



The

Arizona Orchidist

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NEXT OSA MEETING

The next regular society meeting
will be **Monday November 3, 2008**
at **6:45 P.M.**

This month the meeting will be held at

**Liberty Hall at the
Arizona State Veteran Home**

(see map on page 3)

OSA meetings are open to all
plant enthusiasts

Refreshments will be provided.

Snacks thoughtfully provided by

Ann Cherny (donation)

Beverage by

Bob MacLeod

Refreshment Coordinators:

Barbara Parnell (480) 948-0714

Mary Gannon (623) 878-4173

Carol Erwin (602) 996-1696

OSA BOARD MEETING

Board Meetings

are open to all members

The next Board meeting will be

held at 1:00 PM on Sunday,

November 23rd at the home of

Harry and Barbara Parnell

GROWER ON CALL

Keith Mead

kjkm@comcast.net

November Program

REMEMBER MEETINGS NOW BEGIN AT 6:45 PM

Ever wonder where orchid seedlings come from?

"Yeah, me, neither. But the November talk is still going to be a presentation on orchid seedlings: where they come from, how they're made, and why the best people to run a flasking lab always smell like bleach." Aaron Hicks

Rumor has it that Aaron was born in a library! His addiction with orchids began at the age of 12. While he was in graduate school, his addiction was dormant. In 1994, his passion for orchids was rekindled with an introduction to the Internet.

In December, 1996, Aaron recognized the need to preserve seeds of orchid species and started the Orchid Seedbank Project in Socorro, NM. (Until the OSP was formed, there was no central clearinghouse by which conservationists, researchers, commercial and hobbyist growers could go to specifically for orchid seed.) The OSP, currently located in Chandler, AZ, is an orchid seed clearinghouse for growers interested in orchid conservation. Aaron has advanced degrees in a variety of scientific disciplines and OSA members fondly refer to him as "our mad scientist". When he used to have time for hobbies, he was a volunteer firefighter and rescue worker. The OSP's website is a treasure trove of information, including descriptions of Aaron's experiments with gathering, preserving, classifying, distributing, and exchanging orchid seeds. He has published numerous papers and three books: **Asymbiotic Technique of Orchid Seed Germination**, **Orchid Seed Germination Media**, and **The Orchid Seed Germination Manual**. In the May, 1999, issue of *Orchids* magazine, there is a feature article on the Orchid Seedbank Project. The OSP was also featured in the July, 2003 issue of *Phoenix Home and Garden Magazine*. Check out the OSP website at <http://members.cox.net/ahicks51/osp/>

Biographical Embellishment by W. Stimmell

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From the President's Desk

Julie Rathbun

For those of you who didn't attend our October 6th meeting, you missed one of the largest donations of plants - both in the number and size of the plants - on the raffle table that we have ever had! The plants were donated to OSA by the **Northern Arizona VA Health Care System greenhouse** in Prescott. Paula Moran, Current Recreation Therapy Supervisor at NAVAHCS, asked OSA Board Members for our help with the orchids in the greenhouse. On September 13th, Wilella Stimmell and I responded to her call for help. **Betty Stephens**, former Recreation Therapy Supervisor, offered her assistance. She met us at the greenhouse, unlocked it, and watched in awe as we quickly dispatched plants with crown rot to the trash bin. Betty disposed of the trash. Then we organized the remaining plants and placed all Phalaenopsis plants in one spot on the benches, all Cattleyas in another place, all Dendrobiums in yet another position, and when we had finished reorganizing, the center bench held only Oncidiums, and the Cymbidiums were placed on the floor. After not receiving attention for so long, the VA orchids were surprisingly free of scale and mealybugs, and we found only two giant snails that had dined on orchid flowers. We had taken a gallon of rubbing alcohol to be used to remove scale and mealybugs, but we used very little alcohol because the plants were clean. We discovered that the orchids had either been overwatered or underwatered. The plants that were on the October raffle table were given to us in appreciation for our efforts at reorganizing the collection. Even after the donated plants had been removed from the VA greenhouse, the orchid collection remaining in the greenhouse looked like no plants had been removed! I had been storing the donated plants in my greenhouse until October 6th, the day that we returned from Landers. The donated plants took up a LOT of space, so on the 6th, the NAVAHCS plants were moved out of my greenhouse and into my vehicle; then there was room in my greenhouse for our November show plants.

Joe Bacik, Keith Mead, Lou Ann Remeikis, Wilella Stimmell, and I represented our school program team on October 4th and 5th at the 13th Annual Morongo Basin Orchid Festival in Landers. Keith drove over to Phoenix from Albuquerque, and he rode with Joe in Joe's new vehicle to Landers. Lou Ann and Wilella rode with me in my truck. My horse trailer was hitched to my truck, and other than the fact that I made a turn that brought the front of the horse trailer into contact with the back window of my truck, the ride to Landers was smooth. Thanks, Joe, for having a roll of duct tape and a tarp to cover the broken window in my truck!

We returned from Landers on the day of our meeting, and all of us were exhausted. Keith still had another 7 hour drive ahead of him in order for him to return home to Albuquerque and go to work the next day. The Festival was a huge success, and although we worked like busy beavers, all of us felt that our efforts were greatly appreciated. Keith is already planning for next year's trip to Landers, and Heidi Gubler Brodeur (who refers to herself as "Little Miss Organized") is already starting to organize the schedule for next year's classes!

For a sneak preview of the king size orchid quilt that will be raffled at our December 1 auction, I brought the quilt to the meeting. I showed the quilt to members, but I forgot to mention that I also brought the quilt raffle tickets. They're PURPLE and were located on the raffle ticket sales table. They'll be on the raffle ticket table for our November meeting, so if I forget again to mention the quilt tickets, please look for the roll of purple tickets! (The first tickets were purchased by AFGC's webmaster, Carolyn Kawahara, a resident of New Jersey!) We hope to sell a lot of raffle tickets and that the sale of tickets will raise money for our Treasury!

At our October meeting, Barbara Parnell, November 2008 Show Chair, passed around a sign up sheet for show workers. At our November meeting, you'll have another chance to sign up to work. (Our show is AFTER our November meeting.) We need your help!

Our November meeting will be held in Liberty Hall at the Arizona State Veteran Home. During the meeting, we will hold our election for OSA's 2009 Board of Directors. Aaron Hicks will present the program for the meeting.

See you on November 3rd!

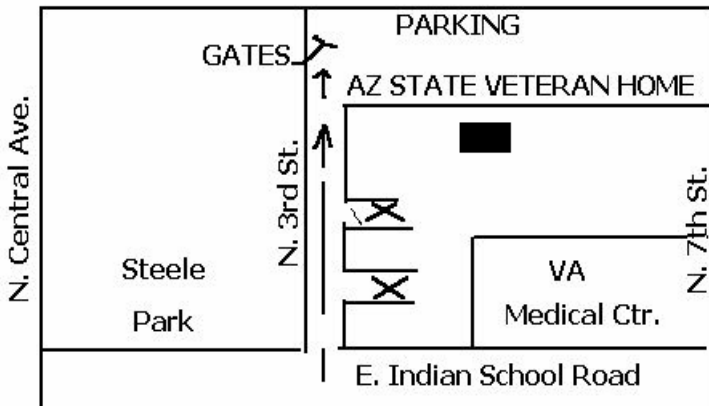
Julie

SHOW TIME

We need volunteers for the Show!!! We will be setting up at the Encanto Park Clubhouse on Friday, Nov. 7 from 12:30-5pm if anyone can come by. Also we are in need of any props you might have to use in the displays - and make sure you mark the bottom of any items you bring so we can get them back to you. We also need any flowering plants you may want to show off for use in the displays. Volunteers are also needed to help on the show days - we need people from 9am-1pm Sat or Sun and from 1pm-5pm on Sat and 1pm-3pm on Sun. There will be a sign up sheet at the Nov meeting on Monday Nov 3rd. If anyone would like to help with the refreshments for the show please see Barbara at the meeting or call her at 480-948-0714. Thanks to all of you and hope to see you at the Show!

LOST AND FOUND

A pair of prescription spectacles was found at our October meeting. They were NOT in the ballroom before the meeting, so we figure that they belong to one of our members. I have custody of the glasses and will bring them to the November meeting at the veteran home. W. Stimmell



The Arizona Orchidist is published monthly by the

Orchid Society of Arizona, Inc.

Direct Inquiries to our website at:

www.orchidsocietyaz.org

Or to any of the Board Officers or Trustees:

Board of Directors for 2008

President	(602) 843-0223
Julie Rathbun	jandfent@aol.com
First Vice President	(480) 722-9328
Aaron Hicks	ahicks51@cox.net
In House Program Chairman	
Second Vice President	(480) 785-2251
Joe Bacik	bacikj@cox.net
Outside Speaker Program Chairman	
Secretary	(480) 948-0714
Barbara Parnell	birdie552002@yahoo.com
Treasurer	(480) 947-8479
Wilella Stimmell	willellas@worldnet.att.net
Librarian	(602) 803-6889
Lou Ann Remeikis	remeikis@andiamo-tel.com
Editor	(505) 898-0975
Keith Mead	kjkm@comcast.net
Trustees	Frank Bopp (623) 937-0019
	fgbopp@cox.net
	Mary Gannon (623) 878-4173
	mggaz@cox.net
	Bob MacLeod (623) 935-4059
	Seelye Smith (602) 404-1013
	sss3301@hotmail.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 Orchid Digest Corporation, the Arizona Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc., and The Nature Conservancy.

COMMUNITY SERVICE REPORT

Wilella Stimmell, CSP Coordinator

On September 17, **Julie Rathbun** and I presented an Orchids 101 program for the residents at Freedom Inn at Scottsdale. Karen Zeller, the Life Enrichment Coordinator for Freedom Inn, had contacted us, suggested several dates as possibilities for an orchid program, and when we arrived, she was waiting at the front door. A large number of residents attended our presentation. In fact, there were so many women AND men in the audience that they had to be positioned three rows deep! Everyone admired our blooming display plants and expressed interest in attending our November show. Karen said that she would try to arrange a bus so that the residents could attend our show. A gentleman resident won the doorprize plant. Everyone seemed to enjoy our program, and we were pleased to have introduced the residents to orchids.

On October 7, we received the following thank you letter from Paula Moran, Recreation Therapy Supervisor at the Northern Arizona VA Health Care System in Prescott: "On behalf of the Bob Stump Department of Veterans Affairs and the veterans we serve, please extend our appreciation to your organization for their support in visiting our veterans on August 17, 2008. Receiving visits, donations, and refreshments from your organization was appreciated by our veterans and lets them know that they are not forgotten. They and the staff certainly enjoyed the lunch that you provided. Again, thank you for all of your efforts on behalf of our veterans. We look forward to your continuing support."

News from the Arizona State Veteran Home: Following my suggestion that, to save postage, the monthly ASVH newsletter be made available online to those who want to see the newsletter **in color and** "save a tree", the monthly newsletter is now available online. Leslie Goin, Manager of Therapeutic Programs at ASVH and Candy Covarrubiaz, newsletter Editor, incorporated all of my suggestions for improving their newsletters. To find the newsletter, visit the home page at www.azdvs.gov/stateveteranhome.htm Near the bottom of the home page, there is a link to the newsletter. Simply click on the link to the newsletter. It is in pdf format which means that you need Adobe Reader to view the newsletter. In the October newsletter, Leslie Goin called for volunteers on Veterans Day, Tuesday, November 11. If you are available from 9am to 1pm to escort residents to the parade and/or to help serve the barbecue lunch, contact Leslie at lgoin@azdvs.gov or phone her at 602-248-1575. If you don't have time on November 11, you might want to provide one or more of the items mentioned in the ASVH newsletter Wish List. The residents would appreciate any of the following: Musical DVDs from the 40's and 50's and classical music; DVD movies – western, Don Knotts, Marilyn Monroe, Elvis Presley, etc.; sponsor a fast food lunch – specify the number of lunches at \$5 per lunch (sometimes the veterans crave fast food); RF converter cords – specify the number of cords at \$20 per cord (150 cords are needed for residents to watch DVDs in their rooms); sports equipment packages - \$200 for large exercise balls and target games were mentioned; a portable piano - \$700; and monthly sponsorship for various services. (In September, the American Legion Auxiliary sponsored a photography program, and the Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War sponsored 10 fast food meals.) The Wish List includes a wide range of items from \$5 to \$700.

October Raffle Donors

NORTHERN ARIZONA VA HEALTH CARE SYSTEM and Wilella Stimmell

THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT

OSA IS PROUD OF YOU – MADELEINE

Madeleine Heberling, OSA's youngest member, has reason to celebrate...and for OSA to beam with pride for her. Madeleine joined OSA when she lived in Mesa, however the family moved to Illinois in 2005. She has remained a member, and always attends meetings when she visits (usually during her summer school break).

Madeleine has always been "sharp as a tack", and she has scholastically accomplished many things for her young age of eleven. I, being the proud Aunt, thought those of you who know her may want to be aware of a few of her achievements.

In 2007, Madeleine received the Alton Administrator's Excellence in Education Award. She has been a straight A student since preschool! My husband, Gary, is very aware of this fact! For every A Madeleine receives, we place money in a college fund for her. Gary didn't realize it was going to cost us so much! (Smile)

Also in 2007, when she was only ten years old, she was tested for her reading comprehension and was found to be at post-college level. (I'm way past college level and probably wouldn't do so well)

In October, 2008, Madeleine was nominated and invited to participate in The World Leadership Forum's "People To People Leadership Ambassador Program". This program rewards students who have the potential for leadership and educational achievement. Madeleine will participate in a one week trip to Washington, D.C., as a leadership delegate. During this trip, she and other students will obtain interactive leadership training from members of the U.S. Congress and other government officials. She will get to study the leadership techniques of our Country's most powerful leaders, under a very structured setting. Madeleine will need to be successful in a fundraising process to cover the expenses of the trip, as this honor does not come all-expenses-paid...or cheap!

The "People To People Student Leadership Program" was founded in 1956 by President Dwight D. Eisenhower. President Eisenhower's granddaughter wrote Madeleine a letter explaining that Madeleine's teacher had nominated her for this honor, and that she had been accepted to participate in the program based on that recommendation.

If you are interested in learning more about The World Leadership Forum, check out their website: www.wfleaders.org

Madeleine – We are ALL proud of you and we look forward to watching your continued success and achievements!

Submitted by "The Proud Aunt" – Lou Ann Remeikis

Yucca Valley Sunset Rotary

Press Release



For Details, Contact:
Chris Gubler
Yucca Valley Sunset Rotary
Direct Phone: 760-364-2282

For Release on October 10th, 2008

Morongo Basin Orchid Festival an Overwhelming Success: Netting Over \$12,000 for Charity!

Yucca Valley, California, October 10th, 2008

The 13th Annual Morongo Basin Orchid Festival broke another fundraising record this year netting \$12,467.59 for charitable causes. This represents an increase of more than 7% from last year's figures. "We are unequivocally delighted with the outcome of this year's festival!" exclaimed Charles Willis, President of the Sunset Rotary Club in Yucca Valley who sponsors the festival alongside Gubler Orchids. "This year the corporate sponsorship of the festival reached new heights, pushing our profit figure well over that from years when the economy was burgeoning. Despite a worsening economy, it's wonderful that people continue to make the choice to lend a hand to those in greater need than themselves, even though it necessarily means tightening their own belts." Corporate sponsors this year include Costco, Gubler Orchids, Libbey Inc., McDonalds, Pacific Western Bank, and Trader Joe's. Our media sponsors, Hi-Desert Star and Z107.7, did a tremendous job publicizing the event and were a definite force behind the increased festival attendance.

Public support blossomed with the addition of "Rotary Bucks" to the festival. This year the festival hosted 15 charities who registered ahead of time to have booths at the festival. Festival goers received Rotary Bucks for spending money on orchids, food, and drink, and in turn they "donated" the Bucks to the charities of their choice. The Rotary Club will exchange each of the Bucks for no less than one real dollar within the next few weeks. The tightened economy did significantly lower the sales of the higher ticket orchids that have been a mainstay of the festival. However, even though the orchid sales were down this year, the festival was boosted by an almost doubling of the food and the wine & cheese tasting sales. "While both the Gubler Orchids' staff and our entire eleven-member Rotary club work exceedingly hard to make this event a success, it is in fact the people and businesses of the entire Morongo Basin and the lower desert that we have to thank. Their support, attendance, and donations make this all possible and allow us to serve the people of our communities," said Chris Gubler. "It truly is a win-win for everyone participating in the festival, and that is what it is all about."

Please visit www.gublers.com and www.sunsetrotary.org for more information about the event or its hosts. Next year's festival will be October 3rd and 4th, 2009.



ORCHID SOCIETY OF ARIZONA

PRESENTS

ORCHIDS FOR ALL SEASONS



Annual Orchid Show and Sale



November 8th and 9th, 2008

Encanto Park Clubhouse
2605 N. 15th Ave.
Phoenix, AZ



Free Admission

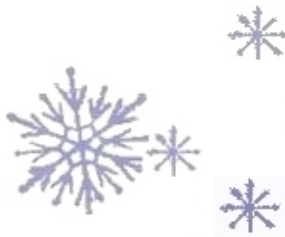
Sat. 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Sun. 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM



**Orchids, Supplies, Cultural information, Refreshments, Gifts,
Entertainment, Raffles**

For more information, contact Barbara Pamell, Show Chair (480) 948-0714 or visit our website at www.orchidsociety.org



OSA November 2008 Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 <i>Daylight Saving Time Ends</i>	3 <i>OSA Meeting 6:45 PM</i>	4 <i>Election Day PLEASE VOTE</i>	5	6  <i>Demitris Sagias</i>	7	8 <i>SHOW</i>
9 <i>SHOW</i>	10	11 <i>Veterans Day</i>	12	13  <i>Lori Clark</i>	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23 30 <i>John Atwood</i>	24  <i>Madeleine Heberling</i>	25	26	27 <i>Thanksgiving</i>	28	29



Orchid Society of Arizona

c/o Keith Mead

5425 Thomas Drive NE

Albuquerque, NM 87111

November 2008 Newsletter