



The Arizona Orchidist

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NEXT OSA MEETING

The next regular society meeting will be

Monday, February 7 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 by Lou Ann Remeikis

Snacks by Tony Duran, Pat Miller

and Barbara Dickstein

Refreshment Coordinators:

Barbara Parnell (480) 948-0714

Lou Ann Remeikis (602) 803-6889

Jo Anne Waddoups

480-654-9883

Board Meeting

February 20th 1:00 PM

At the home of

Harry and Barbara Parnell

Grower on Call

Jim Johnson

jim1958@nphs.us

FEBRUARY PROGRAM

TERRESTRIAL ORCHIDS OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Dr. John Alcock, Regents' Professor Emeritus of Biology at Arizona State University will present a PowerPoint program on the biology and conservation of the terrestrial orchids of Western Australia.

Although John's research deals primarily with the evolution of diversity in how male insects find and acquire mates, he has an intense interest in plant natural history, particularly with respect to orchids. John has traveled extensively within Western Australia, and since 1985, he has made eleven trips to this orchid-rich corner of the world. His most recent trip to Western Australia was in 2010.

Among other textbooks which John has authored, in November, 2005, *AN ENTHUSIASM FOR ORCHIDS: Sex and Deception in Plant Evolution*, was published.

This will be John's third presentation for OSA. He last spoke to us in February, 2006. Welcome back, John!

W., Stimmell

IN THIS ISSUE

| | | |
|--------------------------------|------------------|--------|
| FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK | Julie Rathbun | Page 2 |
| COMMUNITY SERVICE REPORT | Wilella Stimmell | Page 4 |
| DEACON BELL SCHOLARSHIP REPORT | Wilella Stimmell | Page 5 |



Julie Rathbun

Our first meeting of 2011 was a memorable one for those who watched the “repotting action” and especially for those who labored to remove the two VA Cattleya Porcia ‘Cannizaro’ plants from their pots. Several members who were unable to attend our meeting but knew what we planned to do for our program, had hoped that we had taken pictures during the repotting. It didn’t occur to us to photograph the “operation”. We do have a picture of the VA plants that we displayed at our 2008 annual show, and that picture is included in this issue to give you an idea of the size of the plants. To that picture, mentally add two more years of growth, and you’ll have an idea of the size and weight of the plants that we repotted.

Both plants were potted in 15 gallon pots, but the pseudobulbs of one of the plants extended about 3 feet beyond the edge of the pot. Four members were needed to remove the monster plant from its pot. (The plants had been resting on carts since we brought them down from Prescott for our annual orchid show. One person could not have lifted the plants, so it was decided to leave the plants on the carts.) We knew that we would have to cut the pots in order to remove the plants. **Bob MacLeod** donated two, new 15 gallon pots for our project. We decided to repot the larger of the two plants, first. Before we started to make a mess, we laid a very large piece of plastic on the floor of the Training Center.

Special thanks to **Tony Duran** for cutting the pots while two members steadied the plant and to **Carol Erwin** who sat on the floor in front of the plant as it was gently pushed towards her. After the pots were cut, Tony sat on the floor and rested, and Carol was covered with decomposed fir bark. Her clothes looked like she had been working in her garden!

We were anxious to see the condition of the bark in the bottom of the old pots. What bark? We were surprised that although the bark was 99.9% decomposed and looked like rich garden soil, there were a few pieces of fir bark that had not yet decomposed. The best news was that the gigantic root ball was healthy. There were no pieces of bark around the root ball and no bark between the roots. The root ball was solid mass!

Since we tackled the larger plant, first, then the second, somewhat smaller plant, wasn’t as difficult for us to handle. And when we were finished repotting, we simply rolled up the plastic, and I took home the decomposed bark and added it to my flower beds. On January 14, weather permitting in Prescott, we plan to return the VA plants to the greenhouse.

The original C. Porcia ‘Cannizaro’ for the VA greenhouse was donated by one of our members in 1987, when the greenhouse became operational. We don’t know which one of our members donated the plant, but by now, the donor is probably deceased. IF the plant was ever repotted since it was donated, the repotting was done about 15 YEARS ago when we made one of our annual summer treks to the greenhouse.

A bit of history about the hybrid: “Cattleya Porcia was registered in 1927 by H. G. Alexander Ltd. Bath, Avon, GB” (England). It’s listed in the first Sander’s Orchid List of Hybrids (often referred to as “the Master List”), but in that volume, the identity of the person who registered the hybrid is listed simply as “A.”. Thanks to Mike Sielaff for the additional details!

C. Porcia is a vigorous grower with a very strong will to live! In the VA greenhouse, all orchids were watered only by overhead misters, and we saw no evidence that any orchid had been fertilized. Yet the C. Porcia plants bloom every year! If you have the space for such a large plant (pseudobulbs are between 2-3 FEET tall), this plant is easy to grow. Apparently it thrives from neglect. If a pseudobulb accidentally breaks off at the rhizome, new roots quickly begin to appear.

We’ve seen vendors offer a 3 bulb division for \$75.00 plus shipping. Keep the 3 bulb price in mind when you’re looking at the photo of the VA plant! We didn’t count the pseudobulbs on the plant before we repotted it, but after the larger plant was repotted, it looked to be the same size of plant as it was before we removed it from its original pot. It’s just not as heavy to lift as it was before we repotted it. Apparently the decomposed bark added a LOT of weight to the pot.

At our January 3rd meeting, we were pleased to welcome back Sarah Heberling, one of our “Snowbird” members and a worker bee!

Our February board meeting will be held on February 20 at 1 PM at the home of Barbara and Harry Parnell.

See you at our February 7th meeting!

VA Porcia "Cannizaro" in 2008 before repotting



LAST MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL REMINDER

Enclosed with 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 2011 membership dues to the Treasurer's address that is listed on the form, or if you wish to save a stamp, bring your completed form with cash or check to our February meeting. Please do not pay your dues without completing your renewal form!

For those who receive their newsletters via e-mail, a separate attachment is (or should be!) included with this month's newsletter. If you didn't receive a renewal form, contact our newsletter Editor, Keith Mead, at kjkm@comcast.net

W. Stimmell

OSA's Website has had a "Facelift"

Check out our improved website:
www.orchidsocietyaz.org

Thanks to our webmaster, **Jim Johnson**, for giving our website a new look!

On our Events page, Jim has added information about the 4th International Orchid Conservation Congress which will be held in Hluboka, Czech Republic (May 29 to June 6, 2011) and the 20th World Orchid Conference in Singapore (November 13 to 20, 2011). For more information, Jim has added links to both events.

January Raffle Donors

**Bob MacLeod, Lou Ann Remeikis,
Connie Skinner, and Wilella Stimmell**

THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT

The *Arizona Orchidist* is published monthly by the
Orchid Society of Arizona, Inc.
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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 Arizona Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. , and The Nature Conservancy.

COMMUNITY SERVICE REPORT

Wilella Stimmell, CSP Coordinator

Our new year of community service programs will begin on February 14. On that date, at 9:30 AM, we will present an Orchids 101 program for the **Cactus Chicks Garden Club** in Scottsdale. As part of our programs for adults, we always include a door prize drawing of a blooming phal . If any member has a plant that he/she would like to donate for this program, bring the plant to our February 7th meeting.

Since March will be a very busy month for us with the **Southwest Flower and Garden Show on March 4-6 at the University of Phoenix Stadium** (with set-up of our booth on March 3), we scheduled only one other community service activity for March: participation in the annual **Fred Rathbun Horse Show on March 12**. (On March 1, Julie and I will be traveling to Gubler Orchids and will purchase plants for sale at the Flower Show.)

We limit our schedule to two programs per month. With that in mind, on **April 4** (yes, the same day as our meeting), we will present an early afternoon Orchids 101 program for the **Scottsdale Garden Club**, and on **April 22** (Earth Day), we will present a hands-on repotting program for 4th grade students at **Scottsdale Kiva Elementary School**. As those dates approach, there will be further details included in our newsletters. Last year, when we presented a program for Mark Obermayer's 4th grade students at Kiva Elementary, he asked us to return this year. Because there are so many schools where we have not yet presented our repotting program in the Phoenix Metro area, we told him that if no other school contacted us (between April 22 and December, 2010) for an orchid repotting program, then we would consider his request. No other school contacted us, so Mark was very happy to receive word that, yes, we will present another repotting program for his class at Kiva.

In our January newsletter, I neglected to thank those members who, throughout 2010, donated funds for the purchase of comfort items for the residents at the Arizona State Veteran Home. Not only did we receive a monthly thank you letter from an ASVH staff member, but also several of the residents know us and when they see us, personally thank us for all we do for their benefit.

News from Kathryn Mauz, OSA's Third Scholarship Recipient

It's always gratifying to receive updates on the lives of students who received our financial help. (Since newsletter submissions are sent on the 10th of the month, we could not include Kathryn's message in the January issue because she sent her New Year's greeting on December 30.)

Kathryn is busy writing, "with plans evolving for next year [2011]". Her book will go to press this month: **Mauz, K. 2011. An Agreeable Landscape: Historical Botany and Plant Biodiversity of a Sonoran Botomland, 1855-1920. Sida Botanical Miscellany 35, Botanical Research Institute of Texas Press, Fort Worth**. She was told that her book will be available in the January-February time frame, and she plans to send us a copy.

She's also continuing her work on Cyrus Pringle. <http://cals.arizona.edu/herbarium/projects/pringle>. "One short publication is available, one is in review, and I'm starting on chapters for the eventual volume. It has turned out to be a bigger story than I'd ever anticipated, but it is a very interesting one."

The Deacon Bell Scholarship Fund

For those members who do not know, in 2010, no scholarship candidates applied to receive the Deacon Bell Scholarship. Last year, we inquired several times, and Mary Jo Wall, the Scholarship Chair for Arizona Federation of Garden Clubs, reported that candidates have apparently opted for student loans (which have to be repaid), rather than send applications to her. (Mary Jo has been the AFGC Scholarship Chair for 15 years, and she maintains contact with ASU, NAU, and the U of A. After candidates submit their paperwork to her, Mary Jo sends us the names of candidates whose fields of study are closely allied to our interests. From the short list, OSA's Board of Directors select which candidate we want to receive the Deacon Bell Scholarship.) I asked her if she would appreciate our mentioning the availability of the Deacon Bell Scholarship Fund, in our newsletter, to help get the message "out there" that FREE money is available, and she enthusiastically said, "Yes!" Mary Jo's e-mail address is: maryjo.wall@cox.net . Important information that Mary Jo will confirm: a potential candidate must maintain a 3.5 or better grade point average and be a resident of Arizona. Why do we utilize the AFGC Scholarship Chair and not directly contact potential candidates? For at least 15 years, AFGC has had a candidate screening mechanism in place. Without Mary Jo's help, another job would need to be created for an OSA board member. I know for a fact that selecting scholarship candidates is a LOT of work!

W. Stimmell

PACIFIC ORCHID EXTRAVAGANZA

For any of you who may be in the San Francisco area on March 3-5th we have received an invitation from OSA members Scott Dallas and Gwen Watson (owners of White Oak Orchids) to attend their orchid show and festival.

"We are having an Open House at the same time as the POE in San Francisco. We would love see any of you if you make the trek to come up!!! Come to our **"FREE OPEN HOUSE"** to see and enjoy thousands of orchids without the parking hassle and extreme costs of attending the POE!"

ORCHID SHOW AND FESTIVAL 2011

P O E Pacifica Orchid Extravaganza

What: Orchid Free For All
When: March 3-5
Where: White Oak Orchids
1204 Linda Mar Blvd. Unit "A"
Pacifica, CA 94044-4245

Hours: Thursday thru Saturday
9:00 AM—5:00 PM

Cost: Free entrance and free parking (wheelchair Accessible)

Hundreds of plants and flowers on display to see and learn about! Many climates, habitats, culture and care explained.





Come be a part of this wonderful natural experience.

We are 1.25 miles away from the Pacific Ocean. Come visit the jungle and the ocean in the same day.

As always extraordinary orchids are available !

For more information call (650) 355-8767

OSA February 2011 Calendar

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|-----|---|-----|---|-----|-----|--|
| | | 1 | 2  Carol Erwin | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 6 | 7 OSA Meeting 7:00 PM | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 |
| 13 | 14  Bob Gordon  | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19  Jim Johnson |
| 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 |
| 27 | 28 | | | | | 29 |



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