



The

Arizona Orchidist

Published monthly by
The Orchid Society of Arizona, Inc.
Founding Editor- Clarence S. Lindsten

1966

Volume 45

May 2009 Number 5

NEXT OSA MEETING

The next regular society meeting
will be **Monday May 4, 2009**
at **7:00 P.M.**

Meetings are held at the
Training Center
at the
Arizona State Veteran Home
4141 N. 3rd St., Phoenix.

OSA meetings are open to all
plant enthusiasts

Refreshments will be provided.

Beverages by

Diane Norman

Snacks by

Bob MacLeod and Diana Sibley

Refreshment Coordinators:

Barbara Parnell (480) 948-0714

Mary Gannon (623) 878-4173

Carol Erwin (602) 996-1696

Board Meeting

May 17th at 1 PM

**at the home
of Seelye Smith**

GROWER ON CALL

Seelye Smith

(602) 404-1013

sss3301@hotmail.com

May Program

QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION

Aaron will conduct this in-house program and will attempt, along with a few other longtime OSA members, to answer frequently asked orchid culture questions. Come prepared to stump the "experts" with your questions! Seeing a potential problem plant is much better than simply asking why a plant has leaves that look "weird". If you have one or more problem plants that you would like us to examine, please make sure that your plant is kept apart from the plants on the display table. We hope that newer growers will have a lot of questions. Rumor has it that one member is already working on a LIST of questions!

W. Stimmell

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From the President's Desk

Julie Rathbun

At our April 6 meeting, I asked our 1st VP, Aaron Hicks, to conduct the meeting because I had a sore throat. He readily agreed. Thanks, Aaron!

Several guests attended our April meeting, and their presence was acknowledged. One of them had visited our booth at the Southwest Flower and Garden Show in March and requested that an April newsletter be e-mailed to him. Our Editor obliged. In fact, our dedicated Editor e-mailed more than 50 April newsletters to interested and/or potential members. THANKS, KEITH! I saw the many pages of e-mail addresses before we snail mailed them to you, and I'm very glad that it was NOT me who had to decipher the addresses.

For those of you who missed our April meeting, you missed a special silent auction, a raffle table that featured several choice, unusual plants that were donated by both members and non-members, and TWO outstanding speakers: Marge From and her Plant Lab Assistant, Kathy Roccaforte. Marge spoke about the success of her reintroduction of plants into their once-natural habitat in Madagascar, and Kathy spoke about the cryopreservation work she's doing in the Plant Lab at the Henry Doorly Zoo in Omaha.

During Marge's presentation, she showed slides of the recent political uprising in Madagascar. It was distressing to see beautiful buildings which had been set on fire in the capitol city. The man who now claims to be President has the backing of the military. The elected President, whose home was flanked by buildings on fire, left the country and is believed to be in South Africa, but he still considers himself President because he was elected by the voters. Marge said that Tahiana, who accompanied her to Phoenix in Nov., 2005, believes that a full scale revolution is about to happen in his country. His father's loyalty is with the elected President, but his father remains in Madagascar.

Thanks to Aaron and Wilella for entertaining our guests while they were in Phoenix. Also, Wilella brought our guests to my home, and they enjoyed seeing all of my critters and my greenhouse. While they were visiting me, Kathy rode my horse, and Mel From took pictures of her.

Our guests thoroughly enjoyed their stay in Phoenix. Marge and Kathy both commented on our "gracious hospitality". Marge stayed an extra day, but Kathy had to return to Omaha a day earlier because the zoo paid her airfare and hotel room. When Marge took Kathy back to the airport, she said that Kathy was reluctant to leave Phoenix. Apparently Kathy enjoyed our sunshine and was not ready to return to Omaha's snow.

Our May board meeting will be a bit earlier in the month due to Memorial Day. The day of our meeting will be Sunday, May 17 and will be held at 1 PM at the home of Seelye Smith. I encourage non-board members to attend board meetings. You'll get an inside view of the way OSA conducts the business of our society. You can't vote on matters, but we welcome your suggestions!

See you at our May 4 meeting!

Julie

AN INVITATION
Santa Barbara International
Orchid Fair

The New Mexico Orchid Guild cordially invites you to join their first annual road trip, July 10th and 11th, to the Santa Barbara International Orchid Fair.

Arizona participants would be met in Flagstaff early evening Friday, July 10th by the NMOG chartered luxury bus. We will proceed to Santa Barbara, California arriving for the opening of the fair on Saturday, July 11th.

Spend the day shopping and touring Santa Barbara Orchid Estates and Cal-Orchids. We will depart early evening Saturday, July 11th and Arizona guests will leave the tour in Flagstaff Sunday morning July 12th.

Seats still available. Total cost \$150 per person.

Plenty of room on board to bring all your orchid treasures home without the hassle and expense of flying!

If interested please contact Keith Mead at kjkm@comcast.net or 505-379-6786 no later than May 15 to reserve your spot.

CAUTION: THIS IS AN EIGHT AND A HALF HOUR BUS RIDE IN EACH DIRECTION !

APRIL RAFFLE DONORS

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

Bob MacLeod, Julie Rathbun, Wilella Stimmell,
and non-members

Craig Pearson and Mike Sielaff

Temperatures key:

- **Cool to Intermediate** = 48°F min. to 78°F max.
- **Intermediate to Cool** = 52°F min. to 80°F max.
- **Intermediate** = 55°F min. to 85°F max.
- **Intermediate to Warm** = 58°F min. to 88°F max.
- **Warm** = 65°F min. to 95°F max.

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

SEVENTH ORCHID DIGEST SPEAKER'S DAY: "PAPHS AND PHRAGS"

The event will be held at the **Huntington Library and Botanical Gardens, San Marino, CA, on Saturday, June 13, 2009 from noon to 8 PM** in Friends Hall. **Ticket cost is \$60** (\$75 after June 9th). **Reservations close on June 9th**. Included in the cost of a ticket are: afternoon seminars, dinner, and an evening distinguished speaker event. Contact Simone Friend, 4349 Dogwood Ave., Seal Beach, CA 90740 Phone: (562) 431-1247

E-mail: orchidsimonef@aol.com

Flyers for the event will be available on our raffle ticket sales table at our May meeting. Anyone coming to this event is encouraged to bring plants (all genera) to display for the day. Display plants need to be presented starting at 10:30 AM on Saturday morning, June 13th.

Lecturers include: Frank Smith (Krull-Smith Orchids), Glen Decker (Piping Rock Orchids), Bill Goldner (Woodstream Orchids), Mark Hachadorian (NY Botanical Gardens), a 3-D show from James Comstock, and special dinner entertainment.

Participating vendors are: Piping Rock, Woodstream, Paphanatics, and Orchid Inn.

2009 OSA Membership Rosters

Rosters 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 2008 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 2009 roster is completed.

If you wish to keep your 2008 membership roster, simply remove it from the sliding bar report cover, staple the pages together, file it away, and insert the 2009 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

WOC BOOK

The Proceedings of the 19th World Orchid Conference is a 508-page, full-color record of the show and conference held in Miami in January of 2008. Every trophy-winning orchid, and all exhibits, are presented in full-page, full color photographs, and the volume also includes full coverage of all the Conference events (opening and closing ceremonies, the Tropical Night Gala and more). Every scientific paper and poster presented during the Conference is also published. The purchase price is \$135.00, postpaid anywhere in the U.S. The book may be ordered from the Conference website (www.19woc.com), or by calling 305-245-4570 (9am - 5pm, US Eastern Time, Tuesday-Sunday) and should be available in June.

Dendrobium fytchianum Bateman ex Rchb.f.

In 1863, Captain Grant, author of the book "Orchids of Burma", was on orchid safari for a very elegant little *Dendrobium* that had attracted his attention by being worn in the hair of the Burmese girls at Moulmein. Captain Grant was accompanied by Colonel Fytche, the master planner of the city of Rangoon. They had been searching for the plant for the better part of the day along the Salween River, which enters the sea at Moulmein. Though the Colonel was no orchid fan, and probably was after game and fowl, he spied an orchid on an overhanging branch of a tree. It proved to be the desired plant. The name records the circumstances.

Dendrobium fytchianum is still the craze of the Burmese girls at Moulmein today, and it commands the best price among the many native orchids. Sadly, the love of orchid flowers in Burma has not been accompanied by a love of orchid culture. The cause of this neglect is due to the extremely low prices for which orchids in flower and bud are sold, and people place no value on the plant once it has flowered. As a result, a century of indiscriminate extraction has almost depleted the forest of this dainty plant.

The upright stems, 1/8" – 1/4" in diameter, are inclined to slant off the perpendicular at odd angles, as if their bases were weak. The older stems are reddish-brown, marked with a high gloss. The new growths on which the spikes appear both terminally and laterally are covered with a sheath. Internodes are 1" – 1-1/2". The stems are 9" – 12", but strong plants with eighteen inch stems are not uncommon. The stems slowly elongate into 3" – 4" terminal racemes, but many stems also have one or two additional lateral racemes. The racemes have about ten flowers 3/4" – 1" in diameter, on the shorter stems, and about fifteen on the stronger and longer ones.

The lanceolate sepals and roundish obovate petals are clear white. The three-lobed lip consists of two small lateral incurved lobes that are deep rose in color. The obcordate apiculate middle lobe is also pure white and as large as the petals. The base of the middle lobe has bristle-like yellow hairs that give a striking yellow blotch contrasting with the deep rose of the lateral lobes, thus giving the flower its daintiness and distinction.

The Gardeners' Chronicle (1887, p. 209) records Major General E.S. Berkerley as introducing a variety *rosea* in 1886. My friends and I have not seen or heard of this plant so far. I do have two variants with strong rose venation on the petals, however.

These plants have been found only in the Moulmein region, which is characterized by a five-month rainy season, from mid-May to mid-October, when exceptionally high humidities of 85% and mean temperatures of 80 degrees F. result. It is in this period that light intensities are lowest due to the clouds. The plants produce all their new growth within this five month period, and immediately after the rainy season is over the lanceolate leaves turn yellow and are shed. Buds initiate at once and the plants are in bloom by the second week of November, the flowers lasting about 20 days.

Of the warm-loving, low elevation, Indo-Burmese dendrobiums having horticultural value, this appears to be the only plant that flowers in November. Most warm-growing Indo-Burmese dendrobiums flower in summer only after a period of rest and lowered humidity. I have still not been able to place this plant into any particular section of the genus *Dendrobium*, and would be interested to hear from anyone on this score. I am awaiting to see if a most unprobable cross with *Den. phalaenopsis* will take, as the large lip of the *Den. fytchianum* would be an enhancement to the form of the present nearly lipless *Den. phalaenopsis* hybrids

At Rangoon, where the rainfall is only 100 inches, as compared to Moulmein's 180, I have grown *Den. fytchianum* successfully in our uncovered lath house, together with cattleyas. Taking a hint from the heavy rainfall at Moulmein (1" per day), we have potted them in small clay pots, using only coconut fiber as compost. Results have been exceptionally good. The plants have been fed with the same fertilizer and schedule as the cattleyas.

U San Hla, Rangoon, Burma

reprinted from the American Orchid Society Bulletin, Vol.34,#5, May, 1965



OSA May 2009 Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1  <i>Fred Stimmell</i> <i>Karolyn Hall</i>	2
3	4 OSA Meeting 7:00 PM	5	6	7	8  <i>Barbara Parnell</i>	9
10 <i>Mothers Day</i>	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24 31	25 <i>Memorial Day</i>	26	27	28	29	30  <i>Dan Kruger</i>



Orchid Society of Arizona

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