



# The Arizona Orchidist

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## NEXT OSAM EETING

Meetings are held at the  
Valley Garden Center  
1809 N. 15th Ave., Phoenix, Arizona  
Phone (602) 252-2120

The next regular society meeting will be  
Thursday, July 5, 2001 at 7:00 p.m.  
OSA meetings are open to all  
plant enthusiasts.

Refreshments will be provided.  
This month Beverages will be  
furnished by: Heidi Owens  
Edibles will be furnished by:  
Heidi Owens and Rhonda Woodward

Janet Jurn,  
Refreshment Coordinator  
(623) 386-2741

## NEXT OSABOARD MEETING

The next OSA board meeting will be  
Sunday, July 1, 2001 at 1:00 p.m.  
Hosted by Nelda Caldwell.  
Please contact Nelda at (602) 257-8622  
for directions to her home  
if you plan to attend.  
The meeting is open to all OSA members.

## GROWER ON CALL

Wilella Stimmell  
(480) 947-8479  
E-mail at [wilellas@worldnet.att.net](mailto:wilellas@worldnet.att.net)



## July Program



The program for July is "Orchid Book Heaven". OSA had a similar program a couple of years ago and it was very well received. The premise for this program is that YOU bring some reference books from your personal orchid library to be displayed for other members to view.

Reference books on orchids are becoming easier to find. However, not all of them are "grower friendly". Some references are, quite honestly, a waste of money! Other books are worth their weight in gold! This program gives you an opportunity to benefit from "window shopping" and to sample some references that might be valuable to you. This is also an opportunity for

you to benefit from other members' mistakes. So please feel free to bring some of those books that are not your personal favorites so other members can evaluate them for themselves.

Personal collections of orchid reference books will not be for sale at this meeting. We ask that you just share your books for the evening. Inevitably, there will be duplicates so please make sure to write your name in all of your books for identification purposes when the meeting ends!

NOTE: We will also have an impromptu demonstration on packing orchids in preparation for the field trip to Santa Barbara!



**Welcome to our newest OSA members!**

**Sally Blake and Tom Berryhill**

*Thank you for your donations  
to the June raffle table*



*Wilella Stimmell, Pepper Webb, Rhonda Woodward,  
Jeanette Socaciu, Bryan & Ainsley LaCour,  
Ken & Judy Vincent, and OSA*



# From the President's Desk

Lou Ann Remeikis

There used to be a song that stated, "The heat is on..." and it is quite appropriate for those of us taking on another Arizona summer! I know several of our members go to cooler places during these hot months of summer and all I can say is that I envy them! My orchids envy them, too! Heat is a stress on our plants, so do your best to keep them comfortable. Keep them watered, fertilized, bathed in as much humidity as possible, and don't forget the air circulation! Air circulation is one of the most critical elements of growing orchids during this season!

I am getting so excited about the trip to Santa Barbara! Not only is the trip a sensory overload with all the orchids to look at, admire, and purchase, but it is always nice to see familiar faces there and enjoy the ocean breeze. The Santa Barbara Orchid Estate is not quite on the beach, but it is very close! We will also have the chance to skip across the street to Cal Orchids. I wonder if they will have the barbeque and live band going this year?

I want to take a moment and thank

Wilella Stimmell. Willie, on a very regular basis, steps in and represents me during the West Central District Presidents' Meetings. Willie serves the WCD as their District Director and she wears two hats (at least) when she is there on my behalf. These meetings are held during the week, and are much longer than a typical lunch hour. Since I am still employed, as of this writing, it is not possible for me to attend on behalf of OSA. Thanks, Willie!

OSA's annual show is creeping up quickly. Hopefully you all know that the theme of this year's show is "Orchids in Toyland". The Board of Directors has some great ideas for the show, but we need YOUR help, too! The annual orchid show and sale is put on by the members and because of that, we want your input. Mark July 15<sup>th</sup> on your calendar. Our first show planning meeting will be held on that date, at 1:00 p.m., at Rhonda Woodward's home. If you can attend, please contact Rhonda at (602) 230-8877 or e-mail her at [peakhouse@home.com](mailto:peakhouse@home.com) for directions to her home. We hope to

see you there with your thinking caps on!

OSA Board of Directors is also getting ready for our annual trek to the Northern Arizona Veteran's Health Care Center in Prescott. As usual, we take donations to the veterans and this year is no different. If you have anything you wish to donate to the cause, please contact one of the board members so arrangements can be made to acquire your donations. The date is unconfirmed at this time, but we anticipate the very end of July or in August. An announcement will be made at the July meeting as to the date of our trip. In the meantime, please start collecting items to take to them. Items they need range from items for the greenhouse to personal items and clothing for the residents.

I hope you all have a safe Fourth of July holiday, and I hope to see you all the day after!

Happy Growing,

Lou Ann Remeikis



## SANTA BARBARA TRIP INFORMATION – JULY 21, 2001 (SATURDAY):

7:30 a.m. – group meets at the Southwest Airline Ticket counter

8:50 a.m. – Flight #570 departs Phoenix to Burbank, CA

6:10 p.m. – Flight #935 departs Burbank to Phoenix (arrive Phoenix at 7:35 p.m.)

OSA group will be picked up at and returned to the airport by chartered bus. It is recommended that everyone wear a watch so the bus won't leave without you. We've had close calls in the past! Once on the bus, we will announce the departure time from the Santa Barbara Orchid Estate/Sale to return to the airport.

Suggested Items to Bring: Shopping-type bag or carry-on luggage (empty upon departure and full upon return!), bubble packing, newspaper, shredded paper, pot sleeves, cotton, masking tape, scissors, and \$\$\$ (unless you will only spend the \$50.00 trip refund!). Warning – temptation hits its peak at this show!

**Book Review**

***Phalaenopsis: A Monograph***

By Eric Christenson, Phd. 2001. Timber Press, Portland. 212 color photographs and 86 black-and-white illustrations.

The latest work from Eric Christenson, PhD., was reviewed by Ned Nash, Director of Conservation, American Orchid Society. *Orchids*, The Magazine of the American Orchid Society, April 2001, p. 355-56.

Ned Nash concludes that the book reaches some controversial taxonomic decisions, but they appear to be well reasoned. The book contains sections covering taxonomy, hybrids and culture. He goes on to say that "*Phalaenopsis: A Monograph* is a book that stands on its own merits, with no need of validation from any source. We can thank both the International Phalaenopsis Alliance for its sponsorship, and Timber Press for its usual superlative production values. Phalaenopsis enthusiasts will want it as the latest and greatest on their favorite plants, while others will find it an indispensable guide and resource to the world's most widely grown orchid plants".



**VIRTUAL GOODIES**

<http://www.bgpa.wa.gov.au/OrchidCongress/OrchidCongress.html>

The 1st International Orchid Conservation Congress

Incorporating the 2nd International Orchid Population Biology Conference

24-28 September 2001 Perth, Western Australia

The Congress will bring together for the first time, orchid conservation specialists, researchers and practitioners, to develop an understanding of global issues in orchid conservation. The Congress will cover topics including phylogeny of the Orchidaceae, population biology, pollination biology, propagation science, germplasm storage, conservation genetics and taxonomy with opportunities for specialist workshops in orchid conservation techniques and orchid recovery programs. The Congress will provide a rare opportunity for orchid professionals and those involved in orchid conservation to learn first hand current practices in all aspects of orchid biology and conservation.

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Direct inquiries to our website at:

[Http://welcome.to/orchidsocietyaz](http://welcome.to/orchidsocietyaz)

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 Orchid Digest Corporation, the Arizona Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc., and The Nature Conservancy.

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On May 17, GARY KOOISTRA, JULIE RATHBUN, and I participated in the Asian and Pacific Islander Celebration at the VA Medical Center, 650 E. Indian School, Phoenix.

Meline Iglesias, Manager of the Asian and Pacific Islander Special Emphasis Program at the VA, "found" OSA when she attended the Chinese Cultural Festival in February. When she read from our Statement of Purpose that we work with the VA in Prescott, she inquired whether we would consider working with the VA in Phoenix. Meline provided us with few details about the event, and since none of the program team members had ever visited the VA, an advance visit to the VA was necessary to determine where we would set up our display on the main floor and where in the basement we would present our hands-on program.

The VA facility is huge! Even a lab rat accustomed to finding his way through a maze to his cheese reward would have difficulty finding his way through the labyrinth of corridors and clinics. Meline

was nowhere to be found on the premises, and neither the receptionist at the main entrance nor two other staff members seemed to know anything about the Islander Celebration. The search for someone, anyone, who had information about the event, continued. At the end of one of the corridors, there was a clinic where no patients were waiting. Fortunately, the receptionist at the clinic desk knew Marilyn Poland, a member of the event committee who provided us with the information we needed.

Before and after our hands-on program in the basement, our blooming plants were on display on the main floor. Our flowers served as a magnet, and everyone who passed by our display table stopped to admire the colorful blooms.

Meline had confirmed with us that there would be 30 participants in our hands-on program, so we had ordered 30 phal seedlings. We took a few "extras" in case we discovered when we unpotted the seedlings that a few plants lacked roots. (Root rot happens!) When

we began the program, we observed that there were clearly more than 30 people in the audience. Luckily all but one of the seedlings had viable root systems, and 45 participants received plants. Even with pressing the "reserve" plants into service, some members of the audience who wanted seedlings, did not receive them and were disappointed.

Following our presentation, program team members enjoyed a buffet lunch which was provided on the premises by the Celebration committee. After lunch, we moved our display plants from the basement back to the main floor.

Because our program was so popular with event guests, Meline requested that we participate in next year's Islander Celebration. However, we explained to her that next year, after she confirms a definite number of participants, and we order the seedlings, she will need to state at the beginning of our program that we brought only enough plants for those persons whose names are on the reservation list.



## Community Service Opportunities

### Donations/ Items Needed

*The ASVH gift shop:*

Cans of soda pop, Individual size cartons of juice

*School programs:*

10 1/2" x 13 1/2" plastic grid sheets, clear, 7 mesh, purchased from craft stores

*Northern Arizona Veteran's Health Care Center in Prescott:*

Greenhouse supplies, personal items, clothing

Timber Press is sad to report that noted author Professor William Stearn has passed away, aged 90. Stearn was one of Britain's most eminent botanists; his contribution to this subject was once compared to that of Robert Brown, Darwin, and the Hookers. Stearn wrote some 470 books, articles, and monographs, ranging from detailed studies of plant genera, through histories and biographies, to books on botanical taxonomy - many of which have become standard works of reference. His Timber Press titles include *BOTANICAL LATIN*, *THE ORCHID PAINTINGS OF FRANZ BAUER*, and *THE GREEK PLANT WORLD IN MYTH, ART AND LITERATURE*. He served as librarian of the Royal Horticultural Society's Lindley Library, senior principal scientific officer in the Department of Botany, British Museum (Natural History), and visiting professor in the Department of Botany and Agricultural Botany, University of Reading. In 2000 he was awarded the Asa Gray Award, the highest award of the American Society of Plant Taxonomists.

With our OSA orchid buying spree to Santa Barbara just a few short weeks away, the following article, reproduced from the *AOS Bulletin, February 1986*, seems timeless and appropriate for members intending to purchase plants. So although I still intend to visit the versateller machine prior to the 21st, I do plan on a little pre-trip research. Hopefully, I will come home with beautiful plants that I won't kill. If you have internet access, [www.sborchid.com](http://www.sborchid.com) contains this year's vendors list and other information about the Orchid Fair.

-Ainsley LaCour

We are all familiar with the syndrome: first a hybrid phalaenopsis or cattleya given or purchased in bloom, then another (perhaps a species or raffle plant), another, and so on for the rest of our lives as we learn of the strange and beautiful world of orchids. An empty or near-empty bench in the greenhouse or under lights remains in this pitiful state for only so long—until the spell of Manifest Destiny overwhelms us, compelling us to fill every square centimeter of bench space immediately if not sooner. In the process of yielding to this strange

force, perhaps transmitted by mosquitoes, we inevitably make mistakes in selection, importation, and acclimation of plants to their new environment. So, to beginning orchidists now suffering from this syndrome and flush with cash flow from income tax refunds (mine to be donated to the needy in the Citibank MasterCard offices), I offer a few words of advice derived from experience.

Selection of orchid species and hybrids should be based on some simple, enjoyable research to answer the haunting question, "*Will I kill it?*" Examine what you have to offer your orchids. How much light can you provide? What is the average relative humidity? What are the maximum and minimum temperatures likely to be in your growing area? Then read through the many excellent orchid culture books on the market, current and past issues of the *A.O.S. BULLETIN*, and commercial catalogs. Your choices should be governed by reason, said Mr. Spock, rather than emotions.

Where to purchase your selections is the next major decision. Focus on companies that specialize in orchids. If you want quality plants, I would strongly rec-

ommend that you avoid places that sell orchids, rebuilt carburetors, and live bait. Importing orchids from outside the United States requires that you supply permit labels to the foreign firm to be used in shipment. Also, be absolutely sure that the phytosanitary certificate and documentation satisfies CITES requirements. Otherwise, your plants will be heartlessly confiscated and you will then begin to develop a strange, unnatural relationship with African violets.

Finally, when your new plants have arrived, do not merrily mingle them with your older, established orchids. Quarantine them! Mother was right—you don't know where they've been. Once you are convinced that the new acquisitions are free of spider mites, mealybugs, scale, rot, and other plagues that give pause, then introduce them to your collection.

Remember: a few minutes of research before you order and a few weeks of observation after you receive your shipment will ensure that your collection, like the plant itself, continues to grow.

-Dr. Alec M. Pridgeon

On May 23-26, 2001, the second MesoAmerican Seminar on Orchidology and Conservation was held in San Jose, Costa Rica. It was my good fortune to be able to attend this conference which also incorporated the first meeting of the Regional MesoAmerican Orchid Specialist Group of the IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources). The participants represented a veritable Who's Who of international orchidologists.

For those of us in attendance who were Spanish-impaired, the conference organizer, Carlos Ossenbach, had arranged for Spanish presentations to be simultaneously translated into English. My head set and I were inseparable during the conference!

The seminar was held in the auditorium of Ciudad de la Investigacion. The building is physically separated from the University of Costa Rica campus but is part of the University. Since I arrived the day before the seminar began, I thought it would be prudent to register early and avoid the rush the next day. Carlos had written in Spanish the directions to Ciudad de la Investigacion and told me that the taxi driver would have no problem finding the building if I showed him the directions. When I presented the paper with the directions to my taxi driver, he scratched his head as though he had no clue where I wanted to be driven. However, while he drove at high speed in heavy traffic, and

switched lanes so often I feared we were bound for Nicaragua, he must have figured it out because he came to a screeching halt. He nodded as though we had arrived at the correct building, and although the sign on the building clearly stated: ANIMAL CONTROL, I figured I had survived the ride and wanted to plant my feet on terra firma. Inside the Animal Control building, I showed the written Spanish directions to a young lady who gestured that I needed to do a bit of walking to get to my destination. The taxi driver hadn't gone far enough because he was probably unfamiliar with the landmark written in the directions. Street names are lacking in Costa Rica, so directions are given with reference to well-known buildings or other landmarks. For example, Hotel Ave de Paraiso, where I stayed during the seminar, is 350 meters north of the San Pedro Mall.

The first session of the conference was devoted to phylogeny and conservation, and the first speaker was Phillip Cribb (Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew). He as well as his fellow countrymen gave their presentations in English. The name of the second speaker of the first session you will recognize as having been an OSA speaker: Bob Dressler. Bob represented Missouri Botanical Garden and chose to give his presentation in Spanish. (Bob and Kerry Dressler sent their regards to OSA members!) The second session of the conference was devoted to taxonomy

and conservation. Gustavo Romero (Keeper, Orchid Herbarium of Oakes Ames, Harvard) was the session chairman and the first speaker. He highlighted an important problem with conservation efforts: taxonomists write papers that have little diffusion. Botanical descriptions are not user-friendly to local populations wherein indigenous species reside on their land. Also, Gustavo maintained that local populations do not have the same concept of conservation as scientists do. They need information they can assimilate because without it, conservation goals are not achievable. From a laymen's point of view, I perceived that Gustavo's remarks about conservation and his acknowledgment that poverty was a fundamental problem in "hot spot" areas, were more realistic than the idealistic remarks made by some of the other conference presenters.

John Atwood (represented both Marie Selby Botanical Gardens and Missouri Botanical Garden) gave an in-depth slide presentation on the genus *Maxillaria* in Costa Rica. Bob Dressler presented "New Findings in Panamanian Orchid Flora". Franko Pulpulin (Jardin Botanico Lankester, Universidad de Costa Rica) devoted his presentation to the genus *Kiefersteinia* in Costa Rica. The next slide program was devoted to "Novelties in Venezuelan Guayana Orchid Flora", given by Gustavo Romero.

The third session of the conference was devoted to genetics and conservation. James Ackerman (University of Puerto Rico) spoke on the predictability of orchid diversity. (One of the fundamental concepts of conservation is orchid diversity.)

Jim Brasch, Director Plant Hormones, Canada, began his presentation by asking members of the audience to face their mortality and make plans to pass along their orchid collections! (We are trying to coax Jim to be an OSA speaker in 2002.)

During Philip Seaton's presentation on orchid germplasm conservation, Aaron Hicks and his Orchid Seedbank Project were mentioned as an outstanding example of orchid conservation! (Phil is the Chair of the Ex situ Conservation Group of the Orchid Specialist Group.)

These are but a few of the programs presented during the seminar. Almost from sunrise to sunset, attendees were totally immersed in orchidology for four days.

John Atwood wanted to do research in the InBio (National Institute of Biodiversity) Herbarium and kindly asked me if I wanted to visit the Herbarium. Oscar Rodriguez, whose face looked familiar to me, happily volunteered to drive us out to the Herbarium. Marianne Cribb and Jim Brasch, who both overheard Oscar's offer to drive to the Herbarium, accompanied us. Almost as soon as we arrived, John disappeared among the compacters and wasn't seen again until the next morning! Oscar offered to show his remaining passengers the beautiful new park that has been built adjacent to the Herbarium. The plantings (from pre-montane, tropical humid, and tropical dry forests) in the park are a tribute to the rich biodiversity of Costa Rica. (The reason Oscar looked familiar to me is that I met him 11 years ago



when I visited Lankester Gardens. At that time, he was the Landscape Designer there. Now he is retired and is the President of the Costa Rica Orchid Association.)

The third MesoAmerican Seminar on Orchidology and Conservation will be held at Ciudad de Investigacion, San Jose, Costa Rica in 2003.

If you take a taxi from your hotel to the seminar, write down the following directions to give to the driver:

"Carretera a Sabanilla de Montes de Oca - de la UNED 75 metros al este y 25 al sur"

("On the road to Sabanilla de Montes de Oca [a small village near the University], from the building of the National University 75 meters to the East and 25 meters to the South")

And don't worry if the driver drops you off in front of the Animal Control building, because if he got you there, you are not far away from where you need to be!



A Very Special Birthday Wish to Deacon Bell –  
I wish we were together to celebrate your day!



EDITOR'S  
NOTES



Thanks for such a great turnout at the orchid repotting workshop last month. Hopefully, it was a learning experience for our new members and a chore completed for the rest of us. I am happy to announce that since repotting, my *Ansellia africana* has two new growths! Success!

The deadline for newsletter submission is the 15th of the month. Email to [ainsley@azorchids.com](mailto:ainsley@azorchids.com)



# OSA July 2001 Calendar



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 <i>Board Meeting</i> 1 p.m.	2	3	4	5 <i>OSA Meeting</i> 7:00 p.m.	6  <i>Betsy Goodyear</i>	7
8  <i>Gary Kooistra</i> <i>Debbie Hamilton</i>	9  <i>Deacon Bell</i>	10	11  <i>Tom Mellor</i>	12	13	14  <i>Jorge Garcia</i> <i>Carole Weinschenk</i>
15  <i>Lilly Moore</i> <i>Show meeting</i>	16	17  <i>Heidi Owens</i>	18	19  <i>Mary Alice</i> <i>Baumberger</i>	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27  <i>Yupha Dequenne</i>	28  <i>Joy MacLeod</i>
29  <i>Jully Oda</i> <i>Gerda Gallob</i>	30	31				



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