



# The Arizona Orchidist

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The Orchid Society of Arizona, Inc.  
Founding Editor- Clarence S. Lindsten,  
1966  
Volume 39 January 2002 Number 1

## 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, January 3, 2002 at 7:00 p.m.

OSA meetings are open to all  
plant enthusiasts

Refreshments will be provided  
This months beverages will be furnished  
by: Ann Cherny

Edibles will be provided by:  
Lou Ann Remeikis & Sarah Heberling

Janet Jurn,  
Refreshment Coordinator  
(623) 386-2741

## NEXT OSABOARDMEETING

The next OSA board meeting will be  
Sunday, December 30, 2001 at 1:00 p.m.

Hosted by Julie Rathbun  
Please contact Julie at (602) 843-0223,  
for directions to her home,  
if you plan to attend  
The meeting is open to all OSA members

## GROWERONCALL

August Lorenzini  
(623) 931-8239

## *January Program*

Problem plants? No problem! Don't get overwrought- repot!

January's in-house program will be a double-feature. Limp phals? Crinkled cattleyas? A dendrobium kept next to the garbage can as a veiled threat? Bring it in, and let the so-called "pros" look at it. We'll either fix it, tell you how to fix it, or throw it away and save you the agony of doing so yourself.

The second part will be a semi-annual repotting revue, with a song and a dance and a little something extra for your plants. Never could decide what to do with that angraecum? We'll fix it. Your favorite cattleya bursting its confines? We'll cure it.

Bring your plants in that need a little help. Bring your favorite potting media to show everyone else what works for you.

Plants with disease or pests, should be brought in sealed plastic bags as a courtesy to the rest of us who would like to pretend we don't have any pests or pathogens in our collections.

Aaron Hicks



### Checklist of what to bring:

- ◆ Plants to be diagnosed (sealed in plastic bags if pests or pathogens are present)
- ◆ Plants to be repotted
- ◆ New pot and potting medium

**Special Thanks** to the following businesses for generously donating items for OSA's annual December fund-raiser:

Jim Brasch  
Plant Hormones Canada  
Box 354  
McMaster University  
Hamilton, Ontario  
Canada L8S 1C0  
<http://www.orchidmall.com/hormones>

Michael Robertson  
Michael Todd's Furnishings &  
Collectibles  
626 W. Indian School Road  
Phoenix, AZ  
(602) 200-8887



# From the President's Desk

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Lou Ann Remeikis

I hope the arrival of this newsletter finds you all well and content with the presents left under your Christmas tree from Santa! Did you receive the items on your “wish list” or were you like me? I made my husband crazy by not having a wish list this year, so it will be interesting to see if I get anything at all! ☺

A grateful “thank you” to Joe Freasier and Doug Baldwin for doing such an outstanding job as our December Auctioneers! Actually there are a lot of individuals that were in the “background” that helped make the auction the success it was. It goes without saying that Wilella Stimmell did more than her fair share in tracking the inventory of the auction for book-keeping purposes and taking care of the treasury deposits. I also want to thank Fred Stimmell, too, as I know he spent a great deal of time helping Wilella place the winning bids into the computer program he perfected for our accounting system! Julie and Fred Rathbun are appreciated immensely for the use of their personal greenhouse for storage and care of the OSA plant inventory, and hauling the plants to the VGC for the auction. Jane Heckel (and myself) tackled the job of keeping a running tally of what item was won by whom so there was a check and balance for Wilella to make sense of! OSA projects and events are always a team effort, and I am very proud of the teams we have had for every event we held in the year of 2001. I look forward to the challenges of 2002, and I know our members and our Board of Directors will step up to the plate in the coming year!

There will be a couple of sign-up sheets floating around the meeting in January. Please take a moment and sign up for your turn at providing refreshments (beverages and/or edibles). If you would like to help, but don't believe you can “bring” something, you can donate \$10.00 to \$15.00 to the refreshment fund, and Janet Jurn, our Refreshment Coordinator (or another Board member) will bring something on your behalf.

You will also see a sign-up sheet for “Grower of the Month”. Obviously we only need eleven (11) volunteers to complete the sign-up sheet for 2002. This “job” provides telephonic assistance for anyone needing help with their orchid problem(s). Also, if the Grower of the Month has internet access, he or she would also address and answer questions submitted to the OSA website. **YOU DO NOT HAVE TO BE AN EXPERT GROWER TO BE GROWER OF THE MONTH.** If a question arises that you are unable to answer, you can research the answer or contact another member who may know the answer. Assistance is always available.

The program for our January meeting will be a demonstration on the division of an orchid desperately in need of it! This orchid yelled out “Help Me” while we were running through the greenhouses at Chris Gubler's in October. Chris donated the plant to OSA when he found out we would be using it for a division demonstration to our membership. We will be placing the

potted divisions on the Raffle Table after the demonstration, so be sure to purchase your raffle tickets for the chance to take one of them home with you.

We will also take a few minutes to do some diagnosis of orchid plant problems during January's meeting. If you have a plant that just isn't looking well, and you'd like to have someone take a look at it, please bring it in and we will have a "wellness clinic" for those problem plants. Take advantage of this opportunity! We will have a microscope at the meeting to look closely at any little pests that you suspect you have!

There are several Community Service Programs scheduled in the coming months. Take a moment and check Wilella's Community Service Report to see what is coming up and check the dates with your schedules to see if you can help. I know Wilella appreciates any and all assistance she can get. Many of our members work during the day, and it leaves Wilella usually needing assistance from those members who are free during the regular workdays. If you can help, please call Wilella and let her know!

I hope you all have a safe New Year's Eve, and I also wish you a healthy and Happy New Year! Also...

Happy Growing,

Lou Ann



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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

#### Board of Directors for 2002

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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.

#### **Member News**

**Jennifer Busch is busy selling orchids in Hawaii and filling up her shadehouse, now double in size.**

**Best wishes to Jay Munn, who is recovering from pneumonia.**

**Happy Holidays to all OSA members and their families!**

**To include member news, please send your information to the editor at (602) 863-4477 or [ainsley@azorchids.com](mailto:ainsley@azorchids.com)**

In our December issue of "The Arizona Orchidist", I mentioned two programs on our schedule for January: an orchid seminar which we will present at the Yuma Home and Garden Show on January 12 and a hands-on program which we will present for the 8th grade science class at Desert Heights Elementary School, Glendale, on January 18. Details regarding our third helping-hand event in January, are now known.

Mark your calendars for Saturday, January 26! This year, as we did last year, OSA members will serve as spotters during the EQUESTRIAN SPECIAL OLYMPICS. The event is held at the Western Saddle Club arena, 12425 N. 7th St., Phoenix. Although the event begins at 9:00 a.

m., Fred and Julie Rathbun, long-time members of the Western Saddle Club, advise that OSA members arrive NO LATER than 8:30 a.m. so that we have time to register and get our identification ribbons. Wear your OSA t-shirts, if you've got them, and/or your OSA name badges. The Equestrian Special Olympics are held in conjunction with the Phoenix Parks and Recreation Special Olympics, but the Western Saddle Club is the major financial backer for the event. Hours are from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. and...LUNCH is s e r v e d !

Those of us who participated last year, not only got a LOT of exercise that we would not otherwise get (incidentally, the arena appears to grow with each passing

hour!), but we also knew that the children were grateful for our assistance because they frequently t h a n k e d u s .

At first blush, this event does not appear to bear any relationship to orchids. However, for those who need a reason to participate (other than the fact that we are helping those less fortunate than ourselves): when we wear our name badges and/or t-shirts, and the Master of Ceremonies, using the public address system, thanks OSA members, we are introduced to potential orchid growers who otherwise might not have known o f o u r e x i s t e n c e .



### 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, from craft stores, empty containers for rock

*Volunteers:* Friday, January 18 and Saturday, January 26

**Community  
Service  
Opportunities**

**SPECIAL KUDOS:** It's always interesting to count the number of plants OSA purchases during a particular year. In 2001, we purchased 912 plants for resale - a record number for us, and of those, JULIE RATHBUN stored, tended, and hauled approximately 98% of them! AND she demonstrated repeatedly her ability to select which plants OSA should purchase for resale at an event. (It's a combination art form/

science to learn to know how far along buds in development must be in order for buds to open on a particular date.) She expended a TREMENDOUS amount of effort for OSA's benefit! Thank you, Julie!! I know you believe that the work IS the reward, but it's always nice to be reminded that what you do on our behalf, IS greatly appreciated!

W. Stimmell

### 2002 OSA MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE DUE!

**For your convenience, a renewal form has been enclosed in this issue of the newsletter. For those of you who used the renewal form enclosed in your December newsletter, thank you for your prompt renewal.**



## Selby Vignette: *Laelia aurea*—a species hidden in greenhouses and undescribed for over thirty years

Dr. John T. Atwood, Curator of Orchids

When collecting plants in the tropics, new species lack labels marking them as undescribed. Nor do they jump out at you and plead “Describe me before I go extinct!” Gone are the days when nearly every organism in an unexplored land was new. Exceptions are taken with such distinct species as the slipper orchids, which are so well known that anything unrecognized is new. Today with over 50 species names (including synonyms), discovery of new species requires extensive knowledge of those already described—a task best undertaken by specialists who can focus on a smaller number of names.

Today, usually a new species looks suspiciously like something already described to which it is closely related. One of these is *Laelia aurea* (1) which resembles the white to lavender *Laelia rubescens* Lindl. in nearly every way except color. Yet, the yellow base color is strikingly different. Discovered in the 1950’s, it was interpreted as merely a yellow form of the variable *L. rubescens*. It was known that *Laelia rubescens* has a broad geographic range from Mexico to western Panama with different intergrading varieties of different sizes and colors from white to deep lavender. Four species now regarded as synonyms were described on the basis of these extremes. In this context, populations with yellow flowers

were discovered which unsurprisingly were accepted initially as yellow forms of *Laelia rubescens*. But it turns out there are other differences. Beside color, *L. aurea* has deeply furrowed pseudobulbs probably enabling them to shrivel more effectively with the dry season, more pronounced keels on the lip, and the midlobe of the lip is more heart shaped at the base than that of its better known sister species. Perhaps most importantly, the habitat of *L. aurea* is more often described as lithophytic on cliffs than epiphytic on trees, and its range is more northerly than that of *L. rubescens* in the states of Sinaloa, Durango, and Nayarit. Both species are cultivated easily with no special requirements.

Many species of attractive orchids were known a long time before being described. *Paphiopedilum hennisianum* once appeared as a photograph mislabeled as *Cypripedium lawrenceanum* in a gardening dictionary earlier in this century long before its description in 1976. Milton Warne published a photo of a paph in the *Bulletin of the Pacific Orchid Society* (1962) awaiting its description in 1983 as *Paphiopedilum adductum*. Perhaps the most glaring botanical embarrassment has been the relatively recent description of *Cypripedium kentuckiense* (2) over a hundred years after it was first known—this in a country

that is one of the best known botanically in the world. These are attractive orchids admired by a broad public. What about those less attractive orchids with more limited appreciation? What about all those other plant families, animals, protists, fungi, photosynthetic bacteria, and non-photosynthetic bacteria?

### REFERENCE

1. *Orquídea* (Méx.) 12:41-46, 1990.
2. *Phytologia* 48:426-428, 1981.

1. Marie Selby Botanical Gardens, Missouri Botanical Gardens. Mailing address: P.O. Box 566, Woodstock, Vermont 05091. Email: msbgatwood@aol.com



# January/February Orchid Checklist

**Cattleya** Watering and fertilizing will be at a minimum, as will potting. Be on the lookout for senescing sheaths on your winter-into-spring bloomers. Careful removal of the dying sheaths will still allow buds to develop without the danger of condensation-induced rot. Low light will lead to weak spikes, so, and as noted above, staking is critical. If you have a chance to get out to nurseries, there may still be a chance to acquire good plants in sheath for spring bloom. Getting them now not only ensures that you'll have them, but allows them to acclimate to your conditions and bloom at their best.

**Paphiopedilum** The standard *Paphiopedilum insigne*-derived hybrids, which are called "bull dogs" and "toads," are at their peak. Unlike most other orchids, they can

even be potted while in bud. There really is no wrong time to pot a paphiopedilum, and no other orchid responds so favorably to fresh mix and a cleanup. Keep an eye on watering until roots begin to grow.

**Phalaenopsis** Now is the peak of spike development, with the first plants in full flower. Staking and plant preparation is a must for those all-important spring shows. Correct staking now will give a better display and also make it much easier to transport to your society meetings and shows. Care with watering is vital to avoid mechanical damage to the flowers, as well as rot-related problems. Keep spent blooms cleaned up to avoid botrytis inoculation. Do not repot this month. Now you'll be seeing lots of phalaenopsis at orchid shows and sales.

**Zygopetalum** For the most part, the flowering season will have ended for this group, providing the grower a chance to do some repotting. The plants will then have a chance to become well established before the hotter months of summer arrive. Most growers use bark mixes, but some exceptional results have been seen lately using rock-wool blends. You may want to try this mix, but do not change your whole collection over to this new media until you are sure it is right for you. First, experiment with a few plants to see how they respond.

*Prepared by Ned Nash and James Rose.*  
[Http://orchidweb.org](http://orchidweb.org)



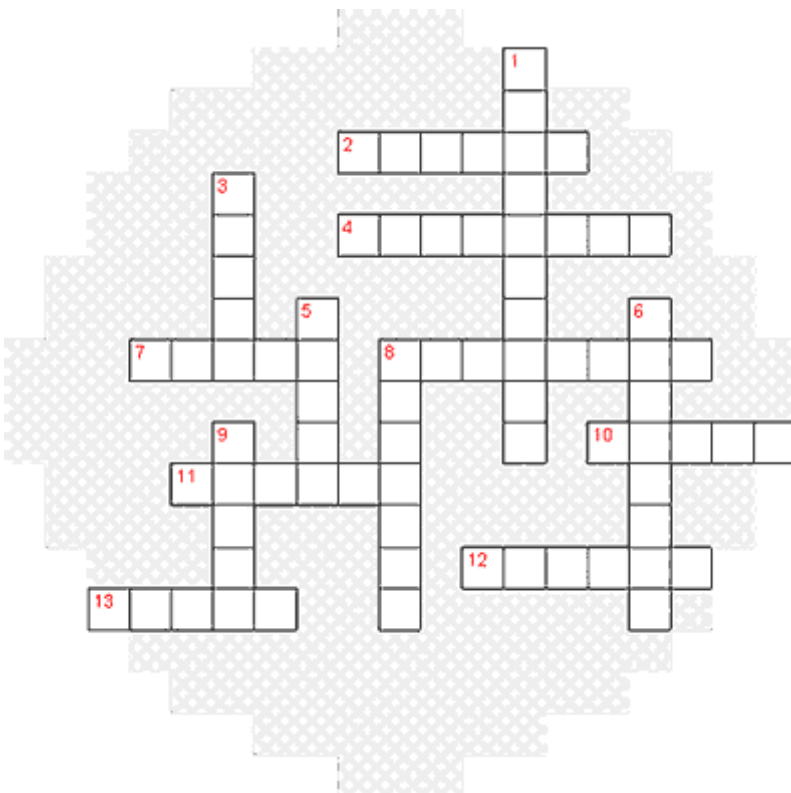
## ACROSS

2. flower destroyer
4. a potting media
7. nasty infestation
8. New Guinea Dens
10. causes abnormal flowers
11. deciduous Den
12. a disease
13. essential for flowering

## DOWN

1. rock-growing
3. monopodial orchid
5. off-shoot
6. syn. Den. phalaenopsis
8. small yellow Cat
9. sterilization tool

*Brain Teasers from orchidweb.org*  
 Answers published in Feb 2002 newsletter



"Some tips on buying clay pots: Hold them by the base and ping them with your finger, if it is a clear ring the pot is fine, if it makes a thud, it has internal cracks (even if the surface looks fine, repaired pots will still thud).

Clay pots should be soaked overnight before using for potting. This removes any surface chemicals used in the glazing and forming process, and ensures that the dry clay does not pull all of the moisture out of the media."

Eric Wolff  
Winterview Orchids and Supplies  
www.winterview.com



BUCKETS NEEDED!



AINSLEY NEEDS EMPTY  
CONTAINERS TO STORE LAVA  
ROCK FOR OUR COMMUNITY  
SERVICE PROGRAMS  
IF YOU HAVE ANY EMPTY 10-25  
LB. CONTAINERS WITH LIDS,  
SUCH AS; LAUNDRY DETER-  
GENT, CAT LITTER, PAINT  
BUCKETS, ETC., PLEASE BRING  
THEM TO ANY OF THE REGULAR  
MONTHLY MEETINGS.  
VOLUNTEERS WILL BE NEEDED  
IN FEBRUARY TO HELP CLEAN  
AND BAG THE ROCK FOR OUR  
NOVEMBER 2002 SHOW

Announcing The Second ORCHID  
DIGEST SUMMER INSTITUTE  
presented by the Orchid Digest at the  
Huntington Botanical Gardens, San  
Marino, California

Part I. Tropical Forests: their Epiphytes  
and their Conservation. Instructors:  
Harold Koopowitz and Tito Marchant  
Dates: June 22 and 23, 2002

Part II. Slipper Orchids in Depth.  
Instructors: Harold Koopowitz and  
Norito Hasegawa  
Dates: July 6 and 7, 2002

Limited enrollment via the web at [www.orchiddigest.org](http://www.orchiddigest.org)



## OSA LIBRARY ADDITION

**W. Stimmell**

Before OSA member, Jennifer Busch, relocated from Arizona to Hawaii, she wrote an article about her experiences growing orchids hydroponically. Jen's article appeared in our April, 2001 newsletter. Jen brought several of her hydroponically grown orchids, to our April meeting, and members crowded around the plants for a closer look at Jen's humongous phalaenopsis plants. In our February, 1998 newsletter, Rod Venger, of Venger's Orchids, authored the article, "Water Culture". And in our December, 1996 newsletter, "Water Culture of Phalaenopsis", written by the Dean of our society, Deacon Bell, appeared. Deacon wrote a final report on his experiment, which appeared in our August, 1997 newsletter. (For benefit of our newer members who joined OSA after February, 1998, if you are interested in reading the water culture articles, contact Wilella Stimmell for a reprint of the articles.)

A more scientific approach to growing orchids hydroponically, can be found in the new book, **THE WORLD OF ORCHIDS: A PRACTICAL GUIDE TO CULTIVATING ORCHIDS IN SOILLESS CULTURE**, written by Jack Ross. The author presents the results of his many years of research into orchid cultivation using hydroponic techniques. Subjects he covers are: media, water movement patterns and moisture retention properties of various media, appropriate EC (electrical conductivity) and pH levels of nutrient solutions; and the effect of environmental stress on orchids. Charts, graphs, and color photographs are effectively used throughout the book.

The author points out that growing orchids hydroponically is not a new concept. Indeed, in the past 50 years, many genera have been cultivated successfully using hydroponics. "What is new is the

development of a wide range of growing systems to cater for the small orchid enthusiast and the large commercial grower. There is also a better understanding of the role of various individual specialist elements in plant physiology..." (page 7).

About the author: Jack Ross AM (Member of the Order of Australia) became interested in orchids in the mid 1930's. While serving with the Royal Australian Air Force in New Guinea, Jack studied orchids in their native habitats. In 1982, he established a hydroponic research facility and began studying soilless culture systems best suited to orchid growing. He has also written **HYDROPONIC TOMATO PRODUCTION**.

A "must read", **THE WORLD OF ORCHIDS** will be available at our January 3rd meeting.



# OSA January 2002 Calendar



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3 OSA Meeting 7:00 p.m.	4 Lucy Redmond-Hall	5
6	7	8	9	10	11  Meaghan Socaciu	12 Community Service Project
13	14	15	16	17	18 CSP Mimi Brophy Silke Babcock	19
20	21	22	23  Ann Shaffer	24  Mike Oda Patrick Ferrell	25  Nelda Caldwell	26 Equestrian Special Olympics
27	28  Kristin Huisinga	29  Niki Hamilton	30	31		



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