



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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www.AtlantaOrchidSociety.org

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JUNE MONTHLY MEETING

7:00 pm Monday, June 09, 2014
Atlanta Botanical Garden,
Mershon Hall
(Building Opposite Day Hall)

**ANNUAL TOUR OF THE ABG
GREENHOUSES, INCLUDING
"BEHIND THE SCENES," PLUS
OUR ANNUAL SOCIAL EVENT
AND SILENT AUCTION**

**PLEASE NOTE: SHOW AND
TELL PLANTS MUST BE
ENTERED BY 7:00 PM IN
ORDER TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR
RIBBON JUDGING.**

This is always a great event! Enjoy exploring the hidden nooks and crannies of the ABG including the Fuqua Conservatory, Fuqua Orchid Center including the high elevation house, and the behind the scenes propagation and growing areas never open to the public where many rare and usual plant treasures abound. These growing areas include not just orchids, but also many other unusual and fascinating tropical plants that never go on display in the public area.

Afterwards, enjoy some great social time, getting to know your fellow members better.

A fantastic silent auction will be held at the meeting and members are encouraged to participate as well as donate plants to be sold off to the highest bidder. All proceeds benefit the society.

There will also be a regular monthly ribbon judging and members are permitted to bring plants for sale to this meeting.



Just a few of the items in our June silent auction...

Top left: Bc. Edna 'Woodlands,' Bottom Left: C. Purple Fantasy 'Whiteside,' Right: Bulb. Elizabeth Ann 'Buckleberry,' FCC/AOS



Cymbidium Flirtation, a classic miniature hybrid from 1955.

In This Issue

Page

- 2 *ATLOS Volunteer Listing*
- 3 *Events Calendar*
President's Message
- 4 *Minutes from the March Meeting*
- 5 *Monthly Ribbon Winners*
For March, 2014
- 10 *Recent AOS Awards from the Atlanta Judging Center*

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American Orchid Society

Education, Conservation, Research

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

Auction at Roy Harrow's house July 26th

Almost everything is the same except we are now getting more consignments of plants to be sold by people who can't make it or won't compete with the heat for some really low price orchids. It's still pot luck lunch at my house (2872 Gray Rd, Smyrna, Georgia 30082-1921). Arrive after 10, bidding begins at 11, food at 1, return to bidding around 2 and usually out of here by 4. There have been over 200 give away plants to people who signed up to bid at the end of the auction for the last 5+ years. Remember that the 10% surcharge goes to the 501C3 of your choice as long as the sum of everyone choosing that same group exceeds \$10. Otherwise it goes to a default orchid charity (last year it was the orchid conservation at the ATBG). No one gets to sell more than 10 offerings on the first run through (that could be 10 boxes) to keep anyone from hogging the auction and all of the extra plants wait till the end of the auction when everyone has run out of money and the prices get really cheap. I like to sell my 10 boxes and buy 3 more expensive things to try to break even (remember you get 90%). Lots of trees on the property were cut down in the last year so come prepared for the heat. Eleven people were bidding from the pool two years ago. You can stay inside until you see something you want to bid on. Then come out and bid till you win it or lose to someone else who just has to have it more than you do. Hope to see you there. Roy

Orchid Digest 

When you're serious about Orchids

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 \$39/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 edition devoted to a single genus. For membership application forms contact [David Mellard](#) (404-237-1694) or visit www.orchiddigest.com to join online.

Events Calendar

June

**09 - Atlanta Orchid Society
Monthly Meeting, ABG,
Mershon Hall – 7 p.m. – Note
early start time and location!**

Annual Summer Society and tour of Fugua Orchid Center and Behind the Scenes Growing Areas, Plus Summer Social and Silent Auction.

**14- American Orchid Society
monthly judging, Atlanta
Judging Center, 2 pm, ABG
basement workshop**

July

**12- American Orchid Society
monthly judging, Atlanta
Judging Center, 2 pm, ABG
basement workshop**

**14 - Atlanta Orchid Society
Monthly Meeting, ABG, Day Hall
– 8 p.m.**
Fred Clarke, Sunset Valley
Orchids, Vista, CA
“Australian Dendrobiums”

**26 - Orchid Auction Sponsored
by Roy Harrow at his house.**
Potluck event.
2872 Gray Rd, Smyrna Georgia
30081 H-770 434 8059 c-770
639 7052
Helpers arrive at 9 am
Public arrive at 10 am

August

**09- American Orchid Society
monthly judging, Atlanta
Judging Center, 2 pm, ABG
basement workshop**

**11 - Atlanta Orchid Society
Monthly Meeting, ABG, Day Hall
– 8 p.m.**

September

**08- Atlanta Orchid Society
Monthly Meeting, Rock Spring
Presbyterian Church – 7 p.m.
Annual Auction!**

President's Message



Summer arrives this month and while we may hide from the heat and humidity indoors with the air-conditioning running, many of our orchids are happy as can be to spend their summer vacation right out in the thick of it! If you have any *Dendrobium nobile* hybrids or related species, you will find they actually *prefer* to be outside where they can get at least several hours of direction sunshine to even being inside a greenhouse. We have tried them both ways, and the ones that got the outside sunshine made stronger growths and bloomed far more profusely than those kept inside the greenhouse. You just have to remember to water them often because that is what they are used to during the monsoon season in their native habitats. Of course, the good news is that this time of year it is nearly impossible to overwater them, so if we have another very wet summer, you needn't worry about their well-being. Other orchids, like Cattleyas and Vandas also love a little direct outdoor sunshine this time of year, but need to be growing in such a way that they have adequate drainage or they could stay too wet. And remember to keep anything you put outdoors safely up and away from slugs and snails, which relish fresh green root tips and tender new shoots!

This month is our annual Summer Social and Silent Auction. After being treated to a behind the scenes tour of the Fuqua Orchid Center, we will gather back in **Mershon Hall** (note the change of venue for this month's meeting) to enjoy ice cream and conversation, and have a chance just to get to know each other a little better. We are still looking for more special plants for the silent auction, so if you have something you can contribute, please contact me. Our goal is to have 10 or 15 plants of varied genera, preferably a bit unusual, extra desirable or hard to find to help make the silent auction a big success.



Encyclia alata v. virella in spike, will be another unusual and hard to find orchid at our June special silent auction.

Minutes of the May 2014 Meeting of the Atlanta Orchid Society

Date and time: May 12, 8:00p.m.

Location: Day Hall, Atlanta Botanical Gardens

Attendance: 35 people

Mark Reinke, president, called the meeting to order.

Geni Smith welcomed two guests and one new member.

Geni Smith made the motion to accept the minutes as published. This was seconded and the motion passed.

Announcements:

Raffle plants and several plants for the silent auction are present.

Next month is the summer social and at 7:00pm there will be a tour of the Atlanta Botanical Garden's greenhouses. After the tour, the meeting will be held in Mershon Hall. There will be no speaker but there will be a silent auction. Members are urged to bring plants for the auction. The table judging will be held as usual and there will be abundant, delicious refreshments.

Next weekend the Redland Orchid Show will be held in Florida and the Memphis show will also be held.

David Kessler has been elevated to full judge by the Atlanta Judging Center.

Mark Reinke introduced the speaker, Rick Lockwood. He gave a fascinating talk titled "What Do Orchids Eat." He discussed his research that supports fertilizing orchids with a much lower relative potassium

concentration than is usually recommended.

Those present enjoyed delicious refreshments organized by Ellen Brand.

David Kessler, David Mellard and Barbara Barnett performed the ribbon judging. Mark Reinke and David Mellard announced the winners.

Carson Barnes led the raffle and silent auction.

Mark Reinke adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted, Nancy Newton, Secretary

Also in the June Silent Auction:

Calanthe Dominyi 'Mello Spirit'

Sobralia decora 'Mello Spirit'



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



Cattleya purpurata 'Ultra-Violet,' exhibited at the May meeting by Carson Barnes is the editor's pick for best red ribbon winner. In Brazil, plants with this color pattern are often sold as variety 'roxo-violeto.' Note the "color bleed" in the center of the lip – a trait very common in this species.

Atlanta Orchid Society Monthly Ribbon Winners May 2014

Comments by Mark Alan Reinke
Photos by Cheryl Bruce

Class I – Cattleya Group

Blue – *Cattleya maxima* var. *alba* - Gary Collier & Mark Reinke

This is the uncommon alba variety of the lowland form of this species, which comes from the region around Guayaquil, Ecuador. It was grown from a seedling size plant sold by Carter and Holmes some years ago. While it has bloomed several times before, this is the first flowering that shows the full potential of this orchid. The name is very applicable for this lowland race, as the plants rival robust specimens of *C. purpurata* for the largest in the genus. The flowers themselves are only medium sized, generally 4 to 5 inches in total spread, but they are numerous for their size on the lowland plants. After the initial discovery of this species in hot, dry forests of coastal Ecuador, and upland race was discovered that grows from 3000 to 6000 feet above sea level and the western slopes of the Andes in Colombia, Ecuador and Peru. While the flowers are virtually identical to the lowland race, they are fewer in number and grow on much smaller plants. The darkest lavender forms are generally descended from the upland race.

While hybridizers have tried their luck with this species, for the most part, its open form flowers with segments that are reflexed along the midline do not lend themselves to outstanding results and are best enjoyed for their grace and beauty in the pure species form. In typical lavender types, the intricate veining and subtle coloration of the trumpet-like lip is especially appealing. Here in the alba form, that pattern is limited to the characteristic “blaze” of yellow that steaks out of the throat. There is also a very desirable, but hard to obtain semi-alba form.

The lowland types prefer high light, warmth and relatively spare watering,



Cattleya maxima v. *alba* – Gary Collier & Mark Reinke

typically performing better in an open sided basket than a pot. If you have the space, they are the true show stoppers when in bloom.

The highland types, still prefer high light and extreme drainage, but are more tolerant of cool temperatures in the winter months. The peak bloom season is fall, but perhaps due to the conditions in our growing area, we more commonly see flowers in spring, and sometimes at other times of year as well.

Red – *Cattleya purpurata* ‘Ultra Violet’ – Carson Barnes

White – *Broughtonia lindenii* –



Den. Mount Kelly Beauty – Carson Barnes

Gary Collier & Mark Reinke

Class II – Cymbidium Group

No Entries

Class III – Dendrobium Group

Blue – *Dendrobium* Mount Kelly Beauty – **Carson Barnes**

Den. Mount Kelly Beauty is a hybrid registered in 1993 by an Australian grower, but the actual originator of the cross is listed as unknown. It is composed primarily of species in the Phalaenantha section, with a small contribution from several species in the Spatulata section as well, though the flower form and color gives no hint of this heritage. But the deeper tones of these species probably contribute to the intense, saturated color of this particular cross. Dendrobium hybrids such as this one prefer high light levels and plenty of warmth, and do poorly if temperatures during the winter months fall below 60 degrees for more than a few nights. During active growth, which takes place during the warmer months, plants should receive frequent water, but after the growths have matured in autumn, they should be allowed to dry thoroughly between each watering. Flowering occurs from side nodes near the upper portion of mature growths that are usually one year or more in age. Each growth can flower multiple times over the course of several years.

Red – *Dendrobium trantuanii* – **Larry & Linda Mayse**

White – *Dendrobium tanii* – **Gary Collier & Mark Reinke**

White – *Dendrobium lindleyi* – **Sondra Nierenberg**

Class IV – Epidendrum Group

Blue – *Enanthleya* Highland Canary – **Gary Collier & Mark Reinke**

This attractive hybrid is a cross between *Cattlianthe* Trick or Treat, a



Oncostele Catatante 'Pacific Sunspots' – Nancy Newton

well known bright orange cluster flowered cattleya and *Encyclia incumbens*, originally known as *E. aromatica* for its heady perfume. The latter is a compact growing plant with branched panicles of many delicate, subtly colored, but long lasting flowers. This particular plant blooms just ahead of, or concurrent with that species, while other plants of the same cross can bloom in March and April, more in concert with *Ctt.* Trick or Treat. The flowers are long lasting and numerous on their branched inflorescences. Various forms of the cross range from light yellow with a darker lip, to nearly concolor orange. While only once bloomers, the quantity of flowers, and their ability to last two months or longer show the value in continuing to produce additional *Encyclia* hybrids in the future. Like the species themselves,

these crosses do much better in a basket with open and free drainage than in a pot. They also prefer bright light levels and are tolerant of a wide range of temperatures.

Red – *Prosclycia* Memoria Young C. Lott 'Newberry,' HCC/AOS – **Gary Collier & Mark Reinke**

White – *Encyclia diurna* - **Gary Collier & Mark Reinke**

Class V – Oncidium Group

Blue – *Oncostele* Catatante 'Pacific Sunspots' – **Nancy Newton and in memory of David Glass**

Oncostele Catatante is one of the keystone hybrids of the spiking and budded Oncidinae trade centered in Hawaii. Under near ideal growing conditions, tens of thousands of

these plants are raised up and then are shipped out in spike ready to show off their prowess in both quantity and quality of flower every year. Combining the many flowered habit of *Onc. sphacelatum* with the larger size and more intensely colored blooms of *Onc. fuscatum* (syn. *Milt. warszewiczii*) and *Rhyncostele* (syn. *Odontoglossom*) *uro-skinneri*, this showy cross also blends warmer and cooler growing genetics for a hybrid that is easy to cultivate under a range of temperature. This and similar hybrids perform well when repotted annually into a container small for the plant size, with a free draining, but moisture retentive mix, and given copious water and regular feeding, along with good airflow, while in active growth. Light should be fairly bright, but filtered. Under ideal growing conditions, the cycle from initiation of new growth until the formation of new spikes can be as little as 6 or 7 months.

Red – *Tolumnia* Rainbow – **Barbara Dampog**

White – *Psychopsis* Kalihi – **Liz Wyman**

Class VI – Cyripedium Group

Blue – *Paphiopedilum* Moon Stone 'Miss Genie,' AM/AOS – **Geni Smith**

This interesting hybrid combines a complex "Bull Dog" cross with *Paph.* Deperle, a primary hybrid between *Paph. delenatii* and *Paph. primulinum* with surprising results. Most of the color and pattern of the ancestral species are blocked, resulting in an almost totally white flower of reasonable form, with a touch of yellow in the center of the bloom. While not an expert in the color genetics of the genus, I see a pattern in which crosses using *Paph.* Deperle often result in color blocking in both the background shades as well as the layered patterns of line and dots, leading to white or nearly white results. This color blocking is much stronger than when *Paph. delenatii* is used alone as a parent. The result has been a new



Paphiopedilum Moon Stone 'Miss Genie,' AM/AOS – Geni Smith



Mexipedium xerophyticum – Gary Collier and Mark Reinke

generation of white and near white hybrids that have been rarities in *Paphiopedilum* breeding prior to 1990. Some clones of *Paph.* Moon Stone have quite a bit more yellow in the central area of the flower, but very few show any traces of purple. Registered in 2012, this recent introduction by Lehua Orchids of Hawaii will undoubtedly be used as a parent in many future crosses. This orchid prefers warm conditions, with shaded to dappled light, and does

not like to dry out completely between watering.

Red – *Paphiopedilum* Pinocchio – **Carson Barnes**

White – *Paphiopedilum* Bel Royal – **Nancy Newton and in Memory of David Glass**

J.C. Mobley Cultural Award – *Mexipedium xerophyticum* - **Gary Collier & Mark Reinke**

This curious, elfin species comes from a restricted area on the Caribbean slope of the state of Oaxaca, Mexico. Fearful of its extinction in the wild, the describers of the species gave no exact location for its discovery in the wild. While not botanically described until 1990, my partner, Gary Collier, observed this species in eastern Oaxaca in the 1970's while on a collection expedition with members of the Houston Orchid Society. It frequently scrambles across moss covered rocks. While the species has qualities in common with *Phragmipedium*, it also differs significantly enough in its vegetative presentation to warrant its own monotypic genus. Each growth consists of a small fan, of stiff, fleshy leaves with a total spread in the range of six to eight inches. The pubescent inflorescence often has a side branch and is capable of producing several tiny blossoms in succession from spring into mid-summer. Even before new growths have matured sufficiently to flower, they are quick to generate one or more elongated rhizomes which can range from 2 to 8 inches in length, with a single new growth at their terminus. These growths are slow to form their own roots, however, so taking viable divisions of this orchid can be tricky. While the name implies that this species comes from a dry or xeric environment, this is not totally true. From June to November, rainfall is copious, with about 100 inches falling on average, December to May is much drier, but not bone dry, and frequent dew and mists provide more moisture than the rainfall totals suggest. We grow this plant in a porous open mix and water it regularly throughout the year, increasing the frequency during the warmer months. Attempts to cross this unusual orchid with related members in *Phragmipedium* have so far been fruitless.

Class VII - *Phalaenopsis* Group

Blue – *Phalaenopsis* Brother Spring Dancer x Sogo Tris – **Geni Smith**



Phalaenopsis Brother Spring Dancer x Sogo Tris – Geni Smith

Red – *Phalaenopsis cornu-cervi* – **Charles Gregory**

White – *Phalaenopsis* unknown – **Sandy Phillips**

Class VIII - Vandaceous Group

Blue – *Vanda tricolor* var. *suavis* 'Bali Best Girl' AM/AOS – **Carson Barnes**

Apparently, this species was described as *V. suavis* in 1848 by Lindley, a year before Hooker described *V. tricolor*, so some sources elevate it to a separate species. Kew, however, still accepts it as a variety of *V. tricolor*, with the *suavis* form favoring the eastern portion of the range that includes Java and Bali in Indonesia. It favors bright locations between 2,000 and 5,000 feet above sea level



Vanda tricolor var. *suavis* 'Bali Best Girl,' AM/AOS – Carson Barnes

and is often found in the trees bordering tea plantations. Growing conditions similar to this habitat is

easier to create in this climate than those for species from lower, hotter elevations. This particular plant received an Award of Merit at the April, 2014 session of the Atlanta Judging Center for its excellent, strong maroon markings on a clean white background, better than average form, and good presentation on the inflorescence. Grow this plant in a very open medium, preferably in a basket where the roots can hang freely, and give generous water and fertilizer during the growing season, with a dry rest in winter for about two months when the plants receive only occasional misting and very light watering. Trimming the roots of this orchid can set it back considerably, so they must be allowed to grow unimpeded. A popular choice in vandaceous breeding, *V. tricolor* is in the background of more than 4,500 registered hybrids to date.

Red – *Cleisocentron gokusingii* – Carson Barnes

Red – *Renanthera imschootiana* – Nancy Newton and in Memory of David Glass

White – *Angraecum Crystal Star* – Carson Barnes

White – *Cleisostoma* ssp. (possibly *williamsonii*) – Maureen Mckovich

Class IX – Miscellaneous

Blue – *Catesetum tenebrosum* – Jason Mills & Ed Shoulta

This attractive species is named for the intense brown color of the flowers, lightened and set off by a bright yellow lip. It was exhibited growing on a large “Kool-Log,” and this is likely an excellent way to grow this plant given its natural range and conditions. While it is a deciduous growing, it comes from parts of eastern Ecuador and Peru where rainfall is heavy and there is no true dry season. The Kool-Log will keep a steady supply of moisture at the roots of the plant, yet allow for perfect drainage. During the growing season, supplemental water can be applied to the roots to meet the



Catesetum tenebrosum – Jason Mills

heavy moisture demands, then, while late in the season when the plant is dormant, water can be limited to that put inside the growing vessel to gently wick through to the roots. Inflorescences emerge from near the base of current season growths that are process of maturing and there can be several per pseudobulb on mature plants. The flowers exhibited were male flowers. As with all *Catesetum*, male and female flowers are produced on separate inflorescences, and rarely on the same plant at the same time. The female flowers are greenish with a larger, helmet shaped lip and short, reflexed segments. It is generally thought that brighter and warmer conditions will induce female flowers while slightly shadier and cooler conditions will yield the showier male

flowers. In fall, when all flowering is complete and growths fully mature, plants may shed some or all of their leaves. Watering should be reduced so that plants dry off well between each round of moisture.

As growth begins anew in early spring, care should be taken to not allow water to collect inside developing new shoots, which are highly susceptible to rot. Most growers allow them to achieve several inches in height and being putting out new roots before resuming heavier watering and fertilization.

Red – *Cynorchis guttata* – David Mellard & Sal Marino

White – *Pleione limprichtii* – David Mellard & Sal Marino

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 © Jason Mills



Papiopedilum Moon Stone 'Miss Genie',
AM/AOS, 82 pts.
Exhibited by Geni Smith



Paphiopedilum Venus Knight 'Mother's Day Magic',
AM/AOS, 84 pts.
Exhibited by David Kessler



Vanda tricolor var. *sauvis* 'Bali Best Girl,' AM/AOS, 83 pts.
Exhibited by Carson Barnes



Phalaenopsis Parkeet 'Louise,' AM/AOS, 81 pts.
Exhibited by George Killgore



Phalaenopsis Corona 'Memoria Reda Drain,'
AM/AOS, 83 pts.
Exhibited by George Killgore



Dendrobium Little Green Apples 'Chasus,'
AM/AOS, 80 pts.
Exhibited by Charles and Susan Wilson