



The Arizona Orchidist

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NEXT OSA MEETING

The next regular society meeting will be

Monday, December 5th at 7:00 P.M.

Meetings are held at the

Training Center

at the

Arizona State Veteran Home

4141 N. S. Herrera Way, Phoenix.

OSA meetings are open to all
plant enthusiasts

Refreshments will be provided

Beverages and Snacks by

ALL MEMBERS

Refreshment Coordinators:

Barbara Parnell (480) 948-0714

Lou Ann Remeikis (602) 803-6889

Jo Anne Waddoups

480-654-9883

Board Meeting

The December board meeting is a joint meeting of retiring and newly elected board members. The meeting will be held on December 18th at 1 PM at the home of Julie Rathbun.

Grower on Call

Wilella Stimmell
wilellas@att.net

DECEMBER PROGRAM

Annual December Fund-raising Auction

Our 18th annual holiday buffet and live auction fund-raiser will begin promptly at 7 PM on Monday, December 5th, in Liberty Hall at the Arizona State Veteran Home.

You are cordially invited to join in the fun of our auction. There will be both a live and silent auction of orchid plants and orchid-related items. OSA is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization dedicated to community service, and we do NOT accept grant money.

Our December auction is one of our major fund-raisers in the year.

We need your donations of plants and orchid-related items. If you don't have anything to donate for the live and/or silent auction, join in the bidding, and perhaps you'll take home one or more plants from your "wish list" or a few orchid-related items to give as holiday gifts. This is your one-stop shopping adventure! Don't forget to **bring boxes or crates** in which you can take home your winnings!

An expanded refreshment table will be provided by OSA members.

Note to guests and new members who are attending their first OSA December auction: NO credit cards are accepted.

Instructions for those donating plants or orchid-related items for the December auction:

Although our December 5th auction will begin promptly at 7 PM, **members bringing donations need to arrive by 6:30** at Liberty Hall and do two things:

1. **A minimum bid should be CLEARLY written on the item** so that if it's an item for the **LIVE** auction, our auctioneer, **Doug Baldwin** and an assistant (**hopefully Aaron Hicks**) will be able to **READ** the minimum bid. Items that don't fetch minimum bid will be returned to the donors **ONLY** if they write **ON** the item – "return to (name) if the item does not receive a minimum bid". The items so marked will be left on the live auction tables. It will be a donor's responsibility to retrieve unsold items at the end of the meeting.
2. **Members arriving later than 6:30 and who have items for the SILENT auction, need to physically take the items to the silent auction tables.** (See #1 regarding items that do not receive a minimum bid.) OSA member, **Rhonda Woodward**, will be stationed at the silent auction tables.

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From the President's Desk

Julie Rathbun

Our annual show on October 15 and 16 was an outstanding success! Elsewhere in this issue, you will read our Show Chair's critique of our show, but I wanted to personally thank everyone who helped make our show so successful. Our dependable workers included both new members and veteran members who were willing to pitch in and help wherever they were needed. Your team spirit and dedication are the reasons that I am still willing to serve as OSA's President.

For those of you who didn't attend our November 7th meeting and for those who didn't read their November newsletters, you might be interested to know that we did NOT have a speaker for our November meeting. Gwen Watson of White Oak Orchids, Pacifica, CA, not only failed to arrive in Phoenix, she also left her husband, Scott Dallas, scratching his head and wondering how it was possible for Gwen to have removed everything from their home in a matter of hours – while he was at work. When Scott arrived home to find an empty house, and after he digested what had happened, he remembered that Gwen had agreed to speak to us. Fortunately, he phoned Wilella and told her that Gwen had run away from their home and that he didn't know where she went. We appreciated the early notice because that gave us time to cancel her hotel reservation.

Scott Dallas has been a dear friend for at least 15 years and a valued member of OSA for 6 years. We hope that he can put his life and business back in order as fast as Gwen departed.

Our election of Officers and Trustees for OSA's 2012 Board of Directors took place during our November 7th meeting. Since there were no nominations made after I read the slate, Bob MacLeod moved and Rhonda Woodward seconded the motion that the slate of candidates prepared by the Nominating Committee, be accepted by acclamation. The motion passed. Thanks to the three ladies on our Nominating Committee for their service: Ann Cherny, Committee Chairperson, along with Debra Hartill and Jo Anne Waddoups. (Elsewhere in this issue, you will find the list of newly elected officers whose terms begin on January 1, 2012.) Special thanks to our two retiring Trustees: Debra Hartill and Diane Norman. Your service was greatly appreciated!

We were sad to learn that **Ann Cherny**, a valued member and worker of OSA for 18 years, **moved to Silver Spring, MD**. Before she left the valley, she donated several items for our December auction. In recent years, Ann's health had deteriorated, and she felt it was necessary to move close to her daughter. She was sorry to leave her orchid family, but she had to do what was best for her. Willie has Ann's new address, and if anyone wants to send a card to Ann, contact Willie for Ann's new address. I'm sure that Ann would welcome receiving cards from her orchid family. Ann is beginning a new chapter in her life, and we wish her the best.

During our November meeting, I announced that our **January meeting in 2012** has been moved from the first Monday (a federal holiday) to the **second Monday, January 9th**. I will remind members again at our December 5th meeting about the change in date for our January meeting.

Our **December 5th meeting** will be **our annual fund-raising auction** and the last event in this year for us to raise money for our community service agenda. Both a live and silent auction will be held during this meeting. **Doug Baldwin** has graciously consented to again serve as our auctioneer during our live auction. And IF **Aaron Hicks** can switch work days with a co-worker, he will assist Doug. Barbara Parnell usually stands watch over our silent auction tables, but this year, she will be unavailable. Without hesitation, **Rhonda Woodward** volunteered to take Barbara's place. Thanks, Rhonda!

At our November meeting, I also announced that before our December auction, Willie and I will make another trip to **Gubler Orchids** and hand-select plants for our auction. (We wouldn't raise much money with only 10 plants left from our show.)

Our annual fund-raiser is lots of fun! An added attraction is our expanded refreshment table. It features a smorgasbord of assorted foods. All OSA members bring a food item, but guests are not expected to bring food...unless they really feel the urge to contribute.

Our joint board meeting of retiring and newly-elected Officers and Trustees will be held on December 18th at 1 PM at my home.

See you on December 5!

Julie

Welcome New Members
Nancy and Bob Ramsey

November Raffle Donors

Ann Cherny, Bob MacLeod, Julie Rathbun,
Wilella Stimmell, the family of August Lorenzini,
the family of Janet Jurn,
and the VA greenhouse in Prescott

THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT

2012 OSA Board of Directors

President – Julie Rathbun

1st Vice President – Bob MacLeod

2nd Vice President – Joe Bacik

Secretary – Barbara Parnell

Treasurer – Wilella Stimmell

Trustee – Terri Jackson (term expires 12/13)

Trustee – Rhonda Woodward (term expires 12/13)

Our other two Trustees who will complete their term
of office in 12/12 are Chris Gubler and Carol Erwin.

(Librarian and Newsletter Editor are positions ap-
pointed by OSA's President.)

Membership Renewal Time

Attached to this issue is a membership renewal
form. OSA's calendar year ends on December 31st.

At your earliest convenience, please complete all
areas of the form and return it with your 2012
membership dues to the Treasurer's address that
is listed on the form, or bring your completed form
with cash or check to our December or January
meeting. **Please** do not pay your dues without
completing your renewal form!

If you didn't receive a renewal form, contact our
newsletter Editor, Keith Mead, at
kjkm@comcast.net

W. Stimmell

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Orchid Society of Arizona, Inc.
Direct Inquiries to our website at:
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 ser-
vice and the study of orchids. It is affiliated with the
American Orchid Society, the Arizona Federation of
Garden Clubs, Inc. , and The Nature Conservancy.

WHAT A WONDERFUL ORCHID SHOW & SALE FOR 2011

I cannot begin to thank those of you who took their time and effort to help put on one of our best annual show and sales that the Orchid Society of Arizona has ever had. Yes, we've ran out of plants in past years, but not like this year! We NEVER had a lull in visitors to our show this year, so none of our worker bees never really got much of a break to catch their breath between helping the visitors with information on the plants we had, providing them with cultural information on caring for the plants they were interested in purchasing, and general information on our group and the focus of our mission statement to give back to the community that helps keep our little organization alive.

While I am positive I will omit some of our valued members who assisted in the set-up of our show, and who volunteered their valuable time during the Saturday and Sunday event, as well as tearing down the sets, and humping everything out of the Liberty Hall venue, I want to make a sincere attempt at thanking everyone who made this show such a success. Many of our members helped during the entire process, from Friday night's set-up through the end of the event, there were several who provided much needed help during intermittent times throughout the weekend.

Wilella Stimmell, Julie Rathbun and Mike, Bob Macleod, Barbara Parnell, Carol Erwin, Rhonda Woodward, Seelye Smith, Terri Jackson, Megan Stuff, Susan Nahmias, Jo Anne Waddoups, Joe Bacik, Bob Blue, Debra Hartill, Travis Sampson and Jenny, Dusty and Bobby, ASVH Staff Kristen and Raquel, and last, but not least, Fred Stimmell for working so diligently on the Show Flyer. A big thanks also goes to Keith Mead, our adorable newsletter editor, for his time and efforts in making the trip to Landers, CA, to Chris Gubler's Orchid Festival, to assist with the hand-picking of the plants we were able to offer at the show. Chris always plays such an important role in making our show a success by allowing us to participate in his festival, and allowing us to hand-select the plants we have available at our show. A big kiss to Chris!

I sincerely apologize if I've overlooked naming anyone who assisted in making OSA's 2011 Show & Sale such a wonderful success.

In closing, I must thank two additional individuals who worked in the background and truly made such a difference in the attendance at this year's event. William Woodward and his assistant, Susan Kern-Fleischer, who made it possible to have our event covered on the Channel 12 (NBC) and Channel 15 (ABC) television affiliates, along with coverage in the Arizona Republic. I truly believe our event was promoted, and seen by more of the general public, by this exposure to the media. Without their behind-the-scene efforts, and Rhonda Woodward being the go-between, the Phoenix area public would not have been made aware of our event.

Kudos to everyone! My heartfelt gratitude to everyone who made our show such an enormous success!

Lou Ann Remeikis & Barbara Parnell
Show Chairs for the "Mountain of Orchids" 2011 Annual Show & Sale



Orchid partnership blossoms with Fairchild garden

By Tania Valdemoro Longest

The Miami Herald November 9, 2011

Will orchids — those beautiful flowers that send rabid collectors scurrying to far-flung corners of the world in search of new varieties — trigger a flood of visitors to Miami? That's one of the goals behind a new partnership that will infuse Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden with 15,000 new varieties of orchids by next summer.

The 83-acre Coral Gables garden will become the new home of the Delray Beach-based American Orchid Society, which will close its own gardens to the public on Nov. 30. The society has sold its building, 3.5-acre gardens and greenhouse to the Sandra C. Slomin Foundation and Family Center for Autism and Related Disabilities for \$3.1 million.

The partnership brings together two forces in the horticulture world in a way that is intended to play to both of their strengths. Fairchild, which already gets 350,000 visitors annually, expects the society's collection of orchids to attract even more collectors, scientists, students and tourists to the botanical garden

The society, which has struggled financially because of shrinking donations and membership and a downturn in its investments, will relocate in phases, starting after Jan. 1. By June, Fairchild will finish building a new conservatory for rare orchids and the last of the orchids will be brought to Coral Gables from Palm Beach County.

South Florida growers and hobbyists praised the partnership for keeping a prestigious organization in South Florida and bringing the Society's intellectual heft and fame closer to them.

"For many of us here, it is a fulfillment of a lifelong dream," said Martin Motes, owner of Motes Orchids, one of the largest commercial orchid growers in the Redland. "South Florida has long been a center for orchid culture. It is set to become a world center for orchids."

Robert Fuchs, owner of R.F. Orchids in Redland, said the move puts Miami-Dade on par with London as a must-see destination for serious collectors, scientists and others who are savvy in botany.

Fuchs said the collection — housed at Harvard University for years before the Society moved to Florida — will bring new prestige to Fairchild.

"The American Orchid Society has the best orchid library in the Americas and orchid art work that is phenomenal. People will come from all over the world to see it. They will also visit local nurseries," Fuchs said.

Kerry Herndon, owner of Kerry's, a Homestead grower that produces more than a million orchids a year, said the partnership would help the Society survive at a time when Internet resources threaten membership in plant societies.

Orchids are second to poinsettias in potted plant popularity in the United States. Florida producers put out at least \$50 million in wholesale volume annually, joining California and Hawaii as the top orchid states. South Florida is home to large and small growers and thousands of hobbyists who collect for pleasure.

Once a hobby for the rich, orchid collecting and cultivation spread to the middle class in the 1960s when growers figured out how to mass produce identical orchids through cloning. Now, local aficionados hope to take more advantage of the Society's resources.

"The society will bring depth to the orchid community," Motes said. "Their magazine, Orchids, will become better at seeding the community with information. And it will be in closer conjunction with the orchid-growing community."

The partnership "will attract more visitors," said Laura Jamieson, executive director of the Miami Beach Botanical Garden. "I believe people expect to see orchids because we are in a subtropical zone. We can grow them so easily. We attach them to trees, we have whole orchid gardens."

Bruce Greer, president of Fairchild's board of trustees, said he expects the orchids to visibly enhance the botanical garden.

"Currently, the garden's orchid presence is significant, but not world class," he said. "We don't have the orchids or the educators. That will change with this partnership."

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In 2008, Miami hosted the World Orchid Conference and Show, a triennial event that enthusiasts liken to the “Super Bowl of orchids.” On display at the Miami Mart and Convention Center were thousands of delicate blooms and seedlings. The move can only make Miami more competitive in its bid to host future World Orchid and Show Conferences, Greer said.

The 90-year-old American Orchid Society, known for its education programs, has declined in membership from 29,000 members in 2001, when it moved to its home from West Palm Beach, to 10,000. Nearly 1,000 members live in Florida; the rest come from all over the world.

In 2009, the society faced an estimated \$500,000 deficit in its \$2.5 million operating budget. At that time, its board agreed to close the gardens and lay off half of its 25-member staff. But supporters and local orchid societies raised \$40,000 to keep the grounds open year-round and recruited volunteers to help care for plants. “When we moved to our home in Delray Beach, we thought it was our destiny. It wasn’t long before we found out we were not the best overseers of a public garden or that we should be in the retail business, said Peter Furniss, treasurer of the American Orchid Society, which was founded in 1921. “We lost sight of the main thing — our members, conservation, education and research.”

Talks with Fairchild began in 2009, but the society sent proposals to other entities, including The Huntington Libraries, Art Collections and Botanical Gardens in San Marino, Calif. In the end though, “Fairchild seems like a perfect fit for us. We have the same mission,” Furniss said.

Chris Crepage, show co-chair of the Fort Lauderdale Orchid Society, said her members would come to Fairchild for judging orchid shows and training. While she is disappointed the Society is closing its Delray Beach location, she is thankful that the move is not to a site further away.

“It would have been terrible if the American Orchid Society left the state. We have a lot of hobbyists and it would have removed that center. It is the mother organization for all of the orchid societies in North and South America,” said Crepage, who has amassed 300 orchids in her home collection since 1987.

Fairchild had the right environment and climate, allowing the orchids to have a greater outdoor presence.

“If they went further north, they would have to be in a greenhouse,” Furniss said.

The society has until March 30 to relocate its orchids, its collection of 200 European orchid paintings dating back to the 1800s, its book collection and its nine-member staff to Fairchild.

But Furniss said he hopes the orchids will start coming down soon after the closing. Greer expects the move to occur in phases, starting after Jan. 1, and that the optimal time to move plants is in February.

Both groups will remain independent of each other. The society will share Fairchild’s administrative space.

The partnership is expected to strengthen Fairchild’s educational programs, beginning with the Fairchild Challenge, which provides a hands-on curriculum for high school students, teaching them critical scientific and mathematical precepts using plants, species and researchers.

For example, it will help students understand the lessons of far-flung research projects closer to home. Greer said students will be able to see species of orchids in Coral Gables that researchers are studying right now in China. There, researchers are monitoring orchids that are climbing up a mountain to get to cooler weather to survive.


Fairchild is also creating a micro propagation lab in its DiMare Science Village. It will be where scientists breed endangered orchids through tissue culture.

“This will inspire kids to become scientists and educators. They will see the orchids growing,” Greer said.

For its part, the Society intends to strengthen Orchids, the monthly magazine that encourages enthusiasts to join the society, Furniss said.

“We will spend more time worrying about that,” he said.

OSA December 2011 Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3 Connie Skinner 
4	5 OSA Meeting 7:00 PM	6	7	8 Bev Tall 	9 Shirley Engberg 	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21 Doug Baldwin 	22	23 Pam Albright 	24
25 	26	27 Janella Bacik 	28	29	30 Jennifer Schmitt 	31 



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