



The

Arizona Orchidist

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NEXT OSA MEETING

The September meeting will be held
at the Arizona State Veteran Home

Liberty Hall

4141 North 3rd Street

See Map

The next regular society meeting
will be **Monday, September 3, 2007**
at 7:00 P.M.

OSA meetings are open to all
plant enthusiasts

Refreshments will be provided.

This month Cynthia Schnitzer will

provide liquid refreshment

Snacks by Jennifer Schmitt and

Kriss Beggs

Refreshment Coordinators:

Barbara Parnell (480) 948-0714

Mary Gannon (623) 878-4173

OSA BOARD MEETING

Board Meetings

are open to all members

The next Board meeting will be

September 23rd at the home of

Julie Rathbun

GROWER ON CALL

Wilella Stimmell

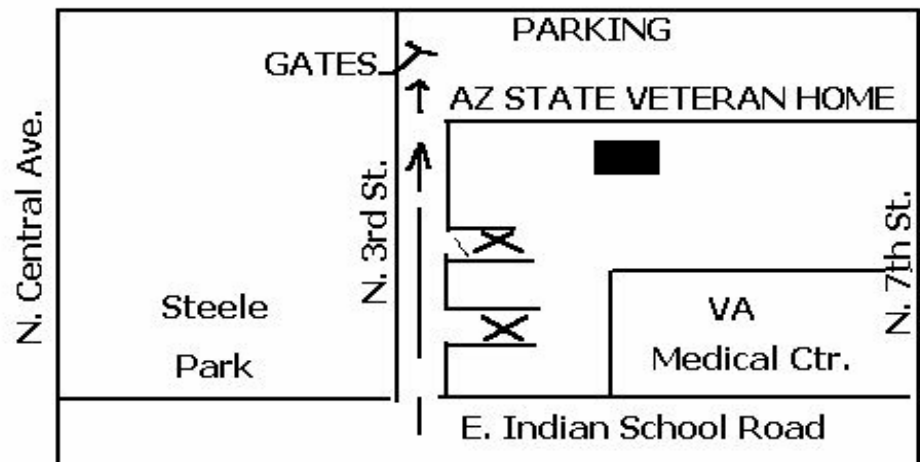
wilellas@worldnet.att.net

September Program

REPOTTING A COMPOT OF AN UNUSUAL PHRAGMIPEDIUM HYBRID

During our July 29th board meeting, we decided that for our September meeting, we would do an in-house program using a compot (community pot) of a special Phragmipedium hybrid. We have never used a Phrag compot during a meeting, and the flowers of this hybrid are expected to look similar to Phrag. Mother Rose except that the petals potentially can be longer than those of Phrag. Mother Rose. OSA purchased the compot and will also provide potting supplies. Come join the fun!

W. Stimmell



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From the President's Desk

Julie Rathbun

I know that all of us are looking forward to cooler weather, and our orchid plants will be happier when the daytime temperatures are cooler.

It seems like a lot has happened since you received our August newsletter.

On July 12th, Jim Lauck resigned his position as an OSA Trustee. Doug Baldwin came to our rescue and agreed to complete Jim's term which ends on December 31st this year. THANKS, DOUG!! We know that as a professional photographer your "spare" time is extremely limited.

On July 29th, 9 OSA members traveled to the VA greenhouse in Prescott. We always have fun interacting with the patients and staff, but this field trip featured two unusual discoveries that relate to the greenhouse. Fortunately we had finished lunch, cleaned up the picnic area, and returned the patients to the nursing home before rain pelted us. Unfortunately we did not have time to get to the auditorium/theater so we held our shortest board meeting ever (20 minutes!) IN the greenhouse. The two discoveries about the greenhouse were: the roof leaks and the floor flooded almost immediately when rain falls as fast and hard as it did on the 29th. A few people took off their shoes so that their shoes wouldn't be ruined.

The refrigerator that the staff purchased for the greenhouse featured a sign on the front of the refrigerator door that OSA had provided funds for the purchase of the fridge. Garden therapy patients now have a place to store water and keep it cool while they work in the greenhouse or in the garden.

During our August 6th meeting, I was pleased to announce that **Aaron Hicks** has an article in the new issue of ORCHID DIGEST. The title of the article is: "On the Germination and Subsequent Culture of *Spiranthes delitescens* Sheviak in Sterile Culture".

We were very happy to see **Madeleine Heberling**, on vacation from school and her home in IL, attend our August meeting. (She also accompanied our group to Prescott.) At this time, Madeleine is our youngest member.

Also on August 6th, we were pleased to welcome LORI CLARK as a new OSA member!

Bill Thoms, our August speaker, presented an outstanding PowerPoint program that was both humorous and informative. This was the first speaker that we've had who threatened to give us a test at the end of his program if we did not answer his questions! When he mentioned a culture tip and asked us to repeat what he had said, a loud chorus of voices was heard. (We did NOT want to take a test!) The day before our meeting, Bill visited my greenhouse. After his visit, I got busy and tried to implement all of the culture changes that he suggested.

Thanks to AARON HICKS for helping to entertain Bill and to Wilella Stimmell for providing airport transportation! This was Bill's FIRST trip to Arizona, and we hope that he will return. The plants on the silent auction table were some of the most robust *Bulbophyllum* plants that I have ever seen!

Our September 3rd (Labor Day) meeting will be held in Liberty Hall at the Arizona State Veteran Home, 4141 N. 3rd St., Phoenix. The veteran home is our home away from home when Encanto Clubhouse is closed for holidays. A map to the veteran home is included in this newsletter. After seeing the map, if newer members still have questions, I'm only a phone call away!

See you on September 3rd!

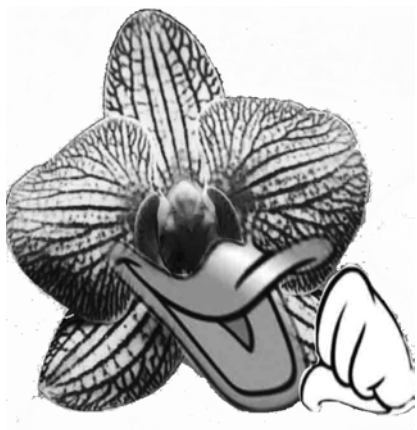
Julie

Letter from Paula Moran,
Recreation Therapy Supervisor at NAVAHCS

“On behalf of the Bob Stump Department of Veteran Affairs VAMC, and the veterans we serve, we would like to express our appreciation and thank you for the annual visit to the Greenhouse that your organization provided on July 29, 2007.

Your visits are always our veterans' favorites. They look forward to the delicious meal and refreshments you provide. They also appreciated receiving your gifts [donations]. However, what is valued the most is the care and social interaction you provide our residents, lifting their spirits, making them feel special and not forgotten.

We truly appreciate all your generous giving on the behalf of our hospitalized veterans. Please extend our thanks to the Orchid Society members who help to make this possible.”



ANNUAL ORCHID SOCIETY OF
ARIZONA SHOW!

NOVEMBER 3 AND 4

This year's theme

Orchids and Disneyana

Join in the fun at Encanto Park
Clubhouse!

Get Involved !

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.

COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM SCHEDULE

Wilella Stimmell, CSP Coordinator

On **September 10**, at 10:00 AM, we will present an Orchids 101 program for members of the **SUN LAKES GARDEN CLUB**. SLGC holds its meetings in the Sun Lakes Health Club, 10440 E. Riggs Rd., Sun Lakes. As usual, our program for adults will feature display plants and a door prize drawing of a plant in bloom.

THE GLASS FLOWERS AT HARVARD

If anyone is still looking for a vacation spot which will combine cooler weather than Phoenix AND include an amazing display of orchid art, check out the glass flowers at Harvard. If you prefer not to travel as far as Boston, you can see 17 of the glass flowers at the Corning Museum of Glass, in Corning, New York. At least one of the glass flowers on exhibit at the Corning Museum is an orchid! The exhibit at the Corning Museum will be on display until November 25, 2007. As you can imagine, the glass flowers are **very** fragile, and Harvard rarely loans them.

www.cmog.org/index.asp?pagelid=1554

About the glass flowers: The world famous Ware Collection of Blaschka Glass Models of Plants in the Harvard Botanical Museum is incredible because the models are accurate in every detail. Some of the models even include pollinating insects, made of glass, or course. The models were created during the years 1886 to 1936 by Leopold and Rudolf Blaschka in Dresden, Germany. The Blaschkas, a father and son team, made approximately 847 life-size models representing over 830 species and varieties of plants in 164 families, together with **over 3000** detailed models of enlarged flowers and anatomical sections of various floral and vegetative parts of the plants. Orchidaceae in the collection is represented by: *Laelia crispa*, *Lemboglossum rossii*, *Odontoglossum grande* and *O. crispum*, *Cattleya guttata*, *C. intermedia*, and *C. forbesii*. Several species of *Oncidium*, *Cypripedium*, *Miltonia*, *Brassia*, *Stanhopea*, *Lycaste*, *Anguloa*, *Bifrenaria*, *Sobralia*, and *Epidendrum* are also in the collection.

www.hmn.harvard.edu/exhibitions/glassflowers.html

The Glass Flowers gallery is open during regular museum hours (9 a.m. to 5 p.m.) and is included in the general admission fee of \$9.00.

The Ware Collection is so named because the project was financed by Elizabeth Ware and her daughter, Mary Ware, both residents of Boston.

In April, 1991, it was my privilege to see the Ware Collection at the Harvard Botanical Museum. I have a copy of THE GLASS FLOWERS AT HARVARD and will bring it to our September meeting.

W. Stimmell

AUGUST RAFFLE TABLE DONORS

Frank Bopp, Joe Freasier and Wayne Baker, Chris Gubler,

Bob MacLeod, OSA, Demitris Sagias, Wilella Stimmell,

and Non-members:

the family of Ken Gettys and

Ken and Judy Vincent

THANKS TO YOU ALL!

About Sphagnum

John T. Atwood, Former Orchid Curator
Orchid Identification Center, Marie Selby Botanical Gardens, Sarasota, Florida

Asking growers about the merits of using sphagnum as a potting medium can elicit varying responses—some positive and others negative. Recently Wilella Stimmell of the Orchid Society of Arizona inquired about the quality of New Zealand sphagnum in comparison to that from Chile. I couldn't give her a quick answer because of the complexities relating to the subject. What are the species of sphagnum being used? Does live sphagnum behave differently from dried? Is orchid growth in sphagnum affected by ambient temperatures, water quality, fertilizer applications, and if so how?

Of the several wild sphagnum species being collected, not all are equally useful. Chilean and New Zealand sphagnum are dried and sold in bails. I have little experience with dried sphagnum but a number of years ago, experimented with live sphagnums collected from the wild.

My experimentation with sphagnums began in 1973 because of a desire to mature a single *Phalaenopsis*. The white *P. amabilis*-type seedling planted in a traditional bark mixture had produced but a single leaf per year with each leaf somewhat smaller than the last. With nothing to lose, I followed recommendations in Veich's Manual of Orchidaceous Plants, and Williams' Orchid Growers Manual, and collect sphagnum from a local bog (then on Cape Anne, Massachusetts). After potting it loosely, I placed the plant in a skylight. The results were phenomenal with at least three leaves produced annually, each larger than the previous one. The local water supply was from abandoned granite quarries and had low mineral content. I recall feeding the plant regularly but dilutely for fear of killing the fertilizer-sensitive sphagnum

Several years later, I moved to Tallahassee from Michigan to work with Norris Williams. The slipper orchid collection I was growing for my research had produced few roots in the new environment. I collected a native species of sphagnum (identified as *Sphagnum tenerum*), again with phenomenal results. The species of *Paphiopedilum* sect. *Barbata* responded best. *Paphiopedilum acmodontum* produced three and four shoots from a single flowering shoot, and the pot filled with roots. *Paphiopedilum philippinense*, which that usually dries out severely in nature, did not respond well in it, although *P. hennisianum*, which grows with it in the wild, did. Most phragmipediums (except the *Phragmipedium caudatum* complex) also responded with rapid growth. Spherical colonies of cyanobacteria also developed in the pots, as the plants continued to thrive. The sphagnum however died within about six months, after which orchid roots no longer thrived. Repotting in live sphagnum returned the plant to rapid growth. The need for repotting twice a year, a laborious process when maintaining more than a few plants, was the major drawback to growing in live sphagnum.

Although live sphagnum worked for me in Massachusetts and Tallahassee, high water quality with low salt content probably contributed to success in both regions. So what does this tell us about dried New Zealand and Chilean sphagnums? Although sphagnum is purchased in the dried state, it is composed of many species, some of which may be deleterious to plant growth. Perhaps substances produced in some sphagnums inhibit the growth of plants that would otherwise shade them out, but whether they retain their growth inhibiting qualities after drying is unknown. As far as I am aware, commercial collectors of sphagnum do not discriminate among the different species. Clearly if we are to understand effects of sphagnum species from different locations and differing water qualities, quantitative research is needed. In short, the only advice I can offer readers is to try different kinds of sphagnum, even locally collected ones, if they can be legally gathered.

Sphagnum has a long history of use. Both the Amerindians and Celts used it as a poultice for wounds. Not only is it reportedly more absorbent than cotton, but also it has antiseptic qualities. The English used it in the 19th century, because it promotes excellent root growth and inhibits rot, while retaining both water and air. It often is associated with cyanobacteria, which may provide constant low levels of nitrogen. Although some species of sphagnum are rare, others are widespread and among the most common plants in the world. Their ease of propagation and rapid growth should render them fruitful subjects for farming in wetter and cooler parts of the earth. As a renewable resource, beneficial species of sphagnum might be profitably farmed, if carefully developed with species selected for ease of production and perhaps disease resistance. Many species grow in boreal forests. North Florida has about 30 species with which to experiment. *Sphagnum tenerum*, which I selected, was odd in that it grows in the higher, dryer portions of the flatwoods. I selected this species thinking that it could withstand more drought than those growing closer to the water's edge.

Handling sphagnum carries some risk of the fungal infection called sporotrichosis (see webpage for the Center for Disease Control; http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dbmd/diseaseinfo/sporotrichosis_g.htm). Apparently the fungus, *Sporothrix schenckii*, occurs all over the world, so handling sphagnum carries with it a risk, even if limited. This fungus is also found in the soil, in baled hay, and even on rose bushes. According to the CDC, "The first symptom is usually a small painless bump resembling an insect bite. It can be red, pink, or purple in color. The bump (nodule) usually appears on the finger, hand, or arm where the fungus first enters through a break on the skin. One or more additional bumps or nodules that open and may resemble boils follow this. Eventually lesions look like open sores (ulcerations) and are very slow to heal. Cases of joint, lung, and central nervous system infection have occurred but are very rare. Usually they occur only in persons with previous disorders of the immune system." Symptoms usually do not occur until at least one week and sometimes 12 weeks after infection. According to the CDC, persons at greatest risk include plant nursery workers handling sphagnum, rose gardeners, children playing on baled hay, and greenhouse workers handling bayberry thorns. Prevention includes wearing of gloves and long-sleeved shirts." Although incidents of sporotrichosis are not high, suspected symptoms should be taken seriously as the disease is progressive

Reprinted from Selby Vignettes

Marie Selby Botanical Gardens

811 South Palm Avenue

Sarasota, Florida 34326

VISIT TO WHITE OAK

Keith Mead

On a recent vacation trip to California I was fortunate to have enjoyed the hospitality of OSA members Scott Dallas and Gwen at their White Oak Orchid greenhouses in Pacifica, about 17 miles south of San Francisco and just a mile from the Pacific Ocean.

Scott has three large, well kept greenhouses totaling 25000 square feet at this new location. Well, new to me anyway. The last time I visited White Oak was after a Pacific Orchid Expo many years ago. Scott reminded me that they are celebrating their fifth anniversary at the Pacifica address.

After getting the "lay of the land" from Scott I was free to roam at my own pace. Judi and Kaitlyn quickly tired of following me around while I hovered over one treasure after another. While they returned to the rental car to read, I continued my expedition.

I discovered White Oak has many unique offerings, plants not generally seen. Many different mounted miniatures I was unfamiliar with and a fine selection of Stanhopea, Lycaste and Anguloa.

I asked Scott what was new and different, what he might be excited about. He showed me a 2" Dendrobium leevilolium with lovely fuchsia colored flowers expected to be in bloom for 3 or 4 MONTHS ! Naturally I had to have it. Being so small I knew it would travel well.

I am still kicking myself for not also adding a lovely peach colored Anguloa to my things to pack for the return trip.

I have never seen a flower like it. Kaitlyn did take its' picture for me and it is now my screen saver. Next best thing to owning it and that flower won't fade!

If you plan on traveling in the San Francisco area consider stopping by White Oak Orchids.

Don't forget to call ahead (650-355-8767) to be sure Scott or Gwen will be there.

You may also check out their website www.whiteoakorchids.com for their current price list.

New Orchid Species Discovered

By Garance Burke, Associated Press

Scientists announced Monday the discovery of a rare, new orchid species that flourishes only in the wet meadow of a portion of Yosemite National Park.

Botanist Alison Colwell said the species' minute, tennis ball yellow flowers weren't what first led her to it, but rather the smell of sweaty feet the Yosemite bog orchid emits to attract would-be pollinators.

"I was out surveying clovers one afternoon, and I started smelling something. I was like, 'Eew, what's that?'" said Colwell, who works for the U.S. Geological Survey in El Portal. "It smelled like a horse corral on a hot afternoon."

The plant, which is the only known orchid species endemic to California's Sierra Nevada range, grows in spring-fed areas between 6,000 and 9,000 feet, Colwell said. All nine sites where the orchid has been spotted are inside the park, according to an article announcing the species' discovery published in *Madrono*, a journal of the California Botanical Society.

The species isn't likely to have any commercial value since its flowers are less than a quarter of an inch wide, but some orchid lovers were so enthused by the news they began planning cross-country trips to see its delicate summer blooms.

"I'm leaving Sunday to go out there to photograph it," said wild orchid expert Paul Martin Brown, who planned to leave Acton, Maine, this weekend to include the orchid in his latest book.

Colwell, one of three scientists credited with the discovery, said the bog-orchid is thought to have persisted in the upland meadows south of Yosemite Valley, which nourished unique plant species because the area never froze under glacial cover.

At least seven other rare plant species have been found there, including the Yosemite onion, Yosemite wooly sunflower and Bolander's clover.

Park officials said they would not release details about where the plant was found because they were concerned visitors might love it to death.

"There's concern that it will get trampled," said ranger Adrienne Freeman. "It's a rare and precious resource that we want to protect."

Lovers of orchids, the largest plant family in nature, with some 30,000 species worldwide, prized the new specimen for its rarity.

"I am a total student of orchids, and I am thrilled to hear about that," said Paul Gripp, an organizer of the Santa Barbara Orchid Estate's fair, which wrapped up last weekend. "If it's a new orchid, I love it."

From the San Jose Mercury News

July 17, 2007

WELCOME NEW MEMBER

Lori Clark

OSA September 2007 Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3  <i>Lou Ann Remeikis</i> <i>Meeting 7 P.M.</i>	4	5  <i>Joe Bacik</i> <i>Dennis Olivas</i>	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19  <i>Jeanette Socaciu</i>	20	21  <i>Marleny Castillo</i>	22
23 <i>Board</i> <i>Mtg</i>	24 <i>30</i>	25	26	27	28	29



Orchid Society of Arizona

c/o Keith Mead

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