



# 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

November 2009

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

Volume 50: Number 11

## NOVEMBER MEETING

**Topic: Orchids of Madagascar  
(They are Not all white Argrecums)**

**Speaker: Ron McHatton**

**8:00 pm Monday, Nov. 9  
Atlanta Botanical Garden, Day Hall**

Ron McHatton, a PhD Chemist by training, is currently the AOS Director of Education and Regional Operations. Prior to accepting this position he was Apopka production manager for Kerry's Bromeliad Nursery, possibly the largest wholesale orchid nursery in the United States and one of the largest Bromeliad wholesalers as well. Ron has been growing orchids for more than 43 years and has an eclectic collection of plants representing a wide cross-section of the orchid family. Ron's passion for orchids has spanned virtually every growing regime from windowsills to under lights to greenhouses running from a 200 square foot hobby house to several acres of commercial growing space. Over the years his private collection has numbered in excess of 2,500 plants.

In addition to his professional position, Ron is an accredited American Orchid Society judge and has been volunteering for the AOS for over 25 years. During that time, Ron chaired several national committees, twice held a seat on the organization's Board of Trustees and briefly served as vice president. In addition to Ron's volunteer support of the AOS, he has also been a long-time supporter of the Orchid Digest. In this role, he has served on its Board of Directors and Executive Committee for many years and as its President for three consecutive terms.

And most importantly, Ron is a member of the Atlanta Orchid Society!

## Important Parking Info!

The main driveway from Piedmont Avenue to the parking facility will be closed for the next six (6) Mondays, starting October 26. If you plan to volunteer on a Monday in the near future, please plan on using the driveway off of Monroe Drive. From the Garden Entrance, take a right on Piedmont Ave., drive .5mi then take a right on Monroe Dr. Take a right at the 2<sup>nd</sup> light, about .5mi, onto Worchester Dr. This will take you directly to the lower level of the parking facility. You can drive up a few levels to park where you normally do, or you can park on the lower levels and take the elevator/stairs up to the Garden entrance.

## Nominations for Officers

The following people have been selected by the nominating committee:

President	Maureen Pulignano
Vice President	Greg Smith
Secretary	Roy Harrow
Treasurer	Reba Herzfeld
Trustee 1	Barbara Barnett
Trustee 2	David Glass

Voting will take place Monday night and the officers selected will take office effective January 1, 2010.

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**THE ATLANTA ORCHID  
SOCIETY**

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**Other Volunteers**

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*Librarian* – **James Van Horne**  
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*Hospitality* – **Geni Smith**  
*MAOC Rep* – **Doug Hartong**  
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*AOS Rep* –  
*Society Auction Chair / Orchid Digest Rep* – **Fred Missbach**  
[fredmissbach@aol.com](mailto:fredmissbach@aol.com)

*Newsletter* – **Margie Kersey**  
[Margie@callkbs.com](mailto:Margie@callkbs.com)

**Atlanta Orchid Society Monthly Meeting  
October 12, 2009**

The October meeting of the Atlanta Orchid Society was called to order to Board Member Roy Harrow. Roy read the Treasurers report.

Old Business:

1. Maureen Pulignano reported on the Birmingham Orchid show and extended a public thank you to Doug Hartong for doing all the plant registrations for the show. The Atlanta display received the Orchid Digest award.
2. Atlanta Orchid Society pins are available for a \$5 donation to the society. See Maureen if you would like to have one of these and help raise money for the society.
3. The Nominating Committee has offered the following officer nominations: Maureen Pulignano for President, Greg Smith for Vice-President, Reba Herzfeld for Treasurer, Secretary position open, Barbara Barnett for Trustee and David Glass for Trustee. We will vote on the new officers by secret ballot at the November meeting. Floor nominations will be accepted at the meeting.

New Business:

1. Doug Hartong recently purchased a shirt embroidered with an orchid from a member at the South Metro Orchid Society. If you are interested in having an orchid embroidered on something or purchasing an item, please contact Doug and he will give you the contact information for the seamstress.
2. Roy showed the new 2010 AOS Calendar and encouraged members to purchase one or more. It even includes a photograph taken of David Mellard's orchids.
3. October 31-November 1 is the date of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Mid-America Orchid show in Nashville, TN. Maureen Pulignano and Geni Smith will be putting up the display for the Atlanta Orchid Society. If you have any blooming plants that you would like to include in the show, please get them to Geni or Maureen by Tuesday October 27.

4. Roy welcomed the new visitors, we had two tonight.

Ribbon Judging: David Kessler presented the monthly ribbon judging results. Thank you to everyone who brought plants.

Speaker: The speaker for the evening was Mr. Fred Clark of Sunset Valley Orchids in California. The topic was "Today's mini and compact Cattleyas and trends in breeding". Mr. Clark talked about reasons to grow mini and compact Cattleyas, important species used in breeding, primary hybrids useful in breeding, recent hybrids and finally cattleya culture. The important reasons he gave for growing the little Cattleyas include that they save space, they offer a wide range of color forms, many have frequent blooming, they have vigorous growth and are adaptable to a variety of light and temperature ranges. He gave a number of culture tips for Cattleyas and emphasized that good watering practices leads to healthier plants. He recommends leaching the plants once a month with fresh water to remove accumulated salts from the roots and pot.

We thank those who brought refreshments: Barbara Dampog, Marianne Gilmore, Cameron Carter, Cheryl Bruce, Cora Ramborger, Geni Smith, Terry Glover and Bob Grezesik.

Thank you to those who brought plants for the raffle table. The raffle was conducted and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Cheryl Bruce, Acting Secretary

# Table Awards - October

*Commentary courtesy of Mark Reinke  
Photos courtesy of  
Maureen Pulignano*



***Cattlianthe Portia 'Coerulea'***

## **Class I – Cattleya Alliance**

### **Blue- *Cattlianthe Portia 'Coerulea'* – Greg Smith**

*Cattlianthe Portia* is one of the early cattleya hybrids and was registered by J. Veitch and Sons in 1897. It is a primary hybrid between *Cattleya labiata* and *Gurrianthe bowringiana* and has been a popular parent for additional hybrids from the time it was introduced through the present. In fact, the most recent registration, from the Spring, 2009 list published by the RHS, is *Cattlianthe Vinho do Porto*, a cross between *Ctt. Portia* and the homonymous *Ctt. Porcia* (Gur. bowringiana x *C. Armstrongiae*) from 1927! It is not proper nomenclature to refer to orchid hybrids as 'variety

coerulea' even though coerulea forms were used as the specific parents for this remake of the original cross. There have been at least nine awarded clones of *Ctt. Portia* that were from blue parents, but without a specific clonal name, it is not possible to know if the exhibited plant is one of them. Still, the 'blue' forms have made a significant contribution to modern cattleya breeding along those color lines. Despite the profusion of well formed flowers, the robust size and once blooming habits of *Ctt. Portia* limit the number of people willing to offer it space in their growing area, so it is only rarely commercially available. There are usually enough large plants in need to division to supply the demand.

### **Red – *Cattleya Jacoba Jewell's* – David Johnston**

### **White – *Cattleya Golden Acclaim* x *Cattlianthe Joann Amos* – David Johnston**

## **Class II – Cymbidium Alliance**

### **No Entries**

### **Dues are Due!**

It's that time of year again - time to renew your membership with the Atlanta Orchid Society. Dues are \$30 a year for an individual or \$45 for a joint membership. Make your check payable to the Atlanta Orchid Society and deliver to:

Reba Herzfeld  
4798 Summerset Land  
Dunwoody, GA 30338

### **JOIN THE AMERICAN ORCHID SOCIETY**

- 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 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.**

Single Membership 1 year \$65, 2 years \$125  
Joint Membership 1 year \$80, 2 years \$155  
Student Membership 1 year \$40, 2 years \$75



*Dendrobium bullenianum*

### **Class III – Dendrobium Alliance**

#### **Blue – *Dendrobium bullenianum* – Maureen Pulignano**

*Dendrobium bullenianum* is an interesting species from the Philippines and a few neighboring locations that produces nearly globular clusters of small, but showing flowers from side nodes along leafless erect canes. Despite being deciduous, it comes from areas that receive rainfall throughout the year and prefers to be kept evenly moist, with only slight drying, between waterings. It has a preference for fairly bright light, good humidity, and intermediate to warm temperatures. In a controlled environment, it can do well mounted, though it will require more frequent water. In a pot, the media needs to be fast draining. Only a small number of hybrids have been registered with *Den. bullenianum* as a parent, all using species that are fairly closely related. Hybridizer's notes reveal that it does not seem genetically compatible with other branches of the *Dendrobium* tribe.

#### **Red – *Dendrobium laevifolium* – Geni Smith**

#### **White – *Dendrobium bracteosum forma album* – Geni Smith**

## **AOS Corner**

The American Orchid Society is busy with its Fall 2009 meetings in California, the winter show season and then we're right in to planning for the spring meetings in Oklahoma City in April 2010. These meetings and shows are a great opportunity to find the best orchids as well as make friends with people who have similar interests to yours. You do not have to be a member to attend any of the shows although being a member and helping with the show makes it a richer experience. You can find all of the details on shows and meetings in Orchids magazine or at our web site [www.aos.org](http://www.aos.org) and then you can put it on your calendar so you won't miss any of the fun. While you are at the calendar and you see the holidays coming up, consider purchasing an orchid calendar, an AOS pin or an AOS membership as a gift for yourself or an orchid lover. You can get any of those off the web site or by calling 561-404-2000 and then you'll have that gift out of the way.

If you are an AOS member you have free and discounted admission to [more than 200 botanical gardens and arboreta](#) - now that is a benefit many people are not aware of. Go to the "join" page of the web site to see the details of this offer. So you can buy someone an AOS membership and then expect them to take you to a garden for the day! Celebrate fall by going to an orchid show.

Carol Holdren  
Affiliated Society Committee

## **Orchid News**

*I think this news report falls into the category of "We Knew That"...*

Orchid named UK's most popular houseplant. The phalaenopsis orchid is the nation's favorite plant for the second year running, according to the Flowers and Plants Association

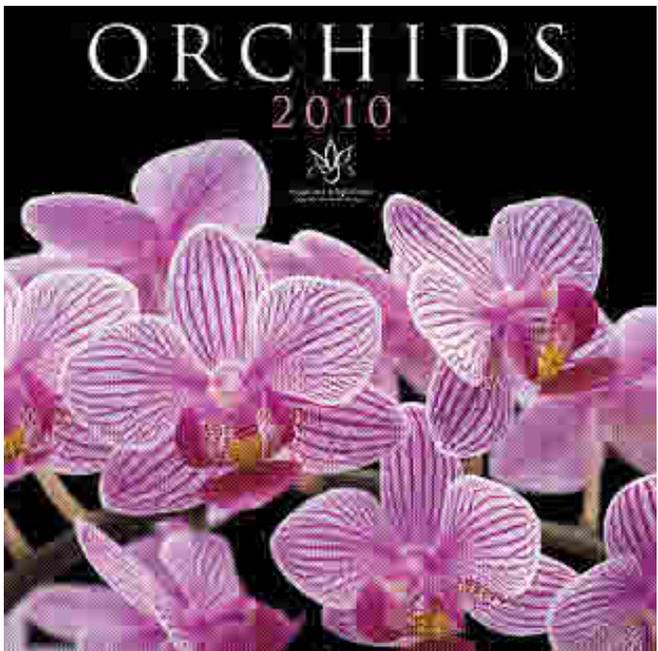
## Class IV - Epidendrum Alliance

### Blue - *Epidendrum cristatum (raniferum)* – Greg Smith

The Kew checklist does not currently recognize *Epidendrum raniferum* as a separate species and considers plants known under this name to be *Epidendrum cristatum*. This large epiphytic and sometimes terrestrial species is spread over an enormous range from northeast Mexico to southern Brazil and thus there is quite a bit of variation when it comes to the specific markings, size, and form of the flowers, as well as plant size and habit overall. In general, those types sold as *Epi. raniferum* come from Mexico and Central America, and have more distinct lobes and fewer lacinations on the lip than the forms from other areas. The name ‘raniferum’ refers to the frog-like appearance suggested by this lip. These plants grow in fairly high rainfall areas with little to no dry season, and can become massive when mature. The apex of each fully developed stem is sheathed in a series of overlapping bracts that contain the eyes from which the arching to pendant inflorescence emerges. Each cane is capable of blooming for many years from this structure so that large mature plants can display hundreds of blooms at once. The 20 or more flowers open all at once and vary in size from one to two inches across, with greenish sepals and petals irregularly marked with reddish brown. The lobed and divided lip is mostly white with some green to yellow-green markings. As mentioned previously, individual clones vary considerably in flower quality so it would be advantageous to purchase a plant when in bloom whenever possible. The bloom season runs from about April to October in the Northern Hemisphere and again tends to vary plant by plant. Years ago, we purchased a particularly robust form with large magnificent flowers from Andy’s Orchids that is now so massive it is housed in a 20 gallon nursery pot. It always flowers in June for us, and though worthy of consideration by AOS judges, it too large to transport when in full bloom. We have tried repeatedly to self pollinate this plant but so far it has never set a fertile pod.



*Epidendrum cristatum (raniferum)*



**ORCHIDS**  
2010

*\$2 from each calendar sold benefits orchid conservation*  
**\$12.95 plus shipping and handling**  
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### Newsletter Submissions

To submit material for the newsletter or to sign up for the email version of this newsletter, please contact Margie Kersey. The deadline for submission is the 20th of each month.  
[Margie@callkbs.com](mailto:Margie@callkbs.com)



*Comparettia speciosa*

**Class V – Oncidium Alliance**

**Blue – *Comparettia speciosa* – Geni Smith**

*Comparettia speciosa* is a small, pendant growing orchid from wet montane forests on the east slope of the Andes in southeast Ecuador and northeast Peru. The bright, almost fluorescent orange, wide spreading lip of each of the several to many flowers is a feature that many people find irresistible. But to grow this beauty well will require attention to its special needs. Mounted culture would best accommodate the growth habit, but requires high humidity and almost daily watering. A small hanging basket or pot with a moisture retentive but well draining media can work as a second option, but careful attention must be paid to repotting as soon as the media begins to break down or shows signs of salt build up. Diffused light, strong air movement, and moderate temperatures that are evenly mild year round are also crucial elements to the successful cultivation of this gem. It can be crossed with other members of the oncidium alliance and at least forty six first generation hybrids have been registered with *Comp. speciosa* as one of the parents. However, only one or two of these have offered anything that might be considered improvement to the fiery jewel-like quality of the original species.

**Red – *Miltonia regnellii* – Geni Smith**

**White – *Brassia Rex* – Roy Harrow**



**Class VI – Cypripedium Alliance**

**Blue – *Phragmipedium Belle Hougue Point* – Cora Ramborger**

**Join the Atlanta Orchid Society**

Membership in the Atlanta Orchid Society is \$30 for individuals or \$45 for households. Yearly membership runs January 1 through 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.

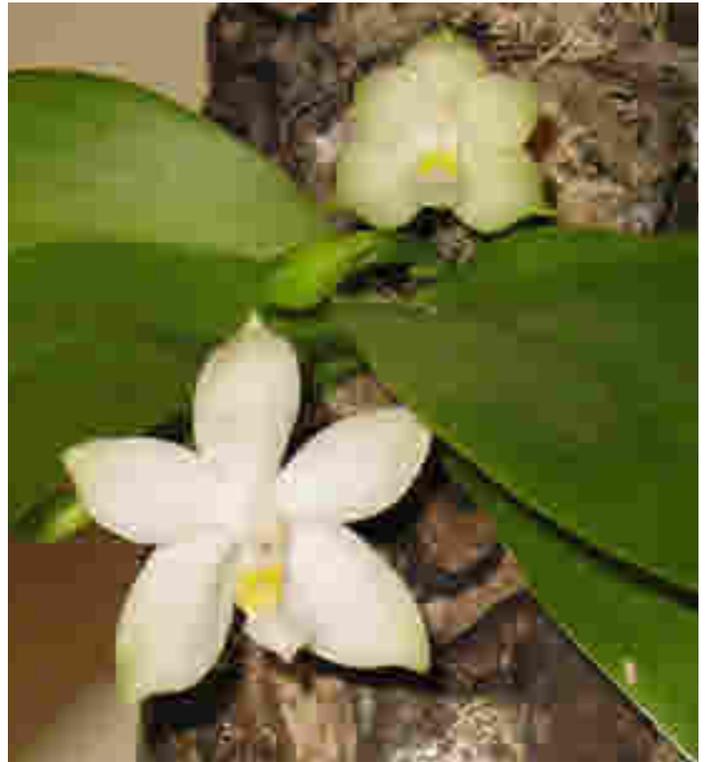
For directions to the Atlanta Botanical Garden, please visit their website at [www.atlantabotanicalgarden.org](http://www.atlantabotanicalgarden.org)

## Class VII – Phalaenopsis Alliance

**Blue –** *Phalaenopsis violacea* var. *alba* – **Geni Smith**

The fact that *Phal. violacea* has only a few, smallish, star shaped flowers open at once and carries little of the flamboyant, floral punch often associated with the modern hybrids who are its cousins matters little to the thousands who have become captivated by its spell. Perhaps this species is capable of emitting some mysterious pheromone along with its sweet fragrance that causes all who dare to come near, and especially orchid judges, to become powerless against its subtle charms! How else do we explain why the accumulated data from the well over 100 awards granted this slightly fussy orchid reveals that the presumably ‘best of the best’ examples can muster an average of only 2.9 flowers *and* buds per inflorescence at an average spread of just barely over two inches? Are we mere pawns in this orchid’s evolutionary adaptation for survival? If you find yourself mysteriously drawn to *Phal. violacea* in one of its many color forms, be prepared to offer your plant a shady, warm, humid environment with plenty of water and regular feeding, but taking special care to avoid letting moisture to remain on the leaves, especially if it becomes cooler than the 70 degree nights it prefers.

**Red – *Phalaenopsis Spica* ‘Crestwood’ AM/AOS – Cheryl Bruce**



*Phalaenopsis violacea* var. *alba*

### 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 \$34 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)*

## EVENTS OUT AND ABOUT

**October 12-** AtlOS Meeting

**October 10 -** Atlanta Judging Center

**Oct 10-11 - Gainesville Orchid Society Show**, Kanapaha Botanical Gardens, 4700 SW 58th Dr., Gainesville, FL. Contact: Joan MacLeod, 4411 NW 15th Pl., Gainesville, FL 32605; (352) 375-6744; [neilmacleod@bellsouth.net](mailto:neilmacleod@bellsouth.net).

**Oct 31 - Nov 1 - 50th Anniversary of the Mid-America Orchid Congress and Tenn. Capital Orchid Show.** Franklin Marriott Hotel, 700 Cool Springs Blvd., Franklin, TN. Contact: Steve Burger

& Tom Harper, 9651 Fredonia Rd., Manchester, TN 37355. (931) 394-2713; [gandsgh@blomand.net](mailto:gandsgh@blomand.net).

**Jan 15-17- North Carolina Piedmont Orchid Society Show**, Daniel Stowe Botanical Garden, 6500 South New Hope Rd., Belmont, NC. Contact: Virginia Rappold, 10219 Rocky Ford Club Rd., Charlotte, NC 28269; (704) 912-2536; [vrappold@aol.com](mailto:vrappold@aol.com).

**Nov 14-23, 2011 - 20th World Orchid Conference**, Singapore. [www.20woc.com.sg](http://www.20woc.com.sg)

**Nov 2014 - 21st World Orchid Conference**, Pretoria, South Africa. Check the AOS website!



### **Class VIII – Vanda Alliance**

#### **Blue – *Pelatantheria insectifera* – Geni Smith**

This curious and not frequently seen vandaceous orchid comes from tropical forests in northeast India and also Myanmar where it grows on trees with upright stems of fleshy, clasping leaves set in two ranks and comparatively thick, white roots emerging and irregular intervals along the length of the plant. The attractive, but smallish flowers are borne three to five at a time from short, curving inflorescences that emerge at seemingly random locations along the stem. The upward sweeping, greenish yellow sepals and petals overlaid with dull red stripes, in combination with the lip column and side lobes resembles an insect with spreading wings coming to light on the purplish pink, heart shaped mid lobe of the lip. This orchid is best accommodated in a hanging pot or slatted basket filled with a chunky, open media. During the summer growing season it likes frequent watering with supplemental misting of the roots on the hottest, brightest days but care should be taken to make sure water does not remain in the crown of the plant. In winter it should be watered much less, but kept in good humidity, air movement and bright filtered light. The roots of this species are numerous and can become rather ungainly. But trimming them should be avoided since it can set the plant back a year or more.

#### **Red – *Vandachostylis* Colmarie – Geni Smith**



### **Class IX – Miscellaneous**

#### **Blue – *Spiranthes cernua* – Cheryl Bruce**

*Spiranthes cernua* is terrestrial species endemic to a widespread area of eastern North America and one of the easiest of our native orchid species to cultivate. It is normally found in sunny damp meadows, marshes, ditches and seepages where the moisture helps keep the roots cool despite the bright conditions. In cultivation it is usually best to select a location where the plants will receive some morning sun, then partial shade the remainder of the day since it is difficult to keep the roots cool enough in full sun. Alternately, a bog garden can be created where it may intermingle with other interesting plant species which flourish in that environment. When favorable conditions are created, *Spiranthes cernua* can multiply into large colonies where the cumulative effect of many dense upright spikes of white flowers can be quite showy.

# Atlanta Judging Center Awards October 2009

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*Photos courtesy of Maureen Pulignano*

*All awards are provisional until published by the AOS*

Stellis pachyglossa  
'Mello Spirit'  
CCM/AOS  
Exhibited by  
David Mellard &  
Sal Marino



(unnamed hybrid)  
Blc Goldenzelle x  
Blc Chinese Bronze  
'Aileen' AM/AOS  
Exhibited by Fred  
Missbach