HISTORIC BOTANY AND PLANT DIVERSITY OF TUCSON’S (FORMER) RIVERS, 1855-1920

Kathryn Mauz graduated in 2006 with a Ph.D. in Arid Land Resource Sciences from the University of Arizona. Since coming to Arizona, she has been involved with floristic work, herbarium collections research, and conservation of natural areas in the Sonoran Desert, including the Ironwood Forest and Sonoran Desert National Monuments and the West Branch of the Santa Cruz River in Tucson. As a student, her research included the study of phenology in dry forests of west Mexico and measuring saguaros and spatial variability in their growth rates.

Supported in part by the Orchid Society of Arizona Deacon Bell Scholarship Fund, her thesis work documented historic plant taxonomic changes in the former riparian areas of the Tucson Basin. She is currently gathering materials and data toward a monographic treatment on the botanical career of Cyrus Pringle, a nineteenth-century plant collector, in the western United States, and continues to conduct field work in southern Arizona.

Kathryn Mauz

"The only temperature datum used by the early plant geographers was the annual mean, and this is still used as the sole criterion in distributional studies by men who prefer that their generalizations should be broad rather than of scientific utility." Forrest Shreve, Am. J. Bot., 1914

Editor's Note: Kathryn's program will be a PowerPoint presentation. She last spoke to OSA in February, 2005.

Welcome back, Kathryn!
On May 26, Wilella Stimmell and I attended the Annual Arizona State Veteran Home Volunteer Recognition Luncheon. (Every month, generous OSA members donate either soda pop or funds for the purchase of soda pop, flavored water, and snacks for the residents.) The event was held in Liberty Hall. I accepted a Certificate of Appreciation awarded to Orchid Society of Arizona for our continued service to ASVH. Thirty-six volunteers attended the event. Roy Olsen was awarded Volunteer of the Year for donating over 1000 hours of his time! (He is NOT a resident of ASVH.) Roy received a framed certificate and a recognition pin.

Wilella and I sat at the same table with Grace Kokesch, the former World War II WAC who volunteers in the ASVH Gift Shop. (Grace is a fun, energetic person, and I found it hard to believe that she is 85 years young!) After we enjoyed an excellent buffet luncheon, I visited the ASVH Hall of Fame. The names on the wall plaques represent veterans who have been officially inducted into the Hall of Fame for Arizona. Grace’s name is included on the plaque for 2002.

Since we have been an affiliate of the Central Phoenix Parks and Recreation Department and are privileged to hold most of our meetings in Encanto Park Clubhouse, when the clubhouse is closed for holidays, we have held our meetings in Liberty Hall. This year our September (Labor Day) meeting is on the 4th. Before or after our September meeting, I highly recommend that any OSA member who has not seen the Hall of Fame, set aside a few minutes to visit it. It’s well worth your time! (The Hall of Fame is located east of the elevators on the second floor of ASVH.)

For those who missed our June 5th meeting, you missed an excellent program by Dennis Olivas. I overheard our members tell Dennis that he was the best speaker that we have had! Dennis injected humor into his presentation, shared cultural tips on how to successfully grow paphs and phrags, and repotted one of my paphs. (Prior to his arrival in Phoenix, Dennis damaged the tendon above his left knee. We were prepared to offer a cane, walker, and/or crutches for him to use. He didn't use any of our "aids"; he walked slowly and carefully. His injury certainly did not affect his sense of humor!)

Prior to our meeting, I gave Dennis a tour of my greenhouse and introduced him to my dogs, pigs, chickens, horses, and tortoises. Dennis correctly named the species of my chickens! He said that when he lived in Hawaii, he also had chickens and wished that he could raise "farm animals" where he lives. I think that seeing my animals made Dennis homesick for Hawaii!

**Mark your calendars:** Our annual field trip to the Northern Arizona VA Health Care System will be **Sunday, August 20**! Paula Moran has sent us a wish list which you will find in both this newsletter and our August newsletter. Feel free to select items from the list OR to donate funds for the purchase of items. Those of us who will visit the NAVAHCS greenhouse will happily deliver your donations of items and/or checks payable to NAVAHCS. For the account number which should be written on the memo line of checks, please contact any OSA board member.

See you at our July 3 meeting!

Julie
JUNE RAFFLE TABLE DONORS
Bob MacLeod, Connie Skinner, and Wilella Stimmell
Non-members - Ken and Judy Vincent
Thank you!

NAVAHCS WISH LIST FOR AUGUST 20 FIELD TRIP

For the nursing home -
* personal size toiletries (nothing containing alcohol)
* books (nothing war-related)
* sweat pants for men
* small decorative items that will move or make noise for stimulation

For gardening programs for the patients -
* metal markers that can be placed in the ground so that the patients know what has been planted
* ceramic, decorative pots - to accommodate large palms, etc. (Southwestern accent colors)
* macramé plant hangers - at least 3 feet long - to accommodate 12" pots (Southwestern colors)
* small decorative garden items to place in pots or in the ground
* wind chimes
* wind socks
* flags
* other decorative items that will brighten the garden area

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS
DEBRA HARTILL and MARGARET JONES

The OSA has a new domain name for its web site
www.orchidsocietyaz.org

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## OSA July 2006 Calendar

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**Orchid Society of Arizona**  
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