



# The Arizona Orchidist

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## NEXT OSA MEETING

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, September 6, 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: Ainsley LaCour  
Edibles will be furnished by:  
Diana Sibley and Sally Grass

Janet Jurn,  
Refreshment Coordinator  
(623) 386-2741

## NEXT OSA BOARD MEETING

The next OSA board meeting will be  
Sunday, August 26, 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.

## GROWER ON CALL

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

## September Program

EASY TO GROW SPECIES is the topic of our September 6 program.

Jim Hamilton and Ron Ehlers, co-owners of Petite Plaisance, Valley Ford, CA, will present a combination slide program/mounting and potting demonstration.

In 1981, Jim and Ron started Petite Plaisance. At that time they were growing and hybridizing miltoniopsis, miniature cattleyas, and phalaenopsis. Ten years ago, their interest in species developed into a passion which overshadowed their earlier breeding programs.

Jim has served as President of the San Francisco Orchid Society and is currently a member of the AOS Trustees Committee for Publications. (During intermission at our meeting and/or via e-mail, members might want to comment on the design of ORCHIDS magazine. The AOS is in the process of redesigning the magazine, and Jim would like our feedback.)

THERE WILL BE A SILENT AUCTION OF PETITE PLAISANCE PLANTS during our meeting!

If members wish to visit the Petite Plaisance website, the URL is:

<http://www.sonic.net/orchids/>

Jim and Ron will be happy to bring special requests for members.

This will be Jim and Ron's first presentation for OSA, and we are very pleased that they agreed to brave our sweltering summer weather to be with us. Please extend the traditional warm welcome that we afford all OSA speakers!

W. Stimmell



# From the President's Desk

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Lou Ann Remeikis

I had such a nice e-mail from Pam Knapp after she was a visitor at the July meeting. Pam, and her husband, Bruce, had donated a CD program "Everything Orchid Management System" to our raffle, an extremely generous donation from someone visiting from out of state. Pam described our group as warm and comfortable and she thoroughly enjoyed our meeting. I love getting feedback like that from visitors who are members of other societies from around the country. To me, it means we're doing something right if everyone can come to a meeting and feel at home. We have a wonderful membership and it does my heart good to know that others see this too!

As I write this, I am getting very excited about going to Santa Fe, NM, to see Deacon Bell. Wilella Stimmell, Kelly Thomas and I are going for a visit with Deacon and to help him celebrate a belated 97<sup>th</sup> birthday! Norma Kafer, an OSA member who "summers" in Taos, and Keith Mead, an OSA member who now lives in Albuquerque, hope to be able to join in the celebration! It has been several years since I've been able to give Deacon a hug and I can hardly wait. OSA members who have joined in the last few years have only heard about Deacon – all I can say is to know him is to love him.

Our August speaker, George Kenner, made a donation to OSA's Library while he was here. Of course, we graciously accepted his kind offer! We now have a book on the Sarcophilus orchids and another on growing orchids of the Australian families. This is a great time to remind you that a benefit of OSA membership is the library resource. Take advantage of the library – check out a book – learn more about orchids! A book review would even be appreciated, if you are inclined to write a short article for the newsletter!

I hope everyone enjoyed George's presentation! I feel very fortunate to have won a couple of George's orchids from the silent auction table. I hope I can keep them looking as healthy as they were when I got them! I have never had an Australian orchid before, at least not to my knowledge, and I am anxious to see if I can get them into bloom!

Please look for an announcement of the next Show Planning Meeting! I will be making an announcement during the September meeting. The show dates are racing closer and closer, and we will be holding several planning meetings in the next two months. Please bring your calendar so you can "ink" the next show planning get-together.

October, November and December are filled with activities for OSA and we are always in need of help! October will find OSA being represented at the Gubler's Orchid Fair in Landers, CA. We will be conducting the Children's Orchid Clinic for Chris Gubler, as we have done for the last few years. November will be spent concentrating on our Annual Show and Sale, this year being billed as "Orchids in Toyland". In December we have our annual Live Auction at the meeting on December 6<sup>th</sup>. Our Live Auction is only as good as the members make it by donating items for the auction, soliciting donations from businesses for the auction, and by participating in our "lively and friendly" competitive bidding against other members and guests! I might add that the above events DO NOT include any of the regular Community Service Programs! A lot of planning goes into the fall schedule for OSA, so if you can find time from your busy schedule to help, it will be appreciated!!!

OSA board and regular members had a great time when we went to Prescott on July 29<sup>th</sup>! We took our donations of needed items to the veteran residents there and toured the greenhouse. The greenhouse was in beautiful shape, and it was obvious Betty Stephens, the greenhouse therapy coordinator, and her helpers had worked hard in preparation for our visit or they keep up with the maintenance on a regular basis. Either way, the greenhouse and the plants are quite impressive.

I am sad to report that during the August meeting, a members' car was stolen from the parking lot! The good news is that it was recovered. The bad news is that the vehicle was in such bad shape (just three hours later) that the insurance company totaled it! Theft of any kind leaves the victim feeling very violated, and this theft was no different! Thankfully there were minimal contents in the vehicle at the time of the theft, as most of the members' property had been brought in for the meeting. I would like to tell everyone to lock their vehicle during meetings so this won't happen to you, however this vehicle had been locked. I will suggest that if anyone takes a break during the meeting, or during our scheduled break, it may be a good idea to check on your vehicle and any suspicious activity occurring in the parking lot. Do not approach anyone you find loitering in the parking lot, particularly if you are alone. Contact me, someone with a cell phone or Marilyn in the office so officers can be dispatched to safely check things out. Hopefully this will NEVER happen again!!!

I look forward to seeing you at the September meeting! Please have a safe Labor Day Holiday!

Happy Growing –

Lou Ann



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



*Jeanette Socaciu, Jeanne James, Julie Rathbun, Wilella Stimmell, Bryan and Ainsley LaCour, and OSA*

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**

<b>President</b>	Lou Ann Remeikis	(480) 892-0263 remeikis@dancris.com
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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.

VGC Pancake Breakfast, October 7, 2001, 8:30 – 11:00 a.m. (All you can eat).  
Tickets are only \$5.00 and will be available at September and October regular OSA meetings.  
Breakfast held in conjunction with the VGC Annual Fall Festival.

On Tuesday, September 11, at 7 p.m., OSA will present a hands-on program for a group of physically and mentally handicapped adults at the WASHINGTON ADULT CENTER, 2240 W. Citrus Way, Phoenix. OSA members who would like to spend a little time with less fortunate folks, are welcome to participate in the program. And if time doesn't permit you to assist during the program, but you have blooming plants for the group participants to admire on our display table, please bring your plants to the September 6 meeting. Your plants will be returned to you following the program.

On September 24, at 10:30 a.m., OSA will present our Orchid 101 program for the members of the

SCOTTSDALE NEWCOMERS CLUB, Garden and Home Section, at 11277 E. Paradise Lane, McDowell Mountain Ranch, Scottsdale. For this program we need a blooming phalaenopsis which will be used in a door prize drawing. If any member has a plant to donate for this program, either bring the plant to our September 6 meeting, or phone (480) 947-8479/e-mail<wilellas@worldnet.att.net> to arrange for pick-up or delivery.

On Saturday, September 29, at 11:00 a.m., Master Gardeners of the University of Arizona Cooperative Extension will present programs during the FALL HOUSE and LANDSCAPE SHOW at the State Fairgrounds, 1826 W. McDowell Rd., Phoenix. Master

Gardener, Norma Kafer, arranged for OSA to present our hands-on program. Although we imposed no limit on the number of observers, we have imposed a limit of 25 on the number of children who participate. We will need workers and display plants!

Schools are in session again, and if you know of a school where our hands-on orchids programs would be welcome, pass the word! Programs are scheduled on a first come-first serve basis. OSA has a standing commitment to present programs during the MORONGO BASIN ORCHID FESTIVAL in Landers, CA. This event is always held the first weekend in October, but we still have one more date open in October for school programs.

**A big thank you to the following OSA members who generously donated their time and / or needed supplies to the residents at the Northern Arizona Veteran's Health Care Center in Prescott on July 29, 2001.**

**Nelda Caldwell, Pete and Jane Heckel, Gary Kooistra, Bryan and Ainsley LaCour, Alan Ladd, Bob MacLeod, Jay and Mercedes Munn, Ha Nguyen, Glenna Petro, Julie Rathbun, Lou Ann Remeikis, Dawn Schroeder, Jeanette Socaciu, and Wilella Stimmell**



## Community Service Opportunities

### Volunteers/ 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

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

*Blooming display plants:* September 11 and September 29

*Blooming phalaenopsis donation:* bring to September 6 meeting

*Volunteers needed:* September 11 at 7:00 p.m. and September 29 at 11:00 a.m.

Most of us appreciate that orchids need good water- the better the water, the better the growth. Of course, we're stuck here in the desert, where you may as well go down to the river, cut yourself out a slab of water, and drag it home. There's enough salts in the water to choke a horse, and it won't get any better as time goes on.

The only thing we have plenty of in the desert is sun. Normally, when you combine the two, you get mud cracks. Fortunately, it's also possible to distill water with it, producing water better than bottled stuff, and at least as good as distilled water that runs \$1.39 at my local supermarket. The difference? Not paying the \$1.39 for it.

I purchased plans from SolAqua ([www.epsea.org](http://www.epsea.org)) for building a solar water still. I won't go into details here, but they're not very good. If anyone wants to build their own, please contact me so I can tell you where to buy some of the products that are "easy to

find" according to the instructions. I built a small one (about 6 square feet, just large enough to make the neighbors wonder what I'm up to, but I've always said I'm not responsible for damage caused to people who peer over fences). It ran around \$110, took a couple of weekends and probably caused some temporary psychological damage to some innocent "Home Depot" employees.

Now it runs automatically; it fills off the sprinkler system on its own, and I collect about 3/4 of a gallon of pure water every day. At that rate, it'll pay for itself after less than 4 months. Best of all, I won't have to haul home jugs of water from the store for the orchid propagation lab, or my plants.

The still I built is a small one; larger ones are easy enough to construct, with a 3' x 6' still running about \$300 from parts, producing about 3 gallons of distilled water each day. Compare that to a \$300+ electric still that requires 25 cents of electricity or so per

gallon of water.

So, if you're buying bottled water for your plants, or are thinking about purchasing an RO unit for just a few plants, consider a solar still. SolAqua makes kits as well as finished units, as does Agua Del Sol (<http://www.aguadelsol.com>) in Safford, Arizona.

Stills are great for orchids, which almost invariably do better with good water. Distillation produces high quality water, suitable for phragmipediums or even disas. The water can also be used for cooking, drinking, or other consumption. My still is new, and I have yet to see how well it will do in all seasons, but I welcome questions.

I'm not affiliated with any of these organizations. I'll be happy to lend guidance to anyone who wants to build a solar still, or purchase one.

Aaron J. Hicks ([ahicks51@home.com](mailto:ahicks51@home.com))



## VIRTUAL GOODIES



<http://www.bookfinder.com>

So what does a book search Web site have to do with orchids you ask? Well, whether you are looking to replace your well-worn copy of *Home Orchid Growing* or looking for a complete set of *Reichenbachia*, This is the place to start. A free search engine of over 15,000 book dealers worldwide, BookFinder.com is a great tool to help you locate those orchid texts that you can't live without. Allowing you to search for a title in several ways, including locating signed copies and first editions, you can find exactly what you seek. Bargains are easily found since the listings are for used copies as well as new. Building an orchid library can be difficult, but with the aid of BookFinders.com, locating orchid books could not be any easier.

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

Collectible items that feature orchid motifs are available in local shops and on the internet. Some of the treasures are of recent manufacture, and some qualify as antique because they are 100 years old or older. A few antiques that feature orchid designs are so rare that the only opportunity we would ever have to see the items is if they were placed in an exhibit. For example, in 1988, it was my privilege to attend a jewelry exhibit at the Museum of Natural History in New York. On display and heavily guarded were 7 of the 24 Tiffany orchid brooches which were designed by Paulding Farnham and first shown at the Paris Exposition in 1889. (It is known from newspaper accounts at the time, that all the brooches were purchased within two days of their exhibition. Jay Gould, an orchid lover and owner of orchid greenhouses in Irvington-on-the Hudson, bought many of them for display purposes.) Each orchid design is realistic in detail, and each brooch features enameling and gems. They are, in a word, exquisite.

Starting this month, lovers of orchid objet d'art will have an opportunity to view a unique piece: the Tiffany orchid vase lamp. The enameled silver orchid vase was an important part of Tiffany's dis-

play at the Paris Exposition in 1889, where Tiffany won the grand prize for silver, and the vase's designer, Edward C. Moore, received France's Legion of Honor for his work in silver.

The vase is approximately 25" tall and measures 16" across. It "was raised from a single sheet of silver without seams or solder lines. Twelve tapering lobes, alternating between large and small, compose the body. The six large lobes are covered with falling sprays of enameled orchids, which drape, largest flower to smallest, from just below the vessel's neck and curve over the shoulder to terminate about two-thirds of the way down the vase. Each orchid is distinctive, realistic, and colored with an amazingly complex enameling pattern of four or five blended colors. Enamel colors include various shades of red, yellow, orange, lavender, peach, blue, green, white, and brown. All non-enameled surfaces of the vase are etched with elaborate floral and foliate designs... Deeper etching distinguishes the smaller lobes that separate the bands of orchids." According to Jana Seely, Hearst Castle curator, "Over thirty varieties of orchids cascade down the sides..." of the vase. (See color page insert.)

The vase was purchased in 1889 by Phoebe Apperson Hearst who commissioned Tiffany and Co. to convert the vase into a lamp. Upon Ms. Hearst's death, her son, William Randolph Hearst, inherited the orchid vase lamp.

Possibly seen by many guests who visited Hearst Castle during the past 42 years, the vase/lamp was "rediscovered" when Tiffany, conducting research for a new book about their unique silver creations, contacted the staff at Hearst Castle.

On view at Hearst Castle Visitor Center, San Simeon, CA, until Spring, 2002, the orchid vase lamp can be seen free of charge in the temporary exhibit area.

For directions and further information about Hearst Castle, visit their website at <http://www.hearst-castle.org>

References:

Jana Seely, "Found But Not Lost: Hearst Castle's Tiffany & Co. Lamp", SILVER Magazine, May/June, 2001, pp. 20-25.

Exhibition Notice. SILVER Magazine, July/August, 2001, p. 44.

**Orchids - Second Largest US Floral Crop**

According to the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Floriculture Crops Survey for the year 2000, compiled by the National Agricultural Statistics Survey, orchids have vaulted into the number-two position in flowering potted plants sales, well behind poinsettias (\$237 million), but significantly ahead of number-three chrysanthemums (\$73 million). At an astonishing \$100 million in reported wholesale sales, orchids are also ahead of such popular

florist staples as azaleas (\$55 million) and Easter lilies (\$35 million). Orchid sales showed by far the strongest growth in this category with a 21 percent increase over 1999 figures, with Florida narrowly edging out California, \$37.1 million to \$35.9 million.

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



Culture sheets for: **Bonatea speciosa**, **Sarcochilus hartmannii**, and **Sobralia macrantha** are now available to OSA members, upon request. These sheets contain color photographs and will not be included in the box of culture sheets that is found on the monthly raffle ticket sales table. To request a copy, phone Wilella Stimmell (480) 947-8479 or e-mail [wilellas@worldnet.att.net](mailto:wilellas@worldnet.att.net)  
 Please request copies prior to the day of our monthly meeting.

It was a pleasure to have George Kenner, Sr., of Kenner & Sons, Australian Orchids, speak about his specialty, Australian Dendrobiums and Sarcophilus. From his beautiful slide presentation, George is also an accomplished photographer.

George grows cool and warm growing species side by side in the same outdoor shade house in La Mesa, California. He grows most orchids in clay pots although he is finding success with translucent plastic pots. His typical medium is fir bark with Hydrolite, however, he has been known to throw in any medium he has lying around. He stresses that the key is correct watering and air circulation around the roots, not the medium used.

What does all this tell you about Australian Dendrobiums and Sarcophilus? They

are incredibly adaptable and hardy plants that can tolerate a wide range of mediums, light and temperatures.

Interestingly, the *Dendrobium speciosum* complex, which can display thousands of flowers on mature plants with a beautiful fragrance on sunny days, is a bit of a chameleon. It is not uncommon for the flower color to change from year to year. Anyone who purchased these plants should not be discouraged by their irregular yearly bloom pattern, it is also part of their unique charm.

George offered these tips to encourage spring flowering of *Dendrobium kingianum*: the plant needs approximately 60 days of 40 degrees minimum night time temperatures during the winter. Do not water until you see new growth in the

spring or if bulbs noticeably begin to shrivel. These plants will produce keikis from the tips of the older canes. Once the roots are at least an inch in length, they can be broken off and potted. However, for an outstanding spring flowering display, let these keikis remain on the plant and they will be more floriferous than the mother plant. Following George's advice, I expect to see many flowering *Dendrobium kingianum* plants on the show and tell table in the spring.

Congratulations to all the members who successfully bid on George's plants. Remember to take advantage of George's donation of reference books to keep your plants healthy. And for the adventurous ones in the group, don't forget George's tours to Australia and Asia.

**African Orchids Threatened by Epicurean Demand**

By Cat Lazaroff

NEW YORK, New York, August 2, 2001 (ENS) - More than 2.2 million wild orchids are being stripmined each year from a unique region in Africa, fueled by a growing demand to use the plants as food, says a report from the Wildlife Conservation Society. The report says that the orchids, some found nowhere else on earth, may soon vanish without better protection of their wild habitats and enforcement of existing laws.

According to the report, wide expanses of the Southern Highlands region of Tanzania where the orchids occur remain unexplored biologically. However, initial surveys show that the region contains a significant portion of the nation's biodiversity, much of it in the form of plant life. Some African orchids are harvested intensely for use in a local delicacy. This is *Calanthe sylvatica*, a semi-aquatic orchid from the Makete district of the Southern Highlands

To help protect this region, the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) is pushing to turn a key area of the Southern Highlands, called the Kitulo Plateau, into a national park. If established, the park will be one of the first pro-

tected areas in tropical Africa to be inventoried primarily on the merits of its flowers. But the plateau is currently under intense orchid harvesting pressure. The report says that up to 85 species are being rapidly depleted for use in chikanda or kinaka, a delicacy in which the root or tuber of terrestrial orchids is the key ingredient in a type of meatless sausage. Though the food has declined in popularity in Tanzania, it has become increasingly prevalent in neighboring Zambia, where it is fueling a booming international commercial market.

"Millions of orchids are being virtually stripmined from Tanzania's Southern Highlands," said WCS conservation biologist Tim Davenport. "At current rates, many species will be wiped out in a matter of a few years." All orchid species are protected by CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species), which requires certification of plants crossing international borders. However, scant knowledge of the trade's existence, and a subsequent lack of enforcement of CITES rules, has led to truckloads of uncertified plants entering Zambia each day.


Though rural Africans have consumed orchids for hundreds of years, the recent popularization of eating the plants in Zambia - especially in urban centers - has caused the recent boom in illegal trade, according to the WCS report.

The report found said that men and women from every age group dig up orchids in Tanzania to supplement their income. In some areas it is considered a family activity, with children assisting parents.

"Even primary school children participate in the collection during school holidays," Davenport said.

"The fact remains that the Southern Highlands are currently losing significant resources at an alarming rate," said Davenport. "The current trade in orchid tubers for consumption in Zambia is neither environmentally or economically in the best interests of Tanzania."

(Reference: Environment News Service <http://ens-news.com/ens/aug2001/2001L-08-02-07.html>)



*Member News-*  
*On the mend, Shirley Engberg and Karen Berger. We hope to see you at a meeting soon!*

Coffee filters can be used to keep media falling through small baskets and net pots. The root structure should develop enough to contain the media by the time the filter disintegrates.  
(Reference: <http://orchidweb.org>)



# OSA September 2001 Calendar



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3  <i>Lou Remeikis</i>	4	5  <i>Dennis Olivas</i>	6  <i>OSA Meeting</i> <i>7:00 p.m.</i>	7	8
9	10	11 <i>CSP 7:00 p</i>	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19  <i>Jeanette Socaciu</i>	20  <i>Chin Nguyen</i>	21	22  <i>Ainsley LaCour</i>
23/30 (23)-  <i>Mary Mitchell</i>	24 <i>CSP 10:30 a</i>	25	26	27  <i>Robin Warner</i> <i>Ross Babcock</i>	28  <i>Mary Shaffer</i>	29 <i>CSP 11:00 a</i>



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