

# Tucson Orchid Society Newsletter

May 2015

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**Monthly Meeting: Wednesday, May 20, 7:30 PM**

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## **Featured Speaker: Ivan Portilla Orchids of Ecuador**



We are honored to have **Ivan Portilla** from Ecuagenera Nursery, an Ecuadorian orchid company, as our guest speaker for the May meeting. He will speak on **Cattleya maxima** and the orchids of Ecuador. Note that the meeting format will be different: there will be **no Show and Tell** or business meeting to allow more time for the speaker. Please attend and make this meeting a special occasion.

Our May meeting is the inaugural meeting of the Bob Liddell International Speaker Series. The Bob Liddell International Speaker Series was established with a bequest by Bob Liddell to bring exceptionally qualified international speakers to our meeting. Our meeting format for this meeting will be changed to accommodate more time with the speaker. We will forgo the business and

Show and Tell portions of our meeting to allow for additional time after his presentation to answer questions and to discuss with him the orchids he has brought for sale. We will also be having a **reception** after his presentation; small sandwiches, fruit, dessert, wine and coffee will be served.

**Ivan Portilla** is the *Vice President, Orchid Shows, and Customer Representative for International Sales* at Ecuagenera Nursery in Ecuador. Located in Cuenca, Ecuador at 8,200 feet above sea level, their growing operation includes one of the largest selections of orchids available - including many cool and warm growing species. Their reserves consist of



two huge tracts of high mountain jungle, one somewhat lower in elevation than the other - offering two distinctly different growing habitats. Their efforts with in situ **orchid conservation** has also blossomed into an eco-tourist business. Ecuagenera's mission is to protect, grow and market Ecuadorian species of orchids and ornamental plants, establishing a sustainable management of the resource under the concept of preservation.



Ivan Portilla was born in 1969 in a small town called Bomboiza at Amazon base in the southern part of Ecuador. He has been growing orchids for about 15 years and is in charge of international orchid shows and propagation at the nursery.

## **No Show and Tell**

Due to the change in meeting format, there will be **no time** for Show and Tell this meeting.



## President's Corner

Hi Everyone.

I hope you are all having lots of luck growing your plants. Right now there are probably a lot of things in bloom in your greenhouse, sun room, under your light carts or on your window sills. I know. My greenhouse is starting to look a little overgrown. Soon I have to start breaking things up and making divisions for the auction (coming in August). Right now I have a number of **laelia purpurata** varieties in bloom. I hope they are still around for the meeting ([Click here to see some of Mike's plants in bloom](#) on TOS' website). They are horsey plants with lots of flowers on them but they don't last all that long. If you don't have any in your collection, you should get at least two different varieties. They are very rewarding plants to grow: they have an upright growth habit, they are reliable May bloomers, and they demand no special care (treat them like castles).

We had a very nice time at the **Tucson Botanical Gardens** (TBG). The butterfly and frog exhibit was very beautiful and interesting. The greenhouse there is doing a lot better under Massimo's care. We had about 11 members and guests show up for the private tour. Massimo was very cordial and wanted some advice on how to do things better. I think we should start a **regular plant box** for the



TBG with some of the things we either don't want any more or can spare divisions. They seem to do very well with dendrobium phalaenopsis hybrids and have a huge collection of tillandsias. I think sharing plants would be a great way to improve our relationship with the TBG and its orchid collection.

This month we are having our first speaker in the Bob Liddell International Speaker Series. Please try and come to that meeting to support our speaker and the program. We is working on making the meeting more accommodating for our guest speaker, as well as a little more special.

Hope to see you at the meeting.

Mike Barretti

## Membership Dues

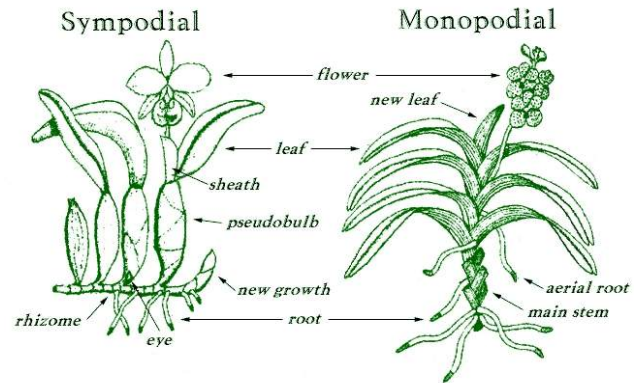
Reminder: if you haven't paid your **membership dues** for 2015, they are \$12 and due now. You may pay by check or cash at the meeting. For those who cannot attend the meeting, you may mail your check to the Treasurer, Jim Wilcoxon, 9662 E Hickory Tree Place, Tucson, AZ 85749.

## Education Corner by Marie Hirsch

What Does That Orchid Word Mean?

### Monopodial (mon-o-POH-dee-al)

A form of growth in which there is a single vegetative shoot which continues in growth from its terminal bud from season to season, such as in the genus *Vanda*.



### Ascocentrum (ass-koh-SEN-trum)

A small genus of compact-growing **monopodial** orchids from Southeast Asia and the Malayan Archipelago, allied to *Vanda*. It was described by Schlecter in 1913, the name referring to the bag-like spur at the base of the lip.

### Batemannia (bayt-MAN-nee-a)

A very small genus of **epiphytic** (grows on trees or shrubs for support) orchids from South America, closely related to *Zygopetalum*, *Zygosepalum* and *Promenaea*. It was found in 1843 by Lindley and was named in tribute to **James Bateman**. (Picture thanks to Sunset Valley Orchids.)

### Bateman, James (1811-1897)

He was an English orchidist (cultivator of orchids) and an orchidologist (specialist in the branch of botany dealing with orchids) He was noted for his several outstanding books on orchids, particularly the elephantine *Orchids of Mexico and Guatemala* published 1837-1843.



## Greenhouse Open House Scheduled

The next greenhouse open house is scheduled for **Saturday, May 23** from 1-4 pm - a tour of Judy Forester's greenhouse. Contact Judy at 742-4775 for directions.

Please let the President know if **you are interested** in showing off your orchids and how you grow them to members of the Society. We want to schedule greenhouse tours for the June, September and October.

## Calendar of Events

**May 20 meeting** - Ivan Portilla, VP of Orchid Shows, Equagenera Cia Ltd, Ecuador

**May 23 1-4pm** - Tour of Judy Forester's greenhouse

**Jun 17 meeting** - Sheri Musil interactive session on orchid culture - lot's of How-To's

**Sep 16 meeting** - Mary Gerritson of San Francisco Orchid Club

**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

**Cookie List** Be sure to sign up at the May meeting to bring cookies. There are still a two months available. There will be a sign-up sheet at the monthly meeting. Pick a month, sign your name, and plan to bring something nice to share.

May 20, 2015 Marie Hirsch

Jun 17, 2015 Tina Roesler

Jul 15, 2015 Ron Norman

Aug 19, 2015 \_\_\_\_\_

Sep 16, 2015 Carolyn Addotta

Oct 21, 2015 Beth Woodin

Nov 4, 2015 Tony Knight (Annual Auction)

Jan 20, 2016 \_\_\_\_\_

**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 (but not for this May meeting)**. In November, the Society holds a fundraising **auction** of plants donated for that purpose. In December, we have a wonderful, relaxing **potluck** 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. 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 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
Vice-President	Jim Santino	jimmys1321@gmail.com
Treasurer	Jim Wilcoxon	jfw@theriver.com
Membership	Mary Ann Albano	albanom@comcast.net
Newsletter	Judy Forester	judyf.ccn@comcast.net
Program Chair	Wes Addison	wesadd@cpatucson.com
Show Chair	Wes Addison	
Auction Chair	Mike Barretti	
Webmaster	Doug Forester	webmaster@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**

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? \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Bring this form and check or cash to the  
Monthly meeting or **mail the form** and  
a check to:

**Attn: Membership  
% Jim Wilcoxon  
9662 E. Hickory Tree Place  
Tucson, AZ 85749**

