



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 7th**, 2007
at 7:00 P.M.

OSA meetings are open to all
plant enthusiasts

Refreshments will be provided.

This month Bob MacLeod will
provide liquid refreshment

Snacks by

Barbara and Harry Parnell
and Julie Rathbun

Refreshment Coordinators:

Barbara Parnell (480) 948-0714

Mary Gannon (623) 878-4173

OSABOARD MEETING

Board Meetings

are open to all members

The next Board meeting will be
May 27 at 1:00 PM at the
home of Barbara and Harry Parnell
Please contact them for directions

GROWER ON CALL

Lou Ann Remeikis

remeikis@andiamo-tel.com

May Program

We'll be busting out the flasks- and maybe busting the flasks themselves. This month's program will involve de-flasking orchid seedlings, with a demonstration of removing plants from flask and potting them up.

Yes, it's all about getting a little deeper into that addiction. First it's repotting, then it's growing plants from flask. Next thing you know, you're free-basing Benomyl, back from the good old days when it had powerful mutagenic effects and Dow was settling lawsuits like there was no tomorrow.

More fun than a swift kick to the head, and certainly a better way to spend your time!

2 ¼" pots, NZ sphagnum moss, and fir bark will be provided for repotting the seedlings from flask.

AJ

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From the President's Desk

Julie Rathbun

For those of you who missed Dave Johnston's PowerPoint presentation at our April 2nd meeting, you missed seeing slides of orchid habitats in Puerto Rico and Belize. The habitats looked nothing like what I expected to see - especially areas in Puerto Rico that are similar to the low desert of Arizona and other areas that are rock outcroppings with leafless vines ("ropes") of *Vanilla barbellata* that seemed to be growing on nothing but rock. (Jewell Orchids donated two divisions of *V. barbellata* for our December, 2006 Fund-raising auction.) Also featured in the program were slides of steep, green mountain terrains where surely only former paratroopers could visit. It was also interesting to learn that there are 3 US Department of Agriculture field stations: one at the University of GA, one on St. Thomas (Virgin Islands), and one in Puerto Rico. Dave told us that when he recently visited the field station greenhouses in Puerto Rico, there was no research being done.

Dave said that he enjoyed meeting OSA members, admired our dedication to community service, and was glad that he could manage to schedule a presentation for us.

Thanks to Barbara Parnell, Mary Gannon, Lou Ann Remeikis, and Sarah Heberling for a colorful presentation of refreshments and for the wide variety of snacks. They really went to a lot of trouble to provide our speaker and members with lots of goodies. And thanks to Lou Ann for signing up OSA to receive free samples of products. I never knew that there were so many varieties/flavors of coffee creamers!

To those who were unable to ask me whether I enjoyed my March visit to Costa Rica, I did! I met several orchidists whom I had only read about, but now I can put faces with their names. I also saw how Costa Ricans grow their orchids: most plants are mounted, attached to a vertical wire grid, and are grown OUTSIDE. (You can do that successfully when you live in a climate where the humidity is 65% in the "dry" season!)

Our **November show flyer** has been uploaded onto our website! Thanks, Jim! And special thanks to the creative genius of Marleny Castillo who designed our flyer. It's another masterpiece!

All members are welcome to participate in our show planning meetings, and board members would certainly welcome your help! The next show planning meeting will be held at noon on May 27 at the home of Barbara and Harry Parnell.

In non-orchid news: By the time you receive your May newsletter, my Yorkie, Josie, will have given birth to at least 4 puppies. Also Charlotte, my pot-bellied pig will probably have delivered another litter of piglets. And I will have brought home my newest animal purchase: a 3-month old colt, Vinnie. (I didn't name him. Vinnie is his "stable name".)

The program for our May 7th meeting will be an in-house repotting program using phal flasks donated to OSA by Chris Gubler.

See you at our May 7th meeting!

Julie

Welcome New Members

Please extend a warm OSA welcome to new members:

KRISS BEGGS and JOHN LAZAR

First Class Postage Rate Increase
from 39 cents per ounce to 41 cents per ounce
Effective MAY 14, 2007!

Consider receiving your Arizona Orchidist monthly newsletter via email.
Contact the editor at kjkm@comcast.net

2007 Membership Rosters

Rosters will be available at our May 7 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 2006 roster from the clear, plastic cover, and insert the new roster inside the cover. We reuse the plastic covers because they are NOT biodegradable.

SHOW MEETING

The first Orchid Show Meeting was held on February 25th and the theme chosen this year is:

"Orchids & Disneyana"

I hope more of you will join us for these meetings as they are very productive and a lot of fun. We need as much of YOUR input as possible to help make this year's show a great one! Remember: It's not too early to be planning this event!

The next meeting will be at my home on May 27th at noon with the board meeting to follow.
All are welcome

For more information please call Barbara Parnell at 480-948-0714 or e-mail birdie552002@yahoo.com.

The *Arizona Orchidist* is published monthly by the Orchid Society of Arizona, Inc.
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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,

INTERNATIONAL ORCHID CONSERVATION CONGRESS III ARE OUR ORCHIDS SAFE?

March 19-24, Hotel Tryp Corobici, San Jose, Costa Rica

By Wilella Stimmell

Since August of 2005, when I was invited by Carlos Ossenbach, Chairman of the IOCC III Finance Committee (from August 2005 until November, 2006 when he resigned), to serve on the Finance Committee, I anxiously anticipated attending another orchid conference in Costa Rica. (The previous two orchid conferences that I attended in Costa Rica were held in 2001 and 2003 and were organized by Carlos Ossenbach, an extremely talented architectural engineer with a passion for orchids! However, the previous orchid conferences were not limited to orchid conservation. I wrote a review of the 2001 conference for the July, 2001 issue of the Arizona Orchidist, and a review of the 2003 conference for our July, 2003 newsletter.)

The IOCC III afforded me the opportunity to renew acquaintances and make new friends, and it was a pleasure to introduce Julie Rathbun to orchidists whose names she recognized but whom she had never met.

The congress was preceded by the National Orchid Show which was scheduled to begin on March 15 and to be held at the old railroad station terminal. The day before Julie and I departed for Costa Rica, I received an e-mail alerting me to a change of venue for the orchid show. The new location for the show was the congress hotel's "sister" hotel, the Cariari. (All of the congress lectures were held in conference rooms at the hotel Tryp Corobici, the official congress hotel which is located in a commercial zone and is 15 minutes away from the Juan Santamaria International Airport.)

Since Julie and I arrived before the start of the IOCC III, we were guests in Bob and Kerry Dressler's home. Carlos Ossenbach and his wife, Pilar, were waiting for us when Julie and I arrived at the airport. Carlos and Pilar drove us to the Dressler's home in Paraiso. Bob is working at Lankester Botanical Garden, and their home is "just around the corner" from Lankester. Bob walks back and forth from home to the garden. (Had Carlos not been available to transport us from the airport to the Dressler's home, Kerry advised us to make arrangements with HER taxi driver who knows the route to the Dressler's home from the airport. Since there are still NO STREET ADDRESSES, and we were not going directly to the Tryp Corobici, a different taxi driver than Kerry's would probably not have known our destination. Been there; done that [in 2001 when a taxi driver dropped me off at ANIMAL CONTROL instead of at Ciudad de la Investigacion, a building physically separated from the University of Costa Rica campus but part of the University], and I was not mentally prepared to risk ending up in a place that Julie and I did NOT want to be deposited! I mean no disrespect to any Tico taxi driver, but I suppose that I could have described our destination as "in Paraiso, close to Jardin Botanico Lankester. The house is bright yellow and is 3 houses away from the electric power station.")

While we were houseguests at Casa Dressler, we accompanied Bob and Kerry to the opening of the National Orchid Show where wine and cheese were served as visitors studied the displays. I still haven't decided the real purpose of the two curvaceous girls who were dressed in low-cut, form-fitted evening gowns and who stood at the entrance to the show. They didn't speak and they weren't holding trays of wine or cheese. Assorted genera plants were featured in the displays, and in most instances, the background for the plants featured native, natural materials such as huge, dried seed pods and leaves. (Later, when I spoke to Ana Cristina Rodriguez, President of the Asociacion Costarricense de Orquideologia, she told me that Oscar Rodriguez - no relation to Ana - whom I first met in 1990 - had built the "wall" that separated two areas of displays.)

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The following day, Kerry drove Julie and me to the home of Texans who are living in the countryside near the Dressler's home. (Kerry has a 4-wheel drive vehicle which is necessary for traversing unpaved roads which rattle one's kidneys!) The property of the Texans is an active coffee plantation, and in their garden, there were many Heliconias and Bougainvilleas in bloom. There were also a few orchids, but the homeowners were not really interested in orchids. The plants were mounted on a wire grid against a stone wall. None of the orchids had name tags, and I was surprised that in such a humid climate, one of the plants had an infestation of scale. On the patio, we sipped coffee, lounged in wicker "chairs", and enjoyed the colorful blooms.

We also went with Kerry and Bob to the Farmer's Market in Paraiso. At the market, one vendor had several orchids for sale, but I resisted temptation!

Our host on Sunday, March 18, was Carlos Ossenbach. He had invited us to visit his home and join his family for lunch before we registered at the congress hotel. Carlos cooked, and the meal was delicious! Julie and I also observed that Carlos's orchids, mounted on vertical wire grids, had only numbers, not names, on the plant tags. Each plant's number has a name corresponding to the number, and that name is kept in his office. Plants that are in bloom are brought into his home so that he can enjoy the blooms before they fade.

At the opening of the congress, the keynote address was delivered by Dr. Daniel Janzen, a dynamic figure in conservation. Janzen divides his time between the University of Pennsylvania (in Philadelphia) and his field work in Costa Rica. Dr. Janzen envisions a time when researchers in the field will need nothing more than an inexpensive bar code machine to identify species. (I applaud his enthusiasm, but I suspect that there will be a "lag time" between "simple" DNA bar-coding by researchers who are able to use the new technology in the field and the way that they currently catalog plants for identification.

During the first two days of the IOCC, we met Marge From (Henry Doorly Zoo, Plant Sciences Laboratory) and Tom Mirenda (orchid collection specialist at the Smithsonian), other former OSA speakers, and friends. After prodding from yours truly, Tom decided to present at the IOCC and consulted with Kyle Wallick, Botanist at the US Botanic Garden in Washington, D.C., and Roddy Gable, US Fish and Wildlife. Tom and Kyle shared the microphone and presented "The Role of CITES Rescue Centers in Orchid Conservation".

I have mixed impressions about the sessions held during the congress.

First the positive: There were some new research projects and new results that had not been presented at the IOCC II in Sarasota, in 2004. Also, Brazilian, Australian, Costa Rican, and graduate students from other countries benefited from the congress. For example, Melissa Bocayuva gave a presentation about the Cores Project - an action plan for conservation of endangered Brazilian orchids. (Last fall, Melissa was an intern at Selby Gardens in Sarasota.) Melissa speaks fluent Portuguese, Spanish, French, and English. This was her first presentation in English! (All presentations during the congress were given in either Spanish or English.) Unfortunately, several of Melissa's co-workers on the Cores Project at the Rio de Janeiro Botanical Garden Research Institute did not receive sponsors and were unable to attend the congress.

Rudolf Jenny, from Switzerland, demonstrated how to use BibliOrchidea, an online database that contains about 140,000 entries. Also he stated that in the past 20 years, fully one-third of newly identified species were from private collections. (The use of Bibliorchidea on the internet is FREE! <http://orchid.unibas.ch/bibliorchidea.index.php>)

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The Proceedings of the IOCC were ready for purchase by the opening of the congress. (I will bring my copy to the May 7 meeting. Don't blame me if you get a hernia lifting the book! I will also bring the schedule of the sessions because you will need to check the schedule in order to find the corresponding abstract in the Proceedings. Why? Because at the back of the book, the Proceedings do NOT include an alphabetical list of participants!)

In the Proceedings as well as in the program schedule, OSA is listed as a sponsor of the IOCC III. Also, Raymond Tremblay (UPR) acknowledged in his abstract, "Re-Evaluation of Lifespan in a Neotropical Orchid: an Eleven Year Survey", the donation from OSA to intervene in saving *Lepanthes caritensis* from extinction. OSA is also listed as a sponsor of the IOCC on Lankester Garden's website: www.jardinbotanicolankester.org/congress.html

Negative aspects of the congress: Due to scheduling conflicts (lectures that I also would have liked to attend) I had to select one of the two that were held at the same time but in a different room. Although Spanish-impaired registrants were given head sets, a few of the head sets weren't operational. Also, only half of the graduate students who requested sponsorship received financial assistance and were able to afford to attend the congress. The future of orchid conservation lies within the graduate student community! And an unpleasant observation: perhaps during the previous international orchid conferences that I attended, I wasn't looking for evidence of politics. But this time I was acutely aware of politics. I firmly believe that serious and important orchid conservation projects are being conducted in the Western Hemisphere and that it is unfortunate that there is less publicity about "our" projects than there is about orchid conservation projects done elsewhere.

If there had been a prize given for the most in-your-face presentation and the accompanying abstract of the presentation that was published in the Proceedings, such a prize would go to Harry Zelenko, of Ecuador and formerly of New York City, who read his abstract, "Not a Single Orchid...". The theme of his presentation was that the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) has not saved one plant from extinction, that CITES authorities have hamstrung scientists, and that CITES is counterproductive to orchid conservation. He personalized his remarks by stating that for months he has had 20 small bottles with *Caucaea* vouchers in silica gel that he wanted to send for DNA sequencing. However, CITES authorities in Ecuador have refused to issue the appropriate documentation so that he can legally export the bottles. If anyone wishes to read Harry's short abstract, I will be happy to copy it for you. Let me know!

Field Trip During the Congress: The trip to Tapanti was enjoyable. Julie enjoyed it more than I did, but I've walked the same trail 2 previous times. Very few plants were in bloom because March is not the blooming season. Ho hum. For me, lunch was the best part of the trip! On our way back from Tapanti to the hotel, our buses stopped at Lankester Garden. Since Julie and I had already visited the garden during our pre-congress stay with the Dresslers, and since **no** Lankester "official" discouraged anyone in the group from entering the greenhouses with their backpacks, we decided to **not** add to the traffic congestion in the greenhouses and walked around the corner to the bright yellow house and visited with Kerry until we figured that the buses were ready to return to the hotel. We walked back to Lankester just in time to board our bus. Our timing was perfect!

Field Trip After the Congress Concluded: On Sat., March 24, the trip to Bosque de Paz was educational and picturesque. Bosque is a migratory corridor. The land was purchased by Federico Gonzalez-Pinto and his family, and their goal is to preserve the corridor for future generations to enjoy. (For anyone interested in visiting Bosque de Paz, which is located in the Central Volcanic Range, you will find room rates for the lodge and contact information for reservations at www.bosquedepaz.com)

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We walked on a trail through the cloud forest and heard the call of the Three Wattled Bell Bird! The only way I can describe its call is that it sounds metallic and once you've heard it, you won't mistake it for the call of any other bird. On the Bozque property, there is a 12-room lodge where visitors can stay for a week or longer, an orchid garden, and a small herbarium in the Reception building. After all of us had walked the trail, enjoyed lunch in the Dining Hall, and were ready to reboard the buses and head for Sarchi, one bus wouldn't start. Everyone on our bus (our bus DID start) was told that we had to get off our bus and board a larger one because University of Costa Rica had a "rule" that nobody could be left behind. Well...we wouldn't have been left behind because our bus was operational! We played "musical buses" TWICE! (3 UCR buses had gone to Bosque.) So then we were on the larger bus with the jump seats extended for more passengers. As we were going up a steep hill, the driver nearly burned the transmission in the bus because he shifted gears at the wrong time, and there was a horrible odor coming from the transmission. So EVERYBODY was told to get out of the bus so that the driver could make it up the hill. Picture it: a motley crew of field trippers WALKING up the hill! At the top of the hill, we got back on the bus. To add icing to the cake, certain "dignitaries" and others were on OUR original bus. We didn't go to Sarchi because of the bus situation. I suppose that not going to Sarchi wasn't entirely a negative: we couldn't spend money! But it is my understanding that THE place to buy Costa Rican handicrafts is in Sarchi.

The venue for IOCC IV has yet to be decided. China and Brazil (Rio) are interested in hosting the next IOCC which will be held in 2010.

I recommend the non-stop flight from Phoenix to San Jose. The "ride" is approximately 5 hours in length, and if you arrive in San Jose and your baggage does not, it's a safe bet that your luggage was not placed on the aircraft in Phoenix. (Two participants' luggage was stolen when their original flight was diverted due to bad weather in the US, and one participant from Ireland spent the first few days of the congress wearing another participant's clothes!)

For anyone interested in attending a meeting of the Costa Rican Orchid Society (Asociacion Costarricense de Orquideologia), check out www.ticorquideas.com ACO meets in the School of Engineer Agronomists in Moravia. Where is the school? **It's 300 meters west and 100 meters north of the Cemetery of Moravia!**

APRIL RAFFLE TABLE DONORS

THE FAMILY OF KEN GETTYS
FRANK BOPP, HARRY PARNELL, BOB MacLEOD,
OSA, LOU ANN REMEIKIS
AND
WILELLA STIMMELL

THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT

OSA May 2007 Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1  <i>Fred Stimmell</i>	2	3	4	5
6	7 <i>OSA meeting 7 PM</i>	8  <i>Barbara Parnell</i>	9	10	11	12
13 <i>Mother's Day</i>	14	15	16	17  <i>Todd Hughes</i>	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27 Meetings <i>Show at noon Board at 1 PM</i>	28 <i>Memorial Day observed</i>	29	30  <i>Dan Kruger</i>	31		



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May 2007 Newsletter