



# 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

June, 2011

[www.AtlantaOrchidSociety.org](http://www.AtlantaOrchidSociety.org)

Volume 52: Number 6

## JUNE MONTHLY MEETING

8:00 pm Monday, June 13, 2011  
at the Atlanta Botanical Garden, Day Hall

PROGRAM: "Mexican Orchids"

Wayman Bussey, Abundiflora  
[www.abundiflora.com](http://www.abundiflora.com)

Raised in Belle Glade and educated in Ornamental Horticulture and Botany at the University of Florida, Weyman's love for orchids began at age 12 when he collected his first orchid in the Big Cypress swamps during a Boy Scout camping trip. A trip to the 7th World Orchid Conference in Colombia at the age of 17, inspired him to live and work in the tropics where he could be nearest his real passion, wild orchids.

In his sought after presentation about Mexican orchids, given to over 75 societies during the past 20 years, he shows you how the geography of Mexico has influenced the evolution of more than a thousand species. He'll keep you captivated and motivated throughout the presentation with door prizes for your participation. How about a cocktail for your orchids? Do you know the WANTS orchids have? This presentation is much more than a bunch of pretty flower pictures, it takes you into real Old Mexico in depth, teaches you how to choose the Mexican native orchid species best suited for your climate and how to grow them.

You get a 4 page handout on culture, hailed by the best Hawaiian growers as, "the nail on the head about growing orchids"! The power point presentation will also be available for all members to download from the abundiflora website at the address given in the handout.

Weyman invites members to check out his website and email him to: [mex-orkid@gmail.com](mailto:mex-orkid@gmail.com), any specific questions about any of the species in the table at [http://www.abundiflora.com/species\\_categories.htm](http://www.abundiflora.com/species_categories.htm).



***Barkeria spectabilis*** in a Mexican species that blooms at this time of year. It is unusual in that it is deciduous and begins new growth rapidly in mid-spring to produce new stems, leaves and flowers in just a few weeks time.

Photo courtesy Marble Branch Farms

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[David Kessler](#)

*Newsletter* – [Mark Reinke](#)

*Orchid Digest Rep* – Fred Missbach

*Show Chair 2011* –  
Barbara Barnett

*Show Hospitality 2011* – Geni Smith (Exhibitors, Vendors and Volunteers), Laurel Burrows (Judges' Luncheon)

## IPA SE Region Summer Meeting Saturday, June 4, 2011 Lines Orchids, Signal Mountain, TN 9 AM – 3:30 PM

### Agenda

**9 AM** – Greenhouses Open – Hospitality and Plant Sales

**10 AM** – Announcements and Program (at Walden Town Center)

“New Approaches to Pest and Disease Control”  
Ron McHatton, PhD, American Orchid Society  
Ron’s presentation was one the highlights of our 2010 Symposium held in Ontario, California. He brings his updated version to share with us. No matter what genera of orchids you grow, you do not want to miss his presentation.

**11:30 AM** – Lunch on your own – Lots’ of choices near the nursery, Mexican to fast food.

**1 PM** – Part 2

“New Approaches to Pest and Disease Control”  
Bring your problem plants and your questions to join in the interactive discussion of improving the health of your orchid collection. Live material and practical solutions will be discussed in the open workshop style format.

**2:30 PM** – Auction to benefit the IPA Color Fund and Region 12 (at Lines Orchids)  
(Please bring selected divisions, keikis, mericlones and selected plants to donate to the auction.)

**3:30 PM** – Meeting ends. Have a safe trip home!

Contact: Tom Harper, SE Region IPA  
Rep. [harper\\_sro@bellsouth.net](mailto:harper_sro@bellsouth.net)



*Renanthis Persian Carpet*

### **Events Out and About**

#### **June**

June 4 – IPA SE Regional Summer Meeting  
Lines Orchids, Signal Mountain, TN  
9 am – 3:30 pm

Jun 11 - American Orchid Society monthly  
judging, Atlanta Judging Center, 2 pm, ABG  
basement workshop.

**Jun 13 – Atlanta Orchid Society Monthly  
Meeting, ABG, Day Hall – 8 p.m.**

#### **July**

Jul 9 - American Orchid Society monthly  
judging, Atlanta Judging Center, 2 pm, ABG  
basement workshop.

**Jul 11 – Atlanta Orchid Society Monthly  
Meeting, ABG, Day Hall – 8 p.m.  
Summer Social and ‘Behind the Scenes’  
tour of the ABG Greenhouses.**

#### **August**

**Aug 08 – Atlanta Orchid Society Monthly  
Meeting, ABG, **Mershon Hall** – 8 p.m.  
Speaker: Mark Alan Reinke, Marble  
Branch Farms, Walhalla, SC  
“Creating a New Orchid Hybrid From  
Seed to Bloom”**

August 13 - American Orchid Society  
monthly judging, Atlanta Judging Center, 2  
pm, ABG basement workshop.

#### **September**

**Sep 16-18 – Alabama Orchid Society  
Show, Birmingham Botanical Garden,  
Birmingham, AL**

#### **November**

**Nov. 13-20, 2011 - 20<sup>th</sup> World Orchid  
Conference, Singapore.  
[www.20woc.com.sg](http://www.20woc.com.sg)**

### **A Note from the President**

Hello Everyone,

I would like to invite everyone to our  
June meeting. This month our speaker is  
Wayman Bussey his company is  
[www.abundaflora.com](http://www.abundaflora.com). and he will be talking  
about Mexican orchids Species. I  
understand he has a great  
presentation and he will be bringing plants to  
sell at the meeting.

We are still working on our web site and  
have made some progress, but still have a  
long way to go. Don't forget the upcoming  
Lines Orchid's green growers visit in  
Chattanooga. We also have a visit  
scheduled for Rainbeau Orchids coming  
soon.

Thanks to all the new members hope we  
can keep up this momentum for the rest of  
the year.

Thanks hope to see you at the meeting!

Gregory Smith

### **Our Monthly Plant Raffle Worth a Closer Look!**

You may want to keep an eye on the monthly  
raffle. J&L Orchids donated two miniature  
orchids for the raffle and someone brought in  
*Pleurothallis teagueii*. Andy's Orchids sells this  
plant for \$125 and someone won it with a \$1  
ticket. Someone also brought in a wonderfully  
grown, specimen pot of *Bulbophyllum  
lilacinum*. Another steal at \$1.



## Atlanta Orchid Society Meeting Minutes May 9, 2011

1. The meeting was called to order by President Greg Smith at 8 P.M.
2. Greg mentioned the following upcoming activities
  - a. The Redlands International Orchid Festival (May 13-15) at the Spice Park in Homestead, FL,
  - b. The Alabama Orchid Society show Sept 16-18 in Birmingham, AL, and
  - c. The need for a society member to volunteer to be the web administrator for the society's website. Keith Coleman expressed an interest
3. Out of 300 volunteers at the garden, Marianne Gilmore was named the ABG volunteer of the month for January. Congratulations Marianne.
4. The society approved the minutes of the April meeting.
5. David Mellard talked about an upcoming contest for a new society logo. A committee will put together some rules for the contest, which will be announced soon in the society's newsletter.
6. Maureen Pulignano was admitted to hospital with complications from her recent survey. Please keep her in your prayers.
7. If you would like to help Maureen and Geni Smith put in the exhibit at the Birmingham show in September, please contact them (Maureen: 404-869-6980; Geni: 678-817-1915). This is a great way to learn about how exhibits are put together. With a little experience, someday you could be training someone. The society offers partial reimbursements for expenses for those folks putting in an exhibit.
8. David Glass talked about the mentoring program for new members. If you're a new member and have questions about orchids, contact David at 404-377-4187 or [orchidprof@aol.com](mailto:orchidprof@aol.com). He'll either answer your questions or put you in contact with someone in the society who can.

9. Doug Hartong read the monthly ribbon awards assisted by Gary Collier as Vanda White.
10. Cornelia Head with J&L Orchids in CT gave a wonderful overview of intermediate- to warm-growing, miniature orchids. The title of her talk was 'Good Things Come in Small Packages.'
- 11. Thanks go to J&L Orchids and Gene Gadilhe for donations to the raffle.**
- 12. Thanks to Bill Applegate, Terry Glover, and Bob Grzesik who brought snacks.**

Respectively submitted,  
David Mellard

### 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*.

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Single Membership 1 year \$65, 2 years \$125  
Student Membership 1 year \$40, 2 years \$75

JOIN OR RENEW ONLINE AT: [www.aos.org](http://www.aos.org)

### 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](mailto:Fred.Missbach@orchiddigest.com) (404-237-1694)

## Atlanta Orchid Society Monthly Ribbon Winners May, 2011

By Mark Alan Reinke  
Photos courtesy Roy Harrow

### Class I – Cattleya Group



#### Blue – *Cattleya milleri* 'MBF' – Gary Collier & Mark Reinke

*Cattleya milleri* is a rupicolous (rock dwelling) species discovered barely 50 years ago, that, if still extant in the wild, occurs on iron ore outcrops in a small area of the state of Minas Gerais, Brazil. Due in part to over collecting, and to a greater extent strip mining, this species may now be entirely gone from its original habitat. The short plants are flushed purple, and bear fat, somewhat conical pseudobulbs topped by a single stiff pointed leaf held at an angle. Each inflorescence is tall and topped by as many as a dozen orange-red to blood red flowers, often with yellow highlights on the lip. They tend to face all directions and open successively over about two months in late spring. The plants are rather slow growing and a specimen such as this one takes many years to achieve. Last year, with pollen donated from the 'Carolina Ruby' clone in the collection of Keith Davis, we were able to produce two fertile seed pods on this plant and have a number of seedlings in flask, helping to insure that good examples of the species live on in collections of the future. We grow this plant under quite bright

conditions, with intermediate temperatures, regular water and fertilizer in summer, but less in the duller days of winter, and always avoid water altogether when it is cool, cloudy and damp. For perspective when looking at the photo, the plant is currently in Aliflor (expanded clay pellets) in a ten inch plastic pot and this year produced twelve inflorescences.

Red – *Brassocattleya* Sarah Black 'Big One'  
– David Glass & Nancy Newton

White – *Cattleya* Ginny Champion  
'Riverbend,' HCC/AOS – Geni Smith

### Class II – Cymbidium Group

No Entries

### Class III – Dendrobium Group

Blue – *Dendrobium chrysotoxum* – The Ramborgers

Unfortunately, the wrong plant was photographed so we do not have a photo of blue ribbon winning *Den. Chrysotoxum* to show you. This species is widespread in Southeast Asia, typically on seasonally dry and deciduous tropical forests. The showy flowers only last 2 to 3 weeks at best, but a well grown plant can display hundreds of them, producing quite a memorable show. The sunny yellow blooms are up to 2 inches across, borne in arching inflorescences of 10 to 20 from lateral buds near the top of the canes. The lip is fringed and highlighted by a throat that is either a deeper orange yellow color or, in some varieties, a rich chestnut brown. The plants are of medium height, but eventually form large clumps, with club shaped pseudobulbs topped by several leathery leaves that last several seasons before falling off. Even older, leafless growths can still produce inflorescences. During the growing season, this species likes plentiful water, moderate light and regular feeding. After growths mature in fall, it prefers to receive brighter light, and especially in later winter, needs bright light, nights in the 50's or lower, and much less water in order to set buds properly. Although *Den. Chrysotoxum* has been used for a number of hybrids, few have earned awards or been of any commercial consequence. It seems it's difficult to improve upon such a glorious species!

**Red – *Dendrobium transparens* ‘Genevieve,’  
CHM/AOS – Doug Hartong**

**White – *Dendrobium johnsoniae* – David  
Glass & Nancy Newton**

### **Class IV – Epidendrum Group**



**Blue – *Encyclia bractescens* – Gary Collier &  
Mark Reinke**

*Encyclia bractescens* is smaller than many in the genus and pays for the limited space it takes up with a profusion of blooms that last about two months each spring. Each individual flower is up to about 2 inches in spread with narrow petals that are typically bronze or brownish, but can be chestnut red in the showiest examples. This plant has unusual reddish brown petals that are tipped in yellow green. The lip is white, but overlaid with purple veins to the extent that it usually appears pink. Well grown plants like this one will produce inflorescences with one and rarely two side branches, holding about a dozen flowers each, and extending just beyond the foliage. The leaves are narrow, almost grass like and are produced two to three per small round to pear shaped bulb. This species comes from seasonally dry tropical forests along the Gulf slope of Mexico, and also in Belize, Guatemala, Nicaragua and El Salvador. It does very well on a mount or in a basket with minimal additional media, but could be grown in a clay pot with very careful watering and durable open media. This particular specimen has been on the same stick mount for about seven years, and started out as a small plant with just a few

pseudobulbs. Although it is impressive, an example with 100 or more inflorescences would likely be necessary to earn a cultural award from the AOS today. The species likes bright filtered light, a typical intermediate to warm temperature range, good air movement and good humidity. Withner, in volume 5 of *Cattleyas and their Relatives*, published in 1998, wondered why it had not been used more in hybridizing, given its compact and floriferous nature. We have made a number of attempts at crosses without success, but have a couple of examples by other breeders pairing it with other *Encyclia* species, none of which seem to be any improvement over the parents. There was at one time an alba variety called ‘Seminole’ with green segments and a white lip with no purple markings, but this seems to have been lost to cultivation. It was awarded with both an Award of Merit and a Certificate of Botanical Merit by the American Orchid Society in 1977.

**Red – *Enclia randii* - Gary Collier & Mark Reinke**

**White – *Encyclia incumbens* – Gary Collier & Mark Reinke**



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## Class V – Oncidium Group



**Blue – *Hamiltonara* Golden Harry 'Golden Anniversary,' AM/AOS – David Glass & Nancy Newton**

*Hamiltonara* = *Ada* + *Brassia* + *Cochlioda* + *Odontoglossum*. *Hmtn.* Golden Harry is (*Banfieldara* Gold Star x *Odontioda* Harry Baldwin) so the grex name was derived from combining the parent names. All of the various clones I have seen photos of show a nice golden yellow background overlaid with a chestnut brown, often in very striking patterns. The genetic complexity of this hybrid likely makes it tolerant of less than ideal conditions, but the majority of its species parents favor somewhat shaded light conditions and cool to intermediate temperatures. Higher light may produce better bloom, but will likely also lead to more spottiness on older leaves. Like all the complex *Oncidinae* hybrids, this one appreciates plentiful water and is best grown in a plastic pot with a media that retains some moisture, but drains well. Keep the size of the container just large enough to accommodate a year's new growth and provide fresh media every year if possible to maintain a healthy root system.

**Red – *Psychopsis* Kalihi – David Glass & Nancy Newton**

**White – *Psychopsis* (unknown) – Sondra Nierenberg**

## Class VI – *Cypripedium* Group



**Blue – *Paphiopedilum* Toni Semple x William Trelease - Greg Smith**

This unusual combination of four multifloral species (*Paph. haynaldianum*, *lowii*, *parishii* and *rothschildianum*) exhibits a sky high inflorescence with an unusually high flower count. This is apparently the influence of the one grandparent, *Paph. parishii* which can have up to eight flowers when well grown. Other than flower count, that species seems to have little contribution to the look of the flowers, which are a blend of the appearance of the other three species involved. The overall effect is pleasing, though the spacing of each flower may be just a little too great for the best visual impact. The

parentage of this hybrid indicates that it would prefer to be grown in moderately bright, but filtered light, and at temperatures in the intermediate to warm range. All *Paphiopedilum* generally appreciate a container that is relatively small for the plant size, filled with a moisture retentive, but well drained and fairly fine mix that is changed out regularly (typically once per year) to encourage a healthy root system. While considered terrestrial orchids, their roots rarely penetrate into the substrate or actual soil layer, but stay within the mat of decaying leaves and humus on the surface that is always slightly moist, but not soggy.

**Red – *Paphiopedilum* St. Swithun – Roy Harrow**

**White – *Phragmipedium besseae* var. *flavum* – David Glass & Nancy Newton**

## **Class VII – *Phalaenopsis* Group**



**Blue – *Phalaenopsis* Unknown – Gary Layman**

This is a nicely grown plant with a beautiful branched inflorescence. The irregular spotting pattern may have been derived from breeding with one of the modern “Harlequin” types. Too bad the name is not known so that we could explore this possibility further.

**Red – *Phalaenopsis* Sweet Memory ‘Liodoro’ – Greg Smith**

**White – *Doritaenopsis* Surf Song – Sondra Nierenberg**

## **Class VIII – *Vandaceous* Group**



**Blue – *Renanthera imschootiana* – David Glass & Nancy Newton**

*Renanthera imschootiana* comes from mountainous regions of Southeast Asia where it grows mostly in the 3,000 to 5,000 foot range above sea level. Like its *Vanda* cousins it is a lover of high light, preferring to be just barely shaded from full direct midday sun. It will take cooler conditions in winter than many *Vanda* due to the elevations at which it can grow. The inflorescence is held horizontally, and like our blue ribbon winner example, is often branched and many flowered providing a spectacular effect. Not all plants are as bright a red shade as this example, so it helps to purchase a plant in flower, or from known parents of high quality. Their roots resent disturbance, so they are best grown in a durable basket with only minimal large media to anchor the plant. It is advisable not to trim the roots or the plant could be set back and they tend to flower only when grown under optimal conditions. After a good soaking, the roots should be pliable to gently wrap around the basket and get them up out of the way if necessary. Plenty of water and warmth in summer, with somewhat less in winter, along with constant good humidity and air movement

are the conditions this orchid needs to flourish. *Ren. Imschootiana* has been used in many inter-generic crosses over the years, and many are interesting enough. But the vastly unequal flower segments are a trait that doesn't always translate well in the offspring.

**Red – *Ascocenda miniatum* – Gene Gadilhe**

**Red – *Ascocenda Fat Tuesday* – Gene Gadilhe**

**White – *Sedirea japonica* – Gene Gadilhe**

## **Class IX – Miscellaneous**



**Blue – *Cypripedium kentuckiense* – David Mellard & Sal Marino**

This rare yellow lady's slipper was only botanically described as a separate species in 1981, though it has been known by botanists for many years. As the name implies, the chief population of it was first found in south eastern Kentucky. But subsequently, additional scattered populations have been identified in several other southern and south central states. It has the largest flower of any of our native *Cypripedium*, up to 4 inches from top to bottom, and robust specimens can sometimes produce two to a stem, one held a couple inches above the other. The plants can reach 30 inches tall and form specimen clumps over time under ideal conditions. They are normally found on wooded floodplains in fairly remote areas from the Cumberland Plateau westward into the Ozark Plateau and nearby areas, but apparently not in Georgia, South or North Carolina. The pouch is

a paler yellow than the other yellow species with a slightly irregular upper edge. The sepals and petals can range from greenish yellow marked brown to nearly solid brown on some specimens. It is now possible to purchase seed grown plants of this and other native *Cypripedium* species, which, though expensive, are more adaptable to conditions you might be able to provide in your own carefully prepared woodland garden.

**Red – *Maxillaria tenuifolia* – The Ramborgers**

**White – *Bulbophyllum thaiorum* – The Ramborgers**



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## **AOS Corner**

*Lynn Fuller, Chair*  
*AOS Affiliated Societies Committee*

AOS is on the move. At the members meeting held in April, it was announced that all members with email addresses would receive an invitation in early May to explore the AOS web site that has been under development which also included the new Orchids Plus program and to provide feedback. During that time, both web sites will run simultaneously. When the new site is made active you'll notice a new, fresh look to

the AOS website. It's more than a cosmetic change. Along with upgrades and added material, the new Orchids Plus program will be available. If you are a current subscriber to AQ+, you will need to re-register in the new program. AOS also anticipates a 'social network' component to the website and it is currently under development.

In addition, at the Members meeting, the Board of Trustees announced that a committee has been formed to assess the future strategic partners for the AOS. Possible strategic partners are Huntington Gardens in California, Fairchild Botanical Garden in Florida and Longwood Gardens in Pennsylvania. The current AOS property in Delray is under contract for purchase and the potential purchaser is going through some local zoning change requirements. It is anticipated that sale will be completed in the last quarter of 2011.

The traditional Affiliated Societies breakfast was well attended. We had a conversation of what the AOS means to the affiliated societies and what can the societies do to further promote the AOS. The AOS reps present at the meeting asked for more communication between the AOS and the affiliated societies. The Affiliated Societies Committee members will be reaching out to the societies throughout the upcoming months with the goal of getting all the contact information corrected and updated.

Does your society have any special members that they would like to recognize? If so, AOS can provide Certificates of Appreciation for your society to use in recognizing them for their outstanding achievements or contributions. If you have a need for these certificates, or if you have any questions or concerns regarding the AOS in general, please feel free to contact me through [affiliated\\_societies@aos.org](mailto:affiliated_societies@aos.org).

### 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](http://www.atlantaorchidsociety.org)

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

### RECENT ACTIVITY AT THE ATLANTA JUDGING CENTER

The following awards were granted at recent sessions of the AOS judging center. They are provisional awards pending 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.



*Cattleya* [unnamed cross] 'Johanna,' AM/AOS  
C. Hawaiian Snowflake x C. Angelwalker 'OC,'  
AM/AOS

*Exhibited by Fred Missbach*