meeting Brenda's daughter, Marisa. She is a sophomore in high school and is planning to become a veterinarian.

I also announced that we **WILL hold a meeting on July 7**. The only meeting we will not hold this year is our Sept. meeting, which falls on Labor Day.

Thanks to our members, we had another outstanding selection of plants and orchid-related items on our raffle table. Also, the selection of snacks and the beverage on our refreshment table was varied and excellent. Dana Floyd supplied the fruit punch beverage, and members enjoyed it so much that they asked us to include the Floyd Family Punch Recipe in this newsletter. Look for the recipe elsewhere in this newsletter.

This issue of our newsletter is a **combined June/July newsletter**.

In other news, your Board of Directors decided to discontinue issuing New Member Packets. The reason for this is because culture sheets are available at each meeting. New members will be welcomed via email or if they do not have email, they will receive a welcome letter by snail mail. OSA will still be paying for new member badges, but a new member must attend 3 meetings before a permanent name badge will be ordered.

The date of our annual, summer field trip to the **Northern Arizona VA Health Care System greenhouse in Prescott** is not yet known. I hope to be able to announce the date at our June meeting. 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. (We hold a board meeting after everyone has finished eating lunch.) Also, at our June and/or July 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. We usually prefer a trip to Prescott in August. That gives us a brief escape from our desert heat.

Elsewhere in this newsletter you will find a Wish List for the NAVAHCS nursing home. Members who want to donate items are encouraged to do so, but are under no obligation to donate items.

See you on June 2!

Julie

ORCHID ACRONYMS

How well do you know your orchid acronyms?
See if you can figure these out. Some easy,
some not so ! Answers are on page 5.

No cheating.

- (a) AM
- (b) CBR
- (c) CHM
- (d) HCC
- (e) JC
- (f) JOGA
- (g) RHS

NAVAHCS WISH LIST FOR FIELD TRIP

For the nursing home –

*personal size toiletries (nothing containing alcohol)

*books (nothing war-related)

*puzzles

*sweat pants for men, particularly **extra large sizes**

*small decorative items that will move or make noise
for stimulation

*white t-shirts, particularly **extra large sizes**

Floyd Family Fruit Punch Recipe:

8 cups of water

1 16 oz. can of frozen orange juice concentrate

1 12 oz. can frozen lemonade concentrate

2 46 oz. cans unsweetened pineapple juice

2½ cups sugar

¼ cup lime juice

ICE CUBES

4 28 oz. bottles ginger ale, chilled

2 28 oz. bottles carbonated water, chilled

Fresh strawberries, halved lengthwise (optional)

Oranges, thinly sliced (optional)

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Direct Inquiries to our website at:

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 Arizona Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. , and The Nature Conservancy.

Mamie Eisenhower a big fan of cattleya orchids

Having won the greatest war of the 20th century, President Dwight Eisenhower in 1953 ushered in eight years of calm and stability — and in the process opened the golden age of cattleya orchids.

First Lady Mamie Eisenhower was the symbol of prosperity and elegance, and she loved cattleyas. She was rarely seen in public without her corsage of two or three cattleya flowers.

Her love for cattleyas was so obvious that the Rod McLellan Co. of California named an orchid after her. This was only the second time that a U.S. first lady had been honored with a namesake cattleya. Lou Henry Hoover's orchid was registered in 1929.

In the 1950s, cattleya corsages were worn to nearly every social event: dinners, luncheons, afternoon teas, the theater, opera and high school dances.

Nurseries had trouble keeping up with the demand — and many fortunes were made in the industry. Spring is especially busy with floral holidays: Easter, Mother's Day, proms and June weddings. In selecting a cattleya for Eisenhower, McLellan chose a floriferous spring bloomer with a pedigree parentage.

The first World Orchid Conference was held in 1954 in St Louis. Rod McLellan was a speaker. He noted that corsages are always in fashion — “as a wristlet, on a handbag, on the shoulder or at the waist, and sometimes in the hair.” He was further promoting cut orchids for use in flower arrangements for every room of the house.

The Rod McLellan Co., nicknamed “Acres of Orchids,” was a tremendous operation. Located in San Francisco, one greenhouse held 200,000 cattleya seedlings. The flasking house was filled with countless sterilized glass bottles and had its own superintendent, geneticist and laboratory technicians. The extensive catalog featured over 100 new cattleya hybrids, a line of custom potting materials, including Supersoil and Wonderbark, and every imaginable accessory.

In 1955, McLellan ran full-page advertisements for the Lc Mamie Eisenhower in both the American Orchid Society Bulletin and the Orchid Digest magazine. The plant was glamorously portrayed in a painting by artist Naomi Sandl. The wording of the ad was quite flattering. “This outstanding lavender hybrid with a rich purple lip is so charming we named it in honor of our gracious First Lady (with Mrs. Eisenhower's permission).”

McLellan continued with their purple breeding lines by combining Lc Mamie Eisenhower with such established species as C intermedia, C mossiae, C labiata and B digbyana. Lc Mamie Eisenhower was an outstanding display plant as well as a prolific stud. McLellan thought highly of its first lady hybrid and charged as much as \$75 for select varieties — a hefty sum at a time when gasoline was 29 cents a gallon.

Mamie loved to entertain and was a popular hostess. Her specialty was holiday parties, for which she had the White House decorated in the appropriate theme.

What will be remembered about Mamie Eisenhower within the orchid community is her true love for cattleya flowers. She glamorized cattleya corsages. Her namesake orchid, Lc Mamie Eisenhower, was a prominent hybrid for its time and, although rare today, remains a historical treasure.

Arthur Chadwick is president of Chadwick & Son Orchids Inc. You may send questions to 1240 Dorset Road, Powhatan, Va. 23139, (804) 598-7560 or by email at infor@chadwickorchids.com. Previous columns are on his website, www.chadwickorchids.com

Winston Salem Journal posted May 8, 2014 Arthur Chadwick/Special Correspondent.

Esperance's elusive underground orchid

Critically endangered and living in highly secretive underground locations; these are not plotlines to a dramatic hostage movie but some facts about the mysterious underground orchid.

Discovered near Corrigin in May 1928, the underground orchid is the only flora of its kind in Western Australia and only one of three species found in Australia.

Other underground orchids are found in New South Wales and Queensland.

According to the Department of Environment and Conservation each plant produces up to 100 small inward facing red coloured flowers, surrounded by six to 12 large cream or pink bracts.

The bracts form a tulip like head that curves over the flowers leaving a small opening at the soil surface, which is then covered by leaf and bark litter.

DEC Esperance district conservation officer Julie Waters said the discovery was made by chance during land clearing.

"The underground orchid is known from about 80 plants in six different locations, it's very rare and very hard to find," she said.

"It grows entirely underground underneath broom bush thickets, the original discovery was when they were clearing land for farming and they ploughed it up and thought 'hmmm what's that funny looking thing?'"

After its discovery the flower was found six more times up until 1959 and then wasn't seen again until 1979 near Munglinup, 300km south of previous known locations.

"To find the underground orchid, even where we know it is, we wait until it's flowering (late May or early June) and then go crawling underneath the broom thicket and lift the leaf litter up and see the flowers under there," she said.

"It's very sensitive to getting trampled over so that's why the known populations that we've got are highly secretive.

"If we have a look and do some surveys we have to cover the plants back up so they don't dry out, it's a very weird plant."

Unlike other flowers, the underground orchid doesn't get its energy from the sun through photosynthesis. The plant feeds on fungi that forms between the broom bush thickets and the flower.

It is believed that small burrowing animals spread the orchid's seeds by eating the flower.

Like all WA flora, the underground orchid is placed in a ranking system.

"Because this plant has around 84 individuals, that automatically puts it in the critically endangered category," Ms Waters said.

The DEC have a number of recovery actions in place to protect the plant, including research into what the underground orchid needs to thrive, fire management and fencing off reservations to protect its habitat.



ABC Esperance By Rebecca Brewin

Answers to Acronyms

- (a) Award of Merit
- (b) Certificate of Botanical Recognition. An AOS award given only once to an orchid species when it is first displayed in bloom
- (c) Certificate of Horticultural Merit. An AOS award given to a species of outstanding interest to growers.
- (d) Highly Commended Certificate
- (e) Judges' Commendation) - Award given by the American Orchid Society for special plant and/or flower characteristics.
- (f) Japanese Orchid Growers Association. Term often found on orchid nametags, since this group also bestows awards (GM, or Gold Medal; SM, or Silver Metal; BM, or Bronze Metal).
- (g) Royal Horticultural Society.

OSA June 2014 Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 OSA Meeting 7 PM	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26  Suz Cramer	27	28
29  Kevin Kohler Board Meeting	30					



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