



The Arizona Orchidist

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NEXT OSA MEETING

The next regular society meeting will be

Monday, March 7th 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 Debra Hartill

Snacks by Sarah Heberling

and 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 27 at 1:00 PM

at the home of Julie Rathbun

**Grower on Call
Keith Mead**

kjkm@comcast.net

MARCH PROGRAM

Orchid Pests & Diseases

The March program will focus on the various pests and diseases that can, and will at some point, affect your orchid collection – or other plants you may enjoy. There are some members who have extensive experience with some of these issues. I hope this will be an interactive meeting as other members (you?) may have home remedies or informational tidbits that will help others with these issues.

Along with learning about pests and diseases, we'll discuss various ways to eliminate problems as they arise. Visual inspection is the first key step, and we'll provide information on where to go from there.

Feel free to bring in a plant you suspect is having "issues" and we'll help determine what your problem is, and offer suggestions on what to do to salvage your orchid plant. If you do bring in an orchid plant, please do your best to keep its distance from all other plants at the meeting. No one will want their plants exposed to your problem, and you won't want your plant exposed to someone else's.

While they last, there will be books available for sale addressing Orchid Pests and Diseases.

I hope to see as many members as possible at the March meeting!

Lou Ann Remeikis

Welcome new OSA Member: MEGAN STUFF

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Julie Rathbun

At our February 7 meeting, Dr. John Alcock, Regents' Professor Emeritus of Biology at Arizona State University, presented a very interesting PowerPoint program filled with colorful photos of the Terrestrial Orchids of Western Australia. This was John's third presentation for us, but it was the first time that he carried his program in his pocket – on a "thumb drive" that plugged into the USB port in the Training Center's computer.

Although for this presentation, John didn't include photos of the Australian terrain where he photographs the bizarre shaped orchid flowers and their pollinators, he promised that the next time he presented a program for us, he would include photos of the area. If memory serves, in 2002, John's slide program included photos of the landscape which looked a lot like the desolate, low desert areas of Arizona.

Attendance for our February meeting was excellent, and everyone enjoyed John's program. For those who had copies of John's 2005 book, AN ENTHUSIASM FOR ORCHIDS, he autographed their books. There was one copy on our raffle table, and I was the lucky winner!

During our meeting, I reminded members that 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.

I also started a new policy of reminding members who signed up to bring refreshments for the following month's meeting. Sometimes members forget which month they signed up to bring refreshments, and since we know that some members don't read their newsletters in a timely manner, by announcing the names of next month's refreshment volunteers, I hope that my verbal reminder will be helpful.

At our February meeting, I didn't pass around a worker sign-up sheet for the **Southwest Flower Show**. So I'm counting on our dependable workers (and new members, too!) to appear at the University of Phoenix Stadium on **March 4, 5, and 6** to help in our booth. Even if the only time a member has available is a small window of opportunity to help us, it will give those of us who are there every day, all day, breaks for lunch and visits to the indoor plumbing facility. Feel free to phone me and let me know if/when you are available. And if you absolutely have no time to help us, at least will you please **save boxes** (large, medium, and/or small) **for sale plants**? Starting when you receive your March newsletter, at your convenience, you can drop off boxes at my home or at another board member's home that is closer to you.

Show hours are: Friday and Saturday 10 am – 6 pm, and Sunday 10 am – 5pm, but our workers need to appear earlier than the time that the show opens to the public. **This is our first major source of income for this year, and your participation is needed!**

To register for a ½ off discount pass, visit <http://maricopacountyhomeshows.com/passes.htm> Click on Pass to register for a ½ off discount ticket.

(Discount tickets do NOT apply to our workers. We don't pay to work!) Admission ticket prices are: \$5.00 for adults; \$2.00 for children 3-12; and free for 2 and under. A discount pass doesn't represent a lot of money, but in this economy, every little bit of savings is helpful.

Our March meeting will be held the day AFTER the Flower Show. Lou Ann Remeikis has graciously volunteered to present an in-house program on orchid pests and diseases.

Saturday, March 12, is the date of the **Fred Rathbun Horse Show** (formerly known as the Equestrian Special Olympics. Each year, Some of our members help with this event. At our March 7 meeting, I will mention details when to appear at the Western Saddle Club Arena on N. 7th St.

See you at the Flower Show!!

Julie

**“DESERT SPLENDOR”
FUNDRAISER 50/50 RAFFLE**

2011 National Garden Clubs (NGC) PACIFIC REGIONAL CONVENTION will be hosted by the Arizona Federation of Garden Clubs. OSA members know that we are affiliated with AFGC, but what you might not know is that AFGC is part of the Pacific Region of the National Garden Clubs. The Pacific Region consists of **8 states**: Alaska, Arizona, California, Hawaii, Idaho, Oregon, and Washington. All states in the Pacific Region take turns hosting the Pacific Region Convention. This is Arizona’s year to serve as the host.

The dates for the Pacific Region Convention are April 14, 15, and 16. AFGC’s annual convention will be held on April 17 at the same location: Hilton Scottsdale Resort and Villas, 6333 N. Scottsdale Road, Scottsdale.

One way that AFGC hopes to pay for the Pacific Region Convention is to sell 50/50 raffle tickets to garden club members in the 8 states that comprise the Pacific Region. (One year, a lucky Arizona winner won \$1000.00!) **Tickets will be for sale at our March 7 meeting. Price: six (6) tickets for \$5.00.** If you want to purchase tickets at our March 7 meeting, please bring cash or a check payable to me. In turn, I will send one personal check to AFGC for all tickets that we sell. The winner need not be present to receive one-half of the proceeds from all raffle tickets sold. The more tickets that are sold – the higher the value of the prize. The drawing of the winner of the 50/50 raffle will be held at the banquet on April 16.

I’m very sorry for the short notice, but until our January 23rd Board Meeting, I didn’t note the deadline for submitting money for the raffle tickets. **The deadline is March 15.** (Julie had given me the packet of information in plenty of time to notice the deadline for the 50/50 raffle ticket sales, but...I took care of OSA business before I opened the convention packet.)

You might also like to know that OSA will be providing 14 centerpieces for the Pacific Region banquet on April 15. Our centerpieces will be very creative and will emphasize recycling. Not all details of our centerpieces are known at this time, but what I can tell you is that Bob MacLeod has already purchased the basic component of our design. Our centerpieces will be unlike any other centerpieces at convention!

W. Stimmell

February Raffle Donors

Bob MacLeod, Julie Rathbun, Lou Ann Remeikis,
Mike Sielaff, Wilella Stimmell,
and the family of August Lorenzini

THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT

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Direct Inquiries to our website at:
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Or to any of the Board Officers or Trustees:

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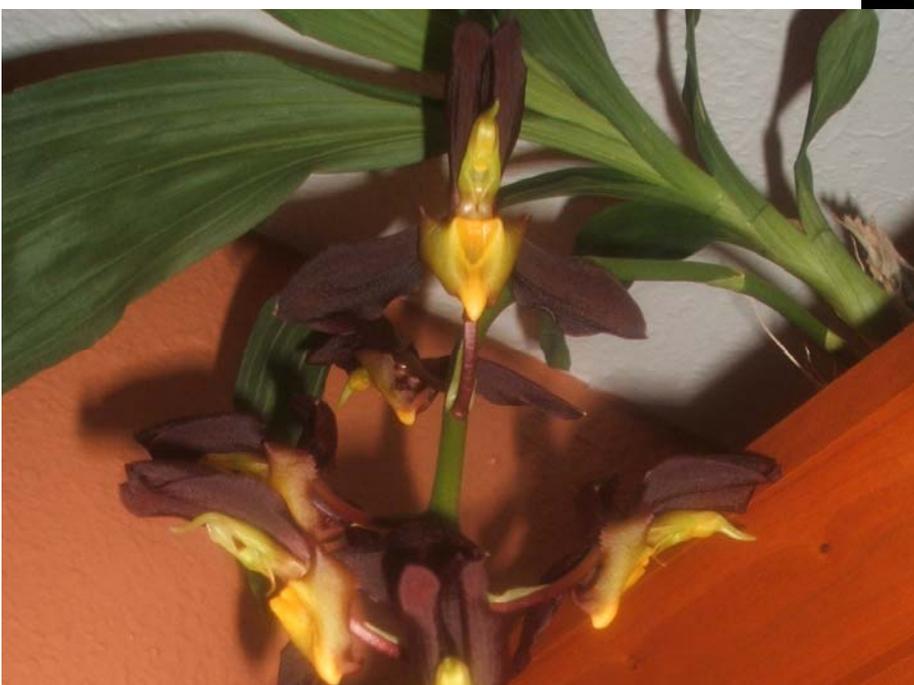
President	(602) 843-0223
Julie Rathbun	jandfent@aol.com
First Vice President	(623) 810-3967
Bob Macleod	
In House Program Chairman	
Second Vice President	(480) 785-2251
Joe Bacik	bacikj@cox.net
Outside Speaker Program Chairman	
Secretary	(480) 948-0714
Barbara Parnell	birdie552002@yahoo.com
Treasurer	(480) 947-8479
Wilella Stimmell	willellas@att.net
Librarian	(602) 803-6889
Lou Ann Remeikis	remeikis@andiamo-tel.com
Editor	(505) 898-0975
Keith Mead	kjkm@comcast.net
Trustees	
Carol Erwin	(602) 996-1696 nerwin2@cox.net
Chris Gubler	(760) 364-2282 Chris@gublers.com
Debra Hartill	(602) 404-0302 dhartill@hotmail.com
Diane Norman	623) 692-7422 dlnorman31300@yahoo.com

. 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 Arizona Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. , and The Nature Conservancy.

Orchid of the Month

Each month *The Arizona Orchidist* will feature a color photo of a member's favorite orchid.

Just send your photos to the editor at kjkm@comcast.net with a short description of the plant, the photographer, and some cultural information. Watch each month for a new and different treasure to appear on these pages! Will yours be next?



Catasetum (Ctsm.) Ten Dragons
Ctsm.tenebrosum 'Ed #3 x
Ctsm. Dragon Teeth 'SVO'
AM/AOS

From Fred Clarke
at Sunset Valley Orchids

Grown By Keith Mead
Photos by Keith Mead and Karl Siegler

Catasetum, is a genus of the Orchid family (Orchidaceae), subfamily Epidendroideae, tribe Cymbidieae, subtribe Catasetinae, with 166 species. Species of the genus *Catasetum* occur from Mexico to tropical America, with the majority in Brazil.

They have thick, cigar-shaped pseudobulbs which are clustered. The leaves are pleated in the upper part and deciduous. The pseudobulbs become spiny after the leaves have dropped. The inflorescence is borne on the basis. It consists of very fleshy flowers that are unisexual, which is exceptional for orchids. The colorful male and yellowish-green female flowers are typically situated on different plants. Which type of flower a plant produces is determined by the conditions under which it grows. There are rare cases in which a single plant in intermediate conditions will produce both male and female flowers. These flowers are markedly different in size and color. At first, taxonomists even thought they were dealing with different species.

The male flowers have a remarkable technique for the ejection of the polinia. Sack-Shaped *Catasetum* (*Catasetum saccatum*), a tropical South American species, discussed briefly by Darwin, actually launches its viscid pollen sacs with explosive force, when an insect touches a seta.

Catasetum are quite adaptable and grow well in a number of cultural conditions suitable for *Paphiopedilum*, *Phalaenopsis*, *Cattleya*, and *Vanda*. The most important factor is respecting their need for winter dormancy. In the late fall and early winter mature leaves will start to yellow and drop off, at these first signs begin to reduce your watering. By mid/late December most leaves should be yellow or have fallen off. At this point watering should be limited to once a month and only in the morning of a sunny day. Some shriveling of the bulbs is expected. Once the new growth has started to develop in the spring and new roots are 3-4" long resume the regular watering practice.

Two Severe Amazon Droughts in Five Years Alarms Scientists

ScienceDaily (Feb. 3, 2011) — New research shows that the 2010 Amazon drought may have been even more devastating to the region's rainforests than the unusual 2005 drought, which was previously billed as a one-in-100 year event.

Analyses of rainfall across 5.3 million square kilometres of Amazonia during the 2010 dry season, recently published in *Science*, shows that the drought was more widespread and severe than in 2005. The UK-Brazilian team also calculate that the carbon impact of the 2010 drought may eventually exceed the 5 billion tonnes of CO₂ released following the 2005 event, as severe droughts kill rainforest trees. For context, the United States emitted 5.4 billion tonnes of CO₂ from fossil fuel use in 2009.

The authors suggest that if extreme droughts like these become more frequent, the days of the Amazon rainforest acting as a natural buffer to man-made carbon emissions may be numbered.

Lead author Dr Simon Lewis, from the University of Leeds, said: "Having two events of this magnitude in such close succession is extremely unusual, but is unfortunately consistent with those climate models that project a grim future for Amazonia."

The Amazon rainforest covers an area approximately 25 times the size of the UK. University of Leeds scientists have previously shown that in a normal year intact forests absorb approximately 1.5 billion tonnes of CO₂ (1). This counter-balances the emissions from deforestation, logging and fire across the Amazon and has helped slow down climate change in recent decades.

In 2005, the region was struck by a rare drought which killed trees within the rainforest. On the ground monitoring showed that these forests stopped absorbing CO₂ from the atmosphere, and as the dead trees rotted they released CO₂ to the atmosphere.

The unusual drought, affecting south-western Amazonia, was described by scientists at the time as a 'one-in-100-year event' (2), but just five years later the region was struck by a similar extreme drought that caused the Rio Negro tributary of the Amazon river to fall to its lowest level on record.

The new research, co-led by Dr Lewis and Brazilian scientist Dr Paulo Brando, used the known relationship between drought intensity in 2005 and tree deaths to estimate the impact of the 2010 drought.

They predict that Amazon forests will not absorb their usual 1.5 billion tonnes of CO₂ from the atmosphere in both 2010 and 2011, and that a further 5 billion tonnes of CO₂ will be released to the atmosphere over the coming years once the trees that are killed by the new drought rot.

Dr Brando, from Brazil's Amazon Environmental Research Institute (IPAM), said "We will not know exactly how many trees were killed until we can complete forest measurements on the ground.

"It could be that many of the drought susceptible trees were killed off in 2005, which would reduce the number killed last year. On the other hand, the first drought may have weakened a large number of trees so increasing the number dying in the 2010 dry season.

"Our results should be seen as an initial estimate. The emissions estimates do not include those from forest fires, which spread over extensive areas of the Amazon during hot and dry years. These fires release large amounts of carbon to the atmosphere."

Some global climate models suggest that Amazon droughts like these will become more frequent in future as a result of greenhouse gas emissions.

Dr Lewis added: "Two unusual and extreme droughts occurring within a decade may largely offset the carbon absorbed by intact Amazon forests during that time. If events like this happen more often, the Amazon rainforest would reach a point where it shifts from being a valuable carbon sink slowing climate change, to a major source of greenhouse gasses that could speed it up.

"Considerable uncertainty remains surrounding the impacts of climate change on the Amazon. This new research adds to a body of evidence suggesting that severe droughts will become more frequent leading to important consequences for Amazonian forests. If greenhouse gas emissions contribute to Amazon droughts that in turn cause forests to release carbon, this feedback loop would be extremely concerning. Put more starkly, current emissions pathways risk playing Russian roulette with the world's largest rainforest."

The research was a collaboration between the Universities of Leeds, Sheffield and the Instituto de Pesquisa Ambiental da Amazonia (IPAM) in Brazil. The work was funded by the Royal Society, Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation and the US National Science Foundation.

Story Source:

The above story is reprinted (with editorial adaptations by ScienceDaily staff) from materials provided by University of Leeds, via EurekAlert!, a service of AAAS.

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OSA March 2011 Calendar

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



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

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