



The

Arizona Orchidist

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NEXT OSA MEETING

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

Meetings are held at the
Encanto Park Clubhouse
2605 N. 15th Ave., Phoenix, Arizona
North of Encanto Blvd. on 15th Ave.

OSA meetings are open to all
plant enthusiasts

Refreshments will be provided.
Snacks thoughtfully provided by
Carol Erwin and Diana Sibley

Beverage by

Wilella Stimmell

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,
October 19th at the home of
Julie Rathbun

GROWER ON CALL

Seelye Smith

sss3301@hotmail.com

October Program

REMEMBER MEETINGS NOW BEGIN AT 6:45 PM

Orchids in our Local Mountains

The Search for Orchids in Sycamore Canyon

Our October speaker will be OSA member Cynthia Schnitzer.

Cynthia began growing orchids as a teenager and has been a "greenhouse" grower for the last thirty years. She is a member of the American Orchid Society, Desert Valley Orchid Society, Orchid Society of Arizona and is founder and current president of the Prescott Orchid Society.

After graduation from Cal State University with degrees in Physics and Microwave (Electrical) Engineering she spent twenty years as an Infra-Red Test Engineer. Now retired, she makes her home in Prescott.

Please join us for this educational program.

SHOWTIME

ORCHIDS FOR ALL SEASONS

November 8th and 9th

Encanto Park Clubhouse

See You There !

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From the President's Desk

Julie Rathbun

For those of you who didn't attend our September meeting or hadn't already heard, I announced that after a prolonged illness, longtime member, Joe Freasier died at his home on August 22nd. Joe's obituary was included in the September 7th issue of the Arizona Republic newspaper.

On a happier note, it was my pleasure to introduce our September speaker, Dennis Olivas. Those in attendance at the meeting enjoyed the speaker's PowerPoint presentation. All of us are interested in saving energy, and Dennis told us several tips that he uses to grow his orchids and conserve energy at the same time. We could easily use the same growing tips because they're inexpensive to use and don't require growers to purchase additional equipment.

Thanks to Aaron Hicks for loaning us the use of his laptop computer for our September meeting!

Fall is the busiest time of the year for OSA:

On October 3rd, our community service program team members will be traveling to Landers, CA. This will be our 10th year of participation in the Morongo Basin Orchid Festival which is held at Gubler Orchids. We will return to Phoenix ON October 6th, the day of our meeting at Encanto Park Clubhouse.

Our November 3rd meeting will be held at the Arizona State Veteran Home because the Clubhouse is a polling place, and there's an election on November 4th. Polling booths will be set up in the clubhouse on the 3rd, so we can't hold our meeting there. (Don't forget to vote!) On November 8th and 9th, our orchid show will be held at the Encanto Park Clubhouse. Show set up begins at 12:30 PM on Friday, November 7th.

Our December 1st meeting, at Encanto Park Clubhouse, is our annual fund-raising auction. It's not too early to solicit donations of plants from commercial vendors from whom you have purchased orchids this year. Orchid-related items are also appreciated! Our December auction is one of our major sources of income for the year.

I've been busy working on a king size orchid quilt for a raffle. The winner's name will be drawn during our December 1st meeting. My daughter, Kim, photographed the quilt and sent the photo to our webmaster, Jim Johnson. He's already uploaded the photo onto our Events page. **Thanks, Kim, and thanks, Jim!** Photos of our orchid quilt have also been uploaded onto our pages on the Arizona Federation of Garden Clubs' website. The URL for the page is:

<http://gardencentral.org/azgardenclub/osa2008orchidshowandsale/>

Thanks to Carolyn Kawahara for uploading the photos and for her kind comments about the quilt: "That is a beautiful quilt! The colors are fabulous and kudos to the quilter!" We have the tickets for the quilt raffle, and they are ready for purchase!

I hope to see all of you at our October 6th meeting at Encanto Park Clubhouse!

Julie

NOMINATING COMMITTEE **NEWS**

The Nomination Committee for the 2009 Board of Directors is comprised of Jim Johnson, Lou Ann Remeikis and myself, Mary Gannon. The election for the 2009 Board of Directors is held at the November meeting and we look forward to your participation in the process.

The following members have agreed to run for the listed positions:

PRESIDENT – Julie Rathbun

FIRST VICE PRESIDENT – Aaron Hicks

SECOND VICE PRESIDENT – Joe Bacik

SECRETARY – Barbara Parnell

TREASURER – Wilella Stimmell

TRUSTEE – Kim Levingston

TRUSTEE – Carol Erwin

The following members are continuing their appointment by OSA's President, or completing their two-year terms as Trustees:

EDITOR – Keith Mead

LIBRARIAN – Lou Ann Remeikis

TRUSTEE – Frank Bopp

TRUSTEE – Seelye Smith

WEBMASTER – Jim Johnson

Thanks go out to the members who remain willing to sacrifice their time and efforts to keep the Orchid Society of Arizona focused on our "Mission Statement" and to continue moving the organization forward.

Mary Gannon, Nominating Committee Chairperson

Jim Johnson, Nominating Committee Member

Lou Ann Remeikis, Nominating Committee Member

President's Note: Thanks to our two retiring Trustees, Bob MacLeod and Mary Gannon, for their valuable service on OSA's Board.

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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. , and The Nature Conservancy.

COMMUNITY SERVICE REPORT

Wilella Stimmell, CSP Coordinator

On September 17, BOB MACLEOD, JULIE RATHBUN, and I presented an Orchids 101 program for residents at **Brookdale Place of Paradise Valley** (the actual location of Brookdale is in Phoenix!). In previous reports, I've mentioned that there is always something different about each program that we present. This program was no different. We knew that something was amiss when we arrived and discovered that the Activities Director who contacted us for a program, was no longer employed at Brookdale. However, the Receptionist at the front desk knew about our orchid program. So far, so good. A male resident guided us toward the Activities Center which was located as far away from the entrance to Brookdale as it could be without being assigned a different zip code! We were unaware that the Activities Director had scheduled our program close to lunch time until two female residents wandered into the Activities Center, admired our display plants, and then went to lunch! Meanwhile, two other ladies came to hear our schpiel about orchids and admire our plants. After Julie and I had unloaded our display plants, Bob and one of the ladies who intended to stay for our program, disappeared! They soon reappeared, and Bob said that the lady wanted to show her cymbidium plant to him. Bob WAS going to present the resident with a cymbidium culture sheet, but he couldn't find one in our culture sheet box. The reason he couldn't find one is because we don't include a culture sheet for cymbidiums lest someone think that by including one, we are encouraging orchidists to grow cymbidiums in our area. Near the conclusion of our remarks, two more ladies entered the Activities Center (after they had lunch). They missed our presentation, but at least they saw our display plants before we departed!

Julie donated a blooming phal which was won by a very happy Mary Klein (the lady who owns the cymbidium). She used to live in Ohio and grew many orchids there. She's been a resident of Arizona for one year. She's very interested in growing orchids here, and she said that she would try to encourage the new Activities Director (scheduled to arrive at Brookdale on Sept. 17) to organize a bus trip to our November show. Mary took an extra show flyer to present to the new Activities Director.

Mary also told us that our program was mentioned in their newsletter, and there was also a small flyer about it that was posted on the bulletin board inside the entrance to Brookdale. If I had not been told where the bulletin board was located, I would not have seen the flyer.

I can't speak for Bob, but from the time we entered the front door until we departed, Julie and I felt like we had entered "the Twilight Zone"! (Some of you might be too young to know about that TV show from the 1950's.)

Thanks, Julie, for donating the phal!

We have another program scheduled for September 17. This time the program will be held at Freedom Inn at Scottsdale. The ISP in the e-mail address of the Life Enrichment Coordinator is the same as the ISP for the "departed" Brookdale Activities Director, but we know that a different gal contacted us. Also...Freedom Inn at Scottsdale really IS in Scottsdale! A report on that program will appear in our November newsletter.

By the time you receive your October newsletter, our community service program team will be getting ready for our annual participation in the Morongo Basin Orchid Festival. This will be our **10th year** of participation in the event! A report on the Festival will appear in our November newsletter.

ANNUAL FIELD TRIP TO THE NAVAHCS GREENHOUSE IN PRESCOTT

Seelye Smith

The morning of August 17th OSA members **Joe Bacik, Lou Ann and Gary Remeikis, Barbara Parnell, Willie Stimmell, Jennifer Schmitt, Kimberly Levingston, Julie Rathbun,** and **I** gathered at Julie's house to make the annual trek to the NAVAHCS greenhouse in Prescott. Three cars were loaded up with food, plants, and donations. Thanks to those of you who donated the personal items, clothing, books etc., for the patients in the nursing home. I know the VA really appreciates what we do. It was a beautiful, sunny day but everyone was accessorized with umbrellas, jackets and extra shoes. Last year, during our visit to Prescott, we experienced torrential rain. This year we were prepared for rain, so of course there was nary a drop! Once we arrived the day got off to a unbalanced start because Bill Starkman, the Greenhouse Manager, fell into a cactus. Apparently he felt a bit lightheaded. He was taken up to the hospital and remained there the rest of the day for observation and a CAT scan. Bill is quite a character and he was definitely missed. This year a smaller number of patients joined us because the day before our arrival, there was a well-attended barbeque event that was sponsored by a VA motorcycle group. The vets and domiciliary staff members who joined us for lunch were very appreciative and thanked us many times.

(I'd like to put in a plug here for more of you to join us next year. I cannot tell you how some of the vets so enjoy a new face and to just tell their story. I recognized this at the age of 14 when I was a junior Red Cross volunteer in nursing homes. I have never forgotten how a relaxed visit even with a total stranger can make their day! Working in that home made such an impression on me. I could see the loneliness and it made me terribly sad. I will never forget the way those old people would reach out to any small child who walked down the hallway and how their faces would light up. And in my early 20's I worked in Physical Therapy in some nursing homes and a hospital.)

After we got the vets back up to the nursing home, we held our August board meeting under a huge tree full of very vocal cicadas. The trip alone is worth it just to hear the cicadas sing in that beautiful environment. It was a successful day and everyone was glad that they took time out to give a helping hand. Oh, and a special thank you to Jennifer for staying up extra late and baking more cupcakes after she discovered that her dog had eaten half of what she had made for the trip. They were delicious, and I don't blame her dog a bit for chowing down on them!

OCTOBER TIPS



Orchids need **natural cues** to let them know it is time to set their bloom spikes. Phals in particular need to experience the **chill in the air** of early fall. Leave the window open a crack in the evening when possible. Many orchids need to experience the **shortening days** and lengthening nights. Beware of night lights and supplemental lighting that we have in our homes as they rob the orchids of this important cue. **Decrease fertilization** back to winter levels (weakly, weekly). These three important signals, changes in temperature, light and food, are beneficial here in October.

September Raffle Donors

Bob MacLeod, OSA, Julie Rathbun, and Wilella Stimmell

THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT

OSA October 2008 Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1  <i>Dee MacLeod</i>	2  <i>Kathleen Luther</i>	3	4 <i>Morongo Basin Orchid Festival</i>
5 <i>Morongo Basin Orchid Festival</i>	6 OSA Meeting 6:45 PM	7	8  <i>Seelye Smith</i>	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20  <i>Kaila Bacik</i>	21  <i>Keith Mead</i>	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31  <i>Harry Parnell</i> <i>Halloween</i>	



Orchid Society of Arizona

c/o Keith Mead

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