

Tucson Orchid Society Newsletter

June 2016

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

Featured Speaker: Mike Barretti Interactive Program on Orchid Culture



The May program will feature one of our own, Mike Barretti. Mike will lead an interactive program on Orchid Culture. He has done this kind of program in the past and it has been very successful. Mike will ask everyone at the meeting to **write down a question about culture**. Then he will throw it open to the group for members to share their expertise about that question. We will share information. If no one shares, then you will be stuck with Mike answering the question. As you all know, he is never at a loss for words. It should be a fun evening and hopefully an informative one. If you are in town, please come to the meeting and helps us deal with culture questions.

Mike has been **growing orchids since he was a boy**. At first, it was on a fire escape in Brooklyn, NY. As a boy, he participated in a program for kids at the Brooklyn Botanic Gardens. It was there under the tutelage of Carl Withner that he learned how to grow orchids. Actually Mike says that he learned how to kill orchids. Well, over the years, he got better at growing orchids; but he admits to killing far more plants than he's grown. As an adult, Mike found himself living in Baltimore, MD. He worked there as a school psychologist, bought a small farm northwest of Baltimore, and lived there for a very long time. In Maryland, he built an extensive **in-ground 2-story greenhouse** and grew a lot of plants because of the many mini-climates in his greenhouse. Mike is a former president of the Maryland Orchid Society; unfortunately, he says, the politics of that group drove him out of orchids.



In 2002 Mike moved to Arizona and figured **he would grow cacti**. A friend gave him a white phalenopsis for Christmas and that started the whole thing all over again. He promptly quit the Cactus Society and joined the Tucson Orchid Society and has been a member since 2003. He moved from Tucson to God's Waiting Room - Green Valley - where he put up a small greenhouse. Later, he built a second small greenhouse from a kit. Small greenhouses are more of a nightmare to regulate than larger ones. He built his current large greenhouse over one of the small ones and once it was up, tore down the other which was inside it. Unfortunately, **he filled up that greenhouse in no time flat** and is now in need of more space, the bane of every orchid enthusiast!

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. It great to see so many wonderful orchids at **Show And Tell!**

President's Corner by Judy Forester

Last month, Doug and I went to Colonial Williamsburg on vacation and decided to see if we could find an orchid meeting in the Richmond area that would coincide with our schedule. We were in luck and got to attend the **Virginia Orchid Society meeting**. Their club is friendly and similar in size and has the same issues we face: they need a lot of new younger members! The one different part of their membership meeting that we noticed was their Show and Tell.

For **Show and Tell**, they set up tables with signs for different genera designated. Plants were placed in the appropriate categories and forms were filled out with the particulars for the plant. **Two club members judged** the displayed plants and the results are announced during the meeting. The totals are tracked for the year and the one receiving the most points receive a free membership. However, they only had **three people displaying** and not very many plants - which for them was considered normal. Doug and I decided that TOS has a much more exciting show and tell with lots of people sharing and lots of beautiful plants. Yeah, Tucson!



Motes Nursery Videos submitted by Sheri Musil

Motes Nursery (<http://www.motesorchids.com/>) is well known for its great vanda alliance plants. Dianne Turausky discovered a video by Dr. Martin Motes that talks about how to grow orchids in Florida. It emphasizes some differences in Florida growing versus growing further north where it is drier. Dianne, Judy and Sheri think the video is very helpful for us as well. Dr. Motes does a great job of talking about technical issues and tries to explain why you should use his recommended techniques. Sheri thinks the talk is scientifically sound, which isn't always true for some speakers. So give it a try, we think you'll find it's worth the time: [Youtube.com/watch?v=sgyw4QiUR2Y](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sgyw4QiUR2Y)

Education Corner by Marie Hirsch and Doug Forester

What Does That Orchid Word Mean?

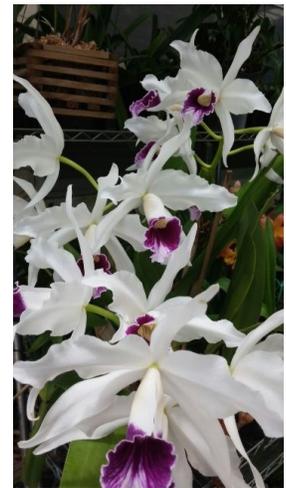
Laelia (LAY-lee-a)

A large genus of showy epiphytic orchids from Tropical America. This genus is related to Cattleya and Epidendrum. Laelia was first described by Lindley In 1831. The name is obscure but possibly dedicated to Laelia, one of the Vestal Virgins.



Laeliopsis (lee-li-OP-siss)

A small genus of epiphytic orchids from the West Indies, related to Broughtonia. It was established in 1853 by Lindley. The name alludes to the similarity of the species to the members of the genus Laelia.



Acampe (a-KAM-pe)

A small genus of tropical Asian and African orchids related to Vanda and Sarcanthus. It was described by Lindley in 1853. The name was derived from the Greek in reference to the brittle rigidity of the small flowers.



Greenhouse Open House

The next greenhouse open house is scheduled for **Saturday, June 18 from 1-4 PM** at Marie Hirsch's home. Her address is [12674 E Chukut Trail, Tucson, AZ 85749](https://www.google.com/maps/place/12674+E+Chukut+Trail,+Tucson,+AZ+85749). Her phone number is 749-2744 if you need to ask for directions. There are **no tours scheduled yet for August or September**. Please talk to the President if you are interested in showing off your growing space.

Orchid of the month by Judy Forester

Hknsa. Koolau Sunset

Hknsa. Koolau Sunset is one of my favorite cattleyas, partly because it **blooms reliably twice a year** and partly because it gives lovely **long-lasting flowers** with a **nice soft fragrance**. The AOS has awarded this plant with an AM. Hknsa. is an abbreviation for Hawkinsara. It is an intergeneric hybrid orchid of parent genera Broughtonia, Cattleya, Laelia and Sophronitis.



The flowers are red but depending on the kind of light you are displaying them in they will look very different. In natural light (**on my patio - picture at right**) they are a clear bright red. But under either fluorescent or incandescent light (**picture at left is the same plant**) they are a deep burgundy red. The flowers have a velvety appearance with heavy substance and open nice and flat for really good presentation.

Each stalk holds 2-3 flowers that are each 3½-4" across without drooping. The stems are sturdy enough that they **do NOT need staking**. This is another bonus quality since I have broken off countless flowers trying to support them! Koolau Sunset is listed as a compact cattleya which means it is about 12" when fully grown in a 4" pot. I have had my plant since 2006 and it has reached about 16" in size and fits a 6" pot very comfortably. I grow mine in regular cattleya light in my greenhouse.

[Calendar of Events](#)

June 15 - Monthly meeting - Orchid culture by Mike Barretti

June 18 - Marie Hirsch greenhouse tour

June 25 - Outreach Program at Tucson main downtown library

July 16 - Mark Dimmitt greenhouse tour

July 20 meeting - Orchid culture - Moderated by Sheri Musil

August 17 meeting - TBA

September 21 meeting - Peter Lin

October 15 - Tony Knight greenhouse tour

October 19 meeting - Peter Tobias

Nov 5 - Barb Gores greenhouse tour

Cookie List

Please bring something nice to share, **including something to drink** like tea and/or lemonade.

Jun 15, 2016	Billie Kramer	Oct 19, 2016	Chris Valenta
Jul 20, 2016	Dianne Turausky	Nov 2, 2016	Bill Hays
Aug 17, 2016	Carol Addotta	Jan 18, 2017	MaryAnn Albano
Sep 21, 2016	David Ingram		

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL *Annual Dues*

If you haven't paid your dues yet, please do so. They remain the same at \$12 per year. 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.

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 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.

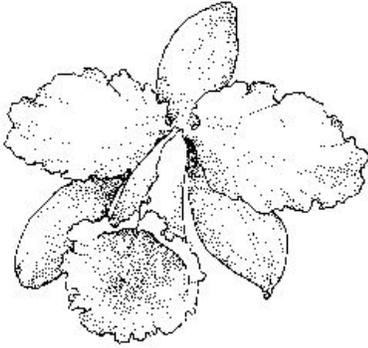
TOS Officers

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

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