

Tucson Orchid Society Newsletter

July 2015

Monthly Meeting: Wednesday, July 15, 7:30 PM

Bugs, Culture, Potting, and Plant Clinic

Moderator: Wes Addison

Bring in some of those plants that need attention and lets talk about what might be done to help them. Come and share your experiences - successes and failures. This meeting requires lots of participation in order to work! Our discussion will be moderated by Wes Addison, a long time orchid society member.

How many times have you gone into your greenhouse or growing area and looked around and said to yourself - **Wow everything is growing great!** Then a couple of days later a friend comes by and says what are all those white things on your orchid. Of course you are shocked when you look and realize that what you thought was a wonderfully growing collection turns out to be **infected with BUGS** and lots of them.



How often have you **re-potted your orchids** checking them out often to see how they are growing and come to the conclusion that the re-potting went really well. Then six months later **half of the orchids are dead**. What happened? Why did they die? Why did they look better four months earlier?

How many times have you looked at your orchids one day and they **look fine** and the next day some of them are covered in **black spots** or leaves have fallen off? Why did this happen? Those are some of the questions we will discuss at our next meeting.

We as a group will discuss what happened to those **plants we re-potted last summer**. What went right. What went wrong. And what we might be able to do to correct for the problems that have arisen or to continue on with what have proven to be good re-potting techniques. For those of you who shared your repotting techniques last summer, **bring some of those orchids back** so we can see the results. For those of us who experienced less than acceptable results don't bring in the dead orchids or the empty pots but **be ready to talk about the failures**.

Bugs, those nasty little critters, are always a good topic to discuss. I have lots of experience with bugs and in letting them go from the "*oh, there is one*" stage to "*what the heck happened*" stage. Every year more pesticides come onto the market and techniques for preventative treatment. We will discuss biological, chemical and bacterial treatments of pests. **Everyone should have horror stories about bugs** so help us out and bring your stories and suggestions.

Recently, with my newest fascination is with paphs. I have been discovering and dealing with the **fungal and bacterial killers** of that genera. I use the word *dealing* with in the loosest terms since I have harmed more paphs in trying to treat them than I have saved. We all have had those nasty black spots cover the leaves of our broad leaved orchids from time to time or suffered from flower spotting or crown rot along with numerous other forms of root rot.

Bring in some of those plants that need attention and lets talk about what might be done to help them. See you at the meeting!

President's Corner (by Jim Santino)

Well, the heat is on and many of you with greenhouses may be noticing changing conditions in your plant environments, or ecosystems, within. If you are air conditioning, your electric bill will certainly show a change but if you are using evaporative cooling then - no doubt - **temperatures are elevated throughout the day**. Similar conditions may exist if you are growing indoors.



So here are a few considerations. **My greenhouse watering schedule has increased** from once every 6-7 days in the winter to every 4-5 days in spring to every three days presently. Humidity will rise dramatically at night and drop dramatically during the daytime temperature peak. I have a **mister system on a timer** that turns on mid afternoon for ten minutes or so. Remember, plants in a warm greenhouse like humidity. Air conditioners rob humidity from the atmosphere. "Cold is the absence of heat" so as your air conditioner removes heat it also removes humidity and the need to replace it becomes important. Air movement is critical; **keep the fans going**. One last thought, **do not substitute humidity for watering**.

Did someone say bugs!!! OK I'll say it, bugs. Tis' the season. If you are not on the lookout for these **little greenhouse terrors**, do it now. If you have ants they will carry scale eggs. Examine two or three of your **plants every day**, especially under the leaves and in the axles. Do not let your guard down on this as it can quickly escalate. Enough said?!

Our continued best wishes to Mike Barretti who is still battling health problems. I hope he soon returns to our meetings. On another note the TOS board is looking for **candidates for president and vice-president** in 2016. To qualify you must have an interest in orchids and be willing to invest a minimal amount of time monthly. Please see Jim Santino.



Greenhouse tours are coming up. **Mine on July 18th** and Mike Barretti's in August. See you at the **Plant Clinic** at our July 15th meeting.

Happy Growing, Jim Santino (subbing for Mike Barretti)

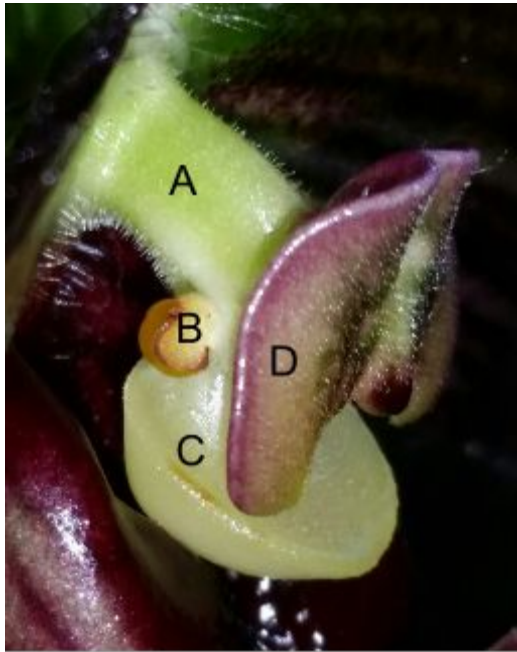
New Column: The Orchid Of The Month Judy Forester

I am starting a new ongoing column: *The Orchid Of The Month*. Each article will appear in our **newsletter, on our website, and on our Facebook** page. We have a lot of experienced growers in TOS and this is an opportunity to share our knowledge and love of orchids with others. Letting others see and learn how to **grow proven plants** is a good way to attract new members and cultivate the ones we have.

This month's article features *Encyclia Radiata*. I will be asking everyone to do an article, so think about which of your plants you want to write about. If the plant is in bloom at the time, so much the better. Stay with orchids that grow well and flower here in southern Arizona, either in a greenhouse, on a window sill, or outdoors. **Please volunteer your candidate plants!** The vitality of this column depends on your participation.

Education Corner by Marie Hirsch and Doug Forester

What Does That Orchid Word Mean?



Paphiopedilum
Reproductive Organs

Column (col-um) (A)

The orchid's reproductive organs are combined onto a single column (a gynostemium) unlike the usually separate male stamen/anther and female pistil/stigma configurations of other flowers. This is the primary identification feature of an orchid.

Anther (AN-ther) (B)

At the top of the column is the male anther which contains packets of pollen called pollinia. The pollinia may be reached by removing the anther cap which protects it. The paph (photo left) has two fertile anthers, one on either side of the column.. It also has one infertile anther which has evolved into a staminode (see below).

Anther cap (AN-ther kap)

The covering of the pollinia or pollen-masses on the flower's column. The (light brown) sticky, waxy cap is what gets stuck to the leg or body of an insect as it brushes against the structure. As the insect moves away, it carries the cap, and the attached pollen mass with it – perhaps to the stigma of this flower, or perhaps to the stigma of a nearby flower of the same species.

Stigma or Stigmatic surface (STIG-mu) (C)

The stigmatic surface lies below the anther. It's a shallow, usually sticky, cavity in which the pollen is placed for fertilization. On some plants (but not paphs), there is a small growth called the rostellum which acts as a protective barrier to prevent self-pollination.

Staminode (STAM-i-node) (D)

The staminode is a third (and, perhaps, fourth?) anther that has evolved into a fleshy plate. It sits in front of the other two and assists in luring and guiding pollinators across the anthers and stigma.

Velamen (vel-LAY-min) The velamen of an orchid is the white or silvery cover on roots of epiphytic orchids. This is a multilayered structure (multiple epidermis) of dead cells with special thickenings in the cell walls. The special thickenings seem to prevent cellular collapse and provide the root with some protection from mechanical injury. When the root is wet, the velamen fills passively with water, aided by perforations or tears in the walls from when the roots went through a drying cycle. While dry, the velamen may provide a barrier to water loss via transpiration from the wet, internal cells of the root.



Velamentous (vel-LAY-men-tus)

A plant which has velamen covered its roots.

Orchid of the month Judy Forester's *Encyclia radiata*

Encyclia radiata is a South America species and a natural epiphyte. I have seen them growing on trees in Belize and Costa Rica but they are very happy growing in a pot, mounted, or on a window sill. I have been growing this plant since 1999, and it is an easy grower and **very reliable bloomer**. This year, mine has been in bloom since April and is showing no sign of stopping. These upside-down flowers **smell like honey** and will perfume the room or a greenhouse.



I grow mine on the northeast end of my greenhouse in a section that is **without shade cloth**. The tops of the plants are within 12" of the roof and get very strong light. The greenhouse temperature ranges from 50° at night in the winter to a daytime high about 90° during summer. My radiata has survived much higher temperatures for limited amounts of time with some sun burn on leaves when "something breaks" in the greenhouse. The greenhouse waters all plants automatically every four days this time of year. The greenhouse humidity is higher than most others.

This lovely plant is suitable for all growers from beginner to expert and is, in my opinion, a must for any collection. It is very temperature tolerant, and can be grown in a house or a greenhouse. Producing several new growths per year, it can be **easily grown to a specimen sized plant**, or kept at a desired size by dividing. Your orchid growing friends will be delighted to receive divisions.

Synonyms for *Encyclia radiata* include *Prosthechea radiata*, *Ancheilium radiatum*, *Epidendrum marginatum* and *Epidendrum radiata*.

Plant characteristics:

Height: 10-12"

Growth type: Upright with spindle-shaped pseudo-bulbs and a 2-3 medium green narrow leaves on each bulb.

Spike: 4-6" long carrying 6-12 flowers

Flower size: 1 1/2"

Flowers: white, creamy or greenish colored that present upside down with a cockleshell-shaped lip. They smell delicious!!

Bloom season: In Tucson, late spring into summer. Growers often list this plant as blooming from September to winter.

Temperature: Intermediate to Warm

Pot size: 6"

Potting medium: regular orchid mix containing bark

Re-pot: After blooming when new growths appear and new roots are about 1/2" long or when plants are growing over the edge of the pot. I have found that plants are happier when re-potted yearly. Divisions containing about four pseudo-bulbs will produce a nice-sized plant.



Barry's collection The Gift That Keeps On Giving

Barry McCormick, an expert grower and long time member of Tucson Orchid Society, has started phasing out his orchid collection. His goal is to have it gone by the end of the year. He has generously chosen to **give the plants to the club**. Most of his collection is made up of awarded Cattleyas and Dendrobiums, and a few others.



He is selecting a few plants each month that are ready for re-potting. Then he **bare-roots and divides** them, bringing the ten or twelve best divisions to our meeting. He will tag them and provide an information sheet with a picture and blooming data.

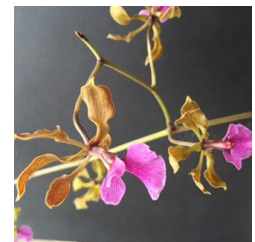
The advantage of bare-rooting is that it is easier to make sure they are clean, and they can go right into the new grower's preferred mix. We will **raffle them off at the meetings for free**, BUT you must be present to win!

This month Barry will bring in plants bare-root without dividing them, so that Wes can use them in the Plant Clinic to demonstrate divisions.

The collection that Barry is giving us is a wonderful gift. Please grow them well and make divisions to share, as well, for a gift that keeps giving. **Please thank Barry personally at the meetings.**

Greenhouse Open House Scheduled

The next greenhouse open house is scheduled for **Saturday, July 18** from 1-4 PM at Jim Santino's home. Call him for directions if you need to. Jim's address is [1807 N. Flint Ridge, Tucson, AZ 85715](http://www.google.com/maps/place/1807+N+Flint+Ridge,+Tucson,+AZ+85715). His phone number is 488-2500.



Calendar of Events

Jul 15 meeting - Re-potting and plant clinic

Jul 18 Jim Santino greenhouse tour, Saturday, July 18 from 1-4 pm.
[1807 N. Flint Ridge, Tucson, AZ 85715](http://www.google.com/maps/place/1807+N+Flint+Ridge,+Tucson,+AZ+85715). Phone 488-2500.

Aug 19 meeting - Ron Coleman "The Orchid Crescent"

Aug 22 Mike Barretti greenhouse tour. Saturday, Aug 22 from 1-4.

Sep 16 meeting - Mary Gerritson of San Francisco Orchid Club - The Orchids of Borneo

Sep 19 Ron Coleman greenhouse tour. Saturday, Sept 19, 1-4 PM.

Oct 21 meeting - Graham Wood on Paphs

Nov 11 - Club auction

Dec 5 - Holiday potluck and annual meeting

Jan 20, 2016 meeting - Bob Fuchs of Fuchs Orchids in Florida

Feb 17, 2016 meeting - Ron Parsons

Mar 5-6, 2016 – 19th Annual Fiesta de las Flores. Mesquite Valley may have their new greenhouse facility open by then for us to display in.

Mar 16, 2016 meeting - Thomas Miranda

Cookie List

Jul 15, 2015	Ron Norman	Oct 21, 2015	Beth Woodin
Aug 19, 2015	Dianne Turausky	Nov 4, 2015	Tony Knight (Annual Auction)
Sep 16, 2016	Carolyn Addotta	Jan 20, 2016	_____

Membership Dues Reminder: if you haven't paid your **membership dues** for 2015, they are \$12 and due now. You may pay by check or cash at the meeting. For those who cannot attend the meeting, you may mail your check to the Treasurer, Jim Wilcoxon, 9662 E Hickory Tree Place, Tucson, AZ 85749.

General Meeting Information

The Tucson Orchid Society regularly meets on the **third Wednesday** in January through October. Members are encouraged to bring orchids in bloom for **show and tell**. In November, the Society holds a fundraising **auction** of plants donated for that purpose. In December, we have a wonderful, relaxing **potluck** with a greenhouse tour, combined with a short business meeting and election of officers.

The monthly meetings are held at the [Gem & Mineral Society Building](#) (Adobe Bridge Club entrance), 3727 E. Blacklidge Dr., Tucson, AZ 85716 at 7:30 PM. From the intersection of East Ft. Lowell and North Dodge, go two blocks south on Dodge, turn left on Blacklidge. The building is on the north side of the street.

The Newsletter

The newsletter is published January through November. If you have something you would like to have published in the newsletter that is of general interest, don't hesitate to contact the newsletter editor, Judy Forester. The deadline is two weeks prior to the monthly meeting.

TOS Officers

President	Mike Barretti	mbarretti@msn.com
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Treasurer	Jim Wilcoxon	jfw@theriver.com
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Newsletter	Judy Forester	judyf.ccn@comcast.net
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Show Chair	Wes Addison	
Auction Chair	Mike Barretti	
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