



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, July 7, 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: Heidi Owens
Edibles will be provided by:
Rhonda Woodward and Heidi Owens

Janet Jurn,
Refreshment Coordinator
(623) 386-2741

NEXT OSA BOARD MEETING

The next OSA board meeting will be
Sunday, June 29, 2003 at 1:00 p.m.
Hosted by Joe Bacik
Please contact Joe at (480) 785-2251
for directions to his home,
if you plan to attend
The meeting is open to all OSA members

GROWER ON CALL

Ainsley LaCour
(602) 863-4477
ainsley@azorchids.com

July Program

SURPRISE

July's meeting is going to be a bit of a departure from the norm. We're happy to announce that there will be a modest requital conferred upon the members in a first-come, first-served manner. We should have enough for all members.

We would like to mention that while this offering will be for the membership only, there will be a concurrent repotting workshop for members and guests alike. We encourage people to bring in their problem plants for diagnosis (if ill), and repotting if they need it (please bring pots and media with your plants if you can).

Please keep the health of other member's plants in mind by bringing sick plants in plastic bags, or keeping them outside the building.



Thanks!

Aaron Hicks

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From the President's Desk

Lou Ann Remeikis

Half of the year is officially over! When writing a check, or anything with the date on it, I still feel I should be writing "anuary" after the "J" instead of "uly". I don't feel I've accomplished as much as I had hoped in the first six months of 2003. Maybe I'll be more productive in the last half of the year!

I am writing my newsletter from the side porch of my parent's RV. It is quite early in the day and no one is awake but me. I should say no other people are awake. The sounds of nature on my parent's Illinois farm are full of life and yet so peaceful and calm. The Barn swallows and Purple Martins are doing their best at keeping the mosquitos at a tolerable level and the farm has been blessed with Indigo Buntings, Bluebirds, Robins, Red-winged Blackbirds, a variety of Hummingbirds and at least thirty American Goldfinch. I've also been calling to the Bobwhite Quail, and they've been talking back to me - just like they did when my Grandma and I would sit on the stoop and talk to them years ago.

Our orchids would sure love the humidity here in Illinois! The temperature has been less than 80 degrees and the humidity has been fairly constant between 80 and 100%. Mom grows her orchids outdoors here and they all look really good! My vacation is over in a couple of days and this newsletter submittal is easing me into the thought of going back to work and facing the world as I know it.

I was very pleased with the attendance at our June meeting. Del Pace (June's guest speaker) has a way of captivating and inspiring an audience. Del is at her best when she gets the members and guests to participate in the program. Del's great ability to do this enabled our members and guests to structure the program to get the most out of it. We were able to pick Del's brain about our favorite topic, and Del focused the discussion on orchid intergenerics. As always, we enjoy having Del speak with us, not just to us!

Thank you, Julie Rathbun, for playing hostess (Fred, too, only as a host not a hostess) to Del during her stay in Phoenix. It is always nicer to stay with friends than stay in a hotel room. OSA also appreciates the financial savings to the treasury, all due to your generosity.

Our first show planning meeting was held in conjunction with our last Board Meeting (June 1st). The meeting was held at Norma Kafer's home instead of Joe Bacik's. Some great ideas were tossed around and the show publicity is starting to take shape. Watch future newsletters for items and props that we will be needing from you to make the show a visual success. Information will be available in the newsletter and at our meetings!

Kathryn Mauz has been selected as the first recipient of the Deacon Bell Memorial Scholarship Fund. Kathryn submitted a very impressive application to Mary Jo Wall, the State Scholarship Chairman (Arizona Federation of Garden Clubs). Mary Jo screened all the applicants and recommended Kathryn as the recipient from this very special fund which honors the memory of a very special OSA member and friend, Deacon Bell. The OSA Board, after reviewing her application paperwork, unanimously agreed to offer Kathryn financial assistance to achieve her educational goals in a botanical field. Deacon, I know, is proud!

I also want to thank Wilella Stimmell for representing me at the West Central District's President's Meeting. These meetings are scheduled through the week during daytime hours. My work schedule does not allow for me to attend these meetings and I am truly thankful that OSA is well represented at these functions.

I hope someone took a photo of Joe Freasier's Encyclia with the 8 foot bloom spike! Obviously the plant was too big to bring for Show & Tell, but I still want to see it in person or by photo. It sounds incredible! I look forward to seeing everyone on July 7th! I sincerely hope you all will enjoy family and friends during the Fourth of July Holiday! Enjoy the fireworks and...

Happy Growing,
Lou Ann

OSA BECOMES A MEMBER OF BIOSPHERE 2 CENTER (B2C)!

In December, 2002, a caravan of OSA members visited the 250 acre campus of B2C. Because of time constraints, we limited our visit to the 3.1 acre glass enclosed research laboratory on the campus. We were so impressed at the work being done there that we thought it would behoove OSA to network with the Biosphere and thereby support the work being done there. At our April 27 board meeting, your OSA Board of Directors voted unanimously to become a member group of B2C.

You might be interested to learn that as a result of our inquiry, the B2C person in charge of Corporate Membership, Marcie Fritz, reexamined B2C's policy of offering a family membership to a corporate member, Cottonwood Level, and issued 24 free admission passes in lieu of the family membership. We explained to her that since OSA operates on a level playing field, we would not want to select one family from our membership list, to receive a free family membership. At a later date, your OSA Board of Directors will determine eligibility for the free passes we received. We will probably establish a policy based on the number of hours worked by OSA members at our public displays or on other projects which directly contribute to the welfare of OSA.

We received the following letter from John Engen, Vice President and Director of Development at B2C:

"It is my pleasure to welcome the Orchid Society of Arizona as a new member of Columbia University's Biosphere 2 Center (B2C). We really appreciate your joining our team as a Corporate Member at the Cottonwood Level.

As I'm sure you learned during your recent visit, we have a vital mission here at the Biosphere 2 Center: to serve as the premiere provider of environmental teaching, research and outreach, focusing on global climate change and responsible planetary stewardship.

This is a huge challenge, but as I hope the tour demonstrated, we are well on our way. Over one thousand college students have completed one of our intensive Earth or Universe semesters. Tens of thousands of children have benefited from our 'Passport to Learning' science education program or one of our high school camps.

Our Biosphere 2 Center Lab is the world's largest controlled environment experimental laboratory. It serves as a vital international research link in the effort to explore the sustainability of our Earth. Critical research conducted on-site is helping to tackle and explain some of the most challenging questions that face the human race.

But we can't do it alone. It is your support and that of a growing number of other members, that allows us to pursue, expand, and enhance our efforts."

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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.



**Thank you for your June Raffle Table Donations
Ken and Judy Vincent, Wilella Stimmell, Joe Civello,
Scott Dallas (White Oak Orchids)
and OSA**



COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAMS SCHEDULED: Mark your calendars for FRIDAY, JULY 18! If you can help us present 3 programs for 90 children enrolled in the summer session at the TRI-CITY WEST/THORNWOOD BOYS & GIRLS CLUB, 301 E. Western Ave., Avondale, WE NEED YOUR ASSISTANCE! The first program will begin at 9:00 a.m., with the second and third programs to follow at 10:00 and 11:00. If you can help with the programs AND have blooming plants for our display table, GREAT! If you can help but DON'T have any blooming plants, we welcome your offer to help! If you need a ride to Avondale, call Lou Ann Remeikis, Julie Rathbun, or Wilella Stimmell (phone numbers are listed in your 2003 membership rosters and also in each issue of our newsletter).

SOON TO BE AVAILABLE IN OSA'S LIBRARY

22 copies of assorted orchid genera prints from various folios. As progress is made on scanning and printing the 2500 plates, the valuable originals are being returned for safekeeping, to the the archives at Selby Gardens. The copies sent to us by Wesley Higgins, Director of Systematics at Selby, are:

Agrostophyllum majus
Brassavola nodosa
Camphylocentrum micranthum
Catasetum atratum
Cattleya schilleriana var. superba
Cattleya skinneri
Cattleya velutina
Coelogyne flaccida
Coelogyne micholicxiana
Coelogyne nitida
Comparettia speciosa
Cyrtopodium andersonii
Dendrobium kuhlii
Encyclia adenocaula
Epidendrum amblostomoides
Epidendrum armeniacum
Epidendrum atropurpureum v. roseum
Epidendrum fragrans
Epidendrum cinnabarinum
Epidendrum nemorale
Epidendrum purum
Rhyncholaelia digbyana

In January, 2002, OSA donated funds to the Orchid Identification Center so that a Xerox 860DP phaser color laser printer could be purchased, all of the 2500 original plates scanned (with the scanner OSA purchased a few years ago for OIC) and copies made on the laser printer. Prior to the scanning and copying, visiting scientists were handling the original artwork over a period of 25 years. Taking the originals out of circulation was a necessity. Wes Higgins reports that good progress is being made scanning the original plates and returning them to the archives at Selby Gardens. Some of the original artwork dates to the late 1800's and earlier.

Be assured that no Selby staff member dismembered valuable folios and removed the artwork. The archival prints were donations to Selby.

The color prints of the above mentioned species sent to OSA, have been placed in plastic, protective covers, and will be labeled. We greatly appreciate receiving the copies that Wes shared with us.

Note: A good example of why it was imperative that the original artwork be returned to the archives is the existence of handwritten notes, often undecipherable, on the face of the original plates!

W. Stimmell

The quality of these prints is OUTSTANDING!

DEACON BELL SCHOLARSHIP FUND RECIPIENT

It is with great pleasure that OSA's Board of Directors announces that the search for an outstanding student to receive the scholarship money donated in Deacon's name, is over!

Kathryn Mauz, a doctoral candidate in Plant Systematics at the University of Arizona, is the recipient of the funds donated in Deacon's name. Her resume is indeed impressive, and if anyone who donated funds in Deacon's name would like to read it, you are welcome to do so. A copy of Kathryn's resume and letters of recommendations from the Executive Director of the Drylands Institute, and the Curatorial Specialist at the University of Arizona, will be available at our monthly meetings. Kathryn has a 4.0 grade point average in extremely difficult, interdisciplinary fields of study!

She has done extensive research on the vegetation in the Sonoran Desert, and as a result of her field work, already has had published:

"Flora of the Sawtooth Mountains, Pinal County, Arizona", DESERT PLANTS, 1999;
"Plants of the West Branch of the Santa Cruz, Tucson, Arizona", 2001;
and "Plants of the Santa Cruz Valley at Tucson", 2002.

In her work on the Santa Cruz riparian areas, she has utilized both traditional herbarium specimens and remote sensing technology. Her extensive field work has enabled her to conduct original research into desert ecosystems and botanical diversity of the Sonoran Desert in Arizona, and she is passionate about utilizing her knowledge to help guide conservation efforts and the restoration of habitats.

After she receives her PhD, Kathryn plans to continue field work in the arid areas of North America. We hope that in future, Kathryn will be persuaded to present a program for OSA.

When Beverly Busching, Deacon's daughter, was informed of OSA's selection of a candidate for the Deacon Bell Scholarship, she sent the following message: "This is so satisfying to me. Deacon would be extremely pleased...because he believed so deeply in education and in people striving for excellence..." Beverly also reported that she's managed to keep Deacon's orchids alive!

OSA's Board of Directors thanks Mary Jo Wall, Scholarship Chair for the Arizona Federation of Garden Clubs, for all her efforts in helping us find the student most suitable to receive the Deacon Bell Scholarship.

OSA's Inventory of Potting Supplies

If anyone is in need of clear plastic pots in 5 1/2", 6 1/2", or 7 1/2" sizes, contact Willie Stimmell. You may purchase pots individually or in sets of 10.

Kindly notify Willie a few days before our monthly meetings, if you are in need of pots, folding crates on wheels, portable 3-shelf greenhouses, RD20, plant tags, conductivity meters, or books (YOUR FIRST ORCHIDS and the AOS GUIDE: PESTS AND DISEASES).

These items are NOT carted to each monthly meeting!

Welcome New Members
Scott Dallas and Gwen Watson Dallas
of White Oak Orchids

THE 1ST INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON NEOTROPICAL ORCHIDOLOGY: A RESOUNDING SUCCESS!

by Wilella Stimmell

The conference in San Jose, Costa Rica, May 20-25, created quite a stir in the Costa Rican population because Bob Dressler officially announced for the first time that the DNA evidence supported a new genus for *Cattleya skinneri*: *Guarianthe*.

Costa Ricans had long referred to *C. skinneri*, their national flower, as *Guaria morada*.

Several newspaper reporters interviewed Bob, and there was an article about the name change published in the May 23rd edition of *LA NACION*, the newspaper published in San Jose. The news also was featured prominently on the local TV stations. However, Bob took all of the attention showered on him, in stride. He couldn't understand what all the fuss was about! During Bob's presentation, he stated that non-Costa Ricans will continue to call the plant, *Cattleya skinneri*, for centuries.

The following species, formerly considered as species of the *Cattleya* genus, are now in the *Guarianthe* genus: *aurantiaca*, *bowringiana*, *skinneri*, and *patinii*.

To read more about the DNA evidence that prompted the name change, see p. 37-38 of the abstracts published in *LANKESTERIANA*, Number 7, May, 2003. A copy of this volume is in OSA's library.

Norris Williams, Curator of Vascular Plants at the University of Florida, Florida Museum of Natural History Herbarium, is currently spending most of his time studying the molecular systematics of neotropical orchids.

The opening remark of his first presentation, "Advances in Orchid Phylogeny", was: "I don't care which genus name you use, but there is no variation in the species name." Norris also mentioned that scientists need help: they need more vouchered specimens or living material to study. He also noted that gene sequencing is more objective than morphological characters of specimens or living material.

(During a side trip to Tapanti, Norris and I sat next to each other on the bus. During the course of conversation, I mentioned to him that my favorite plant to KILL was *Encyclia* (now *Prosthechea*) *vitellina*.

I explained my rationale for continuing to attempt to grow this plant: that eventually I would happen onto a plant that was more warm tolerant than its predecessors. I was quite surprised when Norris confirmed that I was on the right track! Due to genetic drift, of *P. vitellina* moving towards a warmer habitat, it is indeed possible that one day I might find a plant that will thrive in my growing environment. However, the chances of me finding that ONE plant that made its way to a lower elevation, are...slim to none! However...it could happen!)

Equally informative presentations were given by: Gustavo Romero (Harvard University Herbaria) on the History of Orchidology; Mark Nir (New York Botanical Garden) on Endemic Orchid Genera of the Antilles; Cal Dodson (Missouri Botanical Garden) on Why There Are So Many Orchids; Alec Pridgeon (Kew Gardens) on Phylogenetics of the Subtribe *Pleurothallidinae* Based on Combined Evidence from DNA Sequences; Wes Higgins (Marie Selby Botanical Gardens) on *Prosthechea*; Franco Pupulin (Lankester Gardens) on Digital Imaging Documentation of Costa Rican Orchidaceae Cryotypes; and possibly my favorite presentation:

Orchids are Smarter than Scientists by Stig Dahlstrom (Marie Selby Botanical Gardens). There were other presentations, but the above were of particular interest to me. Some of the scheduled speakers were unable to attend the conference, and there was a fair amount of shuffling the order of presentations to fill in the gaps of the missing speakers. Margaret Dix (Universidad del Valle de Guatemala) arrived in San Jose about 30 minutes before her scheduled presentation.

Several of the side trips were not only educational, but also highly entertaining! The trip to Tapanti National Park was one such trip.

This was my third trip to Costa Rica, but I had not previously visited Tapanti. The park is located in the Orosi Valley and is surrounded by the Macho River Forest Reserve. The River El Rio Grande de Orosi runs through the middle of it. The river provides hydroelectric power and drinking water for some areas of San Jose.

Continued from page 6

Tapanti is HUGE: covering 12,500 acres. The annual rainfall there is 250 to 300 inches, so of course it rained while we trekked through the lower montane trail.

Thanks in large part to Franco Pupulin calling our attention to them, we saw many pleurothallids, epiden-drums, masdevallias, and even a dracula on trees along the trail. We would probably have missed spotting the plants because our umbrellas obstructed our view.

Lankester Botanical Garden was another side trip offered. In 1990, I had visited Lankester Garden, and if memory serves, it rained that time as well! The garden was founded in the 1950s by the British naturalist, Charles Lankester. He donated the garden to the University of Costa Rica in 1973. The garden has one of the largest collections of orchids in Latin America.

I also attended an orchid show in Cartago. Many of the plants displayed in the show were species orchids, and although the displays were small compared to displays in large shows in the U.S., they were pleasing to the eye because they utilized natural materials (for example: huge seed pods cut in half and whole nut shells were carefully arranged in symmetrical patterns on the floor) as background materials. There were far too many people for such a small room, but they were polite when they bumped into one another with their WINE glasses! Perhaps the show visitors were pleasant due to their consumption of the wine? However, I found it amazing that no matter how many people brushed by a HUGE *Odontoglossum schlieperium*

which had been placed on one of the refreshment tables, nobody knocked off any blooms or sent the plant tumbling to the floor!

The plant had been placed in that precarious location so that everyone at the show would be sure to see it. According to Franco, no Costa Rican grower had ever coaxed a *schlieperianum* to produce so many blooms.

And for those who read my report on the conference I attended in San Jose in 2001, you might be interested to know that during the previous conference, Bob Dressler showed me the walking route from the Ave del Paraiso Hotel to the Ciudad de Investigacion, where the conference was held. (In order to learn the route, I used buildings as landmarks.) Walking to the conference building is MUCH safer than taking a taxi! Traffic in San Jose is congested, and there are no numbered street addresses!

There is a green belt of tall trees that encircles the University of Costa Rica campus. If you keep your eyes trained on the tall trees, you can't get lost. The route from the hotel is: out the back gate at the hotel, start walking around the university until you see the tall, pink building on campus. Hang a left at the building, trudge up the hill, and when you see the tall blue building, turn to the right. Walk past the building, turn to the left and you're almost there! At least you're a LOT closer to the conference building than I was in 2001, when a taxi driver dropped me off in front of the Animal Control building!

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.



OSA July 2003 Calendar



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4 <i>Independence Day</i>	5
6	7 OSA MEETING 7:00 P.M.	8 Gary Kooistra	9	10	11	12
13	14 Julie Langston Carole Weinschenk	15	16 Christine Yamada	17 Heidi Owens	18	19 Maru Alice Baumberger
20	21	22	23	24	25 John Hester	26
27 Marilyn Pavelin	28 Joy MacLeod	29 Gerda Gallob	30	31		



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