



The Arizona Orchidist

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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, September 1, 2003 at 7:00 p.m.

OSA meetings are open to all
plant enthusiasts

Refreshments will be provided
This month beverages will be furnished
by: Lou Ann Remeikis
Edibles will be provided by:
Jennifer Schmitt, Steve & Sally Grass

Janet Jurn,
Refreshment Coordinator
(623) 386-2741

NEXT OSA BOARD MEETING

The next OSA board meeting will be
Sunday, August 24, 2003 at 1:00 p.m.

At the NAVAHCS facility
(Ft. Whipple)
Prescott, Arizona

The meeting is open to all OSA members

GROWER ON CALL

Julie Rathbun
(602) 843-0223
e-mail jandfent@prodigy.net

September Program

Guest Speaker Hermann Pigors

Hermann was only 14 years old when he started his career. In 1951 he began a three year apprenticeship in Germany. In 1973 he bought an existing greenhouse in Dundee, Ill and established Oak Hill Gardens where he has over 20,000 square feet of growing space for orchids, bromeliads and tropical foliage plants. He employs about 8 people to help with the plants mainly cultivating the orchids as well as propagating them from seeds. He also imports plants and clones them.

Hermann has served as President of the Illinois Orchid Society, is an AOS judge, and served on the board of trustees of the AOS. He is a past president of the Mid-American Orchid Congress.



Norma Kafer

REMINDER

Our regular meeting place, the Encanto Park Clubhouse, is **closed on holidays**. Since our September meeting falls on a holiday, arrangements have been made to hold the meeting at the **Arizona State Veteran's Home, 4141 N. 3rd Street, Phoenix**. The Arizona State Veterans Home is one block **north** of Indian School Road on 3rd Street. *SEE MAP INSIDE*

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From the President's Desk

Lou Ann Remeikis

First of all, I want to apologize to those members and guests who had hoped to learn more about growing orchids hydroponically. Joe Civello was on the August program agenda for making a presentation on this very topic, however Joe was unable to attend the meeting and expressed his apologies for not being able to make his presentation.

In retrospect, it is probably a good thing we only had Doug and Aaron make their presentations at the August meeting. Members and guests had several questions that were fielded by Doug and Aaron, and the meeting may have run late had Joe been able to make his presentation.

It was really good to see some of our members who have been absent awhile. Although I personally did not have an opportunity to visit with them, it was nice to see Pam Albright, Pearl Bays and Lois Sauer at the August meeting. We had several visitors, too! One of those visitors, Montse Anderson, joined our OSA family at the August meeting. Montse had to leave the meeting early so I did not have the opportunity to introduce her to the members present. Montse is fairly new to growing orchids so welcome her and introduce yourself when you see her at our next meeting.

I hope everyone grabbed *at least* a couple of show flyers to distribute to your favorite neighborhood garden center or local bulletin board. Our November show is fast approaching and we'll soon be into the busiest time of the year for OSA's members. The success of the show depends on YOU – by contributing your time and effort toward putting the show together and by publicizing the show so that we have a lot of people show up to enjoy our displays and sale plants.

In looking toward the end of the year, we will be holding elections for the 2004 Board of Directors for OSA and the preparation for December's Live Auction (getting donations from members and corporate donations). We already have received donations from two members (Gerda Gallob and Pam Albright) for the December auction, and I know Wilella has already obtained a corporate contribution. We ask all members to contribute what they can for the auction and/or contact any business you patronize that would be willing to make a contribution to OSA's December fundraiser. When requesting a corporate contribution, remember to tell them they are mentioned in the newsletter and a placard is placed beside their donation at the auction – great advertising for them!

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From the President's Desk

I hope this newsletter arrives in your mailbox in time to remind you that the September meeting will NOT be held at the Encanto Park Clubhouse – they are closed on the Labor Day holiday. We will, however, be holding our September meeting in Liberty Hall, at the Arizona State Veteran's Home, 4141 N. 3rd Street, Phoenix. The ASVH has been wonderful to accommodate our needs and we appreciate their efforts. There should be a map in this newsletter (*page 7*) to help you get there, in case you've never had occasion to visit their facility. Liberty Hall is located on the second floor, and there is an elevator for your convenience.

As many of you were unable to attend the August meeting, I'd like to let you know what your Board of Director's has done lately. By unanimous vote, OSA will be assisting the City of Phoenix Parks & Recreation Department in the purchase of new tables and chairs for the Encanto Park Clubhouse Ballroom (our meeting room). The City of Phoenix has allowed OSA to become affiliated with them at no cost to our treasury [TOTALLY due to our community service record and 501 (c)(3) status] and this is a way for OSA to show our appreciation to them for such a nice place for our group to meet. This will also benefit our members in the comfort provided by the new chairs – they will have padded seats!

Don't forget to checkout OSA's website! Jim Johnson, our very capable Webmaster, has it updated and current! The current newsletters are now available from the website, in addition to the future guest speakers that have been confirmed to speak to our group. Additionally, you now have the ability to sign-up for the "E-newsletter". By advising Keith Mead, OSA's Editor, that you would like to receive the newsletter by e-mail, you will receive the newsletter sooner than by U.S. Postal Service, save the treasury postage fees, and still be able to print out a hard copy of the newsletter. If this is something that interests you, please let Keith know (kjkm@att.net) and he will handle the rest.

I look forward to seeing everyone at the September meeting – Labor Day! Personally, it will be nice to not run from work to the meeting as I actually get that holiday off from the office! Until then...

Happy Growing,
Lou Ann



Thank you for your August Raffle Table Donations

Alan Ladd, Doug Baldwin, Wayne Baker, Joe Freasier,
Shirley Engberg, Jennifer Schmitt, Jane & Pete Heckel,
Wilella Stimmell, White Oak Orchids and OSA



On July 18, MARLENY CASTILLO, NORMA KAHER, BOB MACLEOD, JULIE RATHBUN, LOU RE-MEIKIS, and I presented 3 hands-on orchid programs for children enrolled in the TRI-CITY WEST/ THORNWOOD BOYS & GIRLS CLUB, 301 E. Western Ave., Avondale.

The children in the first class were primarily first grade students who were eager to repot their seedlings. In the past 8 years of presenting our school programs, we have discovered that first grade students are the most enthusiastic and in most cases, also the noisiest. Fortunately, one of the staff members at the center had a whistle which she blew when the children's chatter drowned out our repotting instructions. The whistle worked like a charm: instant silence!

A reporter for the local Avondale newspaper was on hand during the first class and took pictures of the children in action. Becky Macias, the Activities' Coordinator of Tri-City, stated that she would send us a copy of the issue in which the picture of the children was featured. Becky had also contacted Shamrock Dairies, and the company donated 100 clean milk jugs for use in our programs.

Special thanks is due Bob MacLeod for making a special trip from his home in Litchfield Park to the Stimmell "warehouse". Bob hauled the lava rocks and fir bark from Scottsdale to Litchfield Park and then to Avondale. Thanks Bob! Without your help, we would have needed to rent a trailer to haul seedlings, display plants, and all the necessary potting supplies to Avondale.

(Expect to see a report on our August caravan trek to NAVAHCS in our October newsletter. It is customary for an OSA member who is a first time visitor to the NAVAHCS greenhouse, to write a report about the trip.)

The next program on our schedule will be done on Friday, October 3rd for students enrolled in Landers Elementary School in California. Due to school class scheduling conflicts and the need for program team members to reserve Friday afternoon for plant "sleuthing" in the greenhouses at Gubler Orchids, we are departing from our usual 30-students-per-program "rule". We will be presenting 3 programs simultaneously in one large room. Each group of combined first and second grade students will be divided into 20 students each, and one or two of our program team members will conduct each class. Instructional assistants and parents will assist our program team leaders. Each team leader will have a brass bell in hand! (May God have mercy on our souls and...grant us patience!) This should be an interesting experience! If we each ring our attention-getting bell at the same time, we might be dubbed "the Bell Ringers of Landers Elementary"!

Debbie Turner, Principal of Landers Elementary, is working with Chris Gubler (Gubler Orchids) who will provide the display plants, seedlings, and potting supplies for the school programs.

IN MEMORIAM

OSA extends our deepest sympathy to the family of **Steve Skoien**, owner of Rolfe Horticulture, Mt. View, Hawaii. Following a long illness, Steve passed away on Friday, August 1. A grower who freely shared his vast knowledge of orchid species, Steve will be remembered by OSA members not only for his generosity to us, but for his gentle spirit and helpfulness. Several years ago, Del Pace introduced us to Steve at Pacific Orchid Exposition in San Francisco. And two years ago, when last he exhibited at Orchid Expo, he trusted OSA members enough to allow us to guard his booth while he ate lunch.

Little did we know at the time that it would be the last time we would ever see him.

In an e-mail message, Bill Bergstrom (Berstrom Orchids) stated: "...Steve...was one in a million and [his death] a great loss to all of us... He was kind hearted, generous, never outspoken and always calm. Never heard him utter an unkind word about anybody...He spent a lot of years in the Washington area before moving here [Hawaii]. I heard that he came from Florida originally...not sure of that information. He was also well known and thought of in the Oregon area. ...The guy was known everywhere ...certainly in the California area (the San Francisco show and others). Speaking for myself, I have shed a lot of tears since Friday. We are working on a memorial service for him to occur soon."

Thanks, Bill, for sharing your thoughts. All of us who were privileged to know Steve, will miss him.

Wilella Stimmell

New Member Welcome

Join us in welcoming Montse Anderson to the OSA family.

HEY ! DID YOU KNOW?

OSA supplies soda pop **each** and **every** month to the Arizona State Veterans Home gift shop for the benefit of the residents. Summer is a high demand time of the year.

Since they are kind enough to allow us to meet at their facility this month why not show your appreciation and bring along a case or six pack to donate.

You're gonna be there anyway, right ?



NEWSLETTER ON-LINE

If you would like to receive your copy of The Arizona Orchidist on-line via email please send a request to kjkm@att.net. We will begin emailing the newsletter to those interested beginning with the September issue. It is necessary to have Adobe Acrobat Reader loaded on your PC to read the attachment. The software is available for downloading at no cost at www.adobe.com You will receive your newsletter earlier than by snail mail, save your society postage \$ and you may still print it for future reference.

Loss/theft of orchid shipment in Miami PPQ

I want to relate a disturbing incident I recently experienced at the Miami Airport Plant Inspection Station.

On Saturday, August 2, I returned to Miami from a botanical orchid collecting trip to Costa Rica. The collecting trip was part of a National Science Foundation-funded research project, and collecting was performed in collaboration with a Costa Rican institution and colleagues. The orchids were collected and exported with all required permits, including CITES and phytosanitary documents. My export consisted of living orchid plants together with tissue samples dried in silica gel for DNA studies. The shipment was labeled with my name and address in multiple locations, inside and outside the container. When I arrived in Miami, I declared the import at customs, and the Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ) officers took possession of the shipment at Concourse E. The imported plants and all permits, contained in one parcel, were to be sent over by PPQ courier to the Inspection Station for inspection and treatment; they would then be sent to me via FedEx. When I called to check on the shipment on Monday, I was told by the PPQ staff that the shipment could not be located. Repeated calls to PPQ have revealed only that the shipment was seen "near the back door" on Sunday at the PPQ area on Concourse E, and has not been seen since. Repeated searches of the area have not located the large parcel containing the plants.

No one at PPQ seems to have an explanation as to what happened to my specimens. I conclude that there is either: 1) gross incompetence; or 2) theft of the plants from a highly secure area of the airport under the supervision of a branch of the Office of Homeland Security. Either of these possibilities is disturbing, to put it mildly.

These scientific specimens represented several thousand dollars of field expenses and weeks of difficult field work. They would be almost impossible to replace, and are a great setback to our research project.

I am writing to the list for three reasons. First, I would caution anyone planning an orchid import through Miami to hire a broker (regardless of the size of the shipment) and to stay with the shipment through the inspection process until the plants are released. Second, I would like to hear from anyone else who might have lost full or partial contents of imports during the inspection process in Miami. Please contact me off-list with a direct email. Finally, if anyone has experience (good or bad) with importing orchids through Orlando, I would like to hear from them.

Thanks,

Mark Whitten

Orchids Digest, Volume 5, issue 361

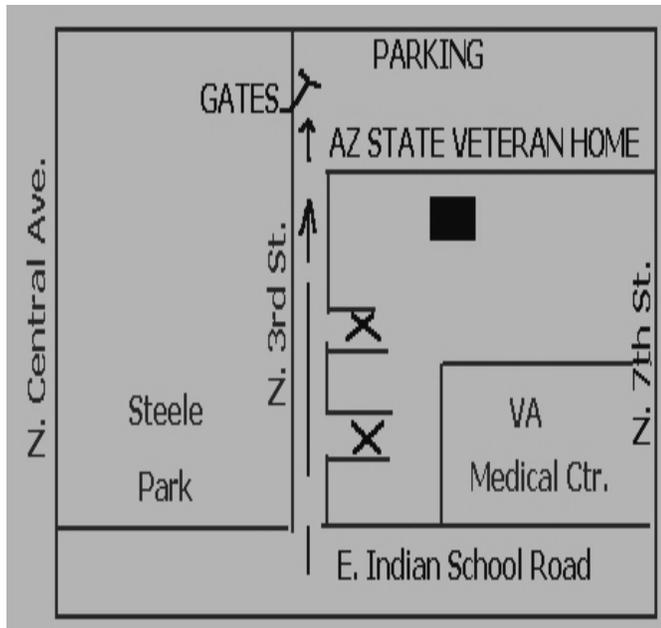
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International Orchid Conservation Congress II Registration Forms Available

At each of our monthly meetings from June, 2003 through April, 2004, registration forms for the International Orchid Conservation Congress II, will be available on our raffle ticket sales table. The Congress will be held at Selby Gardens, Sarasota, FL, May 16-21, 2004.

OSA was the FIRST orchid society to donate funds for the IOCC! The goal of the organizing committee is to have funds available so that scientists from Third World countries will be able to attend the congress. Your OSA Board of Directors voted unanimously at our March 2 Board Meeting, to donate funds for the IOCC.

MAP TO SEPTEMBER MEETING



The Arizona Orchidist is published monthly by the

Orchid Society of Arizona, Inc.

Direct inquiries to our website at:

[Http://welcome.to/orchidsocietyaz](http://welcome.to/orchidsocietyaz)

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, and Biosphere 2 Center.



OSA September 2003 Calendar



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 <i>OSA MEETING</i> 7:00 P.M. AT ASVH	2	3  <i>Lou Remeikis</i>	4	5  <i>Joe Bacik</i> <i>Dennis Olivas</i>	6
7  <i>David Hardinger</i>	8	9	10	11	12  <i>Lisa White</i>	13
14	15	16	17	18	19  <i>Jeanette Socaciu</i>	20  <i>Ken Gettys</i>
21	22  <i>Ainsley LaCour</i>	23	24	25	26	27  <i>Robin Warner</i>
28	29	30				



Orchid Society of Arizona
 c/o Keith Mead
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