

Tucson Orchid Society Newsletter

March 2016

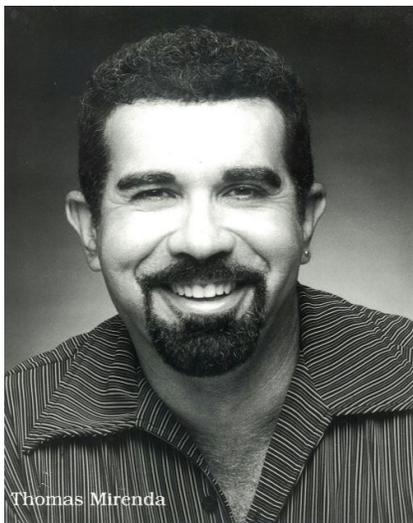
Monthly Meeting: Wednesday, March 16, 7:30 PM

Featured Speaker: Thomas Mirenda Orchid Innovations of the Taiwanese

The March program will feature Tom Mirenda who has been the **Orchid Collection Specialist at the Smithsonian Institution** for the last 10 years. There he cares for and curates an extremely diverse collection of orchid species and hybrids from all over the world. His position includes developing and producing huge educational exhibits using the collection plants that last up to 4 months, and are visited by hundreds of thousands of visitors.

Tom was recently invited to tour the orchid nurseries of Taiwan and **this talk chronicles that amazing trip** with its many beautiful surprises.

Trained originally as a Marine Biologist, Tom made the switch to plants and orchids in his late 20s while living in Hawaii. Since then he has worked with orchids at NY Botanical Garden, Brooklyn Botanic Garden and an extensive private collection at Greentree Estate in Long Island.



Tom was also the **floor manager at the New York International Orchid Show** for many years during this period. For the last 6 years, Tom has contributed two columns each month for ORCHIDS magazine and is developing a new book based on those writings. Tom travels frequently around the US and internationally, making presentations to diverse audiences from scientists to the general public. Subjects include orchid ecology, pollination biology, and strategies for orchid conservation. He is passionate about seeking collaboration between the worlds of Botanic Gardens, the hobbyist community, commercial growers and scientists to work together toward the goal of protecting orchids and their habitats. Currently working on a project to coordinate and centralize North American orchid conservation efforts, Tom hopes to extend the influence to other parts of the world where orchids are imperiled.

President's Corner

Spring is here with wildflowers and citrus in bloom and lovely weather. I am really enjoying inspecting my plants to see what is budding or needing attention. Does everyone else have **new plants** in their collection from the orchid show last weekend?

Our show was a big success! We had lots of volunteers. I would like to list everyone but am afraid that I will miss a name so I will just say **thank you to all** those who helped with setup and putting up displays, pricing plants, selling



plants, working on the education and outreach tables, ribbon judging and packing it all up at the end. Mike Barretti, Bev Tall, Bob D., Wes Addison, Chris Valenta and Julie Donovan, Marie, Sheri, Dianne, and Doug and I put in displays. I think that we had 3 more than last year, in addition to our big society display. Jim Santino ordered great plants plus members brought in their plants to sell and Sid had some unique handmade orchid pots. Our education table was extended to include our new outreach program aimed at answering questions and helping new orchid growers with repotting. Sid did a wonderful job in this area.



We got **nine new members** and some renewals. Be sure to watch for them at the monthly meetings. Please go out of your way to greet them and make them feel welcome.

Tucson Orchid Society also had a first ever award given by the AOS judges to Dianne Turausky for **Artistic Design!** She received 92 points for her zen display of a dendrobium moniliforme. She was speechless and the rest of us were in awe. This award was given for a plant that she described as a pitiful Charley Brown Christmas tree. She was hesitant to even bring it in. This was her first ever display. She joined the society last year at the show. Keep it up Dianne! The AOS judges also gave awards to Wes Addison and Eric Goo.

Bottom line **thanks to Wes for being our show chair** and all the members who made it happen.

Judy Forester

Orchid Problem Corner

Look for the **orchid problem corner** at our monthly meetings. You can bring in an orchid that is a problem plant for others to comment on. It may be an identification problem, bugs, culture or some mysterious issue. If you have a buggy plant, please bring it in a bag so as not to spread pests. By having a designated area I am hoping that comments regarding treatment etc can be made before the meeting, during the break or afterwards.

Beginner Sessions?

Judy Forester

I am considering offering **beginner sessions** before our monthly membership meetings to answer questions and help new growers. This would be held from 7-7:30 pm before the meeting. If you are interested please let me know. I will have a sign up sheet for those interested at the meeting.

Greenhouse Tour

Massimo Boscolo

Tucson Botanical Garden

I've booked the [Tucson Botanical Gardens](#) greenhouse for the Tucson Orchid Society, on **Sunday, April 10th at 3 pm**. Free of charge, of course, for all the members. The Gardens have a new entrance building and gift shop. Once you get there just let them know who you are and proceed to the greenhouse. I'll meet you there. We have several new plants including a huge Vanda hybrid that has been flowering nonstop since September and other interesting oddities donated by Mark Dimmit! I look forward to seeing you all there.



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.

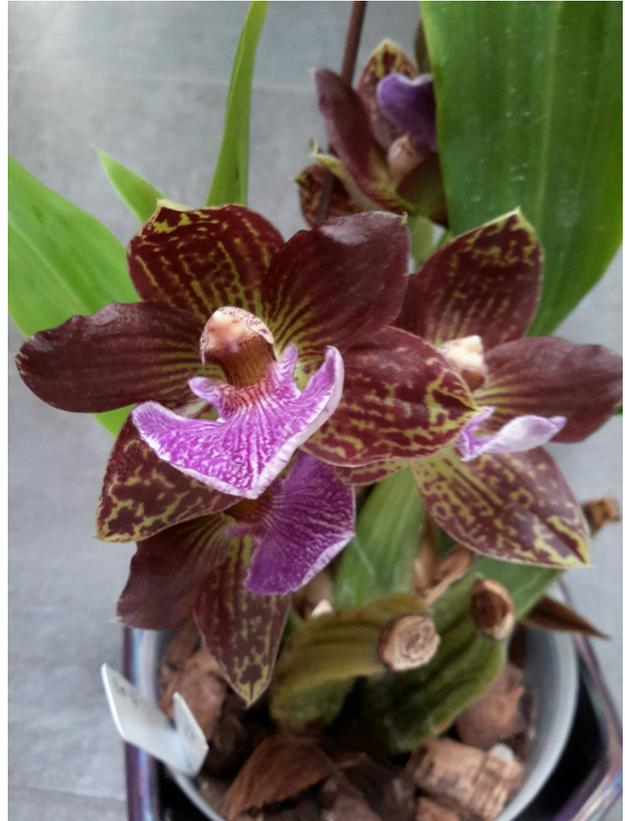
Orchid of the month Dianne Turausky

As a fairly new orchid enthusiast, I've been known to buy orchids based on photos rather than on the actual conditions I can provide, and that is often disastrous. Based on these bad experiences, when I decided to get something "exotic" from Ecuagenera, I carefully read the care instructions and found "Intermediate climate, medium air circulation, medium light, medium humidity fertilize weekly." I considered this very nearly perfect and the *Zygopetalum Redvale Pretty Ann* joined my orchid collection.

I'm glad I read that description first, because other books suggest it is somewhat fussy and demands the cooler conditions one might give a *Cymbidium*. My happy *Zygopetalum* arrived in bud and in August gave me lovely purple and magenta flowers that smelled like heaven and lasted for weeks. The roots grew like crazy and before long, a new stem was forming from the bases of two pseudobulbs. In December, it bloomed again.

The leaves are about 18 inches long and the flowers are sort of nestled in the top of the leaves. If you keep the orchid in a somewhat small room, the fragrance will greet you the moment you walk in. Since Ecuagenera didn't mention potting requirements, I put it in a clear plastic pot with a mix of Orchiatra and sponge rock. Subsequent reading on the topic tells me I should have/could have used more of a terrestrial mix, but I'm not going to mention that around my Zygo because he seems perfectly content in the media I provided. I grow this orchid in my 8x8 greenhouse where it gets mostly southern light. Cattleyas near him turn purple, but the Zygo doesn't seem to mind the bright light. Night temperatures drop to the mid-50s in the winter and get near 98 in the worst of our summer heat. I can generally keep the humidity at 50-60%. In the winter, I need to keep a 70% shade cloth on the south side of the greenhouse or the plants get too red, and in the summer, I put a layer of 50% aluminet on top of that!

I truly love this orchid! It is easy enough to make a beginner feel like a champion grower, and exotic enough to impress visitors who don't realize how easy it is to grow. Supposedly they can get quite large, and someday that might be a problem, but for now, I'd say this is an orchid every beginning enthusiast should have in his/her collection!



MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL *Annual Dues*

We got nine new members several renewals at the orchid show! 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.

Education Corner by Marie Hirsch and Doug Forester

What Does That Orchid Word Mean?

Eulophia (yew-LOH-fee-a)

A very large genus of terrestrial orchids related to *Cyrtopodium*, widespread throughout the warm areas of the world but greatest in Central Africa. It was first described by Robert Brown in 1823. The name refers to the crest on the lip.



Cyrtopodium (sir-to-POH-dee-um)

A medium-sized genus of terrestrial or epiphytic orchids found from Florida and Mexico through Argentina. They are popularly called "Cow's-horn Orchids" and were described by Robert Brown in 1813. The name refers to the up-curved column-foot.



Eulophidium (yew-loh-FID-ee-um)

This is a small genus of chiefly terrestrial orchids from tropical Africa and Madagascar (with one species in Brazil). It's related to *Maxillaria* but has long been included in *Eulophia*. First described by Fitzinger in 1888. The name is a diminutive for *Eulophia* and refers to its presumed relationship with that genus.

The Orchid Show

The 20th annual Fiesta de las Flores was held at Mesquite Valley Grower on March 5-6. Nine members created displays to show off their orchids. Lots of other orchids were displayed on the club display making a spectacular eye opener! One of Wes Addison's Phals took Best of Show; Judy Forester's display took Best Display, and a very small, one-plant display by Dianne Turausky was given a special AOS artistic award!

Calendar of Events

Mar 16 meeting - Thomas Mirenda - Orchid Innovations of Taiwan

April 2-3 - [Desert Valley Orchid Society Show](#), Berridge Nurseries, 4647 E Camelback Rd, Phoenix, AZ. This small show is well worth the drive.

April 9 Saturday 8am-11am - [Annual Master Gardener Spring Plant Sale](#), 4210 N Campbell, Tucson. Large selection of figs, pomegranates, perennials and shrubs to attract butterflies, bees and hummingbirds. Water wise succulents and cacti, compost and more. Master Gardeners available to answer your questions. Cash and checks only, please.

April 10 Sunday 3 pm - Free Greenhouse Tour at [Tucson Botanical Gardens](#), 2150 N Alvernon Way.

April 16 - [Master Gardener Home Garden Tour](#)

April 20 meeting - Phyllis Prestia - Orchids of Madagascar

May 18 meeting - Amy Chang Jacobsen - Cattleyas

May 21 - Mike Barretti greenhouse tour

June 18 - Marie Hirsch greenhouse tour

July 16 - Mark Dimmitt greenhouse tour

September 21 meeting - Peter Lin

October 15 - Tony Knight greenhouse tour

October 19 - Peter Tobias

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.

Mar 16, 2016	Judy Forester	Aug 17, 2016	Carol Addotta
Apr 20, 2016	Barb Gores	Sep 21, 2016	David Ingram
May 18, 2016	Marie Hirsch	Oct 19, 2016	Chris Valenta
Jun 15, 2016	Billie Kramer	Nov 2, 2016	Bill Hays
Jul 20, 2016	Dianne Turausky	Jan 18, 2017	MaryAnn Albano

Future Greenhouse Open Houses

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. All the months are scheduled **except for August and September**. Please consider sharing your orchid growing area. It doesn't have to be big or fancy and you don't have to have hundreds of blooming plants to have an open house. Hosts and guests can learn from each other and sharing experiences.

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.

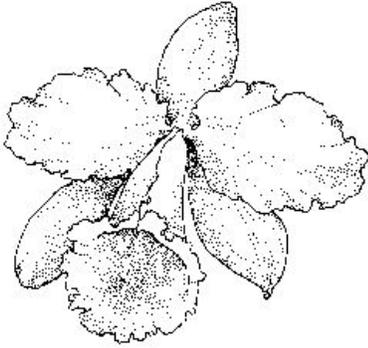
TOS Officers

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