



The

Arizona Orchidist

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NEXT OSA MEETING

The next regular society meeting
will be **Monday July 6, 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

Demitris Sagias

Snacks by

Dave Nunamacher and Dan Kruger

Refreshment Coordinators:

Barbara Parnell (480) 948-0714

Mary Gannon (623) 878-4173

Carol Erwin (602) 996-1696

July Board Meeting

held at the NAVAHCS

during the

July 26th visit

Grower on Call

Harry Parnell

(480) 948-0714

July Program

GROWING ORCHIDS FROM SEED

Did the article in last month's newsletter interest you?

Well, we have *the* expert in the subject, our very own Aaron J. Hicks, director of the Orchid Seed Bank Project in Chandler and author of *Asymbiotic Technique of Orchid Seed Germination*.

"Largely considered the most dangerous seed bank in the entire southwest, the OSP has been busy collecting and redistributing orchid species seed for the purpose of conservation since 1996.

In this period of time, the OSP has amassed a collection of over ten million seeds of several hundred species, and produced hundreds of thousands of propagules for researchers, conservationists, commercial growers, and hobbyists"

Biography by Aaron J. Hicks The Arizona Orchidist April 2000

Please join us at the July meeting when Aaron will speak on how orchids are grown from seed.

Editors note: Check out Aaron's OSP website it is GREAT

<http://members.cox.net/ahicks51/osp/>

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From the President's Desk

Julie Rathbun

Even though June, July, and August are usually vacation months, attendance at our June 1 meeting was excellent! For those of you who missed the meeting, D. (Dean) Y. Hung, our speaker, has a PhD in Genetics. But his PowerPoint presentation was not too scientific for an "ordinary" orchid grower to understand the Genetics of Slipper Orchids. He mentioned that he had not "dummed down" the material, but he chose to focus on key points that we could easily remember. To demonstrate the genetics involved in Paphs, he used the species fairrieanum. Dean's program was educational and entertaining. We appreciated the fact that he has a sense of humor.

This was not only the first time Dean had spoken to us, but it was also his first time in Arizona! He had never seen a large saguaro cactus before he arrived at Sky Harbor Airport, and because his time with us was limited, he only saw ONE large saguaro cactus. He was very impressed with the size of the saguaro that he saw on his ride to and from the airport. In fact, he mentioned that lone cactus several times. Perhaps the next time he visits us, he can allow more time to remain in our area so that we can take him to the Desert Botanical Garden. There he would certainly see more than one saguaro!

Dean also mentioned to his chauffeur that he really enjoyed meeting OSA's members. Enroute to the meeting, the plan was to stop at a restaurant so that the speaker could eat supper. I figure that what happened is that they drove past the restaurant and didn't stop because Wilella was talking (no surprise) and not thinking about food. I know that she had planned to stop at the restaurant before they arrived at the veteran home. Dean was very gracious about not being fed, and thank goodness, at the meeting, sandwiches were on the table of refreshments. So Dean had a light supper before his presentation. Thanks, Willie, for making our speaker's hotel reservation and for providing transportation for him.

During our June meeting, I mentioned that on the raffle ticket sales table, there were copies of the Wish List of items for the Northern Arizona VA Health Care System. The Wish List was also included in our June newsletter. At least one person must have read our June newsletter because she brought several items to our June meeting. The Wish List is also included in this newsletter and will be available at our July 6 meeting. And I hope that on July 26, members who have never seen the NAVAHCS greenhouse will join our caravan to Prescott. We carpool, so if anyone needs to ride with one of our drivers, let me know. There's plenty of parking space at my home, and you can park your vehicle and ride with another driver. At 8 AM, we start our journey.

Our July board meeting will be short and will be held following our picnic lunch on the 26th.

See you at our July 6 meeting! (For those who can't go to Prescott on the 26th, bring any donations for NAVAHCS to our July 6 meeting.)

Julie

JUNE RAFFLE DONORS

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

Bob MacLeod, Cynthia Schnitzer,
Wilella Stimmell,
and
non-member Craig Pearson

ISLE PLANT, FLOWER VALUES FALL 9%

The value of Hawai'i's floriculture and nursery products fell to \$98.6 million in 2008, a 9 percent decline from 2007's record-setting performance, according to a report from the local office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service. Growers said a number of factors led to the decline, including the generally sluggish economy, crop losses to volcanic emissions, and other adverse weather conditions. Despite the decline, the NASS said "the industry still remains a major contributor to Hawai'i's diversified agriculture".

The \$108.7 million produced by the industry in 2007 was a record for the industry, which has generated more than \$95 million a year in each of the past five years.

Orchids, the largest single category, were valued at \$19.1 million in 2008, an 11 percent decline from 2007. Cut flowers were valued at \$10 million, down 18 percent from 2007.

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Direct Inquiries to our website at:

www.orchidsocietyaz.org

Or to any of the Board Officers or Trustees:

Board of Directors for 2009

| | | |
|------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| President | | (602) 843-0223 |
| | Julie Rathbun | jandfent@aol.com |
| First Vice President | | (480) 722-9328 |
| | Aaron Hicks | ahicks51@cox.net |
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| Editor | | (505) 898-0975 |
| | Keith Mead | kjkm@comcast.net |
| Trustees | Frank Bopp | (623) 937-0019 |
| | | fgbopp@cox.net |
| | Carol Erwin | (602) 996-1696 |
| | | nerwin2@cox.net |
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| | | (602) 843-6213 |
| | | kimberlydahle@yahoo.com |
| | Seelye Smith | (602) 404-1013 |
| | | sss3301@hotmail.com |

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.

2009 Orchid Publications

During our July 6 meeting, two 2009 orchid books will be available for viewing.

- 1) ORCHID BIOLOGY
Reviews and Perspectives, Volume X,
446 pages, hard cover,
Springer Publishing Co., Warren, MI

For those growers who are interested in orchid science and/or own or at least have seen the previous 9 volumes in this series, a few of the topics included in volume X are: Pollination Effects on Orchid Flowers and the First Suggestion by Professor Hans Fitting (1877-1970) that Plants Produce Hormones; Food-Hair Form and Diversification in Orchids; Orchids Pollen Dispersal Units and Reproductive Consequences; Hand-Pollination of Vanilla: How Many Discoverers?; and Molecular Biology of Two Orchid Infecting Viruses: Cymbidium Mosaic Potexvirus and Odontoglossum Ringspot Tobamovirus. At the back of Volume X is an index to the articles contained in ALL 10 volumes of the series. (All volumes are approximately the same size and can easily fit on a book shelf.)

- 2) Proceedings of THE 19TH WORLD ORCHID CONFERENCE,
504 pages, **oversized** hard cover book in a slip cover case,
Published by American Printing Arts, Miami, FL

The 19th World Orchid Conference was held in Miami in January, 2008, but the Proceedings were not available until June, 2009. Abstracts submitted by the WOC speakers are located between pages 293-439. For readers not interested in the abstracts, there are numerous color photos of orchids, displays of orchids, and people.

The Nature Conservancy at Work in Arizona

In the summer, 2009 issue, page 66, TNC announced that it had purchased 122 critical acres along the San Pedro River. TNC also thanked the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Endangered Species Recovery funds and the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation for their collaborative efforts. Subsequently, TNC transferred the property to the Arizona Game and Fish Department. (In the event that you did not know, the San Pedro is one of the last free-flowing rivers in the Southwest.)

OSA is a member of The Nature Conservancy, and as such, we receive "**Field Notes for Members of the Nature Conservancy in Arizona**". In the summer issue of "Field Notes", pages 8 and 9, there is an interesting article about the Verde River. The article caught my attention because of the play-on-words used in the lead-in to the article: "What do you call an Arizona river and its system of plants, animals, and fish that are starting to recover after decades of human intervention? In the case of the Verde River, which flows from northern Arizona to near the Phoenix metro area, you could call it an 'otter' success."

FYI: Our favorite, local purveyor of vanilla is on You Tube:

<http://www.youtube.com/azvanilla>

Check it out!

NAVAHCS WISH LIST FOR July 26, 2009 FIELD TRIP

For the nursing home -

- *personal size toiletries (nothing containing alcohol)
- *books (nothing war-related)
- *puzzles
- *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

*****To donate funds in lieu of items, a check should be made payable to NAVAHCS, and on the memo line, write: Acct. #GPF 9017. If you mail the check, send it to: Paula Moran, Northern AZ Health Care System, 500 N. Highway 89, Prescott, AZ 86313-5001**

For benefit of new members: Our annual field trip to Prescott is an all-day trip. (We depart Phoenix in the morning and return in late afternoon.)

Due to health issues, Bill Starkman is no longer the greenhouse supervisor. A local master gardener is responsible for caring for all plants in the greenhouse.

We can choose to tour the greenhouse, check the veggies in the garden adjacent to the greenhouse, and/or check the trees in the orchard for apples and peaches. After we help bring patients to the picnic area, all of us (staff, patients, and OSA members) enjoy lunch which is provided by OSA. (The picnic area is located near the greenhouse.) After lunch, before we hold an abbreviated board meeting, we help return the patients to the nursing home. And after the board meeting, we head back to Phoenix.

Patients, staff members, and OSA members always enjoy this annual event.

OSA July 2009 Calendar

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|------------------------|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|------------------------------|
| | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 <i>Independence Day</i> |
| 5 | 6 OSA Meeting 7:00 PM | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| 26 NAVAHCS VISIT | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | |



Orchid Society of Arizona

c/o Keith Mead

5425 Thomas Drive NE

Albuquerque, NM 87111

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