

THE ATLANTA ORCHID SOCIETY

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Education, Conservation, Research

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Growers Challenge Update

**Cattleya Tropical Song x
sib (C. Tropical Glow x C.
Mari's Song)**



Orchid Growing Class

**No class this month
due to auction, will
continue in October**

Orchid Digest 

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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

September

12 - American Orchid Society Annual Auction and Pot-Luck, 7pm at Rock Spring Presbyterian Church, 1824 Piedmont Ave NE, Atlanta GA 30324

16-18 - Alabama Orchid Show & Sale, Birmingham Botanical Gardens, 2612 Lane Park Rd. Birmingham, AL 35223
<https://www.facebook.com/alabamaorchidsociety>

October

10 - American Orchid Society Monthly Meeting, ABG, Day Hall - 8pm
 Speaker - Carson Barnes will reveal his 20 favorite orchids!

15 - South Metro Orchid Society Auction & Picnic, starts at 10am, 135 South Mt. Carmel Rd, McDonough, GA 30253

November

14 - American Orchid Society Monthly Meeting, ABG, Day Hall - 8pm
 Speaker - TBA

December

10 - Pot luck dinner and Christmas celebration
 Rock Spring Presbyterian Church
 7:00pm - 9:00pm



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

We had a great group of members at the Green Growers at my home this past weekend. I don't know if anyone else learned anything, but I did. It is always nice to have others look over the situation. Number one on my list is, I need to be taller or have shorter plants. Someone found bugs in top of a tall plant. I know to look behind and under leaves but it never occurred to me to stand on the step stool to look them over! Who knew? Someone else looked over a wet situation and found a solution. Thanks. I know I am a heavy handed with water, but add rain and wind to that and it is a bad situation. We did have a great gathering and enjoyed the company. I hope we will be able to do this again with another type of growing situation in the future. I only have a few months left as president and would love to know what you liked about the orchid society this year. Is there anything you would like to try or add that we haven't addressed? I would love to hear your thoughts. Please email me at bkbarnett1@windstream.net with your thoughts. There is an Atlos Board meeting in September and I could share your ideas with the Board for next year if you like.

- I am looking forward to the Auction! I am thrilled with site Jason Mills and Mark Reinke designed. If you haven't tried it, IT IS A MUST. I have found one of the plants I have been hoping for! I won't tell you what it is so you won't bid against me.

- Note there will not be an Orchid Growing Class this month; it will be continued in October before the meeting.

- The Alabama Orchid Show is September 16-18 at the Birmingham Botanical Garden. There is free parking and admission. This is a great outing for the weekend.

- For those who have plants in bloom and would like to send them for the Atlanta Exhibit at the Birmingham Show please bring them the night of the auction to go to the show. Please include a list of plant names, parent names and your name and the classification for registration. This should save some time in collecting plants and setting up the exhibit.

Thanks for your assistance.
 Barbara Barnett, President

Minutes of the August 2016 Meeting of the Atlanta Orchid Society

Date: August 8, 2016

Time: 8:00 pm

Jason Mills-Shoulta held a class on mounting techniques from 7:30pm to 8:00pm.

President Barbara Barnett brought the meeting to order at 8pm.

The previous meetings minutes were seconded and approved as posted in the newsletter.

Roy Harrow gave a review of the auction held at his house, thanked the donators, and donated the extra proceeds to ATLOS.

President Barbara Barnett reminded everyone of the upcoming Alabama orchid show and asked for volunteers to loan their blooming orchids for the show table.

The Growers Challenge was discussed, reminding everyone how it was a group challenge where everyone starts with small plants from the same seedling group and, due to the small blooming size of the chosen plant, the challenge has been updated to be "the first one to bloom theirs with **more than four flowers**" would win a prize. Sign up for the Growers Challenge will be held at the meetings.

Michael Sinn introduced Kurt Studier for his talk on Paphiopedilums, the latest hybrids and growing techniques, which started at 8:25pm.

Ribbon judging was announced at 9:21pm and meeting was adjourned at 9:32pm.

*Minutes compiled by
Valorie Boyer*

Atlanta Orchid Society Monthly Ribbon Winners August 2016

*Notes by Mark Reinke
Photos by Ellen Brand*

Class I – Cattleya Group

Amateur Winners

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

The original *Rlc.* George King was registered in 1970 and is a cross between a yellow cattleya, *Rlc.* Buttercup, and a famous well shaped white, C. Bob Betts. Five years later the 'Serendipity' variety received an 82 point

Award of Merit from the American Orchid Society with peachy-salmon flowers with a deeper lip sporting brighter yellow areas. The color effect in this form is created by a pale yellow base color, overlaid with enough semi-transparent lavender to read to our eyes as the hue described above. Being beautiful, highly fragrant and a reliable bloomer, the 'Serendipity' form was mericloned multiple times. In one of those laboratory processes, one plantlet bloomed out as a mutation in which the lavender pigment in the segments was blocked, leaving only the pale yellow base color. Some of the pigmentation in the lip is also blocked, but the secondary layers of lavender and yellow still came through for a pleasant contrast. This form was named 'Southern Cross' and received an 80 point Award of Merit in 2002. (I think it is more beautiful than the original, but the bar on judging standards has been raised in three decades). It still has no peer in this color range when well grown, and the



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

fragrance, with overtones of Anise, is in the top 5 of all orchid scents on my list of favorites.

Interestingly, the color blocking gene in this variety can yield flowers that are true semi-alba (white segments with colored lip) when paired with some other cattleya types in crosses. We have one done by Carter & Holmes between Rlc. George King 'Southern Cross' and C. Final Touch 'Mendenhall' (another peach shaded hybrid) that has this unexpected outcome. It is the most well shaped compact semi-alba I have ever seen and is ripe for an award if seen by the judges in perfect condition. We continue to do other crosses with this fantastic orchid and always note the possibility of more unexpected semi-albas among the offspring.

Red – *Brassocattleya* Memoria Vida Lee 'Limelight,' AM/AOS – **Darrell Demeritt**

White – *Cattleya* Princess Clementine 'SVO' x *Rhyncolaealiocattleya* Suncoast Sunspots 'SV011' – **Bob Grzesik**

Commercial Winners

Blue – *Cattleya* C. G. Roebling (1895) 'Blue Magic,' AM/AOS – **Carson Barnes**

Due to the reassignment of the Brazilian *Laelia* species to *Cattleya* there are now TWO hybrids that are registered as *Cattleya* C. G. Roebling. This example is from the first one, done in 1895 and originally a cross between *L. purpurata* and *C. gaskelliana*. The second version was done in 1916 as a cross between *C. harrisoniana* and *C. mendelii*. I am not aware of any living examples of the latter version in collections today.

Since both of the species in the original 1895 version have coerulea forms, they were combined in more recent history to make the forms of C. C. G. Roebling that are commercially available today and dominate in its registered hybrids since 1980. All but one of the 10 plants awarded by the AOS are this "bluish" type.



Dendrobium crocatum – Geni Smith

Class II – Cymbidium Group

No Entries

Class III – Dendrobium Group

Amateur Winners

Blue – *Dendrobium crocatum* – **Geni Smith**

Dendrobium crocatum is a fascinating species from lowland southern Thailand that is rewarding and fairly easy to grow but not as common in collections as it deserves to be. The plants can be a bit on the large side, with long canes that tend to grow out and then bend down under their own weight. However, they can be staked upright fairly easily when space is a consideration. The plants like warm and moist conditions year round with medium light levels and would be perfect subjects to live in the shadow of a collection of vandaceous types, or alongside Phalaenopsis.

Plants are typically always in the process in producing new growth, with attractive alternating leaves, which are shed shortly after the growths mature, at which time they begin to bloom. The spikes emerge from dormant eyes opposite



Cattleya C. G. Roebling (1895) 'Blue Magic,' AM/AOS – **Carson Barnes**

leaves up and down the entire length of the growth, with three or four spikes capable of being produce from the same apparent location. The dangling flower clusters contain 3 to 5 wide spreading orange flowers, often with deeper red in the throat, and the bloom season extends for months during the warmer part of the year.

Red – *Dendrobium glomeratum* – Danny Lentz & Dianne Morgan

White – *Dendrobium* Susan Takahashi – Maegan Brass

Class IV – Epidendrum Group

No Entries

Class V – Oncidium Group

Amateur Winners

Blue – *Tolumnia* "Red Cherry" – Karl Harden



Tolumnia "Red Cherry" – Karl Harden



Paphiopedilum (Via Quatal x Robert de Veer) x *fairrieianum* – Danny Lentz & Dianne Morgan

Class VI – Cypripedium Group

Amateur Winners

Blue – *Paphiopedilum* (Via Quatal x Robert de Veer) x *fairrieianum* – Danny Lentz & Dianne Morgan

Commercial Winners

Blue – *Phragmipedium* Wössen – Carson Barnes

Phragmipedium Wössen (the official name includes the Umlaut over the letter "o") was registered in 1994, the same year one of its parents, *Phrag. richteri* was officially described. In many ways it is a modern remake of this month's red ribbon winner, *Phrag. Sedenii*, which pairs the demure pink-and-white *Phrag. schlimii* with a primarily green and purple species with more elongated, twisted petals. In the case of the latter it was paired with the robust growing *Phrag. longifolium* and introduced in

1873, making it one of the very earliest orchid hybrids still in common cultivation. Unfortunately, the photo of *Phrag. Wössen* was not usable so we include the photo of *Phrag. sedenii*, the red ribbon winner for reference. It is very similar in look but usually a slightly deeper shade of pink.

More often than not, modern breeding in *Phragmipedium* tries to balance great color and interesting form with moderate plant size for a selection of offerings that will fit into many growing environments. They can be long blooming and rewarding as long as their basic cultural requirements are understood. They prefer larger, deeper pots that will accommodate their fairly aggressive root systems, and like to stay as evenly moist as possible. Moderately bright, but filtered light suits them best, but they don't respond well to weeks of sweltering temperatures. This makes them good subjects for indoor cultivation, whether on the windowsill or under LED lights, or in a greenhouse with evaporative cooling and good air flow that helps to moderate summer heat

Red – *Phragmipedium Sedenii* – Carson Barnes



Phragmipedium Sedenii
– Carson Barnes



Phalaenopsis Tassanee Jongdamkerng
- Roy Harrow

White – *Phragmipedium richteri* –
Carson Barnes

Class VII - Phalaenopsis Group

Amateur Winners

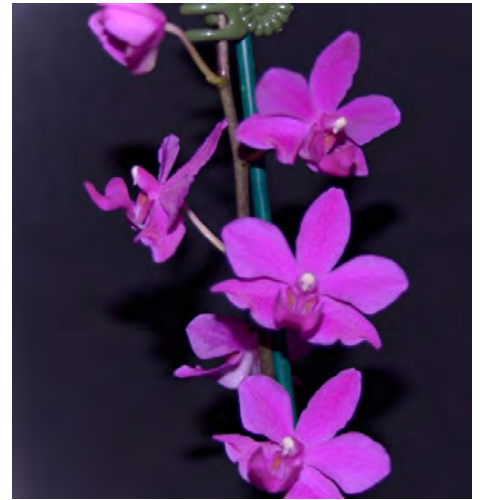
Blue – *Phalaenopsis Tassanee Jongdamkerng* - Roy Harrow

This is a primary hybrid between two small growing species, the well-known and oft used *Phal. equestris* and *Phal. appendiculata*, a rare species from Malaya that

has only 5 registered hybrids to its name. Unfortunately, the photo of this ribbon winner came out blurred, making it difficult to see the charming flowers, though quite a few photos of other examples of this 2007 cross can be readily found. The result seems to be a very small growing plant with short spikes of flowers intermediate between the two parents, but with relatively low flower count favoring the latter parent. The parents indicate a plant that would prefer very filtered light levels, high humidity, warm temperatures and year round frequent watering except perhaps a bit less in winter. There are at present no awards or offspring attributed to this little plant with a long name!

Red – *Phalaenopsis OrchidKonnection Jewel* – Bob Grzesik

White – *Phalaenopsis violacea forma alba* – Danny Lentz & Dianne Morgan



Phalaenopsis pulcherrima 'Evet's' - Danny Lentz & Dianne Morgan

White – *Phalaenopsis pulcherrima 'Evet's'* - Danny Lentz & Dianne Morgan

Class VIII - Vandaceous Group

Amateur Winners

Blue – *Vanda falcata* – Karl Harden

The Japanese Wind Orchid was first described in 1854 as a *Vanda* species and that is once again where Kew is placing it, which will require some getting used to as the *Neofinetia* name had been in use since 1925. The plant exhibited was beautifully flowered and only a portion of its bounty is visible in the photograph. But the close up view helps to illustrate the



Phalaenopsis OrchidKonnection Jewel – Bob Grzesik



Vanda falcata – Karl Harden

graceful flower structure including the long curving spur. The tag listed a clone name of 'Onamiscecal' but this appears to be a typographical error, and it is more likely the clone 'Onami Seikai,' a form that is in commerce and means "big wave blue ocean" in Japanese. *V. falcata* has been prized in cultivation for centuries in Japan, where special forms that display variations in flower color, leaf color or growth habit can fetch steep prices. These expensive plants are usually repotted annually by their growers, who carefully lay the roots over a dome made from especially long strands of high quality, high priced sphagnum from New Zealand. It is one of the most northerly growing epiphytic orchid species in the world, coming from coastal areas of China, Korea, and Japan, and the nearby islands that trail off to the south. Night time lows in winter can be below freezing in the northern part of its range, and 50 to 55 in the southern portion. The plants grow on small branches deciduous trees and receive plentiful rainfall in summer and some shading, but a much drier winter accompanied by bright light while the trees are bare. There are many methods of growing this species, but the most successful for many growers is mounted culture, with a small pad of sphagnum placed



Stanhopea confusa – Dan Williamson

under the roots, and attention paid to frequent watering during hot, dry weather. Scores of charming miniature growing hybrids have been created using this elfin beauty.

Red – *Vanda roeblingiana* – Carson Barnes

Class IX – Miscellaneous

Amateur Winners

Blue – *Stanhopea confusa* – Dan Williamson

There are more than 60 different species of *Stanhopea* scattered from Mexico to Brazil, all with unusual medium to large size fragrant flowers that generally hang downwards from the plants and last only a couple days. Some species put all their energy into one single very larger flower per inflorescence, others can produce up to a dozen grouped together on the spike. The bizarre, often colorful flowers are highly co-evolved with very specific pollinators, the male sex of certain euglossine bees. The strong scents attract them to the flowers where they "bathe" in the rich aroma, presumably to make them more attractive to females of their kind. In the process they often glide down the slippery lip and touch the column when exiting the flower. The two pollinia, attached together by a very sticky "Y" shaped filament, are stuck to the bee in the process. At the next flower, those pollinia get snagged by projections on the column in just the right location to apply them to the stigma as they are pulled off the bee.

There is a paucity of information about this particular

species, *Stan. confusa*. It is listed as endemic to Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica and Panamá, but little additional detail is provided. There are no offspring or awards associated with it. Typically, these orchids prefer filtered light with intermediate to warm temperatures and frequent water, often daily during the growing season in order to keep the foliage in good condition. The lion's share of the species flower in summer. Open, wire baskets with a loose liner that will allow the developing flower spike to penetrate as it grows downward will insure that it doesn't become trapped in the container.

Red – *Specklinia tribuloides* – Geni Smith

White – *Habenaria medusa* – Roy Harrow

South Metro Orchid Society Auction & Picnic

Our neighbors, the South Metro Orchid Society, has opened their invitation to us to join them at their society Auction & Picnic, October 15, 2016! They ask that anyone wishing to participate please arrive at 10am, with the auction planned to start at 11:00am and to till 1:00pm, when lunch will be served. Lunch is a pot luck meal, so please bring your favorite dish to share! Their auction & picnic will be held at 135 South Mt. Carmel Rd., McDonough, GA 30253, and please direct any questions or concerns to Mary & Mike Cawthon at 678-583-4096 or email them at mmcawthon@bellsouth.net.

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-Shoulta



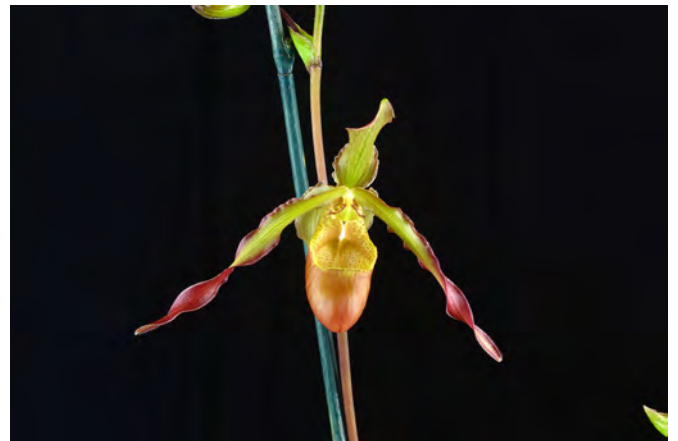
Rhyncholaeliocattleya Newberry Carnival 'Palmetto Gold',
HCC/AOS, 79 pts.

Exhibited by Fred Missback



Phalaenopsis Green Field Rd Zuul 'Kueliwea Princess',
AM/AOS, 80 pts.

Exhibited by Fred Missbach



Phragmipedium Fantasy Dream Chaser 'Max',
AM/AOS, 81 pts.

Exhibited by David Kessler



Dendrobium auriculatum 'Lucy's Favorite',
CCM/AOS, 86 pts.

Exhibited by Cathy and Bill Meincer



Dendrobium auriculatum 'Lucy's Favorite',
AM/AOS, 83 pts.

Exhibited by Cathy and Bill Meincer



ALABAMA ORCHID SOCIETY
32nd Annual Orchid Show & Sale

September 16 - 18, 2016
Birmingham Botanical Gardens
Birmingham, AL 35223

For information, call
205-414-3900

Exhibit Hours

Sat. Sept 17, noon - 6 pm
Sun. Sept 18, 11 am - 4 pm

Sales Hours

Friday, Sept. 16, 10 am - 6 pm
Saturday, Sept. 17 10 am - 6 pm
Sunday, Sept. 18, 11 am - 4 pm