



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

December, 2015

www.AtlantaOrchidSociety.org

Volume 56: Number 12

DECEMBER MONTHLY MEETING

7:00 pm Monday, Dec. 14, 2015
Rock Spring Presbyterian Church
Fellowship Hall off rear parking
[1824 Piedmont Ave. NE,](http://1824.Piedmont.Ave.NE)
[Atlanta, Ga 30324](http://Atlanta.Ga.30324)

Our Traditional Holiday Celebration!

PLEASE NOTE EARLY START TIME – 7:00 PM

This month's meeting will include our pot-luck dinner, gift exchange, and installation of our new Board of Trustees and 2016 Officers.

Come ready to eat well and have fun! Bring your favorite recipe to share. So we don't end up with mostly desserts, please follow these guidelines based on our *last name*:

- A thru D - Dessert**
- E thru H - Drinks**
- I thru M – Main Course**
- N thru S - Side Dish**
- T thru Z - Salad**

Our annual gift exchange is always a big hit! (Participation is not required – but, you will likely regret it if you sit out!) Join in the fun by bringing a wrapped gift worth \$15. Everyone who brings a gift will receive a raffle ticket. After dinner and the meeting, tickets will be drawn randomly. When your number is called, select a present. Most gifts are orchid related. In the past folks have brought in plants, pots, books,



artwork and much more. It is always surprising and fun.

We will have regular Ribbon Judging so bring your blooming plants.

Members may also sell plants at this event. (*Marble Branch Farms will bring at least a dozen \$15 plants in bloom to use as gifts.*)

We look forward to seeing everyone there as we take time to enjoy and appreciate our fellow club members at this special time of year!

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THE ATLANTA ORCHID SOCIETY

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Monthly Ribbon Judging –
David Mellard

Newsletter – Mark Reinke

Orchid Digest Rep – David
Mellard

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Maureen Mckovich, Mark Reinke
& Jan Spenard



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



Chysis bractescens, a showy species from Mexico and Central America was exhibited by the late David Johnston at the April, 2015 meeting of the Atlanta Orchid Society

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](mailto:David.Mellard@orchiddigest.com) (404-237-1694) or visit www.orchiddigest.com to join online.

Events Calendar

December

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

14 - Atlanta Orchid Society Monthly Meeting – Annual Holiday Season banquet 7 pm – NOTE EARLY START
Rock Spring Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall (rear of building)
1824 Piedmont Ave.
Atlanta, GA 30324

January

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.”
Tom Harper, Stone’s River Orchids

February

05-07 – South Carolina Orchid Society Show
Riverbanks Botanical Gardens
Columbia, SC

08 - Atlanta Orchid Society Monthly Meeting, ABG, Day Hall – 8 p.m.”
Get Ready for the 2016 Atlanta Orchid Show and Sale

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

March

11-13 – Atlanta Orchid Show
Day Hall & Hardin Visitor’s Center
Atlanta Botanical Gardens
Atlanta, GA



PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

I want to thank you for allowing me to serve as your President this past year. Although, presiding over the Atlanta Orchid Society was not something for which I would have volunteered, it was not as difficult as I anticipated. Actually, it was very nice to get to know members of our organization and try to make decisions that would benefit the society.

After reading over my previous messages, I realized my column should have been titled, "The Trials and Tribulations of an Amateur Orchid Enthusiast". What can I say?

Our Executive Committee will be installed at our December meeting. As you all know, Barbara Barnett will become President for 2016. This will be Barbara's second turn at being President. It will be very good for us all to have a president with knowledge of orchids and the experience to hold our group together.

Our December meeting will be held at Rock Springs Presbyterian Church on Monday, December 14 starting at 7PM. Along with the installation of our 2016 Executive Committee, we will have a pot luck dinner followed by a holiday gift exchange.

And finally, I want to express our deepest condolences for the recent passing of our long time member, David Johnston. Please, see the article in the newsletter about David and his contributions to our society.

Hope to see you at the December meeting,
Ellen Brand, President



Minutes of the November 9, 2015 Monthly Meeting of the Atlanta Orchid Society

Meeting was brought to order at 8pm by President, Ellen Band.

A motion to make a correction to the October minutes was made by Maureen Mckovich. The sentences relating to a change in chairmanships was deleted. Only the slate of candidates for the 2016 executive committee was left in this part of the minutes.

A motion to approve the corrected minutes was made and seconded. The corrected minutes were passed by voice vote.

New members and visitors were welcomed.

A motion to elect the slate of candidates for 2016 was proposed by Maureen Mckovich. The motion was passed by voice vote. The new executive committee will be installed

at our December meeting.

Some announcements were presented concerning the AOS judging at the ABG. The dates for AOS judging and an invitation for all to take part was extended to the society members.

The Holiday Party to be held during the December meeting was announced. All members were invited to attend.

Our speaker presented an excellent program on Multifloral Paphiopedilums followed by ribbon judging.

The November meeting was adjourned at 10PM.

Respectively submitted,
Ellen Brand, President.



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

A Few Notes from Ron Midgett's Talk on Multifloral Paphiopedilums November 9, 2015 David Mellard

1. Culture
 - a. Multifloral paphs need bright light to grow and flower well. They do well at 2,000 to 3,000 foot candles, which is the lower end of *Cattleya* light levels.
 - b. They are warm growers and so prefer night time temperatures of 60 to 70 F, particularly in winter. Winter night temperatures below 60 F will adversely affect their growth.
 - c. They prefer constant moisture, and they like fertilizer during the growing season.
 - d. Smaller plants can be potted in fine to medium bark while larger plants prefer large bark.
2. Many multifloral paph species are quite large with three to four foot leaf spans (e.g., *gigantifolium*, *rothschildianum*, *stonei*, *kolopakingii*, and their hybrids. Some of the smaller multifloral paphs include *philippinense*, *praestans* and *wilhelminae*.
3. Flowers last from 4 to 8 weeks.
4. Ron showed photos of all the species and many of their hybrids
 - a. In addition to the species already mentioned, other species include *anatum* (or *adductum* v. *anatum*, *adductum*, *lowii*, *haynaldianum*, *glanduliferum*, *sanderianum*, and *parishii*.
 - b. Here are just a few of the famous hybrids that Ron mentioned and showed photos.
 - i. **Lady Isabel** (*rothschildianum* x *stonei*) (1897); **St. Swithin** (*rothschildianum* x *philippinense*) (1901); **Prince Edward of York** (*rothschildianum* x *sanderianum*) (1898); **Michael Koopwitz** (*sanderianum* x *philippinense*) (1993); **Mount Toro** (*stonei* x *philippinense*) (1976); **Mount Low** (Mount Toro x *lowii*) (1994); **Julius** (*lowii* x *rothschildianum*) (1914); **Bernice** (*philippinense* x *lowii*) (1891); Dollgoldi (*rothschildianum* x *armeniicum*) (1988); **Transvaal** (*rothschildianum* x *liemianum*) (1901); **Prime Child** (*rothschildianum* x *primulinum*) (1985); **Honey** (*philippinense* x *primulinum*) (1985).

Remembering David Johnston

*Excerpts from the official obituary
plus a eulogy by David Mellard.*



David Mark Johnston, age 69, of Colbert, Georgia died on Wednesday, November 18, 2015 at his home, burial at the Georgia National Cemetery in Canton, Georgia.

David was born in September 1946 in Orange City, Iowa to Vernon and Kathleen Johnston. He married Angel McCoy in February 1977 and lived in Jewell, Iowa before relocating to Colbert, Georgia in 2003 to enjoy a milder climate. He served in the 5th Army Band from 1966-1969. Following his time in the Army, David continued playing the saxophone and clarinet throughout his life and met with the 5th Army Band reunion to play for the veterans.

He graduated from Iowa State University in 1977 with degrees in Botany and Horticulture. Following graduation he served as the director of the ISU Botany and Plant Pathology Research and Teaching greenhouses for several years. He was later employed by Frigidaire in Webster City, Iowa but his passion was orchids and David started a business Jewell Orchids. Through the business David was able to travel extensively and see orchids in their natural habitat. David was a member of the Central Iowa Orchid Society for almost 30 years and spent many of those years as president, vice president and in other elected offices. After moving to Georgia, David was also actively involved in the Northeast Georgia Orchid Society and the Atlanta Orchid Society. He enjoyed educating orchid growers and speaking at societies around the

country. In addition to the love of music and orchids, David enjoyed serving his community as a volunteer firefighter and EMT in Jewell, Iowa for 18 years.

David is survived by his wife, Angel and two daughters, and three grand-daughters.

I will always remember David Johnston as someone with a kind, gentle spirit and a ready smile. David brought two *Cattleya elongata* to the September AOS judging at the Atlanta Botanical Garden and one of them was awarded a Certificate of Botanical Recognition, an award often given when a species is exhibited for the first time. This award serves as a baseline for future awards to the species. I did not know of his illness at the time and am so glad we were able to award one of his plants.

His knowledge and skill at growing *Encyclia* are well known, and I was always interested in peeking down into the mix he used. At judging that day, David also brought me several *Spiranthes* that grow on his property near Athens, and we had a wonderful conversation about this native species. He was obviously very pleased to share these plants with me, and I knew it gave him as

much pleasure, if not more, as it gave me. He talked about how he made sure to mow around flowering plants in the fall and then to not mow at all for a while to let the plants go to seed. The plants had finished flowering and the leaves would soon emerge from dormancy so we talked about where I should place them in my yard. I was going to put them in one of my bogs because many *Spiranthes* are often found in damp conditions. He said it would be better to plant them in dry soil because that's where they grow....in the dry fields around his property. I look back on this conversation now with fond memories because he was in his element, talking about a subject that he loved.

I remember years ago seeing him in the audience when I gave a talk about fertilizers. I considered it a compliment that he would make the effort to drive all the way from Athens to hear me talk because he'd been growing orchids for many more than I. At the September judging, I mentioned that he should consider joining the judging program. He smiled and said he would have to talk to the boss....well, maybe he said his wife. I don't remember now but I'm glad that he left thinking that someone wanted him in the judging program. *David Mellard*



Cattleya elongata 'Marcella', CHM/AOS, 81 pts.
Exhibited by Jewell Orchids

Atlanta Orchid Society Monthly Ribbon Winners November 2015

Notes by Mark Reinke
Photos by Jason Mills-Shoulta

Class I – Cattleya Group

Blue – *Cattleya Dream Catcher* – Danny Lentz / Dianne Morgan

Please note: a photo of this ribbon winner was not available. The photo included here shows three different examples of *C. Dream Catcher* bloomed at Marble Branch Farms.

This absolutely charming miniature hybrid remains one of my all-time favorites, combining stunning color blends and well-shaped flowers with good heat tolerance and vigor, especially once plants reach maturity. The parents are *C. Beaufort* (pronounced like the town in South Carolina where it originated in 1963) and *C. Bright Angel*. While this combination relies heavily on the somewhat finicky, cooler growing *C. coccinea* for much of its character, there is a significant dose of *C. luteola* and *C. aelandiae*, both warm growing species, to help improve temperature tolerance.

The cross was originally registered by H&R Nurseries of Oahu, Hawaii in 1999 and based on their most recent list, a third generation of seedlings is now available in compots, so will also likely be in individual pots next year. After growing many, many plants of this hybrid we have found that they do not do well in solid sided pots in our climate, but love baskets or net pots, which seem to encourage more roots. They can also be grown on mounts if you are prepared to water more frequently, but will take a bit longer to reach maturity. They will flower when very young and may grow somewhat slowly for a few years, but once a "critical mass" of growth is established, tend to break into many leads that flower off and on throughout the year. The buds are often developing inside a new growth as it is unfurling, so care should be



Above: *Cattleya Dream Catcher*- group of seedlings.

Below: *Rhyncolaeliocattleya* George King 'Southern Cross,' AM/AOS
Danny Lentz and Dianne Morgan



taken not to allow water to get trapped inside overnight.

Fairly bright light and good air movement is beneficial for healthy growth, and under these conditions temperatures between 50 and 95F are well tolerated. The roots should always be capable of drying off quickly after watering. Several of our most vigorous plants of *C. Dream Catcher* are part of the Marble

Branch Farms breeding program that is looking to bring new generations of miniature Cattleyas with better heat tolerance to growers in the Southeast.

**Red – *Rhyncolaeliocattleya* George King 'Southern Cross,' AM/AOS –
Danny Lentz / Dianne Morgan**

White – Cattleya Bow Bells – Roy Harrow

Class II – Cymbidium Group

No Entries

Class III – Dendrobium Group

No Entries

Class IV – Epidendrum Group

Blue – *Isochilus major* – Geni Smith

You might not think this beautiful and unusual species from damp mountain forests of Mexico and Central America should be placed in this group, but the Mid-America Orchid Conference classification schedule calls for it to be entered into Class 16, "Cattleya allied genera species other than above." Given the somewhat Epidendrum-like growth habit, it fits best into this category for our monthly ribbon judging. The terminal clusters of bright purple flowers, with a funnel shape and no distinct lip remind me more of Freesia than an orchid, and certainly not a typical Epidendrum.

The narrow stems, which can grow to about 18 inches in length, have two ranks of very tightly spaced leaves and when not in flower, might be mistaken for some type of stiff growing fern. Plants will form bushy specimens over time and awarded examples have had hundreds of flowers open at once. Flowering seems to occur in flushes off and on throughout the year, especially if nights are cool. *Iso. major* prefers bright light, but should be more shaded and well ventilated during our summer heat. It should be given a quickly draining medium, but one that also will hold some moisture and prefers to not completely dry between watering. There are no registered hybrids known from this, or any of the other dozen or so species in cultivation, so while grouped with the Cattleya Alliance, *Isochilus* may not be closely related genetically. This is a shame since it is easy to imagine what interesting



Above: *Isochilus major* – Geni Smith

Below: *Aliceara* Tahoma Glacier 'Ithan,' AM/AOS - Sondra Nierenberg



results might be possible with intergeneric hybridization.

Red – *Epidendrum ciliare* – Geni Smith

Class V – Oncidium Group

Blue – *Aliceara* Tahoma Glacier 'Ithan,' AM/AOS - Sondra Nierenberg

Due to the recent reassignment of a species in the background of this hybrid from *Odontoglossum* to *Oncidium*, it is now *Aliceara* rather than *Beallara*, a combination of *Brassia*, *Miltonia* and *Oncidium*.

Originated by W. Goodale Moir and registered in 1970, it is still hard to beat for its absolutely huge white flowers variously marked with purple splotches. The average spread among the awarded varieties is over 5 inches, with some clones exceeding 6 inches, and the average number of these colossal blooms per spike is 8. Given these statistics it is easy to see why *Alcra*. Tahoma Glacier continues to be commercially available today. It has also been used quite a bit in further breeding.

With more than 10 species in its background, this orchid is fairly adaptable and easy to grow, preferring diffused light, cool to warm temperatures, and regular water and fertilizer while in growth. A fast draining, but somewhat moisture retentive media should be used, preferably in a pot that seems small for the plant size and gives room for only one or two additional growths. Regular repotting every one or two years, just as new growths are a few inches tall, helps to renew the vigor of this and similar complex *Oncidinae* hybrids. They are quick growers and will bloom any time of the year on a recently matured pseudobulb.

Red – *Oncidium* Sweet Sugar 'Emperor' – Rick Martinez

Class VI – *Cypripedium* Group

Blue – *Paphiopedilum* F. C. Puddle – David Mellard & Sal Marino

This amusingly named orchid qualifies as a "heritage" variety, having been registered in 1932. It is also an important parent in the breeding line known as "Bulldog Paphs," combining the full shape and white background color of *Paph. niveum* and *Paph. bellatulum* with the ease of culture of *Paph. insigne* and *Paph. spicerianum*. There are currently 209 first generation hybrids and 1874 total progeny that descend from it. In addition to passing along good qualities for pastel, yellow and green colors, it mixes warm and cool growing species for excellent cultural adaptability.



Above left: *Paphiopedilum* F. C. Puddle – David Mellard & Sal Marino

Above right: *Phalaenopsis venosa* x Corning-Ambo – Geni Smith

Below: *Bulbophyllum* A-doribil Super Star – Nancy Newton



Class VII - *Phalaenopsis* Group

Blue – *Phalaenopsis venosa* 'Classic Bronze' x Corning-Ambo 'Red Classic' – Geni Smith

This unregistered hybrid which combines three species could easily pass for just a good form of the pod parent, *Phal. venosa*, with slightly more saturated color and fuller form than average examples. It is much fuller than most examples of *Phal.* Corning-Ambo. Given that they are

all hot growers, with similar blooming habits and requiring the same culture, it is hard to understand what the breeder had in mind when making this cross. Perhaps it will prove to be a valuable parent in the mold of *Phal. venosa* itself, which produced breeding lines that included good yellows, striking tigered and patterned effects, as well as deep saturated reds and oranges. All of the species involved in this cross produce a few flowers at a time on inflorescences that persists through multiple bloom seasons.

Class VIII - Vandaceous Group

No Entries

Class IX – Miscellaneous

Blue – *Bulbophyllum* A-doribil Super Star – Nancy Newton & in Memory of David Glass

Bulbophyllum A-doribil Super Star, as its name clearly indicates to anyone familiar with recent breeding in this genus, is the work of Bill Thoms of Valrico, Florida and was registered in 2003. The playful word in the grex name combines his first name with that of his wife, Doris Dukes, who is a champion orchid grower in her own right. This particular example is as colorful and well-marked as the awarded forms, bringing together the strong linear pattern of *Bulb. Stars and Stripes* (*bicolor x lobii*) with the rich color and extra large flower size of *Bulb. echinolabium*. Luckily, the decidedly offensive scent of that species is significantly reduced in the process!

As a group, *Bulbophyllum* prefer medium light levels with little direct sun and intermediate to warm temperatures. During active growth, they prefer not to dry out completely, but will tolerate a bit of drying during the cooler, damper days of winter at our latitude. They excel in baskets when properly cared for and will become impressive specimens given time. Windowsill growers should probably stick to shallow plastic pots due to lower humidity levels inside the house. When purchasing seedlings, be aware that plants using these species and others closely related to them will not flower until they have produced a significant amount of growth, with the blooms originating from portions of the plant that are usually two or more years old. If you like quick results it is better to purchase divisions of blooming size plants when available.

Red – *Taeniophyllum biocellatum* – Danny Lentz / Dianne Morgan

This is one of the curious, leafless epiphytic species that produces a

rosette of flattened, chlorophyll filled roots and inflorescences of tiny but attractive flowers directly from the central crown. It is native to the island of Java in Indonesia and considered warm growing, but



Above: *Taeniophyllum biocellatum*
Danny Lentz & Dianne Morgan
Below: *Pterostylis obtusa*
David Mellard & Sal Marino



references to its exact care are sparse. Jay Pfahl's orchid species website describes it as a late spring bloomer, but obviously that trait is variable and may depend on its specific growing conditions.

Red – *Habenaria* Angel Bone – Geni Smith

White – *Pterostylis obtusa* – David Mellard & Sal Marino



Above: *Habenaria* Angel Bone
Geni Smith
Below: *Oncidium* Sweet Sugar
'Emperor' – Rick Martinez



There were no AOS Awards at the Atlanta Judging Center for November.