



The Arizona Orchidist

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1966
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NEXT OSAM EETING

Meetings are held at the
Valley Garden Center
1809 N. 15th Ave., Phoenix, Arizona
Phone (602) 252-2120

The next regular society meeting will be
Thursday, June 7, 2001 at 7:00 p.m.
OSA meetings are open to all
plant enthusiasts.

Refreshments will be provided.
This month Beverages will be
furnished by: Janet Jurn
Edibles will be furnished by:
August Lorenzini and Jennifer Hall

Janet Jurn,
Refreshment Coordinator
(623) 386-2741

NEXT OSABOARD MEETING

The next OSA board meeting will be
Sunday, June 10, 2001 at 1:00 p.m.
Hosted by Nelda Caldwell.
Please contact Nelda at (602) 257-8622
for directions to her home
if you plan to attend.
The meeting is open to all OSA members.

GROWER ON CALL

Jane Heckel
(480) 947-8479
E-mail at pheckel@qwest.net

June Program

Our June program will be a re-potting workshop. This should be helpful to everyone who has been planning to repot an orchid in their collection but has been procrastinating.

Some of our newer members may be asking, why is it important to repot my orchids?

Organic potting mixes decompose over time and result in a material that prevents air from reaching the roots.

And, which of my plants need to be repotted now?

Ideally, you want to repot after flowering, when new roots are just forming. Plan to repot when the plant has outgrown its container or the potting medium shows signs of deterioration. For example, when the

medium has compressed below the rim of the pot, it does not dry out quickly after watering, salts have accumulated on the inside rim of the pot from water and fertilizers, or the mix has decomposed and resembles peat moss.

Does that sound like any plants you know? If so, we would like to see them in June.

What to bring to the June workshop:

- Orchid plant
- New potting medium
- Pot, one size larger than your plant is currently in



21st Annual Santa Barbara International Orchid Fair Itinerary

DATE: Saturday, July 21, 2001

COST: \$150.00 per member due no later than June 7th (June meeting). This due date is beyond our control! Southwest Airlines needs full payment on June 8th!
\$50.00 returned to each member upon arrival in Santa Barbara.

FLIGHTS: SWA#570 departing from Phoenix at 8:50 a.m.
SWA#935 returning to Phoenix at 7:35 p.m.



From the President's Desk

Lou Ann Remeikis

The most important message of this newsletter is the urgency to decide if you plan on going on the Santa Barbara Orchid Trip! Unfortunately, Southwest Airlines have given us very little time to pay for all tickets being purchased for this trip. In fact, the due date is before our June meeting; however I have managed to get a two day extension so we can collect all monies at the June meeting.

If you cannot attend the June meeting, and you want to participate in the field trip, please contact me (602-803-6889) to make arrangements for OSA to receive your payment in full (\$150.00) before the meeting so you will be able to go.

The itinerary for the Santa Barbara trip will be to meet in the Southwest Airlines area of the airport. We will board Flight #570 to Burbank, which leaves at 8:50 am. The group will be met at the airport by a chartered bus and taken to Santa Barbara. Flight #935 departs Burbank at 6:10 pm, returning us to Phoenix at 7:35 pm.

In essence, your \$100.00 net expense will cover your round-trip airfare and the expense of the chartered bus. The

only thing you will have to worry about is extra money to buy orchids and any food you may want. There are food vendors at the Santa Barbara Orchid Estate for those of you who have never been on one of these field trips.

It was good to see some familiar faces in the crowd during our May meeting that we haven't seen in awhile. I know with all our busy schedules and other situations, it is not always possible for everyone to attend each monthly meeting. We have a lot of members and it isn't always possible to keep up with everyone. Just because you can't make the meetings doesn't mean we don't miss you. We look forward to seeing you ANYTIME you can make it.

The June program will be geared toward repotting and/or division of your orchids. This program is for YOU, so if you have a plant needing to be repotted this is your opportunity to bring it and get assistance in doing it right. Since there are so many potting mediums to choose from, and you may prefer one over the other, we ask that you bring your medium of choice, a pot one size larger than

your plant is in, and of course your plant. We will then provide all the help you need.

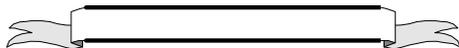
Many newcomers to orchid growing find the repotting experience a bit intimidating at first. We can eliminate this feeling at the June meeting. For many of the experienced orchid growers, we don't find the time to repot. At the June meeting we'll eliminate this problem, too! This program is for everyone! We hope to see you there.

We also will have a silent auction during our June meeting. All of the orchids to be found on the silent auction are donated by Jennifer Busch, who by this time is in Hawaii and enjoying paradise! I know the move for her and her husband is a big step for them, and hopefully they will stay in touch with us, but with Jennifer's love of plants I truly believe she will "adjust" quickly.

I look forward to seeing everyone at June's meeting. Until then...

Happy Growing!

Lou Ann



**Welcome to our
new
OSA member!
Linn Sampson**



*Thank you for your donations
to the May raffle table*

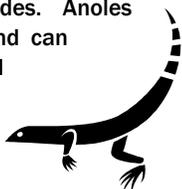
*Pepper Webb, Michel Krist, Pam Albright,
Joe Freasier, Jeanette Socaciu,
Gerda Gallob, Alan Ladd, Wilella Stimmell,
and OSA!*



Looking for a new pest control idea? Well, Harry Tolen, owner of Chula Orchids, has one for you. Harry's latest addition to his greenhouse is not a new orchid hybrid, it is a family of anole lizards. According to Harry, the lizards "have an attitude like an NFL linebacker when it comes to bugs". They reproduce by laying eggs under the greenhouse benches, so spraying is not recommended. If you would like to hear more of Harry's experiences with his new green friends, log on to his website <http://members.home.net/htolen6066>. Harry recommends about 10 lizards for your greenhouse and does not report any damage to his orchid plants.

If you are interested in trying these creatures in your own greenhouse, some requirements that you will need to take into consideration are:

The Green Anole, *Anolis carolinensis* are good for novice/ beginners. They eat crickets, spiders, earthworms, flies, banana, oranges and greens, so plan to supplement their diet. They need a water source such as daily misting, and or drip system or shallow pan of water. Day temperatures of 77-86F and night temperatures of 65-74F are preferred. They like a home of course gravel covered with some sand and peat with plants for shelter and climbing. Also, please refer to the manufacturer's warnings prior to spraying insecticides. Anoles change color similar to the chameleon and can reach sizes of 6-8" long. From my personal experience, they do not bite the hand that feeds them!



A. LaCour



VIRTUAL GOODIES

<http://www.orchidspecies.com>

The Internet Orchid Photo Encyclopedia

This comprehensive site is compiled by Jay Pfahl of Key West, Florida and it includes 3011 species in 432 genera. The site is arranged alphabetically by genus with symbols to designate conditions and plant requirements.

This website was reviewed by Doug Conkin for *Orchids*, The Magazine of the American Orchid Society, October 1999, p. 1029. He concludes that this site can save time when researching a particular plant or when window shopping for a particular species. Doug also goes on to say that "this site is a must for the serious orchid species enthusiast and a great way to introduce the novice grower to the peculiar allure that the species orchids hold over us".

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Direct inquiries to our website at:

[Http://welcome.to/orchidsocietyaz](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., and The Nature Conservancy.



Reminder!
The OSA Library is
open during meetings

Question and answer sessions are for everyone. Join in and be courteous to your fellow members that have questions. You might be the one with the answer!

On April 21, NORMA KAUFER, GARY KOOISTRA, JULIE RATHBUN, and I presented two programs at SOUTHWEST GARDENER, 2809 N. 15th Ave., Phoenix. Class size of the programs offered to the public by Southwest Gardener is limited to 15 adults per session. It was reported to us that our classes were full and that there were people on the waiting list. Before the start of the first program, one orchid fancier who was unable to be accommodated in either of our programs, brought her ailing orchid plant and asked us culture questions. Another new grower who was a participant in our first program, brought a terrarium which contained cattleya seedlings. The plants were exceedingly healthy, but the grower was concerned about the presence of fungus gnats. She had thoughtfully covered the terrarium with plastic wrap so that the gnats would not escape onto our plants.

The response from our program participants was very favorable, and quite a few new growers stated that they had learned a lot from us about orchid culture.

We appreciate Southwest Gardener encouraging OSA to include a plant sale with our programs and for the generous donation of funds made by Southwest Gardener to OSA. Thanks Lynn and Amy!

On May 11, JANE HECKEL, NORMA KAUFER, GARY KOOISTRA, JAY MUNN, JULIE RATHBUN, DAVID WEHRLI, and I had the pleasure of presenting programs for 70 English Second Language students at WASHINGTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, 8033 N. 27th Ave., Phoenix.

During the past six years, the only other English Second Language students we have had in our programs were a few Spanish speaking children at Jefferson School in Mesa. However, at Washington School, the ethnicity of the students was tantamount to a mini-United Nations! There were children from Afghanistan, Bosnia, Croatia, Cuba, Jordan, Mexico, The Congo, and the U.S.

Lee Kaplan, the teacher who had arranged for OSA to present the programs, placed an "ID" card by each student. On the card was the student's name and his/her country of origin.

Both students and teachers were in awe of our blooming display plants. Between class periods, a few teachers whose students were not participating in the orchid programs, came to "our" area and admired our plants. Joan Brignob, who will be teaching at Cactus Wren Elementary School next year, asked for and received a firm date of May 10, 2002 for 3 orchid programs (the maximum number of programs we schedule for one day) for 90 students at Cactus Wren.

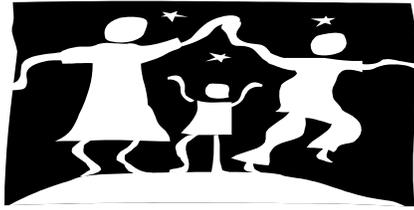
The 1st and 2nd grade students were noisy and made no attempt to contain their excitement. Although the noise level meant we needed to crank up the volume so the children could hear the instructions on how to care for their seedlings, the joy they were experiencing working with their plants, was also felt by all program team members. Adults and students had fun together, and in the process, we hope the children learned something about orchids.

During a demonstration of how phalaenopsis grow in nature—crown pointing downward, fir bark fell on the head of 2nd grader, Samim. He quickly forgave us our transgression when we helped him trap a juvenile earwig (*Forficula auricularia*) that was found in the old potting medium. There was some discussion as to the rightful owner of this "treasure". Jose, seated next to Samim, had spotted the earwig, so he said that it was his. However, the critter had been hiding in the fir bark of Samim's seedling, which to Samim, meant that the earwig belonged to him. The boys quickly agreed that they would share custody of the creepy crawlies.

Lee Kaplan personally prepared an abundant, nutritious, delicious buffet lunch—a variety of salads, drinks, and dessert—for our program team members. Teachers at other schools have provided lunch for our team members, but never has a teacher personally prepared our food! We greatly appreciated Lee's effort on our behalf.

This was the first time Dave Wehrli participated in our school programs, and we are happy to welcome him to our program team! We also appreciated that Jane Heckel could help us with the Washington programs. In order to be available to help us with programs on a week day, members with day jobs take a day off from work. Thanks Jane! With seven OSA members assisting with the Washington School programs, we were able to give the children who most need it, individual attention.





Community Service Opportunities

Programs scheduled for JUNE:

On Friday, June 22, OSA will present 3 programs for 90 children of the Thornwood Boys &

Girls Club, 301 E. Western Ave., Avondale.

The programs are scheduled for: 9:30 a.m.; 10:30 a.m.; and 11:30 a.m.

(Check Yahoo Maps for driving directions to 301 E. Western or phone me for directions if you do not have internet access.)

On Friday, June 29, OSA will present 3 programs for 90 children of the Stewart Boys & Girls Club, 6629 W. Clarendon, Phoenix.

The programs are scheduled for: 9:00 a.m.; 10:00 a.m.; and 11:00 a.m.

Donations / Items Needed:

Lava rock for the bottom of the milk jug greenhouses.

Items for the ASVH gift shop.

Plastic containers with lids (4 gallon or larger).

Useful Orchids

L. J. Lawler¹

The following is an excerpt of L.J. Lawler's article, "Useful Orchids", which appeared in the *AOS Bulletin*, Volume 54, Number 6, June 1985.

While most readers are interested in orchids from the point of view of horticulture, this large and fascinating family of plants engenders interest in many other aspects.

While use of orchids in prehistoric times is a matter for speculation, some guesses can be made. We know that existing hunter-gatherer societies collect orchid tubers for food and can assume that early man in east Africa would have done likewise. We can assume that these early orchid-eaters would have observed that some were good for them. Thus, use as food merged with use as medicine.

Never having been cultivated for their nutritional value, orchids now form a tiny portion of the world food resource. Vanilla is the only product from an orchid that is currently used throughout the world. This flavoring prepared from the dried seed capsules of *Vanilla planifolia*,

in the past, enjoyed an amazing reputation as an aphrodisiac and a medicine and was once an official drug in many pharmacopoeias. Other uses of *Vanilla* species include: the roots of *Van. ovalis* for basketry in the Philippines, the mashed stems and leaves of *Van. griffithii* as a hair tonic in Malaya; the roots of African species to make fishing nets in Gabon and guitar strings in Ghana.

In North America, orchids formed a part of the medicine chest of the Amerindians, and some of these remedies were adopted by the European immigrants. The best-known is the use of *Cypripedium* species as a sedative and treatment for nervous disorders and a host of other conditions. Other orchids utilized by both Indians and Europeans include *Aplectrum hyemale* (as a treatment for skin infections and lung diseases) and *Goodyear pubescens* (once known as cancer weed and used to treat a variety of diseases including cancer). It is reported that *Epipactis helleborine*, now naturalized in eastern North America, was brought from Europe to treat gout.

A few examples chosen at random may demonstrate the breadth of mankind's ingenuity with orchids: The Tasaday of the Philippines fashioned the leaves of *Plocoglottis wenzelii* into skirts for women and G-strings for men. In Java, the split stems of *Coelogyne asperata* served as blackboard cleaners. Leaves of *Spathoglottis plicata* provided a tobacco substitute in the Philippines during WWII.

I cannot leave this discussion without the mention of the extraordinary role that orchids play in mankind's hobby of horticulture. To me, this indicates 1) the evolutionary success of the Orchidaceae, and 2) the good sense of humans. This short article can give only a glimpse of a fascinating aspect of the relationship between humans and orchids. Those who wish to delve further into this subject are referred to my article entitled "Ethnobotany of the Orchidaceae" in *Orchid Biology: Reviews and Perspectives, III*, edited by Dr. Joseph Arditti.

¹ Department of Biochemistry, University of Sydney, Australia

View from the Myakka Canopy Walkway



Until recently, scientists did not know much about what goes on in the treetops because these forest canopies are difficult to reach. People, however, need to learn the secrets of the canopy to care for the forests properly.

One of the ways to study forests safely is building platforms, high in the canopy, for scientists to have a stable place to sit and observe the life around them. Now we understand that two thirds of all plants and animals in the forest live in the canopy, sometimes as high as 200 ft in the Amazon.

Here in Sarasota, Selby Gardens helped build a canopy walkway in the Myakka River State Park forest. The walkway is suspended 25 feet above the ground and extends 125 feet through the live oak-palm hammock canopy. The 70 ft high search tower (on one end of the walkway) provides scientists with a view of three distinct ecosystems in the park: the hammock, prairie and river. **Since this is the first walkway in North America that is open to the public**, park visitors can enjoy a peek into the life of orchids, insects, and birds up in the treetops and, perhaps, learn their value to our own lives.

George Banez, Ph.D. He has a background in conservation and is director of Selby's intern program.

Article reprinted from *Green Light*, Vol 1, Issue 3, A newsletter that promotes conservation through education and action.

Marie Selby Botanical Gardens, Sarasota, Florida

It's easy to become depressed these days by the state of orchids and their habitats around the world. The staggering growth of the human population and the increased demands on dwindling resources make sober reading: the population of Africa is expected to double in 20 years, that of Latin America in 25 years, and that of Asia in 30 years. Forty million acres are lost each year to cattle ranching; plantations of coffee, tea, bananas, and rubber; logging, farming, mining, even parking lots. Conservative estimates are that by the end of this century 66% of all plant species in the moist forests of the world will be lost. In the course of our research many of us have witnessed loss of habitat to road-building, dams, housing developments, and so on.

There's the irony of it all. By the time we finally arrive at a comprehensive phylogeny of the orchid family and indeed of all plants, we'll have to speak in the past tense for many species. We simply cannot prepare monographs and floras fast enough against the advance of the human population and global warming.

One welcome research development, however, is the active collaboration of orchid explorers and systematists from countries that were once political enemies. It's heartening to see the checklists and floras of Vietnam prepared by Leonid Averyanov and Dr. N. T. Hiep, funded by Western agencies and assisted by Western scientists.

The same can be said for the orchid scientists and other botanists of the People's Republic of China, where Professor Chen Sing-chi, Tsi Zhan-huo, and Luo Yi-bo are actively working with Phillip Cribb and me on a number of projects. Luo recently completed his Ph.D. and was awarded the President's Scholarship Prize of the Chinese Academy of Sciences for his multidisciplinary thesis on the phylogeny and biology of *Hemipilia*.

Likewise, Cuba is now welcoming American botanists despite the continuing economic embargo. Carlyle Luer described several new species of *Pleurothallis* from Cuba in the June 1999 issue of *Lindleyana*. The Fifth International Workshop of the University of Pinar del Rio, advertised in this issue of the *Orchid Research Newsletter*, will offer special lectures by Robert L. Dressler, Carlyle Luer, and Gustavo Romero. It will be a superb opportunity to enjoy the warm Cuban hospitality and share knowledge of orchids.

The IUCN Orchid Specialist Group is a forum for international dialogue and collaboration. Several of the regional groups are now active, especially the Indian sub-continental group, which held its first three-day meeting in Trivandrum in May. The North American and Far Eastern groups are also taking great strides toward solving a variety of problems in those areas.

Political walls and curtains have fallen in the last few decades, making us all professionally and personally richer and offering hope for the future of orchids and their habitats. Those expanded channels of communication may even help to preserve everything else we take for granted every day.

Dr. Alec Pridgeon, *Orchid Research Newsletter Issue 36*, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew

What Kind Is It? Identifying Your Orchid

To be properly identified, an orchid must have at least two elements to its name. They should appear in the following order:

- The genus name.
- The specific or hybrid epithet.

Together these comprise the species or hybrid name. Sometimes, but not always, a third element, the cultivar name, is included. By way of illustration, take a look at the label below:

Slc. Jewel Box 'Scheherazade',
AM/AOS
(Anzac X Cattleya aurantiaca)

- *Slc.* is the standard abbreviation for the genus name *Sophrolaeliocattleya*, a combination of the genera (plural for genus, pronounced JEN-e-ra) *Sophrontis*, *Laelia* and *Cattleya*. The first letter of the genus name is always capitalized. The genus is either italicized (as here) or underlined (as above).
- Jewel Box is the hybrid, or grex, name for an artificial cross (given above in parentheses). Hybrid names are capitalized but not italicized or underlined. In contrast, the names of species (orchids made by nature) are not capitalized, but italicized or underlined.
- 'Scheherazade' is the cultivar name, which is the name assigned to a single genetic entity of a species or hybrid. In this case the cultivar received an Award of Merit from the American Orchid Society. A standard

Abbreviation, AM/AOS, is used to designate this award and should be included in any reference to the plant. Note that the cultivar name is set off in single quotation marks.

When shopping for orchids, the cultivar name is important. If you buy a plant labeled *Slc.* Jewel Box 'Scheherazade' (with or without its award included), you should be getting a plant identical to the one above, with the same flowers. However, if you buy a plant labeled *Slc.* Jewel Box 'Brand X', you're getting a different cultivar, with no guarantee its flowers will look at all like those of 'Scheherazade'.

The same would be true if you bought a plant labeled just *Slc.* Jewel Box. The absence of a cultivar name indicates that the plant has not been named yet. Name or no name, though, it is still a genetically distinct entity, with its own unique characteristics. (Possibly the owner forgot to include the cultivar name and it is really 'Scheherazade'- but you do not know and it is not worth taking the chance.)

Now check your orchid's tag. Use the following guidelines to determine whether the plant is a species or hybrid:

- If there is one word following the genus name or abbreviation, and it's not capitalized, but italicized or underlined, then you have a species. Example: *Cattleya aurantiaca*.

- If there is one word or more following the genus name, and it or they are capitalized and not italicized or underlined, then you have a hybrid. Example: *Slc.* Anzac.

Which genus your orchid belongs to, and whether it is a species or hybrid, become significant when you seek more information about its cultural needs. Most growing information pertaining to orchids is listed under the genus name, and occasionally by species. Cultural needs of hybrids, especially intergeneric hybrids (involving more than one genus), are trickier to describe, because of the ill-defined influence in breeding of one genus over another.

The Source on Orchid Hybrid Names

For an orchid hybrid to be officially named, it must be registered with the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) of England. The RHS publishes new orchid hybrid names in each bimonthly issue of *The Orchid Review*, and this list is reprinted in various orchid periodicals around the world. This data is summarized in *Sander's List of Orchid Hybrids*, which is updated every five years with a new addendum. In this book are all orchid hybrids registered during the previous five years, along with other pertinent information. This information is also available on compact disc as *The RHS Orchid Information System*.

Source: *Your First Orchid: A Guide for Beginners*, c. 1996, AOS.

EDITOR'S
NOTES



We all have something important to say. Take the time to share your ideas, articles of interest you come across, upcoming events you read about, growing tips, etc. with your fellow OSA members! The deadline for newsletter submission is the 15th of the month. Articles can be emailed to ainsley@azorchids.com or faxed to 602-863-3750. An old fashioned phone call works too!



OSA June 2001 Calendar



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4  Bryan LaCour	5	6  Ruth Duncan	7 OSA Meeting 7:00 p.m.	8	9
10 Jodi Poole  Board Meeting	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19 Pearl Bays  Leith Plunkett	20  Connie Hall	21	22 CSP 9:30 a.m.	23
24	25	26  Suz Cramer	27  Virginia Coleman	28	29 Jen Hall  Dan MacLeod CSP 9:00 a.m.	30



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