



# The Arizona Orchidist

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## NEXT OSA MEETING

This meeting will be held at the  
Arizona State Veteran Home  
4141 North 3rd Street

The next regular society meeting will be  
Monday, March 7, 2005 at 7:00 p.m.

OSA meetings are open to all  
plant enthusiasts

Refreshments will be provided.

This month's beverages by  
Harry and Barbara Parnell  
Snacks by

Diana Sibley  
David Nunamacher  
and Dan Kruger

Refreshment Coordinators:

Julie Langston  
Ramona Jungwirth

## OSABOARD MEETING

The next OSA board meeting  
will be held

Sunday, February 27 at 1 P.M.

hosted by

Barbara Parnell

Please call Barbara

for directions to her home

Board meetings are open to all OSA  
members

## GROWER ON CALL

Wilella Stimmell

## March Program

### Repotting Orchids: How to Wrangle that Tangle, Without the Mangle

Aaron Hicks will be leading us in a semi-regular repotting session, in which we will attempt to deal with what is (and should be) one of the most put-off tasks in the procrastinating gardener's list of things to do: moving our charges to new confines.

Boy, there's nothing like sucking the fun out of a hobby where killing plants isn't just a past time, it's an adventure! If there's a way to do it, we'll find it. Yes, spring is coming- you know it, the plants know it, and before long we'll be engaging in *cellulosus interruptus*, so we may as well do the best we can.

Bring your bad boys of the bench, the ones with the new growths leaning towards Fisher's, roots reminiscent of Medusa, and no fewer than two fellow growers who are suggesting that it be divided- for the good of the plant, of course, nothing to do with padding their own collections!

Bring your plant, a fresh, clean pot or two, your medium of choice, and- if you intend on dividing it, a sterile cutting tool. Unused single-edge razor blades are good; if all goes well, I'll bring some, but if you have a box of your own, bring 'em on in. A newspaper (to help clean up the mess) is recommended; I suggest the Wall Street Journal. Growers repotting Nobile dendrobiums should bring the "National Enquirer."

As a reminder, the next meeting is March 7 in Liberty Hall, Arizona State Veteran Home, 4141 N. 3rd St. Map on page 4.

During the March 7 meeting, there will be a silent auction of plants purchased from Pacific Orchid Exposition vendors! Bring your checkbooks! You won't want to miss the opportunity to buy special plants. Whatever you buy, the plants will be a lot cheaper than a roundtrip air ticket to San Francisco and hotel accommodation would cost you!

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Norma Kafer

**March 7th we will meet at the Veteran's Home. It is located just north of Indian School Road and 3rd Street. Just follow 3rd Street north and you will run into the Veteran's Home.**

**The Encanto Park Clubhouse will be used to set up the voting machines for the election the next day.**

**We will have our long awaited and much anticipated repotting session. Some of us who are a bit on the lazy side, will bring in plants for demonstration. If you have plants that you would like to repot, please bring the plant, fresh fir bark, and a fresh pot. There will be people to help you.**

**I think everybody enjoyed Kathryn Mauz's presentation. Those of us who have lived in Tucson certainly had a keen interest in her talk. We have made good use of the Deacon Bell Scholarship money, and invested wisely and we do reap the benefits.**

**With the three trips that OSA members have made to Kingman, we should have a growing interest in orchids there. The people in Kingman have been most hospitable to the members who have made the journey. It is a pretty trip, especially now with all the rain that we have had.**

**The Chinese Festival was a popular event even though it was pouring down rain Fri. and Sat. it rained off and on. Sun. the weather was nice for a while, cool but sunny and then turned breezy and cloudy. But an enjoyable time.**

**We hope to see you at the repotting event and remember to bring a plant that has roots bursting out of it's pot. We will have fun and will probably get dirty.**

### **2005 Arizona Federation of Garden Clubs Fundraiser: A Klassy Bags Bash**

By Wilella Stimmell, "Bag Lady" Auctioneer for the Event

During OSA's Nov. 28, 2004 Board of Director's Meeting, members voted unanimously to donate 10 blooming orchid plants for the AFGC Fundraiser. Unfortunately I mentioned my intended costume to Julie Rathbun, and she set to work gathering up articles of clothing to complete my ridiculous "bag lady" outfit. (AND she helped me don my duds at the fundraiser! I think she wanted to make sure that I wore **everything** that she had collected for me. To the fundraiser, she also brought a shopping cart that was filled with items that would be found in a "bag lady's shopping cart".) OSA members in attendance at the February 5th fundraiser were Teddy Cohen, Julie Rathbun, and, of course, the infamous "bag lady"! Julie took photos!

The emphasis during the live auction was on FUN and, of course, in extracting the maximum amount of money for the donated items. The blooming orchids easily raised \$500 of the total bids during the live auction. Special thanks to **Chris Gubler** for his indispensable role in the AFGC fundraiser. On January 31, when Julie Rathbun and I went to **Gubler Orchids** and selected plants for sale at the Chinese Festival, I selected the 10 plants for the AFGC fundraiser before I helped Julie select plants for sale at the festival. With Chris's blessing, I selected **fabulous** orchids for OSA to donate to AFGC. I think that it's safe to say that **no AFGC member had ever seen orchids as beautiful as were the orchids we donated!** Without Chris Gubler's help, we would not have been able to donate such gorgeous plants! We received many e-mail messages and snail-mailed cards filled with glowing comments about OSA's generous donation of orchids. The plants were truly the most spectacular items on display on the auction table! Thanks to OSA were received, among others, from Irene Jensen, AFGC President; Barbara Mlnarik, Fundraiser Chair, and from Elin Doehne, AFGC President-Elect. Elin stated: "Please give a thousand thanks to OSA for their most generous donation. It was greatly appreciated! And a thousand thanks to you for making the fundraiser so successful – with the emphasis on FUN! As my late husband, Harry, would have said, 'You're a Pip!!'"



# COMMUNITY SERVICE REPORT

By Wilella Stimmell, CSP Coordinator

As our members know, OSA always participates in the Equestrian Special Olympics. This year the event was scheduled for January 29, and we were all set to participate. Unfortunately, the event was cancelled because the ground in the arena at the Western Saddle Club was too wet from recent rains. We were disappointed that it was necessary to cancel the event, but we look forward to participating in next year's Equestrian Special Olympics!

In March, there are two community service programs on our schedule: On March 19, a 10 a.m. Orchids 101 seminar will be presented at BERRIDGE NURSERIES, 4647 E. Camelback Rd., Phoenix; and on March 21, at 9 a.m., we will present a program for members of the SEDONA AREA GARDEN CLUB. Since SAGC meetings are held in private homes, and our newsletters are posted on OSA's website, we have decided not to list the exact location of the SAGC March meeting. (Not to worry: We who are traveling to Sedona, DO know where the meeting will be held!)

ARIZONA STATE VETERAN HOME CREATES A COOKBOOK TO COMMEMORATE THE TEN-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARIZONA STATE VETERAN HOME! The anniversary will occur in November, 2005, and the Employee Association is already at work gathering recipes for the cookbook. Copies will be available for \$12.00 in the ASVH Gift Shop, or if you want to ensure that you receive a copy, you may pre-order a copy. To pre-order, send a check in the amount of **\$12.00**, payable to **Arizona Department of Veteran Services**, and write "**Employee Association**" in the memo section. **Mail the check to Kelli Gourdoux, Arizona State Veteran Home, 4141 N. 3rd St., Phoenix, AZ 85012**

**CELL PHONE USE DURING OSA MONTHLY MEETINGS:** Please extend courtesy to our speakers, guests, and your fellow members. If you **must** keep your cell phone on, please set it to **vibrate** and **NOT to ring** during a meeting. And when you exit the ballroom and answer your call, please **conduct your conversation OUTSIDE the clubhouse**. Phone calls are an unnecessary distraction, and the rest of us are not interested in hearing your conversation. In a postal substation in Phoenix, there is an apropos sign regarding cell phone use. The sign states: "If you are speaking on your cell phone, we will be happy to help the next customer in line while you go outside to finish your conversation."

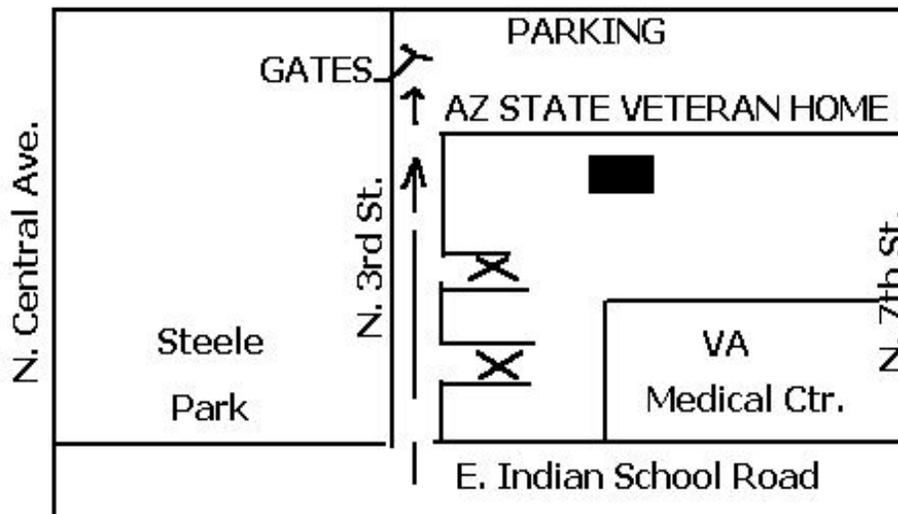
After nearly 15 years of head banging in our vintage 1902 greenhouses, Scott, Gwen and the staff of **White Oak Orchids** are thrilled to announce their move to Paradise in Pacifica, CA.

25,000 square feet of high-tech orchid greenhouses. Exemplary species. Extraordinary hybrids.

Our First Open House will be Saturday, March 12, 2005 11 A.M. to 5 P.M.

For visits on other days, please call for an appointment. Please note that White Oak Orchids is a working nursery, not a retail store.

MAP TO THE ARIZONA STATE VETERAN HOME SITE OF THE MARCH MEETING



## THE 2005 CHINESE FESTIVAL: CHALLENGING and REWARDING

By Wilella Stimmell, OSA Treasurer

This, the Chinese Year of the Rooster, was the 7th year in which we have participated in this three-day event. This year was the first time that the burden of responsibility for our booth was especially challenging for dedicated OSA workers due to RAIN - LOTS and LOTS of RAIN! Unloading the sale plants from our vehicles was a special "treat". And an added "bonus" was the fact that after we unloaded, **JULIE RATHBUN** and I had to park our vehicles in a dirt-turned-to-MUD parking area, and then walk through the mud, back to our booth. What fun! NOT!

**MARLENY CASTILLO** was the **first** worker to arrive on Friday morning, AND she took public transportation (the bus) to get to the Chinese Center! THAT is dedication!

**JULIE LANGSTON** was the second worker to arrive and brought towels to mop up water and coffee. Both items were **greatly** appreciated by the early morning workers. Both Marleny and Julie could easily find part time jobs as stagehands because they not only helped us set up our booth, they also helped the young gal in the booth next to ours, set up her booth.

**JOE FREASIER** and **WAYNE BAKER** also helped us on Friday morning, and for their assistance, we were thankful. But **MARLENY CASTILLO**, **JULIE RATHBUN**, and I braved the elements for the **entire day!** We were wet, cold, muddy, and exceedingly tired by the end of the day. You might think that such a hardship day would have dampened our spirits, but by the end of the day, all three of us were still laughing about our fun day!

(Special note: **Ann Cherny** had signed up to work on Friday, but because she was departing town on Sunday, she had the courtesy and sense of responsibility to notify us that she would be unable to help us on Friday. Thanks, Ann, for letting us know!)

Friday is always the day of the festival when hoards of school children arrive in buses. Inclement weather did **not** deter the arrival of the students. At least 3 teachers visited our booth. If the teachers follow through and contact us for firm dates, we might be presenting our hands-on repotting programs for school children in Payson.

Day 2 was less rainy than day 1, but weather-wise, it was still most definitely **not** a pleasant day. **JIM LAUCK**, **BARBARA PARNELL**, and **BOB MACLEOD** arrived to help. And by "help", I mean that they spent a **minimum of 5 hours** working in our booth. Bob MacLeod performed a service that we do not usually provide to people who purchase plants: he **volunteered** to carry a **huge** cattleya for a lady who had parked quite a distance from the Chinese Center. She also had groceries to carry, so there was no way that she could have also carried the plant she purchased from us. Without a moment's hesitation, Bob came to her rescue!

Day 3 of the festival: **no rain!** Marleny, Julie R, and I set up our booth and anticipated the arrival of many more visitors who had not attended the festival because of rain during the previous two days. Bob MacLeod arrived for his second day of assistance, and **JOE BACIK** arrived in the afternoon and stayed until the conclusion of the festival. Bob and Joe helped Julie and me load up our vehicles with the remaining plants and other items that we always haul around to our public events. We greatly appreciated their help!

Since the weather was not conducive to plant sales, you might, understandably, assume that this event was not a financial success for us. The **weather** was the **worst** we've experienced in 7 years of participating in the festival, but **plant sales** were the **best** we've ever had at the festival!!!

**Huge thanks** to our worker bees! **Julie R deserves a GOLD STAR!** There are no words that adequately express how grateful all of us are for the **immense amount of work** that Julie does for OSA's benefit.

## FEBRUARY RAFFLE TABLE DONATIONS



Joe Bacik, Joe Civello, Sharon Davis



Diana Sibley and Wilella Stimmell

SPECIAL THANKS TO ALL

# Biodiversity Hotspots Identify Conservation Priorities

Environmental "Emergency Rooms" Hold 75 Percent of the Most Threatened Mammals, Birds, and Amphibians

HOUSTON - The new book *Hotspots Revisited* identifies 34 regions worldwide where 75 percent of the planet's most threatened mammals, birds, and amphibians survive within habitat covering just 2.3 percent of the Earth's surface (roughly equivalent to the combined areas of the five largest U.S. states). This habitat originally covered 15.7 percent of the Earth's surface, an area equivalent in size to Russia and Australia combined. The new analysis shows that an estimated 50 percent of all vascular plants and 42 percent of terrestrial vertebrates exist only in these 34 hotspots.

The Madrean Pine-Oak Woodlands, a rugged, mountainous area stretching from Mexico to the Southwestern United States, is one of nine newly identified hotspots. Three other hotspots that extend into U.S. states or territories - the California Floristic Province, the Caribbean Islands, and Polynesia-Micronesia - remain under severe threat.

*Hotspots Revisited* (CEMEX, 2004) contains the results of an in-depth reanalysis of global hotspots, a widely used prioritization strategy for allocating conservation dollars to areas where they can do the most good.

"The biodiversity hotspots are the environmental emergency rooms of our planet. This latest assessment underscores the value of the hotspots concept for defining urgent conservation priorities," said Russell A. Mittermeier, president of Conservation International (CI) and co-editor of the new book. "We must now act decisively to avoid losing these irreplaceable storehouses of Earth's life forms."

Nearly 400 specialists contributed to the four-year-long hotspots reappraisal. Their analysis has resulted in an increase in the number of hotspots from 25 to 34. The East Melanesian Islands Hotspot was added because it had degraded dramatically over the last five years; the Madrean Pine-Oak Woodlands, Japan, Horn of Africa, Irano-Anatolian, Mountains of Central Asia, and Maputaland-Pondoland-Albany (in southern Africa) were added because of newly available data showing they qualify for hotspot status; and the Himalaya and Eastern Afromontane regions have been identified as distinct hotspots in their own right.

The scientists delved beyond species to identify genera and families that are unique to the hotspots, concluding that hotspots also hold a disproportionately high degree of unique evolutionary history. Madagascar and the Indian Ocean Islands Hotspot, for example, has 24 plant and vertebrate families that are found nowhere else on Earth. "We now know that by concentrating on the hotspots, we are not only protecting species, but deep lineages of evolutionary history," Mittermeier said. "These areas capture the uniqueness of life on Earth."

The hotspots concept was pioneered in 1988 by British ecologist Norman Myers, who recognized that hotspot ecosystems (most often in tropical forest areas) cover a small total land area yet account for a very high percentage of global biodiversity. The concept was subsequently refined by Myers and CI, most recently in 2000.

"This new analysis has benefited greatly from increased collaboration among countries and organizations, as well as from scientists' ever-increasing knowledge of species and their habitats," said Gustavo A.B. da Fonseca, executive vice president of CI.

Two factors determine which areas qualify as hotspots: number of endemic species (those found nowhere else) and degree of threat. Plants are used as a measure of endemism, and each of the hotspots holds at least half a percent of the total diversity of vascular plants as endemics; this translates to 1,500 species of vascular plants found exclusively within its boundaries. Degree of threat is determined by the percentage of remaining habitat, with each hotspot having lost at least 70 percent of its original natural habitat. Some of the hotspots have less than 10 percent of their original natural habitat.

## THE HOTSPOTS ARE:

### AMERICAS:

- Tropical Andes
- Tumbes-Chocó-Magdalena (Panama, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru)
- Atlantic Forest (Brazil, Paraguay, Argentina)
- Cerrado (Brazil)
- Chilean Winter Rainfall-Valdivian Forests
- Mesoamerica (Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Honduras, El Salvador, Guatemala, Belize, Mexico)
- Caribbean Islands
- California Floristic Province
- Madrean Pine-Oak Woodlands (Mexico, U.S.) (NEW)

### AFRICA:

- Guinean Forests of West Africa
- Cape Floristic Region (South Africa)
- Succulent Karoo (South Africa, Namibia)
- Madagascar and the Indian Ocean Islands
- Coastal Forests of Eastern Africa
- Eastern Afromontane (NEWLY DISTINCT AND SIGNIFICANTLY EXPANDED)
- Maputaland-Pondoland-Albany (South Africa, Swaziland, Mozambique) (NEW)
- Horn of Africa (NEW)

*continued on page 7*

continued from page 6

**EUROPE AND AFRICA:**

Mediterranean Basin

**ASIA:**

Caucasus  
Western Ghats and Sri Lanka (India, Sri Lanka)  
Mountains of Southwest China  
Sundaland (Indonesia, Malaysia, and Brunei)  
Wallacea (Indonesia)  
Philippines  
Himalaya (NEWLY DISTINCT)  
Indo-Burma  
Irano-Anatolian (NEW)  
Mountains of Central Asia (NEW)  
Japan (NEW)

**OCEANIA:**

Southwest Australia  
New Caledonia  
New Zealand  
Polynesia-Micronesia (includes Hawaii)  
East Melanesian Islands (NEW)

The threats to the hotspots include: habitat destruction; invasive species; direct human exploitation of species for food, medicine, and the pet trade; and climate change, which magnifies the effects of habitat destruction and fragmentation.

The threats to the hotspots include: habitat destruction; invasive species; direct human exploitation of species for food, medicine, and the pet trade; and climate change, which magnifies the effects of habitat destruction and fragmentation.

The latest analysis offers mixed news about existing hotspots. On one hand, some hotspots have deteriorated significantly: a notable example is Southeast Asia's Sundaland, whose forest loss has been driven largely by extensive commercial logging and agricultural projects. On the other hand, relatively little forest has been lost in the Atlantic Forest, and Madagascar looks set to hold steady following President Marc Ravalomanana's recent pledge to triple the size of his nation's protected area network.

"The new hotspots analysis ensures that we will continue to direct conservation funds to the areas where we can have the greatest possible impact," said Peter Seligmann, CEO and chairman of the board of CI. "It also points out the need for additional resources to address the new priority areas that have been identified."

CI already works in most of the existing hotspots and plans to expand its programs into some of the new hotspots, including the Madrean Pine-Oak Woodlands. "We have already begun looking seriously at the U.S.-Mexico border area," Mittermeier said. "We are trying to identify the best ways to leverage scientific knowledge and the expertise of partner organizations to conserve this region for the benefit of not only its plant and animal species, but also for the millions of people whose well-being is tied to its ecological health."

The Madrean Pine-Oak Woodlands hotspot is a 178,095-square-mile area encompassing Mexico's main mountain chains, some isolated mountaintops in Baja California, and a few scattered patches in the southern United States (represented by the Madrean Sky Islands, a series of about 40 mountain-tops in southern Arizona and New Mexico, and other mountaintops in Texas, including part of Big Bend National Park).

This hotspot is home to about 5,300 flowering plant species (of which almost 4,000 are endemics), about a third of the world's oak and pine tree species, and over 1,500 vertebrate species (including 134 endemic species). Among many charismatic flagship species in the region is the volcano rabbit or zacatuche (*Romerolagus diazi*), one of the world's smallest rabbits, which is found only in the mountains surrounding Mexico City. The hotspot is also home to up to 200 species of butterfly, of which 45 are endemic, and plays host to one of the world's most famous wildlife spectacles, the overwintering mass of monarch butterflies (*Danaus plexippus*) in the pine forests of Michoacan. Threats to the hotspot include logging and intentional burning to clear land for livestock or agriculture.

Hotspots Revisited was produced by CEMEX, one of the world's largest cement manufacturers, in collaboration with Conservation International, Agrupación Sierra Madre, and the University of Virginia. It was edited by Russell Mittermeier, Gustavo A.B. da Fonseca, Michael Hoffmann, John Pilgrim, Thomas Brooks, Patricio Robles Gil, Cristina G. Mittermeier, and John Lamoreux. The book, which features nearly 300 photographs, also includes contributions from 197 of the specialists who participated in the hotspots reanalysis. The book can be purchased from [www.conservation.org](http://www.conservation.org).

*Conservation International (CI) applies innovations in science, economics, policy and community participation to protect the Earth's richest regions of plant and animal diversity in the biodiversity hotspots, high-biodiversity wilderness areas and key marine ecosystems. With headquarters in Washington, D.C., CI works in more than 40 countries on four continents. For more information about CI, visit [www.conservation.org](http://www.conservation.org).*

*This Press release was reprinted with the permission of Luba Vangelova, Media Relations Coordinator for Conservation International.*

# OSA March 2005 Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1  <i>Sarah Heberling</i>	2  <i>Kathy Clifton</i>	3	4  <i>Wilella Stimmell</i>	5  <i>Gene Koonce</i>
6	7 <b>OSA MEETING</b> <b>7:00 PM</b>	8  <i>Benjamin Nelson Jr.</i>	9	10	11	12  <b>Chris Gubler</b>
13	14  <i>Joe Civello</i>	15  <i>Tatiana Macias</i>	16	17	18	19 <i>Orchids 101</i> <i>Berridge</i> <i>Nursery</i>
20	21 <i>Sedona Area</i> <i>Garden Club</i> <i>presentation</i>	22  <i>Mitchell Tackett</i>	23  <i>Sean Bacik</i>	24	25	26
27	28  <i>Julie Rathbun</i>	29	30	31  <i>Jarka Kazda</i>		



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