



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: Margie Kersey

May 2008

www.AtlantaOrchidSociety.org

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MAY MEETING

The Monthly Meeting:

Topic: Native Orchids of Georgia

Speaker: Tom Patrick, GA DNR

8:00 pm Monday, May 12

Atlanta Botanical Garden, Day Hall

Beautiful, but Not an Orchid



Impatiens psittacina

You may have received an email with photos of this beautiful flower identifying it as a rare orchid. The email is half right, this is a very rare plant. It just isn't an orchid. It is a rare species from several small geographic regions in Asia: northern Thailand, Myanmar (formerly Burma) and one state in India adjacent to those countries. The people of Thailand have a name for the plant, and call it "Dork Nok Khaew". Literally translated that says: Dork or Dok = flower, Nok = bird, and Khaew = green or word for parrot. So the translation would be Flower Bird Parrot. It blooms in October and November. Want to see one? The Thai tour company Tourdoi is now taking people on tours to see the rare plant in nature.



Cyrtopidium acaule



Tom Patrick received his B.S. degree from Syracuse University and M.S. from Cornell in plant taxonomy. After nearly a decade working on rare plant inventories and taxonomy," he accepted a position as botanist for the Georgia Department of Natural Resources in 1986. He has studied the flora of Georgia extensively.

Mr. Patrick is a co-author of "Protected Plants of Georgia, An Information Manual on Plants Designated by the State of Georgia as Endangered, Threatened, Rare or Unusual". His co-authors are James R. Allison and Gregory A. Krakow. The book was first published in 1995 by Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Wildlife Resources Division. Ok, so you might not find it on the shelves at the local Barnes & Nobel, but it is a useful reference manual.

Mr. Patrick is responsible for maintaining listing of rare and endangered plants in Georgia. Tonight he will be focusing on orchids native to Georgia. Most of the pictures he will be sharing with us, he took himself in the field.

Come to the meeting and learn about the orchids in your backyard and how to protect them!

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Atlanta Orchid Society Meeting Minutes
April 14th, 2008

THE ATLANTA ORCHID SOCIETY

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Newsletter - Margie Kersey
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The Atlanta Orchid Society Meeting was brought to order by President Jeff Whitfield. Visitors were welcomed and introduced. The minutes from the last meeting were approved as printed in the newsletter.

The treasurer gave her report. The spring auction cost the society \$1764 and brought in \$3064, for a profit of \$1299.59. The current bank balance is \$10,174.38.

If you were unable to download your copy of the society's directory, or if you want a hard copy, see Reba Herzfeld.

A group of society members will travelling together to the IPA conference at Lynes Orchids in Chattahoochee on June 6th. Contact Roy Harrow for further information.

The summer orchid auction at Roy Harrow's home will be held on July 27th. It includes a pot luck lunch. Members can bring orchids that they want to auction off. A portion of the money goes to the Atlanta Orchid Society.

Next month's Green Growers visit is to Marble Branch Farms in Walhalla, South Carolina on Sat., May 31st. Contact Mark Reinke to RSVP.

Members were reminded of upcoming orchid shows in Anniston, Al. (April 26-27) and in Savannah (May 31st).

The speaker was Eric Christensen, who gave a very interesting presentation on the orchids of Peru.

Our thanks to the orchid judges: David Kessler, Jeff Van Horne, and Doug Hartong.

Our thanks to those who donated plants to the raffle table: Annalee Boyett, David Kessler, Tony Kiss, and others.

Our thanks to those who donated refreshments: Geni Smith, Don & Mary Helen Reinhard, Terry Glover and Bob Grzesik, Jojo Stickney, Barbara Dampog, Doug Hartong, Maggie Kiss, Mark Reinke & Gary Collier, and others.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Carl Quattlebaum

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.

Member Spotlight



James Van Horne

My interest in plants started as a general interest in nature, that was initially fostered by my parents when I was very young, and was/is/has been fostered by many relatives and friends too numerous to list. My main interest is plant conservation, and the main groups of plants that I am interested in are Orchids, and Native Plants- especially native orchids, the aster family, native azaleas (rhododendron), and trillium. My interest in orchids comes from my mother, who went to Taiwan when she was young and was enamored with the mounted orchids growing indoors on the walls. About the time I was ten she got several hybrids (I don't remember what they were except for the *Dendrobium Phalaenopsis* hybrid...) when Home Depot had a \$5 sale, Mom proceeded to stick the plants on hangers on an interior wall and promptly killed them, but the orchid bug had bit me.... In December 2003 I went to pike's nursery with Christmas money just burning a hole in my pocket... when suddenly an out of bloom cymbidium woke up the dormant orchid bug, I now had my first orchid, and things went down hill from there.

My first greenhouse was built in Nov. 2002; it was built from materials from Home depot without a real plan- we were in for big, big trouble. My first greenhouse that didn't end in disaster was built fall of 2003, It was a 7' wide 8' long lean to built from a kit, and attached to the house over my bedroom window (incase the greenhouse's heater should fail-guess what went terribly wrong in the last greenhouse, along with a host of more minor issues...). In fall 2004 we expanded it to 16' long. In fall 2005 we added another greenhouse- a 20'x24' hoop greenhouse with poly covering. Do we see a pattern here? In fall of 2006



we DID NOT build another greenhouse- thank heavens, It's a lot of work to build one.

My orchid collection focuses on species, of just about everything, although Cattleyas, Pleurothallids, Paphiopedilums, and many others are personal favorites. I grow all of my orchids, as well as a few misc. tropicals in the 20x 24' greenhouse, while the 7'x16' is used for native plant propagation of such things as asters- (especially Georgia aster), native azaleas, and many others.

I currently attend Kennesaw state university, where I am a Biology Major, and I am finishing up my freshman year.

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 per 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)***

Table Awards

Photos courtesy of Danny Lentz

Class I – Cattleya Alliance

Species

Blue- *Rhyncolaelia digbyana* – Collier/Reinke

As our speaker, Dr. Eric Christenson, mentioned, this species is the 'B' in the numerous *Brassolaeliocattleya* (now *Rhyncosoprocattleya*) hybrids of the past with a large showy and ruffled lip. An additional important effect of breeding with this species was its ability to 'even out' the lavender color of the early hybrids, which sometimes had a grainy or blotchy appearance. These good qualities came at the price of low flower count, since *Rlc. digbyana* produces just one, and very rarely



Rhyncolaelia digbyana

two, blossoms per inflorescence. Consequently, once the desired qualities were in the genetics of large cattleya breeding, it was rarely used again, and most modern hybrids are seven to ten generations removed from the species! It is native from Costa Rica to Mexico, generally growing in very bright conditions. The very upright, glaucous growth is well equipped to handle such exposure, which is a necessity in cultivation if it is to grow and flower well.

Red – *Cattleya intermedia forma vino* - Johnston

White – *Cattleya skinneri forma alba oculata* – Hallberg

Orchids in the News

This extinct species of stingless bee was found encased in amber with a well-preserved part of an ancient orchid attached to its back. The amber, dug up in a mine in the Dominican Republic, is 10 million to 15 million years old.

The pollen-bearing package represents the first known fossil of an orchid, researchers say.

Orchids are the most diverse flowering plants on Earth, with more than 20,000 known species. But until now the flowers have been absent from the fossil record.

In a paper describing the find in the journal *Nature*, Santiago R. Ramírez of Harvard University and colleagues note that the fossil flower, called *Meliorchis caribea*, belongs to a living group of orchids called Goodyerinae.

In addition to shedding new light on the orchid family tree, the find provides "an unprecedented direct fossil observation of a plant-pollinator interaction," the team writes.

For example, when bees visit living members of Goodyerinae, the pollen parts become stuck to their mouths as they take nectar from the lip of the flower. But the fossil pollen was found stuck to the ancient bee's back.

"This indicates that the flower of *M. caribea* was gullet-shaped," the researchers write. "The anterior part of the bee would have had to enter the flower completely."

—Victoria Jaggard National Geographic



Hybrids

Blue – *Guarisophlia* (*Schombolaeliocattleya*) Newberry Lava Burst ‘Marble Branch’ AM/ AOS – Collier/Reinke

This Carter & Holmes creation is a hybrid between *Sophranthe* (formerly *Laeliocattleya*) Rojo and *Laelia* (formerly *Schomburgkia*) *undulata*. News that this particular plant had been given a provisional Award of Merit at the Atlanta AOS Judging Center prompted that firm to register the hybrid in 2005. The next year three additional cultivars also received similar flower quality awards. The *Laelia* species that were formerly recognized as *Schomburgkia* are generally large to very large plants, with long to very long inflorescences. While hybrids like these can bring wonderful results with unusual flower form and startling color contrasts, the right parent must be chosen to minimize the ‘supersize’ qualities of the offspring. For example, *Laelianthe* (formerly *Schombocattleya*) *Dulatica* follows similar breeding lines, being a cross between *Laelia undulata* and *Guarianthe* (formerly *Cattleya*) *aurantiaca*, one of the parents of *Srt. Rojo*. However, by leaving out the *other* parent of *Srt. Rojo*, the genetically miniature *Sophranitis* (formerly *Laelia*) *milleri*, a plant more than twice the size of this blue ribbon winner results with inflorescences up to 48 inches long!



***Guarisophlia* (*Schombolaeliocattleya*)
Newberry Lava Burst
‘Marble Branch’ AM/AOS**

Red – *Soprocattleya* Purple Fantasy x *Encyclia cordigera* – Lentz/Morgan

White – *Soprocattleya* Jungle Festival - Herzfeld

EVENTS OUT AND ABOUT

May

May 10 (Saturday) AOS Atlanta Monthly Judging

May 12 - Meeting of the Atlanta Orchid Society

16-18 - Memphis Orchid Society Show, Memphis Botanic Garden, 750 Cherry Rd., Memphis, TN. Contact: Alex Kumok, 8638 Spring Orchard Cir., Cordova, TN 38018; (901) 309-3187; lkrfan@gmail.com.

May 26 - Meeting of the South Metro Orchid Society, Morrow, GA Contact Margie Kersey 404-680-7336

31-June 2 - Deep South Orchid Society Show, Savannah Mall, 14045 Abercorn St., Savannah, GA. Contact: Lee Bredeson, PO Box 21217, Hilton Head, SC 29925; (843) 815-6673; lee@classicorchid.com.

June 7 - IPA SE Region Summer Meeting, 9 am - 3:30 pm 423-886-2111 Lines Orchids, 1823 TAFT HIGHWAY, SIGNAL MTN TN, 37377 Lunch is on your own. Speakers and greenhouse tour are scheduled. Contact: Tom Harper, SE Region IPA Rep., harper_sro@bellsouth.net



***Cymbidium* (Mighty Mouse 'Minnie'
x Lady Spring 'Nancy')**

Class II – Cymbidium Alliance

Blue – *Cymbidium* (Mighty Mouse 'Minnie' x Lady Spring 'Nancy')

Red – *Cymbidium* Marissa 'Golden Wedding'



***Dendrobium transparens* CHM/AOS**

Class III – Dendrobium Alliance

Blue – *Dendrobium transparens* CHM/AOS – Hartong

Dendrobium transparens is one of the pendant caned, deciduous species from the region of the eastern Himalayas, that while showy, has relatively short lived flowers. It a warm to hot grower that does not need cool nights in order to initiate blooming like some related species. It does want copious water and fertilizer during the growing season, and less water and no fertilizer in winter as a prelude to its generous spring flowering. Curiously, not a single registered hybrid has been made with this species, although it has been in cultivation for 180 years!

Red – *Dendrobium lindleyi* - Hallberg

White – *Dendrobium* C. K. Ai 'Cana' - Kiss

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.

JOIN THE AMERICAN ORCHID SOCIETY

For \$60.00 per 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)

Class IV - Epidendrum Alliance

Blue - *Cattleya Angelwakler* x *Epidendrum stamfordianum* – Collier/Reinke

Both this plant, and the red ribbon winner in this class, illustrate the breeding potential for colorful floral profusion that is largely untapped in this group of orchids. Hybrids combining more traditional cattleyas with *Epidendrum* and *Encyclia* species are often slower to reach mature blooming size and perhaps this is the biggest reason why the demand is low and commercial growers tend to shy away from them. Both of these plants were 'blooming size' when we obtained them 7 years ago, but have only produced these impres-



***Cattleya Angelwakler* x
*Epidendrum stamfordianum***

sive displays in the last two years, blooming very sparsely up till then. In fact, we almost discarded this particular plant when it failed to bloom for the first 3 years we owned it, even though it appeared to be definitely large enough. The fourth year, it offered up one spike only, but the flowers and habit were distinct and unique, so we hung on to it! Patience is definitely a virtue for an orchid connoisseur! Give any new plant the opportunity to flower at least three times before 'passing judgment' on it. Size, color, substance, flower count, even flower habit and carriage, all generally improve as an orchid reaches its mature size.

Red - *Guaracyclinitis (Epilaeliocattleya)* Circus Lady – Collier/Reinke

Class V – Oncidium Alliance

Blue – *Miltonia Herralexandre* - Hartong

Red – *Oncidium crispum* - Johnston



Miltonia Herralexandre

Newsletter Submissions

To submit material for the newsletter, or to sign up for the email version of the newsletter, please contact Margie Kersey. The deadline for submissions is the 20th of the previous month.

MAIL TO: Margie Kersey
PO Box 464381
Lawrenceville, GA 30042

EMAIL: Margie@callkbs.com

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.



Paphiopedilum venustum

White – *Trichocentrum splendidum* - Harrow

Class VI – Cypripedium Alliance

Paphiopedilum species

Blue – *Paphiopedilum venustum* – Lentz/Morgan

This species comes from the area where India, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal and China all meet and grows in a variety of elevations and habitats, though all generally quite shady. It can be found rooted in the leaf litter and moss underneath thickets of bamboo or other vegetation, and also in tree crotches where leaf litter has gathered. For most of the year, this area receives very high rainfall, but December through February it is significantly drier. The exhibited plant had good coloration for the species, showing well the weird combination of green, peachy orange, white, and

nearly black warty spots in a strangely alluring pattern, especially on the pouch that resembles some alien cranium! Although *Paph. venustum* has been used as a parent over 80 times, few of the offspring have the same bizarre appeal of the original species. One possible exception might be a hybrid registered in 1901 with *Paphl. rothschildianum* called *Paph. Bruxellense*. The originator was a Dr. Irwin Linden of Encino, CA., and only his own watercolor illustration survives to show the result of this pairing. However, it looks sufficiently strange, wonderful and unique to warrant a remake!

Red – *Paphiopedilum rothschildianum* – Lentz/Morgan

White – *Paphiopedilum concolor* – Lentz/Morgan

Paphiopeiolum hybrids

Blue – *Paphiopedilum Friedrich Mellin* – Lentz/Morgan

Red – *Paphiopedilum Saint Swithin* – Geni Smith

This primary hybrid of *Paph. philipinense* and *Paph. rothschildianum* has stood the test of time! It was been registered all the way back in 1901. Since the 1970's, remakes of the original cross have resulted in nearly 200 AOS awards for the grex, including six First Class Certificates! The most recent of these highest honors was bestowed just two years ago when the clone 'Neptune' scored 92 points with five striking flowers almost 9.5 inches wide on a single *unstaked* inflorescence. That score tied it with the clone 'Crystelle' which won similar honors the previous year. Some things just keep getting better!



Paphiopedilum Friedrich Mellin



***Phragmipedium Nitidissimum*
'Gloneyrie' AM/AOS**

White – *Paphiopedilum Mykelti Williamson* – Kessler

Phragmipediums

Blue – *Phragmipedium Nitidissimum* 'Gloneyrie' AM/AOS – Kessler

Red – *Phragmipedium* (Eric Young x *warscewiczianum*) – Whitfield

White – *Phragmipedium* Chuck Acker 'Elizabeth Ingram' - Kessler

Orchid Vocabulary

Phragmipedium - (Gr: fence; division; slipper) In allusion to the divisions of the trilocular ovary in the "slipper", which is the lip in this genus



***Phalaenopsis* Homer P. Norton**

Class VII – Phalaenopsis Alliance

Blue – *Phalaenopsis* Homer P. Norton – Kiss

This Krull-Smith 'red' hybrid which honors H.P. Norton came out with a bang in 2004 when it received an Award of Quality, 4 Awards of Merit, and one Highly Commendation Certificate at the Florida North Central Judging Center on February 14th, and then six additional flower quality awards between then and June 4th of that year. The judges noted its improvement in form, darker, richer color, and greater floriferousness over previous breeding attempts along these lines. But since then, no additional awards have been earned by this grex. As with Tony Kiss' own 'red' creation, *Phal. Natalie*, (the blue ribbon winner at the February meeting of this year), both *Phal. lueddemanniana*, and *Phal. violacea* play a significant role in producing this sought after color pattern. Curiously, only one hybrid has yet been registered using *Phal* Homer P. Norton as a parent, leading us to wonder if this promising breeding line may have reached a dead end.

Red – *Phalaenopsis* Perfection Is 'Chen' FCC/AOS - Gilmore

Red – *Phalaenopsis* Taida Lawrence – Kiss

White – *Phalaenopsis* Hilo Lip 'Cheryl Oliff' – Lentz/Morgan



Angraecum leonis
 White – *Phalaenopsis* Yungho Gelb Canary
 ‘Honey’ - Gilmore

Class VII – Vanda Alliance

Blue – *Angraecum leonis* – Thurner

As our speaker stated, this species comes from two distinct populations. The smaller form, rarely exceeding 6-8 in. wide and 6 in. tall, comes from the northern tip of Madagascar, near sea level. A more robust form, which can be nearly twice as large is from the nearby Cormoros Islands, and grows at about 3,000 feet above sea level. In both locations they receive high rainfall in summer and autumn, and less in winter to spring, but always the humidity remains quite high. The very flat, fan like arrangement of the succulent leaves is a distinct hallmark of this species. Several inflorescences can arise beneath the leaves in spring, bearing as many as seven, pure white, night fragrant flowers. There have been two registered hybrids made with other members of the

Orchid Vocabulary

Mericlone - A generally exact copy of an original orchid plant made via the laboratory technique of meristem propagation.

Meristem - The undifferentiated plant tissue from which new cells are formed, as that at the tip of a stem or root.



***Sarcoglottis speciosa* x
*Stenorrhynchos speciosum***

genus and two with members of the genus *Aer-anthes*.

Class IX – Miscellaneous

Blue – *Sarcoglottis speciosa* x *Stenorrhynchos speciosum* – Harrow

Both species making up this showy, yet unregistered hybrid, are related to the temperate *Spiranthes* that occur in our own region. They are both found in widespread areas of tropical America, usually growing as terrestrials, but occasionally as epiphytes or lithophytes as well. Bright shade, good humidity and excellent air movement are their cultural preferences. It would be interesting to attempt hybridization with the hardy *Spiranthes* to see what interesting results may occur.

Red – *Gastrophaius* Dan Rosenberg - Harrow

White – *Bulbophyllum sumatranum* ‘Lenny’
 CBR/AOS - Whitfield

THINGS YOU MIGHT HAVE MISSED IN APRIL



When you come to meetings you get the opportunity To talk to orchid experts like the April speaker, Dr. Eric Christensen! The good Dr. Even provided The commentary on the Table Award winners.



This was the month for orchid deals! In this meeting we had accessories, orchids and MSU fertilizer for purchase. And, if you were quick, you could pick up back issues of several orchid magazines for free! Danny Lentz still has some of the MSU fertilizer for sale...



Atlanta Judging Center Awards April 2008

Photos courtesy of Maureen Pulignano

All awards are provisional until published by the AOS



*Dendrobium transparens 'Genevieve' CHM/AOS
exhibited by Doug Hartong*



*Bulbophyllum papulosum 'Arron Hicks' CHM/AOS
exhibited by David Janvrin*



*Phragmipedium Chuck Acker
'Elizabeth Ingram' HCC/AOS
(Phrag Eric Young x
Phrag wallisii)
exhibited by David Kessler*



*Acianthera obscura
'Hidden Wonder' CBR/AOS
exhibited by David Janvrin*



*Paphiopedilum 'Lauren' AM/AOS
(Paph sukhakulii x
Paph Raisin Wine)
exhibited by Stones River*