



# The Arizona Orchidist

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Founding Editor- Clarence S. Lindsten,  
1966

Volume 41 June 2004 Number 6

## NEXT OSA MEETING

Meetings are held at the  
Encanto Park Clubhouse  
2605 N. 15th Ave., Phoenix, Arizona  
North of Encanto Blvd., on 15th Ave.  
Phone (602) 261-8993

The next regular society meeting will be  
Monday, June 7, 2004 at 7:00 p.m.  
OSA meetings are open to all  
plant enthusiasts

Refreshments will be provided  
This month beverages will be furnished  
by: Janet Jurn  
Thanks Janet,  
we knew you couldn't stay out of the  
kitchen!

Edibles will be provided by:  
Joe Bacik and August Lorenzini  
Refreshment Coordinators:  
Julie Langston  
Ramona Jungwirth (

## OSABOARD MEETING

The OSA board meeting was held  
Sunday, May 23, at 1:00 p.m.  
Hosted by  
Norma Kafer

Board meetings are open to all OSA  
members

## GROWER ON CALL

Joe Bacik  
backicJ@cox.net

## *June Program*

### "Culture Tips for the Diverse Genus, Dendrobium"

Scott Dallas, one of our favorite speakers, who last presented an educational and highly entertaining program for our April, 2003 meeting, will present a hands-on presentation and dispel the myths about growing dendrobs and advise us of pitfalls to avoid. Please refer to page 5 for information about Scott and White Oak Orchids.

There will be a silent auction of White Oak Orchids' plants during our meeting.

*Wilella Stimmell*

## SPECIAL NOTE

Our **July 5<sup>th</sup>** meeting will be held in **Liberty Hall, at the Arizona State Veteran Home**, 4141 N. 3<sup>rd</sup> St., Phoenix. The Encanto Park Clubhouse is closed on July 5<sup>th</sup>. Diane McGuire, Recreation Therapy Coordinator for ASVH, has graciously consented to let OSA hold our July 5<sup>th</sup> meeting at ASVH. A map to the meeting location will be published in our July newsletter.

## Show News

The April Show Meeting was a raging success! We not only had a great time, we actually got a lot of planning accomplished! Thanks to Willie's efforts, we now have a real magician scheduled, and plans are moving forward for the actual display areas. The next Show Meeting will be on June 27th at the Davis's home. The Show Meeting begins at noon, followed by a Board Meeting at 1 PM. A light luncheon will be served. Please plan to attend!

Remember, this is YOUR SHOW!!

We just can't do this without you!

~Sharon Davis

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## From the President's Desk

Norma Kafer

We have tentatively set August 22nd as the date for our annual field trip to NAVAHCS in Prescott. If you haven't gone on one of these jaunts, you might consider going this time. Cool Prescott! We get to tour the greenhouse and surrounding grounds. The volunteers are delighted to show off their plants. We carpool up to Prescott, so put it on your calendar.

These past few weeks have been busy with a couple of out of town trips. My husband thinks I am a wretched cook, so he sends me periodically to cooking school. Last week I had to drive him around Florida, not my choice of a place to visit, but it had one nice surprise. The hotel where we stayed, had orchids on every horizontal surface. They had a tour of their greenhouse on Tuesday morning, so of course I signed up to go. The hotel employs a person just to grow orchids. Dream job! There were mostly dendrobiums and phals with a few others thrown in for flavor. So, I really did have a nice time visiting the greenhouse.

## Not From the President's Desk!

We really missed a number of people at the May meeting! Not to say those of you who were doing something else that night were not missed, but we had several people jump in to help out and made the evening a success!

I want to thank Aaron Hicks for filling in for Norma during her absence at the May meeting. Aaron not only took care of Norma's general duties, but also presented the in-house program on repotting orchids.

Repotting orchids is one of those chores you either really love to do, or you put off as long as possible! Some people just aren't comfortable with the process of repotting, however Aaron did an excellent job showing us how to do it. For those of you who were absent from May's meeting, Aaron tackled a giant repotting job and all of us were impressed! Shirley Engberg brought in a HUGE Cattleya specimen (C. mackai x C Camacho x Joy Harrington) that was divided and repotted. Wilella Stimmell also brought a plant to be used in the demonstration, and Aaron provided instruction on how to properly mount orchids. Aaron, you earned your salary that night!!! (For those of you who think I'm serious – I'm not! OSA Board Members are wonderfully generous with time and energy for the good of OSA with NO compensation.)

In addition to the absence of Norma, Jennifer Schmitt had a previous obligation the night of May's meeting – work! Isn't it awful when work gets in the way of fun? We all have been there at one time or another. I filled in on taking meeting notes in her absence so I felt it appropriate to write something for the newsletter.

Teddy Cohen and Doug Baldwin did a great job of manning the Raffle Ticket Sales Table! The Raffle is one of the meeting's benefits that would sorely be missed if we cancelled it for lack of member assistance. Teddy and Doug came to the meeting and offered their assistance when they found out Julie Rathbun was unable to attend the meeting. Thank you!

Mark your calendar for June 27<sup>th</sup>! This is the date of our next "Orchid Magic" show planning meeting. Sharon Davis has again graciously offered to have the meeting at her home, starting at 12:00 p.m. If you have any imagination, even if you don't, come to the meeting to help us put this thing together!

I want to thank everyone for their concerns and well-wishes during my recovery from recent surgery. All is well with me now. Of course, "Mother Wilella" thinks I need more meat on my bones but rest assured I am healthy and feeling better every day!

Submitted by:

*Lou Ann Remeikis*

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Eight new members ! That may well be a record for one meeting. I am SURE that SEVEN members of one family is definitely an OSA record.

Please join in welcoming:

Mona Brooks

And the Nelson-Tackett family:

Savana Eastridge

Benjamin and Melissa Nelson

Benjamin Nelson, Jr.

Jessica Tackett

Lauren Tackett

Mitchell Tackett

## Attention Growers on Call!

If you have signed up to serve as the Grower on Call for a particular month, please also answer any questions that are posted to our website Forum. Jim Johnson, our webmaster, will notify you when a question has been posted to our Forum. While it is a personal touch to answer privately the grower who posted the question, the answer should also be posted on our website so that other growers who might have similar questions, can read your answers.

It is with sadness that we note the death of **Rebecca Tyson Northen** who, at the age of 93, passed away on April 30, 2004. OSA members were privileged to welcome Rebecca Northen as our speaker at our April, 1988 and March, 1995 meetings. Her book, HOME ORCHID GROWING, is a classic reference work, and many OSA members have her book in our personal libraries. We extend our deepest sympathies to the Northen family. The orchid world has lost a gentle, knowledgeable lady.

**THANKS to BOB GORDON** for donating AND hauling to Phoenix, **another** donation of his phal culture and beginner books for use in our school programs! And **thanks to Julie Rathbun** for picking up the books that Bob left in the custody of Jim Johnson.

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Direct Inquiries to our website at:

<http://welcome.to/orchidsocietyaz>

Or to any of the Board Officers or Trustees

### Board of Directors for 2004

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(2004 Show Publicity)

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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. The Nature Conservancy.

## COMMUNITY SERVICE REPORT

by Wilella Stimmell, CSP Coordinator

On May 8, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., JOE BACIK, TEDDY COHEN, NORMA KAFER, JULIE RATHBUN, LOU RE-MEIKIS, and I presented an Information Kiosk at **HOME DEPOT** (at the Pavilions), 9170 E. Indian Bend Rd., Scottsdale. Home Depot ordered a large assortment of **beautiful** orchids in a wide variety of colors for their customers. Judging from the comments from Bill, the Plant Manager, our availability to answer their customers' questions about orchids was of benefit because Home Depot experienced brisk orchid sales. We have been invited to return! Also, Bill asked us how he could help us with our school programs. We were not shy: we are in need of lava rocks! And the rocks are **so** much easier to handle in plastic bags that Home Depot has in inventory. In the past, a few of us have made trips to "rock" yards and shoveled lava rocks into buckets. Storage of the buckets of rocks has always presented a problem for us.

### ANNUAL FIELD TRIP TO THE NORTHERN ARIZONA VA HEALTH CARE SYSTEM GREEN HOUSE

For new members who will join us on the field trip, please note that we will mention in our August newsletter and at our August 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting, our early morning departure time from Phoenix on Sunday, August 22, the place where we will meet, and the anticipated time of arrival back in Phoenix. Lunch in the picnic area is provided by OSA. This gives us an opportunity to visit with the patients and VA staff, and all of us enjoy our time together! We also hold a board meeting following the picnic lunch.

We also take donations from our members to Prescott. If you won't be able to join our field trip to NAVAHCS, you may still donate to this extremely worthy cause. Contact any board member to arrange for pick-up or delivery of your donation of items, or bring the items to our August 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting.

The residents can use individual size items of personal care products (toothpaste, toothbrushes, shampoo, hand lotion, after shave lotion, etc.) and anything else you think they could use. No donations are ever refused and **all** donations are greatly received! (A couple of months ago, one member who always takes sweat pants for the male veterans in the nursing home, started to accumulate sweat plants. The nursing staff prefers that the male residents in the nursing home wear sweat plants.) For OSA members who have no items to donate for the veterans, you can still participate by writing a check, for any amount, payable to: NAVAHCS. You may either bring the check with you if you will join our caravan to Prescott or give it to one of OSA's board members to deliver. There are a variety of ways in which our members can contribute. We also take orchids, non-orchid plants, and supplies for the VA greenhouse.

### OSA FUNDS HOPI STUDENT INTERNS

During our February 29, 2004 board meeting, your board members voted **unanimously** and **enthusiastically** to fund Hopi students who will be working closely with the Hopi Cultural Preservation Office and staff from the Department of Natural Resources, to produce an educational handbook that will include artwork of plants, animals, insects, reptiles, and mammals that are of cultural significance on the Hopi Indian Reservation. The handbook will eventually be distributed to villages, schools, and other organizations that request the handbooks. (The publication costs for the handbooks are beyond the scope of our donation. We have written assurance that our funds are to be used exclusively for and by the students.)

Our funds will be distributed to the most promising students, by Kristin Huisinga (the recipient of the first scholarship that OSA ever awarded).

During the past several months, Kristin and OSA's Board engaged in discussions of the specifics involved in the transfer of funds for the students. On May 11, after Kristin and your board were satisfied that we had reached an agreement on the details, we sent funds for the project to commence this summer.

In a May 10 e-mail from Kristin, she stated: "We are very excited about this project and the students are too!"

OSA Board members believe that it is very possible that this is a first for an orchid society: funding Native American students.

On behalf of OSA's Board of Directors,  
Wilella Stimmell, Treasurer

White Oak Orchids, Inc.  
1456 Oxford St.  
Redwood City CA USA 94061-2815  
650-355-8757  
Nursery:  
Pacifica, CA 94044 USA  
[www.whiteoakorchids.com](http://www.whiteoakorchids.com)

White Oak Orchids, Inc. has been caring for orchids professionally since the early 1980's. Its services include orchid sales, boarding, on site greenhouse, office or home maintenance and consulting. White Oaks has 25,000 square feet of growing space devoted exclusively to orchids. The nursery moved to extraordinary growing conditions in Pacifica in February of 2004. The newly refurbished high tech greenhouses offer a wide range of growing conditions from Vandas to Cyms. Scott and Gwen successfully cultivate some 350 genera with countless species and hybrids.

Scott Dallas has loved and grown orchids for 31 years. He fell into the early stages of the orchid collecting bug with species cattleyas. Soon thereafter miltonias and paphiopedilums were added to the "must" list. One species led to another great hybrid and soon Scott found himself in the business of growing orchids professionally.

Gwen Watson fell under the spell of a pink Cattleya as a teenager visiting a conservatory for the first time. In addition to a fascination with growing orchids, Gwen also has created a large photography portfolio of orchids.

Being true farmers, Scott and Gwen practice not only agriculture, but husbandry as well. Gwen founded the Iambe Cattery several years ago. Iambe specializes in the clowns of the cat world, European Burmese. The kitten photo on the opening page of the White Oak site will provide more information.

Scott has been President and has held many other offices for the Peninsula Orchid Society on the San Francisco Peninsula.

Please call or e-mail if you need further information.

Sincerely,  
Scott Dallas

## MAY RAFFLE TABLE DONATIONS



Pepper Webb, Judy & Ken Vincent, Julie Rathbun, Teddy Cohen,  
Pam Albright, Aaron Hicks, Cynthia Schnitzer, Wilella Stimmell, and OSA!

Thanks to all!!!

## From the Archives

### “Orchid Growing in Arizona’s ‘Valley of the Sun’”

by Clarence S. Lindsten

(Clarence was the Founding Editor of “The Arizona Orchidist” Newsletter.)

(a timely article as summer approaches in Arizona)

AMERICAN ORCHID SOCIETY BULLETIN, Vol. 39, November, 1970, pages 966-967.

“The time is 5:00 A.M. on a June, July, or August morning. The clock radio clicks on, filling my bedroom with soft music. As I arise to begin a new day, the music stops, and the announcer’s voice cuts in. ‘And now the latest weather report. Yesterday’s high was 112 degrees; last night’s low was 90. Today’s high will be 110 to 112 degrees; the low will be 88 to 90 degrees. The temperature at the present time is 91 degrees, and the relative humidity is 42%.’

Through my bedroom window I can hear the evaporative coolers running in both greenhouses. This muggy weather is sure hard on coolers; they run day and night constantly. Although the thermostats are set for 75 degrees, they cannot bring the greenhouse temperature down that low due to the excessive outside humidity. Thank heaven this type of weather lasts off and on for only three months.

In September the nights are much cooler, although the days are still one hundred degrees plus, and the humidity is much lower also.

The other eight months are ideal, with temperatures for the period averaging out to about 86 degrees for the high and 48 degrees for the low. This would include an October average of 92/60 and a January average of 60/34. The relative humidity average is about 15 percent.

Although orchid growing is basically the same here as it is elsewhere, I find that due to the extremely high summer temperatures and excessive alkalinity of the water, certain practices must be altered to conform to our unique conditions. For instance, in order to keep my greenhouse temperature down in the low nineties, I have to shade quite heavily during the summer months; I don’t carry over 2000 foot-candles. Also, I have to displace a large volume of air per minute with the evaporative coolers. In one greenhouse, which is 14’ x 14’, I displace 3000 cubic feet of air per minute; in the other one, which is 22’ x 22’, I displace 4500 cubic feet of air per minute. Even with this large displacement of air, on a hot, muggy day it is still possible for the greenhouse temperature to climb to as high as 98 degrees.

During the three aforementioned months, when the day temperature in the greenhouses is ninety plus, I cut my fertilizing schedule by one-third due to a slackening in the growth rate, which I attribute to the heat. I find that the period of fastest growth is approximately from February 15<sup>th</sup> to June 15<sup>th</sup>. During this period my fertilizing schedule is at its peak. On about the first of November the schedule is reduced to one-half, where it remains until February 15th. There are, of course, exceptions to this in the case of species, as well as in the case of other orchids which require a definite rest period, during which time no fertilizer is applied.

Contrary to the opinions of some authorities, I find that the application of certain enzymes and proteins, as well as the use of foliar feeding, has some definite beneficial effects, especially on seedlings. While my mature plants get fed in the usual manner with periodic applications of water-soluble fertilizer applied to the roots, my seedlings get a weekly mixture consisting of beer, blue whale [an endangered species], and fungicide applied with an Ortho Sprayette. The seedlings are sprayed enough so that the compost also gets soaked. They thrive on this combination.

Although our water has a high alkaline content, when handled right it does not pose too big a problem. I have found that the fastest way to kill the roots on my plants is to let the compost dry out completely between waterings. In doing this, the salts crystallize and adhere to the roots and to the compost. Once the salts crystallize, they can hardly be flushed out. By not allowing the compost to become completely dry, the salts flush out easily, and there never is a build-up.

*continued on page 7*

*Continued from page 6*

The water situation also brings up the question of what compost to use. For my part, I have the best results with a light, very airy compost. The dense composts, such as those containing a large percentage of fines, seem to hold the water too long, thereby subjecting the roots to excessive salt action even though the salts are not crystallized. Although I have most of my plants in a mixture of redwood bark and hapuu, I seem to have even better root action in straight coarse hapuu. Of course, I have to water more often, but the results are well worth it. Even my miniature cymbidiums and paphiopedilums, which normally require a dense compost, do much better in a light, airy compost.

As can be expected, the most important item needed for a greenhouse to function in this dry and arid desert area is a cooling system. This is the heartbeat of the entire operation; if it fails, the plants burn to death.

Some growers use pull-through air (the type with an exhaust fan at one end of the greenhouse and a built-in pad area in the opposite end), or evaporative coolers which blow air into the greenhouse. While the pull-through type is very effective, my personal preference is for the blower type, because unless the greenhouse is very tight, hot air is sucked into the greenhouse with the pull-through type, while with the blower type, a slightly positive pressure can be maintained which tends to hold out the hot air.

The warm and intermediate type orchids do exceptionally well here, but the cool types require special attention. Although I cannot flower regular cymbidiums and odontoglossums, I have no problem with the so-called cool growing paphiopedilums. They grow and bloom alongside the warm types. It is also impossible to grow any orchids out-of-doors here, due to the lack of humidity and the excessive summer heat.

Maintaining adequate humidity in the greenhouses is no problem if one has plenty of fogging devices; however, they should be placed near the floor and should never be up where the mist blows over the plants, because the water leaves a damaging salt build-up on the leaves over a period of time.

Even with the problems that we have, orchid growing can be very exciting and rewarding here, and although we have more than our share of heat, we have a very long, active growing season with a wealth of bright, sunny days and a beautiful winter growing season."

**Editor's Note:** Thirty-four years have passed since Clarence wrote this article from his home in Glendale, AZ. If he were alive today, he would be astounded at the phenomenal construction activity in the Phoenix Metro area. New roads and new buildings have created even more of a heat trap with which we struggling orchid growers must counteract in order to keep our plants alive. Our "winters" are warmer than they were 34 years ago. Also, a few brave growers **have** attempted to grow orchids outside, and not all their attempts have been failures.

#### **AVAILABLE AT OUR JUNE 7th MEETING**

Hot off the press is the Second Edition of **AN ORCHIDIST'S LEXICON** (With a Pronouncing Glossary of Orchid Terms), published by the Oregon Orchid Society. Included in this slender, paperback volume are such topics as: Multigeneric Crosses, Orchid Family Taxonomy, Generic Names, List of Fragrant Orchids, Abbreviations Used in Orchid Literature, a Glossary of Botanical Terms, and more! This volume is a valuable addition to every grower's library - even for the most experienced hobbyist who still has difficulty pronouncing orchid names. **AN ORCHIDIST'S LEXICON** is available for \$8.00 per copy.



# OSA June 2004 Calendar



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4  <i>Bryan LaCour</i>	5
6	7 <i>OSA Meeting</i> <i>7:00 PM</i>	8	9	10	11	12
13  <i>Fred Rathbun</i>	14	15	16	17	18	19  <i>Pearl Bays</i>
20 <i>Fathers Day</i>	21	22	23	24	25	26  <i>Suz Cramer</i>
27 <i>Show / Board</i> <i>Meeting</i> <i>12:00 PM</i>	28	29  <i>Dan MacLeod</i>	30			



Orchid Society of Arizona  
 c/o Keith Mead  
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June 2004 Newsletter