



The Arizona Orchidist

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NEXT OSA MEETING

The next regular society meeting
will be **Monday, May 3rd** at **7:00 P.M.**

Meetings are held at the

**Training Center
at the**

**Arizona State Veteran Home
4141 N. S. Herrera Way, Phoenix.**

OSA meetings are open to all
plant enthusiasts

Refreshments will be provided

Beverages by

Lou Ann Remeikis

Snacks by

Debra Hartill and Lou Ann Remeikis

Refreshment Coordinators:

Barbara Parnell (480) 948-0714

Lou Ann Remeikis (602) 803-6889

Jo Anne Waddoups

480-654-9883

Board Meeting

May 23 at 1 PM

at the home of Joe Bacik

Grower on Call

Lou Ann Remeikis

remeikis@andiamo-tel.com

IN MEMORIAM

This issue of The Arizona Orchidist is dedicated in loving memory of August Lorenzini who passed away at The Thunderbird Hospice of the Valley on March 27th, 2010.

For 22 years, August had been a devoted member of OSA. In the early 1990's, he served as OSA's 1st Vice President, Trustee, and Librarian. Several years ago, when his health began to deteriorate and he could no longer care for his orchids, he donated his collection to OSA. One of our members kindly offered to drive August to our meetings, but due to his debilitating back problem, August was unable to remain seated in a chair at our meetings.

In late February, 2010, he discussed with me the fact that his health had deteriorated to the point where it was no longer possible for him to remain in his home. He was seriously considering moving to an assisted living facility.

According to August's obituary in the April 11 edition of the Arizona Republic, no memorial service will be held, and his ashes will be interred in the Illinois family plot.

Wilella Stimmell

2010 OSA MEMBERSHIP ROSTER:

For the past 10 years, membership rosters have been available as a hard copy to all members and printed at no cost to OSA. The 2010 roster will be handled differently. Several magazines are now offered only electronically. And many of you bank online. So...if you indicated an e-mail address on your renewal form, you will receive your roster electronically, but **ONLY** if you request a roster. To request a roster, send an e-mail to: wilellas@att.net. This new approach will save at least one small rainforest and numerous ink cartridges.

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From the President's Desk

Julie Rathbun

Our April newsletter went to press before the March 13 Fred Rathbun Horse Show (formerly known as the Equestrian Special Olympics), so this is the first written opportunity I've had to thank OSA members for their participation in the event which was held at the Western Saddle Club at 12425 N. 7th St., Phoenix. In addition to myself and **Barbara Parnell**, two new OSA members, **Jo Anne and Ray Waddoups**, worked in the arena. As long as there were people wanting to ride horses in the arena, Ray helped load the participants onto their horses. I don't know what we would have done without his help! And Jo Anne, Barbara, and I walked with the riders around the arena. **Wilella** worked on the lunch line. Thanks to all of our wonderful workers!

For those of you who missed our April 5 meeting, you missed an excellent slide presentation by our speaker, **Tom Miranda**, Orchid Collection Specialist at the Smithsonian Institution. His topic was Orchid Hunting in Central America, but he concentrated on orchids that he had seen in their native habitats in Costa Rica. Tom's program was interactive because he often stopped and asked his audience questions and didn't move on until he received answers. Everyone enjoyed Tom's audience-friendly presentation. Since several of us had visited Costa Rica, we were familiar with many of the orchids and locations that he showed during the program.

I especially enjoyed having Tom as my house guest during his stay in Phoenix. We spent Easter Sunday in Sedona. And one morning he helped me with my "farm" chores. Unfortunately I didn't take his picture when he fed my pot-bellied pig, Wilbur! That would have been a great picture to add to his resume or...for blackmail purposes!

Also, during our April meeting, we had a **surprise silent auction of beautiful, hard-to-find plants, at incredibly low prices**. Many of the plants were leftovers from our participation in the Second Southwest Flower Show (March 5, 6, and 7), and this was our way of thanking our loyal workers and giving those members who couldn't work in our booth at the Flower Show, an opportunity to purchase some of the plants that we had for sale at the show.

We also had several tables of no-name phals for sale at **\$2 for any plant on the table**. These were donated plants, and for those of you who attended the meeting, you saw **the massive amount of plants that had been donated to us**. We sold quite a few of those plants, many of which were in spike. I mentioned to members in attendance at the meeting that if they never have anything to donate to the raffle table, this was their chance to purchase cheap plants and donate them for our raffle tables. (The phals are received by Wilella who stores them until the first opportunity to transfer them to my greenhouse. When my greenhouse is full, then Bob MacLeod takes the donated phals to his home. Those phals travel a lot! **Thanks, Bob**, for your willingness to temporarily house and tend the plants! Your help is greatly appreciated!)

Our May speaker will be Eric Elsberry, co-owner of Arizona Vanilla Company!

We're also making plans for our annual field trip to the Northern Arizona VA Health Care greenhouse. This year our trip will likely be in August.

Don't forget: Due to the interference of holidays, there will be no meeting in July and no meeting in September. Our June/July newsletter will be a combined issue, and our August/September newsletter will be a combined issue.

Our May board meeting will be held on May 23 at 1 PM at Joe Bacik's home. If non-board members plan to attend, e-mail Joe for directions to his home in Ahwatukee. (You will find Joe's e-mail address in the Board of Directors box in our newsletters.) Also, be prepared to work! Joe is in the processing of erecting a greenhouse from a kit that he bought locally. Because he works 60-hour weeks, he hasn't made a lot of progress on his greenhouse project, and we might be able to offer help.

See you on May 3!

May Program

THE CULTIVATION AND CURING OF VANILLA

Back for their 4th visit with OSA are Eric and Patty Elsberry. At our May, 2006 meeting, we learned about The History of Vanilla. Members enjoyed the presentation, Eric's humor, and Patty's baked treats on our refreshment table. Our members wanted the dynamic duo to teach us about the cultivation and curing of vanilla. So in October, 2006, Eric spoke to us about the cultivation and curing of vanilla. His third presentation for us was in January, 2008. It doesn't seem that long ago, but since Eric's last visit, his business has grown, his website has been redesigned, and Patty is featured (cooking with vanilla) on a You Tube channel. (Click on the You Tube link on Arizona Vanilla Company's home page: www.arizonavanilla.com/ndex.php. Other interesting links on the home page: the Press Room, Flavorings, Flavored Syrups, and of course, the link to the Vanilla Store.

Six 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 3rd 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.

Prior to starting Arizona Vanilla Company, Eric extensively studied vanilla, the vanilla markets, and the history of vanilla. He visited Papantla and El Tajin where most of the vanilla of Mexico is grown. And since he spoke to us in 2008, he and Patty spent time at a vanilla plantation. Eric has a video of Patty pollinating vanilla flowers.

Eric will be bringing a selection of products for sale, but if any members prefer to visit his website and pre-order products, please do so **before** our May 3 meeting. Send an e-mail to eric@arizonavanilla.com or to pattye@arizonavanilla.com. You are also welcome to **pre-purchase** vanilla products by phone: (480) 396-4552. Eric and Patty will deliver your purchases to our meeting.

Welcome back, Eric and Patty!

W. Stimmell

About vanilla: "Did you know that all fruits and vegetables have some level of vanilla in them? Did you know that 50% of the flavor of your application is provided by the vanilla extract that is used? When vanilla is used as a seasoning, it becomes the glue that holds all of the other flavors together!"

Eric and Patty Elsberry



COMMUNITY SERVICE SCHEDULE

By Wilella Stimmell

On **May 6, 2010**, at **7 PM**, OSA's program team will present a hands-on repotting program for handicapped participants at the **WASHINGTON ACTIVITY CENTER**, 2240 W. CITRUS WAY (23rd Ave., south of Glendale Ave.), Phoenix. (The last time we worked with this group was in September, 2001. We might recognize some faces in the group, but in 9 years time, there are probably new participants whom we have not yet introduced to orchids.) In 2001, Orvalita Hopkins scheduled activities for this group of handicapped individuals, and she's still scheduling activities for them. That's dedication! If any members can help with the program, please bring any blooming plants that you have so that our display table features a variety of orchids.

On March 10, when copy for the April newsletter was due, I did not know the date of the April program for 4th grade students at **Kiva Elementary School**, 6911 E. MacDonald Drive, Scottsdale. We now know the date: **April 22**.

A report on the hands-on repotting program at Kiva School will appear in our June newsletter.

We have also scheduled an **evening Orchids 101 program** in **July** for a **garden group in Payson**. According to the lady who contacted me, several of the garden club's members are very interested in orchids and are already attempting to grow them! They asked for our help. The schedule for the Payson program will also be mentioned in our combined June/July newsletter.

April Raffle Donors

Sarah Heberling, Bob MacLeod, Diane Norman, Seelye Smith, Wilella Stimmell, and non-members – Mark Obermayer and Craig Pearson

THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT

Reminder: There will not be a monthly meeting in July or September due to holiday interference. Our June/July newsletter will be a combined issue, and the August/September newsletter will also be a combined issue.

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.

American Orchid Society Members

Effective April 1, OSA members who are also members of the American Orchid Society, will not be able to access the Members Only section of the AOS website unless you use OSA's unique address. If you want to renew your membership online, you need the address. To find out the address, e-mail Jim Johnson, OSA's webmaster, at jim1958@nphs.us . Jim will have a list of OSA members who are also members of AOS, so if you are NOT a member of the American Orchid Society, he will **not** send you the AOS login address

New Website for the Arizona Federation of Garden clubs

The URL is <http://azclubs.esiteasp.com/afgc/home.nxg>

On the home page, there is a link to member clubs. OSA is in the Central District. The URL for our page is: [http://azclubs.esiteasp.com/afgc/orchid society of arizona.nxg](http://azclubs.esiteasp.com/afgc/orchid_society_of_arizona.nxg) Jane Buck, AFGC webmaster, was also kind enough to place a link back to OSA's website.

The **Orchid Digest** has requested that we announce the Eighth Orchid Digest Speaker's Day. The subject for the day will be devoted to Cattleyas. The date is Saturday, June 12 – from noon to 8:00 PM in Friends Hall at the Huntington Library and Botanical Gardens, San Marino, CA . Price of a ticket is \$60 by reservation; \$70 at the door.

Flyers for the event will be available at our May meeting on the raffle ticket sales table.

Arizona State Veteran Home – Tucson

“On March 19, 2010, groundbreaking ceremonies took place for the Arizona State Veteran Home – Tucson and construction was started. The home will house 120 beds and is estimated to open in September, 2011. This home will provide skilled nursing for veterans and their wives, as well as create approximately 140 jobs in Tucson.”

Repot Repot Repot

What if I want to grow an orchid mounted and not in a pot? Well, there is a good short tutorial presented by Jason Fischer on YouTube. Sign on to YouTube and type “orchid mounting” in the search block.

If you are repotting, it is critical to keep everything clean and not spread any disease across your collection. Be careful if you reuse pots as they need to be sterilized between plants. It is easier to use a new pot than try to clean an old one. You may choose to reuse a pot on the same orchid if it does not need a pot size change. Remember that stakes, labels and rhizome clips can all spread disease if not cleaned.

OSA May 2010 Calendar

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



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