



The Arizona Orchidist

November Program

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NEXT OSA MEETING

The November meeting
will be held at the
Arizona State Veteran Home
please refer to the map
for directions
The meeting will be
Monday
November 7, 2005 at 7:00 p.m.
OSA meetings are open to all
plant enthusiasts
Refreshments will be provided.

This month's beverages by

Julie Langston

Snacks by

Julie Langston

Julie Rathbun

Refreshment Coordinators:

Julie Langston (602) 955-5694

Ramona Jungwirth (602) 320-6124

Grower on call

Jim Johnson

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jimni.az@netzero.net

Marge From, Head of the Laboratory for Rare and Endangered Plants at Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo, will present a program on orchid conservation with emphasis on Madagascar as one of the biodiversity "hotspots".

Marge has 4 undergraduate degrees from the University of Nebraska at Omaha, and she received her graduate degree in plant tissue culture from the University of Nebraska at Lincoln. She has conducted field biology work in North America, Costa Rica, and Madagascar. Marge is a member of the Orchid Specialist Group for IUCN, North American Region, and the Reintroduction Specialist Group for IUCN. (IUCN is an acronym for the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources.)

Since 1990, IUCN has also been known as "World Conservation Union", the world's largest conservation network. The Union, headquartered in Switzerland, brings together approximately 10,000 scientists and experts from 181 countries.

OSA members will experience a rare treat as Marge reveals her vital and amazing work in conservation. Much of what is generally described as conservation is more conversation than conservation. Marge will demonstrate that her work is definitely NOT platitudes about what could/should be done. Her work speaks for itself.

Our November program is a rare treat for Arizona orchidists because Marge, the scientist, rarely leaves her post at the Henry Doorly Zoo. Marge has a keen sense of humor because she describes herself as "an all-around plant nerd".

This is our speaker's first visit to Arizona, so please extend a warm OSA welcome to Marge.

Wilella Stimmell

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In Memoriam: Vic Polk

It is with sadness that we report the death on October 9, 2005, of longtime OSA member, Vic Polk.

In 1987 and 1988, Vic served as an OSA Trustee. During that time, Jim Johnson was OSA President, and Jim stated that Vic was an asset to OSA and willingly served on our board.

Before Vic and his wife, Dottie, moved to north Phoenix, Vic closed his greenhouse and donated all of his plants and orchid books to OSA.

In 1995, before Deacon Bell moved from Phoenix to Santa Fe, Vic and Dottie attended a social event for an orchid visitor from CA. The gathering was hosted by Deacon at his home in Phoenix.

In 1998, before Vic's health deteriorated, he and Dottie celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary by taking a trip to New Orleans, Philadelphia, and Florida. It was during that trip that Vic purchased a flask of plants which he donated to OSA. We used it during an in-house program.

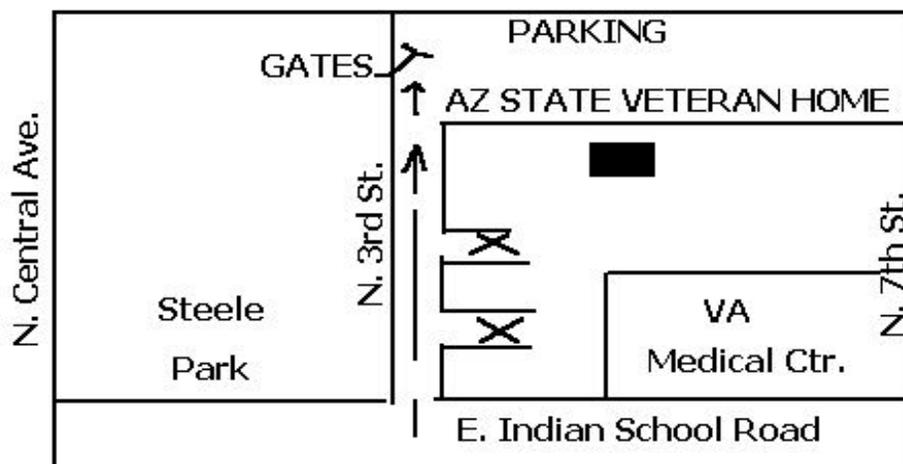
In 1999, although in failing health, Vic attended a few monthly orchid meetings. And he also attended the memorial service for Deacon Bell in October, 2002. It is sadly ironic that Deacon and Vic both died on October 9.

Vic's wife asked me to mention that my phone calls (to check on him) "always made him laugh". OSA has lost a gentle, warm, beloved member of OSA, and we will miss Vic.

A memorial service was held for Vic at 1 PM on October 16, at Shadow Mountain Mortuary, 2350 E. Greenway, Phoenix.

Wilella Stimmell

MAP TO ASVH



EXPEDITION TO THE YAVITA-MAROA ROAD AND TO CERRO MESAQUE 8 JUNE--2 JULY 2005

My latest expedition to study the orchids of the Yavita-Maroa road and to Cerro Mesaque this past June was a total success. We did face a few problems (at times appearing insurmountable), and we had to cancel the exploration of the Tuameni, but we documented photographically and with herbarium specimens (both dry and pickled samples), more orchids than I had seen in any of my previous expeditions.

In the little time we spent in the vicinity of Maroa (primarily around the white sand savannas on both sides of the airport), we found ten orchid species, including six that we had never before encountered in flower: three small species of *Cleistes* (so far unidentified), one terrestrial and one epiphytic species of *Eriopsis* (the first species is no doubt *E. sceptrum* Rchb.f. & Warsz.; the second species is close to *E. biloba* Lindl.; it is the first time ever that I have seen it with flowers), and *Encyclia remotiflora* (C. Schweinf.) Carnevali & I. Ramírez. We also encountered and took additional photographs of the showy *Duckeella pauciflora* Garay, a delicate terrestrial orchid related to *Vanilla* Miller with bright yellow flowers (that only last a few hours), and the beautiful *Paphinia dunstervillei* Dodson & G. A. Romero, the only terrestrial species in the genus; this species also bears erect inflorescences! Along Caño Mesaque, the waterway that took us to the Cerro of the same name, we documented 49 different orchid species, nine new to my checklist; four more species were observed along the trail we made to go to the cerro, and eleven additional species were found in the limited time we spent on the cerro itself. Including a few orchid species collected around Puerto Ayacucho, the capital of the state of Amazonas (one of which, *Habenaria marupaana* Schltr., is a new report for Venezuela), and a few more photographed in a short trip to the Gran Sabana, in neighboring Bolívar state, **I saw on this trip an incredible 84 species of Orchidaceae.**

I left Boston on June 8, spent two days in Caracas visiting friends and relatives, picked up permits, and bought miscellaneous supplies. During my second day in Caracas I found out that the scheduled flights from Caracas to Puerto Ayacucho had unexpectedly been suspended. Instead, I bought two adjacent seats on one of the two bus lines that travel to Puerto Ayacucho, and departed on June 10. The bus trip lasted approximately 15 hours. The ride was comfortable, but the bus crew kept the cabin temperature so low that at one point I asked them whether they thought they were carrying sides of beef rather than passengers: they just laughed. It is too bad the trip was done overnight, because it took us along some of the most beautiful scenery of southern Venezuela, including extensive sand dunes in Apure state (the itinerary of the bus was Caracas-Maracay-La Encrucijada, Calabozo, San Fernando de Apure-Puerto Paez-Puerto Ayacucho).

The original plan was to spend as little time as possible around Puerto Ayacucho and Maroa, then go to Yavita and from there to Caño Tuameni (generally following the itinerary of my last trip, which was published in the May 2005 issue of *The Arizona Orchidist*, but see changes below). Later we planned to explore Cerro Mesaque, an isolated granite mountain in the nearby Atacavi river basin, just to the north, that has never been botanically explored before, and then to safely return to Puerto Ayacucho and Caracas. From Caracas, I planned to go to Santa Elena de Uairén, and from there to Gran Sabana and photograph a few orchid species that I needed to document before flying back to Boston.

On June 11, I arrived in Puerto Ayacucho. I spent the day organizing my equipment and buying extra groceries and other supplies. By myself and in the same "antique" but still reliable Cessna airplane, the next day I left for Maroa. Again, my friend, Rubén Hernández, of the local airline Wayumi, served as my pilot. (My field assistant, Carlos Gómez, had gone to Maroa ahead of me to arrange for renting a boat and an outboard engine). I asked Rubén to fly over Cerro Mesaque so I could take a GPS reading. The next day we packed our equipment and bought gas and two-stroke oil for the Yamaha 25 H.P. outboard engine that Carlos had managed to rent. We left Maroa for Yavita that afternoon in Mr. Sandalio's "new" structural hybrid vehicle (the original body was a Suzuki LUV, light utility vehicle, sold in Venezuela under the GM logo. The original bed of the truck rusted-out. He removed the old, rusted-out one and replaced it with one from an old, Toyota Land-Cruiser pick-up truck abandoned along the Yavita-Maroa road. The Toyota bed fit perfectly but was much heavier, and he had to replace back springs and shocks. He did all this work himself!).

I had allocated four days to explore the Tuameni and then three days to reach Cerro Mesaque and two more days to get back to Yavita. However, both Carlos and the "motorista" (outboard engine operator and basically the captain of the boat), Nilsson Sossa, who we met in Yavita and who had been part of our January 2005 team, strongly suggested that we switch our plans: go to Mesaque first, which was a total unknown to us, and then go up the Tuameni after we returned to Yavita. I agreed, and on June 13, we started to navigate down the Temi to Caño Mesaque. We agreed to be back Sunday, June 19, when Mr. Sandalio would pick us up and take us to Maroa. Missing that pick-up time would have been difficult for many reasons, primarily because there is not much traffic between Yavita and Maroa and because we already had a reservation to fly back to Puerto Ayacucho on the 21st.

We started having problems with the outboard motor within minutes of leaving Yavita. It simply could not operate at full speed, and if we tried to do so it would just sputter and die. After 1--2 hours, we decided to spend the night on a nice, extensive granite rock outcrop half way from Yavita to Santa Cruz, the point we wanted to reach that afternoon. The rock had trees along the edges where we could hang our hammocks, and along the edges it gradually sank into the river, providing very pleasant spots where we could bathe and cook.

Before departing early the next day we removed the spark plugs from the outboard motor and carefully cleaned and replaced them. However, it did not take long to encounter the same problem with the motor that we had the day before. Therefore we decided to do major cleaning of the carburetor. The cleaning helped, but from then on we could run the 25 H.P. engine as if it were a 10 H.P. one. Nevertheless, we reached Santa Cruz (a major Venezuelan National Guard control point along the Atabapo river where we had to present our passports and permits) and, within minutes, after navigating upriver (southwards) a bit, we encountered the mouth of the Atacavi, which we had passed earlier on our way to Santa Cruz. Four hours later, we reached the town of Tabucal, where we were told we could hire guides to take us to Cerro MESAQUE. We spent the night under a thatch roof provided by one of the families in the village.

We left early the next day with two guides. After two hours of traveling upstream, we reached the confluence of the Atacavi and the Caño MESAQUE. After an hour of traveling up the Caño MESAQUE, we observed that the course of the Caño became quite narrow (4--8 meters, compared to 30--50 meters in the Temi and the Atacavi), and the vegetation changed dramatically: we started observing many more epiphytes. I should point out that epiphytes were rarely seen along the banks of the two other rivers we had navigated previously, the Temi and the Atacavi: we saw only a few clumps of *Caularthron bicornutum* (Hook.) Raf. and of *Eriopsis scaptrum* and some bromeliads high up in tall trees. To understand why, however, I need to present some information on the dynamics of rivers in the Orinoco and Amazon river basins. The difference between the lowest and the highest point in most rivers in these two basins can be considerable: the level of the Orinoco River itself, downstream from Puerto Ayacucho (but before the confluence with the Meta River), can fluctuate 10 meters between March (the lowest point) and August (the highest point). Similar or even more dramatic fluctuations have been recorded in the Atabapo river (where both the Temi and the Atacavi discharge), and at its highest point only the very tall trees along the banks of these rivers stay out of the water. The trees survive this regime quite well, and in fact the fruits of many species actually mature under water, but few epiphytes seem to be able to survive immersion for months at a time. As a result, the epiphytic flora along the banks of these rivers is quite poor both in diversity and quantity. However, as we ascended the Caño MESAQUE, rapidly gaining altitude, more and more of the trees along its banks apparently were never below water, and many epiphytes appeared able to thrive under this fairly mild climatic regime: temperatures ranging between 20 and 28 C and a well defined peak in rainfall in May--August, but with rain falling continuously throughout the year, with no months with water deficit (that is, more water evaporates than it is falling from the sky!). Along Caño MESAQUE we documented 49 orchid species, including the following nine new to our checklist:

Campylocentrum huebneri Schltr.;

Catasetum longifolium Lindl. (way up the under the leaves of a tall palm, *Mauritia flexuosa* L.f.);

Coryanthes sp. III (vegetatively different from the two other species found previously);

Gongora sp. II (vegetatively quite different from the other species found previously);

Lepanthes helicocephala Rchb.f.;

Notylia sp. III (with narrow leaves but a typical inflorescence);

Peristeria sp. (epiphyte high up in a tree and different from the other species found previously);

Platystele oxyglossa (Rchb.f.) Schltr. (first time I have collected this species);

Pleurothallis sp. (possibly a new species).

We also found in flower *Epidendrum compressum* Griseb. and two species of *Dichaea* that we previously knew only from sterile material. We found a few plants of *Masdevallia* sp., but none with flowers: it was most likely *M. sprucei* Rchb.f.

As we continued up the Caño MESAQUE, because of the relatively low water level, navigating across all the plants in the channel became extremely difficult: a palm (locally called "Volador", *Desmoncus polyacanthus* Mart., a diabolical "thing" mentioned in my previous report), and at least two large aroids (*Anthurium* sp. and *Montrichardia* sp.), were in our way, and it took us HOURS to navigate ONE kilometer upriver. Late that afternoon, we found a small piece of *terra firma* (solid ground) and chose that spot for our camp site. The two guides from Tabucal periodically checked their fish lines all through the night. In the morning, we had fantastic catfish soup for breakfast.

Before we continued on our trek, it was necessary to lighten our load. At our camp site, we left some supplies, the outboard motor, and the gas. Even with a lighter load, we could not advance far that day. To make matters worse, in the evening, we had a hard time finding a suitable place to set up camp, and finally we picked a spot where the roots of several trees formed a platform about 7 meters long and 5 meter wide. I dropped a stone, and it fell down into the water. In my notes, I baptized this camp "precarious camp". We all managed to hang our hammocks and mosquito nettings under tarps. The latter two proved invaluable later that night: first we experienced torrential rain and after the rain an invasion of light brown, flat cockroaches descended onto us. In the morning, the cockroaches were all over our clothes.

That night we had a "conference" and decided that we could not make it to the "Cerro", our ultimate goal, unless we found another way (besides navigating upriver which would surely have taken us within a few hundred meters of the "Cerro", but only if the water level had been 1--2 meters higher, the "normal" level during this time of the year according to one of our guides. A higher water level would have allowed us to navigate above the vegetation obstructing the main channel of the creek).

The morning of June 17 I sent Nilsson and one of our Indian guides from Tabucal to find *terra firma* on the south bank of the creek, from which we could hike to the cerro. Fortunately, we had brought a **very** small canoe with us. Our guides used it to fish, hunt, and find out way up river. They came back a few hours later and claimed that they had found a piece of "tierra firme" from which we could make it to the cerro. We were then ferried one by one to that point (the canoe could only carry one person at a time).

The GPS reading that I took from the airplane above Cerro Mesaque (as I flew from Puerto Ayacucho to Maroa) indicated that, from our new location, the cerro was only two kilometers away. Normally the hike would have taken us approximately two hours. However, we had to ford an extensive and dendritic morichal, a complex, shallow waterway with numerous *Mauritia* palms, all the way from where we started to the foothills of the Cerro. I lost count of how many times we had to cross narrow channels, sometimes shin deep, sometimes knee deep, and often waist deep! **Six** hours of hiking was a tiring journey! Along the way we found the following orchid species, none bearing flowers (but distinctive vegetatively: I probably missed a few more species along the way):

Batemannia lepida Rchb.f.;
Koellensteinia sp.
Palmorchis sp.;
Rudolfiella aurantiaca (Lindl.) Hoehne.

This is the second time I have encountered this puzzling *Koellensteinia*. I had seen it a few years ago in a similar habitat, small, shaded granitic outcrops in the middle of the forest, but at a slightly higher elevation as we hiked to one of the summits of the Sipapo massif (where we made a collection, *Romero et al.* 3247; see *Harvard Papers in Botany* 7: 83--92, 2002). I have never seen it in flower, and it does not look like any of the other terrestrial *Koellensteinia* species I have seen in the area. (Carlos Gómez tried to cultivate two plants we brought from Sipapo but they did not prosper and died within a few months. I sure hope next time we can find it in flower!)

Cerro Mesaque is an extensive, continuous granitic block, basically lined-up along a N--S axis, composed of two semispherical hills, with a hump in between: the northern-most hill about 400 meters high, with vegetation all the one to the top, and one southern-most hill about 500 meter high, and devoid of vegetation at the very top. The vegetation I saw that afternoon reminded me of the "lajas" around Puerto Ayacucho (see *American Orchid Society Bulletin* 62: 698--707. 1993) but with a few floristic elements I could not recognize. We could not find any evidence of sandstone in our limited exploration (I had been told that this cerro was part granite, and part sandstone, as are some of the low-elevation remnants of the Roraima formation in Colombia).

After recovering from the hike, I took a few photographs, and we divided up the comestibles and the emergency blankets. Carlos cut a few large leaves from a locally abundant palm (*Manicaria saccifera* Gaertn.) on which he said we could sleep. We made ear-plugs from toilet paper (you do not want any bugs touching your eardrums), and soon most of us fell sleep. However, sometime later, bugs started raining upon us. I first saw one on my right ankle (which I managed to kill), and then later one on my hand (it escaped among the palm leaflets). They turned out to be assassin bugs, the transmitter of Chagas disease! We captured a few and they turned out to be two different species: *Panstrongylus megistus* (Burmesiter) and *Rhodnius prolixus* Stal (Hemiptera, Reduviidae). Hopefully none of us got infected with this terrible disease.

Early the next day we sampled the vegetation around us for an hour or so and found the following orchids:

Brassia bidens Lindl.;
Cattleya violacea (H.B.K.) Rolfe;
Catasetum roseoalbum (Hook.) Lindl. (the only species found in flower);
Epidendrum ibaguense H.B.K.;
Epidendrum sp.;
Epistephium sp.;
Eriopsis sp.;
Oncidium orthostates Ridl. ex Thurn;
Otostylis sp.;
Sobralia granitica G.A. Romero & Carnevali;
Vanilla sp.

We then started hiking back to our pick-up site. This time we knew the route, and it took us only four hours. After a few trips in the tiny canoe we were back in our "precarious camp". We packed our gear, and soon after we headed downstream. The water level of the creek was dropping rapidly, and the channel we had opened coming up did not help us much. Nonetheless, in two hours, we were at our first camp site, where we had left the engine. We loaded all the gear we had left behind and headed downstream one more time. We tried to go as fast as we could to get to Tabucal that night. We left early the next day heading down the Atacavi and then up the Temi to the spot where we had slept the first night. There we were able to wash clothes, dry our gear, and clean the boat. In the early afternoon, just as Mr. Sandalio was driving into town to pick us up, we arrived at Yavita.

We did not have time to go up the Tuameni, but we did get to explore Cerro Mesaque, a place that had eluded several of my colleagues in the past. Now we have a much better understanding of the logistics needed to do a more complete sampling of the vegetation of this interesting mountain. I plan to go back next year, hopefully in late July--early August when, based on newly acquired data provided by the Venezuelan Ministry of the Environment, I expect the water level of Caño Mesaque to be at its highest.

We returned to Puerto Ayacucho June 21 in an old Cessna 207 Skywagon. (On September 16, another pilot crashed this plane on a mountain; there were no survivors). I explored a few habitats around town before returning to Caracas and found the *Habenaria* I reported before.

The overnight bus trip to Caracas was uneventful and the day I arrived I flew to Puerto Ordaz, in Bolívar state, from where I took a bus to Santa Elena de Uairén. In Santa Elena I rented a car and explored parts of the Gran Sabana along the road, where I was able to photograph *Cleistes rosea* Lindl., *Epistephium subrepens* Hoehne, *Habenaria* sp., *Koellenstenia tricolor* (Lindl.) Rchb.f., and the elusive *Sobralia stenophylla* Lindl.

I returned safely to Boston July 3.

This trip would not have been possible without the financial support of the Orchid Society of Arizona (OSA) and the logistic support of Venezuela's Ministerio del Ambiente y de los Recursos naturales Renovables (M.A.R.N.R.).

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A Very Special October 3rd Meeting

Those of you who missed the PowerPoint presentation by Michael Wenzel of the Fuqua Orchid Center in Atlanta, GA, missed a rare treat! The Fuqua Orchid Center features state-of-the-art greenhouses. As members of the audience admired the pictures of the orchids that were being grown at various temperatures, we knew that expense had not been spared to incorporate the best climate controls available. A majority of the orchids featured in Michael's presentation were species, and many of them were specimen size plants. (The Fuqua Orchid Center serves as one of the plant rescue centers where "orphan" orchids that lack proper documentation are sent after they are confiscated by US Customs.)

OSA members should know that speakers usually receive an honorarium for their presentations at our meetings. Michael Wenzel DECLINED an honorarium and stated that we should use the funds for our outreach programs!

Longtime OSA member, AUGUST LORENZINI, donated his orchid collection for our October raffle and silent auction tables. Thanks, August!! (Health problems have prevented August from attending recent meetings.) We hope that your problems can be resolved and that we will see you again soon!

Among the visitors at our meeting, none was more of a surprise to us than GARY REMEIKIS! Although attending our meeting prevented Gary from watching Monday Night Football on television, he wanted to thank us for our support during his recent illness. He brought with him a large, "thank you" cake! A little Lou Ann (Remeikis) bird said that the "thank you" cake was Gary's idea! Gary, as your health continues to improve, PLEASE attend more of our meetings. To know us is to love us: ask your wife!

W. Stimmell

New Feature at Future Meetings

TEDDY COHEN created a donation jar and covered the exterior with orchid designs. At each meeting, the colorful jar will be placed on the refreshments table.

For those OSA members who don't have time or inclination to purchase soda pop, flavored water, and/or snacks for the residents at the Arizona State Veteran Home and haul the items to our monthly meetings, here's a way for you to help defray the cost of the items that some of us, on behalf of OSA, have donated on a monthly basis for several YEARS. The residents appreciate our continued support and have sent us thank you notes! To those of us who are fortunate enough to continue living independently and can come and go when we want to do so, we tend to forget that our confined veterans can also experience a bit of independence when they receive "comfort" items which they can no longer purchase for themselves. Any amount that members donate will be appreciated by those who purchase AND haul the items to ASVH.

Annual Donation of Orchid Reference Works to Phoenix Public Library

In October every year, OSA delivers a selection of orchid reference books that were donated to OSA and then passed through to Phoenix Public Library. Our donation this year included several valuable and rare books! We were able to find the missing AOS Bulletin for 1961. Now we are looking for AOS Bulletin, Volume 23 (1954). When we find Volume 23, then Phoenix Public Library's "run" of Bulletins will begin with 1952 (Volume 21). The library binds complete volumes.

Christmas in Landers

It always seems like Christmas to me when I have the pleasure of stepping into the Gubler Orchids' greenhouses in Landers, California.

I experienced that pleasure again on Oct 1st and 2nd when I accompanied Joe Bacik, Teddy Cohen, Sharon Davis, Julie Rathbun and Wilella Stimmell on what has become an annual trek to participate in the Morongo Basin Orchid Festival.

Chris Gubler, OSA Honorary Life Member, hosts this event for the Yucca Valley Sunset Rotary Club with proceeds donated to charity. This year was the 10th annual event.

We arrived early on the afternoon of Sept 30th and as we entered the greenhouses we were greeted by row after row of brilliantly colored Phalaenopsis, Dendrobium and Oncidium alliance blooms above a vast sea of green foliage. Here and there could be seen Cattleyas flowering among the green. The greenhouses were immaculate as the staff scurried around attending to last minute preparations for the festival opening.

After a short visit we left Landers for the Gubler greenhouses in Lucerne, with Chris's sister Heidi as our guide .

Our mission in Lucerne was to select plants for the OSA Nov 12th and 13th Circus of Orchids Show and Sale and I must say "mission accomplished."

Under the watchful eye of Julie Rathbun , plant selector extraordinaire, treasure after treasure left the benches destined for your shopping pleasure.

The next morning began with a presentation of our "school program" to a large group of children. Chris supplied the bark and seedlings. The children supplied milk jugs which quickly became miniature greenhouses. Joe, Teddy, Sharon and I assisted as Willie gave instructions and introduced the gathering to the wonderful world of orchids.

Julie was busy in the greenhouses selecting additional plants for our November show.

After a brief intermission to allow for clean up we presented the first of four adult classes during which participants, for a nominal charge, repot a blooming dendrobium and then take it home. All the fees collected for these classes were donated by Chris to further our educational programs.

Sunday afternoon, as the festival activities wound down, our exhausted troop loaded Julie's horse trailer with plants and prepared for an early departure on Monday morning.

We would like to extend our thanks again to Heidi for all her help and to Chris for his generosity and hospitality. Without Chris's ongoing support of OSA our programs would not be as successful as they are.

Keith Mead

ORCHID PROGRAMS IN KINGMAN SCHOOLS

by *Teddy Cohen*

It is most unusual for OSA to make more than one visit to a school district in the same year, but this year, **Wilella Stimmell** and **Teddy Cohen** made a second trip to Kingman. Apparently this pair of OSA volunteers has some sort of weather curse, because Kingman's usual October sunshine was hidden behind fog, lightening, hail, and the heaviest rainstorm Kingman has had since their last visit. Teddy told Willie that they should hire themselves out as the traveling *Drought Busters!*

Cerbat Garden Club's own **Sandie Womack** again offered her invaluable support with Cerbat member volunteers who helped us set up, knock down and keep classes running. Cerbat's president, **Aldee Campbell** was there to help both days.

Julie Rathbun is a wizard at making sure student seedlings are healthy and pest free. She was sorely missed on this trip, due to her husband Fred's recent hospitalization. Her presence was felt, since she had shortened dozens of clear pots to size and provided the plastic grids that students need to make a finished water jug mini-greenhouse.

Palo Christi Elementary School's first and second grade students kept us busy on October 17th. One of our seedlings was an over-achiever, already in spike. We made sure that Gabriel, a student who just had his birthday, received this seedling. Willie made the necessary modification to his milk-jug greenhouse for the flower spike. Later, when Willie asked the class where on earth is the only place that orchids are not found, one little girl answered emphatically, "Kingman!"

Cerbat Garden Club's volunteers proved to be quick studies when it came to ensuring that the baby phalaenopsis plants had good roots and no bugs. They were kept busy scooping new fir bark, distributing lava rock, seedlings, and repotting help to the students. They did such a good job that we had "complaints" about not finding any fun bugs from the youngsters!

On Tuesday, the 18th, OSA instructor Willie gave the program at Eagle Academy in Golden Valley to 6th, 7th and 8th graders. Despite many pierced, tattooed, black nail-polished, spiked hair-do wearing pre-teens, these kids were the greatest! Their enthusiasm was energizing for OSA's weary instructors. We were most impressed by the helpful attitudes displayed by these kids. They volunteered to help their fellow students who were less proficient at potting, and made sure Willie and Teddy never were without a volunteer helper or two. One student, Patrick, was physically unable to create his own greenhouse, so Shirley from Cerbat made one for him. Teddy was "high-fived" by students on their way to their next regular class.

As Willie and Teddy loaded up their vehicles for the trip home, they were surprised with big hugs and warm thanks from some very *Hard Rock and Heavy Metal* looking teen girls in the parking lot. Orchids had done magic once more, opening minds and melting hearts.

WANTS & NEEDS

OSA is a 501 (c) (3) non profit organization, so please feel free to deduct any of your purchases for the society from your taxes! Right now, OSA could use some help with the following items:

For our snacks at the monthly meetings (see Julie Langston):

- Paper plates, cups, and napkins
- Plastic spoons, forks & knives

For the November 12th & 13th Show & Sale:

- Anything **CIRCUS** related for the November show, including:
 - stuffed animals, clown items, carousel items & calliope items,
 - your most beautiful plants for display at the show
 - brightly colored snack sized plates & napkins
 - your time to help with set-up on November 11th at 5:00 PM
 - your time to help break down the show on November 13th
- A work sign up sheet will be passed around at the November meeting.

Please note that anything you donate to the November show will be sent to a local crisis center unless you have your name attached to the item!

For the ongoing support of the State VA:

- Soda, flavored water, lemonade or other canned drinks
- Microwave popcorn – (no cheese flavor please!)
- Donate your change! Use the decorated jar on the snack table at our regular meetings.
- It is painless! Just toss in a handful of that heavy stuff in your pocket.

The election of OSA's Board of Directors for 2006 will be held during our November 7, 2005 regular monthly meeting. The Nominating Committee is pleased to present the following list of candidates:

President:	<u>Julie Rathbun</u>
First Vice President (In-house Program Chairman):	<u>Aaron Hicks</u>
Second vice President (Outside Speaker Program Chairman):	<u>Joe Bacik</u>
Secretary:	<u>Teddy Cohen</u>
Treasurer:	<u>Wilella Stimmell</u>
Trustee:	<u>Jim Lauck</u> (Term Expires 12/2007)
Trustee:	<u>Dan Kruger</u> (Term Expires 12/2007)

The Nominating Committee is encouraged by the ever-increasing number of newer OSA members who fully understand that maintaining our status as a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization is predicated on our continuing focus on community service.

We believe that the slate we have proposed for the upcoming election represents a strong, united, and dynamic team. All OSA members thank the two retiring Trustees for their outstanding, dedicated service: Sharon Davis and Julie Langston.

The terms of our other two Trustees, Teddy Cohen and Barbara Parnell, do not expire until 12/31/06. (Note: Jennifer Schmitt, OSA's current Secretary, has agreed to complete Teddy Cohen's term as Trustee so that Teddy is eligible to run for the office of Secretary.)

Respectfully submitted by the Nominating Committee:

Lou Ann Remeikis, Chairperson
Bob MacLeod
Julie Langston

OCTOBER RAFFLE TABLE DONORS

Marleny Castillo, Chris Gubler,
August Lorenzini,
Bob MacLeod, Lou Ann Remeikis,
Cynthia Schnitzer, Wilella Stimmell,
Sam Weinschenk

SPECIAL THANKS TO ALL !



THANKSGIVING

We thank you, God, for everything,
That we possess this day;
Our health, our homes and happiness,
That you've bestowed our way.
We thank you for our Orchid Club,
That teaches us to grow
These lovely, regal orchid plants,
With bloom that we love so.

We thank you for the fellowship
Our club has given us.
We thank you for the friendships gained,
And problems we've discussed.
We thank you for your gentle touch,
That makes our orchids grow,
And for the calm serenity,
That our greenhouses bestow.

*Clarence S. Lindsten
Orchids In My Greenhouse,
Crabgrass in My Lawn*

The editor extends his apology to the President for the necessary omission this month of *From the President's Desk*. The inclusion of the *Expedition to the Yavita-Maroa Road and to Cerro Mesaque*, printed in its entirety in this issue, precluded her monthly contribution. We look forward to the return of her comments in the December newsletter.

editor

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Direct Inquiries to our website at:

<http://welcome.to/orchidsocietyaz>

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. The Nature Conservancy.

OSA November 2005 Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7  <i>Peggy Stejskal</i> OSA Meeting	8	9	10	11	12 <i>Circus of Orchids Annual Show and Sale</i>
13 <i>Circus of Orchids Annual Show and Sale</i>	14  <i>Jeremie Macias</i>	15	16  <i>Melissa Tackett Nelson</i>	17	18	19
20  <i>Roberta Donahue</i>	21	22	23	24  <i>Madeleine Heberling</i> Thanksgiving	25	26
27	28	29	30  <i>John Atwood</i>			



Orchid Society of Arizona
 c/o Keith Mead
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