

# Tucson Orchid Society Newsletter

August 2015

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**Monthly Meeting: Wednesday, August 19, 7:30 PM**

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## The Orchid Crescent

**Ron Coleman**

The Orchid Crescent discusses the rare orchids that in the United States grow only in the fertile crescent within 100 miles of the Mexican border stretching from Tucson to Big Bend National Park in Texas. Our Sky Island habitat creates environments more typical of Mexico in this Orchid Crescent. There are about 19 orchids that grow there and no place else in the United States. Some of the orchids such as *Dicromanthus cinnabarinus* are strikingly beautiful. Some such as *Malaxis corymbosa* are so tiny you need a hand lens to see them. The talk covers each of the orchids, when they bloom and where they grow.

The photo at left is of Ron in New Hampshire with the white orchid *Cypripedium acaule* at his feet.

Ron belongs to an organization called the Native Orchid Conference that holds yearly meetings in different part of the United States and Canada just to study and see our wild orchids. The Native Orchid Conference is planning their 2016

meeting here in order to see these rare orchids. Come listen to the Orchid Crescent and learn what the excitement is all about.



Ron has been a member of the Tucson Orchid Society since 1994 and has been growing orchids for over 40 years. His plants have earned multiple AOS awards including AM, HCC and CCM. His



interest in native orchids dates from a chance discovery of *Corallorhiza mertensiana* in Washington in 1972. Since that time he has devoted weekends and vacations to seeking and studying native orchids. He enjoys searching for wild orchids wherever he may be and has found them in England, Puerto Rico, Canada, as well as most parts of the lower 48 states including Hawaii and Alaska.

Ron is a frequently-published author with over 30 orchid articles to his credit, most dealing with native orchids. They have appeared in the American Orchid Society Bulletin (now know as Orchids), The Orchid Digest, Fremontia, and Selbyana. Two wild orchid species are named after him, and he has described two new taxonomic categories.

## President's Corner

Hi Everyone.

I have not been to any meetings for a few months as I have been healing from my surgery, I hope to be back and ready to work this month. I understand that the culture meeting went very well. I hope it helped some of the newer members sharpen up their skills.

I am hosting an open house this month. My greenhouse needs some work as I have been unable to work in it since May. I have started cleaning up and I hope that it will be in good shape in time for the open house. I want to take this opportunity to thank Jim Santino and Jim Wilcoxon for watering for me while I was sick. We have wonderful members in this society and any of you should feel free to call on other members when you need help with something orchid.



This month we have Ron Coleman speaking. He is an expert on native orchids and has written books and articles on the subject.

Greenhouses are having a tough time this month with all the humidity the evaporative coolers are not doing as well. The orchids can handle daytime heat if it is humid. Nighttime is a problem in that there is not a good differential in terms of temperature drop. I always notice how the orchids are done with monsoon and looking forward to cooler and drier weather. They are not the only ones.

See you at the meeting.

Mike Barretti

## Barry's collection The Gift That Keeps On Giving

Barry McCormick, an expert grower and long time member of Tucson Orchid Society, has been phasing out his orchid collection. 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.

We will **raffle them off at the meetings for free**, BUT you must be present to win! 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, August 22** from 1-4 PM at Mike Barretti's home. His address is [1889 South Abrego, Green Valley, AZ 85614](https://www.google.com/maps/place/1889+South+Abrego,+Green+Valley,+AZ+85614). His phone number is 625-4339 if you need to ask for directions..

# Education Corner by Marie Hirsch and Doug Forester

## What Does That Orchid Word Mean?

### **Listera** (LISS-ter-a)

Until 2012, this was a separate genus of mostly dwarf terrestrial orchids found throughout the Northern Hemisphere. It has now been combined with the genus *Neottia* (see below). It is native to the US from Southern Alaska south to NW California, also in Utah. It is commonly called Twayblades because of two small blades found on the flower stem. It was found in 1813 by Robert Brown and the name commemorates Dr. Martin Lister (1638-1711), an English physician and naturalist.



### **Neottia** (nee-OTT-ee-a)

*Neottia* is a genus of relatively small terrestrial orchids, which now includes plants formerly in the genus *Listera*. The genera were combined as a result of genetic tests, finding *Neottia* evolved from *Listera*.

Plants of the former genus *Listera* have **chlorophyll** and are hence gaining their energy from photosynthesis. Plants of the formerly narrowly defined genus *Neottia* lack chlorophyll and are dependent on fungi for their nutrition (mycotrophic). The flowering stem has a number of greenish or brownish bracts at the base. In the photosynthetic members of the genus there are also two more-or-less opposite green leaves (very rarely more than two in *Neottia ovata*). The flowers are individually small, in shades of green, yellow, brown or red to purple. The lip is usually much larger than the other five **tepals**, and is almost always deeply divided into two lobes at the end. The other five tepals may form a loose hood. The pollinia are not stalked.

### **Tepal** (TEE-pul)

A **tepals** is the term used to identify one of the outer parts of a flower (collectively the perianth) when these parts cannot easily be divided into two kinds, sepals and petals. This may be because the parts of the perianth are undifferentiated (i.e. of very similar appearance), as in *Magnolia*, or because, although it is possible to distinguish an outer whorl of sepals from an inner whorl of petals, the sepals and petals are similar in appearance to one another (as in *Lilium* - pictured at right).



### **Lockhartia** (lok-HART-ee-a)

A relatively large genus of epiphytic orchids from the American tropics. It's related to *Oncidium*s and commonly called the "Braided Orchid" because of the character of the arrangement of the leaves. It was described in 1827 by Joseph D. Hooker and named to compliment David Lockhart.

### **Lockhart, David** (?-1846)

Lockhart was the first superintendent of the Botanical Gardens in Trinidad from 1818 to 1846. He was a plant collector in Africa and Trinidad.

# Pests and Pesticides

Wes Addison

After our July meeting I was asked to write a short summary of my talk on Pests and Pesticides. The most important understanding that all of us should have come away with from the talk is that we will **all have insect problems** at some time. It may be a minor outbreak or it may be major. **That is up to you.**

**Diligence is the magic word** when you are talking insects. Unlike the major commercial growers who have set schedules they use to prophylactically treat for insect infestations, we hobbyists are relegated to using less toxic chemicals when we discover an infestation. That is where the diligence comes in. We need to be diligent in **examining our orchids** and other plants in our greenhouse or home for infestations. We need to be diligent about treating the infestation when we find it and we need to be diligent about adhering to an **elimination schedule** that coincides with the insect's life cycle.



## So how do we go about being so diligent?



The best prevention of an infestation is to not allow the insects inside your growing space and to treat immediately any insects you do find. Not allowing insects into your growing space is almost impossible but there are some steps we can take to help out. First if you have the space, **quarantine any new plants for three weeks** before bringing them into your growing space. Normally any insects on the plants will appear within a three weeks period. **Examine the plants closely**, treat any that have insects, and then bring the plants into the growing area. If you are growing in a greenhouse or in a home and you are exhausting air or are leaving windows open remember that spider mites are smaller than the holes in your screens. If you don't have a pneumatically controlled vent on your greenhouse air discharge then insects can come into the greenhouse once the fan stops blowing. Also remember that once you **have had**

**an infestation**, the likelihood is that - even with proper treatment - you will never eliminate all of the insects due to chemical resistance. **They will return.**

## So what can we do?

Closely **examine your plants on a regular basis**. That means occasionally shaking your plants over a white sheet of paper to see if any really small red discoloration occurs: a sign of spider mites. Realize that our most common insects are spider mites, scale,



thrips and mealybugs. **Learn to identify them.** If you do see any insects **immediately treat them** since some have a three day life cycle. Prophylactically

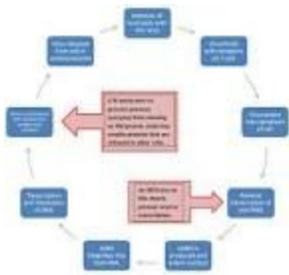


**treat your plants at least quarterly** if you can. This can be as simple as spraying them on both sides of their leaves with an alcohol solution or Stylet Oil. Be diligent.

## What do you do when the insects do get out of control?

First, **identify** the type of infestation. Quite often there is more than one infestation going on at the same time. I have spider mites and mealybugs. Next **look up the life cycle** of the insect to be treated. Remember that heat and humidity will have an effect on the life cycle. By understanding the life cycle you will be able to **formulate a spraying schedule**. Be Diligent and follow the schedule.

You want to spray once to start the treatment and then **repeat the spraying** through at least three to four life cycles. If you are treating spider mites and they are in a three-day life cycle spray day one, day four, day seven, day eleven and fourteen. By doing so you will have covered **four complete life cycles**. Some will escape but you will have knocked down the population considerably.



Second, **determine what you are going to treat the infestation with**. You have many choices, biological, soaps, alcohol and chemicals. The chemicals are broken down into various families that effect the insects differently. You want to **rotate the chemical families** so that the insects don't develop a tolerance to the chemical being used. Read the labels on whatever form of treatment you are using to make sure it is recommended for the insect to be treated and that you use the correct amount of the chemical. Too much or too little will cause the insect to develop a resistance which will eventually render the chemical useless.

## Infestation Treatment

In choosing a treatment I would **start with the least harmful substance** and work my way up according to the survivability of the insect. Try a 50/50 mixture of rubbing alcohol with the original Formula 409 or Stylet Oil, a soap insecticidal product, Mycotrol or neem oil. The **next level** would be Sucrashield, Bayer insecticide or Sevin. It's good to **protect yourself when using any treatment**. If you have to go into the chemicals, then remember to protect yourself with **respirators and protective clothing**. I would try starting with Malathion as the first chemical. From here on the chemicals get more dangerous and shouldn't be used without the **assistance of a club member knowledgeable** in the use of the chemical. One additional chemical that can be used with all of the above is Enstar. Enstar stops the growth of the insect in whatever life phase it is in. Eggs will still hatch so you will need to do repeated applications but it's great in combination with any of the non-biologicals. Alcohols and soaps might have a **negative reaction** with Enstar.



Remember that many of the chemicals come in **large quantities and are very expensive**. They also last a very long time because of the small amount needed for treatments. So before purchasing **try a club member** to see if there is any of what you want available and to ask for suggestions on what chemicals will be most helpful. **Club members are a resource so use us**.

Happy Bug Hunting

Wes Addison

## Cookie List

Aug 19, 2015 Dianne Turausky  
 Sep 16, 2016 Carolyn Addotta  
 Oct 21, 2015 Beth Woodin  
 Nov 11, 2015 Tony Knight (Annual Auction)  
 Jan 20, 2016 \_\_\_\_\_

## Orchid of the month

Jim Santino's *Dendrobium anosmum*



Known by many synonyms, this widespread species occurs from India through Thailand, Malaysia, the Indonesian Islands to the Philippines and New Guinea. Found mostly in lowland areas it can extend above 3000 feet in some locations.

Most of its seasonal climate is marked by a distinct dry winter season but in some of its range it is wet all year. The stems are long and pendulous and well suited to slabs or in hanging baskets. Because of its form, it does not do well in pots. During the growing season water frequently, especially if bare root. Flowers occur on leafless stems on short inflorescences bearing 1 or 2 flowers and last 2 to 3 weeks.

This easy-to-cultivate *Dendrobium* is a warm grower and likes bright light. It should have good air movement and a dry winter is recommended but not required. Propagate from kikiis growing on the stems. Very fragrant.

### Plant characteristics:

**Height:** Up to 36" in total length

**Growth type:** Deciduous with pendulous canes.

**Flower size:** 2"

**Flowers:** Lavender with a dark, burgundy center. Very fragrant!

**Bloom season:** Spring after a winter chill.

**Temperature:** Intermediate to warm

**Light requirements:** Medium

**How to grow:** Mounted or in a hanging basket.



Judy Forester will be asking everyone to do an *Orchid of the Month* 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!**

## Calendar of Events

**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** – 19<sup>th</sup> 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 Mirenda

## 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

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Newsletter	Judy Forester	<a href="mailto:judyf.ccn@comcast.net">judyf.ccn@comcast.net</a>
Program Chair	Wes Addison	<a href="mailto:wesadd@cpatucson.com">wesadd@cpatucson.com</a>
Show Chair	Wes Addison	
Auction Chair	Mike Barretti	
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