



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: Mark Reinke

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CELEBRATING 65 YEARS 1947-2012

AUGUST MONTHLY MEETING

8:00 pm Monday, August 13, 2012
at the Atlanta Botanical Garden, Day Hall

Speaker: Mark Alan Reinke, Marble Branch Farms, Walhalla, SC

Topic: "Honey, I Shrunk the Or-Kids!"
(A History of Miniature and Compact Cattleya Orchids)

Enjoy an evening filled with Mark's own color photography as he takes us through the origins of our modern and compact Cattleya orchids, from their species ancestors, through the first experimental hybrids at the beginning of the 20th Century and on to the key breeding lines of today. The program is loaded with practical information on how to grow these miniature beauties in your home or greenhouse, and will give you a preview of what new sorts of hybrids will be available in the future.

Mark and Gary will bring a nice selection of mini-catt hybrids and species, as well as several other genera for sale at reasonable prices. As always, a few special gems that are too few to list in their online store will be offered.



First Blooming Seedlings.....

Just a few of the original miniature and compact Cattleya crosses produced by Marble Branch Farms in the past few years.

WEBSITE and ONLINE STORE:
www.marblebranchfarms.com

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Eliane Carlisle and Marianne Gilmore show off their spoils of the July greenhouse tour as Becky Brinkman of the ABG looks on.



*Geni Smith shows off her *Bulbophyllum lobbii* 'Sweet Sofia' which received an Award of Merit at the July AOS judging.*



*In addition to the orchid collection, members got to see rare pitcher plants, *Sarr. purpurea* ssp. *venosa* var. *montana*, being raised for return to their single wild location in the Georgia mountains.*

Events Out and About

August

August 11 - American Orchid Society monthly judging, Atlanta Judging Center, 2 pm, ABG basement workshop.

August 13 - Atlanta Orchid Society Monthly Meeting, ABG, Day Hall – 8 p.m.
Mark Reinke – “Honey, I Shrunk the Or-Kids!” (All about miniature and compact cattleya hybrids.)

September

September 08 - American Orchid Society monthly judging, Atlanta Judging Center, 2 pm, ABG basement workshop.

September 10 - Atlanta Orchid Society ANNUAL FUNDRAISING PLANT AUCTION
Rock Springs Presbyterian Church
(more details in our next newsletter)

September 21-23 – Alabama Orchid Society Show, Birmingham Botanical Gardens, Birmingham, AL

October

October 08 - Atlanta Orchid Society Monthly Meeting, ABG, Day Hall – 8 p.m.
Ray Barkalow – Hydroponic and Semi-Hydroponic Orchid Culture

October 13 - American Orchid Society monthly judging, Atlanta Judging Center, 2 pm, ABG basement workshop.

November

November 3-4 – Orchid Society of Middle Tennessee Show, Cheekwood Botanical Gardens, Nashville, TN

November 10 - American Orchid Society monthly judging, Atlanta Judging Center, 2 pm, ABG basement workshop.

November 12 - Atlanta Orchid Society Monthly Meeting, ABG, Day Hall – 8 p.m.
Paul Storm – Meke Aloha Orchids “Schomburgkia” Species and Hybrids

President's Message

Hope everyone is enjoying summer, despite the heat. For those of us with plants spending their time outside under trees, etc. be advised to keep them hydrated, inspected for diseases, and more importantly, critter damage. With the mild winter we've had, it is important to keep that in mind.

Our social meeting was enjoyable and a great success. It gave members a chance to mingle and get to know one another. I think everyone enjoyed the ice cream, frozen yogurt, and the different toppings provided by Marble Slab Creamery. ABG had a great greenhouse tour for our members and also gave away plants. Thank you Becky and Mike!

The silent auction items were awesome and the bidding was a lot of fun. Thank you members for your donations! Everyone looked happy with the items that they acquired.

A reminder that our September meeting is our Annual Auction and Pot-luck. It will start early and it will be held at Rock Springs Presbyterian Church, not far from ABG. Watch for full details in the September newsletter.

See you at the meeting!

Geni Smith

Hospitality Volunteer Needed!

We are seeking a new person to coordinate the refreshments at our monthly meetings. If you can help, please contact Geni Smith.

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
Student Membership 1 year \$40, 2 years \$75

JOIN OR RENEW ONLINE AT: www.aos.org

Minutes of the Atlanta Orchid Society July 9, 2012 Monthly Meeting

1. Geni Smith called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. Thirty two people were in attendance.
2. Members were given a behind the scenes tour of the Atlanta Botanical Gardens Greenhouse.
3. Members enjoyed ice-cream provided by Maggie Moo's Ice Cream of Atlanta.
4. The treasury report was given by Clark Weisner.
5. Announcements were made by Geni Smith. Next month, Mark Reinke will speak about compact and miniature cattleya hybrids.

Respectfully submitted,
Jessica Wackerman
Secretary



Maggie Moo's was a hit as usual!



Members being treated to the behind the scenes tour of the Fuqua Orchid Center at the July meeting.



David Johnston announces the ribbon winners while Geni Smith shows the plant to the club.

Atlanta Orchid Society Monthly Ribbon Winners July 2012

Notes and comments by Mark Alan Reinke

Photos courtesy of Cheryl Bruce

Class I – Cattleya Group



Blue – *Cattleya My Special Angel* – David Johnston

This unusual novelty orchid is a primary hybrid between *C. luteola* and *C. iricolor*, two species that inhabit parts of the Amazon basin. *C. luteola* is fairly widespread, occurring in areas west of Manaus, Brazil and all along the base of the Andes from Bolivia to Ecuador. *C. iricolor*, however, is confined to a small area around the town of Puyo, Ecuador, and was lost to cultivation for nearly 100 years, having only been rediscovered in 1962. Their hybrid is a compact grower with clusters of charming cream to pale yellow flowers with deeper yellow and some red in the lip. It seems to take after *C. luteola* in exhibiting a variable bloom season that can range from spring to fall depending on the conditions under which it is grown. Even temperatures, favoring warmth, and diffuse, but not too bright of light, with a fast draining medium that allows for regular watering, but also drying out in between would be the best cultural advice for this orchid. No further hybrids of come from it yet, and while it is not of full form,

pairing it with the right mate could produce some interesting results.

Red – *Cattleya Pastoral Symphony* – David Johnston

White – *Cattleya Landate x Facelis* – David Johnston

Class II – Cymbidium Group



Blue – *Cymbidium ensifolium* – Maureen Pulignano

Cymbidium ensifolium is a widespread and somewhat variable species, occurring from Sri Lanka to southern Japan, across much of Southeast Asia and adjacent islands of Indonesia, Borneo, New Guinea and the Philippines. As might be expected there are numerous color forms, some of which have been prized in cultivation for over two thousand years. It is a compact grower with upright spikes of mainly summer blooming, but long lasting, fragrant flowers. The most typical color is pale creamy to greenish yellow sepals and petals, with longitudinal reddish strips, that fade toward the apices of the segments. The lip is usually the same background color, dappled with red in an irregular pattern. White and yellow forms, with no red pigments, are the most prized. It

prefers to grow in bright diffused light in a moisture retentive, but well drained media, and in a fairly deep pot to accommodate the large fleshy roots, and does well under typical intermediate conditions. Water and fertilizer should be reduced in winter when plants are not actively growing. *Cym. ensifolium* is an important parent for compact and miniature breeding and more than 800 hybrids descend from it. The most significant was the first ever registered using this species, *Cym. Peter Pan*. Introduced in 1957, its descendants alone account for two-thirds of the total that trace their ancestry back to this species.

Class III – Dendrobium Group



Blue – *Eria spicata* – Maureen Pulignano

Sometimes referred to as the “Lily of the Valley Orchid,” this infrequently seen *Dendrobium* relative produces dainty spikes of fragrant, cup shaped, whitish flowers from side nodes near the apex of its fairly small pseudobulbs, which are topped by several relatively broad leaves. The overall effect is somewhat reminiscent of the familiar garden plant from whence its

common name comes. This Asian species inhabits lower elevations of the Himalaya region, and most sources describe it as a warm, bright grower, while a few insist that it is a cool grower that appreciates the airflow from an evaporative cooler. Maureen grows her plant mounted, in warmth, bright shade/low sun and with lots of water. There are no registered hybrids made from this *Er. spicata*, and the genus as a whole is a largely underappreciated one, with many charming species from varied climates across tropical Asia.

Red – *Dendrobium Andréé Millar* – Cheryl Bruce

White – *Dendrobium biloculare* – Cheryl Bruce

Class IV – Epidendrum Group



Blue – *Encyclia steinbachii* – David Johnston

Encyclia steinbachii was described in 1922, but has only been available commercially in the last decade and is still uncommon in collections. It deserves to be grown more often. Considered the southernmost occurring member of the genus, it comes from the vicinity of Buena Vista, Bolivia, the capital of a the thinly settled province of Ichilo at the base of the Andes Mountains, near the southwestern-most corner of the Amazon Basin. It is described as being

lithophytic and favoring open, rather sunny locations. The plants are medium-large in size when mature, with ovoid pseudobulbs that carry three rigid, arching leaves (two when plants are still young). The inflorescence is a branched panicle that can carry up to 50 or more, long lasting, wonderfully perfumed flowers, each about 1 inch across and at their peak in mid-summer. The spoon shaped sepals and petals are light green or yellowish-green, accented by a white lip bearing three to nine purple lines on the mid-lobe and a bright yellow anther cap. Our own mature plant is currently bearing 6 strong inflorescences carrying over 200 flowers total, with the plant overflowing a 10 inch square wooden basket. We keep it hung up high in the greenhouse where it can receive the most sunshine and warmth throughout the year. There is but a single registered hybrid made using this species, but we currently have several crosses coming along that we think take good advantage of its charms, and will offer them commercially once large enough to sell.

Red – *Encyclia alata* – Geni Smith

Class V – Oncidium Group



Blue – *Gomesa echinata* (formerly *Baptistonia echinata*) - Maureen Pulignano

Recent genetic studies have shown that the many Brazilian species once included in *Oncidium* are only distantly related to the type species, *Onc. altissimum*, from the Caribbean. While many of these Brazilian orchids were initially separated into several different taxa on

the basis of floral characteristics, DNA studies show that they are very closely related to each other and all, including this charmer from the states of Rio de Janeiro and São Paulo, have been transferred into *Gomesa*. This particular plant is blooming out of season. Flowering typically occurs in winter peaking in February or March. The pendant, branched panicles of yellow, green and purple flowers emerge from near the base of recently matured pseudobulbs, and have an unusual shape designed to attract oil-collecting bees, which see the flowers as a potential mate. Used fairly frequently in intergeneric breeding, this unique shape seems to rarely influence the look of the resulting hybrid. One exception is the charming *Oncidesa* Little Dragon (x *Onc. cheirophorum*) registered by Sagami orchids of Japan in 1999. The 'Carmela' clone received an HCC from the AOS in 2004 and apparently was distributed by Carmela Orchids of Hawaii, but sadly seems to be no longer available commercially.

Red – *Miltassia Shelob* 'Kapoho' – Lynne Gollob

White – *Tolumnia Jairak* Rainbow – Maureen Pulignano

Class VI – Cypripedium Group



Blue – *Paphiopedilum* Jade Dragon – Cheryl Bruce

Paph. Jade Dragon is a primary hybrid between *fairrieanum* and *maliopense* registered by the Orchid Zone in 1991. The flowers tend to favor the latter parent in color and form, but with

whimsical touches influenced by the former. More than two dozen awards have been given to various plants of this cross by the AOS and other organizations. While the two species come from different parts of Southeast Asia, they both grow in habitats that experience a cooler and drier winter period. Their hybrid appreciates, and may require, nights in the low to mid-50's for a couple months during this period in order to flower well. While it obviously can bloom at this time of year, it is more likely to flower in fall or winter. Plants prefer dappled light conditions with regular watering in summer and still frequently enough in winter that the roots do not completely dry out for any length of time.

Red – *Paphiopedilum* Honey – Cheryl Bruce

Class VII – *Phalaenopsis* Group



Blue – *Phalaenopsis bellina* 'Montclair' – Jarad Wilson

See last month's newsletter (July 2012) for some information about this species.

Red – *Phalaenopsis cornu-cervi* – Maureen Pulignano

The hyphen is an official part of the species name of this orchid, which means "stag horn" and refers to the antler like shape of the inflorescences. When one considers a single, smallish and often somewhat dullish, star shaped flower, this is not a flashy orchid. But a mature plant will carry several to many evergreen spikes which continue to produce several flowers at a time for many years, making a much showier impression overall. It is widespread through hot, tropical, often

deciduous forests in the lowlands of Southeast Asia including the major Indonesian islands, and will definitely not sulk in our southern summers. Plants will bloom best if given enough light to turn the foliage somewhat yellow-green, and should be watered frequently during the growing season, then more sparingly, with increased light, in winter to simulate what happens in the wild during this dry period, when most trees at least partially defoliate and the only available moisture is nightly dew. *Phal. cornu-cervi* has been used fairly extensively in hybridization and in the right pairing can result in intense colors and attractive patterns.

White – *Phalaenopsis violacea* 'Lavender' – Bob Grzesik

Class VIII – Vandaceous Group



Blue – *Ascocenda Motes Flamboyant* 'Mary Motes,' AM/AOS – Mauren Pulignano

This brilliantly colored orchid, a progeny of the famous *Ascda*. Yip Sum Wah, was registered by Motes Orchids in 1986, but judging by the number of photos posted, remains popular with lovers of vandaceous hybrids. Owing to a

substantial dose of *V. sanderiana* in its background, it is not a particularly small grower, but can bear upright inflorescences of 30 or more 2.5 inch flowers. Undoubtedly, the glowing color reminded Motes of the Flamboyant Tree, *Delonix regia*, commonly planted in South Florida and throughout the tropics as an ornamental, and generally in full bloom this time of year with masses of fiery orange-red flowers. There are, however, a few examples of this cross that are more purple than scarlet. It must be a reluctant parent, because no further registered hybrids have ever come from it. While tolerant of the occasional cool night in the 50's, this orchid is generally going to need warmth, high light and high humidity to flourish.

Red – *Schoenorchis fragrans* 'Wind' – Jarad Wilson

White – *Darwinara Charm* x *Vanda amesiana* – Bob Grzesik

Class IX – Miscellaneous



Blue – *Gastrorchis humblotii* – Maureen Pulignano

This orchid is named in honor of Léon Humblot, a French botanist, naturalist and explorer who made expeditions to Madagascar and the Comoros Islands in the 1880's and 90's. He was known as "le grand sultan blanc," a name that seems to stem from a combination of his habit of wearing white from head to toe, his imposing beard, and his instrumentality in securing the accord that gave France control of Grand Comoros Island in 1885. The orchid named after this colorful character grows in wet, semi-deciduous forests on Madagascar, between 3000 and 6000 feet above sea level. It and the other five species of *Gastrorchis* were once grouped with *Phaius*, and many plants are still labeled as such. The two genera are closely related and hybrids between them are fairly common. With this species, up to a dozen or more showy flowers, typically rose pink with a distinct yellow callus, open in succession over a period of about a month. Plants are terrestrial and can be robust growers that like shade, and a fertile, loamy mix in a deep pot. They need plenty of water and regular feeding in the summer growing season, with less in winter.

Red – *Masdevallia Ken Dole* - Maureen Pulignano

White – *Bulbophyllum lobbii* 'Sweet Sofia,' AM/AOS – Geni Smith

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, contact the society's Treasurer (see page 2) for a membership application, or complete an application online at our website:

www.atlantaorchidsociety.org

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.

RECENT ACTIVITY OF THE ATLANTA JUDGING CENTER

The following awards were granted at recent sessions of the AOS judging center. They are provisional awards pending publication by AOS. Certificates of Horticultural Merit and Certificates of Botanical Recognition are also provisional pending identification by an AOS certified taxonomist prior to publication of the award.

All award photographs are © Maureen Pulignano



Bulbophyllum odoratissimum 'Yardley,'
CCM/AOS
Exhibited by Maureen Pulignano



Bulbophyllum lobbii 'Sweet Sofia', AM/AOS
Exhibited by Geni Smith



Rhyncolaeliocattleya Sun Spots 'Copper Queen,'
AM/AOS
Exhibited by Stones River Orchids



Rhyncolaeliocattleya Hsinying Williette
'Buttercup,' AM/AOS
Exhibited by Stones River Orchids