



# The Arizona Orchidist

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## 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, May 2, 2005 at 7:00 p.m.

OSA meetings are open to all  
plant enthusiasts

Refreshments will be provided.

This month's beverages by

Ann Cherny

Snacks by

Dan Kruger, David Nunamacher  
and Norma Kafer

Refreshment Coordinators:

Julie Langston (602) 955-5694

Ramona Jungwirth (602) 320-6124

## OSA BOARD MEETING

The next OSA board meeting

will be held at 1 PM

Sunday, April 24

Preceded at noon by a

Show Meeting

hosted by

Sharon Davis

please call (602) 843-3288

for directions to her home

Board meetings are open to all OSA  
members

## GROWER ON CALL

Keith Mead kjkm@comcast.net

## May Program

### THE CATTLEYA ALLIANCE IN MEXICO

This presentation discusses the wonderful variety of Cattleya Alliance species native to Mexico, including Barkeria, Brassavola, Cattleya, Encyclia, Epidendrum, Laelia, and Rhyncolaelia. Representative species in each genus are shown, together with culture information.

We are pleased to welcome Bill Schneider owner and operator of Countryside Orchids in Corrales, New Mexico (a rural suburb of Albuquerque).

After growing orchids on and off since 1959, both commercially and as a hobby, Bill formed Countryside Orchids in 1994 in the Boston area and moved to New Mexico in 1999.

He grows over 2000 orchid varieties in many genera. Specialties include Cattleya alliance species, Cattleya hybrids, Bulbophyllum and Dendrobium species, and Pleurothallids.

There will be a silent auction of Countryside Orchids plants during the May meeting.

*Editor's Note: Members may pre-order from Countryside's online catalog at <http://members.aol.com/CSOrchids/> and Bill will deliver at the meeting.*

*Orders MUST be paid for via credit card BEFORE May 2. You may choose to phone Bill at (505) 263-6888 or e-mail him at [billschn@aol.com](mailto:billschn@aol.com)*

### IN THIS ISSUE

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## From the President's Desk

Norma Kafer

We were so happy to see Lou Ann at the April meeting. Gary is now on a liver transplant list. They are in our thoughts and prayers. Lou Ann looks great and we all marvel at how she can juggle so many things in her life and still remain optimistic and cheerful. We need her secret.

As part of my Master Gardener activities I will travel with our horticulture agent, Terry Mikel, to Orlando where he will be presented with the Teaching Award 2005 by the American Horticulture Society. It is a great and well deserved honor. He is well known in the "green industry" for his dedicated, humorous, knowledgeable teaching skills. He is able to reduce the boring and complicated subjects into a simple and easily digestible form. I get to go since I put in so many hours for his nomination and our diagnostic team said that I had to go. The conference has a number of interesting tours planned, Harry P. Leu gardens, University of Florida's research center, Hermann Engelmann's greenhouses with 2.2 million square feet under glass, private gardens, and the opening day of the International Flower and Garden Festival at Epicot. And I get to have my own walking encyclopedia of horticulture information with me. Such a deal!

Those of you who attended our last meeting were probably as impressed as I was with our speaker Eric Hansen. The work he has done is fantastic! The slides that he showed of Borneo, past and present were in most cases disturbing from the ecological view. The clear cutting of the forests cause so many other problems such as erosion, destruction of wildlife, and native plants which includes of course orchids. Very dismal prospects if the government and private enterprise don't have enlightened conservation goals.

The sales of his books were brisk. I'll read "Stranger in the Forest" on the flight to Orlando.

Willie has a school program set up for May in Chandler. We will have some programs in the Globe area next year. That is much closer than Kingman. If you haven't participated in the programs, they can be a hoot! Those little kids are so inquisitive. Please join us at your next opportunity.

**Thank You Message from our April Speaker, Eric Hansen:** In an e-mail message received the day after our meeting, Eric said: "Thanks so much for the invitation to talk to the OSA and for the generous donation to the Penan Orchid Salvage Project. It will help make this endeavor a success. I had a wonderful visit in Phoenix and met many so nice people. Please give my regards to everyone... It was a fun evening."  
(Eric also eagerly offered to return to OSA!)

Editor's Note: Thanks to JULIE LANGSTON for saving OSA the cost of hotel accommodation. She not only offered her condo to Eric, but she also accessorized it to give the condo a "homey" atmosphere and stocked the fridge with food and drinks! A pamphlet was strategically placed in a spot where Eric couldn't miss noticing it! And thanks to AARON HICKS for helping to entertain Eric during his stay in Phoenix and for bringing the speaker to our meeting.

**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 10 pots of 5 1/2" is \$7.00; a set of 10 of 6 1/2" is \$10.00; and a set of 10 of the 7 1/2" is \$15.00. 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 \$1.00; one 6 1/2" pot is \$1.50; and one 7 1/2" pot is \$2.00. W. Stimmell

**BULK CONTAINERS OF FINE AND COARSE BARK:** Please note that we are now **sold out** of bulk containers of bark. We will not be replenishing our supply until October.

**FIRST DONATIONS RECEIVED FOR OUR DECEMBER, 2005 FUND-RAISING AUCTION:** From a non-member who recently moved to San Diego, we have received an HID light, a Hydro Fogger, and a reverse osmosis system (with a 10 gallon tank!). These are used items but are in good working condition. When purchased new, the grower paid between \$3000-\$4000 for the three items!

Arizona State Veteran Home: We need your monthly donations of soda pop & flavored water. Remember the ASVH residents when you purchase soda pop & water for yourself.

**SHOW MEETING : SUNDAY, APRIL 24TH AT NOON**  
 Preceding the Board meeting hosted by Sharon Davis.  
 Please contact Sharon at (602)843-3288 for directions.

**Oncidium Cebolleta** is known as a peyote replacement among the Tarahumara. Found to contain phenanthrene derivatives of unknown pharmacology. Further research needs to be done, but we have not encountered anything as of yet.  
 The Tarahumara inhabit the rugged and remote area of mountains and canyons in Mexico known as the Barrancas del Cobre or Copper Canyon. Little is known about their history or their religion, though they follow the Rarámuri philosophy. In the Rarámuri philosophy, respect for others is of prime importance. They give greater value to persons than to objects, and business matters take second place to respect for human beings.  
 We hope to find more about these people and their sacred use of entheogens in the near-future. Any information would be greatly appreciated.

*From Entheology: Preserving Ancient Sacred Knowledge. <http://www.entheology.org/>*

The *Arizona Orchidist* is published monthly by the Orchid Society of Arizona, Inc.  
 Direct Inquiries to our website at:  
<http://welcome.to/orchidsocietyaz>  
 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 Orchid Digest Corporation, the Arizona Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. The Nature Conservancy.

## COMMUNITY SERVICE REPORT

By Wilella Stimmell, CSP Coordinator

On March 19, I presented an Orchids 101 program at **Berridge Nurseries**, 4647 E. Camelback Rd., Phoenix. Barb Deering, our contact at Berridge, had prepared a display table that featured a variety of blooming orchids, various orchid fertilizer formulations, and pest control products. We supplied our usual assortment of orchid culture sheets. And of course, an Orchids 101 program is not complete unless my "death bucket" (filled with tags of SOME of the orchids that I've killed in the past 25 years), is displayed. First the audience is shocked at the sheer number of tags in the "death bucket". Then the growers laugh that an experienced grower would so readily admit to the fact that she still kills plants! One of the members in the audience brought his wife to our April meeting. He said that he had tried to describe what he had seen and heard at the March program, but he told his wife that she needed to attend our April meeting and see for herself what he was trying to explain!

After the conclusion of the March 19th program, Berridge Nurseries donated a gift certificate to OSA. That gift certificate was placed on the April meeting raffle table. Thanks to Barb Deering for presenting us with the certificate!

On March 21, TEDDY COHEN, JULIE LANGSTON, and I presented an Orchids 101 program for the **Sedona Area Garden Club**. The large living room in the home of the hostess was filled to capacity with garden club members and guests! In fact, some of the gardeners were seated in the foyer and in the kitchen because there was no more space for chairs in the living room! All who attended our program seemed to enjoy it and asked many questions which we attempted to answer.

Elin Doehne, a member of the garden club and the new President of the Arizona Federation of Garden Clubs (as of June 1, 2005), won the blooming doorprize phal. OSA donated the doorprize plant for the program.

**On our community service program schedule for May:** On Monday, May 9, we will present two hands-on repotting programs for two 2nd grade classes at **BRIGHT BEGINNINGS SCHOOL**, 400 N. Andersen Blvd., Chandler. The first program will begin at 1:30 p.m., and the second will begin at 2:15. We hope that Lauren Tackett, one of the 2nd grade students and an OSA member, will help us during the repotting program for her class!

**2005 OSA Membership Rosters:** Rosters will be available on the May 2 meeting raffle table. There will also be a sheet on which members' names are listed. As members receive a copy of the new roster, their names will be checked off of the master list as having received their copy. Keep in mind that ONE roster per household will be given and that newsletter-only rate members do NOT receive membership rosters. Also, **recycle the clear, plastic, sliding report cover** from your 2004 roster. (The plastic is NOT biodegradable!) Simply remove the previous roster, staple and save (or discard), and insert the new roster into the report cover. Those covers were a one-time-only expense. If you lost your roster cover and/or your dog or cat ate it, and you want a replacement roster cover, feel free to purchase another one from an office supply store. Note that this is NOT an expense for which OSA will reimburse you.

Information contained in the 2005 roster was taken from your membership renewal forms. For example, if you listed an e-mail address last year, but did not list one on your 2005 renewal, then you will find no e-mail address listed for you in the new roster. There will be ONE roster update this year. Any new members and/or corrections will be included on the SEPTEMBER roster page update. In order for corrections to be included on the update page, they need to be submitted to any board member by August 1.

**HOPI ART DISPLAY AT MAY 2 MEETING:** Samples of artwork created by the 4 Hopi student interns for whom OSA provided scholarships, will be on display at our May meeting. The two tri-fold, free-standing poster boards contain examples of the drawings that will be included in the Hopi Educational Handbook that will feature drawings of the flora and fauna that are of cultural significance to the Hopi Tribe. This will be your **ONLY** opportunity to see the display that was assembled by the student artists' mentor, Kristin Husinga. Kristin, who lives in Flagstaff, set up the educational display for the Pacific Region/Arizona Federation of Garden Clubs Conventions that were held April 3-6 at the Chaparral Suites, Scottsdale. After the conclusion of our May meeting, OSA member, TEDDY COHEN has graciously volunteered to return the display to Kristin.

Keep in mind that the drawings were done by students with NO formal training and NO prior artwork experience! The drawings are simply breathtakingly beautiful! Each one is special.

## January 2005 trip to the Yavita-Maroa road, Amazonas state, Venezuela

My latest expedition to study the orchids of the Yavita-Maroa road took place this past January 9--28. The overall goal of the project is to document all of the orchids found along the road and its vicinity. This time my team focused on a few areas along the road that we had not sampled before. We also explored the black-watered "Caño Tuameni" ("caño", in the local Spanish, is roughly equivalent to creek or small creek in English. This particular "caño" may also appear in maps and gazettiers under the names "Tuamini" or "Tuanini"), which runs parallel to the road, east of it, sometimes as close as 2 km away, and therefore, as far as the project is concerned, Caño Tuameni is considered part of the habitats surrounding the road. We added three genera (*Campylocentrum* Benth., *Gongora* Lindl., and *Ligeophila* Garay) and eight species to the list of Orchidaceae of the Yavita-Maroa road. The list now includes 59 genera and 136 species, a remarkably high orchid diversity for a lowland amazonian area.

The ultimate goal of the project is to publish an illustrated field guide of the orchids of the Yavita-Maroa road, which should be useful to the towns of the region in promoting ecotourism. I thought I could publish it a few years ago. However, it would be pointless to rush and publish a field guide as long as we continue to increase significantly the genus and species counts after each expedition. Perhaps later this year, I will be ready to publish a preliminary checklist with some illustrations.

The Yavita-Maroa road is historically important, as it has traditionally served as an avenue of commerce between the Amazon and the Orinoco river basins. Most naturalists who have visited southern Venezuela in the past 200 years traveled and collected along paths connecting these two basins. Among those who collected plant specimens are Alexander von Humboldt and Aimé Bonpland (in 1800), Alfred R. Wallace (in 1851), Richard Spruce (in 1854), and more recently Llewelyn Williams (in 1942), King Léopold III of Belgium (in 1952), Bassett Maguire and collaborators (1953--1954, around Maroa), and Julian A. Steyermark (in 1970).

Despite the great interest this region has drawn, aspects about its biology and history have remained undocumented. After carefully reading Alexander von Humboldt's *Personal Narratives of Travels to the Equinoctial Regions of the New World* and studying additional historical records, it is evident that there have existed at least three settlements called Yavita. The first one pre-dated Humboldt and Bonpland's visit to the region (Yavita I); the second Yavita is the one that Humboldt and Bonpland actually visited (Yavita II), for which Humboldt provided geographical coordinates. Both Yavita I and II were located along the Tuameni. Yavita III, the current Yavita, was founded along the southern bank of the Temi River some 150 meters downstream from the confluence of the Tuameni with the Temi; the move (from Yavita II to III) took place sometime in the early 19th century. Yavita III was the village that Wallace, Spruce, Williams, King Léopold III, Maguire and collaborators, and Steyermark visited. An additional objective of the trip was to locate Yavita II along the Tuameni, which according to Humboldt had 160 inhabitants in 1800.

At the time I first traveled the Yavita-Maroa road, in the mid-1980s, the list of reported orchids was meager: it included no more than ten species even though it apparently had been a focus of botanical exploration. After many years collecting along this road, I understand better why the orchid flora was so poorly documented. Collecting for a day or so (the time it usually took to travel the road; nowadays it takes 2--3 hours in a four-wheel-drive vehicle, and 8--10 hours on foot), most collectors effectively sample only a few of the many habitats found along the road. Furthermore, the flowering of different orchid species is staggered throughout the year. The "true" orchid diversity of this and any other tropical site in the world can be revealed only after sampling over the entire year and in all the habitats, which is precisely what I have been trying to do for the past few years.

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## Trip to the Yavita-Maroa road

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My itinerary was Boston-Maroa (via New York, Caracas, and Puerto Ayacucho). Traveling from Boston to Puerto Ayacucho was uneventful, although I had to stop in Caracas to get my official collecting permit. Puerto Ayacucho is the capital of Venezuela's Amazonas state, where I lived in 1981--1985 and 1987. The staff of the local herbarium, "Herbario Julian A. Steyermark", has kindly assisted me for the past 20 years obtaining my permits, helping with the logistics of my field trips, processing my collections, and storing my equipment. Going from Puerto Ayacucho to Maroa was much more adventurous. I rented a piloted Cessna 182, old, dilapidated, yet robust: it did manage to take off with 350 km of cargo, including my weight and that of the co-author of the project, Carlos Gómez. Carlos, a naturalist, explorer, and orchid aficionado of the Baré ethnic group, also practices centuries-old tribal medicine. He lives in Puerto Ayacucho, although he is originally from San Carlos de Río Negro, an important village down the river from Maroa. Carlos and I have explored different areas of Venezuela's Amazonas state since 1984.

In Maroa, as during previous trips, we stayed on the second floor of the Sandalio family's residence, a fantastic place since it is spacious (it has plenty of room to process collections and to hang our hammocks and mosquito nets), has a water-tight roof but no side walls and therefore lots of ventilation. (Maroa can be rainy, hot, and humid most of the year.) Valerio Sandalio, the head of the household, also has one of the few working 4-wheel drive vehicles in town.

After spending a successful day along the road (where we added three orchids to the list), Mr. Sandalio drove us from Maroa to Yavita III, where we rented a dugout canoe and a local guide. Besides Carlos and me, the team that explored the Tuameni included Mario Alberto López Yavinape (a friend of the Sandalio's, of the Curripaco ethnic group, who we had hired in Maroa), and Nilson Raúl Sosa, the current *Comisario* (sheriff) of Yavita III.

We found the Tuameni some 10-15 minutes after leaving Yavita III, even without an outboard motor. We relied on four oars, which had one minor disadvantage: we had to travel slowly. However, the slow pace allowed us to carefully examine the banks of the Tuameni. Best of all, it was very quiet, and we could actually hear the many birds and other animals that we encountered as we moved slowly upstream. We stayed three nights on the Tuameni at two camp-sites. Disturbing the vegetation as little as possible, we hung our hammocks in whatever trees we could find.

Navigation along the Tuameni was sometimes difficult because most of the channel of the creek was taken over by a vicious climbing palm, a species of *Desmoncus* with spiny stems and with hooks at the tip of the leaves that could grab items from our craft or even rip our clothing and skin. We also found many dead tree trunks lying across the channel, which required cutting with an axe (a process that could take up to 20--30 minutes). Worst of all, the level of the creek dropped 0.5 meters in a few days: going downstream, we encountered many obstacles that we had successfully navigated over while going upstream.

We added five additional orchid species to the list while working along the Tuameni. Furthermore, I was able to photograph two species that I had never previously found with good flowers: *Epidendrum macrocarpum* Rich. and *Palmorechis guianensis* (Schltr.) C. Schweinf. One collection, which I thought was a new species of *Bulbophyllum*, allowed Dr. Leslie A. Garay to determine that what had been previously identified in the literature as *Bulbophyllum setigerum* Lindl. was really *B. correae* Pabst. What we had just collected was the true *B. setigerum*!

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## Trip to the Yavita-Maroa road

*Continued from page 6*

The following is a summary of the orchids collected in the trip that are new additions to the checklist:

*Bulbophyllum setigerum* Lindl. (epiphyte, Tuameni);  
*Campylocentrum fasciola* (Lindl.) Cogn. (epiphyte, Tuameni);  
*Campylocentrum aff. hondurensense* Ames (epiphyte, Tuameni);  
*Dichaea trinitensis* Gleason (epiphyte, Tuameni);  
*Epidendrum* sp. (*E. nocturnum* Jacq. group) (epiphyte, Tuameni);  
*Gongora pleiochroma* Rchb.f. (epiphyte, road);  
*Ligeophila stigmatoptera* (Rchb.f.) Garay (terrestrial, road);  
*Sobralia sessilis* Lindl. (epiphyte, road).

Did we find Yavita III? We did find a locality currently called Yurizal (named after the many large trees of *Oraqueiba sericea* Tul., Icacinaceae, found at the site; this tree produces an edible fruit locally called "Yuri") that, according to several local elders, is the only place along the Tuameni where there is evidence of an old village. However, the latitude of Yurizal obtained using a modern GPS unit (2° 53' 24" N) does not agree with Humboldt's for Yavita II (2° 48' 0" N). Errors in Humboldt's measurements are in the order of 2--3 minutes, not the five minute difference we found (a minute in geographical coordinates represents 1850 meters or roughly one mile), which suggests that Yavita II may be some 2--5 minutes or miles south of Yurizal.

I plan to again explore the Tuameni in May, when the water level should be 2--3 meters above what we encountered in January, which should allow us to navigate upriver much faster. I will try to approach the latitude given by Humboldt and to locate a site where a medium size settlement could have been in the past. I will inform of the outcome of the May expedition.

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## APRIL RAFFLE TABLE DONATIONS




Joe Civello, Bob MacLeod, Wilella Stimmell  
Cynthia Schnitzer  
Berridge Nurseries, Eric Schecter  
Ken and Judy Vincent



Very Special Thanks to All

# OSA May 2005 Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1  <i>Fred Stimmell</i>	2 <b>OSA MEETING</b> <b>7:00 PM</b>	3	4	5	6	7
8  <i>Barbara Parnell</i>	9	10	11	12  <i>Wilbur Chang</i>	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22  <i>David Wehrli</i>	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30 <i>Memorial Day</i>	31  <i>Mike Davis</i>				



Orchid Society of Arizona  
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May 2005 Newsletter