



# The Arizona Orchidist

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## NEXT OSA MEETING

Meetings are held at the  
Encanto Park Clubhouse  
2605 N. 15th Ave., Phoenix, Arizona  
North of Encanto Blvd. on 15th Ave.  
Phone (602) 261-8993

The next regular society meeting will  
be Monday, March 6, 2006 at  
7:00 p.m.

OSA meetings are open to all  
plant enthusiasts

Refreshments will be provided.

This month beverages  
will be provided by:

David Nunamacher  
snacks by

Kathleen Bischoff and Jim Lauck  
Refreshment Coordinators:

Barbara Parnell (480) 948-0714  
Mary Gannon (623) 878-4173

## OSABOARD MEETING

The next OSA board meeting  
will be held at 1 PM

Sunday, March 26, 2006

at the home of Marleny Castillo

Board meetings are open to all OSA  
members

Please call Marleny for directions  
(602) 441-4050

## Grower on Call

Jim Johnson  
Jim1958@ev1.net  
(623)-878-0835

## March Program

### OrchidWiz Encyclopedia

#### Orchid Research Computer Database Software

Aaron Hicks will demonstrate how to use the program to search for answers to your burning orchid questions. OrchidWiz has been touted as "the world's most complete and accurate orchid database". During the demonstration, we'll find out whether the software is user friendly. For example, do you want to know the number of orchid species by geographic area in North America? Do you want to know which species are fragrant? Or perhaps you want to search for the parentage of a particular hybrid that you own.

This version of OrchidWiz is 1.0 which was released in November, 2005. (Version 2.0 is available this month but will not be used in the demonstration.) The program contains over 6400 orchid images and covers most of the key species and hybrids. For more than 45,000 orchid hybrids, OrchidWiz can display the image of at least one of the parents. For 9000, it can display images of both parents. Genealogy charts, ALWAYS a bother to create by hand, are included in OrchidWiz. Also included in the database are blooming times for thousands of species and culture recommendations for hybrids, based on species composition. Wow!

The one limitation of the software is that you can't ask it why YOUR orchid plant died.

If you have a hybrid that you would like Aaron to research during the meeting, bring the name of your plant to the meeting. Since the first part of the program will be a demonstration of how the software works, there will be limited time for searches for specific hybrids.

Please be considerate of your fellow members and limit your request for a parentage search to ONE hybrid.

W. Stimmell

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## From the President's Desk

Julie Rathbun

My heartfelt thanks to OSA members who attended the February 4 memorial service for my husband, Fred. I also appreciated receiving sympathy cards and donations in memory of Fred to the El Zaribah Shrine Transportation Unit. The Shrine Transportation Unit uses donations to transport sick children whose parents don't have money to take their kids for health care. It's been a while since Fred was healthy enough to help with the children's clinic at St. Joseph's Hospital, but Fred and I spent many Saturday mornings helping at St. Joe's as the Shrine Transportation Unit brought children in for health care. I'm sure that Fred would appreciate knowing that donations were made in his name to a cause in which he firmly believed - helping those less fortunate than himself.

I also want to take this opportunity to thank OSA members who have volunteered to help me with chores at home. I won't say that I don't need help, but please understand that while I appreciate your offers, I also need to keep busy. I might need your help in future, so I hope that the offers to help don't have an expiration date.

Does anyone want to buy a pot-bellied piglet for a St. Patrick's Day gift? As if I didn't have enough to do on the day of Fred's memorial service, Charlotte delivered a litter of 8 piglets three hours before the start of the service.

During our February 6 meeting, I passed around the **Refreshments' Sign-up Sheet**, and members who were not present at our January meeting, committed to bring either beverages or snacks for future meetings. Not all of the slots are filled, so **I will pass the sheet around at our March meeting**. There is no need for a member to sign up to bring refreshments for more than one month, but a few members have done that. If you have not signed up, but you enjoy refreshments brought by others, **please** cooperate and **take your turn!**

The **Equestrian Special Olympics** will be held **this month on Saturday, the 11th**. Fred always happily served as the announcer for the event. I don't know who will serve as the announcer this year, but I do know that even in his absence, Fred would expect me to continue to participate in the event. I will announce the details at our March 6 meeting. As always, the event will be held at the **Western Saddle Club Arena, 12425 N. 7th St. I hope that OSA members will participate.**

**IMPORTANT!!! New pre and post meeting chore at the clubhouse: we need to set up the tables and chairs before our meeting and take them down after our meeting.** Before our February meeting, we had not been informed that we needed to do this, so after the meeting, everyone except Bob MacLeod departed from the clubhouse. Thanks, Bob, for taking down the tables and chairs. Before we conclude our March 6 meeting, I will remind members that we need at least 4 members to help take down tables and chairs.

See you on March 6!

Julie

## 2006 Hawaii Show Schedule Available

Wilbur Chang has sent us the show schedule. Copies will be available on the March raffle ticket sales table. Mahalo, Wilbur!

## Member News

Welcome new member Crystal Lu  
Introduce yourself and make a new orchid buddy.

## FOR SALE IN THE ARIZONA STATE VETERAN HOME GIFT SHOP CHOICE RECIPES FOR HEROES

A Collection of Recipes by ASVH staff and volunteers. The cookbook costs \$11.95  
The cookbook is dedicated to the residents of the Arizona State Veteran Home for their service to our country.  
A copy will be available for viewing at our March meeting. The cookbook is not available for online purchase.



## Annual Spring Orchid Show and Sale!

*"Orchids on Parade"*

March 17-19, 2006

(Friday 4-9 pm, Saturday 9am-6pm, and Sunday  
9am-4pm)

Scottish Rite Memorial Center  
1895 Camino Del Rio South, San Diego

For additional information, call:  
(619) 840-2768 OR (619) 992-4172

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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. The Nature Conservancy.

## 2006 COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM SCHEDULE

By Wilella Stimmell, CSP Coordinator

A report on our school programs presented for 180 3rd grade students in Payson on March 1 and 2 will be included in our April newsletter. At the time we needed to submit copy to our Editor for inclusion in our February newsletter, we did not know the time scheduled for each of the 9 programs to be presented at the 3 elementary schools in Payson. Thanks to Teddy Cohen for contacting the Mayor of Payson who in turn contacted the Gila County Agricultural Extension Office. Extension workers have been asked to assist OSA school program team members.

OSA is a member group of the Arizona Federation of Garden clubs. Commencing last month, **Miracle-Gro**, sponsors at NO cost to member groups, 10 pages per group.

The address for OSA's pages is: <http://gardencentral.org/azgardenclub/orchidsocietyofaz/>

Click on the links on the left side of our home page to view our other pages. So far we have used 6 of our allotted 10 pages. Our pages also include photos of a few plants and members. Photos of our school programs are from programs presented in 2005.

School program team members Joe Bacik, Marleny Castillo, Teddy Cohen, and Keith Mead are featured in photos of our school programs.

As soon as our November, 2006 show flyer is ready, we will place the flyer on our pages.

It was a pleasure working with Bryan and Carolyn Thomlison, webmasters for the AFGC pages.

Bryan and Carolyn reside in New Jersey.

W. Stimmell

## SURF'S UP

Do you ever discover a website while "surfing the net" that contains information that might be of interest to your orchid buddies? Well, when you "happen" upon such a site and would like to share please send your editor an email ([kjkm@comcast.net](mailto:kjkm@comcast.net)) with the address and a brief description of what can be found there.

This month Keith found this one to share: [www.orchidsbooks.com](http://www.orchidsbooks.com)

This site is devoted strictly to books about orchids. The site is easy to navigate has a good search feature and you can even sign-up to automatically receive their newsletter via email.

A great place to help build that all important orchid reference library.

Take a look!

## FEBRUARY RAFFLE TABLE DONORS

OSA members: August Lorenzini, Bob MacLeod, Lou Ann Remeikis, Wilella Stimmell

Non members: Ken and Judy Vincent

Thank you !

## In Memoriam

By Wilella Stimmell

On January 31st, OSA member **Fred Rathbun** died. He had been in and out of hospitals since mid-October, 2005. It is with a mixture of sadness at his passing and relief that he is no longer in pain that I write these few comments in his memory. Fred never thought of himself as special, but he was special and a lot more! I have never known a man as hard-working and selfless as was Fred. He was always the first person to volunteer to do jobs that nobody else wanted to do. And he worked joyfully and without griping. Usually he told jokes as he worked. I've never known anyone who had the vast repertoire of jokes that Fred had. The fact that he could remember so many jokes was astounding! My most vivid memory of Fred was the year that OSA's November show featured a Southwestern theme. Fred hauled many heavy items from his and Julie's home. The items were used as props in our show vignettes and were transported in Fred and Julie's horse trailer. Between trips to and from the horse trailer, Fred would stop to rest for a few minutes and then tell a few jokes before he hauled the next load of props. I don't think that there was anything that he didn't know how to do...except perhaps how to play a flute.

Happy trails, Fred! Rest in peace. You touched our lives, and we will miss you.

I believe that Fred would appreciate the sentiments expressed in the following poem that was included on Gene O'Quinn's River Bottom Poetry website :  
(<http://home.houston.rr.com/geneoquinn/index.htm>):

### **An Old Cowboy's Prayer**

© 2001, Nona Kelley Carver  
used with permission

I've been a long time coming, Lord,  
But now, I'm riding in.  
I see those gates just shining,  
Where no pain is felt within.  
I heard the angels singing, Lord,  
When they came to escort me.  
They let me ride my favorite mare  
On in to eternity.  
I'm thankful for my days on earth,  
And my family there below.  
They knew quite well my time had come,  
But they grieved to see me go.  
I ask that you give them comfort, Lord,  
For I'm in a better place.  
Please let them know that I rest in peace,  
Thanks to your matchless grace.  
I'm thankful that you blessed me with  
A long and eventful life;  
For a happy home with my children close,  
And a loving and faithful wife.  
Please let them know that I love them, Lord,  
And all fear has been put aside.  
I will wait for a grand reunion,  
When they, too, cross the Great Divide.

## JOHN ALCOCK'S AUSTRALIA

by Teddy Cohen

OSA's February sixth meeting featured a presentation by John Alcock about the orchids of Australia. If you were unable to attend, you missed a wonderful, educational and thoroughly entertaining evening.

Alcock organized his talk into three areas: Pollination, Speciation and Conservation within Australia.

Most of Australia's orchids are tiny and terrestrial. Pollination methods include trapping the pollinator insect, rewarding the insect with nectar, and various methods that cheat or fool the pollinator. Some of these "cheats" embrace orchid adaptations that include exuding pheromones, matching color and shape of a potential mate, and orchids that look like plants with a lot of nectar even though they have none. The photos in the presentation illustrated all of the possible pollinating variations wonderfully!

The vast majority of Australia's 300-plus native orchids are found in the southwestern corner of the country. The large eucalyptus trees and heavy rainfall make the native species thrive in that part of the continent. When we consider that 300-plus is ten times more orchid species than occur in an area comparable to the state of California, it is easy to see that diversity of speciation is exceptional in Australia. Caladenia orchids alone account for about 100 of these species. Scientists believe that a combination of climate and geography have caused very specific geographic isolation, which has allowed species to evolve so differently.

Conservation is a difficult problem since the government of Australia encourages rampant farming of almost all available land. Most of the conserved areas are only there because nothing will grow on them. Like South America's rainforests, North America's rural land, and Europe's undeveloped space, Australia's available room for native orchids is shrinking.

## ORCHID GROWER BELIEVES PLANTS HAVE INTELLIGENCE

Caracas, Venezuela— United Press International— Orchid grower Alfredo Blaumann contends that plants have intelligence.

"Man can make a decision in an instant." Blaumann said. "The thought of a plant might take 100 years."

To back up his point, Blaumann cited the orchid, the most advanced of plant life, which he said has evolved into shapes identical to those of some insects the orchid wants to attract.

"There is a Mediterranean orchid called the '*ophys*' (*sic*) which looks so much like the a female wasp that the male wasps try to mate with it." he said.

"There is another type of orchid which wanted to be a butterfly and has acquired the same shape and red and yellow colors and a stem which is so strong and thin that from certain angles it appears invisible. When this flower is moved by the wind it has the same flight as the butterfly."

"How can a plant produce something so perfect without eyes? How can it imitate colors? If they don't smell, how can they produce the perfumes?"

"I've talked to botanists who are friends and they think I'm a bit crazy. I'm just telling them things that are there. I'm not saying that orchids get together at night and hold a dance in the clearing."

Born in Germany and raised in Norway, Blaumann came to Caracas in the late 1930's as a sale representative for several German firms. What started as a hobby soon became a business as Blaumann developed one of the largest orchid gardens in Venezuela, where 1000 of the world's 22,000 known varieties are found.

*The Arizona Republic, Thursday, July 12, 1973*

## A BIT OF HISTORY

“ There are times in the life of many societies (orchid or others), when a period of lethargic complacency may develop to a point where everything seems to remain at a status quo. Such was the position of the Orchid Society of Arizona a few months ago, until Mrs. Rebecca Northen informed the orchid world through the AOS Bulletin, of the plight of the Lankester Gardens in Costa Rica.

Thus it happened that at the July 1971 meeting of our society, Mrs. Alvin Swenson made a motion that we should make a contribution toward the fund. After some discussion it was decided that fifty dollars was all that our modest treasury could stand, and a check for that amount was forwarded to the American Orchid Society.

After this amount was decided upon, a second motion was made by Mrs. Elithe Boyd, that some sort of project be developed to bolster the original contribution. The motion passed and we were on the way. A Ways and Means Committee, headed by Mrs. Alvin Swenson, was formed to search out the most practical means of raising money. From a list of possibilities presented to the Society, a combination potluck-orchid display— plant sales idea was decided upon, and a date for the affair was set.

From this point on, things really started moving, with all members becoming involved. Two members were put in charge of the orchid display, others were put in charge of plant sales, dinner, etc. All members were asked to donate various seedling bedding plants and knick-knacks for the plant sales and all families were instructed as to what food to bring, other than turkey, ham and bar drinks, which the Society purchased.

The affair, which has held in the spacious patio of Dr. and Mrs. Alvin Swenson, on a beautiful cloudless Sunday afternoon, was an unqualified success. When all of the bills were in and paid for, a net profit of \$215.72 was raised for the Lankester Garden Fund; not an earth shaking donation, to be sure, but one which our small group is proud of.

But just as important as the money raised for this worthwhile cause, was the boost in morale for our Society. Everything went without a single hitch. Each member went about his or her tasks with complete good natured enthusiasm, irregardless of how menial they were. It is a lesson in total cooperation, with the end result of bringing everyone closer together, and the Society, as well as Lankester Gardens has benefited from it.”

*Clarence S. Lindsten  
The Arizona Orchidist Newsletter March 1987  
Originally published in 1971*

A bit more...

**Established**—The gardens were established by British orchid enthusiast Charles Lankester West in 1917. In 1973 his family donated the plants, and the American Orchid Society, and the Stanley Smith Foundation (U.K.) purchased the grounds and donated them to the University of Costa Rica to perpetuate for research, and the enjoyment of the public.

**Size**—26.5 acres (10.7 hectares, 1/30th the size of central park, NYC)

**Elevation**—4,498 feet (1,371 meters)

# OSA March 2006 Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Sara Heberling  Payson School Programs	2 Payson School Programs	3	4  Wilella Stimmell
5	6 <b>OSA MEETING</b> 7:00 PM	7	8  Benjamin Nelson Jr.	9	10	11 <b>Equestrian Special Olympics</b>
12  Chris Gubler	13	14	15  Tatiana Marcus	16	17 Happy Saint Patrick's Day	18
19	20	21	22  Mitchell Tackett	23  Sean Bacik	24	25
26	27	28  Julie Rathbun	29	30	31	



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