



The Arizona Orchidist

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March 2013

NEXT OSA MEETING

The next regular society meeting will be

Monday, March 4th at 7:00 P.M.

Meetings are held at the

Training Center

at the

Arizona State Veteran Home

4141 S. Herrera Way, Phoenix.

(Formerly North 3rd Street)

OSA meetings are open to all
plant enthusiasts

Refreshments will be provided

Beverage – Debra Hartill

Snacks – Dean Toms

and Terri Jackson

Refreshment Coordinators:

Barbara Parnell (480) 948-0714

Lou Ann Remeikis (602) 803-6889

Jo Anne Waddoups

480-654-9883

Board Meeting:

March 24th at 1 PM

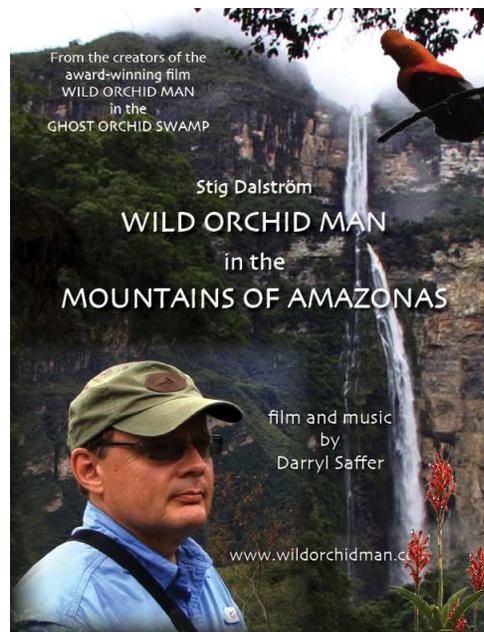
at the home of Julie Rathbun

Grower on Call:

Bob MacLeod (623) 810-3967

MARCH PROGRAM

Stig Dalstrom, the Wild Orchid Man in the Mountains of Amazonas (Peru) DVD



“The Mountains Of Amazonas are the birthplace of the mighty Amazon River and the legendary rainforest that fills its basin. Here in the Peruvian Andes, Stig Dalström, the Wild Orchid Man, searches for rare and unknown orchids. In his quest, he discovers the mysteries of this region: ancient ruins left by unknown people, one of the world's tallest waterfalls – unknown outside of the local village until 2005 and, of course, exquisite new orchids. The viewer travels with Stig and filmmaker Darryl Saffer as they explore jungles and deserts, meet the strange creatures that inhabit this remote region, and uncover the great threats to this

unique ecosystem. In spite of floods, landslides, giant spiders and a host of biting insects and hostile plants, The Wild Orchid Man valiantly maintains his composure to take the audience on an enlightening, educational and entertaining journey.” Darryl Saffer

Editor's Note: In Oct., 2009, we showed Stig's first DVD: the Hunt for the Ghost Orchid. This is his second DVD. Last summer he wrote his autobiography, but unfortunately for us, it's written in his native language, Swedish. A rough translation of the title is: ORCHIDS WORTH THE EFFORT. In April, he is returning to Bhutan. He has already found and photographed several orchids in Bhutan that might be new to science. We hope that his third DVD will feature his adventures in Bhutan.

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From the President's Desk

Julie Rathbun

Our February meeting was a first: it was the first time that we couldn't get the equipment in the Training Center to work so that we could hear the sound on the CD, Australian Orchid Conservation. We always have a back-up for just such an occurrence, and we were able to use a laptop for a portion of the CD, but when the battery failed in the laptop, we went back to using the equipment in the Training Center. We just didn't have sound to accompany the slide show. In our society, the majority rules. We decided that we didn't want to watch anymore of the CD. So we spent the remainder of the meeting visiting with our guests and our **three new members!** (We mentioned one of them in our February newsletter, and the other two will be listed in this newsletter.) **Thanks to our members and guests for being tolerant about the problems we had with showing the CD!**

During the meeting, Barbara Parnell passed around a sign-up sheet for workers in **our booth at the March 1-3 Home and Garden Show at the University of Phoenix Stadium. Thanks, Barbara,** for preparing the sheet. It looks like all shifts are covered, and some of our new members have signed the work sheet! But for anyone who didn't know their schedule when the sheet was passed around, or who wasn't able to attend our February meeting, we can always use your help! I'm only a phone call away, but I won't be able to check my e-mail or phone messages until the evenings (remember that I'm working during days at the Arabian Horse Show and am not near my computer or home phone). Keep in mind that neither Wilella nor I will be available via phone or e-mail on February 26. Early in the morning on the 26th, we will leave Phoenix. We will be going to Gubler Orchids' greenhouses in Lucerne and Landers, where we will hand-select plants for sale in our booth.

While I'm away from home, if you have a pressing question about the Home and Garden Show, contact Barbara Parnell or...Bob MacLeod. Bob is the Grower on Call for March.

At our February meeting, I also reminded our members about the **Fred Rathbun Horse Show** (formerly the Equestrian Special Olympics) which is scheduled for **March 9** at the **Western Saddle Club Arena, 12425 N. 7th St., Phoenix.** Since 2001, several OSA members have participated each year in this annual event. I hope to see some of our newer members at this event. The Horse Show has nothing to do with orchids, but for participants who have never heard of us, it is a bit of free publicity for OSA. Also, helping those less fortunate than ourselves means that we are willing to contribute our time to our community. I will also mention the Horse Show at our March 4 meeting.

Important notice for future raffle tables at monthly meetings: We are very low on plants for the raffle table. We understand that quite a few of our members are new to orchids and do not wish to part with their limited treasures. But our members might not realize that our monthly raffles are one of our sources of income which help enable us to contribute funds to our Deacon Bell Scholarship Fund and to continue our school programs. Our raffle tables have always been popular because we sell 3 tickets for \$2.00. So if any member finds a great deal on plants, we would greatly appreciate it if you could take advantage of a cheap price and help replenish our supply of plants. It would be a big disappointment to members and guests if we had to discontinue our monthly raffle tables, but without contributions of plants from non-member friends and from our members, we might have to do that.

See you on March 4!

Julie

New Members
Kitten Harmon and Beverley Fender
Seek them out and make them welcome !

February Raffle Donors
Julie Rathbun, Randy Ricardi,
Wilella Stimmell,
the family of August Lorenzini,
and non-member Mark Obermayer

THANK YOU !

For March 1-3 Home and Garden Show
Discount Tickets Click on
<http://www.maricopacountyhomeshows.com/passes/>

Natalie Warford

We note with sadness the passing of former OSA member Natalie Warford. Natalie was a well know botanical illustrator, author and artist.

You may occasionally see the note card she designed in 1998 as a fundraiser for OSA.

Natalie was a Fellow of the Linnaean Society. The Linnaean Society accepts amateur scientists, as well as professional scientists, as members. She wrote quite a few articles for the defunct AOS Lindleyana.

CLEAR POTS FOR SALE:

OSA has sets (10 pots = one set) of each of the following size pots: 5 1/2"; 6 1/2"; and 7 1/2".

If anyone wants pots brought to a meeting, phone or e-mail **at least 2 days prior to our monthly meeting**. A set of 5 1/2" pots is \$14.00; a set of 6 1/2" pots is \$18.00; and a set of 7 1/2" pots is \$22.00. If you don't need 10 pots of any one size, you may purchase them singly at the following price: one 5 1/2" pot is \$2.00; one 6 1/2" pot is \$3.00; and one 7 1/2" pot is \$4.00. (For sets, remember that there is no shipping charge added to the cost! Keep in mind that if you order these pots online from a vendor, the cost is based on a minimum order of 10 pots of each size plus a shipping charge.)

W. Stimmell

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www.orchidsocietyaz.org

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

Orchids of Peru



Elleanthus robustus

Elleanthus robustus, is a terrestrial orchid found throughout the Andes in the Cloud Forest. It blooms frequently and has a lovely, delicate scent.

Porphyrostachys pilifera

**Flame of the
Andes**



Sobralia setigera

Sobralia is a genus of about 125 orchids and one of the two genera of the subtribe **Sobraliinae**. (the other is *Elleanthus*)

It is native to Central and South America. The plants are more commonly terrestrial, but are also found growing epiphytically, in wet forests from sea level to about 8,800 ft. The genus was named for Dr. Francisco Sobral, a Spanish botanist.



Novice Culture Sheet



Watering Know-how

More orchids are killed by incorrect watering than by any other reason. There are two separate components to proper watering; when and how. The vast majority of orchids grown by hobby growers are naturally found on trees above the ground where the light is more plentiful. These plants (epiphytes) are adapted to having their roots exposed to light and air so in addition to water, orchid roots need air.

When do I water? Orchids should be watered just as they begin to dry out. This rule applies to all orchids with slight variations depending on whether your plant has the ability to store water or not. Orchids such as cattleyas and oncidiums should be allowed to dry completely between waterings while orchids such as phalaenopsis and paphiopedilums that have no water storage organs should be watered before dryness occurs.

There's is no magic formula for how often to water. This is because your growing area is different from anyone else's. Temperature, humidity, air movement, potting mix (type and age), and light levels all play a role. There are several ways to determine when a potted orchid is almost dry: 1) the surface of the potting mix will appear dry when the potting mix is moss; 2) dry pots will feel lighter when lifted. After a few watering, you will be able to tell by the weight of the pot whether or not it is time to water again. If in doubt, wait a day. 3) clay pots feel dry; 4) a pencil or wooden skewer inserted into the potting mix will come out almost dry. If in doubt, a finger inserted into the potting mix is perhaps the best tool to determine the moisture content of the potting mix; it causes no harm to the plant. A bark mix dries out faster than a moss potting mix.

It is best to water your plant in the morning to give the moisture on the leaves time to dry during the day. If any water remains in the crown (where the leaves join in the center) use a paper towel to blot the water to avoid crown rot.

You should water more frequently when the temperatures are warm and decrease watering

when temperatures are cool. Keep in mind that temperatures close to the window on a windowsill will be colder or hotter than your general house temperature. Avoid having the plant in the direct line of the heat or air conditioning ducts.

How do I water? When orchids are watered, they should be watered copiously. Place your plant into the sink and let the water run freely from the drainage holes for about a minute. Do not use salt-softened or distilled water. Allow the plant to drain completely. This is an opportunity to examine how the potting mix behaves. If you cannot pour water rapidly through the pot, the potting mix is too dense and you run the risk of starving the roots for air. If you see finely divided material that looks like coffee grounds in the water coming from the drainage holes, your potting mix is breaking down and it's time to repot into fresh mix.

Finally a couple of notes about mounted plants and plants grown in baskets without additional potting mix. Avoid dunking the plants in buckets of water. This practice very easily spreads diseases. Two short waterings a few minutes apart are much more effective than one long watering. Once water runs off the plant, the roots will have absorbed essentially all they can at that time and excess water simply runs off to the ground. Water your plants and then a few minutes later water them again, always beginning with the first plant you watered. This allows time for the roots of the last plant watered to finish absorbing water before you wet them again. Roots that are completely saturated will be a solid color while those that are not will appear mottled.

You will find lots of specific information regarding growing orchids at the American Orchid Society's website at www.aos.org.

The American Orchid Society is the world's leading provider of information about and related to orchids. We invite you to join us and learn about the world's most fascinating flowers and plants. Your membership entitles you to our monthly award-winning magazine, *Orchids*, 10 percent discount on items purchased at The AOS online store, free and discounted admission to more than 200 botanical gardens and arboreta and exclusive members-only online content.

American Orchid Society
at Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden
10901 Old Cutler Road,
Coral Gables, FL 33156
www.aos.org

OSA March 2013 Calendar

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



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