



The Arizona Orchidist

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March 2015

NEXT OSA MEETING

The next regular society meeting will be

Monday, March 2nd 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- Corlaine Mortenson
Snacks – Dean Toms &
John and Karen Barber**

Refreshment Coordinators:

Barbara Parnell (602) 451-5952

Lou Ann Remeikis (602) 803-6889

Jo Anne Waddoups 480-654-9883

Grower on Call
Dean Toms
(602) 588-4028
datoms@msn.com

Board Meeting
March 22nd
at the home of
Julie Rathbun

MARCH PROGRAM

ORCHID REFERENCE BOOK AUCTION

In this Internet age when answers to your orchid questions are but a “click” away hard copy paper reference books seem a thing of the past. For those of us for whom books are still treasures this month’s meeting offers a chance to enhance (or begin) an orchid library. I believe every serious grower and even hobbyist benefits from owning books with a deeper wealth of knowledge than found on a quick Google search. Join us on March 2nd and take advantage of this rare opportunity.



Paph ((Winston Churchill x Linda Vasquez) x Milmoore) 'Jinny' x Paph Winston Churchill 'Indomitable' FCC/AOS

I brought this plant back from our 2014 trip to Gubler's in Lucerne, California because I thought it showed “promise” Well promise fulfilled. Two large blooms and two more buds coming. Anyone want to join us this year?

Keith

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From the President's Desk

Julie Rathbun

Our February meeting was the first time that we've ever had a visitor from New Hampshire! (She was here to attend the Super Bowl, and we're sure she was happy that her team was the winner.) We also welcomed a **new member, Corlaine Mortenson**, to our orchid family!

Our program for the evening featured my aquarium set-up for miniature orchid plants. Since most of our non-board members ever attend a board meeting at my home (or at any other location), this was the first chance that many members had to see how well my miniature plants are growing in my aquarium. My aquarium's home is on a shelf above my kitchen sink. There was also a tall glass and wood growing area that was large enough to accommodate about 4 plants in 3" pots. The structure had a light attached underneath the glass lid and a mat inside that would be kept wet for humidity. For a member who works in an office and has only a few, small orchids, this piece would be an ideal home for orchids..

After the "show and tell" of the above pieces, each member in attendance mentioned where he/she grows their orchids. It was very informative for everyone. Some of our indoor growers are very creative in designing a space for their orchids.

We had an excellent raffle table. Thanks to all who donated plants and orchid-related items!

During the meeting, Barbara Parnell passed around a sign-up sheet for workers in **our booth at the March 6- 8 Home and Garden Show at the University of Phoenix Stadium. Thanks, Barbara**, for preparing the sheet. Since not all shifts are covered, members will have one more opportunity – at our March 2 meeting – to sign the work sheet. Some of our newest members have signed up to help work in our booth!

At our February meeting, I also mentioned the **Fred Rathbun Horse Show** (formerly the Equestrian Special Olympics) which is scheduled for Saturday, **March 14** at the **Western Saddle Club Arena, 12425 N. 7th St., Phoenix**. Last year, I couldn't help on Saturday at the Garden Show because the Horse Show was scheduled for the same Saturday. This year, the Horse Show is a week later than the Garden Show. If anyone has any questions about this event, feel free to phone, text, or email me.

See you on March 2!

Julie

Raffle Donors

John and Karen Barber, Gary Cauble, Barbara Parnell,
Wilella Stimmell, Dean Toms,
and non-members,
Shirley Helwagen and Mark Obermayer

Thanks to all for your support of this important fundraiser.

COMMUNITY SERVICE REPORT

Wilella Stimmell

On **February 8**, **Bob MacLeod**, **Barbara Parnell**, **Julie Rathbun**, **Dean Toms**, and I presented a hands-on orchid repotting program at the **North Valley Regional Library** in Anthem. **Bob MacLeod** cut (shortened) the clear pots that we use in our hands-on repotting programs, and **Dean Toms** cut the empty milk jugs that we use in our programs. **Thanks, guys!** Everyone who attended our repotting class brought an empty jug, and we traded out their uncut jugs for the ones that Dean had already cut. Some participants brought the wrong size jugs, but there were still plenty of the correct size jugs left to keep Dean busy cutting jugs for our next hands-on repotting program.

Glynn Dunbar, the Librarian who contacted us about a program for the library in Anthem, had made a very large and colorful poster announcing the date and time of our program.

Most of the participants at our program were adults, but there were also a few families present with school age children. All of them were appreciative of our efforts and thanked us. There were more men participating in our program than we expected, and they were eager to ask questions. After our program ended, the participants examined and admired our display plants.

At least one of the male participants had attended our October, 2014 show. Although the plant that he purchased at our show, died after it bloomed, he was not unhappy because he said that it lasted much longer than a bouquet of cut flowers would have lasted.

CLEAR POTS FOR SALE

OSA has sets (10 pots = one set) of each of the following size pots: 5 ½"; 6 ½"; and 7 ½". 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 ½" pots is \$14.00; a set of 6 ½" pots is \$18.00; and a set of 7 ½" 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 ½" pot is \$2.00; one 6 ½" pot is \$3.00; and one 7 ½" 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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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.

Rainforests: 10 things to watch in 2015

Rhett A. Butler, mongabay.com
January 02, 2015

2014 was a landmark year for tropical rainforests, with dozens of major companies committing to eliminating deforestation from their supply chains, the launch of new platforms for monitoring forests, and sharp drop in clearing in the Brazilian Amazon, among other big developments. Here's a quick look ahead at what might be in store for tropical forests in 2015.

1. Zero deforestation commitments

After rapid adoption of zero deforestation policies by producers, traders, and buyers in the palm oil sector during 2014, the focus in 2015 may turn to implementation and policy. Remaining holdouts, like pulp and paper giant Asia Pacific Resources Limited International (APRIL), will face intensifying calls to cut natural forest conversion from their supply chains.

One key issue will be how civil society groups respond to inevitable missteps by companies. Full disclosure on unintentional slip-ups will see more constructive responses than deliberate breaches or attempts to mislead. Activists will be quick to call out what they perceive as "green washing".

Another area to watch is whether companies start to push for government policies to support their commitments. "Leveling the playing field" for these early movers may include land-swap mechanisms that allow companies to trade forested lands within their concessions for non-forest land elsewhere, access to credit and other financial incentives, and stepped-up enforcement of environmental laws. The Kadin pledge — where four companies called on the Indonesian government to support policies that reduce deforestation and peat lands destruction — may be a model.

2. Jokowi's forest commitments

Indonesia will remain in the spotlight in 2015 as new president Joko Widodo, popularly known as Jokowi, takes on the challenge of reforming the forestry sector. Look for greater scrutiny of concession licenses, especially in peat-land areas, as well as a crackdown on forestry-related corruption. Within the bureaucracy, the dynamics of the newly merged Ministry of Forestry and Ministry of Environment are still far from clear — will the new institution foster a shift away from business-as-usual approaches to forest management? And how will it work with the REDD+ agency charged with developing mechanisms for performance-based conservation?

Other areas to watch in Indonesia in 2015: second- and third-tier palm oil producers that have largely avoid civil society pressure to move toward less damaging practices; government mandates for palm oil-based biofuels; the Recognition and Verification of Rights scheme (PPH), an effort to verify ownership of 66.3 million hectares of disputed forest land by the end of the year; provincial level programs to curb deforestation like Central Kalimantan's pilot project under the Governors' Climate and Forests Fund; and developments with Aceh's spatial plan revision.

3. What's happening in the Brazilian Amazon?

Brazilian government data showed that deforestation in the Brazilian Amazon resumed its downward trajectory for the 12 months ended July 31, 2014, but there are worrying signs that the progress may not last. Data from Imazon, a Brazilian NGO, shows that deforestation since the end of July is sharply outpacing the year-earlier rate. Meanwhile proposed amendments could allow protected and indigenous territories to be opened to mining and energy extraction. Finally, senator Katia Abreu, who environmentalists have called "the Chainsaw Queen" and "Miss Deforestation" for her support of agribusiness and push to weaken environmental laws, has just been appointed as Minister of Agriculture.

4. Will Paris produce a binding climate framework?

Climate talks at the end of the year in Paris are supposed to establish a new framework to address climate change. Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+) is expected to have a central role in that agreement, but questions still remain about REDD+, including whether there will be sufficient safeguards to protect biodiversity, the rights of forest-dependent communities, and native ecosystems like old-growth forests and woody grasslands. At the same time, REDD+ project developers are worried that the market for forest carbon may fall far short of expectations.

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Rainforests: 10 things to watch in 2015

5. Where are the new deforestation hotspots?

In early 2015, a team of researchers led by the University of Maryland's Matt Hansen will provide the first comprehensive update on global deforestation since late 2013. Near-term data from World Resources Institute suggests that deforestation may be rising in several countries, including Cote d'Ivoire, DRC, Ecuador, Ghana, Guyana, Peru, Suriname and the department of French Guiana. Will this prove to be the case?

2015 will also usher in new studies and tools that will help better quantify change in forest cover, including disaggregating plantations from natural forests and measuring degradation and loss of old-growth forests due to selective logging.

6. Falling commodity prices

Commodity markets ended 2014 with a sharp plunge. A 50 percent drop in the price of oil clobbered the renewable energy sector but also undercut marginal energy development projects, potentially offering a temporary reprieve for parts of the Amazon where exploration was set to begin.

The broader downturn in commodity prices has uncertain implications for tropical forests. On one hand, lower prices reduce the profitability of converting rainforests for oil palm plantations or maize fields. On the other hand, companies may be less likely to adopt environmental measures if they have less cash on hand.

7. Myanmar

As Myanmar opens up further to foreign investors in 2015, concern about the fate of the country's forests will rise. The country is home to vast tracts of some of Asia's most endangered forests, which developers are keen to log and convert to plantations. Conservationists aim to save these areas and their resident wildlife, and quietly hope that new investors will be more sensitive to environmental concerns than the Chinese companies that have dominated resource extraction in Myanmar in recent years.

8. Dams in the Amazon

Brazil's dam-building spree will likely expand in 2015. The first major event will be an auction for hydro projects in the Tapajos basin, one of the Brazilian Amazon's least-impacted watersheds. After losing the battle to stop the Belo Monte dam on the Xingu River, indigenous groups and environmentalists are gearing up for a fight.

9. RSPO and zero deforestation

The palm oil industry's sustainability initiative, the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO), is at a crossroads. Zero deforestation commitments adopted by two dozen companies since late 2013 go well beyond the initiative's standard, yet all of them include RSPO criteria at the core of their policies. Greens are hoping that the RSPO will soon move to make zero deforestation a central part of its standard, but many members of the palm oil companies will be hesitant to adopt what they view as a potential limitation to their growth.

If the RSPO does move toward zero deforestation, it has a critical tool in place to do so: last year members were required to submit the GPS coordinates of their concessions.

2015 will also see the completion of a study funded by several palm oil companies to establish a threshold for defining what constitutes high carbon stock forest. Whether that definition will be accepted by environmentalists is far from certain.

Beyond the palm oil sector, the Forest Stewardship Council's progress in moving forward on last year's motion to include "intact forest landscapes" as high conservation value areas will be closely tracked by environmentalists. The FSC is the leading eco-certification initiative for timber and other wood products, but has been criticized by many environmentalists for loopholes in its chain of custody system. and allowing first-time logging of primary forests

10. Jurisdictional initiatives

Sub-national efforts to develop forest-friendly policies and initiatives will move forward in 2015. A particular focus is jurisdiction-based certification systems, under which all producers in a given municipality or state abide by environmental standards to ensure that commodities produced within its borders are "safe" for international buyers. Entities in Brazil, Malaysia, and Indonesia are considering these programs.

OSA March 2015 Calendar

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1  Sara Heberling	2 OSA Meeting 7 PM	3  Ray Waddoups	4  Wilella Stimmell	5	6 Home & Garden Show	7 Home & Garden Show
8 Home & Garden Show	9	10	11	12  Chris Gubler	13	14 Fred Rathbun Horse Show
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22 Board Meeting 1 PM at Julie's	23  Sean Bacik	24  John Barber	25	26	27	28  Julie Rathbun
29	30	31  Gary Law				



Orchid Society of Arizona

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