



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: Mark Reinke

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www.AtlantaOrchidSociety.org

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AUGUST MONTHLY MEETING

**Topic: Integrated Orchid Conservation
at the Atlanta Botanical Garden**

Speaker: Matt Richards

**8:00 pm Monday, August 9
at the Atlanta Botanical Garden, Day Hall**

Matt Richards graduated from The Ohio State University with a B.S. in Horticulture. Special attention was given to the study of Orchidaceae and the asymbiotic culture of orchids during his undergraduate studies. In 2006 he was hired as Orchid Center Horticulturist at the Atlanta Botanical Garden. He began working on the propagation of Georgia's native orchids in the Ron Determann Tissue Culture lab at ABG, and has since assumed the full operating responsibilities of the tissue culture laboratory. He now holds the title of Orchid Conservation Specialist. He has advanced the culture of native North American orchids, and has successfully grown plants of many rare species from seed to flower. In 2007 he was invited to join the IUCN (World Conservation Union) as a member of the Orchid Specialist Group (North American Region) under the SSC (Species Survival Commission).

Matt's talk will cover the ABG's involvement in native orchid conservation efforts in the Southeast US; a broad topic that includes an overview of such interesting species as *Cypripedium kentuckiense* (Kentucky Ladyslipper) *Platanthera integrilabia* (White Fringless Orchid), *Platanthera chapmanii* (Chapman's Fringed Orchid), *Tolumnia bahamensis* (Variegated Orchid), and *Cyrtopodium punctatum* (Cowhorn Orchid). Matt is both an interesting speaker and an amiable guy, so come join us for this fascinating program!

**MEMBERS ARE PERMITTED TO SELL PLANTS
AT THIS MONTH'S MEETING.....**



Cattleya bicolor ssp. bicolor

**This bi-foliate species native to Southeast Brazil
typically blooms in August and September in the
Northern Hemisphere.**

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Newsletter – [Mark Reinke](#)

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Show Hospitality (2011) – open

Telephone – [Lynne Gollob](#)

President's Message

It was great to start the month with our cool Ice Cream Social and our tour of the greenhouses, especially when looking back following the super-hot auction at Roy's house last Saturday.

Nevertheless, the entire month featured terrific orchids, good food and warm camaraderie. In spite of all our worries about the extreme heat and our plants' health, these are the times that define who we are – The Atlanta Orchid Society!

Now is the time to look forward – the election for next year's leaders is approaching, which means it is time to formulate the Nominating Committee. I will appoint a chair and at our August 7th meeting your Board of Trustees will elect two members of the society to serve on the committee. If you are willing to serve on the committee, please contact me before we meet on the 7th.

Proposed changes to our bylaws will be among other important issues that will be before the Board in August. We will provide ample time for the membership to digest and discuss any proposed changes prior to a vote. And, all members are reminded that our Board of Trustees meetings are open. Please contact me, if you need info on exact time and location of the meeting. We will be happy to see you there.

Welcome New Members!

Joining the Atlanta Orchid Society in July were:

Karen and Joe Robinson, Khoa Tan Lu, and Ada Love.

Events Out and About

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

Monday, 9/13 Atlanta Orchid Society Monthly meeting, ABG, Day Hall, 8 p.m.,

Speaker: Keith Davis – a great orchid grower and winner of an FCC from the AOS for his ‘Ghost Orchid!’

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:

Mar. 11-13, 2011 – Atlanta and South Metro Orchid Show, Day Hall, Atlanta Botanical Gardens, Atlanta, GA.

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

Atlanta Orchid Society Meeting Minutes July 12, 2010

The meeting was called to order earlier than usual at 6:30 by President Maureen Pulignano so we could tour the working greenhouses at the Atlanta Botanical Gardens, not open to the public, along with the public gardens while there was still sunlight.

When it got dark we returned to Day Hall for an ice cream social and refreshments. A silent auction was held in place of the usual raffle.

The motion made to approve the minutes of the June 14th meeting was passed.

It was announced that Danny Lentz had accepted the position of treasurer of our society, Mark Reinke had accepted the position of editor of our newsletter and Terry Glover had accepted the position of raffle chair.

Roy again reminded people of the auction at his house on July 24.

After the ribbon awards, there being no further business, the meeting was adjourned..

Respectfully submitted,
Roy Harrow, Secretary Atlanta Orchid Society

SILENT AUCTION DONATIONS! THANK YOU!!!

Our July Silent Auction was a huge success and we wish to thank the following for their donations:

Barbara Barnett, Lynne Gollob, Roy Harrow, David Mellard, Hal Morrison, Mike Wenzel, Ashe-Simpson Garden Center, Hastings Garden Center, Marble Branch Farms and Peach State Orchids.

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, contact the society's Treasurer (see page 2) for a membership application, or complete an application online at our website:

www.atlantaorchidsociety.org

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.

JULY MEETING

Our annual 'behind the scenes' tour of the Fuqua Conservatory, Orchid Center, and growing areas and plant collections not open to the public.



A chance to see weird and wonderful things including many rare plants that never go on display in the public areas.



Look UP or you might miss something!



We would like to thank the following members that brought goodies for the refreshment table in July:
Marianne Gilmore, Barbara Dampog,
Lynne Gollob, Gary Collier,
Geni Smith.



HELP US Save a Tree – or Two!

If you are receiving this month's newsletter by snail mail and have a compelling reason to continue receiving your newsletter in paper copy, please let us know. Please contact maureen@deefalt.com or markreinke@att.net prior to August 15th to let us know if you are unable to access your newsletter via email, *otherwise your future issues will be delivered by email only*. It costs the society approximately \$2 to print and mail each individual copy, so opting to receive only via email is a huge help on our budget!

We know that a few of you have no access to email – and you will continue to receive your newsletter as always!

Atlanta Orchid Society Monthly Meeting Ribbon Winners and Notes for July, 2010

By Mark Alan Reinke



Brassavola nodosa (dwarf form)

Class I – Cattleya Alliance

Blue- *Brassavola nodosa* – Gary Collier & Mark Reinke

Brassavola nodosa, the 'Lady of the Night' orchid, is probably one of the most recognizable species in the Cattleya Alliance. It occurs naturally in a widespread area that includes Mexico and Central America, northern South America and parts of the Caribbean and can often be found on exposed tree limbs or rocks in full direct sunlight. It is a tough and easy

growing species with a preference for excellent drainage, strong air movement and bright light. This example is smaller than typical size in both plant and flower, and blooms only in the summer. Other individuals can have larger flowers and bloom at other seasons or several times per year. My personal favorite and a good variety for frequent blooms is *B. nodosa* 'Susan Fuchs' FCC/AOS. A strong, ethereal, Jasmine scent is produced at night to attract moths, the species' chief pollinator. *B. nodosa* hybrids are unmistakable in their look and the form of the species can remain dominant through several generations. Often the lip is the most outstanding feature, as tiny red or purple dots hidden in the enclosed tube of the species can combine with the color genes of the other parent to create beautiful spots and/or stripes. Most of these hybrids will become showy and floriferous specimens if left undisturbed and given the same general culture as the species.

Red – *Cattleya Love Castle* 'K' – John Oden

White – *Brassocattleya Edna* 'Woodland's' – Gary Collier & Mark Reinke

**Class II – Cymbidium Alliance
No Entries**

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Dendrobium hercoglossum

Class III – Dendrobium Alliance

Blue – *Dendrobium hercoglossum* – Barbara Dampog

Den. hercoglossum comes from a widespread habitat in Southeast Asia and the Philippines where it is often found growing on trees near steams and occurs from near sea level to 4,000 feet in tropical broadleaf and montane forests. The dainty, yet showy flowers are only about one inch across, but occur in clusters, several of which arise from side nodes on each mature cane at flowering time in mid-summer. The color varies from plant to plant and ranges from pale blush violet, as in our ribbon winner example, to deeper orchid purple. This species likes plenty of water and fertilizer during the growing season, but should be allowed to dry between each watering in the winter months, and until new growth is underway. Despite its charms, the bloom season of *Den. hercoglossum* barely overlaps with any other species that would be compatible; so only four registered hybrids currently exist.

Red – *Dendrobium glomeratum* – Mary Booth Cabot

Entered as *Den. crepidiferum*, the current accepted name for this species according to Kew is *Den. glomeratum*.

White – *Dendrobium Burana Jade* – Geni Smith



Prosthechea prismatocarpa

Class IV - Epidendrum Alliance

Blue - *Prosthechea prismatocarpa* – Gary Collier & Mark Reinke

This orchid, along with the red ribbon winner, *Psh. ionocentra*, and four additional species, make up a closely related section of *Prosthechea* for which Withner and others propose the genus name *Panarica*, a combination of Panama and Costa Rica, the two countries where they are all endemic. This change, however, has not been accepted by Kew, and perhaps never will given the complications it would create with so many new names needed to describe the man made generic combinations between it and its many registered hybrids. Breeders have accomplished crosses between *Psh. prismatocarpa* and members of *Brassavola*, *Cattleya*, *Caulathron*, *Encyclia* and *Laelia* already and more complex combinations are sure to arise in the future. For example, we have seedlings between this plant and *Cattlianthe* Chocolate Drop, a combination that has heretofore not been registered. One thing these seedlings have in common with the species is a very slow rate of maturity to from seed to bloom, even by orchid standards. Once blooming size, a plant will quickly make an ever more showy specimen with several to numerous long lasting upright spikes of flowers in summer. But reaching blooming size typically takes up to a decade or longer from seed. The species name refers to the prism shaped seed capsule that will reveal a perfect equilateral triangle in a cross section. All the members of this group inhabit tropical cloud forests at elevations of 4,000 to 5,000 feet and grow best with more moisture and shade than their *Encyclia* and *Epidendrum* relatives.

Red - *Prosthechea ionocentra* – Gary Collier & Mark Reinke

Red – *Encyclia alata* – Gary Collier & Mark Reinke



Brassia Rising Star 'Orchid Man' HCC/AOS

Class V – Oncidium Alliance

Red – *Brassia Rising Star 'Orchid Man' HCC/AOS*
– David Glass & Nancy Newton

Brassia Rising Star is 75% *Brs. verrucosa* and 25% *Brs. gireoudiana*, the former species occurring in tropical forests from southern Mexico through Central America and possibly into Venezuela, and the latter restricted to Costa Rica and Panama in similar environments. Both species receive fairly bright, indirect light in nature, with copious rainfall in the summer months, and a dry winter in which the main source of moisture comes from dew and occasional fog. *Brassia* are sometimes reluctant bloomers, but reducing the water while increasing the light in winter helps encourage plants to flower the following spring or summer. Where they occur in the wild, summer temperatures are at least ten degrees cooler than what we experience in this region, so more shade and humidity during are warmer months will help compensate for the added heat. Like most Oncidinae, *Brassia* are particularly intolerant of stale media, so should be repotted every year or two just as new roots have commenced on the current season growth. When this orchid was awarded, the blooms measured better than 15 inches in total vertical spread!



Paphiopedilum Maud Rook x glanduliferum

Class VI – Cypripedium Alliance

Blue – *Paphiopedilum Maud Rook x glanduliferum var. wilhelminiae* – Maureen Pulignano

This entry was a good lesson for me in *Paphiopedilum* breeding. I could not imagine that the combination of a mottled-leaf, vinicolor, 'Maudiae type' and a medium sized, strap-leaved multifloral with narrow, twisting petals could create this beautiful, almost black flower with flat and fairly broad petals. But then there was the problem of *TWO* flowers on a single inflorescence – something that would not occur in typical 'Maudiae' breeding. The cross was apparently done by Owens Orchids of Pisgah Forest, NC, and is featured in their listing under the heading "Black Multifloral Paphs?" (question mark included)! A little more research into similar hybrids done in the past leads me to believe that indeed, the tag is correct after all. In fact, they were following cues from a similar hybrid registered in 1984 called *Paph. Manahawkin*, which matched a vinicolor *Paph. Maudiae* with the same form of *Paph. glanduliferum* used in this pairing, and known for its unusually dark coloration. That earlier cross produced two plants that received Awards of Merit in 1992 with similar coloration and characteristics to this one, though perhaps not quite as dark. A closer look at the form of this plant does reveal a dorsal sepal that is more tilted forward, and *that*, along with slightly narrower and stiffly held foliage and, of course, the two flowers on a single inflorescence are the only subtle characteristics that reveal the multifloral species parent. Based on the award descriptions of the earlier hybrid I cite, this orchid should be capable of producing three flowers on a single inflorescence when mature. The combination of dark, dark flowers and the unique foliage is very

striking!

Red – *Phragmipedium* Les Dirouilles – Maureen Pulignano

White – *Paphiopedilum* Magic Lantern – Cheryl Bruce



Phalaenopsis Gold Tris 'Syh Wei Orchids'
AM/AOS

Class VII – Phalaenopsis Alliance

Blue – *Phalaenopsis* Gold Tris 'Syh Wei Orchids' AM/AOS – Geni Smith

The name of this cute *Phalaenopsis* is a combination of the two parents, *Phal.* Taipei Gold and *Phal. equestris*. It is yet another great example of how the Taiwanese are using the diminutive *Phal. equestris* to create charming, scaled down versions of standard *Phalaenopsis* still capable of putting on a big floral display. In fact, the clone 'War Eagle,' displayed 93 open flowers and 39 additional buds on four branched inflorescences when it was awarded an HCC from the AOS in 1999. The yellow parent, *Phal.* Taipei Gold, was introduced in 1984, and is the result of crossing a typical white hybrid with the fairly unassuming reddish species, *Phal. venosa*. The results were far more outstanding than one could imagine and it spawned an entire dynasty of yellow and sunset hued hybrids. As of the most recent updated list, more than one thousand registered hybrids can trace their ancestry back to it!

Red – *Doritaenopsis* Purple Martin 'KS' – Cheryl Bruce



Ascocenda Memoria Thianchai 'Sweet Fragrance'

Class VIII – Vanda Alliance

Blue – *Ascocenda* Memoria Thianchai 'Sweet Fragrance' – Gene Gadilhe

This vandaceous orchid is outstanding for its full form, citron yellow color, and good size. It is one of the many high quality descendents of *Ascocenda* Fuchs Gold, introduced in 1983 and the progenitor of over 120 registered hybrids, nearly half of which have at least one AOS award to their name! It derives its yellow color from four species, *V. denisoniana*, *V. dearei*, *Asctm. curvifolium*, and *Asctm. miniatum*, while its good size comes primarily from *V. sanderiana*. This plant would stand a good chance of being awarded if taken to an AOS judging as it has form, color and flower count equal to the clone 'Limoncello' AM/AOS, and the flowers appear to be equal to or larger than the 6.5 cm. spread of that specimen. Grow this orchid ideally in a basket, with high light, with intermediate to warm temperatures, good humidity, and daily watering. Fertilize heavily in summer and less in winter when the sun angle is lower.

Red – *Ascocenda* Princess Mikasa 'Sapphire' AM/AOS – Gene Gadilhe



Class IX – Miscellaneous

Red – *Restrepia brachypus* – Mary Booth Cabot

Entered as *Restrepia striata*, the current accepted name for this species on the Kew Monocot Checklist is *Restrepia brachypus*. It is an inhabitant of cloud forest environments in the elevation range 5,000 to 8,000 feet in the northern Andean mountains where it

receives very consistent light diffusion, temperature and humidity year round. The small plants produce a clump of stems each ending in a single leathery, elliptical-ovate leaf. From the juncture between the leaf and stem a bundle of inflorescences, each carrying a single, attractively striped, elfin flower, are produced one at a time for several years. A mature plant will almost always have at least a few flowers open, with more being produced in the cooler months of the year when grown in cultivation. They require fairly typical Pleurothallid culture, growing best in small plastic pots filled with fine media that is freshened regularly, or mounted with a pad of moss around the roots if sufficient humidity and moisture can be maintained. A rarified combination of moist, buoyant air, filtered light, and cool to mild temperatures will produce the most outstanding results.

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.

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Quarterly Ribbon Judging Point Winners!

1st Quarter

David Glass & Nancy Newton – 39 points

2nd Quarter

Maureen Pulignano – 23 points
(There was no show table in May due to the annual club auction)

FINALLY – Real Solutions for Eliminating Orchid Scale and Mealybugs!

by Mark Alan Reinke

Of all the ailments or pests that can afflict orchids in cultivation, the two most persistent and heretofore difficult to control are scale and mealybug. Scale is particularly fond of tormenting our *Cattleya* and *Encyclia* species and hybrids, while mealybug infestation can definitely take the fun out of growing *Paphiopedilum* and *Phalaenopsis*. Both of these pests are resistant to conventional, smelly insecticides such as Malathion and Orthene, and can barely be controlled with Neem Oil or soap/alcohol mixtures with great persistence and regular applications. Their eggs or larvae seem to be able to remain dormant for months ready to make a dramatic reappearance right when you thought you finally had them under control. The frustration has been so great that many hobbyists have simply given up growing certain kinds of orchids altogether rather than fight a seemingly un-winnable battle.

But a new class of products have become available recently that, with a few applications, will totally eliminate all infestation of scale or mealybug from your collection. They are so effective, that unless you re-introduce one of these pests back into your collection accidentally, they will stay away for good. You will finally be free to enjoy your plants more without worrying about constantly finding new infestations to battle. AND, you will notice that plants that once harbored residual populations of these pests now grow with greater vigor than you have ever seen, since they are free to direct their energy reserves towards better growth and blooms. Two of these products that we have used at Marble Branch Farms are Distance and Safari. Both are made by Valent Professional Products and generally only available in commercial quantities. Some orchid societies have purchased the commercial size and sold them in smaller quantities to individual members to recoup the cost. In other cases, a group of members have pooled their personal resources to purchase them and spread out the cost. I would strongly encourage you to pursue one of these avenues of procurement.

Distance is an Insect Growth Regulator, rather than an insecticide, that comes in liquid form. Just one-half of a fluid ounce makes 4 gallons of spray. It has a medicinal odor while being applied, but that dissipates quickly as it dries. It has no effect on adult scale, but prevents larvae and eggs from developing, so that several applications spaced a week to 10 days apart will totally break the life cycle and the population will crash. We heard about this product in

late spring of 2009 and made 5 successive applications in June/July of that year. That may have been more than necessary, but I wanted to make sure it did the job! To my amazement, within a few weeks all I could find, even with extremely careful examination, was dead, dry scale that flaked off with only a little pressure. AND, I have been unable to find any live scale even after an entire year with no additional applications! Still, I will probably spray a couple of times before summer ends just to be sure. I prefer to do my spraying when I can have both exhaust fans going and position myself out of the drift. Distance is somewhat effective on mealybug as well and is highly effective on whitefly and fungus gnats, which can sometimes infest orchid collections. It costs about \$230 for a quart, the smallest quantity that seems to be currently available. But that makes over 250 gallons of spray at the strength required to control scale!

Mealybug was less of a problem for us at Marble Branch Farms, but a few specific plants seemed to have chronic infestation. Our *Guarianthe skinneri* var. *alba* 'Cherokee,' for example, looked fine most of the year, but whenever new growth was developing in summer, it was covered with the critters. Though we only have a few *Phalaenopsis*, they were continually plagued by the little cottony beasts as well. In October I heard about Safari, a highly effective systemic insecticide that a fellow grower swore would eliminate them in a single application. That individual sold me a small quantity to try. It comes in granular form, and one teaspoon dissolved in a gallon of water with a dash of liquid soap as a wetting agent is an effective concentration against mealybug, scale, thrips, whitefly and several other pests. My fellow grower was right! One application on the affected plants has eliminated mealybug altogether! It has now been over 6 months and we remain mealybug free! If any new infestation does occur, I know that I can eliminate it quickly and easily. Safari is odorless and much easier to live with than the smelly insecticides of the past. A three pound container of granules costs about \$350, but would make hundreds of gallons of spray, so again, pooling resources is a good way to purchase it. We will continue to use both products as a part of good horticultural practice. There is always the possibility of resistant strains being created by using a single form of pest control.

As with all pest control products, these should be applied strictly by the directions and precautions on the label.



IN BLOOM AT MARBLE BRANCH FARMS.....

Since there were no judging center awards this month, here are some photos of the wonderful and unusual summer blooming orchids in our greenhouse at MBF:



Stanhopea jenischiana



Bromecanthe Jamaica Fire
(*Guaritonia Why Not* x *Myrmecophila brysiana*)



Paphinia Majestic
(*crinata* x *herreriae*)



Cynoches Jean E. Monnier
'Marble Branch'
(*barthiorum* x *cooperi*)