



# The Atlanta Orchid Society Bulletin



*Affiliated with the American Orchid Society, the Orchid Digest Corporation and the Mid-America Orchid Congress. 2001 Recipient of the American Orchid Society's Distinguished Affiliated Societies Service Award*

Newsletter Editor: Danny Lentz

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April 2006

## APRIL EVENTS

### The Meeting:

**8:00 Monday, April 10 at Atlanta Botanical Garden  
Bob Martin – “Those Sexy Orchids”**

For April, our speaker is Mr. Bob Martin of Signal Mountain, TN. A veteran personality in the orchid community who will present "Those Sexy Orchids" - an informative and often humorous presentation on the extraordinary mechanisms Mother Nature has equipped her orchids to attract pollinators and reproduce themselves.

AtLOS members can bring plants to sell at the April meeting. Please remember that 10% of sales should be donated to the society.



*Cyrtorchilum macranthum*

### Greengrowers: Gary Collier & Mark Reinke on April 22, starting at 12:00

Join us at Marble Branch Farms, the home and orchid nursery of Gary Collier and Mark Reinke. Their commercial operation is now up and running, and they are busy with their own breeding program, producing new and unusual *Cattleya Alliance* hybrids. Their greenhouse and laboratory will be open, and a large number of plants will be offered for sale at special discounts to all members and guests. You can also take a stroll through their large property and enjoy the spring wildflowers. A picnic lunch will be served. Please let Gary & Mark know if you are planning to attend. See page 4 for more information and directions.

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## THE ATLANTA ORCHID SOCIETY

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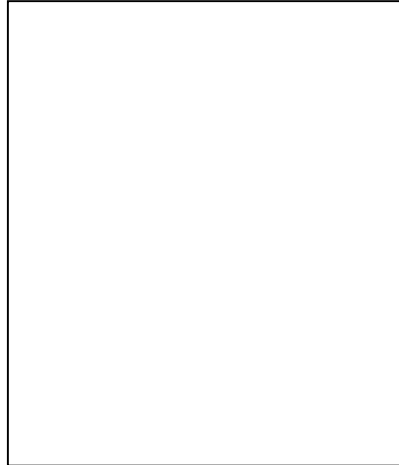
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**Librarians - Karen Chandler**  
**and Mikie Emerson**

**Show Chair - David Mellard**  
**Hospitality - Terry Glover**

## Member Spotlight



### Marianne Gilmore

This came about because of a doctor on staff at Egleston who grew orchids and brought these beautiful looking plants to display in the lobby. I also learned there was an orchid society which met at Fernbank at that time. I had to check this out!

I joined the society in 1975, began to purchase plants, killed the first five, was determined to learn how to grow them, and now have around 450 plants.

I have a diverse collection, experimenting with what will grow and bloom in my daylight basement under lights. Phalaenopsis do very well.

At this time in my life, I am between jobs, my children are grown, and I have 4 grandchildren [2 are in college]. I continue to pursue my other passion which is ushering for the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra.

My children do not share my passion for orchids, but they do enjoy gardening---and that's where it all started many years ago.

I grew up in Danville, Illinois; moved to Indianapolis, Indiana; then 4 years later arrived in Atlanta in December of 1965 with my husband and 3 young children. Unfortunately, my marriage fell apart and I became a "single mom" with 3 young children to rear. As a registered Medical Technologist, with a family to support, I worked for 5 years in the lab [chemistry & hematology] at Grady Hospital, then spent 30 years working in the chemistry lab at Egleston Hospital. After retiring from Egleston, I worked for 3 years, part time, in immunology at Emory Hospital.

During my job at Egleston, I learned that there were more than 2 kinds of orchids [white and purple cattleyas] on the planet.

### Proposed Changes to the Atlanta Orchid Society By-Laws

The following changes have been approved by the board and will be voted on at the April meeting. The changes are to Article XV – Dues. They are being made so that current practices by the society will be consistent with the society's by-laws (see page 20 in the society's directory).

Current Text: "The full assessed amount of dues shall be payable for one member of a household and half of that amount for each additional member living at the same address. New members voted into the society after July 1 shall be assessed ½ of the prescribed annual dues for that calendar year."

Proposed New Text: "The full assessed amount of dues shall be payable for one member of a household and an additional half of that amount for other household members. New members voted into the society from July through September shall be assessed ½ of the prescribed annual dues for that calendar year. New members voted into the society from October through December shall be assessed the full annual dues, which shall be applied to the following calendar year."

## Events Out and About

3/31-4/2 Greater Pensacola Orchid Society Show, Pensacola, FL. Contact Mary Roberts, (850) 477-4935, MACR813@bellsouth.net

### April

4/5-4/9 AOS Spring Meeting in Orlando, FL.

Saturday, 4/8 American Orchid Society monthly judging, Atlanta Judging Center, 2 pm, ABG basement workshop. If entering plants, please arrive before 1:30 pm to allow time for research and paperwork.

**Monday, 4/10 Atlanta Orchid Society monthly meeting**, ABG, Day Hall, 8 p.m. Bob Martin of Signal Mountain, TN will present "Those Sexy Orchids", an informative talk on the mechanisms with which Mother Nature has equipped orchids to attract pollinators and reproduce themselves.

4/20-4/23 Greater New York Orchid Show

**Saturday, 4/22 Greengrowers: Mark Reinke & Gary Collier (Marble Branch Farm)**

4/22 OS of East Tennessee Show  
Bristol, VA. Contact Leonard Passmore, (423)282-5126

### May

**Monday, 5/8 Atlanta Orchid Society monthly meeting**, ABG, Day Hall, 8 p.m. Greg Allikas will speak on Orchid Photography.

Saturday, 5/13 American Orchid Society monthly judging, Atlanta Judging Center, 2 pm, ABG basement workshop.

5/19-5/21 Redland Int'l Orchid Festival Homestead, FL [www.redlandorchidfestival.org](http://www.redlandorchidfestival.org)

5/20 Memphis OS Show, Memphis TN  
Contact Michael Rowland (901)458-2922  
[mrowland@xspedius.net](mailto:mrowland@xspedius.net)

### Welcome to our new member:

Ingrid Petry - Duluth

Our webmaster, John O'Connell, has offered to create a classifieds section on our web site that society members can use to sell/swap orchids and orchid supplies. If you would like to place information on the site please contact John at [joconnel@bellsouth.net](mailto:joconnel@bellsouth.net).

## MINUTES OF THE MARCH MEETING

- The Atlanta Orchid Society Meeting was brought to order by President Richard Hallberg. The minutes from the last meeting were approved as written.
- Please submit Atlanta Orchid Society dues for 2006 to Reba as soon as possible, so your name can be included in the 2006 directory.
- Richard Hallberg read proposed changes to the bylaws, which have been approved by the board and will be read and voted upon by the membership at the next meeting.
- Ads may be published by members on the Atlanta Orchid Society website. Members who are commercial growers may post a link to their website. Allowable space will be determined by the web master.
- The Atlanta and South Metro Orchid Societies will have a joint display in the Huntsville Orchid Show the weekend of March 25, 2006. Call David Mellard if you would like to show plants.
- Marianne Gilmore invited anyone interested in volunteering for the orchid center at the Atlanta Botanical Gardens to contact her for more information.
- Mark Reinke is putting together a list of society members that would be willing to have speakers stay with them. Please contact him if you are interested in being a host/hostess.
- Green growers will be at Rob Rinn's house at 11:00 on March 18, 2006. Next month's Green growers will be held at Mark Reinke and Gary Collier's home at noon. Bring shoes suitable for a nature hike. Directions will be given at the April meeting and printed in the newsletter.
- Fred Missbach will be in charge of the summer auction again this year. He needs a few volunteers to help.
- We have received requests for someone to give a presentation on orchids from several garden clubs. Please contact Richard Hallberg if you are interested.
- David Mellard presented Part 2 of his series on fertilizer and water quality.
- Our thanks to the orchid judges: Karen Chandler, Alfonso Doucette, Mikie Emerson, Rob Rinn, Bill Smith, Jeff Whitfield, Jeffrey Wolf. Our thanks to those who donated plants to the raffle table: Margo Brinton/Eldon Park (2), Bob Grzesik and others. Our thanks to those who provided refreshments: Chas Broward, Cathy Caine, Barbara Dampog, Don and Mary Helen Reinhard and others. Thanks to Bill Ellenberg of Peach State Orchids, who donated orchids for the silent auction and raffle table.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted, Sandy Phillips

## April Greengrowers

Date: April 22 beginning at 12:00  
 Place: Marble Branch Farms  
 155 Marble Branch Trail  
 Walhalla, SC 29691  
 (864) 718-0152

Since their last Greengrowers open house, Gary and Mark have launched Marble Branch Farms, a small commercial orchid nursery specializing in miniature & compact Cattleya Alliance hybrids and species, and introducing many of their own unique hybrids. You will be able to browse through their 26' x 92' greenhouse, and see the laboratory where orchid seed is flasked. The greenhouse features several innovative systems including rainwater collection and storage, and solar heating, which provides 85% or more of their heating needs in winter. *There will be many plants for sale and they will be offered at 20% discount from the prices listed on their e-commerce site, [www.marblebranchfarms.com](http://www.marblebranchfarms.com).*

Marble Branch Farms is a 54 acre secluded tract adjoining a National Forest wild area and bordered by two mountain streams. It is a botanical paradise where rare species from the Smoky Mountains and Coastal Plain meet. Mid-April will feature many native wildflowers, trees and shrubs in bloom, and with luck, the native Pink Ladyslipper orchids. A woodland walk up a magnificent hardwood cove will lead to a small, but beautiful, double waterfall, so wear casual clothes and good walking shoes.

A picnic lunch will be served. If you plan to attend please let Mark & Gary know at (864) 718-0152 or [info@marblebranchfarms.com](mailto:info@marblebranchfarms.com).

### Directions:

- \*Take **I-85** North out of Atlanta
- \*Switch to **I-985** towards Gainesville. After Gainesville, highway changes name to **GA-365**
- \*Just after milepost 52 take right fork towards Toccoa - this is still **GA-365**
- \*At second stop light after last turn (comes after a long downhill grade), go left and follow **GA-365 / US-123** through Toccoa, and on to Westminster, SC.
- \*Just inside city limits of Westminster, and immediately after US-76 joins in from left, turn left on **Doyle St.** The turn is right in front of the 'Welcome to Westminster' masonry sign.
- \*At the next stop sign (4.2 miles from last turn) proceed straight across intersection toward low mountain range. You are now on **Stribling Shoals Rd.**
- \***Marble Branch Trail** is 1.6 miles further on left - just after 5 black mailboxes in a row - first one says "Reinke/Collier".
- \*Follow **Marble Branch Trail** 0.6 miles (one lane gravel road) to house on left. House has blue metal roof and large greenhouse behind. Driveway fords shallow creek and there is plenty of parking once at house.

Travel distance is 100 miles from I-85 and Jimmy Carter Blvd. Usually 2 hours from the center of Atlanta.





**MARCH 2006 EXHIBITION TABLE AWARDS**  
**with notes by Mark Reinke**



**Lc. Trick or Treat 'Marble Branch'**

**CLASS 1: CATTLEYA ALLIANCE**

Blue	<i>Lc. Trick or Treat 'Marble Branch'</i>	Collier/Reinke
Red	<i>Schombolaeliocattleya Newberry Lava Burst 'Marble Branch' AM/AOS</i>	Collier/Reinke
White	<i>Iwanagaara Apple Blossom</i>	Kiss

(Blue) *Lc. Trick or Treat 'Marble Branch'* : This well known hybrid registered in 1973 by Stewart's combines four brightly colored species: *Cattleya aurantiaca*, *Laelia cinnabarina*, *Laelia harpophylla* and *Laelia flava*. It is a perfect illustration of what breeders refer to as 'hybrid vigor,' being a much more

robust grower than any of the species that make up its family tree. The exhibited selection has well shaped flowers and a slightly lighter color tone than the average example of this cross. Its vigor, saturated color, and ease of culture have all contributed to the extensive use of Lc. Trick or Treat as a parent for additional brightly colored, cluster flowered orchids. Three unusual crosses with Epidendrums are sometimes available and worth seeking out for their distinct and charming qualities: Eplc. Butterfly Kisses ( x *Epi. magnoliae*), Eplc. Hsinying Orange ( x *Epi. pseudoepidendrum*) and Eplc. Haiku Twinkle ( x *Epi. ilense*)

**CLASS 2: CYMBIDIUM**

Blue	<i>Cymbidium Sarah Jean 'Ice Cascade' AD/CSA</i>	Quattlebaum
Red	<i>Cymbidium unknown hybrid</i>	Mellard/Marino
White	<i>Cymbidium Clarisse Austin</i>	Rinn

(Blue) *Cymbidium Sarah Jean 'Ice Cascade' AD/CSA* : Surprisingly, this beautiful Cymbidium hybrid with pendant racemes of icy white flowers was introduced more than 30 years ago! Although pendulous flowering Cymbidiums are not that commonly seen, they are available in a wide range of colors and flower forms. Check out the website of Hatfield Orchids ([www.hatfieldorchids.com](http://www.hatfieldorchids.com)) of Oxnard, CA for a sample of some of the many wonderful clones available.



**Cymbidium Sarah Jean 'Ice Cascade'**

**CLASS 3: DENDROBIUM**

Blue	<i>Dendrobium nobile</i>	Lentz/Morgan
Red	<i>Dendrobium farmeri</i>	Chandler
White	<i>Dendrobium unicum</i>	Dampog



**Dendrobium nobile**

(Blue) *Dendrobium nobile* : This showy species from SE Asia has spawned a host of equally showy hybrids in a rainbow of color combinations, often in exquisitely contrasting two and three toned patterns. Everyone who sees a well grown plant in bloom wants it, but many who succumb to the temptation to purchase fail to induce the same spectacular show in subsequent years. This is because blooming in this species and its hybrids is initiated by a very exact set of conditions that require the grower to treat the plant quite differently between summer, when the plant is actively growing, and fall and winter when it is resting.

In order to do this well, the plant usually must be moved to a different location in each of these seasons to best mimic the climate it is adapted to in the wild. In summer, the plant should be in a warm, moderately shady location, with regular and frequent watering and fertilizing. But when fall begins, it needs decidedly cooler temperatures, especially at night when 50's and even 40's are preferred, drastically less water, and much brighter light in order to set buds. A bright, unheated sun porch would work well for this requirement. If humidity is good, almost no watering will be required, but in lower humidity situations, watch to make sure pseudobulbs don't shrivel. Following this advice should lead to heavy bud set and many flowers in late winter or early spring.

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.

**CLASS 4: EPIDENDRUM**

- Blue *Epidendrum stamfordianum* Lentz/Morgan
- Red *Epicattleya Florida* 'Pine Knot' Collier/Reinke
- White *Epicattleya Rene Marques* 'Flame Thrower' HCC/AOS Brinton/Park

(Blue) *Epidendrum stamfordianum* : This is another beautiful orchid species that many find tricky to grow well, yet some have succeeded in producing huge specimens that are absolutely breathtaking in full bloom. Unique for an Epidendrum, it produces its many-flowered and often branched panicles directly from the rhizome rather than from the top of a pseudobulb. This trait is rarely passed on to its hybrids, but may show up occasionally. In nature, this showy orchid is usually found growing on mossy tree limbs or palm trunks, in moderate light, in areas that experience a humid winter with scant rainfall. It strongly resents disturbance, and may never recover from the shock of uprooting it from one pot and planting in another. Therefore, a durable wooden mount or basket is a better choice, where it can be left to grow indefinitely. Several beautiful color variants exist and are worth seeking out.



*Epidendrum stamfordianum*



*Tolunnia Crownfox Blush*

**CLASS 5: ONCIDIUM ALLIANCE**

- Blue *Tolunnia Crownfox Blush* Chandler
- Red *Wilsonara Tiger Brew* '01' Rinn
- White *Psychopsis papilio* 'Louise' Rinn

(Blue) *Tolunnia Crownfox Blush* : This entry was exhibited under its parent's names. It was registered in 2003 by R.F. Orchids of Homestead, FL.

**CLASS 6: CYPRIPEDIUM ALLIANCE (Paphiopedilum)**

- Blue *Paphiopedilum esquirolei* Lentz/Morgan
- Red *Paphiopedilum Berenice* Lentz/Morgan
- White *Paphiopedilum Bel Royal* Whitfield

(Blue) *Paphiopedilum esquirolei* : This plant is usually considered a variety of *Paph. hirsutissimum* that is native to Northern Thailand and surrounding areas rather than India. The differences are rather slight between the two, with *Paph. esquirolei* showing shorter hairs on the scape and less hairs on the actual blooms than *Paph. hirsutissimum*. It also prefers more warmth in the summer, though it needs a drop in temperature and less water in fall to initiate blooming. New growths usually wait until the second or third year after they are produced to



*Paph. esquirolei*

flower. This orchid is often found on steep limestone cliffs in the wild and thus should respond well to additional calcium when fertilizing.

**First Quarter 2006 Ribbon Judging Results**

Name	Jan	Feb	Mar	Qtr 1
Lentz / Morgan	16	7	21	44
Collier / Reinke	15	7	11	33
Rinn	8	16	9	33
Mellard / Marino		17	13	30
Hallberg	6	4	10	20
Brinton / Park	7	6	4	17
Grzesik	9	6		15
Frye	3	11		14
Missbach	13			13
Harrow		9	1	10
Dampog		8	1	9
Chandler			8	8
Jacobson		5	1	6
Brand		5		5
Dufano	5			5
O'Connell		5		5
Quattlebaum			5	5
Glass, David	3			3
Hansen	3			3
Daugherty			1	1
Herzfeld		1		1
Kiss			1	1
Whitfield			1	1



**CLASS 6: CYPRIPEDIUM ALLIANCE (Phragmipedium)**

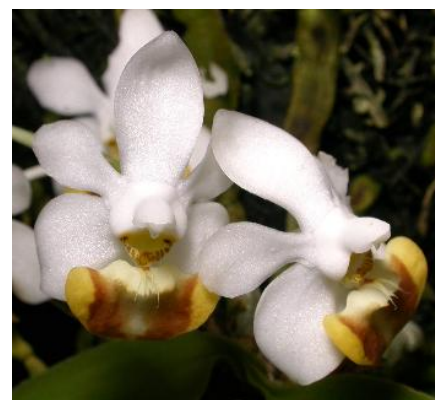
Blue	<i>Phragmipedium besseae</i>	Mellard/Marino
White	<i>Phragmipedium</i> Ashley Wilkes	Rinn

*Phrag. besseae***CLASS 7: PHALAEENOPSIS ALLIANCE**

Blue	<i>Phalaenopsis lobbii</i>	Hallberg
Red	<i>Phalaenopsis schilleriana</i>	Rinn
White	<i>Phalaenopsis</i> Orchid World 'Bonnie Vasquez'	Daugherty

(Blue) *Phalaenopsis lobbii* : As was pointed out by our club president and grower of this very miniature Phalaenopsis species, it is a twig epiphyte found in warm humid areas of SE Asia, usually on mossy branches overhanging water. Therefore it prefers mounted culture and constantly high humidity to succeed well in a collection. Although relatively few flowered, it has been used regularly in attempts to produce miniature Phalaenopsis hybrids. One of the most successful to date is Phalaenopsis Mini Mark, which uses *Phal. philippinensis* to add fuller form and larger size to the flowers. They often show a beautiful pattern of purple spots on a white background and a bright orange lip.

(White) *Phalaenopsis* Orchid World 'Bonnie Vasquez' : This is possibly one of the most awarded Phalaenopsis hybrids in existence with at least 39 HCC's, 49 AM's and one FCC granted to various outstanding clones by the American Orchid Society since it was introduced in 1984. It was one of the first hybrids to produce flowers with a bright yellow background overlaid with red spots or bars.

*Phalaenopsis lobbii***CLASS 8: VANDACEOUS ALLIANCE**

Blue	<i>Aerangis citrata</i>	Mellard/Marino
Red	<i>Renanthera</i> Tom Thumb	Lentz/Morgan
White	<i>Jumella arachnantha</i>	Jacobson

(Blue) *Aerangis citrata* : Here is yet another miniature epiphytic orchid with fairly exacting culture. Obviously, the judges this month showed appreciation for the extra effort needed to successfully grow these more challenging species! This tiny Angraecoid hails from Madagascar and needs shade, constant moisture and good air movement to flourish. It has fine roots that do not like to dry out completely, yet cannot stay constantly wet. The reward for meeting these challenges comes in the long lasting racemes of fragrant, spurred, white flowers neatly arranged on a single plane. As our ribbon plant illustrates, though quite small, a well grown plant is capable of producing several spikes of flowers at once!

*Aerangis citrata**Maxillaria coccinea***CLASS 9: MISCELLANEOUS GENERA**

Blue	<i>Maxillaria coccinea</i>	Hallberg
Red	<i>Lycaste</i> Pamela Annan-Brady	Brinton/Park
White	<i>Ansellia africana</i> 'Garden Party' HCC/AOS	Harrow

(Blue) *Maxillaria coccinea* : Although the red-orange flowers of this species are bright and numerous, they are small, and partially hidden by the luxuriant foliage. *Maxillaria coccinea* is an easily grown species that is native to Colombia, Venezuela and parts of the Caribbean including Puerto Rico, and is thus one of the few tropical epiphytic orchids including in the USDA plant database of native and introduced species!

(Red) *Lycaste* Pamela Annan-Brady : This plant was exhibited under its parent's names, but was registered under this name in 2001.

## RECENT ACTIVITIES OF THE ATLANTA JUDGING CENTER

The following awards were granted at the January session of the AOS Atlanta Judging Center. They are provisional awards pending official publication in the *Awards Quarterly*.

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.



### **Laeliocattleya ( C. Horace x Lc. Susan Holguin ) 'Memoria Kaitlyn Riley Green'**

**AM 82 pts**

Natural Spread: 15.1cm H x 19.0cm V

Three full flowers beautifully displayed on one inflorescence; sepals and petals rose-purple; ruffled lip royal purple apically, canary yellow centrally, lined royal purple basally, with rose-purple picotee; substance very firm; texture glistening.

Exhibitor: Fred Missbach

### JOIN THE AMERICAN ORCHID SOCIETY

For \$60.00/year, you reap the following benefits:

- 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 (\$108) 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.** For information, contact Evan Dessasau (404-241-4819)



### **Phalaenopsis ( ( Nancy Am x equestris ) x Arctic Dawn ) 'Mary'**

**HCC 78 pts**

Natural Spread: 5.0cm H x 4.5cm V

Sixteen flowers and 17 buds on one branched, arching 66-cm inflorescence; sepals and petals white veined light purple radiating basally; lip white blushed pink apically, yellow centrally, side lobes blushed pink spotted burgundy basally, keel yellow spotted burgundy; column white blushed light purple dorsally; substance semi-firm; texture glistening.

Exhibitor: Fred & Mary Kaufman



### **Pterostylis erecta 'Mello Spirit'**

**CBR**

Natural Spread: 2.6cm H x 2.8cm V

One flower on one 19-cm inflorescence; seven ovate leaves to 2-cm wide x 4-cm long arranged in a basal rosette; flower translucent green striped and suffused pale to deep green; dorsal sepal and petals fused into a hood concealing column; apex of lateral sepals and galea cinnamon; substance firm; texture matte; recognized for rarity in cultivation and educational value. Species native to Australia.

Exhibitor: David Mellard & Sal Marino





© Danny Lentz

**Phalaenopsis Nobby's Amy 'Wilda's Pink Butterflies'****AM 81 pts** ( Be Glad x Rothschildiana )

Natural Spread: 5.4cm H x 4.5cm V

Nineteen flowers and nine buds well-presented on one multi-branched inflorescence; sepals and petals white blushed vivid rose-pink; lip white, pale yellow proximally on midlobe, distally on side lobe; callus pale yellow with red spots; column white with pink infusion; substance soft; texture crystalline; a pleasing combination of colors creating an overall pastel appearance. This plant is Long Pride mericlone #M-P0311; clonal epithet permission of Long Pride Orchids.

Exhibitor: Wilda Bullard



© Danny Lentz

**Phragmipedium Autumn Fire 'Malaguerra'****AM 82 pts** ( Eric Young x Barbara LeAnn )

Natural Spread: 11.0cm H x 8.1cm V

One flat flower and one bud on one 61-cm inflorescence; dorsal sepal pale green-yellow lightly veined pink; synsepal chartreuse; petals light rose-red; pouch darker rose-red, interior yellow sparsely spotted rose-red; staminode yellow with rose-red cilia marginally, column yellow; substance firm; texture of sepals and pouch matte, petals finely hirsute creating velvety appearance.

Exhibitor: Scott Smith &amp; Mark Malaguerra

**A couple more blooms from the March Show Table***Bulbophyllum lindleyanum**Lycaste Pamela Annan-Brady*

Recent Blooms at the Atlanta Botanical Garden, March 2006

Photos © Danny Lentz



*Baptistonia echinata*



*Lockhartia obtusata*



*Eria stricta*



*Gongora flaveola*



*Aspasia epidendroides*



*Coelia triptera*



*Phalaenopsis mannii*



**Collector's Item: *Porroglossum* Schlechter 1920**  
by Alfonso Doucette

Tribe: Epidendreae  
 Subtribe: Pleurothallidinae  
 Type Species: *Porroglossum mordax*  
 Etymology: Greek; porro, "Far, Far off" and glossa, "Tongue," in reference to the "far off" distance of the column foot.

There are currently about 35 species in the genus *Porroglossum* with two awaiting official publication, *P. marniae* and *P. parsonsii*. These orchids are found in an Andean distribution from Venezuela to Peru and Bolivia, with the largest concentration in Ecuador with some 20 plus species. The plants are small and form thick tufts of leaves.

*Porroglossums* are quite handsome even out of bloom. There are a wide variety of foliage types displayed in the genus, from the glabrous (smooth), ping-pong paddle shaped leaves of *P. rodrigoii* to the robust, rugose (wrinkled) oar shaped leaves of *P. echidna*. An interesting feature brandished by the leaves of some *Porroglossums*, especially members of the subsection *tortae*, are lovely reticulated patterns displayed on their developing leaves.

The flowers are presented on long racemes held well away from the foliage. When potted the spikes tend to grow upwards and when mounted they will grow down forming a cascade of little flowers, superficially like miniature *Draculas*. They may also haphazardly send spikes up in every imaginable direction; small wire stakes may be helpful.

The beautifully intricate flowers are miniature, just like the plants, and appear to be made of wax. An interesting note about the flowers, which makes them even more appealing, is the curious habit of having a touch sensitive lip. Towards the back of the lip is a raised bump or crest called a callus. When the callus is stimulated sensors running up and down the lip cause the claw attaching the lip to the column foot to relax, and subsequently force a pollinator against the column. To the best of my knowledge the actual pollinators have never been documented.

Culture: *Porroglossums* are fairly easy to grow. They require humidity around or higher than 70% and should be kept moist but not wet. Always use the purest water available. A VERY important thing to know is that *Porroglossum* spikes are sensitive to highly fluctuating humidity levels. A terrible misfortune of growing *Porroglossums* is to have a lovely plant send out a multitude of spikes and have them all die half way through their growth. I have had luck in stabilizing my humidity by using a humidity controller and have significantly reduced



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*Porroglossum echidna*



© Eric Hunt

*Porroglossum eduardii*



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*Porroglossum josei*



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*Porroglossum aureum*



© Eric Hunt

*Porroglossum nutibara*



the number of lost spikes. Porroglossums require medium to bright shade. I grow mine under a four foot light fixture with one “cool white” and one “natural light” fluorescent light tubes. As for fertilizing, it is best to follow the old adage of using weak amounts of fertilizer weekly. Porroglossums in general grow well under intermediate conditions (55° to 77° F). They can stand some warmth, but nothing near 90° F, or they will drop leaves. The only Porroglossum commonly seen in cultivation that should be grown cold is *P. eduardii*. *P. lorenae*, a relative of *P. eduardii*, hasn’t entered cultivation yet but will require similar conditions. Porroglossum *eduardii* and *lorenae* also have a creeping habit which is unique to their subgenus, *eduardii*, and should be grown mounted or in large shallow pots. Porroglossums in general do well mounted or in small pots of sphagnum moss.

If you would like to try growing a fascinating member of this genus I would highly recommend Porroglossum *nutibara* or Porroglossum *teaguei* because of their tolerance for warmth and their floriferous habit. Andy’s Orchids, Ecuagenera, and J&L Orchids offer many of these delightful miniatures for sale.



© Andy’s Orchids

*Porroglossum teaguei*



© Danny Lentz

Here you can see a *Porroglossum* species (probably *P. echidna* or *P. muscosum*) with the lip in the relaxed state (left), and the triggered state (middle). The picture on the right shows the entire plant. Plant grown by ABG.

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If anyone is looking for an excuse to visit Asia, the next IPA Symposium is to be held in conjunction with the 2007 Taiwan International Orchid Show. TIOS runs from Saturday, March 10, 2007 through Sunday, March 18, 2007. The IPA Symposium is scheduled for the weekend of March 10-11, 2007. Shortly after that APOC9, the triennial Asia Pacific Orchid Conference, will be in South Korea March 16-26, 2007. Shortly before TIOS, the Japan Grand Prix International Orchid Festival in the Tokyo Dome should be in late February.



*Maxillaria aciantha*

Photo © Eric Hunt ( [www.orchidphotos.org](http://www.orchidphotos.org) )

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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](http://www.atlantabotanicalgarden.org) or contact one of our society's officers listed on page 2.

#### Newsletter Submissions

To submit material for the newsletter, or to sign up for the email version of the newsletter, please contact Danny Lentz. The deadline for submissions is the 20<sup>th</sup> of the previous month.

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