



The Arizona Orchidist

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NEXT OSA MEETING

The next regular society meeting
will be **Monday, March 1st** at 7:00 P.M.

Meetings are held at the

Training Center

at the

**Arizona State Veteran Home
4141 N. S. Herrera Way, Phoenix.**

OSA meetings are open to all
plant enthusiasts

Refreshments will be provided

Beverages by **Ann Cherny**

Snacks by

Kathleen Luther

Lou Ann Remeikis

Refreshment Coordinators:

Barbara Parnell (480) 948-0714

Lou Ann Remeikis (602) 803-6889

Jo Anne Waddoups

480-654-9883

Board Meeting

March 28th

1 PM at the home of

of Barbara and Harry Parnell

Grower on Call

Wilella Stimmell

wilellas@att.net

March Program

HANDS-ON REPOTTING OF PAPH HYBRID SEEDLINGS FROM COMPOTS

OSA's 1st VP, Aaron Hicks, has graciously agreed to preside over the repotting program. Members do NOT need to bring anything to the meeting except themselves. This is your chance to receive a **free** paph seedling, but only if you attend our March 1 meeting and exert a minimal amount of effort.

A photo, courtesy of Mike Sielaff (Rainbow Bay Orchids), of the paph hybrid is shown below. Expect similar dark vini-colored flowers from these mottled-leaf seedlings.



IN THIS ISSUE

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK
IN MEMORIAM
GROWING ORCHIDS IN POTS
WITHOUT MEDIA

Julie Rathbun
Wilella Stimmell

Page 2
Page 3

Bob MacLeod

Page 4



From the President's Desk

Julie Rathbun

It is with sadness that I share with you the news about the death of longtime OSA member, Janet Jurn. For many years, she was one of our most loyal worker bees. Our newer members wouldn't have known Janet because in the past couple of years, her health prevented her from attending meetings. But she always read our newsletters and was eager to hear about our activities.

On a happier note, our February speaker, Brenda Oviatt, and her 8 year-old son, Tristan, really enjoyed their stay in Phoenix. It was Tristan's first time on an airplane, and the first time he and his mother saw cacti growing in the Southwest. Another first for Tristan was that he rode a horse – my horse.

Attendance at our February meeting was excellent, and we were pleased to welcome Mike Sielaff (Rainbow Bay Orchid) as a visitor. Mike and his wife had driven from their home in Waldport, Oregon, to the Mineral Show in Tucson. Mike drove from Tucson to attend our meeting.

We were also pleased to welcome back **Sarah Heberling**, mother of Lou Ann Remeikis. We wish that Sarah spent more time in AZ than in IL because when she's here, she's a true worker bee!

Everyone who attended the meeting enjoyed Brenda's presentation about Angraecoid Orchids. Her Power-Point program contained excellent cultural information about a variety of species within the genus. The most important growing tip was surely the one about the plants needing a dormancy, drier period.

Our table of refreshments featured a **full course meal**, thanks to **Jo Anne Waddoups!** **Barbara Parnell** is the Chair of our Refreshments committee. **Jo Anne** has agreed to serve on the committee, along with **Lou Ann Remeikis**. Thanks ladies, for your willingness to help!

During the meeting, Barbara passed around the signup sheet for refreshments. She'll pass it around again at the March meeting. If anyone hasn't taken a turn signing up for refreshments, please do so. If you enjoy snacks and beverages brought by others, then it's only fair that you take your turn.

At our March 1 meeting, I will pass around the work signup sheet for the Southwest Flower and Garden Show that will be held on March 5, 6, and 7 (with set up of our booth on March 4) at the University of Phoenix Stadium. Last year, our participation in this event was very successful.

Also at our March meeting, I will mention the need for volunteers to help on Saturday, March 13, with the Fred Rathbun Equestrian Special Olympics. I would consider it a personal favor if more OSA members helped with this event. It might be the last one because, due to lack of funds, the City of Phoenix does not intend to sponsor the event in 2011.

In case you missed the change of address for the Arizona State Veteran Home: from Indian School where you turn North to proceed to the home, the street sign has been changed to **Herrera Way**. (Our liability insurance carrier has been notified of the change in the name of the street.)

Another reminder: we will NOT hold a July and a September meeting because of holidays. Our newsletters for those two months will be combined issues: a June/July issue and an August/September issue.

Our March board meeting will be held on March 28 at 1 PM at the home of Barbara and Harry Parnell.

See you on March 1!

Julie

IN MEMORIAM

This issue of *The Arizona Orchidist* is dedicated in loving memory of Janet Jurn who passed away at her home in Buckeye, on February 4th, 2010.

For 22 years, Janet had been a devoted member of OSA. The first year that I was President of OSA, Janet phoned me and volunteered to be in charge of refreshments at our meetings. I remember that when she first offered her service, she said that because she lived so far away and couldn't participate in many of our activities, she could at least feel that she was contributing to the welfare of OSA by being in charge of refreshments. She was the sole member of the Refreshments "Committee" for 10 years, and even when she wasn't feeling well, she did a superb job for us.

Janet would not want to be remembered with sadness, but rather for her love of orchids and her constant struggle to keep her plants happy. She had an on-going problem with the water in Buckeye, and even with a reverse osmosis system, some of her orchids could not survive. It was necessary for her son to often change filters in the reverse osmosis system. Poor water quality was Janet's biggest source of frustration in caring for her orchids.

Janet's daughter, Carol, notified us of her mother's death. The visitation was held on Tuesday evening, February 9th at Ganley's Buckeye Funeral Home, 104 E. Baseline Rd., in Buckeye. To show our respect for Janet and her family, several OSA members attended the visitation.

If any members wish to send sympathy cards to the Family of Janet Jurn, use Janet's mailing address as listed in the 2009 roster. All mail will be forwarded to her son, Darol.

Wilella Stimmell

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www.orchidsocietyaz.org

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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.

GROWING ORCHIDS IN POTS WITHOUT MEDIA

By Bob MacLeod

If you dislike repotting or don't know when to repot an orchid, you might be interested in my experiment: placing orchids in pots with NO media.

For me, this started from a disaster: a dendrobium was knocked from a shelf, and a pseudobulb broke off. I placed the broken plant piece in a 5" clay pot that was resting in a plastic tray with about ½ inch of water in the tray. Over the course of time, roots developed, and then another pseudobulb developed, and the new growth eventually flowered. This plant has bloomed twice since the disaster, and the pot is full of roots. There is NO medium in the pot.

Encouraged by my success with the dendrobium, I decided to try my "no medium" experiment with Cattleya hybrids. I have three Blc. plants, two Potinara plants, and an Lc. plant growing in pots with no medium. All have bloomed at least once except for the Lc. That plant was placed in its pot just two months ago, but it is now showing a two inch root and the beginning of a new growth.

Tips for duplicating my experiment:

1. Use new clay pots and trays that are at least 1 ½ inches deep and 3-4 inches greater in diameter than the pot. (You can use recycled trays that once held food or, if you are not a pack rat and don't save containers, purchase trays at supermarkets, etc. – wherever plants are sold.
2. **Watering:** Use RO water, rain water, or distilled water. DO NOT use tap water because the salts in the water will eventually clog the pores of the pot and build up to possibly toxic levels on the surface of the pot.
3. Pour the water over the roots and the pot until there is ½ to ¾ inch of water in the tray.
4. Allow the tray to become nearly dry before re-watering.
5. **Fertilizing:** I use any fertilizer that is usually recommended for orchids and the smallest amount that is mentioned on the container's label. I supplement this with foliar feeding...when I remember to do it. My plants are fertilized each time I water my orchids,
6. **Light requirements** for plants being grown in pots with no media are the same as they are for plants being grown in media.
7. **Humidity:** My growing area varies between 45 and 90 % humidity, but I believe that the water in the tray and that which is evaporated by the clay pot would be sufficient. You might want to increase humidity by placing the plastic tray itself on a larger humidity tray.

If you want to experiment with this growing method, DO NOT try it with a cherished plant. Remember Murphy's Law: If anything can go wrong, it will!

I have used this method only on epiphytic orchids. My next experiment will be with one or more phalaenopsis keikis.

What happens when the plants grow too large for their pots? I'll face that problem when it happens. I'll probably break the original pot, divide the plant, and start over. Or...I'll give the overgrown plant to someone else and let him or her solve the problem.

Good luck! Keep records! Share your experiences with your fellow growers!

Bob's Potinara Haw Yuan Gold



February Raffle Donors

Bob MacLeod, Wilella Stimmell,
and non-members Craig Pearson and Mike Sielaff

THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT

OSA March 2010 Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 <i>OSA Meeting 7:00 PM</i> <i>Sara Heberling's Birthday</i>	2	3	4 <i>Wilella Stimmell's Birthday !</i> <i>Flower Show Set up</i>	5 <i>Flower Show</i>	6 <i>Flower Show</i>
7 <i>Flower Show</i>	8	9	10	11	12 <i>Chris Gubler's Birthday</i>	13 <i>Equestrian Special Olympics</i>
14	15	16	17 	18	19	20
21	22	23 <i>Sean Bacik's Birthday</i>	24	25	26	27
28 <i>Julie Rathbun's Birthday</i>	29	30	31			



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March 2010 Newsletter