



The

Arizona Orchidist

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NEXT OSA MEETING

The next regular society meeting
will be **Monday, August 3, 2009**
at **7:00 P.M.**

Meetings are held at the
Training Center
at the
Arizona State Veteran Home
4141 N. 3rd St., Phoenix.

OSA meetings are open to all
plant enthusiasts

Refreshments will be provided.

Beverages by

Diane Norman

Snacks by

Bob MacLeod and Carol Erwin

Refreshment Coordinators:

Barbara Parnell (480) 948-0714

Mary Gannon (623) 878-4173

Carol Erwin (602) 996-1696

Board Meeting

August 30th
preceded by a
show planning meeting
at noon at the home of
Julie Rathbun

Grower on Call

Keith Mead

kjkm@comcast.net

August Program



We thank you for your interest in our product, and for inviting us to introduce our product "MOTHERS IMPERIAL BLEND" to your organization.

MOTHERS IMPERIAL BLEND is a full-spectrum, composted, organic plant food. Good for garden start ups, container plants, and permanent landscape. This product contains all of the nutrients, minerals, and micro-organisms that are essential to all life. Our blend involves more than 100 years of composting experience using plant matter, natural minerals, and horse manure. Through the legacy of its creator, we are pleased to offer you unparalleled vibrancy for all of your growing needs.

Our presentation will include information about: Compost, Compost-Tea, Micro-Organisms, and High Species Richness Diversity. Product, Literature and samples will be available on Aug. 3 at your meeting. We look forward to meeting your group, and thank you again for your interest.

WELCOME TO THE WORLD:

ON 7/10/09 KIMBERLY LEVINGSTON GAVE BIRTH TO CLARA PAIGE LEVINGSTON. MOTHER AND DAUGHTER ARE WELL AND AT HOME.

IN THIS ISSUE

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Julie Rathbun

Page 2

SELBY GARDENS

Herald Tribune

Page 5



From the President's Desk

Julie Rathbun

In case you hadn't noticed, and judging by the attendance at our July meeting, some of you HAVE noticed, "the dog days of summer" have arrived. Thanks to those members who, despite the heat, attended our July 6 meeting and to those who brought their orchids for our Show and Tell table. When orchid growers are uncomfortable, their orchids are also uncomfortable.

Our July program was presented by our resident orchid scientist, **Aaron Hicks**, who demonstrated that he can work around a computer glitch. I'm sure he was frustrated that his computer refused to cooperate, but he maintained his composure throughout his presentation: Growing Orchids from Seed. Even without some of the photos, we can always count on Aaron's unique sense of humor. His PowerPoint presentation was educational with a generous amount of humor mixed in with the photos that he was able to show us. Thanks, Aaron!

During our June 28 board meeting, **Kimberly Levingston** presented us with several versions of a flyer for our November show. As in previous years when we had more than one version of a flyer from which to choose, we passed around the flyers, and each board member marked the back of the flyer that he/she liked best. It's interesting that most board members chose the same flyer that other members selected. It was not an easy choice because all of the flyers were excellent! Thanks, Kimberly! She was one week away from her due date to deliver a baby girl, and we could tell that she was uncomfortable. Anyway, Kimberly's flyer is now on the Events page on our website. Thanks to **Jim Johnson** for immediately uploading the flyer after he received it!

Also during our June board meeting, we voted to subscribe as a society to the **Internet Orchid Species Photo Encyclopedia**. The IOSPE is one of the most useful and extensive orchid websites on the internet. It was pointed out that in the US, there are 305 orchid societies affiliated with the American Orchid Society, but only 7 of the societies are subscribers. We believe that many more orchidists use Jay Pfahl's website on a regular basis but do NOT help defray the costs of keeping his website up to date. For those of who you have not yet visited the IOSPE website, the address is <http://orchidspecies.com/> The next time you visit the IOSPE, click on the subscriber link on the home page. Jay continually updates the IOSPE, and in order to do that, he purchases many new books. As of July 11, 2009, the IOSPE covers 10,186 species in 757 genera! On the rare occasion that a portion of the culture information seems incorrect, and the user notifies him about a possible error, Jay revisits the species in question and if an error was made in, for example, the temperature tolerated by a particular species, he will change that part of the culture information.

By the time you read this newsletter, I will have escaped our intense summer heat for a few days in New Hampshire. I and several members of my family attended the wedding of one of my late husband's granddaughters.

Our August board meeting will be held on August 30 at my home. A **show planning meeting will be held at noon**, with the board meeting to follow.

See you at our August 3 meeting!

Julie

JULY RAFFLE DONORS

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

Bob MacLeod, Julie Rathbun,
Lou Ann Remeikis, Wilella Stimmell,
and non-member, Craig Pearson

ORCHID PESTS

Here is a list of reproductive cycles for insects. Remember that during warm weather insect cycles can speed up. Use the lower number in summer.

Scale: Every week to 10 days

Mealy bug: Every week to 10 days

False spider mites (cyclamen mites): Every week to 10 days

Aphids: Every 3-5 days

Thrips: Every week to 10 days

Fungus gnats: Every week to 10 days

Sow bugs: Every week to 10 days

Adelgids: Every week to 10 days

Spider mites: (two spot or red) every 3-5 days

“A good Orchid requires no more room and calls for no more care than a poor one, but as long as cultivators fill their houses with the mass of trash kindly sent to them by friends in the tropics, we shall find those who are disgusted with Orchid culture. We call to mind a certain large house, not a hundred miles from New York, filled with Orchids sent to the owner by friends in South America; ten dollars would have been a high price for the whole collection of thousands of plants. A friend once sent us from Mexico an immense case of ‘Orchids’, which on being unpacked was full of a species of gray Tillandsia much resembling withered pineapple crowns, of which the flower was a small spike of inconspicuous red blossoms. The steamer freight on this precious consignment would have bought a half dozen fine specimen Cattleyas.”

E.S. Rand Orchid Culture 1878

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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. , and The Nature Conservancy.

ORCHID DIGEST MEMBERSHIP DUES INCREASE

In the July, August, September issue of Orchid Digest, page 135, there is mention that since postage rates increased in May, membership dues for U.S. members will increase \$2.00 for one year. The increase in rate will bring the cost of a one year subscription to \$36.00 and for two years to \$68.00. The increase goes into effect on September 1, 2009.

As your Orchid Digest Representative, I did not receive advance notice of the increase. The first time I was made aware of the increase in dues was in the July, August, September issue.

Also featured on page 135 was the following blurb, titled "Carbon Footprints". I don't know the author of the comments, but they are as follows: "The world has become inundated with cheap orchids that are often flown halfway around the world by air before being used as a table decoration that is later to be discarded. While these plants may be cheap in monetary terms, their carbon footprints are not necessarily inexpensive. Think about this the next time that you buy a throw away orchid. It is better for the environment to support local growers. The same goes for cut flowers too." I agree that we need to support US growers, if for no other reason than the fact that the US economy is in such bad condition that it is driving small growers out of business. No mention was made of the carbon footprints left from the production of **massive** amounts of plastic and silk flowers that can be found in nearly every store – from supermarkets to discount stores. If the intent of "Carbon Footprints" was to urge orchid growers to support US growers and help keep them afloat in these hard economic times, then a simple statement would have sufficed. "Cheap" orchids can be found locally; they are not necessarily "flown halfway around the world"; and they are often excellent plants that are NOT thrown away.

Wilella Stimmell

TWO WEEKS IN PARADISE

For two weeks in June I had the privilege of living on and exploring Kualoa Ranch on the windward side of Oahu.

When my daughter's high school band planned a summer trip to Honolulu to perform we decided to tag along as chaperones. Friends of ours have a son in the band and family ties to Kualoa and they also decided to make the trip.

Due to current economic conditions and the expense of travel the band trip was cancelled. However, we decided to go ahead with our plans and I am happy we did.

Kualoa ranch is a 4000 acre working cattle ranch . The property was acquired by the Judd family in 1850 from King Kamahamaha III. Dr Judd was the king's physician. The ranch has been in the family ever since. Our friends had lived on the ranch for several years and made excellent tour guides. In addition to a working ranch, it is a major destination for Japanese tourists and a popular site for the film industry. Lost, Jurassic Park, Fantasy Island and numerous other movies have been shot on ranch property.

During a hike one day we came upon what must have been an acre under shade cloth. When I asked my friend what it was he said "Oh, I forgot you are an orchid nut. That is where Ernest has his orchids. Want to see?".....well yeah!

Turns out that Ernest leases the land from the ranch and primarily grows dendrobiums for the hotel and lei industry on the island. He is 93 and works the nursery every day. From the edges of the nursery it appears that only dendrobiums are grown, however the real treasures were in the interior. Row upon row of treasures.

Whenever I could steal away from group activities I would hike to see Ernest and spend hours wandering the benches.

Toward the end of my visit I was introduced to Ernest's partner, Ann. She was disappointed that we had not met earlier as she is a member of numerous local orchid societies many of which had meetings during my stay. She would have taken me as her guest.....well next time. While looking at a bench of Bulbophyllum. I mentioned I had a Wilbur Chang Bulbophyllum that I was trying to get to bloom. She said" Oh, I saw Wilbur just this week"

Small world.

Keith

Selby Gardens CEO explains cuts to volunteers

With dirt flying thick and fast at Selby Gardens in the wake of recent layoffs and program changes, newcomer CEO Thomas Buchter is spending this week in a road-show series of public meetings to calm longtime supporters.

His message: In the current economy, Selby could not continue to operate with the half-million-dollar annual deficit Buchter inherited when he began work in February.

The seven staff reductions were made at the upper end of the salary scale, eliminating two research positions and two horticulturalists, plus cuts in the events and membership departments.

"These are very tough times," Buchter told a group of volunteers during the first of these meetings on Tuesday.

Rumors had circulated for several days that the staff cuts implemented by Buchter, who came to Sarasota from Ohio and a 30-year career in the management of public gardens, reflected his antipathy toward the individuals laid off, and to the departments for which they worked.

The programs hardest hit involved Selby's popular orchid programs, particularly the orchid identification program, which allows Selby members to seek free analysis of orchid specimens.

While the program will continue to exist in some form, Buchter makes clear that it is his intention to focus the Garden's limited resources and revenues on its own collection.

Some staff members, he said, have been using Selby time and resources to maintain private collections – a practice he said that the organization can no longer afford.

"I love orchids," he said as he prepared for this morning's meeting with volunteers. "I grow them myself. I believe in the separation of church and state. I will be raising my orchids at my home."

As for the individuals let go, "it was not because I didn't like any of these people," said Buchter. "Personal feelings never entered into it."

Some present at Tuesday's meeting argued that perhaps personal feelings should have played a role in Buchter's decision, particularly in the case of an employee who was laid-off just before beginning cancer treatment.

"We had no idea that was the case," said Buchter. "Our decision was made before this individual began treatment."

Buchter put to rest a long-circulating rumor that some part of the Bayside property occupied by Selby Gardens -- established with a bequest by Marie Selby, wife of Standard Oil millionaire Bill -- will be sold to help balance the organization's books.

"Nothing is for sale," he said.

Buchter acknowledged that there may be further organizational changes as Selby adjusts to market conditions. There will be a more aggressive effort to obtain research sponsorship from private, public and foundation sources. A nationwide search for a development director to oversee such efforts is now underway.

Article by: Bill Hutchinson

Correspondent Joe Hendricks contributed to this report.

Herald Tribune July 1, 2009

OSA August 2009 Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3 OSA Meeting 7:00 PM	4 Kimberly Levingston	5	6	7	8 Ann Cherny
9	10 Linda Bonds	11	12	13	14	15 Crystal Lu
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30 Board Mtg	31					



Orchid Society of Arizona

c/o Keith Mead

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