



# The Arizona Orchidist

Published monthly by

The Orchid Society of Arizona, Inc.

Founding Editor- Clarence S. Lindsten

1966

Volume 48

November 2010

## NEXT OSA MEETING

The next regular society meeting will be

**Monday, November 1st 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 : **Joe Bacik**

Snacks by: **Lou Ann Remeikis**

and

**Kimberly Levingston**

Refreshment Coordinators:

Barbara Parnell (480) 948-0714

Lou Ann Remeikis (602) 803-6889

Jo Anne Waddoups

480-654-9883

**Board Meeting:**

**Sunday, November 21st**

**at 1 PM at the home of**

**Julie Rathbun**

**Grower on Call**

**Keith Mead**

**kjkm@comcast.net**

## NOVEMBER PROGRAM

### Survival!

How orchids have adapted to survive in nature.

Guest Speaker Dr. Joseph Arditti

The origin of Joseph Arditti's orchid fascination is a simple one. It all began when he was an undergraduate and found a job helping a wealthy Bel Air resident cultivate his orchids. He repotted and did other tasks at first, but then something else took over — his work became inspiring.

Joseph Arditti completed his dissertation on orchid seed germination and received his Ph. D. from the University of Southern California in 1965 His son graduated from the same university in 2008.

He joined the faculty at the University of California, Irvine in 1966, served as a professor there for 35 years and devoted his entire career to research on orchids before retiring in 2001 to become Professor of Biology Emeritus. Dr. Arditti is the author of many scientific papers, popular articles and books.

Through his dedication and lifetime achievements, he is now the world's leading orchid physiologist and development biologist.

Dr. Arditti last spoke at OSA's Sept. 2006 meeting. Welcome back!

Joe Bacik

### Reminder

Our **December 6 fund-raising auction** is next month! We have already received several items for our auction, but we need more. If you have purchased plants from vendors, please ask them if they would be interested in donating plants for our auction. In previous years, vendors have been very generous with OSA. If you have NOT purchased anything from a vendor, please do not ask for a donation from that business or person.

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## Julie Rathbun

For those who missed our October meeting, you probably don't know that my truck was stolen several weeks ago from a church parking lot. My truck was recovered the following morning, but there was quite a bit of damage to it. Since it was recovered, I've been dealing with my insurance company, the Ford dealership (that's taking its own sweet time to do the repairs), and the inconvenience of having to borrow vehicles to get around town. I also had to borrow a neighbor's truck for our program team's trip to Landers. As you can imagine, I've been very frustrated with all of this, and I haven't been sleeping well at night. At the time that I'm writing this, I still do not have my truck! And as if the truck trauma wasn't enough to handle, I had to put down one of my Yorkshire terriers.

On September 22, I borrowed a truck to pull my small horse trailer to Prescott. Wilella and I went up to the Northern Arizona VA greenhouse, and with the help of Betty Stephens, former Recreation Therapy Supervisor at the NAVAHCS, we cleaned up the orchid collection. We brought healthy plants home, trashed dead plants (3 very large garbage cans were filled with dead plants and clippings from houseplants that had hung over the walkway – the unruly plants made it impossible for wheelchairs to pass through the aisles), and pulled up weeds from the floor. After our show, we will return to the greenhouse and finish the weeding project. Paula Moran, the current Recreation Therapy Supervisor, sent us a message and thanked us for our labor and also said that we had made a huge dent in the orchid collection. They now have no excuse not to resume patient therapy because there is plenty of room on the benches for starting houseplants, vegetables, etc.

The program for our October 4 meeting was showing Jim Brasch's CD-ROM of Conservation and Orchid Propagation with Plant Regulators. Although we had our multimedia projector available, and Joe Bacik brought his laptop computer, we decided to use the equipment already in the Training Center. Joe and Wilella were two members of our four-member program team who had arrived back in Phoenix on Monday in mid-afternoon. Both were tired, but fortunately Wilella brought a hard copy of the text that accompanied the CD. Because the Training Center's equipment did not show the text beside the photos, it was necessary for Wilella to read her hard copy while Joe advanced the slides on the CD. ( Lou Ann Remeikis and I had also returned from Landers on the day of our meeting, and we were also tired.) None of us fell asleep during the program. I observed that several of our newer members took notes, and one member asked Wilella to e-mail the hard copy of the text that accompanied the slide show! Thanks to Joe and Wilella for mustering up enough energy to present our program. In a one sentence summary of the CD: hormones are as important to orchids as they are to people!

OSA's election of our 2011 Board of Directors will be held during our November 1 meeting. And the next day, there's another election – the General Election. Please vote because every vote counts. If you don't like the way our elected officials have been running our country, but you don't vote, then you lost your right to complain about who is elected and what they're doing or...not doing.

Please think good thoughts for our injured members. Bob MacLeod herniated a disc while he was painting our 7 foot tall pyramid for our show. (He used a walker at our September board meeting, and he used it at our October 4 meeting.) And Dee MacLeod is in a rehab center after she fell and suffered a fracture. Diane Norman has had TWO surgeries to repair body parts.

Our November board meeting will be held on November 21<sup>st</sup> at my home. We decided to hold the meeting before the Thanksgiving holiday.

Dr. Joseph Arditti, Professor Emeritus at UC Irvine, CA, will be our November 1 speaker.

See you on November 1!

Julie

## COMMUNITY SERVICE REPORT

Wilella Stimmell, CSP Coordinator

On October 1, **Joe Bacik**, **Julie Rathbun**, **Lou Ann Remeikis**, and I started our journey to the 15<sup>th</sup> annual Morongo Basin Orchid Festival, in Landers, CA. After we arrived at Gubler Orchids, we unhitched the horse trailer we had pulled from Phoenix, and Heidi Gubler Brodeur drove us to the Lucerne greenhouses (which are not open to the public). There we searched for plants for sale at our orchid show. When the sun set, we stopped our search, and Chris Gubler took our happy “family” for supper at a local Chinese restaurant. (In addition to his festival responsibilities, Chris had shipped 8,000 plants on Friday and 4,000 on Sunday. A few days after the festival ended, Chris shipped another load of orchids. Greenhouse 3, which had been a sea of beautiful blooms during the festival, had empty benches after the festival. Chris sent us a photo of the empty benches.) Between the greenhouses in Landers and those in Lucerne, Gubler Orchids has over 155,000 square feet of orchids. Our program team checked nearly every square inch of all of the greenhouses! We spent quite a bit of time searching for the location of each other within the humongous greenhouses. Since this is a recurring problem, we need to figure out a way to locate each other without doing a lot of unnecessary walking. Next year, perhaps each of us needs to use a two-way radio. The additional walking is counterproductive. By cutting out the extra walking, we wouldn't be tired at the start of the first day of classes.

The Orchid Festival opened to the public on October 2. An hour before the start of the festival, it rained. However, after the rain, the clouds parted, and the remainder of the weekend was sunny. The fair weather attracted a record crowd of people. On Saturday, our first program was for children. Our next program and all subsequent programs were for adults. In the first adult program, an interested group of ladies who were members of an African Violet Society which was two hours driving time from their home base to Landers, attended our class.

We announced at the start of each program that we were one team member short and that we would appreciate patience from the participants in the class – we would help everyone repot their orchids. **Jessica**, Chris's step-daughter, saw that we needed help and **volunteered** to help us. Her assistance was greatly appreciated.

All of our adult classes were full! The last class on Sunday was jam-packed. The reason for the last class being full to overflowing was because it was the **last** class, and everyone knew that because Chris announced over the loud-speaker that this was the last chance to take an orchid class. Those who were interested in participating didn't want to miss out on taking our class, so our last class exceeded the limit of people that we could comfortably accommodate. All of them were patient, and eventually our program team helped each person repot his/her blooming orchid.

Our trip back to Phoenix took an unexpected turn of events. One of the tires on the borrowed truck developed a bubble. Julie's eagle eyes spotted the bubble, and to make a long story somewhat shorter, the spare tire replaced the tire with the bubble.

In an e-mail message, Chris stated: “I want to thank you, Julie, Joe, and Lou Ann for being such a integral part of the festival. Together we raised over 11,000 dollars for distribution to all the non profits.”

We look forward to participating next year in the 16<sup>th</sup> Orchid Festival. For our program team, next year will be our 13<sup>th</sup> year of participation in the festival.

All of our program team members work hard during the festival, but **Julie** is the only team member who is responsible for safely getting the team to and from the festival. In case anyone wonders, it's a 6 hour drive, pulling her horse trailer, to Landers. Also, she is the only one who houses our sale plants. We don't thank her nearly enough for all that she does that directly benefits ALL OSA members. Her dedication is admirable!

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**2011:** We have already had requests for Orchids 101 programs from two local garden clubs. One program is scheduled for February and another one for April. We won't schedule any programs for March because Julie and I will be returning to Landers and will purchase plants for sale at the Southwest Flower and Garden Show which will be held at the University of Phoenix Stadium in March.

## Staff Change at the Arizona State Veteran Home

**Kristin Fray** is the new Therapeutic Programs Manager. You might not think you know who she is, but she was on duty during our 2009 orchid show. She's definitely a people person, happy, and always helpful. (Kristin assumed the vacancy that was created when Leslie Goin took a job at the AZ State Hospital.)

## Raffle Donors

Bob MacLeod, Connie Skinner, Wilella Stimmell, the Northern Arizona VA greenhouse, Craig Pearson, and Mike Sielaff (Rainbow Bay Orchids)

Thanks for your Support

## FRAGRANT ORCHIDS

Want to know about which orchids are fragrant and what they smell like? Try this website:

**<http://faq.gardenweb.com:80/faq/lists/orchids/2005092800026171.html>**

for a comprehensive list from A to Z.

If you happen on an interesting orchid related website, please let the editor know. We will include it in a future newsletter so all may enjoy.

## WINTER REST

Don't be intimidated by species which have a winter resting period. Serious species people want to be able to grow all those fabulous genera like *Mormodes*, *Catesetum*, *Lycaste*, and even *Laelias*.

In actuality, while not always critical, many orchids would prefer a drier winter treatment. Handle the species which like a "resting period" by setting them aside in a special area. Set your watering-schedule to a much less frequent interval. For example, during the summer growing season, if you regularly water every third day, then water these plants every seventh or eighth day depending on what the weather outside is doing. Also, don't worry about cutting-off the fertilizer because cutting down the watering in the "resting" section, the fertilizer is automatically cut-down.

The *Arizona Orchidist* is published monthly by the Orchid Society of Arizona, Inc.  
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**[www.orchidsocietyaz.org](http://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.

# New Orchid Species Found in Flowering UC Collection

Each time James Ackerman looks at the newly discovered species of orchid housed at the UC Botanical Garden at Berkeley, he sees the old friend who came upon the rare flower in the mountains of Haiti only by chance.

The plant was found by Donald Dod—a research associate at the University Herbarium who passed away in 2008—in the Haitian mountains of Pic Macaya National Park in the 1980s, but only recently was it declared a distinct species, due to a specimen found in the garden.

Though Ackerman, a professor of biology at the University of Puerto Rico, said he and Dod had long suspected the plant was unique, they would have to wait nearly 20 years for the plant to flower and a discovery to be made.

A DNA analysis based on a piece of the plant Dod had given Ackerman before his death indicated the plant was a distinct species. But without a flowering specimen Ackerman said he "would be unwilling to describe it as new without the flowers."

Before Dod passed away, he donated his personal collection of nearly 50 orchids to the botanical garden, including the newly discovered species.

Ackerman checked in on the status of the mystery orchid which, to his surprise, had erupted into red petals studded with a hint of orange.

"Don had that plant for twenty years or so, and it never flowered for him," Ackerman said. "I said to myself 'Man, (the botanical garden) must have a great setup if they got it to flower.'"

The plant—now known as *Ornithidium donaldeodii*—blossomed last May at the botanical garden, according to an article detailing the discovery published in the international orchid journal *Lankesteriana*.

Though the plant had been housed in the botanical garden since the mid-1990s, Holly Forbes, curator at the garden, said that there were no staff dedicated to researching or identifying new plants.

"We don't have that kind of financial luxury," she said. "Everyone is stretched really thin, our main goal is to keep everything healthy."

According to Paul Licht, the Botanical Garden's director, more than 13,000 of the rare and endangered species that comprise only part of the world's largest collection of wild plants go unexamined.

Because the garden is an official plant rescue center for plants confiscated by U.S. customs, Licht said they receive dozens of specimens a year, many without the proper collection necessary to ascertain a point of origin.

"There are a lot of stories in 13,000 different kinds of plants," he said. "What we hope is that we learn some of these before the plants disappear."

The discovery of the plant is especially important because of its origin, according to Brent Mishler, professor of integrative biology at UC Berkeley and director of the University and Jepson Herbaria.

The forests of Haiti are subject to the increasing pressures of logging, Mishler said.

"Those forests are just full of species we have not identified, it just drives us crazy," he said. "It's like a really valuable library or art museum burning down."

But Ackerman has faith that the location of the orchid, in the Massif de la Hotte mountain range, will save it for a while.

Until then, he said, he will have to return to the garden to examine the rest of Dod's collection.

"There may be more (new species) in the garden, he said. "I just haven't gotten around to looking at them."

# OSA November 2010 Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 <i>OSA Meeting</i> 7:00 PM	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11  Jo Anne Waddoups	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24  Madeleine Heberling	25 	26	27
28	29  Terri Jackson	30  John Atwood				



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