



The Arizona Orchidist

Published monthly by

The Orchid Society of Arizona, Inc.

Founding Editor- Clarence S. Lindsten

1966

Volume 47

October 2010

NEXT OSA MEETING

The next regular society meeting will be

Monday, October 4th 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

Barbara Parnell

Snacks by

Debra Hartill and Wilella Stimmell

Refreshment Coordinators:

Barbara Parnell (480) 948-0714

Lou Ann Remeikis (602) 803-6889

Jo Anne Waddoups

480-654-9883

Board Meeting: October 31st

at 1 PM at the home of

Barbara and Harry Parnell

Grower on Call

Bob MacLeod

623-810-3967

OCTOBER PROGRAM

CONSERVATION & PROPAGATION with PLANT GROWTH REGULATORS

Conservation & Propagation with Plant Growth Regulators ON CD-ROM was produced in 2006 by James Brasch, creator of Keikigrow and other plant growth regulators. The CD is a Power-Point presentation which offers a detailed look at the issues of conservation and propagation. The subject matter on the CD is essentially the same as that which Jim presented at an orchid conference in Costa Rica in 2001. It was my privilege to attend that conference, and at the time, I thought that our members would enjoy Jim's program. However, due to an assortment of health problems, Jim no longer travels far from his home in Burlington, Ontario. This CD was shown at our August, 2006 meeting. Since that time, OSA has quite a few members who have not seen the CD.

(In 1988 or 1989, Jim was in Phoenix and visited his mother who resided in Sun City. While he was here, he phoned Deacon Bell who was still living in Phoenix. Deacon phoned me and said that he would like to host a small gathering at his home for Jim and his wife, Delores. But...Deacon needed a hostess. That was Deacon's less than subtle way of asking for my assistance, and I agreed to help him. That was my first meeting with Jim and Delores, and they were charming people. Deacon served lunch to our "party of four", and I provided the majority of the conversation. Is any OSA member who knows me, surprised?) Jim still sends me e-mails with updates of his activities.

If any member would like a hard copy of the text (information contained on the CD, but...no photos), let me know.

W. Stimmell

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From the President's Desk

Julie Rathbun

I hope that everyone had a happy Labor Day holiday weekend and that those of you who took more than one summer vacation, are rested and ready to begin our busy fall schedule. I can't believe that it's already October!

Prior to our August 2nd meeting, August Lorenzini's cousin phoned me and said that the family wanted to donate orchid journals previously owned by August. (August died on March 27 this year. He had been a loyal OSA member for 22 years.) The journals were delivered to my home, but I haven't yet gone through the boxes. Eventually the journals will be placed on our monthly raffle, offered for sale at our October show, or added to the items offered at our December auction.

Those of you who attended our August 2nd meeting will surely agree that the cozy atmosphere of our t-shirt painting party was fun! We didn't finish painting all of the t-shirts, but some members volunteered to take unpainted shirts home and paint them there. My heartfelt thanks to the members who joined in the fun and used their own color schemes.

On August 22nd, 7 OSA members traveled to the Northern Arizona VA Health Care System greenhouse. Carol Erwin, Barbara Parnell, and Lou Ann Remeikis were the drivers in our caravan. I think I also speak for Bob MacLeod when I say that it was the first time in a very long time that Bob and I were passengers, not drivers.

It was a beautiful, COOL, day in Prescott, and we had an excellent turnout of patients and staff for our picnic. Everyone enjoyed themselves. For those of you who know Betty Stephens, she has once again retired from the staff at the VA, but she returned for our picnic. Both the greenhouse and garden were gorgeous. The plants in the greenhouse haven't looked so lush for a very long time. The reason for the improvement might be that there has been a change in who is in charge of the greenhouse. Now there are 4 veterans working in the greenhouse and garden. They rotate every 2-3 months. This new arrangement seems to be more therapeutic because more patients have a chance to work in the greenhouse and garden. The garden was almost weed-free, and the plants were loaded with ripening vegetables. Unfortunately, due to a family commitment, Supervisory Recreation Therapist, Paula Moran, was unable to attend our annual picnic. However, Celestine, also in the Rec Therapy Department, helped bring patients from the nursing home to the picnic area. September newsletters from the NAVAHCS Community Living Center were sent to OSA members who made the journey to the VA greenhouse. Thanks to **Lynda Roberts** for sending the newsletters!

At OSA's July board meeting, board members unanimously voted to donate funds to the NAVAHCS General Fund. On behalf of all OSA members, the check represented a contribution from our membership. Over the years, we have observed that some members who don't have items to donate to the nursing home, somehow feel guilty. This time, no one worried that they didn't have items to donate. We presented the check to Celestine, and Paula reported the following day that she had received our check and thanked us. Staff member, Lynda Roberts, sent us an e-mail in which she said: "Thanks again for a great day. You all are very kind to our veterans. They are a great bunch of people and deserve all the good things. Thank you again."

Thanks to my daughter, Kim Michels, for taking a picture of me working on the quilt for our December raffle. Also, thanks to our webmaster, Jim Johnson, for adding links to the quilt photos to our website. The quilt is featured on 7 pages of our website!

On September 22nd, Wilella and I will return to Prescott and bring two of the humongous *Cattleya Porcia Cannizaro* plants back to Phoenix. (Betty Stephens has graciously agreed to make herself available to meet us in the greenhouse.) We will display them at our October 16 and 17 annual orchid show. **Also, we will be bringing a surprise for visitors who purchase a plant at our show. While they last, it's like a "gift with purchase" except that in this case, the gift is NOT a perfume sample.**

And by the time you read this newsletter, 4 of our school program team members will be preparing for our annual trip to the **Morongo Basin Orchid Festival** in **Landers, CA**. This will be the **twelfth year** that we've traveled to Landers for the festival. We return to Phoenix on October 4, and as you know, our October meeting is in the evening. Some of us will be exhausted, but we'll be at the meeting! Early in the morning on October 1, we start our journey. We will be taking my horse trailer and filling it with orchids for our October show! Our program team will be hand-selecting plants for sale at our show, and I will house them until show time.

See you on October 4th

COMMUNITY SERVICE REPORT

Wilella Stimmell, CSP Coordinator

The deadline for submitting copy for our newsletter is the 10th of the month. Since our June/July newsletter was a combined issue, as was our August/September newsletter, this is the first opportunity I have had to mention our **July 12th Orchids 101** program. We were asked to present an evening program for the Rim Area Gardeners in Payson. **Julie Rathbun** and I presented our program to a large, enthusiastic group of gardeners.

The Rim Area Gardeners hold their meetings in the activity room at the Church of Christ. Quite a few gardeners brought their orchids to the meeting. Their plants suffered from a variety of ailments, and Julie and I tried to answer all questions. The blooming door prize Phalaenopsis, from OSA's inventory, was won by a gentleman whose wife quickly took custody of the prize!

The temperature in Payson was a welcome relief from the low desert heat! However, because it was necessary for us to depart Phoenix during the heat of the day, neither Julie nor I took any display plants.

After our program ended, OSA was presented with a donation check from the Rim Area Gardeners.

Osmunda (an orchid medium preferred by some veteran growers) Growing on a Farm in Vermont

In an e-mail message from John Atwood, he reports:

"I dug a couple of crowns of osmunda from the cinnamon fern (*Osmunda cinnamomia*) for an orchid growing friend, and it was wonderful stuff! I'm curious to compare *cinnamomia* with *O. regalis*, the latter of which the English would use.

We have a third species, the interrupted fern, which has not been used extensively. I have enumerated 34 species of ferns on this property, plus six (possibly seven) species of horsetail; this is in a world of 15 species of horsetail accepted by Alice and Rolla Tryon, retired Harvard pteridologists."

What's on YOUR property that could be used as an orchid growing medium? In the low desert, you probably don't have a natural "forest" area on your property. But you might have palm trees. Years ago, Deacon Bell used dry pieces of *Washingtonia* palm trees for a potting medium experiment. What he discovered was that the medium decomposed faster than fir bark. So...that was the end of his experiment.

Wilella Stimmell



Raffle Donors

Bob MacLeod, Julie Rathbun, Connie Skinner, Wilella Stimmell, and non-members, Mark Obermayer and Craig Pearson

Thanks for your Support

The Nominating Committee's Slate of Officers and Trustees for 2011

The election of OSA's Board of Directors for 2011 will be held during our November 1, 2010 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):
Bob MacLeod

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

Secretary: Barbara Parnell

Treasurer: Wilella Stimmell

Trustee: Carol Erwin (Term expires 12/12)

Trustee: Chris Gubler (Term expires 12/12)

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:

Carol Erwin and Kimberly Levingston

Our other two Trustees, Debra Hartill and Diane Norman, will continue to serve until their terms expire in 12/11.

Respectfully submitted by:

Kimberly Levingston (Chairperson)
Jim Johnson
Kathleen Luther

Note: If elected, Julie Rathbun has agreed to serve a SIXTH term as President. And many of the other officers, if elected, have agreed to serve another term. Also, if elected, Carol Erwin has graciously agreed to serve another term as Trustee.

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 2010

President	(602) 843-0223
Julie Rathbun	jandfent@aol.com
First Vice President	(623) 810-3967
Bob Macleod	
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@att.net
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Kimberly Levingston	(602) 843-6213 kimberlydahle@yahoo.com
Diane Norman	623) 692-7422 dlnorman31300@yahoo.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.

A Pyramid of Orchids

Show dates: October 16 and 17, 2010

Location: Liberty Hall, Arizona State Veteran Home,
4141 N. Herrera Way (N. 3rd St.), Phoenix

Hours Saturday: 9 AM – 5 PM;
Sunday 9 AM – 3 PM



Bob MacLeod has once again outdone himself. He built a **7 foot tall pyramid** for this year's orchid show theme:

A Pyramid of Orchids.

See you at our show !

Common Orchid Gives Scientists Hope in Face of Climate Change

A study led by scientists from the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew's Jodrell Laboratory, which focuses on epigenetics in European common marsh orchids, has revealed that some plants may be able to adapt more quickly to environmental change than previously thought. The research, published in *Molecular Biology and Evolution*, brings new hope to plant conservation.

Epigenetics comprises hidden influences upon gene functions that occur without a change in the DNA sequence, but are potentially inheritable, and it is a new field of research that is reshaping the way scientists look at the living world. This new evidence that environmental effects on gene activity can be 'remembered' is hugely significant. In the modern interpretation of Darwin's theory of evolution, scientists previously thought that genetic mutations (permanent changes in DNA sequence) were the only source of new traits that could be handed down from generation to generation, causing changes to the way species react to their environment. This process of adaptation can take hundreds of years and is almost certainly too slow for plants to adapt to rapid climate change.

However, in this cutting-edge study on a group of marsh orchids, Kew scientists have found that epigenetic variation can significantly influence the adaptive potential of an individual species. In turn, this affects the evolutionary potential of a species at a much quicker rate than was previously thought.

This study focused on three recently formed species of delicate purple European marsh-orchids (*Dactylorhiza*) of hybrid origin, two of them occurring in the UK. Despite having a highly similar genetic heritage, the three orchids differ considerably in ecological requirements, morphology, physical characteristics and distribution.

Dr Ovidiu Paun, lead researcher says, "In contrast to the genetic information, which is a more "closed" system, the environment can alter the epigenetic context of individual species, and this adaptive pathway is complementary to the currently accepted view on evolution. The results in the paper demonstrate that Darwinian selection acts on epigenetic variation in the same way as on the genetic information to result in adaptation and divergence between species within a small number of generations."

He continues, "Our results show the importance of the environment in altering inherited traits in these orchids and also contributing to biodiversity. The epigenetic level of natural variation can be adaptive and has the potential to be rapidly released, in a few generations, in contrast to genetic variation."

Adds Professor Mark Chase, Keeper of Kew's Jodrell Laboratory, "Our results are particularly relevant in the present context of widespread environmental challenges and give us more hope in the adaptive potential of organisms. It is not instantaneous, but it is much faster than what we thought previously.

"However, this also means that ex-situ conservation of threatened species, when individuals are removed from their original environment and are usually relocated to a botanical garden, is not the best strategy for their preservation, as it may delete any intrinsic epigenetic specificity. A much better solution remains their conservation in the wild."

ScienceDaily (Aug. 10, 2010)

OSA October 2010 Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1  <i>Dee Macleod</i>	2  <i>Kathleen Luther</i>
3	4 OSA Meeting 7:00 PM	5	6	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 ↙ 31  <i>Harry Parnell</i>	25	26	27	28	29	30



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