



The Atlanta Orchid Society Bulletin

The Atlanta Orchid Society is affiliated with the American Orchid Society, the Orchid Digest Corporation and the Mid-America Orchid Congress.



Newsletter Editor: Danny Lentz (July only), Mark Reinke (incoming)

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JULY EVENTS

The Monthly Meeting:

**Topic: ABG Greenhouse Tour,
Ice Cream Social,
and Silent Auction**

**6:30pm Monday, July 12
at the Atlanta Botanical Garden, Day Hall**

PLEASE NOTE EARLY START!

A tradition in our summer programming, this is the only chance you may have to peek behind the scenes at the Atlanta Botanical Garden's greenhouses. It is also a great chance to meet some of the ABG staff members in charge of the orchid collection. This will be followed by our Ice Cream Social, featuring MaggieMoo's great selection of flavors and toppings. PLUS, we will also have a silent auction of orchids and accessories!

And, by the way, we will have a brief business meeting, too!

The greenhouse tour will start at 7:00. Plants should be entered by 7:00 to be considered for ribbon judging. Please do not bring plants for sale this month.

Saturday, July 24 – Roy Harrow's annual auction at his house. See details on page 8.



One of the lovely orchids to be found at ABG



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Monthly Ribbon Judging –

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Newsletter – [Mark Reinke](#)

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Show Chairs (2010) –

Jeff Whitfield & David Mellard

Show Hospitality (2010) –

Reba Herzfeld

Show Chairs (2011) –

Barbara Barnett

Show Hospitality (2011) – open

Telephone – [Lynne Gollob](#)

President's Message

We have now reached the half-way mark of the year, which is a good time for reflection. Each month I have used this space to highlight our accomplishments, and sometimes our challenges. This month is no exception.

We began the month of June searching for a new editor for our newsletter, followed by the Board's formal acceptance of our treasurer's resignation. These vacancies presented challenges that may have overwhelmed some organizations; I am proud to say that is not the case for the Atlanta Orchid Society.

Before June came to a close our temporary newsletter editor, Danny Lentz, stepped forward to volunteer his services as our treasurer and your Board of Trustees unanimously approved. Our newsletter will now be in the capable hands of Mark Reinke, who has long provided details of our ribbon award winners, which is much of the original newsletter content. I am confident our members will agree with the sentiment of the Board – we are truly fortunate to have such capable members willing to work for this society.

Thank you to all our volunteers; and, thank you for your patience and support of the Atlanta Orchid Society while we worked through these issues. As we move toward the balance of the year, your Board of Trustees is poised and committed to building a stronger organization for the benefit of all members. We also plan a fair share of fun – see you at the Greenhouse Tour/Ice Cream Social!

Maureen Pulignano

Join the Atlanta Orchid Society

Membership in the Atlanta Orchid Society is \$30 for individuals or \$45 for households. Yearly membership runs January 1-December 31. Anyone joining in the third quarter will get a 50% discount on the current year's membership. Anyone joining in the fourth quarter will purchase a membership for the following year. You can join at one of our monthly meetings, or contact the society's Treasurer (see page 2) for a membership application.

For directions to the Atlanta Botanical Garden, please visit their web site at www.atlantabotanicalgarden.org or contact one of our society's officers listed on page 2.

Events Out and About

July

Saturday, 7/10 American Orchid Society monthly judging, Atlanta Judging Center, 2 pm, ABG basement workshop.

Monday, 7/12 Atlanta Orchid Society monthly meeting, ABG, Day Hall, 6:30 p.m. Tour of ABG Greenhouses, Ice Cream Social, Silent Auction

Saturday, 7/24 Auction at Roy Harrow's house. See pg. 8 for details.

August

Monday, 8/9 Atlanta Orchid Society monthly meeting, ABG, Day Hall, 8 p.m.

Saturday, 8/14 American Orchid Society monthly judging, Atlanta Judging Center, 2 pm, ABG basement workshop.

September

Sept. 24-26 - Fall 2010 Mid-America Orchid Congress and Kentucky Orchid Society's 2010 Fall Show. Fern Valley Hotel and Conference Center, Louisville, KY

October

October 27-31 - Fall 2010 AOS Meeting. Virginia Beach, VA

Future Shows:

Nov. 14-23, 2011 - 20th World Orchid Conference, Singapore.

Welcome to our new members:

**Claire Langley
Steve Burrows
Gary Glover and Greg Duncan**

We would like to thank the following members that brought goodies for the refreshment table in June: Sondra Nierenberg, Marianne Gilmore, Terry Glover, Bob Grzesik, Geni Smith.

In Memoriam

With regret we note the passing of Gail "Jake" Jacobson, husband of Elaine Jacobson

Minutes of the June 14th Meeting

The meeting was called to order by President Maureen Pulignano.

- Visitors were acknowledged. It was announced that we had three new members attending tonight.
- It was pointed out that the July meeting will start at 6:30 to get as much of the available sunlight to tour the working greenhouses of the Atlanta Botanical Gardens before we come back inside Day Hall for our business meeting, silent auction, raffle and ice cream social.
- It was announced that Reba Herzfeld had resigned as treasurer of our society
- The motion made to approve the Minutes of the May 10th meeting was passed.
- Roy reminded people of the auction at his house on July 24.
- After refreshments and the ribbon awards, the floor was turned over to Linda Wilhelm of Woodland Orchids (<http://www.woodlandorchids.com/>) who gave an excellent talk on stanhopea orchids.
- There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned and the raffle of remaining unsold potting materials donated by Margo Brinton and Eldon Park was held.

Respectfully submitted,
Roy Harrow, Secretary Atlanta Orchid Society

**Thank You to the individuals who made donations to the June Raffle Table:
Margo Brinton and Eldon Park
Hal Morrison**

Notes from Linda Wilhelm's Talk
June 2010
 David Mellard

Linda Wilhelm is co-owner of Woodland Orchids along with her husband Rolf. Their nursery's web address is <http://www.woodlandorchids.com>. After some ribbing from me, she opened her talk with a brief discussion about how to pronounce *Stanhopea* followed by a detailed talk about stanhopea culture and ended with an overview of the species and hybrids. Here are some notes from her talk.



Photo courtesy of Terry Bottom, St. Augustine Orchid Society

Linda Wilhelm

1. Linda had fun telling us how to pronounce *Stanhopea*. The genus is named after the Earl of Stanhope. Whenever an orchid is named after a person, the general practice after latinizing the name is to pronounce the name the way the person pronounces his or her name. Because Stanhope is pronounced stan-hope, then the correct pronunciation of *Stanhopea* is stan-hope-ah (short a as rah). However, Linda was adamant in stating that it's ok to pronounce the genus this way: stan-hope-e-ah, which is the most commonly heard pronunciation in the U.S. Linda's point is that once a pronunciation becomes commonly used, it is correct to use that pronunciation so that people will understand the name you're using. I'll let the orchid grammarians debate what's correct; the important thing is that you may hear two pronunciations for this genus.
2. The most distinctive feature of stanhopeas is the lip, which is made up of a hypochile (basal lip), mesochile (middle lip), epichile (apical lip), and horn (apical lip extension). A distinguishing feature of the primitive stanhopeas is that they lack a horn.
3. Stanhopeas prefer bright, indirect light; however, you should avoid light levels that will burn the leaves. Yellow streaks on the leaves often mean too much light.
4. Temperature needs vary by species. A few species prefer cool nights. Most species are intermediate to warm growing. Temperature can affect the color of some flowers. Under cool conditions, *Stanhopea connata* will bloom deep, golden orange, while under warm conditions, the flower will bloom light orange.
5. You cannot water too much when the plants are actively growing. A just-emerging growth point could rot, though, if water remains in the growth point. Decrease water when the plant is not in flower, but never let the mix go completely dry.
6. Do not overpot. Water according to the size of the pot rather than the size of plant.
7. If leaf tips turn black, then the plant is not getting enough water or is getting too much sun.
8. Keep humidity at 40-75%. If humidity exceeds 75% then the plants can have problems with rot.
9. Use cinnamon to treat bacterial leaf rot. Sprinkle cinnamon on the rotted portion. Do not use cinnamon sugar. Bacterial rot will have a yellow halo around a dark spot. Fungal rot will not show a halo.
10. Good air movement is always beneficial. You want enough wind movement to blow out a candle.



Stanhopea wardii 'Edwin Boyett',
AM/AOS

11. A good fertilizer is the Michigan State University Reverse Osmosis fertilizer (aka MSU RO fertilizer). This fertilizer is supplemented with calcium, magnesium, and micronutrients. Too much fertilizer will cause leaf tip die-back. Use at rate of 1 tsp per gallon. (Author note: the MSU RO fertilizer is available from Hilltop Orchids, 765-795-6016 in quantities ranging from 1 lb to 25 lb bags.) (Editor's Note: If there is much demand for this in the society, the most economical way to order is get a 25 pound bag and split it.)
12. Linda advised not to use a high nitrogen fertilizer such as 30-10-10 because the high level of nitrogen causes leafy green growth at the expense of flower production. You can also use a Cal-mag fertilizer to supplement calcium and magnesium. (Author note: The AtlOS website has a 3-part article about selecting the right fertilizer for Atlanta's municipal water. It is available under 'resources' at this society web address: http://www.atlantaorchidsociety.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=category&layout=blog&id=54&Itemid=163).
13. Because stanhopea blooms emerge downwards through the bottom of the pot, basket culture is required in order to bloom the plant. While wooden slats can be used, the slats can block an emerging inflorescence; therefore, wire baskets are better. The difficulty is finding smaller wire baskets (e.g., 6-10 inches) since using a large basket often results in overpotting for the size of the plant. Mounted plants using tree fern or cork are possible, although they require more frequent watering. Underwatering will result in dry, brittle leaf tips.
14. Use fibrous coconut to line the basket and avoid using the typically 1 inch thick mat that are often provided with the basket. The mat can block an emerging inflorescence.
15. Linda did not give a specific mix recipe as it is often necessary to adjust the proportion based on your growing and watering conditions. For seedlings, she suggested using a mix with long-fibered sphagnum moss and sponge rock in 3 to 4 inch pots. Once the seedlings are large enough, transfer to baskets.
16. For basket culture, use a mix with medium and fine bark, lava rock, charcoal, and sponge rock or some combination of these ingredients. Again, the exact ingredients and proportions depend on your growing conditions and watering habits. Top the basket with one inch sphagnum moss as a barrier to keep the mix in the basket. Repot after flowering.
17. A useful tip from Linda was that when the buds on Stanhopea are held about 45 degrees from the inflorescence, they are about ready to open.

Linda also mentioned that she is working with a new Southeastern Orchid Festival to be held next year in North Carolina. It would be held sometime around July-August 2011 at the Daniel Stowe Botanical Garden in Belmont, NC (outside of Charlotte). The festival would have a setup similar to Redlands, with a mix of local and national/international vendors.

JOIN THE AMERICAN ORCHID SOCIETY

- 12 issues of *Orchids*, the Society's monthly full color magazine chock full of insightful articles and tempting ads for plants and supplies.
- 10% off on purchases from the Society's Bookstore and Orchid Emporium. Reduced or free admission to participating botanical gardens.

For a limited time, if you join for two years you will also get a \$30 gift certificate (good on an order of \$100 or more) at any one of 13 commercial growers who advertise in *Orchids*. **JOIN TODAY.**

Single Membership 1 year \$65, 2 years \$125

Joint Membership 1 year \$80, 2 years \$155

Student Membership 1 year \$40, 2 years \$75

JUNE 2010 EXHIBITION TABLE AWARDS with notes by Mark Reinke

Class I – Cattleya Alliance

Blue- *Cattleya* (formerly *Sophrolaeliocattleya*) Ocelot ‘Happy Halloween’ AM/AOS – Greg Smith

If you are like me, you wish there were more cute spotted compact cattleyas like this one available commercially. They are a bit tricky to breed since spots are not generally produced unless inherited from both parents. In the case of *C. Ocelot*, the spotted miniature species, *C. aelandiae*, appears as a grandparent on both sides of the family tree. The actual cross for this orchid is *C. Brabantiae* x *C. Precious Stones*. The latter hybrid is usually solid red, because it has only one spotted parent, but it is still capable of passing along spotted flowers if, as in this case, the other parent is also of spotted lineage. Fred Clarke of Sunset Valley Orchids in California is currently working on a breeding program to produce more compact spotted hybrids with a yellow or orange background, and also with fuller shape and a flatter lip. Like *C. Ocelot*, many of his crosses have a high percentage of *C. aelandiae* in their background and so to a large extent the cultural requirements of that sometimes fussy species are passed along and must be observed if you want a healthy, frequent blooming plant. While you may purchase a seedling that has been growing in a pot, you should consider transferring the plant to a wooden basket at the earliest opportunity, which would be right as new roots are forming on the most recent growth. Especially in our hot, humid climate, the thick roots of these hybrids need to dry quickly after being watered, and need exposure to light and air movement to stay healthy. Each new growth tends to produce only 2 or 3 or these large wandering roots and so preserving them is of the utmost importance. Once established in a basket and given a nice bright location, spotted cattleya hybrids are rewarding to grow and usually bloom several times per year.



Cattleya Ocelot
‘Happy Halloween’

Red – *Procyctleya* (formerly *Epilaelia*) Little Nuggets – Roy Harrow

This plant should have been entered in Class V since it has *Encyclia tampensis* as one parent and *Prosthechea mariae* as a grandparent.

White – *Cattleya loddigesii* ‘Blue Sky’ AM/AOS – Greg Smith

Class II – Cymbidium Alliance - No Entries

Class III – Dendrobium Alliance

Blue – *Dendrobium wassellii* – Roy Harrow

This rather curious looking species is one of at least 17 that some taxonomists put in a separate genus, *Dockrilla*, but which are still officially classed by Kew as *Dendrobium*. All have in common the apparent lack of pseudobulbs and unusual thickened leaves emerging directly from a wandering rhizome. In this species, each leaf has five longitudinal furrows. Other related species have leaves that resemble pickles, tongues, or other curiosities that frequently reflect in the name they were given. The upright inflorescence of *Den. wassellii* emerges from the rhizome at the base of newly matured growths and can have as many as 40 or 50, nonresupinate flowers that are primarily white with small touches of yellow and red. It grows best mounted or in a basket, with good light, plenty of air movement, and temperatures on the warm side, with regular watering in the growing season, and somewhat less during the dull days of winter. The two registered hybrids made using this species are with others in the *Dockrilla* group.



Dendrobium wassellii

Class IV - Epidendrum Alliance

Blue - *Encyclia Renate Schmidt* – David Glass / Nancy Newton

E. Renate Schmidt is 75% *E. alata* and 25% *E. phoenicea*, but in the case of this particular plant, the flowers look identical to typical dark form of *E. alata* with little trace of the other species. A quick note to David Glass, however, confirms that this plant does not have the telltale ‘Hawaiian Tropic’ suntan lotion fragrance of *E. alata*. Nor does it have any hint of the overwhelming chocolate fragrance of *E. phoenicea*. It is as if the two strong scents cancelled each other out when the genes were combined and left only the hint of a ‘light, sweet smell.’ As this plant matures, it will undoubtedly have inflorescences with multiple branches that can total easily 50 or more flowers, which open almost all at once and last up to two months each summer. The larger *Encyclia* need plentiful water, excellent drainage



Encyclia Renate Schmidt

and strong air movement when in active growth and bloom and are best accommodated in wooden slatted baskets as they resent disturbance once established.

White - *Encyclia parviflora* – Roy Harrow

Class V – Oncidium Alliance

Blue – *Miltonia* Mom’s Choice ‘Her Flower’ – David Glass / Nancy Newton

Red – *Psychopsis* Butterfly ‘Canary’ – David Glass / Nancy Newton

White – *Cischweinfia dasyandra* – Maureen Pulignano



***Miltonia* Mom’s Choice
‘Her Flower’**

Class VI – Cypripedium Alliance

Blue – *Paphiopedilum Armeni* White – Maureen Pulignano

Paph. Armeni White is a much awarded primary hybrid between *Paph. armeniacum* and *Paph. delenatii* that typically produces, as the name implies, a nearly pure white flower, with a touch of yellow and red on the column and occasionally a few tiny red dots at the base of the petals. Some individuals will also show a blush of pink on the lip. The AOS has bestowed at least 15 Awards of Merit and 2 First Class Certificates, as well as several cultural awards on this hybrid in the last two decades, obviously smitten by the pristine beauty of a single, well formed and well presented flower, than can sometimes be as much as 5 inches in width. The cross can occasionally produce two flowers on a single inflorescence, though when it does they are usually somewhat smaller than average. Intermediate temperatures and moderate light, typical for mottled leaf *Paphiopedilum* hybrids suit this particular example just fine.



***Paphiopedilum* Armeni White**

Red – *Phragmipedium* Normont – Barbara Barnett

White – *Paphiopedilum* Temptation – Maureen Pulignano

Class VII – Phalaenopsis Alliance

SPECIES

Blue – *Phalaenopsis cornu-cervi* forma *chattaladae* – David Glass / Nancy Newton

Widespread throughout Southeast Asia and neighboring islands, this compact

Phalaenopsis species is named for the resemblance of its flattened racemes to stag horns. These curious inflorescences continue to lengthen and produce a flower or two at a time for many months, especially in the wetter seasons, and will persist on the plant for several years. In the typical form purple dots and bars are overlaid on a yellow-green background so as to appear deep red. In the ‘chattaladae’ form, these dots have coalesced into a fairly solid layer of color so that the entire flower is oxblood red. The species has been used to make a number of novelty hybrids with various interesting patterns and colors. In many areas where it grows, the winter months have little rainfall and the plant survives by soaking up nightly dew with its unusually thick, flattened roots. It can take fairly cool temperatures at night during the resting season as long as the plant is kept dry. The rest of the year it needs plentiful water with good drainage, and flowers best when grown bright enough that the leaves have a touch of yellow.

Red – *Phalaenopsis cornu-cervi* forma *thalebanii* – Geni Smith

HYBRIDS

Blue – *Doritaenopsis* Beauty Sheena ‘Lan-Lan’ – Geni Smith

Red – *Phalaenopsis* Penang Moonbright – Geni Smith

White – *Phalaenopsis* Sweet Memory ‘Joy alba’ – Bob Grzesik

Class VIII – Vanda Alliance

Blue – *Neofinetia falcata* ‘Onamisicai’ – Maureen Pulignano

This wonderful, fragrant miniature vandaceous species ranks as one of the northernmost growing epiphytic orchids known, as it occurs around the Japan islands and extends even into coastal Korea. It is revered in Japan, where it has been cultivated for centuries, and where dozens of named forms are recognized with flowers or foliage that differ from the type. The scarcest and most unusual examples can be as expensive as rare gems. The



***Phalaenopsis cornu-cervi*
fma. *chattaladae***

'Onamasicai' form is apparently distinguished by a pinkish blush the nectary spurs. *Neof. falcata* will grow with warmer winter temperatures than it receives in the wild, but it still prefers to have nights in the mid-50's or lower. It is typically found on twigs and small branches of deciduous trees where it receives copious rainfall and dappled shade in summer and a much drier and brighter winter, so an effort needs to be made to somewhat duplicate these conditions. A traditional way of growing it involves placing the plant on top a carefully formed dome of fresh sphagnum moss that contains a large air space underneath. The moss dome is placed in a decorative pot with a large hole in the bottom for air circulation. However, this potting technique requires changing out the moss every year, and a less labor intensive method is to grow the plant mounted where it can remain undisturbed indefinitely. Frequent watering will be required during summer so this is not a species that can remain unattended while you on vacation. A well grown plant, full of sprays of delicate, spurred flowers in summer is a pleasurable reward for the effort.

Red – *Angraecum didieri* – Barbara Barnett

White – *Ascocenda Princess Mikasa 'Rosado'* HCC/AOS – David Glass / Nancy Newton

Class IX – Miscellaneous

Blue – *Cynorkis gibbosa* – David Mellard / Sal Marino

The following was kindly submitted by David Mellard:

Described in 1809 by L. du Petit Thouars, *Cynorkis* is a terrestrial genus with 177 species, 20 varieties or subspecies, and 2 natural hybrids. Most species occur in Madagascar and the Mascarene Islands with about 20 species occurring in Africa.

Madagascar has the greatest diversity of species, which occur in the more humid areas in the east and center parts of the island. The species are often associated with water seepage or marshy areas in either acidic or sandy soils. *Cynorkis gibbosa* Ridl. was first described in 1883 and the species epithet refers to the swollen (gibbous) base of the dorsal sepal. The very elongated stipe on the pollen masses is probably linked to pollination by hawk-moths with the pollenia adhering to the moth's eyes as it searches for nectar in the spur. Plants require a terrestrial mix and are quite comfortable growing in a soil-less medium (e.g., Fafard) amended with inorganics (e.g., perlite, Turface) to increase drainage. Some plants require a dry to semi-dry dormancy so it is necessary to reduce watering or even stop watering when the leaves die back in late fall. When growth re-appears in spring, normal watering and fertilizing can resume. This plant was purchased at the Redlands Orchids Festival in Florida about 5 years ago and has very slowly produced extra plants. Few species are available in cultivation, although it is possible to find *Cyn. purpurescens* and *Cyn. fastigiata*. Andy's Orchids has *Cyn. gibbosa* and *Cyn. fastigiata*, although *Cyn. gibbosa* is not cheap.

Red – *Calanthe Dominyi* – David Mellard/ Sal Marino

White – *Bulbophyllum frostii* – Barbara Dampog



Neofinetia falcata
'Onamasicai'



Cynorkis gibbosa

July 24 Orchid Auction at Roy Harrow's House

Begin arriving at 10, auction starts at 11, eat pot-luck at 1, should be over by 4. Bring friends, chairs, plants, folding cash and a little extra food. All except those working the auction and handicapped persons should drop off their stuff at the house and then park 7 houses back at the elementary school. The auction will take place rain or shine.

You don't have to buy or sell a thing, but if you do, remember the 10% rule we use (buyer pays 10% extra, seller gets 10% less, with that money going to orchid society of your choice.) Remember this is a buyer's auction, prices are cheap. There are already 100 plants on the door prize table to be given away for free at the end of the auction.

Make sure you come in on Church Street, as the bridge is being replaced on Milford-Church Street.

Make sure your name is on the bottom of the bowl and chairs. Wear appropriate clothing, if you pass out from the heat, you might wake up with only your head held above water. We have had people bid from the pool.

Roy is still in need of 4 workers to arrive at 9:00.

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RECENT ACTIVITIES OF THE ATLANTA JUDGING CENTER

The following awards were granted at recent sessions of the AOS Atlanta Judging Center. They are provisional awards pending official publication by AOS. Certificates of Horticultural Merit and Certificates of Botanical Recognition are also provisional pending identification by an AOS certified taxonomist prior to publication of the award.

All photographs on this page © Maureen Pulignano



Cattleya purpurata 'Memoria Thomas Netzsch'
HCC/AOS
Exhibited by Fred Missbach



Doritaenopsis Beauty Sheena 'Lan-Lan'
HCC/AOS
Exhibited by Geni Smith



Phragmipedium Sorcerer's Apprentice
'Richmond Hill' HCC/AOS
Exhibited by John & Edith Weigle



Calanthe Dominyi 'Mello Spirit' CCM/AOS
Exhibited by David Mellard & Sal Marino

Please visit our web site at
<http://www.atlantaorchidsociety.org>

The Atlanta Orchid Society web site contains recent newsletters and articles, cultural information for growing orchids in Atlanta, as well as a calendar of events and information about our annual shows.

JOIN THE ORCHID DIGEST CORPORATION

Don't let the name fool you, the Orchid Digest is a non-profit membership-based organization dedicated to orchids. Designed to appeal to the mid-range to advanced grower nothing beats the *Orchid Digest*. For just \$34/year you get 4 issues of full-color, in-depth articles about orchids. The magazine is large format and the fourth issue of the year is always an extra-special issue devoted to a single genus. For membership application forms contact Fred Missbach (404-237-1694)

Newsletter Submissions

To submit material for the newsletter, or to sign up for the email version of the newsletter, please contact Mark Reinke at markreinke@att.net. The deadline for submissions is the 20th of the previous month.

Advertising

Advertising is now being accepted for our newsletter. The size and number of ads may be limited at the discretion of the editor. Advertising Rates per issue are: ¼ page \$10, ½ page \$20, 1/8 page text only \$5.



© Danny Lentz

Maxillaria crassifolia

AOS Corner

If you are not an American Orchid Society member you may not have heard about a terrific opportunity to own a brand new, award quality Phalaenopsis and support us at the same time. For every donation of \$125 to unrestricted funds (\$100 tax deductible), Norman's Orchids, thanks to the generosity of our past president Carlos Fighetti, will send you a flowering size – they're summer bloomers so many of them are actually now in-spike – limited-edition stem prop of *Phalaenopsis* Tying Shin Cupid 'Maria Teresa'. This incredibly floriferous plant readily produces basal keikis but its crowning glory is its compact branching flower spikes displaying multitudes of 2-inch (5-cm) golden yellow flowers heavily overlaid centrally with a rich deep rose to produce flowers that appear to almost glow. These stem props are available through no other source. To read more about this great plant and how to get one see our website at <http://tinyurl.com/238iqqe>.

Another exciting development is our plan to produce a special 13th issue of *Orchids* magazine this year. It is not often that we receive magazine content that is of such high quality that we wish we could devote a whole issue to it but it does happen once in a great while. We have a rather long, excellent article that will not fit in a regular magazine and will not serialize well and we truly think it will make a great addition to this volume of *Orchids*. To underwrite this effort, the trustees recently approved the establishment of a temporarily restricted fund; **The AOS Color /Special Issue Fund**. We've set up an easy Paypal route to make donations to the fund and I'm happy to say that in the first month we've raised more than \$2,000 mostly from \$2 and \$4 donations. To read more about this fundraising effort or make a small donation see our website at <http://tinyurl.com/27wel5j>.