



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

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www.AtlantaOrchidSociety.org

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JUNE MEETING

The Monthly Meeting:

Topic: The Real Miltonias

Speaker: Rolf Wilhelm

Woodland Orchids

8:00 pm Monday, June 9

Atlanta Botanical Garden, Day Hall



Milt Candid Ruby
(Woodlawn Ruby X candid)

Rolf was born in Germany but moved to Australia when he was 18. It was there that he learned to speak English, thus explaining his somewhat "different" German accent. He traveled the world extensively in these earlier times and saw orchids both in botanical gardens as well as in the jungles but at the time he had not been seriously infected with that incurable disease that we all suffer - "ORCHIDIDOUS".

When Rolf first moved to the US, he moved to Louisiana, thus explaining a little more about his "different" German accent. After moving back to the Carolinas, Rolf met Linda, he was interested in what the funny looking little plants were that were growing all around the house. When she told him they were orchids, the bug finally got him and he caught up for all of that lost time.

Eventually out of this "HOBBY" sprang Woodland Orchids a business since 1989. Both Rolf and Linda (an accredited judge and Trustee for the American Orchid Society) enjoy going to shows and doing programs for orchid societies because of the many interesting, really great people that they get to meet. Their specialty in both speaking and growing is the Oncidiinae Alliance but like all good addicts, they enjoy growing and talking about just about anything related to orchids.

AOS CORNER

Melba and Jim Butler, AOS Representatives

Orchid Trivia: "Despite the enormous variety found among the approximately 25,000 species and more than 105,000 manmade hybrids, all of the members of the orchid family are related to each other by their flowers. The five main characteristics common to orchid flowers are: 1) zygomorphy; 2) the column; 3) the rostellum; 4) two or more pollinia, and 5) the labellum (lip). Ref: "Ultimate Orchid" by Thomas J. Sheehan; 2001; DK Publishing, Inc., p. 10.

What is New at the AOS?

The AOS Web site is progressing. If you haven't taken the "virtual tour" of the gardens, it is worth your time. Go to the AOS Web site at www-aos.org and click on "Garden Tour", then follow the instructions. Not only can you see orchids, but there are hundreds of plants listed and the search feature allows you to see photos of them growing in the AOS Gardens. This is a fantastic program that Alan L. Kaitz, MD, AOS Volunteer prepared with assistance from Nick Ewy, Director of Botanical Garden and Greenhouses and Pat Jennings, Head Gardener. They have done a fantastic job and it is a great addition to the Web site. Be sure to check it out and let someone know you appreciate it!

Inside This Issue

Page

- 2 AtlOS Officers
Minutes of the May AtlOS Meeting
- 3 Member Spotlight - David Kessler
- 5-10... Table Awards
- 9 Events Out and About
- 10 What you missed in April
- 12 Recent AOS Awards

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Atlanta Orchid Society Meeting Minutes May 12th, 2008

The Atlanta Orchid Society Meeting was brought to order by President Jeff Whitfield. Visitors were welcomed and introduced.

Jeff Whitfield announced that Barry Drake of Mountain View Orchids in Greenville, S.C. recently passed away. Barry was a long time friend of the Atlanta Orchid Society.

The annual auction where members can auction their own orchids will be held at Roy Harrow's pool on Saturday, July 26th. It's a pot luck lunch, and 10% of the sale price goes to the Atlanta Orchid Society.

The treasurer gave her report. The current bank balance is \$12,841.69.

The Green Growers visit was held on May 3rd at Marble Branch Farms. A good time was had by all.

Contact David Mellard if you have orchids to contribute to the society's display at the upcoming orchid show in Savannah.

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

Doug Hartong displayed two of the trophies that the Atlanta Orchid Society received at the recent World Orchid Congress in Miami. The society's tabletop display received Best in Class and Best in Show awards. Doug thanked members who contributed their plants for the display.

Geni Smith needs help with food for the monthly meetings. Please contact her if you are able to help.

Jeff Whitfield announced that volunteers are needed to assist Roy Harrow, chair for the March show. Unlike previous years, it is expected that the work will be spread out among different people instead of relying on the show chair to handle everything.

In recent years, the June meeting has had a tour of the Botanical Gardens greenhouses instead of a speaker. This year, the tour has been moved to the August meeting.

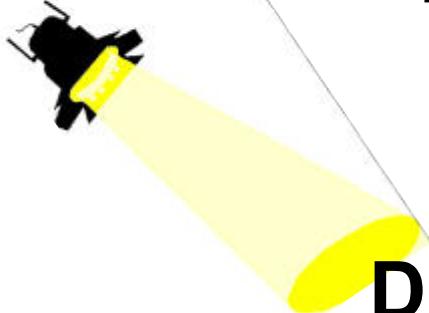
Continued on page 8

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



David Kessler



It all started so innocently. Who would have thought that the morning I spied an unusual flower in my Mother's kitchen while home on break from college would have led me where I am today, an ADDICT. I clearly recall picking up this strange plant with large flat ovate leaves (sign # 1 of an addict – using botanically correct terminology) and a mysterious flat white flower with a crimson red lip. I was enthralled by the color contrast, the unusual shape, and the fact that this amazing plant was growing in my mother's kitchen.

That was where it all started. Then there were the trips to Home Depot, one orchid became two, which quickly became six. Then I found out about a new place to further my addiction, the Orchid Society. I went to my first show and was entranced by the vast array of colors and shapes. There were more species and hybrids then I ever thought possible to support my "growing" addiction. I learned genus and hybrids, cultivar, nomenclature and award definitions. I was voracious about anything orchid I could get my hands on (sign #2 of an addict.) My personal collection quickly grew to 100 plants within the first year. I was growing all of them under lights in a bathroom, hand-watering twice a week. My "drug of choice" was slipper orchids, but my collection as a whole had grown to almost 200. Then there was the decision to move to Georgia with my then fiancée, now wife Vir-

ginia (who has always supported me in my addiction.)

So I carefully packed up my collection, and sacrificing luggage for my orchids. We had found a home with an old outdoor shed that I converted to an under lights greenhouse. There my addiction grew, it thrived in fact. I started attending the monthly AOS judging sessions at the Atlanta Botanical Garden the 2nd Saturday of each month. I learned a lot from listening to the judges, but that was not enough to feed my addiction. I had to join in. I became a clerk for the judging center and now am currently a student judge in the Atlanta AOS judging center. After about three months I learned of a new "high," winning my first AOS flower quality award. It has now been 5 years since I was hooked and my collection now numbers around 400 orchids. My collection is still focused on slippers, but also species. I love them all. The more I see, the more I learn the more I want them to feed my insatiable addiction. This is the final sign of an Orchid Addict...

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
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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: 1/4 page \$10, 1/2 page \$20, 1/8 page text only \$5.

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.

Table Awards

Photos courtesy of Danny Lentz

Class I – Cattleya Alliance

Blue- *Sophronitis* (formerly *Laelia*) *milleri* – Collier/Reinke

The brilliant flowered *Sophronitis 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 *Sophronitis purpurata*. While many expected this group to be given its own ge-



***Sophronitis* (formerly *Laelia*)**

nus, *Hoffmanseggella*, the RHS chose to evidence from certain genetic research and move them, along with all Brazilian Laelia, to the genus *Sophronitis*. Though the environment in which the rupicolous *Sophronitis* grow 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.

Red – *Sophrocattleya* Fire Lighter - Glass

White – *Broughtonia sanguinea* var. *alba* x *Cattleya Angelwalker*

Class II – Cymbidium Alliance

No Entries

Class III – Dendrobium Alliance

Red – *Dendrobium trantuanii* – Smith

This miniature *Dendrobium* has only recently been described. It comes from somewhat dry broadleaf evergreen forests in the mountainous Lai Chau province in the far north of Vietnam. A warm to intermediate grower, with fairly short, flattened pseudobulbs that prefers to dry out between watering, and is therefore a good subject for mounted culture. The inflorescence develops from the lateral nodes of mature, often leafless canes, and can have up to three flowers that are large for the size of the plant. Its existence in collections is so recent that no hybrids have yet been registered using it, but the result of pairing it with the ‘nobile’ type dendrobiums could prove interesting.



Encyclia Rioclarense



Oncidium hintonii

Class IV - Epidendrum Alliance

Blue - *Encyclia Rioclarense* – Collier/Reinke

Red - *Encyclia randii* – Collier/Reinke

White – *Sophrocyclia* (formerly *Epilaelia*) Cin-namatica - Johnston

Welcome Our Newest Members

Randy Brazee
106 Kirkwood Road
Atlanta, Ga. 30317

randy@kirkwoodlibrary.com
404 271-1378



*Be sure to greet our newest members
and make them feel at home.*

Class V – Oncidium Alliance

Blue – *Oncidium hintonii* – Johnston

Oncidium hintonii comes from the mountains along the central west coast of Mexico, growing in pine-oak forests between 2500 and 6000 feet above sea level. Its paniculate inflorescence can be up to four feet in length and bear over 70 flowers, most commonly in May and June. Although it has many attractive qualities, there are no registered hybrids of this species at present and very little reference information available about it. The area in which it grows suggests warm to intermediate culture, with plentiful water in summer to fall, with somewhat less the balance of the year.

Red – *Hamiltonara Golden Harry 'Golden Anniversary'* AM/AOS - Glass

Note: *Hamiltonara* = *Ada* + *Brassia* + *Cochlioda* + *Odontoglossum*

White – *Psychopsis Mendenhall 'Hildos'* FCC/
AOS - Kessler



Paphiopedilum delenatii

Class VI – Cypripedium Alliance

Paphiopedilum

Blue – *Paphiopedilum delenatii* – Kessler

Paph. delenatii was discovered by a French army officer in northern Vietnam in 1913, and was named after the director of a French botanical garden. However, all of the collected plants died shortly after importation, save for one plant sent to the firm of Vacherot and Lecoufle in Paris. That plant was self pollinated and is believed to have given rise to all the *Paph. delenatii* in cultivation for the next 70 years. New populations were discovered in the 1990's and were quickly stripped from their natural locations and distributed around the world. Since then, this

new strain has been artificially propagated to the point that it is widely and easily available. Plants of the original strain are delightfully fragrant, while those of the newer strain are only lightly scented, or not at all. This species occurs on acidic, silicate based soils rather than on limestone like many other species. A cooler treatment in winter, with less water, is useful to initiate its spring flowers.

Red – *Paphiopedilum* Mount Toro – Geni Smith

White – *Paphiopedilum* Fumi's Gold – Kessler

Phragmipedium

Blue – *Phragmipedium* Wössner Supergrande – Pulignano

How many orchids can boast 81 flower quality awards in just 10 years, including 16 First Class Certificates? In fact out of the last 13 awards bestowed upon this attention getting plant, *nine* were FCC's, the most recent with a score of 97 points out of 100! There are likely few other orchid hybrids that have impressed the judges as so 'nearly perfect' as Phrag. Jason Fischer. Amazingly this pinnacle of quality was done with just two species and two generations of breeding! I'm sure cattleya hybridists *wish* they could accomplish the same sort of results in their breeding efforts. *Phrag. sargentianum* adds commanding size, height and depth of color to the more petite, but brilliant *Phrag. besseae*. I'm sure many slipper orchid enthusiasts are eagerly awaiting the progeny that would result by paring this cross with the newly released *Phragmipedium kovachii*!



White – *Phragmipedium* Penns Creek Cascade 'AOC' – Whitfield

Phragmipedium Wössner Supergrande

Class VII – Phalaenopsis Alliance

Blue – *Phalaenopsis Sogo David* – Brinton/Park

This attractive *Phalaenopsis* owes much to *Phal. amboinensis* and *Phal. lueddemanniana* for its color pattern, and to the white species for its fuller form and higher flower count. The grex has received three recent flower quality awards. It does not, however, represent a significant improvement over several of its parents or grandparents, and one has to wonder if the color line of yellow flowers with patterend red spots has hit a 'wall' in terms of further improvement in size, color, form, and flower count. Further breeding attempts with



Phalaenopsis Sogo David

Phal. Sogo David have combined it with improved, more intense yellow flowered phals in an effort to brighten the background colors further. We shall see if this work proves successful.

Red – *Phalaenopsis wilsonii* - Gilmore

White – *Phalaenopsis Brother Excelsior 'OK'* AM/AOS – Brinton/Park



Ernestara Fire Storm

Class VII – Vanda Alliance

Blue – *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!

Red – *Ascocenda Motes Burning Sands 'Mary Motes'* HCC/AOS - Glass

White – *Vanda Yuuko Iso-Sumida 'Ted Sumida'* - Pulignano

Class IX – Miscellaneous

Blue – *Dracula bella* ‘Riopelle’ – Pulignano

The *Dracula* are fascinating cloud forest orchids from Central America and the Northwest Andes, generally growing at fairly high, cool and misty elevations. The long tailed flowers with hinged lips grow downward from the plant, and generally require a mesh or wire basket to accommodate this habit. They like to stay wet, with good drainage and continual air movement and are a challenge to grow in this climate. Maureen Pulignano keeps this plant directly in the stream of mist for her hydrofogger which does a reasonable job of approximating the natural habitat!

Red – *Bulbophyllum* Frank Smith ‘Maureen’s 1st, HCC/AOS - Pulignano

White – *Pleurothallis flexuosa* - Pulignano



Dracula bella ‘Riopelle’

Continued from page 2

The minutes to the previous meeting were approved with a correction to the date of the Green Growers meeting.

The speaker was botanist Tom Patrick, who gave a very educational presentation on the native orchids of Georgia.

Board member Jeffrey Wolf has moved to Costa Rica. The board has selected James Van Horne to replace him on the board and as librarian.

Our thanks to the orchid judges: David Kessler, Danny Lentz, Doug Hartong, Pat Cleveland, Maureen Pulignano, and Geni Smith.

Our thanks to those who donated plants to the raffle table: Clark Weisner, Roy Harrow, and others.

Our thanks to those who donated refreshments: Geni Smith, Marianne Gilmore, Cameron Carter, Jojo Stickney, and others.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Carl Quattlebaum

In Bloom at the Garden



Vanilla



Visit
Today!



For those who don't know,
I am on vacation until
June 16th. See you in
July!



EVENTS OUT AND ABOUT

June 9 - Regular meeting of the Atlanta Orchid Society

June 14 - Judging at the Atlanta Judging Center

July 26 - Orchid Auction at Roy Harrow's house.
Each sale will generate a donation to the Atlanta
Orchid Society. Call Roy for more information

Latest Orchid Research

Orchids have a lot of admirers, but one Australian wasp is so enthralled by Orchid Fever that he ejaculates while pollinating orchid flowers.

Australian Tongue Orchids lure male insects with counterfeit sex signals. Hapless male Orchid Dupe wasps (*Lissopimpla excelsa*) can't resist mating with the orchid flowers and accidentally become pollen couriers. Until recently, this trick was not thought to harm the reluctant insect Romeo, but biologists at Macquarie University in Sydney, Australia, discovered that the male wasps visiting Tongue Orchids waste thousands of sperm on the flowers. "If males waste all their sperm on orchids, what have they got to offer a real female?" asks Anne Gaskell, one of the authors of the research article soon to appear the *American Naturalist*.

Despite their extreme demands on their pollinators, Tongue Orchids are incredibly successful. They have the highest pollination success ever discovered in a sexually deceptive orchid, but Anne Gaskell, Claire Winnick and Marie Herberstein wanted to know how these orchids could do so well when they treated their pollinators so badly.

They performed a worldwide survey of about 200 insects that are fooled into mating with orchids. More than 90% of these duped pollinators were from species with a haplodiploid mating system that could be particularly resilient to orchid interference. Females from haplodiploid species such as wasps, bees and ants, can still produce offspring even without sperm from males. Anne Gaskell explains that "If you can reproduce without a male, it doesn't matter so much if all the males you meet have already wasted their sperm on orchids". "It's not widely known that Australian orchids are global leaders in sexual deception. We have more sexually deceptive species than any other region and Tongue Orchids are even found in remnant forest in our big cities".

Anne Gaskell (Macquarie University, Australia), Claire Winnick (Macquarie University & The University of Sydney, Australia) and Marie Herberstein (Macquarie University, Australia), "Orchid sexual deceit provokes ejaculation"

THINGS YOU MIGHT HAVE MISSED IN MAY



Big congrats to James Van Horne, our brand new club librarian! Be sure to talk to James when you would like to review information. Above, President Jeff congratulates James.



One of the great things about meetings is the opportunity to talk to the presenters one on one. Above two members ask Tom Patrick of the Georgia DNR about orchids in our own backyard.



Photo by Danny Lentz

Sarcoglossis speciosa x Stenorhynchos speciosum

For those of you who noticed (and those who may not have noticed). This is a photo of the real winner of Class 9 last month. I accidentally ran the wrong photo. My apologies to exhibitor, Roy Harrow!



These are the gorgeous trophies the Atlanta Orchid Society won at the World Orchid Conference in Miami.

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)**

Atlanta Judging Center Awards May 2008

Photos courtesy of Maureen Pulignano

All awards are provisional until published by the AOS



C. nobilior var Amalie 'Palmetto Gem' HCC/AOS
Fred Missbach, exhibitor



Bulb. Frank Smith 'Maureen's 1st' HCC/AOS
Maureen Pulignano, exhibitor

Must downsize orchid greenhouse to move to apartment!

Hundreds of Paphs, a couple dozen each Cymbidiuns and Phrags, miscellaneous others - Catts, Oncidiums, Miltonia, Stanhopea (reliable very fragrant summer bloomers), Phaius, Bulbos, and more. Tree fern pots and logs, flasks, other supplies. IN bloom - Paph Andronicus and other multiflorals, two Phrags, white Phaius species, Brassia hyrbid, Miltonia... also books and Orchid Album lithographs. Just inside 285 near 400.

**Linda Wish,
404-252-5872,
orchidwish@comcast.net**

***Congrats to Maureen Pulignano on
Obtaining her first HCC!!***

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)