



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 Editors: Mark Reinke & Valorie Boyer

www.AtlantaOrchidSociety.org

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DECEMBER MONTHLY MEETING

Monday, January 8, 2018
Atlanta Botanical Garden
Day Hall - 8pm

Tom Kuligowski,
"Angraecums"

Our speaker for this month, Tom Kuligowski, is an avid orchid grower specializing in angraecums. He is also an award-winning photographer with over 45 years of experience. In addition he runs a great informational web site on angraecums at angraecums.blogspot.com.

Angraecums tend to be known for their beautiful, showy flowers, many of which are fragrant at night. Some can even become fantastic specimen plants in just a couple of years. With both species and several sought after hybrids, angraecums offer some unique shapes along with the most pristine whites of any orchids. Please note that not all are large and showy; some can be quite compact and make great windowsill plants. An amazing fact most people are not aware of is that they can thrive in South Florida sub-tropical weather or just as easily on a windowsill in the not so warm north if given the chance.



A lovely depiction of Angraecum leonis, as seen on Tom Kuligowski's informational website, <http://angraecums.blogspot.com>

This presentation will provide both hobbyist and serious growers with fundamental guidelines on how to grow these beauties successfully and in turn grace you with years of enjoyment. All of the photography within the presentation are of plants from Tom's collection. Many of them showing the various growth stages (from seedlings to first time bloomers to specimen plants).

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American Orchid Society

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Single Membership, 1 year - \$65, 2 years - \$125

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Orchid Growing Class (7:15pm – 7:45pm, Pre Meeting)

"Keikis"
with David Mellard

2016 Plant Challenge

Have you looked at your 2016 Challenge plant this spring?

How is it doing? Is it growing? Does it have new roots?

In this beautiful weather it is time to fertilize it. You could even put it outside in medium mottled light. Don't let it get burned! It could bloom this year if it is happy. Remember the winner is the first to bloom with 4+ flowers; you will need it bring it to the meeting or be sure to take a dated picture if it will not last.

Good Growing and Good Luck!



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@aos.org) (404-237-1694) or visit www.orchiddigest.com to join online.

Events Calendar

January

8 - Atlanta Orchid Society Monthly Meeting, ABG, Day Hall - 8pm Speaker - Tom Kuligowski, "Angraecums"

13 - American Orchid Society monthly judging, Atlanta Judging Center, 1pm, Basement Workshop next to Day Hall, ABG

February

10 - American Orchid Society monthly judging, Atlanta Judging Center, 1pm, Basement Workshop next to Day Hall, ABG

12 - Atlanta Orchid Society Monthly Meeting, ABG, Day Hall - 8pm Speaker - TBA

March

10 - American Orchid Society monthly judging, Atlanta Judging Center, 1pm, Basement Workshop next to Day Hall, ABG

12 - Atlanta Orchid Society Monthly Meeting, ABG, Day Hall - 8pm Speaker - TBA

Minutes of the December 2017 Meeting of the Atlanta Orchid Society

The December meeting and Holiday Party was held on December 16, 2017, after being rescheduled from December 11th due to access issues at the Church. The meeting was called to order at 7:00PM at the Rock Springs Presbyterian Church by

President Jason Mills-Shoulta.

The minutes of the November meeting were read and approved with no revisions. New and visiting members were welcomed and introduced. There was no monthly treasurer's report, however the Society's annual donations to selected organizations were announced.

President Jason Mills-Shoulta thanked the 2017 Board and presented them with a gift, and the society recognized outgoing President Mills-Shoulta and presented him with a gift of a carved vase.

The next monthly meeting will be held on January 8th at 8:00 PM at the Atlanta Botanical Gardens. The program will be on Angraecums, and the meeting will be preceded by a mini-educational program on keikis, facilitated by David Mellard.

Minutes were prepared and respectfully submitted by President David Mellard and Secretary Darrell Demeritt.

Atlanta Orchid Society Monthly Ribbon Winners December 2017

*Notes by Mark Reinke
Photos by Danny Lentz*

Class I – Cattleya Group

Blue – Cattleya Aloha Case x Rhyncylaeliocattleya Dream Circle – Mark Reinke & Gary Collier (Commercial Grower)

This plant is a very desirable outcome from a yet to be registered hybrid out of the seed lab of Marble Branch Farms. The



Cattleya Aloha Case x Rhyncylaeliocattleya Dream Circle – Mark Reinke & Gary Collier (Commercial Grower)

cross itself was made by Keith Davis of Reidsville, NC and sent to us as a green pod back in 2010. So far this is the only example of the cross we have seen flower, though we still have additional seedlings from later replates out of the original mother flask that are a couple years from blooming size, and plenty of plants in the hands of other growers. Our hope is to see more results and perhaps flowers with equally good color but better form. Both parents were quite flat awarded clones with *C. Aloha Case* being mostly *C. walkeriana* and *Rlc. Dream Circle* being one of the late Frank Fordyce's excellent creations using *C. Circle of Life*.

While not a flat as either parent, these flowers are an intense glowing purple (hard to photograph accurately), large sized for the very compact plant, and have a higher bud count than would be expected, with four fragrant blooms on a strong self-supporting spike. The plant has been flowering twice per year and the flowers easily last two months. Thus, many of the breeding goals that hybridizers in the Cattleya Alliance strive for are accomplished. This achievement is not as common as we would like it to be, even with plenty of

experience and resources available to guide growers in choosing parents. There are nineteen different species in the family tree of this cross and with such complicated genetics there can be reversions back to traits present in a distant ancestor that the hybridizer was not expecting.

While some traits hiding in the genetics can become pleasant surprises, others can be troublesome, turning up like a bad penny over and over again. Such is the case in the vast majority of breeding for large yellow flowers in the cattleya group. A cross between *C. dowiana* and *C. bicolor*, registered as *C. Iris* in 1901 is hiding in the family tree of nearly every one of the magnificent yellow hybrids that might tempt a breeder today. This ancestor contains a genetic flaw that can create malformed flowers in a percentage of its offspring even after many generations. We usually refer to this undesirable outcome as "crippling" and seedlings afflicted with it will almost never "grow out of it." My advice is, when seeking new crosses that involve large yellow parents, buy more than one seedling, don't overpay for them, and expect that some will turn out great while others should be discarded.

Blue – *Cattleya cernua* – Mark Reinke & Gary Collier (Commercial Grower)

Red – *Rhyncattleanthe* Newberry Jewel (registration pending) – Mark Reinke & Gary Collier (Commercial Grower)

White – *Rhyncattleanthe* Happy Happy Joy Joy – Mark Reinke & Gary Collier (Commercial Grower)

Class II – Cymbidium Group

Blue – *Cymbidium* Ming 'Emperor' – Mark Reinke & Gary Collier (Commercial Grower)

Cymbidium Ming is one of nearly 200 crosses in that genus registered by the Rod McLellan Company of San Mateo, California over a 50 year span before it was sold to a Taiwanese corporation in 2000. Now known as McLellan Botanicals, the company mainly focuses on mass produced Phalaenopsis plants for wholesale distribution throughout the county.

This particular cross was registered in 1969, but has had staying power due to its ease of culture, compact nature and long lasting flowers that are predominantly yellow in color, with showy red markings on the lip. While the five awards recorded for the cross were all given in the winter months, our plant has flowered at various times of the year from September to May.

The compact size comes from



Cymbidium Ming 'Emperor' –
Mark Reinke & Gary Collier
(Commercial Grower)

Cym. floribundum, which is a grandparent. While all the listed species in the family tree are considered cool growers, one grandparent is unknown and may provide the genetics that make this orchid fairly easy to grow here in the south. Our plant spends summer outdoors in half sun and receives copious water and fertilizer during the growing season. To help fulfill any chill requirements, we leave it outside until a freeze is forecast. This method as proved effective for most of the *Cymbidiums* we grow. If the pots are deep and the mixture provided has good drainage, plants can even sit in saucers of water all season and be given time release fertilizer pellets to help reduce the frequency of attention required to produce good results. When I got this one back home after the meeting I noticed two possible new flower spikes initiating from the base of the plant!

Class III – Dendrobium Group

Blue – *Dendrobium mohlianum* (aff.) – Mark Reinke & Gary Collier (Commercial Grower)

A few years ago I was thrilled to find *Den. mohlianum* seedlings on the listing of one of the wholesale growers in Hawaii and bought every plant they had available (about 15 seedlings in 2" pots). This species, native to Vanuatu, the Solomon Islands and Fiji, is very uncommon in cultivation as of yet. Once the plants got larger and started to bloom I became less convinced that they were properly identified, though they do not perfectly fit the description of any other *Dendrobium* species in this group. While very similar to



Dendrobium mohlianum (aff.) –
Mark Reinke & Gary Collier
(Commercial Grower)

Den. mohlianum, they seem a little too robust in both plant and flowers, and the blooms are usually two toned rather than solid dark orange as would be expected. But the overall growth and blooming habits are the same. It is possible this is an undescribed species, a distinct variety of the species or of hybrid origin, but it may not be possible to find out for sure. If a hybrid, I struggle to come up with the other parent that would have created this exact result.

Nonetheless, this plant has become one of my favorites and produces clusters of 2 to 4 long lasting flowers from nodes up and down older bare canes in flushes several times per year in no particular season. While never covered completely in flowers, there are often a few dozen at a time. They stand out well with their bright color and lack of foliage to block the beauty. Each growth takes more than one year to fully mature. Once it stops growing, the leaves begin to yellow and drop one by one. When fully bare or nearly so, they are ready to start flowering and may produce cycles of buds for several years.

We water this plant year round with minimal drying in between and provide bright diffused light. While this plant is mounted on a Kool-Log, others from the same batch have done equally fine in a regular pot with hanger attached to accommodate the pendant growth habit.

Red – *Dendrobium polysema* –
Karl Harden

Class IV – Epidendrum Group

Blue – *Epicatanthe* Butterfly Kisses 'Newberry,' AM/AOS –
Mark Reinke & Gary Collier
(Commercial Grower)

Of the more the 50 registered hybrids made with our native *Epi. magnoliae* (Southeast coastal plain from Louisiana to southern North Carolina), *Ett.* Butterfly Kisses is one of a select few that have been truly successful, enduring choices for the hobby grower. In this case the other parent was the perennially orange winter blooming favorite, *Ctt.* Trick or Treat. The cross was originated by Highland Tropicals of Half Moon Bay, CA, but was registered by Carter and Holmes Orchids of Newberry, SC in 2001. Giving the cross an official name would have been spurred by them receiving an Award of Merit on the 'Mendenhall' form in January of that year at the Ft. Lauderdale Orchid Society Show. Such awards are considered provisional pending the registration of the cross with the RHS.

Not long after that date, the awarded plant was mericloned by Carter and Holmes, and this plant exhibited is from the first batch of plantlings out of that



Epicatanthe Butterfly Kisses 'Newberry,'
AM/AOS – Mark Reinke & Gary Collier
(Commercial Grower)

laboratory procedure, having been purchase by us in a 2.5" pot back in 2004. At that time we actually purchased two plants, which, while mericlones, are slightly different when viewed side by side in bloom. We liked this cross so much that several years later we purchased an entire flat of young mericlones (approx. 100+ plants) that came from a second mericlone batch that Carter & Holmes produced. Sadly, this incarnation of the hybrid seemed to lack the vigor of the first batch, and the plants have never grown to the same stature as the originals. They also exhibit a wider range of variation in the flowers, indicating that the cross is highly subject to mutation in the laboratory multiplication process.

The other cross worth seeking out using *Epi. magnoliae* is *Vaughnara* Fiftieth Anniversary (x *Bc.* Richard Mueller). This particular cross was originated by Carter and Holmes and registered in honor of the 50th anniversary of that company by the Daytona Beach Orchid Society in 2003. The particular

cultivar that motivated that club to register the cross went on to receive a 92 point Certificate of Cultural Excellence in July, 2006 with 259 open flowers and an additional 29 buds!

Red – *Epidendrum ciliare* - Roy Harrow

Class V – Oncidium Group

Blue – *Oncostele Wildcat* 'Green Valley' – Karl Harden

While the exhibitor did not have a tag for this plant, a quick glance confirmed it to be one of the many color forms of *Oncostele Wildcat*, and a little more research narrowed it down to the 'Green Valley' clone, with its very striking yellow, burgundy and white color pattern. *Ons. Wildcat* is known for being very susceptible to producing new color mutations during the mericlone process and more than 50 are currently recognized. Originally classed as a *Colmanara (Miltonia + Odontoglossum + Oncidium)*, all of the species in its background are now placed in either *Oncidium* or *Rhyncostele*, creating the current accepted



Oncostele Wildcat 'Green Valley' –
Karl Harden

name for the cross. The most dominant of these species are cool to warm growers and have passed along a great deal of adaptability to *Ons. Wildcat*, which is considered a particularly easy and reliable orchid to grow. The awarded examples averaged an impressive 42 flowers per nicely branched spike, each about 2.5 inches across.

While adaptable to a wide range of growing conditions, complex *Oncidinae* hybrids such as this will give the best results with bright filtered light, good air movement, frequent watering with minimal drying in between, and regular fertilization. They like to grow in a moisture retentive, yet free draining mix that is replaced about every two years.

Class VI – Cypripedium Group

Paphiopedilum

Blue – *Paphiopedilum* Natasha Von Fox – Danny Lentz

This beautiful slipper orchid is a cross between two species from Sumatra, *Paph. liemianum* and *Paph. victoria-regina*. Both species are sequential bloomers that can produce many flowers over a period of a year or more from each inflorescence, with two and, sometimes for short periods, three being open at once. The color patterns are similar in both, but this example favors the later species which tends to show more prominent striping on the dorsal sepal, and also presents its flowers on a taller inflorescence.

While the cross was made by Fritz Schomburg of Madison, WI,



Paphiopedilum Natasha Von Fox –
Danny Lentz

it was registered by R.F. Orchids in 2005, likely in response to their receiving a provisional Award of Merit of 80 points on the 'Crownfox' form at the Key West Orchid Society Show in March of 2004.

Though coming from a decidedly tropical location, both species grow several thousand feet up in the mountains where temperatures are mild and rainfall is high year round. It is recommended that they be grown in a well-draining mix, but with very little drying between heavy year round watering. Medium light levels and strong air movement at all times are also advised.

Red – *Paphiopedilum* Yosemite Green – Mark Reinke & Gary Collier (Commercial Grower)

Class VII - Phalaenopsis Group

Blue – *Phalaenopsis* Yaphon Gelacea – Danny Lentz

This beautiful *Phalaenopsis* has better color and bolder markings than any other example of the cross I could find in photography.

At the same time it does not give up any of the full form seen in its paler colored siblings. While the result of six generations of breeding, it recombines the genes of just three species repeatedly. Those species are *Phal. amboinensis*, *Phal. micholitzii*, and *Phal. violacea*. The heavy markings seem to be inherited from the first species, while the lovely shining foliage and fuller flower form from the latter.

The species involved are all hot growers, preferring to stay above 65F or even better, 70F at all times, with fairly shaded light levels and high humidity. The short inflorescence should continue to produce a few flowers in season for a number of years, and be joined by additional inflorescences as the plant matures. I found a photo example online on a plant of this cross grown by Peter Lin of Bigleaf Orchids with 13 open flowers on four inflorescences. It is also possible blooms might come more than once per year, given the long and varied bloom seasons of the three species ancestors.

Red – *Phalaenopsis* Queen Beer – Roy Harrow



Phalaenopsis Yaphon Gelacea – Danny Lentz



Vanda No ID – Trac Nguyen

Class VIII - Vandaceous Group

Blue – *Vanda* No ID – Trac Nguyen

Class IX – Miscellaneous

Blue/Green *also *J.C. Mobley Cultural Award** – *Diodonopsis* (syn. *Masdevallia*) *erinacea* – Danny Lentz

Taxonomists and Kew have decided that this and four other miniature species deserve their own genus separate from *Masdevallia*, so officially, the accepted name is as above. The plant exhibited had somewhere north of 30 open flowers, which definitely put it in league with those plants that have received cultural awards from the AOS.

At the meeting I mistakenly said that the species name referred to its resemblance to European heather, but that would have been *eriacea*. Instead, the name is in reference to the flowers' resemblance to a hedgehog. At very close inspection it can be seen that the blooms are covered in small hairs or spines, emoting

to the describer of the species the endearing bristly European mammal mentioned. (One that I am surprised has never become naturalized in North America.)

This delightful elfin species comes from moderate elevations in rainy tropical forests in Colombia, Ecuador, Panama and Costa Rica. While the range of elevation and fairly wide distribution may imply a plant adaptable to a range of conditions, when dealing with orchid plants this small attention must always be paid to their care if you hope to achieve results like this. The fact that this plant has been exhibited multiple times and has become ever more impressive from year to year shows dedication on the part of Danny.

Likely he is cultivating this little wonder under lights in controlled conditions. The fact that it is protected from extreme heat is an important factor in his success, as the ideal temperature range for the species is from mid 50sF to about 80F at a maximum.

There are a loose handful of registered hybrids made by crossing this species to one of the smaller growing *Masdevallia*



Diodonopsis (syn. *Masdevallia*) *erinacea* – Danny Lentz

hybrids. The first was *Diovallia* Hobgoblin (x *Masd.* Angel Frost) registered in 1994 and I must say the results of it and others I have seen in photography are utterly charming.

Blue – *Fredclarkeara* After Dark 'SVO Black Pearl,' FCC/AOS – **Karl Harden**

Red – *Cycnoches barthiorum* 'Pink Dove' – **Danny Lentz**

Amazon Smile

You can help out the Atlanta Orchid Society simply by shopping at Amazon through their Amazon Smile program. To do this simply go to <http://smile.amazon.com> every time you want to shop at Amazon. When you go to checkout for the first time, you will be asked to designate your charity. If you type Atlanta Orchid Society in the search bar, we are the only result that comes up. Select that one. You can change the charity at any time, by following the directions on the About page. All of the details of the Amazon Smile program can be found on the

Amazon site at:

<https://smile.amazon.com/gp/c/hpf/about/>

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

**No awards this month,
please check back next time!**