



# The Arizona Orchidist

MAY

Published monthly by  
The Orchid Society of Arizona, Inc.  
Founding Editor- Clarence S. Lindsten  
1966  
Volume 54  
May 2016

### 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 S. Herrera Way, Phoenix.**

**(Formerly North 3rd Street)**

OSA meetings are open to all

plant enthusiasts

**Refreshments will be provided**

**Beverage by**

**Kitten Harmon**

**Snacks by**

**Karen and John Barber**

**Dean Toms**

Refreshment Coordinators:

Lou Ann Remeikis (602) 803-6889

Barbara Parnell (602) 451-5952

### **Board Meeting**

May 22 at 1 PM

at the Farm at South Mountain

6106 S. 32<sup>nd</sup> St.

### **Grower on Call**

Jim Johson

jim1958@nphs.us

480-677-9767



Join us on Monday, May 2nd when we will be watching a selection of the best interesting orchid videos from the "Orchid Nerd" website.

### Proper Plant Identification

I am taking advantage of having space to fill in this newsletter to share a story about our recent trip to Costa Rica. We were on a hike with our guide. His native language was not mine, however he was doing much better with English than I was with my limited Spanish. We came around a corner on the trail and he stopped abruptly. "Sombus plant" he exclaimed. "You know Sombus plant?" Well, I have had a fair amount of botany in my life and sure wasn't going to show my ignorance, so I said "sure Sombus plant". On our return to the lodge I found a small corner of the room with internet access and began my search. My lovely wife inquired as to what I was searching. "Trying to find the Sombus plant". "You dummy" she responded. "It was a strangler fig". Strangler figs begin their lives in the rainforest canopy and when their roots reach the ground they take hold, strangle and devour the host tree. He was saying "zombie" plant!

The moral of the story is never be ashamed of what you do not know. Ask questions.

Now.....if do not want any more of my stories, I expect to see some interesting articles from **you** to include in **your** newsletter.

*Ed.*

### Raffle Donors

Bob MacLeod, Julie Rathbun, Randy Ricardi, Wilella Stimmell,  
and non-member Mark Obermayer

Thanks for your support !

### IN THIS ISSUE

President's Message

Page 2

Community Service Schedule

Wilella Stimmell

Page 3



## From the President's Desk

### Julie Rathbun

It was a pleasure to welcome back James Crook who spoke to us again about the new organic plant fertilizer made from freshwater fish. Until further notice, the website for Whole Fish Fertilizer is down until the legal issues between WFF and a large chemical company are resolved. I'm sure you would know the name of the large chemical company, so I decided not to mention it here because our newsletter is uploaded onto our website.

OSA members who have been using the whole fish fertilizer shared their successes with increased blooms and mentioned a few odd growth occurrences.

Jim said that he will let us know when the WFF website is back on line so that members have another opportunity to purchase his product. Meantime, the company is growing at a fast pace particularly among large commercial companies.

During our April meeting, I asked members in attendance if they had any suggestions for speakers and/or in-house programs for future meeting. No suggestions were made, and that was a disappointment. I realize that quite a few of our members are new to growing orchids and might feel shy about suggesting a topic. Please don't be shy. Even veteran growers need an occasional refresher on growing techniques and/or welcome to be introduced to new ones. All growers can benefit from additional information.

Members are also welcome to submit articles and photos to Keith for our newsletter. The editor's job is to edit, not to provide content, but all too often, he ends up doing both. A few of our members have submitted photos and articles, but we need more members to participate. And then...please read your newsletter in a timely fashion!. Our community service program team could also use a few new volunteers. We try to have a team consisting of 4 or 5 members. We have 4 "regulars", but we would welcome 1 or 2 new members.

See you on May 2!

Julie

## COMMUNITY SERVICE SCHEDULE

Wilella Stimmell

On Thursday, **March 17, Bob MacLeod, Julie Rathbun, Dean Toms**, and I presented a hands-on orchid repotting program for the Ed Robson Branch Library in Sun Lakes. This was one of those rare programs where more people than we could accommodate wanted to take the class. Perhaps we can schedule another program in 2018. There are many libraries in Maricopa County where we have not yet presented our program, and we would rather visit libraries where we have not yet presented a program before we return to those which have already had one program.

When possible we ride-share. We had a map with directions to the library, but just as we were about to get onto the freeway and travel east, we noticed that traffic was backed up on the freeway for several miles – all vehicles were headed in the same direction that we intended go., So we decided to travel farther south and try to avoid the backed up traffic. Unfortunately, we weren't the only ones who decided to do likewise, so it took much longer to arrive at the library than if we had not decided to reroute ourselves and get lost! Bob and Dean drove in separate vehicles, and they arrived at the library before we did.

By the time, Julie and I arrived, participants were already lined up at the entrance to the room where we presented our program. After we organized all supplies, the members of the audience were enthusiastic and ready to repot.

After Julie brought me home, I checked my email and found a thank you note from Patty Dennehy, the Library Paraprofessional.

"It was such a pleasure to meet all of you today! Thanks to you and your volunteers for making it down to Sun Lakes and treating us to such a wonderful, informative program. Lots of smiles as folks left with their orchid mini-greenhouses. Your knowledge and passion for what you do are contagious!"

(A report on the April 23<sup>rd</sup> program at Fountain Hills Branch Library will be included in our June newsletter.)

The Arizona Orchidist is published monthly by the

Orchid Society of Arizona, Inc.

Direct Inquiries to our website at:

[www.orchidsocietyaz.org](http://www.orchidsocietyaz.org)

Or to any of the Board Officers or Trustees:

### Board of Directors for 2016

<b>President</b>	(602) 843-0223
Julie Rathbun	jandfent@aol.com
<b>First Vice President</b>	(623) 810-3967
Bob Macleod	
In House Program Chairman	
<b>Second Vice President</b>	(480) 785-2251
Joe Bacik	bacikj@cox.net
Outside Speaker Program Chairman	
<b>Secretary</b>	
Dean Toms	(602) 588-4028
	datoms@msn.com
<b>Treasurer</b>	(480) 947-8479
Wilella Stimmell	willellas@att.net
<b>Editor</b>	(505) 379-6786
Keith Mead	orchidsinabq@gmail.com
<b>Past President</b>	
<b>Refreshments Chair</b>	(602) 803-6889
Lou Ann Remeikis	lou.remeikis@gmail.com
<b>Trustees</b>	(602) 938-8427
Bob Blue	rblue@q.com
	(602) 276-0402
Terri Jackson	tjacksonj@aol.com
	(602) 531-5635
Ed Perregaux	livennjoy@hotmail.com
	(602) 615-0522
Randy Ricardi	rricard2@mac.com

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.

# OSA May 2016 Calendar

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2 <b>OSA Meeting 7 PM</b>	3	4	5	6	7
8 Barbara Parnell  Mother's Day	9	10	11	12	13	14
15 Tony Duran 	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26 Cece Blue 	27	28
29 <b>Board Meeting 1pm at the Blues</b>	30  Memorial Day	31				



Orchid Society of Arizona

c/o Keith Mead  
5425 Thomas Drive NE  
Albuquerque, NM 87111

May 2016 Newsletter