



The

Arizona Orchidist

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NEXT OSA MEETING

The next regular society meeting
will be **Monday, May 5, 2008**
at **6:45 P.M.**

Meetings are held at the
Encanto Park Clubhouse
2605 N. 15th Ave., Phoenix, Arizona
North of Encanto Blvd. on 15th Ave.

OSA meetings are open to all
plant enthusiasts

Refreshments will be provided.

Snacks by

Seelye Smith and Mary Gannon
Beverage by

Bob MacLeod

Refreshment Coordinators:

Barbara Parnell (480) 948-0714

Mary Gannon (623) 878-4173

OSA BOARD MEETING

Board Meetings

are open to all members

The next Board meeting will be
at 1 P.M. Sunday, May 25th 2008
at the home of Julie Rathbun

GROWER ON CALL

Lou Ann Remeikis

lou.remeikis@gmail.com

May Program

REMEMBER MEETINGS NOW BEGIN AT 6:45 PM

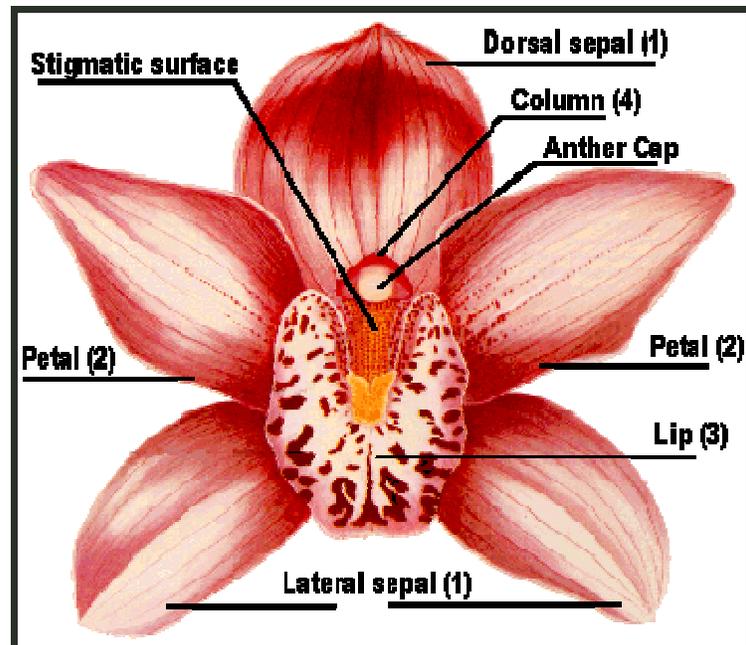
X RATED

Under 18 must be accompanied by an adult

Live and in color, orchid pollination!

**We'll be examining floral anatomy, and giving a presentation on
pollination using some gee-whiz, larger-than-life projection
equipment. Come and see the first step in how baby orchids are
made!**

**Don't miss this interesting and entertaining presentation by our own
resident experts Aaron Hicks and Doug Baldwin**



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From the President's Desk

Julie Rathbun

For those of you who were unable to attend our April meeting, you missed an excellent presentation by our speaker, Hermann Pigors. During the first half of his program, he discussed the culture of orchid species, and during the second half, he showed slides of plants that he grew. One of the slides was of a humongous plant with literally thousands of blooms on the plant. I don't know when the photo was taken, but Hermann had dark hair, and he looked quite a few years younger than he is now. Sorry, Hermann, no offense intended! The plants on the silent auction table included a variety of genera, were healthy, and most were in spike! If you missed the meeting, the few plants that remained at the end of the April meeting might be available at our May meeting.

I'm sorry that we didn't have time for members to say a few words about the beautiful display plants that they brought for Show and Tell. (During his program, Hermann mentioned complimentary remarks about a few of the display plants.) But we needed that time so that the speaker could complete his presentation. OSA paid for Hermann's transportation from Chicago to Phoenix, and we needed to hear his entire program.

It occurred to me that during one of our future in-house programs, the entire program or a major portion of it could be a discussion of Show and Tell plants brought by our members.

At our March board meeting, board members discussed the increasing price of gasoline. You might think that the price of gas has nothing to do with orchids, but most of our members live quite a distance from our meeting location. So in that respect, the price of gas might be responsible for a decrease in attendance at meetings. One suggestion mentioned was that members consider carpooling. Even before the price of gas increased, a few savvy members have been carpooling. Ride-sharing is an excellent way to become better acquainted with members and discuss orchid culture. If anyone is interested in locating where members live, you will find their addresses in our 2008 membership roster. If you are a new member and want to know more about a member before you consider carpooling with him or her, just ask any board member what he or she knows about a member.

We have also heard that throughout the country, other orchid societies are suffering from the effects of increasing gas prices. So we are not alone!

Summer is approaching, and we hope that members who have children, who are on vacation from school, will bring their children to our meetings. At one time we had 8 members who were under the age of 16! We are still a family-oriented society!

For those of you who have greenhouses, now is the time to make sure that your evaporative coolers are serviced, that you have spare fans, at least one spare water pump, and a spare fan belt on hand. We try to avoid greenhouse "meltdowns" because they can happen at odd hours!

Our May meeting will feature an in-house program presented jointly by the dynamic duo: Aaron Hicks and Doug Baldwin.

Our May board meeting will be held on May 25th at my home. Any interested members are welcome to attend!

See you on May 5th!

Julie

2008 OSA Membership Rosters

Copies will be available at our May meeting. For those of you who did NOT fill out renewal forms to accompany payment of dues, if you have changed your growing environment, or if any other information contained in the 2007 roster is no longer valid for you, those changes will NOT be included in the new roster. Also, as part of our "green" philosophy (to save paper), there will be NO roster updates after the 2008 roster is completed.

If you wish to keep your 2007 membership roster, simply remove it from the sliding bar report cover, staple the pages together, file it away, and insert the 2008 roster into the report cover. A new report cover will NOT be issued. The report covers, paper, ink, time, and effort to prepare rosters are donations to OSA. W. Stimmell

FREE POTS!

If anyone is interested in various sizes of green and/or black pots, let me know at least 3 days before our May meeting. I no longer have the time nor the interest to clean pots, so any pots that I am asked to bring will need to be cleaned by the recipient. W. Stimmell

April Raffle Donors

Janet Jurn, Bob MacLeod, Cynthia Schnitzer, Wilella Stimmell, the Family of Ken Gettys, Orchids Alive, and OSA

THANKS TO YOU ALL FOR YOUR SUPPORT

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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 Orchid Digest Corporation, the Arizona Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc., and The Nature Conservancy.

Orchid's sexual deception triggers ejaculation

Few can resist the allure of a beautiful rose, but some wasps outdo even the most ardent flower lover. Presented with the right specimen, a male orchid dupe wasp ejaculates right on the petals.

Many insects mistake flowers for femmes, but few go as far as these wasps, says [Anne Gaskett](#), a biologist at Macquarie University in Sydney, Australia, who led a study of the insects' amorous intentions toward two species of Australian tongue orchids. "It's just so hard [for the wasps] to resist," she says.

But the wasp's attraction to flowers might complicate its efforts to mate with genuine females, Gaskett says.

Orchids are known for toying with males. Many species produce [female-mimicking perfumes that lure males into spreading pollen](#). But most insects merely touch down on the flowers.

Gaskett noticed, however, that dupe wasps (*Lissopimpla excelsa*) spent a lot of time around tongue orchids. Many left a visible blob on the flower after flying away. "We decided to check if they were wasting their sperm on the flowers," she told **New Scientist**.

The biologists confirmed under the microscope that the blobs were composed of sperm cells.

Next, Gaskett set up field experiments to determine how often the wasps "had sex" with the flowers – and whether they eventually learned from their follies.

On first visiting a tongue orchid, nearly three-quarters of wasps left sperm on the flowers. But after repeated visits, most insects stopped copulating with the flower.

"They are perhaps not really educated about what a real female looks like, and they make a bad decision," Gaskett says.

But why might an orchid provoke such misdirected affection? Gaskett thinks that her experiments show an extreme form of [sexual deception](#) that [helps the flowers spread their own seed](#).

"The orchids that caused the most extreme behaviour – pollination with ejaculation – have the highest pollination rate of any known sexually deceptive orchid," she says. "I think ejaculation is just a side effect of having an extremely compelling orchid."

Gaskett thinks that the peculiar reproductive lives of the wasps might explain why males have not evolved to discriminate against orchids. Female wasps reproduce asexually – that is, without male help – to spawn males, while sexual reproduction between both sexes produces only females.

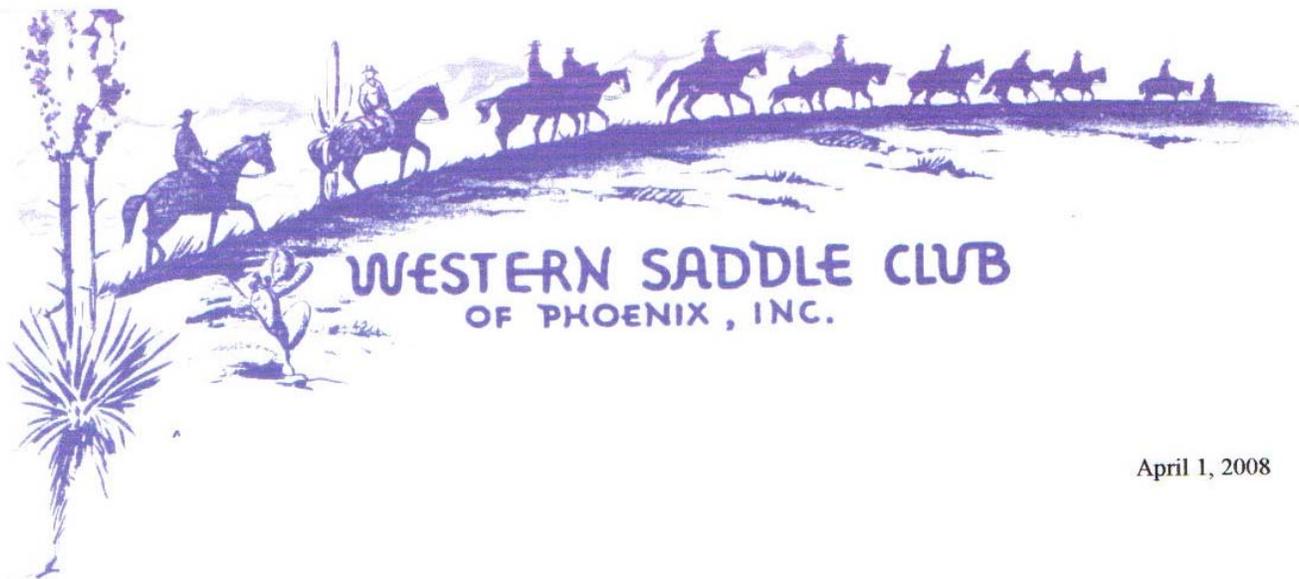
"If you are the female and you miss out on mating because your male is out with an orchid, you can still reproduce," she says.

The real winners are the orchids. By duping male wasps into ignoring females who in turn breed more males, tongue orchids ensure their legacy, Gaskett suggests.

"It's a very interesting hypothesis," says Florian Schiestl, an orchid expert at the University of Zurich, Switzerland. A simple test would be to see if populations of orchid stud wasps have more males than a related species that is not attracted to flowers, he says.

Journal reference: [American Naturalist](#) (DOI: 10.1086/587532)

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April 1, 2008

Julie Rathbun, President
Orchid Society of Arizona
4225 West Port Au Prince
Phoenix, AZ 85053

Julie,

On behalf of the Western Saddle Club, I would like to thank you and your volunteers from the Orchid Society of Arizona for your help during the 2008 Fred Rathbun Horseshow and Equestrian Competition organized by the Special Olympics Arizona, Maricopa area. It was a great pleasure to see, and work beside all of your volunteers. The only way a program such as this one can continue, is with community support. If it was not for you, and others like you, it would be doubtful that this Horseshow would continue.

As you may be already aware, the Special Olympics Arizona's vision is to help bring all persons with intellectual disabilities and closely-related developmental disabilities into the larger society where they are accepted, respected and given the chance to become useful and productive citizens. I personally believe that with time and understanding, they will accomplish this.

If you have any questions or comments concerning Special Olympics Arizona, City of Phoenix Outreach Division, you can contact Phyllis Kelly at 602-495-7237. She and her team do many different projects over the entire year.

Once again, Thank You! I hope you will consider coming back next year. Feel free to contact me for dates, times and any questions you may have about next years Horseshow.

Joel Wiltgen, Vice President

JOEL WILTGEN, 2007-2008 1st VICE PRESIDENT
WSC CHAIRMAN / 2008 FRED RATHBUN HORSE SHOW LIAISON
12425 N. 7th STREET
P.O. BOX 47027
PHOENIX, AZ 85068-7027

OSA May 2008 Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1  <i>Fred Stimmell</i>	2	3
4	5  <i>Tamara Smith</i> <i>OSA Meeting</i> <i>6:45 PM</i>	6	7	8  <i>Barbara Parnell</i>	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25 <i>OSA Board Meeting</i>	26 <i>Memorial Day</i>	27	28	29	30  <i>Dan Kruger</i>	31



Orchid Society of Arizona

c/o Keith Mead

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