



# The Atlanta Orchid Society Bulletin

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



Newsletter Editor: **Danny Lentz**

May 2007

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

Volume 48: Number 5

## MAY EVENTS

### The Monthly Meeting:

**Speaker: Jeff Whitfield**

**Topic: Nobile-type Dendrobiums and how to grow them**

**8:00pm Monday, May 14**

**at the Atlanta Botanical Garden, Day Hall**

AtIOS vice-president Jeff Whitfield will give a talk on Growing nobile type dendrobium species and today's hybrids in the South Eastern US, with cultural tips on growing and BLOOMING these wonderfully fragrant plants ..... The talk will include a look at today's hybrids and the basic species used in breeding. Jeff is a long-time orchid grower and the owner of the Atlanta Orchid Company. He is also an AOS judge. Jeff will be bringing plants for sale.

Please remember to have your entries for ribbon judging in place by 7:50.

### Greengrowers:

**Saturday, May 5**

**Location: Gary Collier & Mark Reinke's house**

**Time: 12:00pm**

Come see Mark & Gary's large greenhouse on a beautiful piece of property in Walhalla, SC. This is a little farther than most of our trips, so you may want to carpool. For more details please see the April newsletter.



*Den. Yellow Paney 'March'*

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## THE ATLANTA ORCHID SOCIETY

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The Atlanta Orchid Society won best society exhibit at the Deep South Orchid Show in Hilton Head, South Carolina, on April 13-15, 2007. Thanks to David Mellard, Sal Marino, and Doug Hartong for putting in the exhibit. Mark Reinke and Gary Collier also won the trophy for Best Cattleya Alliance with their *Laelia milleri*.

### Do you buy from Charley's Greenhouse and Garden Supply?

If you do, do you know that if you go to Charley's website from The Orchid Mall and purchase something, you are helping support The Orchid Mall?

The Orchid Mall is privately funded and charges nothing for its linking. It also does not have banners or other means of advertising. So, it is entirely funded by donations for the unClassified Ads and from the small amount it gets from Charley's when you purchase something from them. However, you have to go to Charley's from the Orchid Mall for it to count. You will find Charley's listed on the Service, Supplies and Software page of The Orchid Mall.

### 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](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.

MAIL TO: Danny Lentz  
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### Advertising

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

## Events Out and About

### May

**May 2-6** AOS Members Meeting in Arlington, TX

**May 5 (Saturday) Greengrowers at Gary Collier & Mark Reinke's house.**

Saturday, 5/12 American Orchid Society monthly judging, Atlanta Judging Center, 2 pm, ABG basement workshop.

**Monday, 5/14 Atlanta Orchid Society monthly meeting, ABG, Day Hall, 8 p.m.**

Jeff Whitfield will speak on growing the nobile type dendrobiums.

5/18-20 *Memphis Orchid Society Show* Memphis, TN

5/18-20 *Redland International Orchid Festival* Homestead, FL  
<http://redlandorchidfestival.org>

### June

Saturday, 6/2 International Phalaenopsis Alliance meeting at Lines Orchids in Signal Mountain, TN.

Saturday, 6/9 American Orchid Society monthly judging, Atlanta Judging Center, 2 pm, ABG basement workshop.

**Monday, 6/11 Atlanta Orchid Society monthly meeting, ABG, Day Hall, 7 p.m.**

Tour of the ABG greenhouses.

## Orchid lover downsizing

Greenhouse full of orchids-will sell as they bloom (to confirm identity if possible); large part is Paphs, \$25 up (now in spike: lowii x topperi, Copperopolis, Honey, phil.x FC Puddle, Pinocchio x phil).

Also: books; Fitch Orchid Album original botanical orchid lithographs; old hummingbird/botanical orchid prints; supplies.

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[orchidwish@comcast.net](mailto:orchidwish@comcast.net)

## Minutes of the April 9<sup>th</sup> Meeting

- o The Atlanta Orchid Society Meeting was brought to order by President Mark Reinke. New members and visitors were welcomed. Procedures for the orchid raffle and silent auction were reviewed.
- o The first draft of the 2007 member directory is available for review.
- o Members were encouraged to wear their name tags at each society meeting.
- o The minutes from the last meeting were approved as printed in the newsletter.
- o This year's orchid auction will be held on April 22<sup>nd</sup> at Chastain Park. Directions are available in the newsletter. Food will be at noon, and the auction will begin at 1.
- o There will be a Green Grower's gathering on May 5<sup>th</sup> at noon at Marble Branch Farms in Walhalla, SC, with hosts Mark Reinke and Gary Collier. Please let Gary Collier know if you plan to attend so that enough food will be available.
- o Members were reminded to sign the food list when they bring food to the meeting and to sign the donor list when they bring orchids for the raffle table.
- o The treasurer announced a current balance of \$7871.47.
- o If any members of the Atlanta society plan on attending the Mid-America Orchid Congress, they may attend as voting delegates representing the society.
- o Members were informed of new books available in the library and of free orchid clinics available at the Botanical Gardens.
- o The speaker was Tom Harper of Stones River Orchids of Franklin, Tennessee. He gave an informative presentation on the twelve most significant phalaenopsis species and their influence on hybridizing.
- o Our thanks to the orchid judges: James Van Horne, David Mellard, Mike Dufano, Jeff Potter, and Barbara Dampog, Margie Kersey, and Ellen Brand.
- o Our thanks to those who donated plants to the raffle table: Mark Reinke & Gary Collier, Roy Harrow, Mary Booth Cabot, and others.
- o Our thanks to those who provided refreshments: David Mellard & Sal Marino, Sandy Phillips, Mike & Carolyn Dufano, Marianne Gilman, Mary Helen Reinhard, Evan Dessasau, Barbara Dampog, Terry Glover & Bob Grzesik, and others.

Respectfully submitted,  
 Carl Quattlebaum

## Welcome to our New Members:

Daniel Schwartzberg – Atlanta  
 Jim & Pam Neukum – Gainesville

## APRIL 2007 EXHIBITION TABLE AWARDS with notes by Mark Reinke

### Class I – Cattleya Alliance

**[Species] Blue- *Laelia milleri* – Collier/Reinke** : The brilliant flowered *Laelia milleri* belongs to a group of species known as ‘rupicolous Laelias,’ which grow in cracks and depressions on rock outcrops of the interior mountains of Southern Brazil. These species have been placed in the sub-genus *Parviflorae* (small flowered) to distinguish them from the larger flowered Brazilian species such as *Laelia purpurata*. It is quite likely that they will be grouped into their own separate genus within the next few years as taxonomists continue their work analyzing the genetics of these orchids. Though the environment in which the rupicolous Laelias grows seems harsh, it is wrong to assume they will thrive on neglect. The cracks and depressions into which their roots grow are filled with organic matter and mosses, and always hold a bit of moisture provided by nightly dew in the dry winter season and heavy afternoon showers in the wetter summer season. We have had great success growing them in plastic pots with aliflor (expanded clay pellets) as the primary media, upon which some moss is encouraged to grow. Others are established in aliflor in clay pots placed on damp sand, which wicks up a tiny bit of moisture at all times. They are grown very bright, with daily watering in sunny weather, but kept dry when it is cloudy and damp to discourage rot which can quickly kill these little jewels. Following our monthly meeting this plant was included in our society exhibit at the Deep South Orchid Show and received the Show Trophy for best Cattleya Alliance entry!



*Laelia milleri*

**Red – *Domingoa haematochilum*- Collier/Reinke**

**White – *Leptotes bicolor*- Mellard/Marino**

**[Hybrids] Blue – Iwanagaara Apple Blossom ‘Golden Beauty’ – Brinton/Park** : E. Iwanaga registered this man-made genus in 1960 which combines *Cattleya*, *Brassavola*, *Caularthron* (formerly *Diacirum*), and *Laelia*. It should be correctly pronounced with six syllables and can either follow the way its creator pronounced his name while living in Japan (“Ee’-wah-nah-gah-ah’-ruh”) or the Americanized version he used after emigrating to the USA (“Eye’-wah-nah-gah-ah’-ruh”). Iwan. Apple Blossom is by far the most successful cross made from this genetic combination so far, with 17 flower quality awards since its introduction in 1992. It combines the near white *Caulaelia* Snowflake and strong orange Blc. Orange Nugget. *Caularthron bicornutum* has very dominant color blocking genes, and most examples of this hybrid exhibit flowers that fade to near white with a few purple tinges on the petal edges (such as our white ribbon winner in this same category). ‘Golden Beauty’ is one of the few examples in which good yellow color is held throughout the life of the flower. The clone ‘Golden Elf’ AM/AOS is a dwarf sized plant that carries many flowers of an even richer yellow. It was awarded at the Atlanta Judging Center in 2003 to a plant shown by one of our members, Fred Missbach. With time, patience and good culture, Iwan. Apple Blossom can grow into impressive specimens, and examples having over 200 flowers on 20 or more inflorescences have received cultural awards in recent years.



*Iwanagaara Apple Blossom  
‘Golden Beauty’*

**Red – *Cattleya Belairensis* – O’Connell**

**White – Iwanagaara Apple Blossom ‘H&R’ AM/AOS – Brinton/Park**

### Class II – Cymbidium Alliance : No entries

### Class III – Dendrobium Alliance

**Blue – *Dendrobium atroviolaceum* - O’Connell** : *Dendrobium atroviolaceum* is from the ‘Latouria, section of the genus, made up of evergreen species native to New Guinea and a few surrounding islands. They grow in tropical rainforests and like year round water, warm temperatures and moderate light. They do not need the bright light required of the hard-caned types, and most can be grown successfully alongside *Phalaenopsis*. Many have bizarrely beautiful flowers which last in good condition for 3 months or more. They arise not from the apex of the growth as it might appear, but from lateral nodes near the end of the stem instead, and will bloom on both new and older canes producing an impressive display. This example appears to be one of the more compact forms of *Dendrobium atroviolaceum*, which tend to stay under 6 inches in height. Other



*Dendrobium atroviolaceum*

Latouria species and hybrids can be considerably larger, so be sure you understand the full mature size before adding one to your collection!

**Red – *Dendrobium aphyllum* – Brinton/Park**

**White – *Dendrobium Bonnie Riley* - Phillips**

#### **Class IV - Epidendrum Alliance**

**Blue - *Epidendrum stamfordianum* x *C. Angelwalker* – Collier/Reinke :** This attractive hybrid shows how crosses made with *Epidendrum stamfordianum* can maintain high flower count *and* the tendency to produce side branches even when bred with another orchid producing only 2 or 3 blooms per inflorescence such as *C. Angelwalker*. The flower shape and pattern of spots also comes from the *Epidendrum* parent, yet the lavender color pallet is coming through from *C. walkeria*, *C. loddigesii*, and *C. nobilior* on the pollen parent side. Although it took 5 or 6 years for this hybrid to show it's true beauty, similar breeding from *Epi. stamfordianum* should be attempted to make more attractive crosses like this available in various colors. This plant came from the 'going out of business' sale at Florafarm a few years ago. Unfortunately, the former owners of that nursery do not remember where they obtained this seedling, so its origin remains a mystery.

**Red - *Epidendrum* (Pacific Heat x Pacific View) - Kessler**

**White – *Encyclia Rioclarense* – Collier/Reinke**

#### **Class V – Oncidium Alliance**

**Blue – *Tolumnia Phyllis Enby* 'Ruby Queen' – O'Connell**

#### **Class VI – Cyripedium Alliance**

**[Species] Blue – *Phragmipedium besseae* – Kessler**

**Red – *Paphiopedilum philippense* var. *album* – Herzfeld :** The multifloral, or 'strap-leaved' paphiopedilums, such as *Paph. philippinense* are generally considered more difficult to grow and bloom successfully compared to other members of the genus. They prefer much brighter light (moderate 'cattleya' light) and need a more marked drop in night time temperatures in order to bloom well. *Paphiopedilum philippinense*, as its name implies, comes from the Philippines, as well as NE. Borneo, where it grows as a lithophyte on limestone outcroppings (often among the roots of *Vandopsis lissochiloides*!) on the edges of evergreen jungle. It therefore wants a higher pH than the mottled leaved types which grow instead in the forest leaf litter. The addition of some crushed oyster shell or other source of lime to the mix can help achieve this requirement. The extra effort is definitely worth it, as well grown examples of this species and other multifloral 'paphs' can be truly spectacular sights. This albino form of the species bears flowers in which the usual purple and yellow pigments are absent, leaving only green and white. This is also a clone known as 'Buttermilk' which bears yellow and white flowers without any purple pigments.

**White – *Paphiopedilum niveum* – Lentz/Morgan**

**[Hybrids] Blue – *Paphiopedilum Bel Royal* – Kessler**

**Red – *Paphiopedilum Harold Koopowitz* – Kessler**

**White – *Paphiopedilum World Tour* – Lentz/Morgan**

#### **Class VII – Phalaenopsis Alliance**

**Blue – *Phalaenopsis wilsonii* – Gilmore :** Note that the correct spelling of the species name is with two 'i's at the end of Mr. Wilson's name. This is an unusual miniature *Phalaenopsis* coming from middle elevations in Western China and possibly Vietnam where it is subject to nights near freezing in winter. It grows pendant with a few small leaves on a very short stem and many large, flat, well developed roots which soak up moisture from heavy rainfall in the summers and nightly dew in the high humidity, but scant rainfall of winter.



*Epc. (Epi. stamfordianum x C. Angelwalker)*



*Tolumnia Phyllis Enby 'Ruby Queen'*



*Phragmipedium besseae*



*Paphiopedilum Bel Royal*

While the leaves may be shed in nature during very dry years, they are normally evergreen in cultivation, and well grown examples can have up to 8 or more flowers in late winter and spring. Quite a few hybrids have been attempted with this species in the past two decades. The open form and pink coloration are very dominant in the first generation, though successive generations may show promise in compact and miniature breeding (as well as tolerance to cool temperatures). Some of the most beautiful offspring so far have been in combination with the white species (*x Phal. amabilis* = *Phal. Maria-Theresia Berod*) which amplify the lavender pink suffusion of *Phal. wilsonii* quite beautifully on a larger, fuller flower.

**Blue – Doritaenopsis Han-Ben’s Girl – Landau :** This large, showy white Phalaenopsis with red lip was entered under its parent’s names. It was registered in 2001. You will recall our April speaker, Tom Harper, mentioning that the colored lip on these large hybrids was obtained, rather surprisingly, through the miniature-flowered *Doritis pulcherrima*. Indeed, although the large white flowered Phalaenopsis species account for over 80% of this hybrid’s genetic background, it does have approximately 8% genetic influence from the *Doritis* species far back in its pedigree.

**Red – Phalaenopsis Haur Jin Diamond ‘Montclair’ HCC/AOS - Gilmore**

**White – Phalaenopsis Perfection Is ‘Chen’ FCC/AOS - Gilmore**

### Class VIII – Vanda Alliance

**Blue – Renanthera Tom Thumb – Collier/Reinke**

**Red – Ernestara Fire Storm – Collier/Reinke :** Ernestara is the genetic combination of Phalaenopsis, Renanthera and Vandopsis. Hybrids like this are very difficult to produce due to the genetic differences of the parents, and as far as I can tell, the only additional examples of Ernestara are two registered crosses made between this hybrid and another Phalaenopsis parent. In our own breeding efforts we have not been able to produce a fertile pod on our plant in three separate attempts. We purchased it on an eBay auction a number of years ago and have never seen it offered again. (NOTE: Don’t hesitate when you see something new or unusual for sale or you may miss your chance forever!) Despite its comparative rarity, this hybrid has received 14 flower quality awards, and Award of Quality, and one CCE (Certificate of Cultural Excellence) in April of 2005 for an amazing plant with a main stem and 3 keikis bearing four inflorescences with a total of 96 flowers! These are very slow growers that reach their peak potential only after many years, thus not for anyone expecting quick results!

**White – Vascostylis Pine Rivers ‘Red’ - Demeritt**



*Phalaenopsis wilsonii*



*Dtps. Han-Ben’s Girl*



*Renanthera Tom Thumb*



*Masdevallia Ruby Slippers*

### Class IX – Miscellaneous

**Blue – Masdevallia Ruby Slippers – Mellard/Marino :** Masdevallia Ruby Slippers, registered in 1994, is a primary hybrid between *M. coccinea* and *M. calura*. The first species is spectacular and sought after, with large brilliant red to magenta flowers, but grows at very cool, high elevations in the Andes, and is thus difficult to maintain in most collections. The second species has less beautiful color and form, but grows nearly down to sea level in the rainforests of Costa Rica. The serendipitous combination of the two creates a hybrid with form and color similar to *M. coccinea* that also has heat tolerance, making it possible for pleurothallid lovers to enjoy it almost everywhere. In general, Masdevallia hybrids such as these like constant moisture without being soggy, moderate light, high humidity and constant air movement to flourish.

**Red – *Lycaste brevispatha* – Mellard/Marino**

**White – *Sedirea japonica* – Brand** : This plant should have been entered under Class VII. *Sedirea* is *Aerides* spelled backwards, and this miniature vandaceous species was once included in that genus. It should be grown much like a *Phalaenopsis* with ample watering year round.

**White – *Dendrochilum filiforme* – Kessler**

### Recent Blooms at the Atlanta Botanical Garden, April 2007



Photos © Danny Lentz

(top left)  
*Epidendrum greenwoodii*  
(top right)  
*Cyrtorchilum edwardii*  
(bottom left and middle)  
*Pleurothallis canaligera*



***Maxillaria crisantha***

We purchased this plant at Redlands in May 2002 and I finally bloomed it for the first time in April 2007. After the long wait it was nice to find out it has attractive flowers with a strong pleasant fragrance. -danny

**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)

**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)

**Member Announcements**

*If you have any news you would like to share with the society please send me a short announcement. -danny*

**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.