



The Arizona Orchidist

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The Orchid Society of Arizona, Inc.
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NEXT OSA MEETING

Meetings are held at the
Encanto Park Clubhouse
2605 N. 15th Ave., Phoenix, Arizona
North of Encanto Blvd. on 15th Ave.
Phone (602) 261-8993

The next regular society meeting will
be Monday, October 2, 2006
at 7:00 P.M.

OSA meetings are open to all
plant enthusiasts

Refreshments will be provided.

This month beverages
will be provided by
Sunny Yocum
snacks by

Diana Sibley and Julie Rathbun

Refreshment Coordinators:
Barbara Parnell (480) 948-0714
Mary Gannon (623) 878-4173

OSABOARD MEETING

The next OSA board meeting
will be held following
the noon Show Planning meeting
Sunday, October 22
at the home of
Barbara and Harry Parnell
Board Meetings
are open to all members

GROWER ON CALL
Bob MacLeod (623) 935-4059



October Program

THE CULTIVATION AND CURING OF VANILLA

Back by popular request are Eric and Patty Elsberry. At our May, 2006 meeting we learned about The History of Vanilla. Members enjoyed the presentation and wanted to learn about the cultivation and curing of vanilla.

Two years ago, our speaker, Eric Elsberry, and his wife, Patty, started the Arizona Vanilla Company in Mesa, AZ. According to Eric, Patty "was tired of buying 2 dried up vanilla beans in the grocery store for \$12.99."

Eric is a 3rd generation native Arizonan. He is a graduate of Arizona State University and received his MBA from the University of Phoenix.

For 14 years, Eric had been a consultant in manufacturing and financial systems. He admits that his background is "not exactly a great resume for starting a vanilla company". However, he spent considerable time and energy to find the best suppliers of vanilla.

Eric had contacts in Mexico and used them to find the best Mexican vanilla supplier. He learned how vanilla is cultivated and cured in Mexico and spent time with suppliers in Europe.

In the past two years, Eric has extensively studied vanilla, the vanilla markets, and the history of vanilla. He has visited Papantla and El Tajin where most of the vanilla of Mexico is grown.

On September 2, 2006 Arizona Vanilla Company had a booth at the 2nd Annual Arizona Cooks event that was held at the Arizona Biltmore Resort.

The URL for Arizona Vanilla Company's website is **www.arizonavanilla.com** Click on the link to the Vanilla Store. When you place an order on the website, enter coupon code AVC200608 into the shopping cart and shipping will be deducted. In the 'How did you hear about us' box, type OSA. Or you may phone your order to (480) 254-5369 and identify yourself as an OSA member. Eric and Patty will know to bring those orders to our meeting.

Welcome back, Eric and Patty!

W. Stimmell



From the President's Desk

Julie Rathbun

On August 20th, our annual field trip to the NAVAHCS greenhouse in Prescott was a lot of fun! We not only had an opportunity to visit with VA staff members whom we hadn't seen in a year, but we also visited with patients who joined us for morning refreshments in the greenhouse and then stayed for lunch. We had the largest attendance of patients and staff members join us for lunch than we've had in previous years. Everyone had a pleasant time on a cool, sunny day!

Bill Starkman, Greenhouse Manager, always has coffee waiting for us when we arrive. But this time he also had several boxes of doughnuts for us to enjoy. Several OSA members always provide cookies for morning refreshments, and this trip was no exception. OSA members also donated many of the items on the NAVAHCS "wish list". Thanks to everyone for their generosity!

A large, permanent "Welcome Orchid Society of Arizona" sign was positioned at the entrance to the garden patio area.

Paula Moran, Recreation Therapy Supervisor, was not scheduled to work on the 20th, but she chose to spend her day off with us! Thanks, Paula!

Bill said that this year there will be orchid plants from the VA greenhouse for display at our November show. We hope that the plants cooperate and bloom on schedule!

Those of you who didn't attend our September 4th (Labor Day) meeting missed an excellent PowerPoint presentation by Dr. Joe Arditti. We learned a lot about how orchids adapt to survive in nature. I particularly enjoyed the moving parts that were featured in several slides and was interested to learn that flowering is controlled by photoperiodism, temperature, AND hormones. (Plants and people share a trait with respect to hormones: There are those who have adequate hormones, and there are those who are desperately hormone-challenged!) The last photo in the program was a picture of Joe's son. He's very handsome and is a student at USC.

Our September meeting was the first time that our membership had a chance to see photos of the **orchid quilt** that we will use to raise funds for OSA. (The design on the fabric is the prettiest orchid design that I've ever seen. In case you're interested, the fabric was NOT donated by me.) I intend to complete the quilt so that we can draw the winning raffle ticket at our December 4th meeting. We've already started to sell raffle tickets! **Ticket price is \$3 per ticket or 4 tickets for \$10.** Our ace webmaster, Jim Johnson, has uploaded photos of the quilt on our website. Thanks, Jim! We'll sell raffle tickets for the quilt at our October and November meetings and at our November show. And we will also sell tickets at the Morongo Basin Orchid Festival in Landers (October) and in Yuma (November). The winner need not be present at our December meeting when we draw the winning ticket. In fact, the lucky winner need not be a resident of Arizona! At no cost to the winner, we will mail the quilt to him or her.

Several members have mentioned their concerns about potential contamination of their display plants from plants whose owners suspect that their plants have problems (for example, virus) and from bugs brought in for demonstration purposes. While example bugs and problem plants can be a learning experience, such items should be isolated from the display plants of other members. PLEASE be considerate of other members' plants. Otherwise, more drastic action will have to be taken.

Our **last show planning meeting** will be held on **October 22** at the home of Barbara and Harry Parnell. I URGE members to attend the meeting! **Show flyers are available for YOU to distribute and will be found on the raffle ticket sales table at our October 2nd meeting.**

See you at the Encanto Park Clubhouse on October 2nd!

Julie

COMMUNITY SERVICE SCHEDULE AND A THANK YOU

By Wilella Stimmell, CSP Coordinator

On OCTOBER 6, our community service program team will travel to Landers, CA. and will offer repotting programs on Saturday, October 7, and Sunday, October 8 at the Annual Morongo Basin Orchid Festival. We will present 4 programs on Saturday and 2 programs on Sunday. Keith Mead will be flying from Albuquerque to Phoenix where Jim Lauck will provide airport pick-up before Keith and Jim proceed to Landers. Our remaining program team members will ride with our hard-working President. This will be the **8th time** that OSA will have participated in the orchid festival that is held at GUBLER ORCHIDS! A report on the programs will appear in our November newsletter.

On NOVEMBER 17th and 18th, our school program team will be traveling to Yuma and will present hands-on repotting programs for students enrolled in Yuma schools. Details of the schedule for Yuma will appear in our November newsletter.

THANK YOU to those members who continue to contribute funds for the purchase of soda pop and snacks for the residents of the Arizona State Veteran Home. The most difficult items to find are reasonably priced sugar free chocolate bars. (Chocolate bar wrappers that state: "no sugar added", are NOT the same as sugar free.) The diabetic residents thoroughly enjoy being able to satisfy their craving for chocolate at NO cost to them! When I deliver our monthly donations, Grace Kokesh or one of the other volunteers in the gift shop always hugs me and states that the diabetic residents have passed the word. Usually when I arrive with a new supply, the sugar free chocolate bars that I delivered the previous month have already been distributed, and the "cupboard" is bare.

MEET NEW OSA MEMBER, YUKA HUGHES!

At our September meeting, Yuka and Todd Hughes joined OSA! Yuka introduced herself, but for the benefit of those of us who were absent from the meeting or those who were present but busy trying to do two things at the same time, I requested Yuka's permission to paraphrase some of her comments. Yuka graciously agreed.

Yuka is relatively new to growing orchids. Before moving to the Phoenix Metro area, she and Todd lived in Orlando, Florida, where Yuka grew her orchids **outside**. Here she is growing orchids under artificial lights. Her native language is Japanese, but since coming to the US, she has lived in Los Angeles, Tuscaloosa (Alabama), and Orlando. She speaks English with a Japanese accent tinged with a delightful, but barely perceptible Southern (American) drawl.

Yuka met Todd at the University of Alabama. After they were married, she attended graduate school at UA. After she graduated, they moved to Orlando where they lived for 10 years. In June, 2006, Todd was transferred from his job in Orlando to Phoenix. To say that Yuka was not happy about moving to the desert is an understatement!

Let's ALL help Yuka learn how to adapt to growing orchids in a desert climate. All of us have killed orchids, and we've lived here a lot longer than 3 months! Yuka stated in a reply to a Welcome to OSA message that she is: "lucky to be accepted in your society, which consists of ingenious [creative] orchid growers. Thank you for the learning opportunity!"

W. Stimmell

The Editors Edge

Well folks, FALL is in the air, at least here in Albuquerque. I watch the Phoenix temperatures daily and see you are still close to the century mark. Don't give up. Soon we will have snow and you will be basking in that great Arizona winter weather.

I also notice that Phoenix has had more rain than usual this summer (what drought?) We also have had a wet year. The Sandia foothills near us have had fifteen inches of rain since June 1 and the mountains are more green than I ever remember. Not Hilo yet, but we are gaining on them. Can you say "global warming?"

Even the little village of Hatch, New Mexico, famous for our green chili, was flooded this year. The town was devastated when an arroyo North of town overflowed. Fortunately the crop was not affected and the harvest looks good.

Now is a good time to take a close look at our beloved plants. As winter approaches be extra careful not to over water. I notice during my weekly watering time many plants don't need a drink. Remember the rule.....when in doubt, don't. Time to check closely for bugs preparing to winter over in your plants.

It seems that once we reach the first of October the balance of the year just disappears. The Morongo Basin Orchid Festival, our November orchid show and sale (don't forget to volunteer) the December fund raising auction (always great plants, gifts and GREAT FOOD!)

It's not too early to start gathering items to donate for the December 4th fund raising auction. We have already received a few donations. In fact, the first donation arrived in MAY!

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The *Arizona Orchidist* is published monthly by the
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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. The Nature Conservancy.

ANNUAL OSA FIELD TRIP TO NORTHERN ARIZONA VA HEALTH CARE SYSTEM

By Barbara Parnell

Early in the morning on August 20, OSA members JOE BACIK, JIM LAUCK, CRYSTAL LU, BARBARA and HARRY PARNELL, JULIE RATHBUN, LOU ANN REMEIKIS, and WILELLA STIMMELL traveled to the NAVAHCS greenhouse in Prescott. We were pleased that Crystal's daughter, Mary, was able to join us and by default became our official photographer for the event. We were equally pleased that Gary Remeikis, Lou Ann's husband, joined us for our annual trek north! Lou Ann and Gary brought their two adorable dogs with them, and OSA members as well as patients and VA staff enjoyed petting Lou and Gary's canines.

This year OSA donated funds for the purchase of wooden planter barrels and plant caddies for the nursing home patio. (When the barrels are filled with dirt, they are too heavy for the patients who participate in gardening therapy to move.) OSA also donated two bulk containers of fir bark for use in the greenhouse. As usual, our members were very generous with an assortment of donations for the nursing home.

OSA provided sandwiches for members, staff and patients, and individual members provided soda pop and dessert for everyone.

Betty Stephens is now working on a part-time basis for the gardening therapy program at NAVAHCS. Paula Moran, Recreation Therapy Supervisor, succeeded Betty after Betty officially retired. Betty was present on Aug. 20, and we were happy to visit with her. Betty reported that she "heard good things from the patients...they felt welcomed and comfortable... You guys did a great job reaching out to them." (Including OSA members, guests, staff, and patients, a total of 30 people were present for our picnic lunch!)

After lunch, we held an abbreviated board meeting. And before we returned to Phoenix, OSA members picked peaches, apples, and Asian pears from the VA orchard!

I hope that more OSA members will join us next year. It is a privilege to give back a little to the veterans who have given so much.

THANK YOU LETTER RECEIVED FROM PAULA MORAN
NAVAHCS RECREATION THERAPY SUPERVISOR
August 31, 2006

"On behalf of the Bob Stump Department of Veterans Affairs and the veterans we serve, please extend our appreciation to your volunteers for their support in visiting our veterans on August 20, 2006, on your annual visit to the greenhouse.

Receiving visits from your organization is always one of our veterans' favorite activities. The baked goods and lunches were appreciated by our veterans not to mention the attention your volunteers provided our veterans are always a special treat and very much appreciated. We also appreciate your generous donations not only to the greenhouse and Plant Program but to the ECRC and Hospital veterans. The selfless giving of your time and attention always lifts their spirits.

Again, thank you for all your efforts on behalf of our veterans. We look forward to your continuing support."

Attention All Members!

Want to have a really good time and help our organization at the same time? Of course you do! Well here is your chance! Our **ANNUAL ORCHID SHOW** (November 4th and 5th) needs **YOUR** help in putting on a great show this year. Our theme is "**An Oasis of Orchids**" so if any of you have any Egyptian-type ornaments or decorations (not valuable) or stuffed animals such as camels that we could use in our display please let us know and be sure that you put your name on the bottom so we know who to give them back to!

Equally important, we also need your display plants! And finally **WE NEED YOU** to help set up the vignettes on Friday, November 3rd, starting at noon, to work one of more "shifts" during the show, and to dismantle the show on November 5th at 3 P.M. At our October 2nd meeting, a work sign up sheet will be passed around!

Call Barbara Parnell at 480-948-0714 or e-mail at birdie552002@yahoo.com for any additional information.

Barbara

NEWS REGARDING ORCHID INTERNS AT SELBY GARDENS IN SARASOTA, FL

In our April, 2006 newsletter, I mentioned that Delsy Trujillo was a "potential" intern from Peru. Bruce Holst, Interim Director, Center for Tropical Plant Science & Conservation, stated in a message dated Sept. 3, 2006 that Delsy has been in Sarasota all summer and will be there through October working with Stig Dalstrom on the orchids of La Libertad province. She has proven to be an extremely enthusiastic intern and an equally hard worker. (Delsy is the second intern to use a portion of the **travel** funds which we donated in 2003 for travel expense by students from developing countries. The first orchid intern who used our donated funds for airfare was Paula Viveros from Colombia.) The third student who will use our donated funds to travel from her home country of Brazil is Melissa Bocayuva. She "will work on a mycorrhizae project related to our work in the Everglades National Park to propagate and hopefully reintroduce some of the rarer species from down that way."

Thanks Bruce! It's GREAT to know that our funds ARE being used by students from developing countries.

In addition to Bruce's role as Interim Director of the Center for Tropical Plant Science & Conservation, he is also: Director of Plant Collections & Research Library, Curator of the Herbarium, AND Senior Editor, SBG Press.

W. Stimmell

SEPTEMBER RAFFLE TABLE DONORS

Bob MacLeod and Wilella Stimmell

Thank you !

The Nominating Committee's Slate of Officers and Trustees
for
2007

The election of OSA's Board of Directors for 2007 will be held during our November 6th, 2006 regular monthly meeting.

The Nominating Committee is pleased to present the following list of candidates:

President: Julie Rathbun

1st Vice President (In House Program Chairman): Aaron Hicks

2nd Vice President (Outside Speaker Program Chairman): Joe Bacik

Secretary: Barbara Parnell

Treasurer: Wilella Stimmell

Trustee: Marleny Castillo (Term expires 12/31/08)

Trustee: Mary Gannon (Term expires 12/31/08)

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 the slate we have proposed for the upcoming election represents a strong, united, and dynamic team.

All members of OSA thank the two retiring Trustees for their dedicated service:
Barbara Parnell and Jennifer Schmitt.






Our other two Trustees, Jim Lauck and Bob MacLeod, will continue to serve until their terms expire in 12/31/07.

All members also thank Teddy Cohen for her service as Secretary during 2006.

Respectfully submitted by:

Ann Cherny (Chairperson)
Keith Mead
Barbara Parnell

OSA October 2006 Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Dee MacLeod 	2 Kathleen Luther OSA Meeting 	3	4	5	6	7 Morongo Basin Festival
8 Morongo Basin Festival	9	10	11	12	13	14  Sharon Davis Margaret Jones
15	16	17	18	19	20  Kaila Bacik	21  Keith Mead
22  Kathleen Bischoff LAST SHOW PLANNING	23	24	25	26  Peter Heckel	27	28
29	30	31  Harry Parnell Halloween				



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