



The Arizona Orchidist

Published monthly by

The Orchid Society of Arizona, Inc.

Founding Editor- Clarence S. Lindsten

1966

Volume 49

May 2011

NEXT OSA MEETING

The next regular society meeting will be

Monday, May 2nd 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

Bob MacLeod

Snacks by

Jo Anne Waddoups

and

Barbara Parnell

Refreshment Coordinators:

Barbara Parnell (480) 948-0714

Lou Ann Remeikis (602) 803-6889

Jo Anne Waddoups

480-654-9883

Board Meeting:

May 22 at 1PM

at the home of **Julie Rathbun**

Grower on Call

Harry Parnell

(480) 948-0714

MAY PROGRAM

Indoor Growing Areas – Alternatives to Greenhouses (We'll Show You Ours if You Show Us Yours!)

Growing orchids in a household environment can be a challenge. Some growers have limited space; some have both limited space and poor lighting for plants - except for one spot in their home; and some have growing cases that could be used but are not being used (I fall into the latter category). All growers can learn something from this program. And perhaps, one of the "alternatives" will give you an idea of how to improve your growing area.

About 15 years ago, one of our creative members, Dean Everett, passed away. His wife donated his orchids to OSA. It was our job to remove Dean's orchids from the built-in shelves that were located above the only bath tub in the house. I mention Dean's growing area because those shelves were **bolted** to the wall. Please do NOT disassemble such a structure and haul it to our meeting. We are content to have you describe a similar growing area, show us photos, or even draw us a picture. It is not our intent for any member to develop a hernia just to participate in this program!

W. Stimmell

April Raffle Donors

Bob MacLeod, Wilella Stimmell,
the Family of August Lorenzini,
and Scottsdale Garden Club

THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT

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From the President's Desk

Julie Rathbun

During our April 4 meeting, I thanked the two OSA members who helped on March 12 at the Annual Fred Rathbun Horse Show. Thanks Barbara and Wilella! OSA's assistance in this annual event means a lot to me. The event was successful, and the weather was warm with plenty of sunshine. One special feature at this year's event was the Petting Zoo. Even my grandson, Tim, cooperated. He brought his baby goat for the Petting Zoo. and the participants seemed to really enjoy petting the goat and rabbits. A good time was had by all. This was the first year Western Saddle Club paid for all of the expenses involved in the show, but the smiles on the participants' faces made the expense well worth the money. Also, WSC received several welcome donations of items which were used in the trophy ceremony.

We had excellent attendance at our April 4 meeting. In fact, there was no more room in The Training Center for people (although additional chairs were available). We first met several of the visitors at the March Flower Show at the University of Phoenix stadium. At our April meeting, one of our visitors became an OSA member! (And we hope that several other Flower Show visitors will also decide to become part of our orchid family.) Thanks to Bob MacLeod for bringing **Jonah**, his next door neighbor, to our meeting. Jonah is a 5th grade student at Litchfield Park Elementary School, and he seemed to enjoy our meeting and meeting our members. He even bought a plant on our silent auction! And it was wonderful to see a familiar face - former OSA member: **Rhonda Woodward**. (When we held our meetings at Encanto Park Clubhouse, Rhonda was an OSA member as well as our Program Chair. Then she took time off from orchids in order to concentrate on writing. She's had several novels published since she was an OSA member, and she's still writing novels. But she missed the camaraderie with our members.) After she took a break from OSA, she gave away all of her orchids. But she took at least one orchid home after our April meeting. When she was a member, she had quite a few orchids, and for growers - current and former, one orchid is never enough!

Along with the good news, there was also bad news: our April meeting was the last meeting (for this year) for Madeleine and Sarah Heberling. In advance of our hot weather, they returned to their permanent homes in Illinois.

Peter Lin's PowerPoint presentation on Mini-Cattleyas was educational, informal, and entertaining., and everyone enjoyed his program. I think that he was concerned that members who heard his program in February, 2009, would not enjoy a repeat program. But what he didn't know was that there were so many new faces in the audience. Even those of us who remembered him as an excellent teacher, enjoyed his presentation.

Once again, I reminded members that there will **no July or September meetings** because of the interference of holidays. Our newsletters for those two months will be combined issues: a June/July issue and an August/September issue.

After our April meeting, I looked at the Refreshments Sign-up Sheet. So far, no one signed up to bring a beverage for our June, August, October, and November meetings. I thought you might like to know that we do have a Plan B in case nobody volunteers to bring a beverage: lemonade powder mix. (One of our members donated the mix.) If no one signs up to bring beverages, we'll have to use the lemonade powder mix for those meetings.

Our May 22 board meeting will be held at 1 PM at my home.

I think members and guests will enjoy our in-house program for our May 2 general meeting. This program will be informal and will be presented by members who bring their indoor alternate growing areas. I'm bringing the aquarium that I use in my kitchen (under lights, but I won't bring the lights). I've had a lot of success with mounted plants in the aquarium. I might also bring the cute mister that I use to increase the humidity in the aquarium. I'll be anxious to see what other members bring for the program.

In our June/July newsletter, I'll let you know the date in August for our annual field trip to the Northern Arizona VA Health Care System greenhouse.

See you on May 2!

Julie

A sincere apology to Susan Nahmias for not listing her birthday in our April newsletter. Susan's birthday was April 30.

Welcome New Member: Richard Holle

On a sad note: At age 96, **Fred Hillerman**, owner of the Angraecum House, in CA, died on March 28, 2011. Fred spoke to OSA in September, 1994. At that time, Deacon Bell was still living in Phoenix and hosted our guest speaker

FYI: Check out the **online April, 2011 issue of Smithsonian magazine** and read an interview with **Tom Mirenda**. Tom has been one of our favorite speakers. He spoke to us in September, 2005 and in April, 2010. The URL for the interview is: www.Smithsonian.com/orchids

Reminder

No July or September meetings this year. The June/July newsletter will be a combined issue, and the August/September issue will also be a combined issue.

News Not Featured in our Local Newspapers

1) Brazil banks and Amazon deforestation: In the April 2 online edition of the **Ghana Business News**, there is an article about Brazil banks being sued for allegedly funding deforestation in the Amazon, the world's largest tropical rainforest. Brazil's largest bank is state-run. It denies that it lent money to companies that illegally cleared the rainforest and used labor practices bordering on slavery. Prosecutors state that they uncovered 55 loans approved to farms that had broken environmental and employment laws. Also, prosecutors claim that their findings show a direct relationship between public loans and deforestation in the Amazon. To read the full article, go to www.ghanabusinessnews.com/2011/04/02/brazil-sued-for-amazon-deforestation/

2) Malaysia and Indonesia are already targets of conservation and environmental groups for their deforestation rates. However, after the devastating March earthquake and tsunami in Japan, even higher rates of deforestation are likely to occur in Malaysia and Indonesia. To read the article, "Japan Disaster to put logging pressure on rainforests in Indonesia and Malaysia", go to <http://news.mongabay.com/2011/0405-hance-japan-logging.html>

The *Arizona Orchidist* is published monthly by the Orchid Society of Arizona, Inc.
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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 Arizona Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. , and The Nature Conservancy.

COMMUNITY SERVICE REPORT

Wilella Stimmell, CSP Coordinator

On **April 4**, we presented an Orchids 101 program for members of the **Scottsdale Garden Club**. We didn't have time to ask the ladies why they changed their meeting location from the Scottsdale Ranch Community Center – where we presented a similar program in February, 2002, to the Cottonwood Resort Conference Center, but a formal lunch was catered at both locations preceding the start of their meetings. (The Cottonwood Resort Conference Center is farther south than their previous meeting location and is more centrally located.) Quite a few of the ladies in the audience asked questions about their orchids, and after the program, they literally flocked to our culture sheet box and removed copies of Phalaenopsis culture sheets.

The lady who won the door prize plant, donated by OSA, was thrilled to have a replacement plant. She said that she had received a gift orchid and that it had died. She was “thinking” of replacing the deceased orchid. Since she won the Phalaenopsis door prize, she was happy.

At the conclusion of the program, Judy Wick, the SGC Program Chair, presented us with a gift certificate to Barnes & Noble. That gift certificate was placed on our April Raffle Table.

Following OSA's March 27 board meeting, board members created an assembly line in Julie's garage. Bob MacLeod had donated the 14 coconuts husks (that would be used instead of pots) and New Zealand sphagnum moss (the medium used in the husks), and Julie had soaked the moss so that it was ready to be used. The 14 Phals that were to be “potted” in the moss and husk had been specifically selected for use in the centerpieces for the closing banquet of the **2011 Pacific Region Convention**. OSA purchased the Phals from Gubler Orchids. With so many helpers, we finished the task in record time. Each plant was carefully placed in a folding crate so that the plants couldn't move or touch each other during transport. Since I was to deliver the centerpieces to the Scottsdale Hilton on **April 15**, I kept the centerpieces in my greenhouse and the copper tubing stands in a separate box. Each centerpiece also had care instructions on colorful cards that were placed at the back of the stands and behind the coconut husks. Board members were pleased that our centerpieces were creative and colorful. Thanks to everyone who helped assemble our donation!

Each year, Earth Day occurs on April 22, and since the date that our centerpieces would be used was so close to Earth Day, the first paragraph of the instructions was: “These creative centerpieces were designed to reduce our carbon footprints on our planet. The coconut husks (“pots”) were recycled, and the copper stand was made with recycled tubes. Even the paper on which the culture instructions are printed is recycled!”

The date for our hands-on program for 4th grade students at Kiva Elementary School, in Scottsdale, was changed from April 22 to April 20. A report on the program will be included in our June/July newsletter.

My Experience Pressing an Orchid Specimen, Including Basic Information and Tips

Wilella Stimmell

In Oct., 1998, OSA's program for our meeting was to demonstrate how to press an orchid specimen. Newly armed with the information, I set about pressing the front lead and the 3 flowers of *Cattleya bicolor* v. *brasiliensis*. I included all roots attached to the growth, the entire pseudobulb – at least 16 inches in length, all leaves, and flowers.

For a first time experience with pressing, I should have tried something less bulky! Even in our climate with low humidity, it took DAYS before I declared the specimen completely pressed. Because the herbarium at Selby Gardens did not have a pressed specimen of *C. bicolor* v. *brasiliensis*, I sent the results of my labor to SEL. The only information I knew about my plant was that it had been collected in Venezuela in the 1970's by the late Jack Fowlie.

(I bought a division of the original plant from Bob Hull, Sunswept Orchid Labs. Bob accompanied Jack on several collecting trips. Jack and Bob are both now deceased.)

This was a learning experience for me. I learned that it's much easier to preserve a specimen in "spirits" than it is to press one!

If anyone has a species orchid and is willing to press a portion of it, the pressed portion can live on (even if you kill the original plant) for a hundred or more years. Likewise, "pickled" specimens (preserved in 70-75% alcohol with glycerine equal to about 5% of the volume) will be a valuable resource for students of Plant Systematics.

First some basics, and then some tips:

Make a note for your specimen with the name of the species and the country of origin. Include a simple description of the flower colors. (Personal opinion only: but pressed specimens are ugly and have absolutely no color!) Place the specimen, arranged to fit, AND the note, on several sheets of newspaper folded across the middle. You might have to fold parts of the specimen to fit on the sheet. If you have to fold a stem, fold it between the nodes so that the bracts show. Fold leaves at an angle at the top so that most of the leaf, shows.



Cattleya bicolor v. *brasiliensis*

Put the specimen between two sheets of corrugated cardboard cut a couple of inches larger on all sides than the folded newspaper. Put something heavy on top to weigh down the specimen. For large, fleshy flowers, gradually start the pressing process so as not to break off delicate parts like the column or a staminode. You can stack the specimens if you have more than one, and add cardboard layers as you go along. When your specimen is thoroughly dry, tape the edges together at intervals, or tie them, to form a bundle which should then be packed in a plastic bag with a few mothballs and then sealed

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Tips for pressing specimens suitable for submitting to herbaria:

1. DON'T change the original newspaper on which you have mounted the specimen. If the newspaper feels damp to you, put dry sheets over and under the original newspaper. You can put your specimen pack in the sun to make it dry faster, or if the weather is humid, you can dry your specimen in your house.
2. Pierce fleshy leaves with random small punctures to help them dry faster. Cut off some of the back of big pseudobulbs so that they are easier to press and dry, but if there are any leaves, try to keep the leaves attached to the pseudobulb. After gently cleaning any debris from the roots, also leave the roots attached.
3. Allow large flowers, like cattleyas, to wilt a bit before beginning the pressing process.
4. Brushing alcohol on leaves and pseudobulbs will make them dry faster.
5. An exceptionally long inflorescence may be cut into sections for pressing, with each section numbered: for example, 1 of 7, 2 of 7, 3 of 7, etc.
6. Single flowers may be placed between sheets of tissues and pressed in a book. Don't forget to place a label with the flowers, so that you remember which species you pressed.
7. Try to include as much information as you can on a note card because if you are submitting your specimen to a herbarium, you need to report as much data as you know about the specimen.
8. If you plan to submit more than one specimen to an herbarium, you'll need to devise a numbering system for YOUR plants.

It would be helpful if you have seen other pressed herbarium specimens, even if you have no intention of submitting your pressed specimens to an herbarium.

In 1999, I bought an unidentified oncidium from a Peruvian vendor at the World Orchid Conference in Vancouver, BC. Surprisingly the oncidium flowered for me (I have a tendency to forget to water mounted plants), and I decided that since the plant was mounted, it would be best to sacrifice the plant for science. I contacted the Peruvian vendor, and after I explained that I was NOT the Plant Police and that I intended to pickle the plant and donate it to SEL, he gave me the collecting data (elevation, location, etc.) The inflorescence was HUGE, and if I recall, there were upwards of 50 flowers on the inflorescence. I measured the entire inflorescence and the distance between flowers, the number of leaves, the distance between the leaves, the number of bracts and their exact location, the length of the roots, etc. All such information was included in the voucher I submitted with the pickled specimen, to the OIC. The only jar I had that the entire plant would fit into, was a gallon jar! I was very nervous when I started to gently fold the inflorescence, but I felt very pleased with myself when I was finished. No flowers were broken in the process! I sent my specimen with the voucher, to the Orchid Identification Center. It was identified as *Onc. pardothyrsus*. I received a gently worded thanks to the effect that SEL only had space to house ONE specimen that was in such a large container. It was suggested that 4 ounce jars were "ideal". There is no way that I could have gotten that entire plant into a 4 ounce jar.

Unfortunately, I sent the only photo of *Onc. pardothyrsus* to SEL with the specimen.

Now here's my sales pitch: Herbaria are in need of both pressed and "pickled" specimens of orchid species. Hobby growers can contribute valuable information for taxonomic studies, but few demonstrate a willingness to do so.

OSA May 2011 Calendar

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



Orchid Society of Arizona
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