

# Tucson Orchid Society Newsletter

September 2016

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**Monthly Meeting: Wednesday, September 21, 7:30 PM**

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## **Featured Speaker: Peter Lin Compact Vandaceous Species and Hybrids**



Peter Lin will be presenting his newest talk: Compact Vandaceous Species and Hybrids. Learn about the many different small growing species and hybrids within the Vanda alliance. This fast paced PowerPoint presentation will include many **pictures along with cultural tips.**

Peter started growing orchids over 30 years ago, but then stopped due to school and starting a career. It wasn't until about 14 years ago that the orchid "bug" came back and he is now heavily involved once again. He is



an **accredited judge** with the American Orchid Society and a hybridizer of mini-catts. He enjoys meeting with other orchid enthusiasts, and can often be found at various orchid shows and societies around the country. He also has thousands of photos of his orchids that he maintains on Flickr. You can view at this website: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/minicatt/collections>.



Due to limited growing space, Peter likes to specialize in miniature orchids, both species and hybrids, and has received numerous AOS awards. His other interests in orchids include Dendrobiums, Angraecoids, and Neofinetias. He maintains a collection of a **thousand or more orchids** at his home in Southern California in 3 small greenhouses, as well as in the house under fluorescent lights.

## **President's Corner** by Judy Forester



Last month Wes did a very good **program on orchid diseases** that included slides and charts from the AOS. He also diagnosed some ailing plants that were brought into the meeting.

The next day I sent Wes a picture of a cattleya flower (Blc Goldenzelle "Passion" HCC/AOS) that had suspicious looking markings.



He quickly responded with a diagnosis of **virus!** The plant looked so healthy! I threw it in the trash and made a vow to be very careful and try not to spread diseases in my greenhouse. The virused plant is a division that I picked up last year at a meeting. Thanks, Wes, for the diagnosis!

## Orchid Diseases Wes Addison

At our August meeting we viewed a number of slides depicting the various types of diseases that orchids can get from bacteria to fungi and viruses. As we discussed, it is often very difficult to differentiate among the three. Mainly remember that the **bacteria will be wet, mushy, smelly** and rapid in spreading. I've attached the website with the article that I used for the presentation created by Sue Bottom: <http://www.phelpsfarm.com/OrchidPestsandDiseases.pdf>



The presentation has two charts. The first is **Pesticides** for the Treatment of Orchids and the second is **Fungicides and Bactericides** for the Treatment of Orchid Diseases. Remember that in the treatment of pests and diseases **multiple applications** will be necessary to correct the problem. Make sure that you rotate **different classes** of chemicals during the treatment so as to reduce the likelihood of resistance building up.

## Greenhouse Open House

There is **no tour scheduled for September**. The next ones scheduled are Tony Knight on October 15 and Barb Gores on November 5.

## The Auction Is Coming!

## Mike Barretti



It is time for you to begin to **get some donations ready for the auction**. Our annual auction will be held on November 2, 2016 - the first Wednesday of November. Please mark your calendars. I will be emailing the usual donors begging for plants. If you have any plants that you wish to donate to the auction, please contact me by email at [mbarretti@msn.com](mailto:mbarretti@msn.com).

I will assign your plants numbers so that we can make a **master list** to pass out at or before the auction. I will also pass out a sheet at the October meeting looking for volunteers to help with the auction. Our annual auction is the only fundraiser that our society has so please make sure to mark it on your list of things to do in November. We always have a good time and there are **always bargains to be had**.

## Outreach Update

## Dianne Turausky

Tucson Orchid Society will hold another repotting clinic at a library. This time it's at the Dusenberry-River Library **on September 26**. Members are encouraged to attend, bring plants to display, and share tales about their orchids. Please contact Dianne Turausky at [dturausky@comcast.net](mailto:dturausky@comcast.net) to volunteer at the event.



## Orchid of the month by Wes Addison

### *Vandachostylis “Rainbow Star”*

Our orchid of the month for September is Vandachostylis Rainbow Stars. We used to call it Darwinara Rainbow Stars until the Darwinara and Neofinetia became Vandachostylis. The cross is Darwinara Charm x Neofinetia falcata. I thought this was an appropriate plant of the month because our speaker of the month is Peter Lin who was the **originator of the cross**. It is also one of my favorite orchids because of its color, ease of growing and propensity to flower multiple times during the year. The plant shown here is over 10 years old and is in bloom most of the year. I find it easy to grow and bloom and a delight to have around the greenhouse. This plant was awarded an 81 point Award of Merit at the 2013 Desert Valley Orchid Society show.

**Intro:** A neofinetia back cross making this plant 75% neofinetia falcata and 25% miscellaneous vanda. These are easy to grow and can **flower two to three times per year**. The flowers are slightly fragrant, but not as strong as a neofinetia species.



**Light:** This plant prefers **medium/high light conditions**. When growing on a windowsill, a bright east or south exposure is necessary. Grow at 4 feet under bulbs when growing under High Pressure sodium lights. When growing under fluorescent bulbs, this plant can be placed about a foot or two below the bulbs. It can take fairly strong light as long as it is not direct for long periods of time. Filtered sunlight is always best.

**Humidity:** 50% or higher is ideal. As long as the plant is properly watered, humidity is not a large factor.

**Water:** Like all orchids, use rain, distilled or reverse osmosis water for best

results. Municipal water with a pH of 7.5 or lower can also be used. If you are growing using the traditional Japanese sphagnum moss mound, let the **moss dry out completely between watering in the winter** months when new growth and roots have stopped emerging. From spring through fall keep the plants on the moist side for good root, leaf and flower production.

**Fertilizer:** Fertilize every time you **water in the summer** (make sure to flush once a month with plain water), and **every other in the winter**. Any 20-10-20 Urea free fertilizer can be used. Use at the rate of ½ teaspoon per gallon. If using rain, distilled, or reverse osmosis water, add back in 5 - 10% municipal or well water to supply the necessary calcium and magnesium.

**Flowering:** This plant will generally bloom between April and August with June being the most common month. Each spike can produce an average of 4 to 10 flowers. Because of the hybrid mix, this plant can **flower anytime of the year**.

**Repotting:** Repot once a year in a well drained mix such as orchid bark mix. The traditional Japanese mound method utilizing long fiber New Zealand sphagnum moss works well too. This plant will require more water during the growing season which is late spring through early fall.

**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!**



## Calendar of Events

**September 21 meeting** - Peter Lin: Compact Vanda species and their hybrids

**September 26** - Dusenberry-River Library repotting clinic

**October 15 - 1-4 PM** Tony Knight greenhouse tour

**October 19 meeting** - Peter Tobias

**November 2 - 7:30 PM** - Annual club auction

**November 5 - 1-4 PM** - Barb Gores greenhouse tour

**December 11 Noon-4 PM** - Potluck and Annual Meeting

**January 18 meeting** - Tony Knight: The Orchids of Kenya

## Cookie List

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

Sep 21, 2016 Carolyn Addotta      Nov 2, 2016 Bill Hays

Oct 19, 2016 Chris Valenta      Jan 18, 2017 MaryAnn Albano

## 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	<a href="mailto:judyf.ccn@comcast.net">judyf.ccn@comcast.net</a>
Vice-President	Dianne Turausky	<a href="mailto:dturausky@comcast.net">dturausky@comcast.net</a>
Treasurer	Jim Wilcoxon	<a href="mailto:jfw@theriver.com">jfw@theriver.com</a>
Past President	Mike Barretti	<a href="mailto:mbarretti@msn.com">mbarretti@msn.com</a>
Media/Membership	Doug Forester	<a href="mailto:dougf.ccn@comcast.net">dougf.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	

## Social Media

Facebook: [www.Facebook.com/TucsonOrchidSociety](http://www.Facebook.com/TucsonOrchidSociety)

Website: [www.orchidsocietytucson.org](http://www.orchidsocietytucson.org)