



# The Arizona Orchidist

Published monthly by  
The Orchid Society of Arizona, Inc.  
Founding Editor- Clarence S. Lindsten,  
1966  
Volume 41 April 2004 Number 4

## 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, April 5, 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: Lou Ann Remeikis

Edibles will be provided by:

Barbara Parnell and Janet Jurn

Refreshment Coordinators:

Julie Langston

Ramona Jungwirth

## NEXT OSA BOARD MEETING

The next OSA board meeting will be  
Sunday, March 28, at 1:00 p.m.

Hosted by: Julie Rathbun

Please contact Julie  
for directions to her home,  
if you plan to attend

The meeting is open to all OSA members

## GROWER ON CALL

Julie Rathbun

jandfent@prodigy.net

## *April Program*

### WELCOME BACK CHRIS

OSA is pleased to welcome back as our speaker, **CHRIS GUBLER**,  
Gubler Orchids, Landers, CA.

The subject of Chris's presentation will be: **The Transition of Orchids  
in the Marketplace, and the Changes Reflected in Gubler Orchids.**

As a general rule, Chris does NOT speak to orchid societies, but he makes an exception for us! For the benefit of our newer members and guests: Chris majored in Ornamental Horticulture with minors in Botany and Marketing and graduated from California Polytechnic, Pomona. There are very few orchid nurseries in the US that are owned and successfully operated by third generation orchid growers. Gubler Orchids is one of those few nurseries.

Chris has been **extremely** generous with OSA. From him, and at rock-bottom prices, we purchase seedlings and supplies for our school programs, plants for sale at our shows, and he helps us fund our community service agenda by donating the proceeds from the adult programs we do each year at the Morongo Basin Orchid Festival. This year's festival will be held on Oct. 2 and 3 at Gubler Orchids. We will again happily participate, and this will be our **6<sup>th</sup>** year of participation!

Chris recently returned from a whirlwind trip to Japan and Thailand, and perhaps he will relate anecdotes regarding his adventure?

Please extend our traditional, warm OSA welcome to Chris, an honorary lifetime OSA member, AND to his lovely wife, Debbie!

Wilella Stimmell

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# From the President's Desk

Norma Kafer

The San Francisco trip was fun as always. We only had a brief sprinkle of rain Saturday morning. Jim Gordon, Julie Rathbun, Lou Ann Remeikis, Willie Stimmell and I made up the party. When we arrived at the booth of Dennis Olivas ,after the hug, he said that he already had plants to donate. He was ready for us. Willie has trained the vendors well. We rarely have to beg anymore. The school programs, as well as the scholarships that we give, are common knowledge and the vendors support our efforts.

Jim lusted after a huge vanda. Without my knowledge, it was decided to purchase that huge vanda for Jim as a thank you for all the support he has given to us for several years in printing the newsletter. Then we had to get it back to the hotel. Poor Lou Ann had the honors and it was easily as big as she is. It then had to be soaked in the bathtub to make the roots pliable enough to get in the box to bring it home. It arrived home with absolutely no damage. Good packing team.

During the show, we jotted down some humorous remarks we overheard. In describing a paph, "I love the simplicity of just the green and white". Another paph was proclaimed as a venus fly trap. Two females, "I should get one that is easy to take care of, one with lots of light". Wife to husband, "We will leave but not now, I've waited all year for this show".

Many of you have been members long enough to remember the scholarship that we awarded to Kristin Huisinga. That investment has paid dividends with Kristin working with the Hopi Cultural Preservation Committee. We now have the pleasure of awarding a scholarship to a deserving Hopi student to compile educational handbooks.

This month Chris Gubler will be our speaker. You know by now that we just love him. He has been extraordinarily generous to our society. We feel privileged that he will travel here as we are the only society to which he will speak.

\*\*\*\*\*  
 \* SHOW PLANNING MEETING \*  
 \* Mark your calendar! \*  
 \* The second planning meeting for our annual Orchid Show will be \*  
 \* held on Sunday, April 25th. The Show meeting will begin at Noon, \*  
 \* followed by the Board Meeting at 1 PM. We'll meet at the home of \*  
 \* Mike and Sharon Davis. You can contact them at 602.843.3288 for \*  
 \* directions. Please plan to attend! We really need your input and inspi- \*  
 \* ration! Both meetings are open to all OSA members; you are welcome \*  
 \* to attend one, or both sessions. Sharon Davis \*  
 \*\*\*\*\*



# COMMUNITY SERVICE REPORT

by Wilella Stimmell, CSP Coordinator

On March 1, we presented an Orchids 101 program for approximately 50 members of the **Sun Lakes Garden Club**, Sun Lakes, AZ. Some of the men and women sat with pen and paper poised and took notes during the presentation. They greatly admired the display plants and asked many questions during the program. The person who won the door prize phal, squealed with delight when her name was drawn as the winner. We also received a thank you note and donation from the garden club as an expression of their gratitude for the presentation and as a token of their support of our community service agenda.

On March 8, MARLENY CASTILLO, KATHY CLIFTON, NORMA KAUFER, JULIE LANGSTON, JULIE RATHBUN and I presented our hands-on program for approximately 25 Hispanic children enrolled in the **Las Sallas After School Program**. The children meet at Trinity Lutheran Church, 9424 N. 7<sup>th</sup> Ave., Phoenix. Some of the youngsters arrived before the start of the program and were served a meal by Las Sallas personnel. (Several of our program team members speculated that the meal the children were served in early afternoon, might be the only nutrition they would have that day!) Prior to the program, our concern was how to present information in one program, to children ranging in age from Kindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Our previous classes have been comprised of children who are all of the same age groups. However, we discovered that the "problem" was NOT the diversity of ages of children in one program. Rather, it was the fact that NONE of the children, regardless of their ages, appeared to have been exposed to the Discovery Channel. They therefore had little or no knowledge of the rain forests. It also appeared that none of the children had access to computers. In 9 years of presenting school programs, this was the first time we encountered this situation. Also, this was the first time we were told that the children didn't have milk at home, so they couldn't bring milk jugs for fashioning them into mini-greenhouses. Since we knew in advance of the program, that the children couldn't bring containers, we took all necessary containers with us. We cut the jugs before the start of the program.

One of the display plants had very tiny flowers, and we had taken a magnifying glass so that the children could verify that each flower had 6 parts. The children were far more impressed with simply handling a magnifying glass! A few of them carefully examined their fingers!

One of the phalaenopsis seedlings we took for the children to repot, had started a bloom spike. We decided that to be fair, we would ask them if anyone in the group was having a birthday that day. No one had a March 8<sup>th</sup> birthday. So then we asked if anyone had a birthday during the remainder of the week. All the children, except for one youngster, were hesitant to state that one or more might have a birthday that week. The lad who kept raising his hand was told repeatedly by one of the Las Sallas staff that he did NOT have a birthday that week. Finally, one of the Las Sallas staff members told us that one of the older girls in the group, did indeed have a birthday on Saturday, March 13. We presented her with the seedling that had a flower spike started, and tears welled up in her eyes.

These children were so needy and so appreciative that adults whom they did not know before March 8, cared enough about them to do something special for them. We have two new members to our program team: Kathy Clifton and Julie Langston!!

Special thanks to Safeway supermarket, Chaparral and Hayden, Scottsdale, for the donation of empty, gallon water jugs for the Las Sallas program!

On March 11, NORMA KAUFER and I presented a hands-on program for 20 highly motivated, enthusiastic, and appreciative Master Gardeners in **Mohave County**. The group met in **Kingman** and was composed of Master Gardeners from Bullhead City, Kingman, and Lake Havasu City. It was our longest program in 9 years! The participants kept asking questions, and we kept answering them until we noted that two HOURS had elapsed from the time we started our program. AND none of the Master Gardeners fell asleep during our presentation!

Our program was presented at the Mohave County Extension Office. Rob Grumbles, the County Extension Director, requested that we return the next morning so that he could interview us for his radio program. OF COURSE we consented! Before he started taping the interview, he mentioned to us that he would like to start a Mohave County Orchid Group, and we happily agreed to assist him! Interest was expressed in OSA returning in the Fall and presenting programs for one or more schools in Kingman. We will announce any programs as soon as they are added to our community service schedule.

Since we had committed to do a presentation at the Mohave County Home & Garden Expo at 11:45 a.m. on March 12, it was necessary for Norma and me to spend the night in Kingman. **Dennis Schroeder**, a Master Gardener and participant in our program at the Extension Office, is the owner of the **Hill Top Motel**, 1901 E. Andy Devine Ave., Kingman, phone (928) 753-2198, E-mail: hilltopmotel@citolink.net. Dennis afforded us complimentary lodging on the 11<sup>th</sup>. Thank you, Dennis!

On March 12, Norma and I presented our Orchids 101 program at the Home & Garden Expo. While the members of the audience were interested in the information we provided, and the grower who won the door prize phal was extremely pleased to receive the plant, we do not plan to participate in a future Mohave County Home & Garden Expo. We believe that our limited volunteer time is better spent working with school children and highly motivated adults.

## SPECIAL THANKS TO PACIFIC ORCHID EXPOSITION VENDORS

The varied assortment of plants found on our March 1 meeting silent auction was the result of EXCELLENT price reductions of plants sold to OSA by the following vendors:

**Lauris Rose**  
**CAL-ORCHIDS**

1251 Orchid Drive  
Santa Barbara, CA 93111  
Phone: (805) 967-1312

E-mail: [info@calorchid.com](mailto:info@calorchid.com)

Website: <http://www.calorchid.com>

**Sheldon & Pearl Takasaki**  
**CARMELA ORCHIDS**

P. O. Box 277  
Hakalau, Hawaii 96710  
Phone: (808) 963-6189

E-mail: [carmelaorchids@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:carmelaorchids@hawaii.rr.com)

Website: <http://www.carmelaorchids.net>

**John Oka**

**KAORU OKA ORCHIDS**

1346 Wilhelmina Rise  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96816  
Phone: (808) 734-0060

Lauris Rose and Sheldon & Pearl Takasaki are new supporters of OSA's community service agenda. John Oka's name is well known to OSA's annual POE visitors and to readers of our newsletters. His continued, generous support of our community service agenda is greatly appreciated! (It's "way cool" when a vendor as generous as John has been to us, says: "Take what you want." And he said that LONG before the close of the show!) For those of our readers who might not know: one of the MAJOR sources of revenue for our school programs and scholarships is from the sale of plants on our silent auctions. Please show YOUR appreciation for the helping hands extended by these vendors to OSA, by visiting their nurseries when you are in their areas, by purchasing plants from their online catalogs, or by purchasing plants from them at orchid shows you attend. And don't forget to sincerely thank them for all their help!

Last, but certainly NOT least of the generous vendors at Pacific Orchid Exposition who deserve our thanks are:

**Dennis Olivas** (OSA member!)

**D & D Flowers**

221 Netherby Place  
Pleasant Hill, CA 94523  
Phone: (925) 969-1246

E-mail: [d.olivas@comcast.net](mailto:d.olivas@comcast.net)

Dennis DONATED a large assortment of plants, many of which were placed on our March 1 silent auction table. As our bidders discovered, these plants were highly desirable. Dennis intended for OSA to make "lots of money" on the sale of these plants, therefore we decided to place quite a few of them on the silent auction and hold the remainder for future raffles. This was certainly NOT the first time that Dennis has donated plants to OSA! Thanks, Dennis!! (The sale of raffle tickets is another source of income for OSA.)

Thanks to Pearl and Sheldon Takasaki (**Carmela Orchids**) for not only greatly reducing the prices of the plants that OSA purchased for our silent auction, but also for DONATING several plants to us. The donation was especially heart-warming because it was UNSOLICITED! Those plants were also placed on our March silent auction.

A special thank you to **The Orchid House** for offering to reduce the price of the HUGE vanda that Jim Gordon admired. When we explained to Patti that we had never thanked Jim with a token of our appreciation for 5 years of his donating office supplies so that we could copy our newsletters at no cost to OSA, without a second's hesitation, PATTI suggested a reduced price on the plant because the plant "was for a worthy cause". Thanks Patti!! Unsolicited helping hands are always greatly appreciated!!

*Wilella Stimmell*

# LEAFLESS ORCHIDS

During our orchid growing experience, we are all bound to sooner or later encounter leafless orchids. This is generally a cause for weeping, wailing, gnashing of teeth, and pulling of hair especially with beloved award winning equitant oncidiums!!

However, there are actually some orchids that nature has designed to be leafless and still thrive and flower. Nature has provided us with 4 major classifications of leafless orchids: 1) Leafless epiphytes; 2) Deciduous epiphytes (seasonally leafless); 3) Deciduous terrestrials (seasonally leafless); and 4) Saprophytes (not in cultivation). The leafless epiphytes are the focus of this website.

Leafless epiphytes are found in tropical regions across the globe. While all of the listed genera are described as leafless, there are actually two major growth patterns. Some are truly leafless orchids, since they live their entire lives without leaves. Their vestigial leaves have degenerated into small scale like structures called bracts. These have the entire photosynthetic process taking place in the green roots which are specially adapted, and are more dependent on mycorrhiza fungus and algae symbionts. Other genera have ephemeral leaves that are soon shed, this is especially true of some of the Asian-Pacific genera such as Chiloschista and Kingidium.

Almost all of the leafless orchids are in the Vandae Tribe. The Aeridinae Subtribe contains Chiloschista, Kingidium, Microtatorchis, and Taeniophyllum (Asian/Pacific genera). The Angraecinae Subtribe contains Campylocentrum, Dendrophylax, Harrisella, and Polyrhiza/Polyradicion (New World genera). The Aerangidinae Subtribe contains Encheiridion, Microcoelia, and Solenangis (African genera). The exception is Vanilla which is in the Subfamily Epidendroidae, Tribe Vanilleae, Subtribe Vanillinae and are found worldwide.

## GENERA:

**Campylocentrum:** This genus of 96 species is found from Florida, the Caribbean, Central America, and South America. Not all the members of this genus are leafless.

**Chiloschista:** This genus contains 23 species and is found from India and southern Asia into the islands of the Pacific and Australia. Plants may have ephemeral leaves especially during summer growth spurts.

**Dendrophylax:** This genus of 11 species is found only in the Caribbean. The latest research indicates that Polyrhiza should be included in this genus.

**Encheiridion:** This genus is found only in Africa, and is closely related to Microcoelia. Differing sources list it as having one to three species.

**Harrisella:** This genus of four species is found in Florida, Jamaica and Cuba. DNA studies may relegate it into Campylocentrum or Dendrophylax.

**Kingidium:** This genus of ten species containing two subgenera is found in Southeast Asia and it also was placed in Phalaenopsis and Doritis at various times. The first subgenera has seven species and some taxonomists place it into the subgenus Aphyllae of Phalaenopsis. These are the leafless Kingidium. Growers report that some species in this genera are more of a deciduous nature only losing their leaves under stress or drought. Under the more benign conditions of cultivation, plants can retain their leaves year round. The other section is more closely related to Doritis and is placed in Phalaenopsis, subgenus Phalaenopsis, section deliciosae.

**Microcoelia:** This genus contains 39 species and is found from Madagascar through tropical Africa. Gussonea is an older name for Solenangis and Microcoelia, sometimes still seen in trade. There are two major types of habitat, open thickets and deep forest.

**Microtatorchis:** Found in the Pacific islands with a center of distribution in New Guinea, not all of the 16 species are leafless.

**Polyrhiza:** Also known as Polyradicion, this genus has three to five species and is found in Florida and the Caribbean. All species are synonymous with Dendrophylax species, and initial DNA studies include them back into Dendrophylax.

**Solenangis:** This genus of seven or eight species is found from Madagascar through tropical Africa. Gussonea is an older name for Solenangis and Microcoelia, sometimes still seen in trade. Most species are leafy, with only S. aphylla being leafless.

**Taeniophyllum:** This genus of 218 species is found from India to Australia, and the Pacific islands in between. There are probably many duplicates, but further research will have to be done. There is also a single emigrant to Africa, T. coxii.

**Vanilla:** This genus contains 186 species and is pan-tropical, found in the Americas, Africa, Asia, and the Pacific islands. However, not all species are leafless. Some of the leafless species are aphylla, barbellata, decaryana, and dilloniana.

**Others:** Additionally, there are some other species which are reported to be leafless, such as Mystacidium gracile. However, Mystacidium gracile has leaves, but sheds them when stressed similar to Kingidium.

## DISTRIBUTION:

**The Americas** have five leafless genera; Campylocentrum; Dendrophylax; Harrisella; Polyrhiza; and Vanilla. However, there may only be three genera when the DNA studies are completed on Harrisella and Polyrhiza so I have grouped them with the appropriate genera.

**Africa** has at least four leafless genera: Encheiridion; Microcoelia; Solenangis; and Vanilla. Also Mystacidium gracile is seasonally leafless and T. coxii is an immigrant.

**Asia** has at least four leafless genera: Chiloschista; Kingidium (Phal); Taeniophyllum; and Vanilla.

**Australia and the Pacific Islands** have at least four leafless genera: Chiloschista; Microtatorchis; Taeniophyllum; and Vanilla.

*Special thanks to Jim Watts for allowing us to reprint his article .*

*Please visit his website <http://www.dreamwater.org/jim4eq/index.html> for photos and specific culture information.*

## **2004 OSA MEMBERSHIP ROSTERS:**

Rosters will be available at our April meeting. Keep in mind that ONE roster per household will be given and that newsletter-only rate members do NOT receive rosters. Additionally, **recycle** the clear plastic report cover from your 2003 roster. Simply remove the previous roster, staple and save (or discard), and insert the new roster into the report cover. Those covers were a one-time only expense. If you lost your roster cover and/or your dog or cat ate it, if you want a replacement roster cover, feel free to purchase another roster cover. However, this is NOT an expenditure that will be reimbursed by OSA. Also, if any member neglected to note an e-mail address on his/her 2004 renewal form, no e-mail address is included for that member. Other items you might have neglected to mention on the renewal form, may be added to a correction page at a later date. BUT you need to let us know of any corrections.

## **AMERICAN ORCHID SOCIETY DUES INCREASE:**

In case you missed the announcement of a dues increase in the March issue of ORCHIDS (page 239) – Effective June 1, 2004, AOS dues will be raised from \$40 per one-year single membership dues, TO \$46.50; two-year single: TO \$84.00. If you wish to renew your membership at the old rate, your membership dues must be received at AOS Headquarters by May 31, 2004.

Residents of the **Arizona State Veteran Home** thank you! It is encouraging that more individual OSA members are donating soda pop and/or funds for the purchase of liquid and snacks that the veterans "purchase" with bingo scrip in the Gift Shop. Know that the residents truly appreciate your generosity! EACH MONTH we donate soda pop and individual size snacks. As our daytime temperatures climb, we're going to try an experiment: including flavored water as a part of our monthly donation. Keep those donations coming!

## **Gentle Reminder About Donations for our Raffle Table:**

We welcome donations of plants and orchid related items for our raffle table. The sale of raffle tickets is one of our sources of income. Healthy and/or blooming plants generate more ticket sales. However, sometimes obviously UNHEALTHY plants are donated to the raffle. Before you donate a nearly-dead plant that perhaps a "newbie" grower might select from the raffle table, ask yourself if **you**, as a "veteran" grower, would appreciate receiving an unhealthy plant or one with a visible "bug" problem?

## **For Sale**

### **Two-Tier Light Cart**








Originally purchased from *Gardeners Supply*. It can be viewed on-line at [www.gardenerssupply.com](http://www.gardenerssupply.com). Size is roughly 5' long, 20" deep and 5-1/2' high. Complete with light fixtures and bottom trays.

Please call David Nunamacher (623) 536-3355 or e-mail [rprice21@cox.net](mailto:rprice21@cox.net) if interested.



# OSA April 2004 Calendar



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1  <i>Bob MacLeod</i>	2  <i>August Lorenzini</i>	3
4	5 <i>OSA Meeting 7:00 PM</i>	6	7	8	9  <i>Steve Lamoreau</i>	10
11	12  <i>Sally Griffith</i>	13	14	15  <i>David Nunamacher</i>	16	17
18	19	20  <i>Lois Sauer</i>	21  <i>Ava Deering Sam Weinschenk</i>	22 <i>EARTH DAY</i>	23	24
25 <i>Show Planning Meeting at Noon</i>	26	27	28	29	30	



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