



# The Arizona Orchidist

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## NEXT OSA MEETING

The next regular society meeting will be  
Monday, Sept 6, 2004 at 7:00 p.m.  
at the Arizona Veterans Home  
Liberty Hall  
See map on page 3  
OSA meetings are open to all  
plant enthusiasts

Refreshments will be provided  
This month beverages will be furnished  
by Tatiana Macias  
Snacks will be provided by:  
Jennifer Schmitt and  
Lucy Redmond Hall  
Refreshment Coordinators:  
Julie Langston  
Ramona Jungwirth

## OSA BOARD MEETING

The OSA board meeting will be held  
in conjunction with the Show Planning  
Meeting  
Sunday, September 26th  
Show Planning Meeting at Noon  
Board Meeting at 1 PM  
Hosted by Norma Kafer  
Please call Norma for directions to her  
home

Board meetings are open to all OSA  
members

## GROWER ON CALL

Keith Mead  
kjk@comcast.net

## September Program

*Cal-Orchid*  
INC.

1251 Orchid Drive  
Santa Barbara, California, 93111  
(805) 967-1312 • FAX (805) 967-6882

Lauris Rose began her orchid career in 1973 as the production manager at a small cymbidium cut flower nursery in Santa Barbara. The next year she went to Santa Barbara Orchid Estate and stayed with them for 10 years pursuing retail sales and as a grower. Her next job, centering on personnel and purchasing, was as V.P. of Stewart Orchids where she was honored to work alongside Leo Holguin [*Editor's note: the legendary cattleya orchid hybridizer at Armacost & Royston*]. in Carpinteria. After 6 years, in 1989 she left Stewart to join her husband full time at their newly formed company, Cal-Orchid, Inc.

Today, Ms. Rose is a member of numerous horticulturally oriented foundations and enjoys representing Cal-Orchid's diverse orchid inventory at sales venues far and wide. Although she has addressed gatherings at such notable venues as the United Nations, it is rare that she accepts lecture invitations from orchid societies.

Ms. Rose is currently serving as a consulting member of the Information Committee where she supports efforts underway to build lesson plans for teachers to incorporate into their curriculum to teach children about orchids.

Her topic for this society will be *Cal-Orchid's Miles of Aisles*, an overview of what is in bloom, and in spike and an introduction to the new "Pacific Line" of Cal's new pot plant epidendrums. Over 100,000 have been sold all over the world. There will be a good number of plants to choose from on silent auction as well !!

Lauris Rose

### IN THIS ISSUE

<i>From the President's Desk</i>	Page 2
<i>Free Distilled Water</i> <i>Teddy Cohen</i>	Page 4
<i>From the Archives "Culture of Jewel Orchids"</i>	Page 5



# From the President's Desk

Norma Kafer

For our August meeting, we were fortunate to have Carl Olson, curator of the entomology museum, University of Arizona, speak to us. Carl has been my instructor for numerous classes associated with my Master Gardener activities, and he is always thorough, funny, interesting, opinionated, bright, and an absolutely wonderful teacher. As he mentioned, we have only two poisonous spiders in Arizona, the black widow with whom everybody is familiar and the rare and shy Arizona Brown ( we do NOT have the brown recluse). Other than those two, spiders are not going to hurt you. All spiders are beneficials, meaning they eat bugs that we don't want around. You will see a check and balance in the insect world. Lady bugs will proliferate when the aphids are out and then they "fly away home" when they have gorged themselves on the aphids. Without insects, we would have few fruits and vegetables on the table to eat.

During the "Show and Tell" portion of our August meeting, we forgot to allot time for two youthful presentations! Those of you who left the Clubhouse before Pamela Albright's granddaughters, Chalet (age 11) and Heidi (age 9) Hunsaker, gave their presentations, missed a treat! Chalet brought her yellow phal and told us a bit about how she takes care of it, and her sister, Heidi, gave a book report on a recent orchid book acquisition that her grandmother purchased for her! We hope to read Heidi's book report in a future newsletter, and we hope that whenever Chalet and Heidi are visiting their grandmother, that they will attend more of our meetings. They are welcome additions to our attendance!

Gary Kooistra brought a **very** generous donation of orchids and non-orchid plants for our raffle table. In the near future, he will be moving to Washington state. Gary stated that even when he's living in Washington, he plans to continue his membership in OSA.

For our Sept. meeting, our speaker will be Lauris Rose, co-owner with her husband, James, of Cal-Orchid, Santa Barbara. In past years, OSA members went on 3 field trips to the Santa Barbara Orchid Fair. And some of you might have visited the Cal-Orchid greenhouses on those occasions.

Our thoughts are with Lou Ann as she takes care of her husband, Gary. He has multiple, very serious medical problems, and they're all happening at the same time.

## AUGUST RAFFLE TABLE DONATIONS

Cynthia Schnitzer, Gary Kooistra, Ken and Judy Vincent

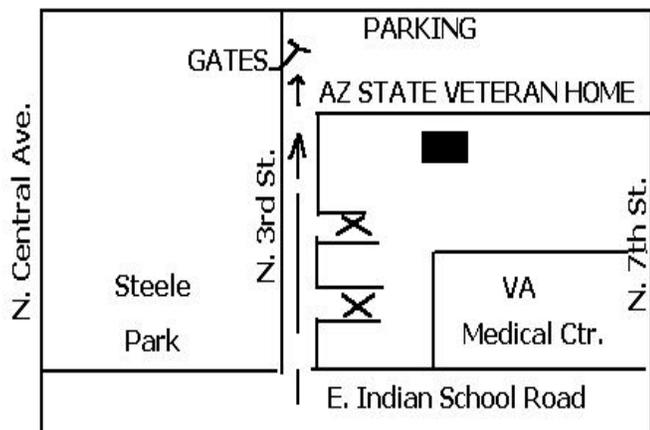
Carolyn Phillips and Wilella Stimmell

SPECIAL THANKS TO ALL



**REMEMBER**

DUE TO THE LABOR DAY HOLIDAY OUR  
SEPTEMBER MEETING WILL BE HELD AT  
THE ARIZONA STATE VETERANS HOME  
LIBERTY HALL  
4141 NORTH 3RD STREET  
7:00 PM



**OSA POLICY REGARDING REPLACEMENT NAME**

**BADGES:** During OSA's June 27, 2004 board meeting, the subject of replacement name badges was addressed. Heretofore OSA did not have a policy in place regarding replacement name badges. Name badges for NEW members are included as a part of their membership dues. Effective as of June 27, a replacement name badge will cost the member who needs to replace a badge, \$10.00. This amount is payable before the replacement badge is ordered. (The motion passed unanimously.)

**Orchid Show News**

The next meeting for the **Orchid Magic Show** will be Sunday, September 26th, at 12:00 Noon. The Board meeting will follow at 1 PM. As you know, all are welcome to one or both meetings. This time, we'll be taking care of loose ends and updating the process of creating yet another wonderful orchid show. Please plan to attend! The meetings will be at Norma Kafer's home (call Norma for directions). I'd like to publicly thank Norma for her hospitality, as our home is in the throes of remodeling! See you the 26th!  
~ Sharon Davis, Show Chair

The *Arizona Orchidist* is published monthly by the  
Orchid Society of Arizona, Inc.  
Direct Inquiries to our website at:  
<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.

## FREE DISTILLED WATER!!

For those of us who mist our plants, use steam irons, or perhaps have a parrot who needs a daily misting, the cleanest water possible is our quest. Nothing is more pure than distilled water, but we compromise, using Reverse Osmosis (RO) and other filtering methods. Before you make that choice, consider this: every gallon of RO water requires several gallons in its production, or in plain English, RO wastes water! Never forget, we live in a desert and every drop is precious!

What's an orchid-loving, pants-pressing, bird-misting, water-loving person to do? The answer is simple: get free distilled water! Your air conditioner makes gallons of it. The secret is to harvest the water from the discharge line. You will find it in the upper area of your AC unit, not down where you change the filters.

You will need a "Y" connector, one with on and off valves, a collecting container, some flexible tubing, and an overflow container if your AC unit is indoors. During high humidity times of the summer, the discharge line can produce gallons every week, so once the collecting container is in place, check it frequently. Also, bear in mind that five gallons of water weigh about 40 pounds – they are a back strain ready to happen. Use a container you can comfortably lift when it is full of water.

Attach the "Y" valve to the discharge line, making a upside down "Y" with two valve controlled exits at the bottom. On one valve side, attach your tubing or hose and place it in your collection container. Open the valve on this side of the "Y". On the other side of the "Y", attach tube or hose to valve and direct it to its original discharge destination. Close this valve when you want the distilled water to collect in your container. When your unit over-produces, or when you out of town, etc., reverse this. Close the collecting valve and open the discharge side.

This method of collection will not work on an evaporative cooler, nor will you get clean distilled water if you have a piggy back system that shares a discharge line.

OSA Trustee and the designer of this system, Bob MacLeod, can be reached at 623 935-4059 if you have questions. If you would like his original drawing, contact me at the next OSA meeting, I'll have photocopies.

Teddy Cohen  
taylorbaron@msn.com

### **NEW SUPERVISORS at NAVAHCS and at ASVH**

NAVAHCS: In May, after 35 YEARS and 3 months of servitude to the government health care system, Betty Stephens decided to seek less stressful employment. Paula Marks replaced Betty as the New Supervisor of Recreation Therapy. Congratulations, Paula! And we wish Betty well as she enters her "golden years". Betty reports that she "loves" her new job as Director of the Center for Adult Day Care in Prescott Valley. By the time you read this issue of the newsletter, our annual trek to NAVAHCS will be history. We hope that we will be able to report in our October newsletter, that during our visit to Prescott, we visited with BOTH Paula and Betty!

ASVH: For those of you who actually read our newsletter, you know that in our August issue we reported that newly married Diane M. Armstrong left her position as Recreation Therapy Department Manager and moved to Albuquerque. We are pleased to announce the name of the new Recreation Therapy Department Manager at ASVH: Carrie Langford. We've already been in touch with Carrie, and she appreciated receiving our good wishes and our pledge to continue to support ASVH with our monthly donations of soda pop, flavored water, and snacks for the gift shop.

W. Stimmell

## FROM THE ARCHIVES

30 Years Ago: "**The Culture of Jewel Orchids**",  
by William Cavestro, AOS BULLETIN, Vol. 43, September, 1974, pp. 793-797.

"This vast family of plants contains some orchids with rather strange names: major species belong to the genera *Anoectochilus* Blume, *Argyorchis* Bl; *Dossima* Morr; *Goodyera* R. Br.; *Haemaria* Lindl.; and *Macodes* Bl. Let us note at the beginning that the majority of these orchids look strangely like each other. For the discerning orchidist, however, they are the aristocrats of the plant world, hence their name 'Jewel Orchids'. The flowers appearing on an erect spike, are only of slight interest. *Anoectochilus* are cultivated above all for the beauty of their foliage, deep green or emerald, veined and very finely lined with gold and silver. Rare are the plants which can suffer comparison with such marvels; even the small marantas cannot offer this velvety look and very fine, brilliant markings. Unfortunately, these 'Jewels' are not easy to grow; in fact, few collections are much involved with their delicate culture. However, by means of certain indispensable guidelines, one can grow them perfectly, even in an apartment.

*Anoectochilus* have a period of vegetative growth, extending from March to September and a period of rest from October to February. In spring, at the coming of the vegetation, the plants are repotted or at the very least, new surface compost is added. I prefer a good annual surface dressing to a repotting. This latter should not be undertaken except in cases of necessity, when the compost is old and acid or when the plant has outgrown the pot. Repotting is a delicate procedure, for it dictates the success of the culture of these orchids.

The old compost should be lightly moistened at the time of unpotting. Take out the plants from the older middle section. The older, decomposed and soft roots are then cut. I generally profit from this operation by accomplishing the vegetative multiplication of *Anoectochilus* in detaching secondary growths which are growing with some roots. The compost used in repotting is sphagnum and fern in equal portions. The inconvenience of such a medium lies in the fact that in order to be totally worthwhile, it should remain partially living. The sphagnum used ought to remain quite green and not bleached out by excessive dryness. As for me, I use by preference a compost primarily of mold. Here is the composition of the mix used in repotting and in surfacing: 1/3 leaf mold, 1/3 crushed peat, and 1/3 sand and pine needles. Added to this is a slight bit of crushed brick and charcoal. Finally, all materials are mixed and lightly watered.

Pots used for the plants should be flatter than they are deep and rather small, for the roots do not lengthen greatly. I use a pot of 15 cm [1 inch = 2.54 cm; 15 cm would be approximately a 6 inch pot] diameter for up to 30-40 rhizomes. Prepare beforehand a good drainage bed from 1/3 to 1/2 the height of the pot. I use either plastic or clay pots. In any case, a good drainage is indispensable in avoiding rot. The strongest and most vigorous rhizomes are placed in the center of the pot. These can overlap each other; that doesn't matter. *Anoectochilus* and its nearby relatives like to be in the company of small ferns or pellionias used to neutralize the excess of humidity from waterings. Place a slight layer of compost over the drainage beforehand. The plants are then positioned on this mixture in such a way that the stems of the leaved growths are not buried. This last point is of major importance. If the point of junction of the leaves with the fleshy stem is buried in the soil, the plant runs the risk of rotting.

In nature, the rhizomes wander over the decomposing vegetable debris and develop their leaves close to the soil. These orchids are very sensitive at the junction of the stems; it is this which makes repotting delicate and difficult for the beginner.

*continued on page 6*

## "The Culture of Jewel Orchids"

After having positioned all the rhizomes in the pot, they are covered with a centimeter of mold, leaving the leaves free. The plant sends out numerous underground shoots forming stems whose first leaves develop during the summer period. After repotting, *Anoectochilus* ...receive a light watering. Real waterings should only begin when the 'Jewel Orchids' show the first signs of vegetative growth. The rhizomes, in order to put out their first roots and new leaves, are always kept slightly moist. A very light watering each week accompanied by a daily sprinkling is preferable although for *Haemaria* and *Goodyera* I proceed very differently. These plants in truth do not tend to rot; I water them very freely (three times a week) from the beginning in order to initiate the vegetation. *Anoectochilus* are more delicate on account of their generally heavier rhizomes.

The 'Jewel Orchids' require a day temperature of 22-25 degrees Celsius [72-75 degrees Fahrenheit] and 20-22 degrees Celsius [68-72 degrees Fahrenheit] at night. Leaf development is rather slow and the orchid puts out 3 to 6 leaves, rarely more. A moist atmosphere will surround *Anoectochilus* placed on an overturned pot or a bed of sphagnum. The daily sprinklings (twice a day) are necessary and without danger in an apartment where the relative humidity is less than 30%; the plants promptly dry, which prevents stains on the leaves. In a hot-house [greenhouse] a daily sprinkling is sufficient although the water should not remain in the axils of the leaves. This procedure is effective with a non-limestone water; otherwise the leaves will quickly lose their brightness. Waterings should occur two to three times per week; the surface of the medium should never dry out. However, do not drown your 'Jewel Orchids'. The watering is comparable to procedures with *paphiopedilums* and *phalaenopsis*. In summer, the two principal rules to follow are:

1) a good light appropriate for *phalaenopsis*. In an apartment, a light protection is necessary if *Anoectochilus* are positioned in front of a bay window. In a greenhouse, shade, for sunlit days, should be given from ten in the morning until 3 or 4 in the afternoon. In effect *Anoectochilus* like a good deal of light which accents their coloration though they cannot withstand strong sun. Certain collections place the 'Jewel Orchids' under benches in a greenhouse; in order to avoid placing them constantly covered against the sun, one should grow them in a northern exposure.

2) a moist compost but not soaking and filled with water. Supplementary sprinklings should be necessary only if the atmosphere remains very dry.

When the flower stems develop, generally following the vegetative growth, it is necessary to suppress them for they not only provide little aesthetic appeal, they weaken the plants. As for fertilizers, use such in very dilute solutions (1-2 grams [1 gram = .0353 ounces] per liter [1 liter = 1.057 quarts] of water) or better, during repotting, mix some crushed cow dung with compost.

Coming finally at the end of October is the rest period: *Anoectochilus* should be readied for the rest period by a gradual diminution of water and heat. Wintering can be accomplished in an ordinary hot-house or in a temperate (18 to 20 degrees Celsius) greenhouse. The waterings are continued at longer intervals. It is necessary to maintain a suitable humidity without excessive drying. One watering per week is enough if the compost of mold and sand dries out rapidly. Certain orchidists advise attempting to produce a loss of leaves during the winter, as this occurs in nature. But in culture, the rhizomes are short, possess little nutritive reserves and one thus risks, in attempting to imitate Dame Nature, losing one's 'Jewel Orchids'. After a complete loss of leaves, regrowth in spring is most difficult. That is why I keep to my method of a half-rest which avoids a total rupture in their living cycle. The latter will resume with the return of the beautiful March days, a time in which one should proceed with a surface dressing for *Anoectochilus*. ..."

*Editor's Note: The author of the above article lived in France, and it was noted at the bottom of the first page of the article, that the article was translated from French into English. In 1974, the Editor of the AOS BULLETIN was Richard Peterson. It is not known whether Mr. Peterson was the person who translated the article into English.*

*Additionally, please note: growers who have a Jewel Orchid in their collections, usually have *Haemaria discolor* (also known as *Ludisia discolor*) because it is widely available. Also, metric conversions have been added in brackets for the convenience of our readers.*



**ORCHID SOCIETY OF ARIZONA**  
presents



The  
**Magic**  
of  
**Orchids**

ORCHID SHOW AND SALE

**November 13 and 14, 2004**

**ENCANTO PARK CLUBHOUSE  
2605 N. 15TH AVE.  
PHOENIX, AZ**



**Free Admission  
Hours: 9:00 am- 5:00 pm Both Days**

**Professor Robb's Harry Potter Magic Show**  
**November 13th, 1:30 P.M.**

**Orchids, supplies, cultural information, gifts, children and adult raffle,  
entertainment, refreshments**

**For information contact: Show Chairman: Sharon Davis (602) 843-3288  
OSA President: Norma Kafer (602) 252-6197  
OSA website - <http://welcome.to/orchidsocietyaz>**





# OSA September 2004 Calendar



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3  <i>Lou Ann Remeikis</i>	4
5  <i>Joe Bacik</i> <i>Dennis Olivas</i>	6 <b>OSA Meeting</b> <b>7:00 PM</b> <b>ASVH</b>	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19  <i>Jeanette Socaciu</i>	20  <i>Ken Gettys</i>	21  <i>Marleny Castillo</i>	22  <i>Ainsley LaCour</i>	23	24	25
26 <b>Show Meeting</b> <b>Board Meeting</b> <b>Noon</b>	27	28	29	30		



Orchid Society of Arizona  
 c/o Keith Mead  
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