



The Arizona Orchidist

Published monthly by
The Orchid Society of Arizona, Inc.
Founding Editor- Clarence S. Lindsten,
1966
Volume 38 October 2001 Number 10

NEXT OSAMEETING

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, October 4, 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: Rhonda Woodward
Edibles will be furnished by:
Jane Heckel and Corky Sypherd

Janet Jurn,
Refreshment Coordinator
(623) 386-2741

NEXT OSABOARDMEETING

The next OSA board meeting will be
Sunday, September 30, 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.

GROWERONCALL

Julie Rathbun
(602) 843-0223
E-mail at jandfent@prodigy.net

October Program

Propagation and Flasking by Barry Cohen of G & B laboratory, Inc.

G & B Orchid laboratory, Inc. has been in business for over 30 years, starting as a hobby. We were first a propagation service, offering both tissue culture and seed propagation for others, as well as selling flasks, and manufacturing tissue culture media. In time, we moved into growing plants as a nursery as well. We are now in the process of building the newest addition to our nursery operation, with state of the art automated greenhouses. This will push our operation size to around 50,000 square feet under glass and another 30,000 square feet in shade. Eventually our size will be around 80,000 square feet under glass, when fully developed. Our principal customers are large mass market chains, but we also supply the casinos in Las Vegas, independent nurseries, and interior landscapers. Here at G & B, we try to provide a very broad selection of orchids, which most other nurseries do not grow, as well as the old standards.

Barry Cohen

There will be a SILENT AUCTION OF G & B PLANTS during our meeting.

The URL for G & B's web site is <http://www.orchidsource.com>. Please access this site or call toll free (888) 727-2760 for special orders.

As a side note, Barry and Julie Rathbun were school chums and Barry's sister still lives in the Phoenix area. We look forward to extending a warm OSA welcome.

Pancake Breakfast Tickets are still available for purchase from Lou Ann at October's meeting. This is the last chance to purchase tickets before the Pancake Breakfast on Sunday, October 7th, 8:30 – 11:00 a.m. at the Valley Garden Center! Tickets are \$5.00 each.



Welcome to OSA's newest
members!





From the President's Desk

Lou Ann Remeikis

I want to thank everyone for coming to the September meeting. It was such a nice turnout! I thoroughly enjoyed our speakers, Jim Hamilton and Ron Ehlers. They brought OSA some very nice plants and made a wonderful presentation. Our members should be aware that Jim and Ron waived the normal honorarium given to guest speakers. OSA appreciates their generosity and feels privileged to have had them speak to us. This was the first time Petite Plaisance has been presented to our membership, and I hope they will return in the future. Please be sure to check out their website: <http://sonic.net/orchids!>

As I mentioned in September, a show planning meeting is scheduled for Sunday, September 23, 2001, at 1:00 p.m. Originally, I had planned to schedule the meeting at the Sweet Tomato Restaurant. However, Nelda offered to host the meeting at her home. By the time you read this newsletter the show planning meeting will have come and gone. We will have other meetings in the future, and they will increase in frequency the closer to the show we get – which is NEXT month! I hope everyone is collecting toys for the display and/or to donate to the Toys for Tots campaign. This will be a show that will have a positive impact on others even after our annual show is over! We have an opportunity to really make a difference, and I am sure the members of OSA will come through for the cause!

OSA will be represented at the Morongo Basin Orchid Festival, held by Chris Gubler of Gubler Orchids. The morning after our October meeting, a group of OSA members will be heading to Landers, CA, where we will participate in the Children's Orchid Clinic. This parallels our own Community Service Program presentations. Each child is given an orchid seedling and is assisted in repotting the plant and given help to make a milk jug greenhouse to house their new seedling. This is a great opportunity to show everyone that they should not be intimidated by this world of plants and to touch upon the conservation efforts that exist and those still needed to safeguard the wellness of the world.

It was very nice to see Shirley Engberg at September's meeting. It has been quite a while since Shirley has felt up to attending a meeting and it is wonderful to see her back doing the things she enjoys doing.

I told everyone in last month's newsletter that we (Kelly Thomas, Wilella Stimmell, and myself) were going to visit Deacon Bell in Santa Fe, NM. Let me tell you, we had such a great time! I think we celebrated his 97th birthday each day we were there. Norma Kafer and Keith Mead, also OSA members, joined us for Sunday brunch at Bishop's Lodge. What a wonderful place!

Deacon is doing well and sends his best to all OSA members. I think he misses us almost as much as we miss him. I just wanted to pack him in my suitcase and bring him back with us, but he has such a beautiful home and he is comfortable in Santa Fe. I was amazed that he could tell us which way to go...maybe I should rephrase that...he could direct us around Santa Fe with such accuracy. However, you should know Deacon no longer drives and how he could get us around town, avoiding busy areas, etc., was amazing to me. Deacon is amazing! I am looking forward to next year's visit, as long as he doesn't mind the extra company!

While we were in New Mexico, Keith Mead took us to Countryside Orchids. We had previously made an appointment to tour the greenhouses and we were treated to a beautiful selection of orchids. We all left with a few purchases, and have a commitment from Bill, the owner of Countryside Orchids, to speak at our November meeting. You will be hearing more about Bill in next month's newsletter.

Keith Mead, his wife, Judy, and their adorable daughter, Kaitlyn, had us over for dinner at their home the night before we returned to Phoenix. We had a very nice time catching up on everything with them. Some of our newer members may not realize it, but the Mead family relocated to Albuquerque, NM. a couple of years ago. The Mead's are still members of OSA; they just are long-distant members!

Did everyone get a chance to meet Jeff Armstrong? Jeff is the 13 year old gentleman who had e-mailed Willie about attending our meeting as a guest. As it turns out, he seems to favor bulbophyllums but loves all orchids. If you did not get a chance to meet him at September's meeting, please introduce yourself at one of the future meetings that he attends. He is a charming guy who has the love of orchids and wants to learn more about them. Jeff already has a lot in common with us! Help us make him feel welcome!

I look forward to seeing all of you at the October meeting. Until then...

Happy Growing,
Lou Ann



The election of OSA's Board of directors for 2002 will be held during our November 1st, 2001 regular meeting.

The Nominating Committee is pleased to present the following list of candidates:

President: Lou Remeikis

1st Vice President (In-house Program Chairman):
Aaron Hicks

2nd Vice President (Outside Speaker Program Chairman): Julie Rathbun

Secretary: Jane Heckel

Treasurer: Wilella Stimmell

Trustee: Jeanette Socaciu term expiring 12/31/03

Trustee: Heidi Owens term expiring 12/31/03

The Nominating Committee is encouraged by the number of newer OSA members who fully understand that maintaining our status as a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization is predicated on our continuing focus on community service.

We believe the slate we have proposed for the upcoming election represents a strong, united, and dynamic team.

All members of OSA thank the two retiring Trustees for their dedicated service: Connie Hall and Nelda Caldwell.

Our other two Trustees, Kelly Thomas and Rhonda Woodward, will continue to serve until their terms expire on 12/31/02.

Respectfully submitted:

Bryan LaCour, Chairman

Nelda Caldwell

Norma Kafer

Attention all traveling orchid enthusiasts!

The AOS has published a 64-page, soft cover book entitled *The Orchid Tourist*. The book details information about 115 public collections in 37 countries, including 49 in the United States. This hand guide was compiled by Susan W. Plimpton. Copies are available for purchase for \$5 plus shipping and handling from the AOS BookShop. 1-877-ORCHIDS or visit their website at <http://www.orchidweb.org>

The *Arizona Orchidist* is published monthly by the

Orchid Society of Arizona, Inc.

Direct inquiries to our website at:

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

Or to any of the board officers or trustees

Board of Directors for 2001

President	Lou Ann Remeikis	(480) 892-0263 remeikis@dancris.com
First VP	Bob MacLeod	(623) 935-4059
Second VP	Julie Rathbun	(602) 843-0223 jandfent@prodigy.net
Secretary	Jane Heckel	(480) 839-6696 pheckel@qwest.net
Treasurer	Wilella Stimmell	(480) 947-8479 willellas@worldnet.att.net
Editor	Ainsley LaCour	(602) 863-4477 ainsley@azorchids.com
Librarian	Glena Petro	(602) 244-2973 stdawnt@mailcity.com

Trustees

Connie Hall	(602) 942-4091 cleighhall@mindspring.com
Nelda Caldwell	(602) 257-8622 wotipka@qwest.net
Kelly Thomas	(480) 752-9318 picassodream@ mindspring.com
Rhonda Woodward	(602) 230-8877 peakhouse@home.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.



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



*Joe Freasier, Alan Ladd, Sherry Patano/ Anne Girard,
Deacon Bell, Ainsley LaCour, Wilella Stimmell, and OSA*

Community Service Report

by Wilella Stimmell, CSP Coordinator

On September 11, an unspeakably tragic day for our country, AINSLEY LACOUR, ALAN LADD, SALLY GRASS, and I presented a hands-on orchid program for a small but very appreciative group of handicapped adults at Washington Adult Center, 2240 W. Citrus Way, Phoenix. Believing that the group participants either were unaware of the horrific events that had occurred earlier in the day or that they would not comprehend the significance of the attacks on America, Orvalita Hopkins, the group's Activity Director, stated that she

hoped our program volunteers could keep our commitment to the Partners' Group. We did! Because our sense of community service runs deep, we put our grieving aside for a brief time and made a few, less fortunate people than ourselves, happy. The participants thoroughly appreciated seeing the many colors and shapes of our display plants and enjoyed repotting their phalaenopsis orchid seedlings. We had only one display plant that was "fragrant". Sally Grass carried the plant from person to person so that each had an opportunity to sniff the flowers.

This was the first time Ainsley and Alan participated in one of our programs, and we hope that when their schedules permit, they will again help us introduce orchids to other groups.

Reports on the programs presented at the following venues, will appear in our November newsletter: the Garden Section of the Scottsdale Newcomers Group, the Fall House and Landscape Show at the State Fairgrounds, and the Morongo Basin Orchid Festival at Gubler Orchids, Landers, CA.

July 29 OSA Field Trip to Prescott

OSA received a letter from Betty Stephens, Lead Recreation Therapist, Northern Arizona VA Healthcare System. Unfortunately the letter arrived too late to include in our September issue, but the contents of the letter were intended to be shared with all OSA members.

"On behalf of the Northern Arizona VA Healthcare System (NAVAHCS), please extend to your society members my heartfelt thanks for your wonderful support throughout the year.

A Special thanks for your visit on July 29. The open house, lunch, visitation and donations were a blessing for our residents, and will continue to enhance our gardening and recreation programs far into the future.

The donations were thoughtful and greatly appreciated. The books, games and gardening supplies will be used directly in the Recreation Therapy program.

We particularly appreciate the time you spent with our staff; the orchid advice was priceless.

Recreation therapy is an integral part of the care and rehabilitation of our hospitalized veterans. Assistance such as you provide enables us to speed the recovery, and improve the quality of life, for those veterans who have given so much to all of us.

Again, thank you for your support and consideration. Our hospitalized veterans appreciate your efforts. We look forward to seeing you next year."

For benefit of new OSA members who might not know: NAVAHCS loaned blooming orchids from their greenhouse for our November 2000 show, and we hope to have some of their orchids on display this year at our November show.

W. Stimmell



Reminder to OSA Members-

We need your props for the November Orchids in Toyland Show! Please bring these to the meeting or call to arrange for pick up of your items.

Don't forget to start collecting your new toys for our Toys for Tots campaign.

Please contact Rhonda Woodward if you have any questions at (602) 230-8877 or peakhouse@home.com



Volunteers/ Donations/ Items Needed

The ASVH gift shop: Cans of soda pop and individual size snacks

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

Orchids in Toyland Show: New unwrapped toys to donate to Toys for Tots organization

**Community
Service
Opportunities**

It sometimes appears that more words are spoken about conservation efforts, than deeds are done that actually make a contribution.

World renowned as THE authority on maxillaria orchids, John Atwood hatched a brilliant plan to raise money for the Monteverde Bellbird Habitat in Costa Rica. John is an accomplished church organist and because of his experience and passion for music, is able to coax sounds out of historic church organs that, if the organs were capable of human thought, would never believe they could produce.

John decided that he would donate his fees for organ recitals in churches, to the Monteverde Bellbird Habitat. Why donate money to this particular place? "...to support efforts in Monteverde for purchasing a corridor of property for the charismatic bird known as the Bellbird.

There are many other things of import in this corridor that spans tropical deciduous to evergreen forest." The fees John earned from his summer recitals, are his meaningful gift to conservation efforts.

This summer, John raised \$2800.00 for the Monteverde Bellbird Habitat! During his August 31 concert in Woodstock, the Chairman of the Dartmouth Music Department was in the audience. John not only worked his magic on the historic organ, but also presented a slide presentation of tropical forest landscapes, orchid diversity, and destruction. At the end of the recital, he showed pictures of Monteverde. Members of the audience also learned something of the history of the organ that John was challenging to sound its best and about the history of the over-development in "his" area of Vermont. As those of us who know John, are aware, he is VERY thorough in everything he does and puts forth a

maximum effort!

John's pioneer efforts in donating concert fees for conservation have not gone unnoticed by other musicians. Another church organist will present a program in October and donate her fees to conservation!

(Note to "birders" with internet access: To hear the strange "song" of the Three-wattled Bellbird (*Procnias tricarunculata*), visit <http://www.naturesongs.com/costa.html> . Scroll down the page and click on Three-wattled Bellbird to hear the squeaky door hinge-song! Another website you might like to visit is Birds of Costa Rica. The URL is <http://www.cool.co.cr/toping/birds/index.html> .)

It is with sadness that we inform you that honorary life member, C.W. (Carrol Warren) Moody, 60, of Mayer, passed away June 21, 2001. C.W. had a heart of gold and was very generous to OSA in donating his time, considerable creative genius, and stage props for use in three of our recent orchid shows. He will be missed!

W. Stimmell



VIRTUAL GOODIES



<http://www.orchidculture.com>

Orchid species enthusiasts should recognize the Bakers from their two books on orchid culture, essential references in the orchid growers' library. Through their Web site, they continue their tradition of excellence, giving the opportunity to get detailed cultural and climate data on just about any orchid species. Upon first look, one might hesitate because this information is not provided as a free service. However, from looking at their sample sheets showing the detail and quality of the information they provide, the cost seems worth it. The cost for the sheets is minimal-about \$1 US for each sheet. The information they provide is from many sources, and they allow one to customize the culture information to represent the plants in one's collection. The site also has a section on pollination and seed-germination data on many orchid species. This free section contains ripening and harvest times for many different orchid species. Also available are reprints of articles that they have written. Overall, an excellent resource for orchid culture information on the Web.

- Reviewed by Marc Hachadourian, *Orchid Digest*, Jan.-Feb.-Mar., 2001

Editor's Note: The section on pollination and seed-germination is temporarily unavailable due to remodeling.

My greenhouse has attracted an orchid pest about which little has been written. It seems that the pest exists mostly in larger collections. I was not bothered when I grew plants on a card table in the dining room. The pest I refer to is the Elusive Label Eater, hereafter referred to as the !*%#ELE. To my knowledge, no one has ever seen an ELE, but many orchid friends have had outbreaks of varying degrees. The ELE cannot be very large because it attacks pots put closely together on benches. It must be able to fly because it attacks pots hanging from the rafters. It must have extremely sharp teeth and strong jaws because it consumes heavy plastic labels and coated wires used to attach them. It is a very thorough eater—you seldom if ever find a partially consumed label and rarely does it drop the label chosen for its meal except at great distances from the plant

from which it came. Lastly, it must be nocturnal or else someone would have seen it.

When I first became aware of the problem of missing labels, I discussed it with friends and followed up on suggestions:

1. Maybe the neighbor's children were responsible. Reasonable, but then I remembered that they were over 30 and practicing medicine in Texas.
2. Squirrels! That, too, is possible, but in all these years I've never seen a squirrel in the greenhouse. They don't need it—they spend their time in the bird feeder.
3. Cockroaches! They don't eat labels. They have roots and flowers at meal times.
4. Snails and slugs! Same as above.
5. Sloppy potting techniques. Never. I don't make mistakes. This leaves

the Elusive Label Eater.

Our A.O.S. Representative, who has had some experience with the ELE, has proposed that it may be in the same tribe, if not the same genus, as the inhabitant of washing machines—the Ubiquitous One-Sock Eater. They certainly share many characteristics.

If anyone out there has seen, caught, or can describe one, or if you have an effective ELE-cide, please call. I need help!

- 1 205 Albemarle Road, Charleston, South Carolina 29407

Reprinted from *The American Orchid Society Bulletin*, a publication of the American Orchid Society. Vol. 56, No. 11, November 1987.

The Orchid Doctor—Orchid Ailments

Yellowing Leaves:

This is a normal aging process if only old leaves on backbulbs are involved. If newer leaves yellow and soften, look for:
too much light
low temperature
lack of nitrogen (especially in bark)
loss of roots

Blackened Areas on Leaves:

The sudden appearance of brown then black areas on exposed surface of leaves on a bright, hot day, may be sunburn. Check shading; if blackened areas increase in size, it might be bacterial or fungal disease. Cut off diseased area, treat with fungicide such as natriphene, isolate plant, and dry it off.

Shriveled Pseudobulbs:

A sign that the plant is losing water content, it can be caused by:

- 1) low humidity;
- 2) underwatering, dry medium;
- 3) loss of roots.

Blackened Tips or Ends of Leaves:

This could be caused by:

- 1) overfeeding, especially in cymbidiums -- cease fertilizing and flush plant thoroughly with plain water;
- 2) excessive soluble minerals in water -- have water analyzed;
- 3) leaf dieback, a fungal infection -- cut off blackened areas and treat with fungicide.

Brown or Black Streaking or Mottling of Leaves:

This could be a virus infection. Send a leaf to your nearest agricultural experiment station.

Small Spots on Leaves, Reddish

Brown Turning Black :

Probably a fungus infection favored by warmth, high humidity and poor light. Reduce humidity or dry off affected plants and treat them with fungicide.

Loss of Roots:

Numerous causes, difficult to diagnose:

- 1) overwatering;
- 2) black rot, an infection of *Pythium*. Soak in natriphene solution;
- 3) slugs or snails. Dust with metaldehyde;
- 4) excessive salt content of water;
- 5) potting medium old and broken down. Repot after soaking plant in natriphene solution.

(Reference:
<http://orchidweb.Org/>)



NOTES ON SEPTEMBER OSA PROGRAM

by Ainsley LaCour

Jim Hamilton and Ron Ehlers, co-owners of Petite Plaisance, Valley Ford, California, presented a wonderful slide show and informative mounting demonstration at our September meeting. I recognized this dynamic duo from many past orchid shows and fairs. Personally, I have been very pleased with the quality of their orchid plants. The co-owners found their niche in orchid species and currently grow their plants in 2-30'x100' greenhouses.

During the slide presentation, Jim offered a brief history lesson about Darwin and his contributions to the orchid world. He also reminded us that it is the shape of the flower and how the lip is connected to the col-

umn that determines the orchid species. Be aware that color can vary widely from plant to plant within the same species.

Ron shared some tips for mounting orchids.

- ◆ Fern bark and cork oak are used by Petite Plaisance.
- ◆ Roots should attach to the wood, not the sphagnum moss.
- ◆ Vary moisture by putting moss under or over roots.
- ◆ Attach moss and plant to the mounting material with 4-10 lb. fishing line. After 6-8 months, cut off the fishing line.
- ◆ Never transplant. Instead, wire the smaller mounting material with the plant onto a piece of

larger mounting material.

- ◆ Mount cattleyas when new roots and growth appear. Do not place moss on top of cattleya roots.
- ◆ Be on the lookout for salt accumulation on fern bark. Drench with pure water periodically.

Thanks again to Jim and Ron for supplying plants for the silent auction. I know that I enjoyed the opportunity to ask questions of these two professional, knowledgeable growers.

AFGC WEST CENTRAL DISTRICT MEETING

by Wilella Stimmell, WCD



On October 19, West Central District will hold its fall meeting at the Arizona State Veteran Home, 4141 N. 3rd St., Phoenix. Registration begins at 9:30 a.m., and the program begins at 11 a.m. The speaker will be Lucy Thompson, Lead Teacher at Morristown School. Lucy will present a slide program of the new nature trail on the Morristown campus. (Morristown teachers use the trail as an outdoor classroom.) Lunch will be served at noon and will be catered by the kitchen staff at

ASVH. Cost is \$8.00. Send checks to: Wilella Stimmell, WCD Director, 6047 E. Exeter Blvd., Scottsdale, AZ OR feel free to send me an e-mail <wilellas@worldnet.att.net> Deadline for reservations is October 1.

For benefit of OSA members to whom Lucy Thompson's name is not familiar: Morristown students painted the backdrops for our November, 1999 show, AND students provided entertainment during our show. Lucy was the mastermind behind the students' efforts! (Lucy reported that it is no longer necessary for

her to drive the school bus, in addition to her other duties!)

When we contacted Lucy about speaking at the WCD fall meeting, we were not surprised that she immediately accepted our invitation. She is the epitome of teacher dedication and will do anything that gives "her" school additional exposure!

This is an excellent opportunity to meet some of the members of the other 8 garden clubs that comprise West Central District. See you on October 19!

Recently, the RHS new orchid hybrids list was published and it included Catlassia Premier registered by Lecoulfe as Brassia caudata x Cattleya intermedia. An Oncidium alliance plant pollinated with pollen from a Cattleya. A picture of Catlassia Premier submitted with Lecoulfe's registration can be found at:

"<http://forums.gardenweb.com/forums/orchidsgal/msg0910513529968.jpg>"

A. LaCour









Looking for an excuse to visit the San Diego area?

Then the San Diego International Orchid Fair is for you.
October 13 and 14, 2001
Del Mar Fairgrounds Activity Center
I-5 at Via de la Valle, Del Mar, CA.
Contact John Walters for more information
619-466-0605.
sandiegoorchidfair@home.com



OSA October 2001 Calendar



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1  <i>Dee MacLeod</i>	2  <i>Kathleen Luther</i>	3	4 <i>OSA Meeting 7:00 p.m.</i>	5 <i>Morongo Basin Orchid Festival</i>	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16  <i>Ed Gamarano</i>	17	18	19	20
21  <i>Keith Mead</i>	22	23	24	25	26  <i>Peter Heckel</i>	27  <i>Annette Hurst Linn Sampson</i>
28	29	30	31			



Orchid Society of Arizona
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