



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

Volume 47: Number 6

www.atlantaorchidsociety.org

June 2006

JUNE EVENTS

The Meeting:

**7:00 Monday, June 12 at Atlanta Botanical Garden
Greenhouse Tour**

Our June meeting will start an hour early so that we will have daylight available for our tour of the Atlanta Botanical Garden's backup greenhouses. This is a great opportunity to see more of ABG's plant collection and meet some members of the ABG staff. Becky Brinkman, ABG's Orchid Curator & Greenhouse Manager, and Mike Wenzel, ABG's Plant Recorder will be there to guide us and answer any questions you might have. The greenhouse tour will be followed by a short business meeting and ribbon judging at 8:00.

Our annual auction is coming up on Sunday, June 18. See page 4 for details.

The Atlanta Orchid Society auction is a great way to expand your collection. There is always a large variety of plants to auction and they usually go for very reasonable prices. Often the nurseries providing us with these plants will include select divisions and other choice plants that may not be available in their catalogs. Even if you don't intend to buy much, this is a good opportunity to get together with fellow orchid hobbyists and browse through an interesting selection of plants. Seeing what the more experienced growers are bidding on can be an educational experience.

Inside This Issue

Atlanta Orchid Society 2006 Officers.....	Page 2
Member Spotlight – Danny Lentz and Dianne Morgan.....	Page 2
Events Out and About.....Dates for your Calendar.....	Page 3
Minutes of the April Meeting	Page 3
AtIOS Auction.....	Page 4
The May Exhibition Table	Page 5
Notes from Greg Allikas's Talk.....	Page 8
Orchid Field Trip – Looking for <i>Cypripedium pubescens</i>	Page 9
<i>Aplectrum hyemale</i> , Puttyroot Orchid.....	Page 10
Collector's Item : <i>Phalaenopsis kunstleri</i> J.D. Hook.	Page 11
<i>Malaxis unifolia</i>	Page 11
Recent Blooms at the Atlanta Botanical Garden.....	Page 12
Recent Awards from the Atlanta Judging Center.....	Page 13

THE ATLANTA ORCHID SOCIETY

Officers

President - Richard Hallberg
152 Sloan St.
Roswell, GA 30075
770-587-5827
rkhallberg@mindspring.com

Vice-President/Programs - Mark Reinke
155 Marble Branch Trail
Walhalla, SC 29691
864-718-0152
markreinke@hughes.net

Secretary - Sandy Phillips
870 Virginia Circle NE
Atlanta, GA 30306
404-874-1417
jerro@mindspring.com

Treasurer - Reba Herzfeld
4798 Summerset Lane
Dunwoody, GA 30338
770-394-3731
rebareneek@aol.com

Immediate Past President - David Mellard
770-270-5758
dmellard@cdc.gov

Directors (year term expires)

Sondra Nierenberg (2006)
770-579-3376
sondranier@aol.com

Fred Missbach (2006)
404-237-1694
fredmissbach@aol.com

Mikie Emerson (2007)
404-289-3684
knotmary@earthlink.net

Danny Lentz (2007)
770-640-0112
dblgongora@bellsouth.net

Barbara Dampog (2008)
770-923-5495
bdampog@aol.com

Rob Rinn (2008)
678-354-0443
RobertDRinn@aol.com

Other Volunteers

Newsletter Editor/Greengrowers
Danny Lentz

Webmaster
John O'Connell
joconnel@bellsouth.net

Librarians - Karen Chandler
and Mikie Emerson

Show Chair - David Mellard
Hospitality - Terry Glover

Member Spotlight – Danny Lentz and Dianne Morgan

Dianne had a few orchids (2 phals and a paph) prior to 2000, but the collection really started to grow when she took Danny to the Atlanta Orchid Society show in November of that year. We each bought a few plants at the show (phals and dendrobiums, 5 out of 6 are still with us), and attended our first society meeting in January 2001 where we were welcomed by then-president Roy Harrow and past-president Randy Young. Ron McHatton and Randy encouraged our interest in orchids and the large number of buying opportunities at monthly meetings and auctions caused our collection to grow very quickly.

We started with a rack in front of the window, then added a few spotlights around it, then got a 400W metal halide light, and another, then added a couple of light racks with fluorescent fixtures, and another metal halide fixture. The last winter in Dianne's apartment we didn't even need to turn on the heat as there was between 400 and 800 watts of orchid lighting in every room.

We currently have around 500 orchids at our house in Roswell. Most of them are grown in the basement under the metal halide and fluorescent lights. Since they won't all fit under the lights anymore some have migrated up to the sun room, mostly phals and some of the larger oncidium alliance plants. A few make it outside for the summer and do quite well.

Dianne especially likes the slipper orchids, and other plants with white or fragrant flowers. My favorites include maxillarias, the catasetum group, and gongoras but I also like a wide range of other genera and hybrids. I also enjoy photographing orchids and have several thousand pictures that I need to organize some day. Another one of my interests is watching movies. -danny lentz



This picture is from our visit to the Quito Botanical Garden in February, 2004. We were lucky to tour the facility with the directors of the Guayaquil Botanical Garden (far left) and Quito Botanical Garden (second from left), both very nice gentlemen.

Events Out and About

June

Saturday, 6/10 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, 6/12 Atlanta Orchid Society monthly meeting, ABG, Day Hall, 7:00 p.m. Our annual tour of the ABG greenhouses.

Sunday, 6/18 Atlanta Orchid Society Auction, American Legion Hall by Chastain Park. Details on page 4.

July

Saturday, 7/8 American Orchid Society monthly judging, Atlanta Judging Center, 2 pm, ABG basement workshop.

Monday, 7/10 Atlanta Orchid Society monthly meeting, ABG, Day Hall, 8 p.m. Marv Ragan of MAJ Orchids in Jacksonville will give a presentation on Encyclias.

7/29 Auction at Roy Harrow's house. This is an auction where the participants bring plants to sell. Details in next month's newsletter, or contact Roy.

Do you have any ideas for newsletter articles? Any questions you would like answered? Information you'd like to share with the rest of our members? Suggestions for the Collector's Item column? Let me know. I always need ideas and content for the newsletter. -Danny

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 \$32/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)

MINUTES OF THE MAY 8th MEETING

- The Atlanta Orchid Society Meeting was brought to order by President Richard Hallberg. The minutes from the last meeting were approved as written. The Treasurer gave the financial balance as of March 31, 2006.
- Green growers will be held at Henry Everett's house on May 28, 2006. Directions are in the May newsletter and on our web site.
- On June 3 an IPA regional meeting will be held at Lines Orchids. Speakers include David Mellard and Peter Lin of Dallas/Ft. Worth, speaking on fertilizers and Phalaenopsis.
- Terry Glover, our Refreshment Chairman, requests volunteers bring snacks to the meetings. No major meals will be offered.
- Our meeting will begin at 7 p.m. in June, with a tour of the Atlanta Botanical Gardens greenhouses. A short business meeting will follow at 8 p.m.
- Our annual auction will be held at the American Legion hall in Chastain Park on June 18, 2006. The pot luck lunch begins at noon. Everybody brings a side dish. AtIOS will provide the meat. Fred Missbach is the chairman. There will be lots of orchids to bid on.
- Roy Harrow's auction will be held at his home on July 29, 2006.
- Call 404-636-5801 for information on the sale of a home in Sagamore Hills. In addition to a 3/2 home, there are two large greenhouses (25x50 and 16x32) on the property. Greenhouses are Janco/Lord & Burman style with single pane glass. Previous owner is PhD Botanist who founded Fernbank Science Center.
- Two new items have been purchased for the AtIOS Library: a book called *Orchid Species Culture: Oncidium/Odontoglossum Alliance* by Margaret & Charles Baker and a CD on orchid potting developed by tonight's speaker, Greg Allikas.
- Our thanks to the orchid judges: Bob Grezsis, David Mellard, Linda Miller, Genie Smith, Helen Weil, Jeff Whitfield. Our thanks to those who donated plants to the raffle table: Roy Harrow (2), Helen Weil and others. Our thanks to those who provided refreshments: Marianne Gilmore, Roy Harrow, Reba Herzfeld, Sandy Phillips, Helen Weil and others.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted, Sandy Phillips

Atlanta Orchid Society Auction Sunday June 18

If you haven't been to our auction before, this event is always a lot of fun. Lunch (pot luck, bring a dish to pass) is at 11:30 and the bidding begins at 1PM. There are always good bargains on great plants.

We hold our Auction at Post 140 of the American Legion. This meeting hall is on the immediate southern edge of Chastain Memorial Park at 3905 Powers Ferry Road. See you there!!

Directions to the Auction:

From GA 400 South:
South to the Buckhead loop. Take the loop to Piedmont Rd and go north. Turn right on Roswell Rd. The first left will be Powers Ferry Rd. Turn left. Watch on your right just as you get to the park. The driveway is difficult to spot.

From I75:
Take I75 to I285 to Roswell Rd. Go south (inside the Perimeter) to Powers Ferry Rd. Turn right. Watch for the driveway on your right at the south end of Chastain Park.

From I85, take Piedmont Rd north to Roswell Rd. Turn right on Roswell Rd. The first left will be Powers Ferry Rd. Turn left and take Powers Ferry toward Chastain Park. Look for the American Legion driveway on your right just as you see the park.

Orchid with Pollinator

This is a nice shot. Reiner Richter of Victoria, Australia managed to capture a photo of a Midge Orchid (*Genoplesium* sp.) with what appears to be its pollinator.



© Reiner Richter



© Reiner Richter

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.

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 20th of the previous month.

MAIL TO: Danny Lentz
1045 Wordsworth Dr.
Roswell, GA 30075

EMAIL: DBLGONGORA@BELLSOUTH.NET

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, full page \$40.

*Laelia milleri*

MAY 2006 EXHIBITION TABLE AWARDS with notes by Mark Reinke

CLASS 1: CATTLEYA ALLIANCE

Blue	<i>Laelia milleri</i>	Reinke/Collier
Red	Lc. Ann Follis 'Goldilocks' AM/AOS	Brinton/Park
White	<i>Tetramicra canaliculata</i>	Reinke/Collier

(Blue) *Laelia milleri* : This bright red rupicolous (rock growing) Brazilian species escaped identification until after 1960. A shipment of a related species, *Laelia flava*, was sent to Rod McLellan Co. in California, and about half of the plants bloomed red instead of yellow! The discovery of this orchid caused considerable excitement at the time

because of its unique color and breeding potential. It has been put to good use as a parent, with two of the best known and most useful progeny being Bl. Richard Mueller (x *Brassavola nodosa*) and Lc. Rojo (x *Cattleya aurantiaca*). In the wild, the species is near extinction due primarily to strip mining of the iron ore outcrops that it favors. Many people try to grow rupicolous laelias too dry, and thus fail to make them flourish. They are usually nestled into pockets of moss and organic matter in their natural habitat, with very bright light, but some protection from full sun by grasses or other neighboring plants. This slight protection, along with heavy nightly dew in the dry winter season keeps the roots from fully drying out. They do best with a well drained inorganic medium, such as aliflor, upon which some moss is encouraged to grow, and want regular watering in summer, and somewhat less in winter, though never total dryness. Many sources recommend clay pots, but we prefer to grow ours in plastic, which allows us to gently lift the plant out of its pot from time to time to inspect the health of the roots. A vigorous root system is essential to growing this and the other charming rupicolous laelias well.

CLASS 2: CYMBIDIUM

Blue	<i>Cymbidium ensifolium</i> var. <i>alba</i> 'Iron Bone Sue Sing'	Grzesik
Red	<i>Cymbidium</i> Sunshine Falls 'Butterball'	Phillips
White	<i>Cymbidium</i> (Mighty Mouse 'Minnie' x Lady Spring 'Nancy')	Quattlebaum

(Blue) *Cymbidium ensifolium* var. *alba* 'Iron Bone Sue Sing' : *Cymbidium ensifolium* is an oriental species that has been cultivated for centuries. It is native to China, Indochina, Borneo, New Guinea and the Philippines, and widely naturalized in Japan. Its narrow, neat foliage and well spaced, lightly fragrant flowers have a character that appeals to oriental sensibilities, and

*Dendrobium densiflorum*

many prized and valuable forms are highly coveted in that part of the world. It is far more heat tolerant than most *Cymbidium* species, and has been used extensively in the west to produce compact and more easily grown hybrids. Two of its progeny in particular: Cym. Peter Pan, and Cym. Golden Elf have made a major contribution towards these objectives.

*Cymbidium ensifolium* var. *alba* 'Iron Bone Sue Sing'

CLASS 3: DENDROBIUM

Blue	<i>Dendrobium densiflorum</i>	Jacobson
Red	<i>Dendrobium</i> (Madame Chuli x Uraivan)	Brinton/Park
White	<i>Dendrobium formosum</i>	Smith

CLASS 4: EPIDENDRUM

Blue	<i>Encyclia maderoi</i>	Collier/Reinke
Red	Epicattleya Purple Glory	Harrow
White	<i>Epidendrum</i> Memoria Young C. Lott 'Newberry'	Collier/Reinke

(Blue) *Encyclia maderoi* : This plant was purchased as *Encyclia oncioides* from a South American grower at Redlands International Orchid Festival in 2004. When it flowered, it was clear that this was a misidentification. With some preliminary research we entered it as *Encyclia edithiana*. But further study of the best references available have leaned my opinion to *Encyclia maderoi*. Although the two species appear quite similar on existing photography and verbal descriptions, the evidence in favor of the latter would be the lack of detectable fragrance and the fact that it comes from Colombia, the country the grower who sold it to us

*Encyclia maderoi*

was from. Misidentification is very common among encyclias, so it is a good idea to compare your plants to the best current references rather than taking their labels at face value.

CLASS 5: ONCIDIUM ALLIANCE

Blue *Oncidium* (syn. *Tolumnia*) Ramona Wilson Lentz/Morgan

CLASS 6: CYPRIPEDIUM ALLIANCE

Paphiopedilum species:

Blue *Paph. lowii* Whitfield
 Red *Paph. acmodontum* Kiss
 White *Paph. primulinum* var. *purpurascens* Mellard/Marino

Paphiopedilum Hybrids – single flowered:

Blue *Paph. Vanda M. Pearman* Lentz/Morgan
 Red *Paph. (leucochilum* ‘Krull’s King’ AM/AOS
 x *Conco-bellatulum* ‘Krull-Smith’) Brinton/Park
 White *Paph. Ho Chi Minh* Mellard/Marino

(Blue) ***Paph. Vanda M. Pearman*** : This Paphiopedilum is a primary hybrid between *Paph. bellatulum* and *Paph. delenatii* that was registered in 1939 and has since received 64 flower quality awards from the AOS, including one First Class Certificate for the clone ‘Happiness’ in 1979. It successfully mates the large, full, flower of its pod parent with the taller, more graceful stem of the pollen parent. But further breeding of this fine hybrid has not been successful at all, with only a handful of registered crosses having been made from it and few of those realizing any awards.

(Red) ***Paph. (leucochilum* x *Conco-bellatulum*)** : According to the Kew monocot list, *Paph. leucochilum* is synonymous with *Paph. godefroyae*, and therefore this plant would be *Paph. James Bacon* registered by Paphanatics in 1993.

Paphiopedilum Hybrids – multi-floral:

Blue *Paph. Moustache* ‘Carmel’ Kiss
 Red *Paph. (primulinum* x *sanderianum*) Whitfield
 White *Paph. Gloria Naugle* Kessler

(Blue) ***Paph. Moustache*** : This beautiful multi-floral combines *Paph. St. Swithin* with one of its parents, *Paph. philippinense*. But the influence of the other species involved, *Paph. rothschildianum* is still strong enough to keep the petals primarily on a horizontal plane with just a gentle downward curve to create its ‘moustache’ effect. Although registered in 1982, most of its 18 flower quality awards have been given to plants arising from re-makes of the original cross using superior parents that have been shown in just the last few years, including 3 separate FCC’s. Two of these top awarded plants had flowers with a spread of greater than 11 inches! It is easy to see why the judges would be impressed.



Phrag. Grande

Phragmipediums:

Blue *Phrag. Grande* Brinton/Park
 Red *Phrag. (richterii* x *warszewiczianum*) Whitfield
 White *Phrag. Les Dirouilles* Kessler

(Blue) ***Phrag. Grande*** : This Phragmipedium hybrid was registered 125 years ago but remains as popular as ever today. One parent, *Phrag. caudatum*, belongs to a group of species that open their flowers simultaneously, while the other parent, *Phrag. longifolium*, along with the majority of the species, opens its flowers sequentially. Thus in *Phrag. Grande*, the result is usually somewhere in between, and several of the flowers will be open at once, but usually by the time the last flower unfolds, the first one has, or is about to, fall off. This is why when you read the award descriptions (and there are many for this hybrid) there is always at least one bud listed. The exhibitors wisely chose that optimal moment, when the floral show was at its most pleasing! As recently as last year the AOS bestowed three Awards of Merit and one Certificate of Cultural Merit on specific plants of *Phrag. Grande*.



Tolumnia Ramona Wilson



Paph. lowii



Paph. Vanda M. Pearman



Paph. Moustache ‘Carmel’

CLASS 7: PHALAEENOPSIS ALLIANCE**Species:**

Blue	<i>Phalaenopsis parishii</i>	Hallberg
Red	<i>Phalaenopsis wilsonii</i>	Gilmore
White	<i>Phalaenopsis manni</i>	Gilmore

Hybrids:

Blue	<i>Phal. Adri Witanta Husada</i>	'Chestnut Pride'	HCC/AOS	Lentz/Morgan
Red	<i>Phal. Perfection Is</i>	'Chen'	FCC/AOS	Gilmore
White	<i>Phal. (Asian Elegance x Taisuco Bridian)</i>			Glass



Phal. Adri Witanta Husada
'Chestnut Pride'

CLASS 8: VANDACEOUS ALLIANCE

Blue	<i>Ascocentrum curvifolium</i> var. <i>luteum</i>	'R.F. Orchids'	CHM/AM/AOS	Gilmore
Red	<i>Ascofinetia</i>	Cherry Blossom	'Apricot'	Brinton/Park
White	<i>Rhctm.</i>	Fuchs	Violetta	Gilmore



Ascocentrum curvifolium var.
luteum 'R.F. Orchids'

(Blue) *Ascocentrum curvifolium* var. *luteum*

'R.F. Orchids' : Here we have an unusual yellow flowered clone of the normally blood-red *Ascocentrum curvifolium*. It received a Certificate of Horticultural Merit in 1983, followed by an Award of Merit in 1989 from the AOS. This species has made an immeasurable contribution to vandaceous hybrids over the past few decades, bringing down the scale of the often oversized vandas, while adding brilliant, saturated colors and nice round shape to the flowers. There are more than 2500 registered hybrids that trace their ancestry back to this species. In 2002, R.F. Orchids exhibited a plant of the typical color form bearing 3840 open flowers and 480 buds on 160 inflorescences, and naturally, received a Certificate of Cultural Merit for this overwhelming specimen. Robert Fuchs apparently had been growing the plant since he was a teenager (although it was not specified exactly how many years ago that was)! We are left to wonder firstly, how the plant was transported to judging, and secondly, what poor student judge had the task of counting the specific number of flowers and buds!



Phalaenopsis parishii

(White) **Rhynchocentrum Fuchs Violetta** : This was entered under the names of its parents, (*Rhctm.* Lilac Blossom x *Asctm.* *ampullaceum*).

CLASS 9: MISCELLANEOUS GENERA

Blue	<i>Masdevallia impostor</i>	Mellard/Marino
Red	<i>Porroglossum uxorium</i>	Doucette
White	<i>Masdevallia</i>	Dean Haas Brinton/Park

(Blue) *Masdevallia impostor* : Charming *Masdevallia impostor* is the northernmost occurring species in this genus of pleurothallids, growing at moderate elevations in Venezuela, Colombia and Ecuador. It is warmer growing than most species and one to try for its showy and unusually aligned burgundy and yellow flowers, which occur over a long blooming season on good stems. The species name, is in reference to its misidentification for many years as *Masdevallia maculata*. Apparently the dried herbarium specimens of the two species look very similar, but when the living plants and flowers are viewed there are distinct differences.



Masdevallia impostor



Masdevallia impostor

Notes from the presentation given by Greg Allikas

Greg gave us many good tips and techniques for getting pictures of our orchids. Here are some of the things he mentioned. You can see pictures of these on Greg's web site.

- You can get some nice soft lighting for your picture with a fairly simple setup. Find a spot outside in full sun. Place a card table on its side, resting on top of another table with the bottom of the legs facing you. Put a solid background at the back (the underside of the table) and put a white sheet over the top and sides of your little tent. The sun filtered through the white sheet gives nice soft, even lighting (and the sheet also serves as a wind break).
- There are simple ways to alter the light output from a flash for improved results. One old trick is to tie a handkerchief around the flash to help diffuse the light. Another trick Greg showed us involved attaching a piece of white foam board on top of the flash so that you can bounce the light off of it and disperse the light better.
- Greg created a nice little setup for isolating a flower against a black background. He took a wooden frame and attached a fixed sheet of black velvet over half of it. The other half only had the velvet attached at the top and side, with velcro at the bottom to hold it in place. By placing a flower through the opening in the middle and then fixing the velvet in place around it you can isolate the flower against a solid background. This works best with light colored flowers.

To see more of Greg's tips with illustrated examples and many of his wonderful photos, you can visit his web page at <http://www.orchidworks.com>.

Greg's Photo Tips

The following tips were on the handout that Greg gave us at the beginning of his presentation:

- **Look at the blooms.** Select only fully opened, flawless flowers.
- **Tie distracting elements** out of the picture, using masking tape or twist tie.
- **Avoid flower movement.** When shooting outdoors, find a sheltered location out of the wind.
- **Use a plain background** of neutral color (poster board or mat board is good). If using flash, place background at least 2 feet behind flowers to avoid shadows.
- **Use a small f.-stop** (aperture setting) for maximum depth of field. The larger the f. number, the smaller the aperture.
- **Avoid point and shoot cameras.** They are not very suitable for orchid photography. A single lens reflex is the proper tool.
- **'Bracket' exposures** if shooting slide film, i.e. shoot at normal exposure, 1 stop under exposed and 1 stop over exposed.
- **Use a tripod** whenever possible. 'Squeeze' shutter gently or use self-timer to fire camera.
- **Use close-up lenses** to focus closer. They are inexpensive and come in various strengths from +1 to +4.
- **Try to modify the light output** when using a strobe, by diffusion or bounce (Strobe must be able to tilt upwards for bounce.)
- **Visually check focus** before shooting if using an auto focus camera.

Danny's notes

Greg's photo tips say that you should avoid point and shoot cameras. This isn't entirely true anymore. The real requirement is that you need a camera whose viewfinder or LCD screen shows you the image through the lens so that you know exactly what you're taking a picture of. Many older film point-and-shoot cameras (and maybe some older and/or cheap digital cameras) just had a fixed viewfinder that was separate from the lens and not entirely accurate. My digital camera has one of those useless viewfinders that I haven't bothered looking through since the day I got it. With the LCD display I see the real picture. Neither Greg nor I used an SLR on our field trip to look for *Cypripediums*. I do eventually want to get a digital SLR for the better depth of field that it gives you on close-up shots but I've taken thousands of orchid pictures with my digital point-and-shoot camera.

I'd like to stress a couple of Greg's tips. I often forget to check for distracting stakes and ties on the inflorescence before I take a picture. That can make a big difference in the final result. Also don't trust autofocus. I try to take several shots of each flower with my digital camera because the screen isn't sharp enough for me to tell what the camera decided to focus on. When I'm taking pictures with an SLR on a tripod I often disable the auto-focus and do it manually, I get better results that way.

Cypripedium Field Trip

Following Greg Allikas's talk at May's meeting, David Mellard took Greg and Danny Lentz on a *Cypripedium* adventure to photograph Georgia's yellow ladyslippers in the wild. David took Danny and Greg to northeast Georgia where he had seen *Cypripedium pubescens* (aka *Cyp parviflorum* v. *pubescens*) several years ago. Turning off the main highway, the trio drove down a populated county road. Eventually the houses gave way to lush forested slopes. Stopping near a power cut, they walked into the woods and within five minutes found *Cyp. pubescens*. The plants were in full bloom, which helped in finding them in the dense undergrowth. The Cyps grew sporadically in a small area and were surrounded by three *Trillium* species (the white-flowered *T. grandiflorum*, the red pendent-flowered *T. vaseyi*, the pink pendent-flowered *T. catesbaei*) as well as *Galearis spectabilis* (another orchid), and numerous other woodland plants. The trio searched the steep slopes for about a mile, often holding on to small trees to brace themselves from tumbling down the steep slope to the road far below. The woodland was beautiful with its canopy of mature hardwoods and magnificent understory of woodland plants, including its share of poison ivy. Fortunately, the day was on the cool side, but nonetheless, walking on a steep incline is strenuous and sweaty work. Greg was pleased to have found the Cyps but was probably afraid for his life on occasion. A few photos are included that highlight the trip. -David Mellard



Cypripedium pubescens



Trillium vaseyi



Can't they find something else to take pictures of? At least this shows the habitat of *Cypripedium pubescens*. The plants tend to grow on fairly steep slopes in wooded areas.



Trillium catesbaei

Trilliums are not orchids, but they're still quite attractive.

Aplectrum hyemale

This is another orchid species that we saw during our hike while looking for *Cypripediums*. At first we only saw dried up flower spikes from last year but eventually we ran across a few flowering plants. This is fairly attractive for one of our native terrestrial orchids.

Aplectrum hyemale, the Puttyroot Orchid or Adam-and-Eve, is found from Quebec and Saskatchewan down to northern Georgia and as far west as Arizona. They flower from April through early July, blooming earlier at the southern end of their range. The generic name means “spurless”, and the specific name means “of winter”, in reference to the plant’s leaf that is persistent through the winter (much like *Tipularia discolor* which grows in metro Atlanta). The plants grow in small colonies, usually in moist rich woods, with only a few of the plants flowering in a given year. They typically have two joined corms underground, one for the current year’s growth and one from the previous year. These corms are the reason for the common name of Adam-and-Eve orchid.

The single leaf is 8-10 inches long and 2-3 inches wide. It is green with white striations on top, purplish-green underneath. The leaf develops during the fall and persists through winter, often disappearing before flowering. The inflorescences are 15-20 inches high with a few (up to 15) flowers. The flowers are a little under an inch wide.

In “Native Orchid of North American (North of Mexico)” by Correll, he mentions some uses for the Puttyroot orchid. One of them is to crush the roots and mix them with a little water to form a glue, which can be used to mend broken glass and china. There are also reports of its use for medicinal purposes by the Catawba Indians of the southeastern U.S. to cure boils.
–danny lentz



Photos © Danny Lentz



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.

Collector's Item : *Phalaenopsis kunstleri* J.D. Hook.

Tribe: Vandeae Subtribe: Aeridinae

Etymology: Named for the original collector of the species, Hermann H. Kunstler, a professional plant collector for Sir George King.

Phalaenopsis is a genus of around 60 species (in Christenson's classification) distributed throughout much of Southeast Asia down through the Philippines, Indonesia, and New Guinea, reaching the all the way to Northeastern Australia.

Phal. kunstleri is found in Myanmar (Burma) and the Malay Peninsula. It is very similar to *Phal. fuscata*, with minor differences in the column and lip. It is very fragrant and the parallel stripes in the lip are an attractive feature. These plants should be grown with minimum temperatures in the 60's. -*Danny Lentz*

Reference: "Phalaenopsis: A Monograph" by Eric Christenson



© Danny Lentz

Malaxis unifolia

Here is another of our native orchids. A few years ago on a Georgia Native Plant Society rescue (at the site of a future parking lot), Jeff Whitfield pointed out some small single leaved plants to me and said they were orchids. I took his word for it and dug up a few to take home. The leaves were attached to little underground bulbs. I stuck them in a window box with a few other plants from the rescue and they've been there ever since. They've come up and bloomed regularly every year. I really need to break up that window box this fall since the other plants are getting pretty big and crowding out the orchids, hopefully I will manage to successfully transplant them again.

Malaxis unifolia, the Green Adder's Mouth Orchid, is a small and not particularly impressive member of the orchid family. It has a very wide distribution from Southeastern Canada down through Mexico, Guatemala, Cuba, and Jamaica at elevations from sea level to 8500 feet. The flowering time varies greatly over its range from March to August in the U.S. and Canada (my plants generally bloom in May and June.) It prefers moist acid conditions. The leaves can range in size from less than an inch to almost four inches long, and the overall height of the plant with inflorescence can range from a few inches to over a foot. My plants have leaves around 2 inches long with a total height of around 6 inches by the time they finish flowering. The inflorescence carries a large number of small green flowers that are only a few millimeters across. The inflorescence will continue to elongate as the flowers continue opening over time. Interestingly the plant will stop growing the leaf while flowering and then resume growth after fertilization. The plant is deciduous and will die back to a small underground corm during the winter. -*danny lentz*



Photos © Danny Lentz



Recent Blooms at the Atlanta Botanical Garden, May 2006

Photos © Danny Lentz



Sarcoglottis portillae
is from Ecuador



Lycomormium fiskei
is from Ecuador and Peru



Sarcoglottis grandiflora
is from Ecuador and Peru



Grammangis spectabilis is from Madagascar



Sigmatostalix eliae is from Ecuador

RECENT ACTIVITIES OF THE ATLANTA JUDGING CENTER

The following awards were granted at the April 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.



© Danny Lentz

Paph. Puppentanz 'A.O.C.'
HCC/AOS, 77 pts. (*haynaldianum* x *kolopakingii*)

Natural Spread: 17.7-cm H x 8.0-cm V

Three flowers, one partially open flower, and two buds on one strong, arched inflorescence; dorsal sepal and synsepal citron green fading to white distally, striped mahogany with rose blush as margin; petals citron green spotted mahogany basally, blushed rose distally; pouch olive green with darker veins; staminode citron green, margins covered with dark purple hairs; substance firm; texture matte.

Exhibitor: Atlanta Orchid Company

CORRECTION: In the May newsletter I incorrectly listed the award on Phragmipedium Inca Fire 'ORCHIDbabies'. This plant got an AM of 82 pts.

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)



© Danny Lentz

Paph. lowii 'A.O.C.'

HCC/AOS, 79 pts.

Natural Spread : 14.7-cm H x 8.0-cm V

Three flowers and two buds on one inflorescence; dorsal sepal chartreuse heavily overlaid with chocolate striations, solid chocolate basally; synsepal chartreuse with darker chartreuse veins; petals chartreuse with large mahogany spots and blotches on proximal half, rich beet purple on apical half; pouch chocolate with darker chocolate veins; staminode chartreuse, chocolate centrally; substance firm; texture matte.

Exhibitor: Atlanta Orchid Company

Phragmipedium kovachii Update

Many people seem to be interested in the propagation and sale of this species, so I will provide what I've heard (most of this came from a message on the Orchid Guide mailing list). There are two nurseries now exporting flasks of Pk from Peru. One of them, Peruflora, has a web page that lists the customers who have bought flasks. They now list 11 customers in the U.S., including many familiar names like H.P. Norton (OrchidView), Hadley Cash (Marriott Orchids), Terry Root (Orchid Zone), and Frank Smith (Krull-Smith). You can see the list at <http://www.peruflora.com/news19.htm>. The other Peruvian nursery is selling plants in the U.S. through Glen Decker of Piping Rock Orchids. Apparently Glen has already sold flasks at a New York show, and he is supposed to be selling them at an orchid society meeting in Birmingham in July. -danny



Maxillaria rodrigueziana
photo © Eric Hunt, www.orchidphotos.org