



The Arizona Orchidist

Published monthly by
The Orchid Society of Arizona, Inc.
Founding Editor- Clarence S. Lindsten

1966

Volume 43

March 2007 Number 3

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 5th**, 2007
at 7:00 P.M.

OSA meetings are open to all
plant enthusiasts

Refreshments will be provided.

This month Marleny Castillo will
provide liquid refreshment
Jim Lauck and Barbara Parnell
snacks

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

OSABOARD MEETING

There will be no board meeting
in March

GROWER ON CALL

Jim Johnson
Jim@nphs.us

March Program

Orchid Flora of the Yavita-Maroa Road in Southern Venezuela

Gustavo Romero's PowerPoint presentation will feature slides taken during his various expeditions to Venezuela.

"Gustavo A. Romero is originally from Venezuela, where he worked for the Council of Agricultural Research from 1981 to 1987. He was granted a Ph.D. degree from Indiana University in 1986 in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology. In 1988 he accepted an appointment from Harvard University to curate the Orchid Herbarium of Oakes Ames. In 1998 he was appointed Keeper of the Orchid Herbarium and Editor of Harvard Papers in Botany. He has published a multitude of scientific papers on Orchidaceae and lately has dedicated his research time to the orchid flora of the Yavita-Maroa road, an incredibly diverse area in southern Venezuela."

Editor's Note: OSA has donated funds to help defray the costs of several of Gustavo's 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. The last time that Gustavo spoke to OSA was in January, 2000. That was SEVERAL field trips ago!)

IN THIS ISSUE

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK	Julie Rathbun	Page 2
COMMUNITY SERVICE SCHEDULE	Wilella Stimmell	Page 3
FROM THE ARCHIVES 50 YEARS AGO	AOS Bulletin	Page 5



From the President's Desk

Julie Rathbun

On January 20, although the outside temperature was cold and rain clouds were overhead, the following OSA members volunteered their time during the Fred Rathbun Unique Horse Show: **Marleny Castillo, Barbara Parnell, Jennifer Schmitt, and Wilella Stimmell**. Marleny, Barbara, Jennifer, and I served as spotters walking alongside each rider. After the events, Wilella helped serve lunch to the riders, parents, and staff. **Thanks to everyone who helped.** I know that Fred would be pleased to know that OSA members have continued the tradition of helping each year with this special event sponsored by the City of Phoenix Parks and Recreation Department Adaptive Recreation Services, Phoenix Special Olympics Maricopa Area, and the Western Saddle Club. The program for the event acknowledged the donation of time by all of the volunteers, including OSA!

For those of you who missed our February 5 meeting, you missed the human equivalent of Punxsutawney Phil (the groundhog that according to folklore emerges from his burrow on Feb. 2 and if he sees his shadow, there will be 6 more weeks of winter). Charlie Baker joked that he rarely emerges from his "burrow" in Portland. But since the legendary groundhog did NOT see his shadow this year, Charlie and his traveling companion, Ida Burge, drove to Phoenix.

Charlie's slide program featured photos of his personal collection of Oncidium plants in flower. For each slide, he mentioned whether the plant was a cool, intermediate, or warm growing species. The verbal climate information can also be found in Charlie's 2006 publication, ORCHIDS SPECIES CULTURE: ONCIDIUM/ODONTOGLOSSUM ALLIANCE.

Thanks to Aaron Hicks and Wilella Stimmell for entertaining our speaker. Charlie and Ida appreciated meeting our members, and they mentioned several times that "**community service programs are what orchid societies should be doing**". They were very impressed with our community service record that contains details of every program presented since April, 1995! They also enjoyed seeing the photos of the school programs that we presented in 2006 and the tri-fold display of the drawings of flora and fauna by Hopi student interns – the scholarship fund for student interns was donated by OSA.

Our February meeting was the first time since last Fall that we had seen Sarah Heberling. Welcome back, Sarah!

During the February meeting, Barbara Parnell passed around the sign-up sheet for refreshments. Unfortunately, few members signed the sheet. It will be necessary for Barbara to pass around the sheet at our March 5th meeting because there are still quite a few blank spaces on the sheet! More members enjoy refreshments brought **by others** than there are names written on the sign-up sheet. It should not be necessary for one member to bring refreshments for more than one meeting. If YOU enjoy refreshments, it's only fair for YOU to take your turn. The alternative is for the blank spaces to remain blank, and for a meeting where no members have signed up to bring refreshments, there will be NO refreshments. Would you like to attend a meeting where there was no food or drink??

We are anxiously awaiting the arrival of our March 5th speaker, Dr. Gustavo Romero. I will serve as his hostess and introduce him to my domesticated animals – those that he doesn't see in Boston OR during his expeditions to Venezuela.

See you on March 5!

Julie

COMMUNITY SERVICE SCHEDULE

Wilella Stimmell, CSP Coordinator

On February 10, at 10 AM, **FRANK BOPP, MARLENY CASTILLO, JIM LAUCK, BOB MACLEOD, LOU ANN REMEIKIS**, and I presented a hands-on repotting program at the **NORTHWEST REGIONAL LIBRARY**, 16089 N. Bullard Ave., in Surprise, AZ. Jennifer Kuki, the NRL Programming Librarian, requested an intergenerational (children, parents, and grandparents) program, and her mother was one of the participants!

In the spacious, lake side area of the library, we set up a colorful display of our blooming plants. A few of our plants were fragrant, and even the non-fragrant plants were admired by the participants. For those of you who know that paphs are NOT my favorite orchids, you might be amused to know that one of my display plants was a Paph delenatii. (I bought several out-of-bloom paphs to donate to OSA. Who knew that one of them would actually bloom for me? And two more are in bud! Once a week I throw a little water their way, but other than that, I completely ignore them.)

The tables on which we placed the phal seedlings and potting supplies were close to the display table. Jennifer also placed the library's orchid books close to comfortable chairs, and while participants were waiting for the program to begin, they perused the reference books. Thanks to OSA member, Bob Gordon, the library now also has a copy of THE CULTURE OF THE PHALAENOPSIS ORCHID.

A few adults had neglected to register for the program, so while they did not repot a phal seedling, they sat on the sidelines and took notes about orchid culture.

Before the start of the program, one 4th grade student who was admiring the display plants asked several questions that revealed her obvious interest in orchids!

Everyone seemed to enjoy our program which always makes us feel that our efforts were truly appreciated.

As we packed up our display plants, Bob MacLeod couldn't find his huge cattleya. I hadn't realized that Bob had brought a display plant, and I loaded it into one of Julie's crates. (Julie was unable to actively participate in the program at the library, but she sent TWO crates of display plants.) Bob located his plant and placed it on the front **passenger** seat of his vehicle. Obviously he wasn't going to "lose" his plant a second time!

We have dates available for hands-on repotting program in April, May, and June. If you know of a teacher or librarian interested in our repotting programs, pass the word to him/her. We need a month's notice so that we can order the seedlings and find out which program team members will be available on any given date. We operate on a first come-first serve basis. So he/she who is first to request a program has the most dates from which to select a day for one or more programs.

FEBRUARY RAFFLE TABLE DONORS

The family of Ken Gettys, Jim Lauck, Bob MacLeod, OSA,
Santa Barbara International Orchid Show Committee
Cynthia Schnitzer and Wilella Stimmell

**2007 HAWAII
SHOW SCHEDULE AND MEETING INFORMATION**

Wilbur Chang has sent us a copy of the 2007 Hawaii show schedule. Each year Wilbur sends the schedule to us and hopes that if our members' travel plans include a trip to Hawaii, they might want to attend an orchid show or orchid society meeting on Oahu and/or neighbor islands.

Mahalo, Wilbur! Copies of the schedule will be available on our raffle ticket sales' table.

**19th World Orchid Conference
January 23rd – 27th, 2008:**

We have received registration forms for the 19th World Orchid Conference that will be held in Miami next year. Copies of the registration form will be available on our raffle ticket sales' table. For those who prefer to register online, visit www.19woc.com Prior to June 30, 2007, the registration fee is \$250.00. Registration received on July 1, 2007 or later will cost \$300.00.

EDITOR'S BOX

How Fortunate We Are

Back to back monthly programs presented by two internationally known members of the orchid community. Charles Baker in February and Gustavo Romero in March. Not many orchid societies have the opportunity to hear such speakers. OSA helps support Gustavo's expeditions. Let's have a great turnout to hear about his adventures (I can't wait)!

I would be interested to learn how many of our members are considering attending the WOC in Miami, January 2008. There are "package" deals available. Check out the website for a list of speakers and activities. Send me an email if you are thinking about going.

Not too Late

**Santa Barbara International Orchid Show
Friday, March 16 - Sunday, March 18, 2007**

One of the world's most prestigious orchid shows takes place here each spring, at Earl Warren Showgrounds. More than 70 commercial and amateur growers from the United States and around the world display thousands of their most perfect orchids. See the show and visit the nursery, right at the peak of Cymbidium season. This year will be Santa Barbara Orchid Estate's 50th anniversary .

The *Arizona Orchidist* is published monthly by the 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 2006

President	(602) 843-0223
Julie Rathbun	jandfent@aol.com
First Vice President	(480) 722-9328
Aaron Hicks	ahicks51@cox.net
In House Program Chairman	
Second Vice President	(480) 785-2251
Joe Bacik	bacikj@cox.net
Outside Speaker Program Chairman	
Secretary	(480) 948-0714
Barbara Parnell	birdie55202@yahoo.com
Treasurer	(480) 947-8479
Wilella Stimmell	willellas@worldnet.att.net
Librarian	(602) 803-6889
Lou Ann Remeikis	remeikis@dancris.com
Editor	(505) 898-0975
Keith Mead	kjkm@comcast.net
Trustees	
Jim Lauck	(623) 742-6574
	jim_golf_phx@yahoo.com
Bob MacLeod	(623) 935-4059
Marleny Castillo	(602) 441-4050
	corinc@hotmail.com
Mary Gannon	(623) 878-4173
	mggaz@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 Orchid Digest Corporation, the Arizona Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. The Nature Conservancy.

From the Archives

50 years ago

“*Oncidium pusillum* and Its Allies”

by Calaway Dodson

published in the AOS Bulletin, vol. 26 no. 3, March 1957, pp170-172

“In recent times an increasing interest in *Oncidium*s has become apparent. Numerous species, formerly unavailable, have recently been imported and are now available at moderate cost from several firms. Part of the interest in the group might be attributed to their abundant production of pleasingly colored flowers which are an invaluable addition to any collection. Though *Oncidium*s vary considerably in their cultural requirements, adequate consideration of their natural environment will enable the enthusiast to have considerable success in their cultivation.

Perhaps one of the contributing factors to the increasing interest in *Oncidium*s may be the extremes of variation within the genus. At one extreme we have the fleshy-leaved group with inconspicuous pseudobulbs such as *Oncidium cavendishianum* Batem. and the terete-leaved group with *Onc. longifolium* Lindl. (*O. cebolleta* [Jacq.] Swartz). At the other extreme are the thin-leaved species with large conspicuous pseudobulbs such as *Onc. varicosum* Lindl. Flowers may vary from large (6 in.) to small (1/4 in.), pink through yellow to brown, and from those with 100 flowers per spike to others which produce but a single flower.

Of the more unusual *Oncidium*s to have been imported recently is *Onc. pusillum* (L.) Reichb. This species is one of the smallest in the genus, being little more than three inches tall when mature. Small though it is, the plant produces flowers which are large in proportion. The flowers are roughly the size of a quarter and of a very attractive yellow and brown color combination.

This attractive *Oncidium* is distributed from Mexico, through the Caribbean, throughout Central America and northern South America. It is commonly found in colonies growing usually in full sun on the slender dead twigs of trees and shrubs. As a result the plants are often quite yellow and sunburnt.

Oncidium pusillum was one of the first orchids to be brought into Europe and it was named *Epidendrum pusillum* in 1763 by Linnaeus, who placed all epiphytic orchids known to him in that genus. The genus *Oncidium* was founded in 1800 by Swartz who based it on some five species known to him at that time. ...

This species is allied to *Onc. gnomus* Kranzl., *Onc. titania* Schltr., *Onc. glossomystax* Reichb. and *Onc. pumilio* Reichb., the five species forming a morphologically similar group. In plant form all are indistinguishable except for size: *Onc. titania* and *Onc. gnomus* being hardly more than one inch tall. The species are distinguished largely by the size of the flowers and the form of the callus at the base of the lip. All species within this group have ensiform, equitant leaves in which new leaves are produced from the center of the plant to form a fan-shape in which no pseudobulbs are evident. The flower spike is produced in the axil of each succeeding leaf. The flowers are produced singly and in succession at the end of the stem and at intervals of several weeks throughout the year.

...

Oncidium pusillum is not a difficult species to cultivate if grown on a small piece of tree fern or in a small pot with a compost of fir bark. Its main requirements are adequate water and a great amount of light. It will do well in the intermediate house near the glass and will flower throughout the year. The species does not appear to last many years in cultivation but does grow rapidly from seed apparently maturing in as little as two years.”

Editor's Note: Since this article was written *Onc. pusillum* has been placed in the genus *Psychmorchis*. In Charles Baker's 2006 publication, *ORCHID SPECIES CULTURE: ONCIDIUM/ODONTOGLOSSUM ALLIANCE*, on page 715, you will find further cultural recommendations for growing this species, which is now known as *Psychmorchis pusilla*. You will also find a greatly enlarged photo of the plant and its flowers on the Internet Orchid Species Photo Encyclopedia at www.orchidspecies.com/psychpusilla.htm

OSA March 2007 Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1  Sara Heberling	2	3
4  Wilella Stimmell	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12  Chris Gubler	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23  Sean Bacik	24
25	26	27	28  Julie Rathbun			



Orchid Society of Arizona
 c/o Keith Mead
 5425 Thomas Drive NE
 Albuquerque, NM 87111

March 2007 Newsletter