

Tucson Orchid Society Newsletter

February 2017

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

Featured Speaker: Alan Koch - Orchids 101



The February program will feature Alan Koch of [Gold Country Orchids](#) presenting a basic program for all growers covering orchid nutrition, basic genetics, how to anticipate what will bloom out of a cross and which plant you should purchase. Any grower will be sure to learn something from this talk.

Alan Koch owns and operates Gold Country Orchids where he specializes in miniature and compact Cattleya's. Alan started growing orchids in 1969 with 3 Cymbidiums given to him by an aunt. While in college, he became interested in other orchids and discovered many would grow outdoors in Southern California. He has moved five times as his orchid obsession has led to the need for more growing space. With the last move, he purchased

10 acres of land in Lincoln, California for his 300,000 orchids. He is recognized as an expert in the Brazilian Cattleya alliance and a trend setter in miniature Cattleya breeding. Alan has

been published in the Orchid Digest, and the American Orchid Society magazines. He has also been published in the proceedings of the World Orchid Conference. He is an internationally known speaker. He is a past member of the AOS Judging Committee, and the Research Committee, as well as an Accredited Judge and is Vice-chair and Training Coordinator for the California Sierra Nevada Judging Center. Alan also served two terms on the Orchid Digest Executive Committee and Board of Directors, and is one of the current directors, as well as a Trustee for the AOS.



Outreach Event

The library patrons who attended our repotting demonstration on February 7 at the Wheeler Library got some great hands-on experience! We showed them an assortment of mixes, repotted a couple of orchids, and then divided up an orchid for the attendees to pot and take home! Awesome demo! I learn so much from these programs! Thank you, Wes, and thank you, Wayne, for inviting us to your library!



President's Corner

Dianne Turausky

When we first moved to Tucson...well before my fascination with orchids...I noticed that it was hard for me to get a tan after August, but that I would easily tan again in February. That is not a claim to any scientific fact, but it is what I thought of yesterday while watering my orchids in the greenhouse.

Many of us change our shade cloth a couple of times during the year in order to give sun-loving orchids all the light they need, and to protect more tender orchids from incineration. We may be months away from summer, but the light is shifting, and I find I am already changing plants around so that I don't wind up with burnt leaves. In my greenhouse, the problem is usually a stray ray of light that comes in through a gap in the winter shade cloth.

The Fiesta de las Flores is fast upon us! Jim Santino will be needing help setting things up, and I ask all of you to give him your support. This event is a big deal for us, and it takes a lot of time, energy, and dedication. Also, if you aren't already doing so, start thinking about an exhibit. It doesn't have to be fancy! The people who attend the show enjoy seeing the wide variety of orchids that are grown in Tucson!



Fiesta de las Flores

Our **annual orchid show** at Mesquite Valley Growers on March 4-5 is rapidly approaching! Please mark your calendars for that weekend. We will have displays, an education table, plants for sale, and orchid judging. Lots of your orchid growing friends will gather to share their love of orchids with visitors and hopefully enroll some new members. Putting in a display is always fun and sometimes challenging. If you are new or don't think that you have enough blooming plants **consider teaming up with another member** to create one. Baskets are another wonderful way to display orchids. We also have a society display for blooming plants. For details please see Wes, our show chairman.



MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL *Annual Dues*

Reminder: the 2017 dues are due! They remain the same at \$12 per year. All members with email should have gotten a reminder recently. If you have not already paid for this new year you can bring cash or **check to our next meeting**. For those folks who cannot attend the meeting, you may mail your check to the Treasurer, Jim Wilcoxon, 9662 E Hickory Tree Place, Tucson, AZ 85749.

If you have any questions regarding your current standing please e-mail Doug Forester, dougf.ccn@comcast.net.

Education Corner by Marie Hirsch and Doug Forester

What Does That Orchid Word Mean?

CORALLORRHIZA (kor-al-lo-RYE-za)

This is a small genus of saprophytic orchids native chiefly to North America and Mexico. It's also found in Europe and Asia. It is allied to **APLECTRUM** and was established by Robert Brown in 1813. The name is descriptive of the coral-like appearance of the roots, hence the popular name of "Coral-root".



SAPROHYTE (SAP-roh-fite)

This is a plant growing in and deriving most of its nourishment from decaying organic matter, apparently lacking in chlorophyll.

APLECTRUM (a-PLEK-trum)

A monotypic genus from North America, related to **CORALLORRHIZA** and **HEXALECTRIS**. It was first described by Nuttall in 1818. The name is derived from Greek, meaning "without a spur" alluding to the spurless lip of the flower.



NUTTALL, THOMAS

Nuttall was an English botanist that lived and worked in the U.S. from 1808 to 1841. He was mentored by Benjamin Smith Barton, and became Barton's plant collector. In 1822 he was named curator of the botanic garden in Cambridge, Mass. and lectured at Harvard. His travels, collecting native orchids plus other plants, took him over much of the United States. He traveled the various rivers, the Mississippi from the far north south to New Orleans. To the west he followed the route of Lewis and Clark.

Future Greenhouse Open Houses

There is one greenhouse open house currently scheduled. Please **let the President know** if you are interested in showing off your orchids and how you grow them to members of the Society. Traditionally, tours run from April through September. Whether you grow on a windowsill, patio, yard, or greenhouse, other growers can discover new ideas and suggestions for improving their growing.

April 1 1-3PM

Mark Dimmitt



Cookie List

Be sure to **sign up** at the meeting to bring cookies to a monthly meeting. Pick a month, sign your name, and plan to bring something nice to share. including something to quench the thirst!

- | | |
|----------------------|------------------------|
| Feb 15 Bonnie Else | Jun 21 Kevin Yeanoplos |
| Mar 15 Mark Dimmitt | Jul 19 Dianne Turausky |
| Apr 19 Kathryn Moore | Aug 16 Wes Addison |
| May 17 Beth Woodin | Sep 20 Sandy Wilson |

Calendar of Events

February 15 monthly meeting - Alan Koch of Gold Country Orchids

March 4-5 - TOS annual orchid show - Fiesta de las Flores

March 15 monthly meeting - Nancy Mountford of Orchids Dominicana. Group order in February for tolumias from Dominican Republic

April 1, 1-3pm - Greenhouse tour Mark Dimmitt

Show and Tell

Please bring your orchids that are in bloom to show off! It's nice to share your pretties with everyone and talk about what works and doesn't work for you. Get tips from others to help your orchids grow better. Here are some photos from the last meeting.



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](#) (side entrance), 3727 E. Blackledge 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 Blackledge. The building is on the north side of the street.

The Newsletter The newsletter is published every month of the year. 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, Doug Forester. The deadline is two weeks prior to the monthly meeting.

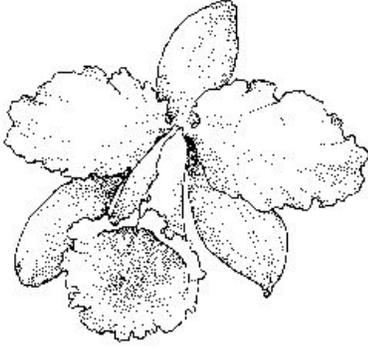
TOS Officers

President	Dianne Turausky	dturausky@comcast.net
Vice-President	Judy Forester	judyf.ccn@comcast.net
Treasurer	Jim Wilcoxon	jfw@theriver.com
Media/Membership	Doug Forester	dougf.ccn@comcast.net
Program Chair	Wes Addison	wesadd@cpatucson.com
Show Chair	Wes Addison	
Auction Chair		

Social Media

Facebook: www.facebook.com/TucsonOrchidSociety

Website: www.orchidsocietytucson.org



Tucson Orchid Society

Meets the third Wednesday of each month
7:30 p.m.

Gem & Mineral Society Building (Adobe Bridge Club entrance)
3727 E. Blacklidge Rd.

Visitors and new members are always welcome

Visit us on Facebook: www.Facebook.com/TucsonOrchidSociety

Visit our website: www.orchidsocietytucson.org

Yes, I would like to join the Tucson Orchid Society. Yearly membership dues are \$12.00

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Telephone _____

Email address _____

May we email you the newsletter? _____

Today's date _____

Bring this to the monthly meeting or mail with your check to:

Tucson Orchid Society
%Jim Wilcoxon
9662 E Hickory Tree Place
Tucson, AZ 85749