



# The Arizona Orchidist

Published monthly by  
The Orchid Society of Arizona, Inc.  
Founding Editor- Clarence S. Lindsten  
1966  
Volume 42 May 2006 Number 5

## 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 1, 2006 at  
7:00 p.m.

OSA meetings are open to all  
plant enthusiasts  
Refreshments will be provided.  
This month beverages  
will be provided by: Dan Kruger  
snacks by

Bob MacLeod and Julie Rathbun  
Refreshment Coordinators:  
Barbara Parnell (480) 948-0714  
Mary Gannon (623) 878-4173

## OSABOARDMEETING

The next OSA board meeting  
will be held  
Sunday, May 28th at 1 PM  
at the home of  
Julie Rathbun

Board meetings are open to all OSA  
members

Call Julie for directions  
(602) 843-0223

Grower on Call

Bob MacLeod  
(623) 935-4059

## May Program

### The History of Vanilla

Two years ago, our speaker, **Eric Elsberry**, and his wife, Patty, started the Arizona Vanilla Company in Mesa, AZ. According to Eric, Patty "was tired of buying 2 dried up vanilla beans in the grocery store for \$12.99."

Eric is a 3<sup>rd</sup> generation native Arizonan. He is a graduate of Arizona State University and received his MBA from the University of Phoenix. For 14 years, Eric had been a consultant in manufacturing and financial systems. He admits that his background is "not exactly a great resume for starting a vanilla company". However, he spent considerable time and energy to find the best suppliers of vanilla.

Eric had contacts in Mexico and used them to find the best Mexican vanilla supplier. He learned how vanilla is cultivated and cured in Mexico and spent time with suppliers in Europe.

In the past two years, Eric has extensively studied vanilla, the vanilla markets, and the history of vanilla. He has visited Papantla and El Tajin where most of the vanilla of Mexico is grown.

Arizona Vanilla Company was invited to participate in the Vanilla and Chocolate Extravaganza Weekend at the March 10-12, 2006 orchid show held at the New York Botanical Gardens.

Be sure to visit Arizona Vanilla Company's website at [www.arizonavanilla.com](http://www.arizonavanilla.com)

Eric's PowerPoint presentation of the History of Vanilla will surely pique or renew your interest in vanilla.

*W. Stimmell*

### IN THIS ISSUE

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK	Julie Rathbun	Page 2
EXPEDITION TO THE YAVITA-MAROA ROAD AND TO CAÑO CHIMITA	Gustavo A. Romero	Page 4



## From the President's Desk

Julie Rathbun

I was VERY disappointed to have missed the presentation by Scott Dallas at our April 3rd meeting! Unfortunately, my Yorkie, Josie, was due to deliver puppies, and I had to stay with her for the big event. The Saturday before our meeting, I missed a horse show because I thought that Josie would deliver on Saturday, but...she didn't. She wasn't making any progress on Sunday, so I was sure that she would deliver on Monday night, but... she didn't. On Tuesday, Josie's 5 puppies (three girls and two boys) were delivered by caesarean section. Less than 2 days later, the "runt" of the litter (a male that weighed less than 2 ounces and was less than 2 inches long) died. Josie is doing a lot better than I am because I was sleep deprived for several nights.

Earlier on our meeting day, Bob MacLeod drove to my house and picked up the silent auction plants, raffle plants, and a couple of my plants (one for Scott to repot and one for the display table). Thanks, Bob! What would we do without you? (The week before our meeting, Scott had shipped a large assortment of plants for our silent auction. Since I unpacked them and saw the variety of healthy-looking plants, at least I didn't miss seeing the plants that were offered for sale at the meeting! And in case a member or guest wondered why the plants were "potless": Scott removed the plants from their pots in order to reduce the cost to ship the plants to us.)

AARON HICKS, OSA's 1st VP, conducted our April meeting. Thanks, Aaron!

I heard from several members who attended the meeting that, as usual, Scott's program was filled with US-ABLE orchid culture information. I also heard reports that the refreshment tables were filled with excellent snacks and that the tables featured Easter decorations. Teddy was in charge of liquid refreshment, but she also brought homemade cookies shaped like orchids. (After the meeting, Bob MacLeod brought me one of the "orchid" cookies.) Although they had not signed up to bring refreshments for our April meeting, additional snacks were provided by Dan Kruger (yummy cookies) and by Marleny Castillo and Alex Arce (a cake decorated with vivid colors).

Thanks to MARLENY CASTILLO for hosting our March 26 board meeting. **ANY OSA member may offer to host a board meeting**, so feel free to notify me if you are interested in offering your home for a board meeting. Board meetings are **OPEN** meetings, and **any** OSA member is welcome to attend. **If you want to hear a Treasurer's Report, the place to hear that information is at a board meeting.**

An orchid hobbyist who lives in the Bronx, NY, happened to read our Mission page on our website. She presents small workshops at the Bronx Botanical Gardens for young children and was so impressed when she read about our school programs that she offered to help us! Without being solicited for a donation, she sent OSA a LARGE donation of orchid fabric! We have not yet decided the money-making project for which we will use the fabric.

There was an excellent article about our March school programs in the Payson Roundup newspaper. The article was written by reporter, Carol LaValley. In an e-mail, she mentioned that she had trouble reading the pages on our website when she typed in our shortcut URL. We investigated this problem and discovered that the shortcut URL contains a LOT of advertisements. JIM JOHNSON, our webmaster, researched domain names and providers. Thanks to Jim (and Carol), on March 26, OSA board members voted to purchase a domain name which would eliminate ads. [www.orchidsocietyaz.org](http://www.orchidsocietyaz.org) has been activated!

See you at our May 1 meeting!

Julie

## AMERICAN ORCHID SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP DUES INCREASE

I apologize for the fact that I was unable to give OSA members a heads-up regarding the hefty increase in American Orchid Society membership dues. However, I received neither an e-mail notice nor a snail mail notice that the 2006 dues for a single membership would be raised to \$60.00. I heard through the orchid "grapevine" that a few members of the AOS "inner circle" knew about the increase BEFORE it went into effect and were able to renew their membership at the lower rate. Like every other OSA member, I was caught "off-guard" about the price increase. Thanks to our Editor for calling my attention to the price increase!

*W. Stimmell, AOS Rep*

## LANKESTER GARDEN WEBSITE

Lankester Garden has a new website that is user friendly and easy to navigate. The site includes the history of the garden, photos of beautiful orchids, and a lot more! All of the bulletins regarding the March, 2007, International Orchid Conservation Congress III, will be uploaded onto the website. If anyone did not receive e-mails that contained the first three bulletins about the congress, he/she will find the bulletins on Lankester Garden's website. For anyone who does not know that Lankester Garden is located in Costa Rica, the website is **almost** as good as an up-close-and-personal visit to the garden. Check it out! You won't be disappointed!

[www.jardinbotanicolankester.org](http://www.jardinbotanicolankester.org)

Also, OSA members might be interested to know that at the January 29, 2006 board meeting, board members voted unanimously to donate funds to the IOCC III. And three Australian orchid societies held a fundraiser for the IOCC III and donated funds for the congress.

*W. Stimmell, member of the IOCC III Finance Committee*

## APRIL RAFFLE TABLE DONORS

OSA members:

Bob MacLeod, Lou Ann Remeikis, Lois Sauer,  
Cynthia Schnitzer, Diana Sibley and  
Wilella Stimmell

Non members:

Ken and Judy Vincent

Thank you !

The *Arizona Orchidist* is published monthly by the

Orchid Society of Arizona, Inc.

Direct Inquiries to our website at:

**[www.orchidsocietyaz.org](http://www.orchidsocietyaz.org)**

Or to any of the Board Officers or Trustees:

### Board of Directors for 2006

<b>President</b>	(602) 843-0223
Julie Rathbun	jandfentaol.com
<b>First Vice President</b>	(480) 722-9328
Aaron Hicks	ahicks51@cox.net
In House Program Chairman	
<b>Second Vice President</b>	(480) 785-2251
Joe Bacik	bacikj@cox.net
Outside Speaker Program Chairman	
<b>Secretary</b>	(928) 476-2220
Teddy Cohen	TaylorBaron@msn.com
<b>Treasurer</b>	(480) 947-8479
Wilella Stimmell	willellas@worldnet.att.net
<b>Librarian</b>	(602) 803-6889
Lou Ann Remeikis	remeikis@dancris.com
<b>Editor</b>	(505) 898-0975
Keith Mead	kjkmc@comcast.net
<b>Trustees</b>	
Jim Lauck	(623) 742-6574
	jim_golf_phx@yahoo.com
Bob MacLeod	(623) 935-4059
Barbara Parnell	(480) 948-0714
2006 Show Chair	birdie552002@yahoo.com
Jennifer Schmitt	(602) 996-9833
	calligraphybyjennifer@cox.net

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.

## EXPEDITION TO THE YAVITA-MAROA ROAD AND TO CAÑO CHIMITA

29 January--21 February 2006

My latest expedition to study the orchids of the Yavita-Maroa road and surrounding areas documented 64 species of Orchidaceae. It was not quite the incredible 84 species that I saw during my trip of June 2005, but this time I could explore neither the vicinity of Maroa<sup>1</sup> nor Gran Sabana. On a positive note, we did find 53 species in Caño Chimita, three more than we found in Caño Mesaque in June 2005, including two new reports for my checklist, *Pleurothallis minima* C. Schweinf. and *Stictophylloorchis pygmaea* (Cogn.) Dodson & Carnevali. Also, along the northern margin of the Atacavi river, on an extensive granite outcrop near Tabucal, we found what I believe were plants of *Koellensteinia lilijae* Foldats, a long lost species known only from the type collection. We did not find it in flower (some plants had inflorescences that were a few months old), but based on vegetative characters, I am sure that the plants we observed belong to this species. In addition, among the plants we collected without flowers along the Caño Tuameni in January, 2005, last November Carlos Gómez was able to flower *Catasetum microglossum* Rolfe in his garden in Puerto Ayacucho, also a new report.

The objective of the expedition was to continue the exploration of the Río Atacavi river, a little studied tributary of the Atabapo river, part of the Orinoco river basin. The few collections of Orchidaceae from the Atacavi found in herbaria were made by Ernesto Foldats in September 1960.<sup>2</sup> Foldats, however, apparently remained in the main course of the Atacavi, where, as mentioned in my previous report, there are few orchids: he collected only eight species.<sup>3</sup> In contrast, we have documented, after exploring only two of the Atacavi's 3--4 major tributaries, 79 different species of Orchidaceae, missing only one of the eight species collected by Foldats, *Encyclia chloroleuca* (Hook.) Neumann. Ultimately, we would like to sample the Orchidaceae of the Municipio Guainía of Venezuela's Amazonas state, which of course includes the Yavita-Maroa road and the Atacavi. In June, 2005 we explored Caño Mesaque, one major tributary on the southern bank of the Atacavi. This time we explored Caño Chimita or Cimita<sup>4</sup>, another major tributary also on the southern bank of the Atacavi.

I left Boston on January 29, 2006. In two days in Caracas, I successfully obtained permits and purchased miscellaneous supplies. The night of Thursday, February 2, I traveled by bus to Puerto Ayacucho, where I arrived the next morning. On Saturday, Carlos Gómez and I spent a few hours exploring two neighboring "lajas" (granite outcrops). We found in flower *Cyrtopodium graniticum* G. A. Romero & Carnevali and a few plants of *Epidendrum aff. ibaguense* H.B.K. We also observed that populations of *Catasetum bergoldianum* Foldats, *Encyclia conchaechila* (Barb. Rodr.) Porto & Brade, *E. leucantha* Schltr., *Oncidium aff. orthostates* Ridl. ex Thurn and many other orchids, once plentiful in these unique habitats, are now decimated or gone, destroyed mostly by fire.

On Sunday, February 5, Carlos and I flew in a rented Cessna 182 Skylane to Maroa. On our way to Maroa, it became readily apparent that the rivers were much higher than normal. February is the middle of the "dry season", when the rivers should be near their lowest level. However, from north to south, the Orinoco, Atabapo, Atacavi, Temi, and Guainía rivers were near their flood levels (later, when navigating on the Temi and Atacavi, I estimated that the water level was 5--6 meters above the "normal" level that I had observed during previous February trips). Paradoxically, rivers in the Amazon basin south of the Equator (the Orinoco, Atabapo, Atacavi, Temi, and Guainía rivers are all north of the Equator), were bone-dry!

After we arrived in Maroa, a plane of the Venezuelan Army landed at the Maroa airport; it departed a few hours later. The next day, when we attempted to purchase gasoline and oil for our outboard motor, we learned that the passengers on the army plane were government officials whose mission was to close down the local fluvial gas station and to arrest the entire personnel for allegedly aiding the smuggling of gas to Colombia. Fortunately, our host in Maroa, Valerio Sandalio Camico, had some extra gas for his vehicle, and I was able to negotiate a reasonable price for the gas and oil that we needed.

Continued page 5

Continued from page 4

In Mr. Sandalio's famous "hybrid" vehicle, we departed for Yavita. The team was composed of José Aragua (outboard engine operator), Oscar Gómez, (navigator, always at the prow of the boat), and Carlos Gómez (chief of logistics). We rented the same dug-out canoe we used in both trips last year, but this time we had a brand new, Yamaha 15 H.P. outboard engine. The new engine ran well and, even at the low speeds required for the first hours of operation, we arrived in Tabucal only a few hours later (In June, 2005, this same journey, Yavita--Tabucal, took us two days to complete!). That night we hung our hammocks on trees along a granite outcrop between the river and the small village. We had a heavy rain around midnight. In fact, we had heavy rains **every** night during our expedition!

In Tabucal we hired Marcelo Garrido, who had accompanied us to Cerro Mesaque in June 2005. After we left Tabucal, beyond the mouth of the Mesaque, we encountered the communities of *Rebalse* (along the north shore of the Atacavi) and *Santa Rosa* (along the south shore), both, like Tabucal, of the Curripaco ethnic group. In Santa Rosa we stopped and bought some cassava bread and katara (or Catara), a sauce based on the fluid extracted from the bitter cassava (extremely poisonous raw, but rendered comestible after boiling) and **very** hot, boiled peppers (the peppers are boiled to keep them from fermenting; some preparations include the heads of the soldier cast of a species of leaf-cutter ants and/or whole termites; the sauce is delicious with soups and other dishes). About 30 minutes later we reached the confluence of the caño Chimita and the Atacavi.

As in June 2005, we observed very few orchids along the Temi and Atacavi, but soon after entering the Chimita their numbers increased considerably. Among the 53 species we encountered, we found in flower:

- *Acacallis cyanea* Lindl. (most plants in flower or bearing fruits)
- *Campylocentrum huebneri* Schltr. (few plants in flower, few bearing fruits, most vegetative)
- *Cattleya violacea* (H.B.K.) Rolfe (one individual seen in flower)
- *Caularthron bicornutum* (Hook.) Raf. (only one plant in flower, many bearing fruits, most vegetative)
- *Epidendrum compressum* Griseb.
- *Epidendrum flexuosum* Mey. (one plant)
- *Epidendrum macrocarpum* Rich. (one plant)
- *Epidendrum nocturnum* Jacq. (few plants in flower, some bearing fruits)
- *Lepanthes helicocephala* Rchb.f. (locally frequent)
- *Macroclinium mirabile* (C. Schweinf.) Dodson (locally frequent)
- *Maxillaria discolor* (Lodd. ex Lindl.) Rchb.f. (locally frequent)
- *Myoxanthus trachyclamys* (Schltr.) Luer (locally frequent)
- *Notylia aff. longispicata* Hoehne & Schltr. (locally frequent)
- *Notylia aff. microchila* Cogn. (locally frequent)
- *Platystele oxyglossa* (Schltr) Garay (locally frequent)
- *Pleurothallis grobyi* Lindl. (locally frequent)
- *Pleurothallis lanceana* Lindl. (locally frequent, often on ant nests)
- *P. minima* C. Schweinf.\* (rare along the Chimita)
- *P. miqueliana* (H. Focke) Lindl. (locally frequent, often on ant nests)
- *Stictophyllorchis pygmaea* (Cogn.) Dodson & Carnevali\* (one individual seen)
- *Trichosalpinx orbicularis* (Lindl.) Luer (rare along the Chimita)

In addition to the new reports (marked with an asterisk above), we found two extraordinary species in flower: *Epidendrum flexuosum* and *Macroclinium mirabile*. I emphasize the former because plants in flower are extremely variable in size, ranging from smaller than the palm of my hand, with inflorescences 4--5 cm long bearing only 3--4 flowers, to much larger plants, with branched inflorescences more than a meter long and bearing 20--30 flowers. The flowers vary from pale green to light red, with pale yellow and pink in between. Furthermore, the plants' roots do not affix well to the substrate and seem to serve more like stilts (as observed in many species of *Campylocentrum* Benth. and *Rodriguezia* Ruiz & Pav.).

Continued on page 6

Continued from page 5

As for *Macroclinium mirabile*, the Latin word *mirabilis* literally means wonderful! It is a beautiful miniature. The plants are not much larger than a finger nail, and the flowers relatively large, liliac, lightly spotted, and almost transparent. The species is truly extraordinary!

I was also pleased to find for the first time two of the *Notylia* species in our checklist, which allowed us to give them tentative names. A third species, found with fruits, is most likely *Notylia peruviana* (Schltr.) C. Schweinf.

I was surprised to find *Acacallis cyanea* and *Epidendrum compressum* so profusely in flower, as we had found many plants in flower in June 2005. It is not clear to me whether this is a normal flowering pattern (orchid species with small plants and flowers can bear flowers almost all-year-round; species with large plants and flowers, such as *A. cyanea*, rarely can bear flowers one after the other, all year-round. However, and important for the horticultural trade, one often finds that different individuals of a given species may flower at different times of the year, as I have observed in *Cattleya violacea*) or part of the discombobulated weather and phenology patterns I have observed in this region in the past few years.

We slept in three camp sites along caño Chimita. The first one, which we called "Rastrojo" (Spanish for an abandoned farm-plot), was great: we had lots of room to press plants, cook, and hang our hammocks. However, the spot to bathe was not great, because by the water's edge the bottom was silty. When bathing, I could not stop thinking of the electric eels that I was told were plentiful in these waters!

Our second camp site was harder to find because the forest was flooded. We concluded that our only choice was to camp among the roots of several trees. We barely had room to cook and to hang our hammocks. In fact, two members of our crew (José and Marcelo) actually had to hang their hammocks right over the water, with the dugout canoe underneath. I called this camp site "Precario II". The only place we had available to bathe was chest-deep. When bathing the next morning, I thought not only about the electric eels, but also about piranhas and other noxious fish that lived in these rivers. Navigation up the Caño Chimita was somewhat easier than in the Mesaque. We encountered the spiny and "hooky" *Desmoncus* palm and *Montrichardia* (Araceae), but at much lower densities. Our major problem was finding our way along a maze of passages in the flooded forest. It often took several trials to find the right channel, which was usually indicated by old cuts on trees and bent or broken branches. As we moved upstream we had to cut more and more trees and palm stems that obstructed our passage. Using an axe and machetes, it took up to an hour to clear tree trunks, branches, and other debris. Eventually we could navigate no farther, and we decided to turn around.

Our third camp site was situated by a large lagoon. It appeared to be suitable. We had lots of room to press plants, cook, and hang our hammocks, and there was a beach with a sandy-rocky bottom. The water was shallow enough so that if there were electric eels or any other threatening aquatic creatures in the water, we could see them. However, by late afternoon we were invaded by biting ants, lots of vicious, biting ants! They were **everywhere**, and pressing plants and taking notes was nightmarish! I named this camp site "Campamento Hormiga" (ant camp).

After we arrived back in Tabucal, we explored the large granite outcrop across the river where we found what I am certain is *Koellensteinia lilijae* and eleven other orchids (the only species we found in flower was *Sobralia granitica* G. A. Romero & Carnevali). This species of *Koellensteinia* could easily be the one we found, again without flower, near Cerro Mesaque. We spent Saturday night in "Laja Nuda" ("Nunda" in some maps), the same place where we spent our first and last night during our June 2005 expedition. The next day we had lunch on "Laja Catalina", another ancient site along the western bank of the Temi, close to which we unexpectedly found a nice clump of *Scuticaria steellii* (Hook.) Lindl., without flowers, but quite distinctive with its long, pendant, terete, whip-like leaves, high up on a "Peramán" tree (*Symphonia globulifera* L.f., Guttiferae).

We arrived back in Yavita on time. Sandalio came to pick us up about an hour later and we were in Maroa by the early evening. We flew back to Puerto Ayacucho on Monday, February 13, and on February 15, I returned by bus to Caracas.

Continued on page 7

Continued from page 6

During this expedition, we saw and heard several species of monkeys, macaws (both the blue and gold, *Ara ararauna*, and the scarlet macaws, *A. macao*), parrots and many other birds, especially in the early morning and even before dawn, when you could hear the low sounds of at least one species of curassow (*Crax* sp., Cracidae). Howler monkeys (*Alouatta seniculus*) were specially loud in the early mornings and late afternoons. We also observed bands of 20--30 individuals of the short-tailed, black-headed uakari (*Cacajao melanocephalus*) crossing the "caño" with tremendous agility, jumping from tree to tree, even the mothers carrying their young. Fishing, on the other hand, was not so great, and we had a limited menu.

We were glad to complete the exploration of the navigable portion of caño Chimita and to find as many species of Orchidaceae as we did. We look forward to our next expedition this coming July, when we plan to return to Cerro Mesaque.

This trip would not have been possible without the financial support of the Orchid Society of Arizona (OSA) and the logistic support of Venezuela's Ministerio del Ambiente y de los Recursos Naturales Renovables (M.A.R.N.R.).

Gustavo A. Romero  
Keeper  
Orchid herbarium of Oakes Ames  
Harvard University Herbaria  
22 Divinity Avenue  
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02138  
romero@oeb.harvard.edu

#### NOTES

<sup>1</sup> When I arrived in Maroa the town was taken over by the Venezuelan military following an alleged attack by the F.A.R.C. ("Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia" [Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia], a narco-terrorist group according to the United States government), where seven people were hurt by metal fragments following a loud explosion. As it turned out, a sergeant of the Venezuelan National Guard inadvertently let a grenade detonate in the town's square, where the incident took place. With so many fully-armed military personnel around, I was advised to stay in town.

<sup>2</sup> Foldats, 1925--2003, was the author of Orchidaceae for *Flora of Venezuela*, published in five volumes in 1969--1970, and co-author of the treatment of *Habenaria* Willd. for the Flora of the Venezuelan Guayana.

<sup>3</sup> It could be argued that Foldats collected only what he found in flower. However, in September, I am certain he would have found more than eight species of Orchidaceae in flower had he explored any of the tributaries of the Atacavi.

<sup>4</sup> "Cimite" in Caulin's *Historia Coro-Gráfica Natural y Evangélica de la Nueva Andalucía* (Caulin's *Historia Coro-Gráfica Natural y Evangélica de la Nueva Andalucía* (Juan de San Martín, Madrid, 1779, page 76).

**2006 OSA MEMBERSHIP ROSTERS** will be available at our May 1 meeting. Rosters are distributed at the rate of one per household. You will find the new rosters on the raffle ticket sales table. Simply remove your 2005 roster from the clear, plastic cover, and insert the new roster inside the cover. We reuse the plastic covers because they are NOT biodegradable.







**FYI:** Reports on OSA's participation in the April 22 Equestrian Special Olympics and our April 29 Payson mini-show/sale and hands-on repotting programs will be included in our June newsletter.

W. Stimmell, CSP Coordinator

The OSA has a new domain name for its web site

[www.orchidsocietyaz.org](http://www.orchidsocietyaz.org)

# OSA May 2006 Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 OSA MEETING 7:00 PM  Fred Stimmell	2	3	4	5  Meredith Meling	6
7	8  Barbara Parnell	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22  David Wehrli	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30  Dan Kruger	31  Mike Davis			



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

May 2006 Newsletter