



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

May, 2018

Volume 79: Number 5

MAY MONTHLY MEETING

Monday, May 14, 2018
Atlanta Botanical Garden
Day Hall - 8pm

“Deceit Pollination in Orchids”

Robert Pemberton

Bob has a PhD in Entomology from the University of California, Berkeley. Before retiring, he worked as a Research Entomologist for the US Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Research Service. He was a foreign explorer searching the world for co-evolved natural enemies of introduced insect and weed pests of natural environments, for use as potential biological control agents of the pests. Bob enjoyed seeing orchids in the wild during his travels and grew some while living in Florida. His interest in orchids increased dramatically after a beautiful Central American orchid bee appeared on his porch in Ft Lauderdale. His research to understand how this newly naturalized orchid bee could live in Florida without its orchid mutualists, which don't occur there, led to the discovery that the male bees can find and collect particular chemicals needed in their courtship from the leaves of many different plants. These chemicals included the primary fragrance compounds of the bee's orchid mutualists in Central America



which they collect when pollinating the flowers. This meant that this orchid bee and most probably other orchid bees don't actually need their orchid mutualists, although the 800 orchid species involved are completely dependent on particular orchid bees for their pollination. Bob has studied the pollination of orchids in Florida, Ecuador and China. He has contributed articles to Orchids magazine.

Minutes of the April 2018 Meeting of the Atlanta Orchid Society

The April meeting was held on April 9th 2018 at the Atlanta Botanical Gardens. The meeting was presided by President David Mellard. Guests were welcomed and new members were

introduced. The Atlanta Orchid Society made an impressive showing at the Deep South Orchid Show in Savannah, Georgia with the Society and members being awarded a number of ribbons for their entries. Members with ribbon-winning entries included Doug Hartung, HB Blythe-Hart, David Mellard, Geni Smith, and Danny Lentz. HB, Doug and Geni received a special 'Thank You' for their work in making the exhibit a success. Upcoming events were

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

Q & A on Orchid Basics for Novice Members With Barbara Barnett

Follow-Up Linda Wilhelm's April Program

There is a wonderful article in *Orchids Magazine*, May issue, page 257. "Genus of the Month", Miltoniopsis by Thomas Miranda: Joys and Fears. Remember this is the cooler growing member of the group; a terrific piece covering culture, pitfalls and success. Enjoy!

- Barbara Barnett

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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 and 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 forms, contact [David Mellard](mailto:David.Mellard@aos.org) (404-237-1694) or visit OrchidDigest.com to join online.

Events Calendar

May

12 - American Orchid Society monthly judging, Atlanta Judging Center, noon (training), 1 pm (judging), Turner Theater, Hardin Visitor Center (entrance to garden), ABG

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

18-20 - Memphis Orchid Society Show and Sale, Memphis Botanic Gardens, 750 Cherry Road Memphis, TN,
18 - Set-up
19 - Ribbon judging
20 - Closes at 5 pm
Contact: Mark Mills
swamprad@gmail.com

June

9 - American Orchid Society monthly judging, Atlanta Judging Center, noon (training), 1 pm (judging), Turner Theater, Hardin Visitor Center (entrance to garden), ABG

11 - Atlanta Orchid Society Monthly Meeting, ABG, Day Hall - 8pm, Ice Cream Social & ABG Orchid Greenhouse Tour

July

9 - Atlanta Orchid Society Monthly Meeting, ABG, Day Hall - 8pm, Mark Reinke, Dendrobiums

14 - American Orchid Society monthly judging, Atlanta Judging Center, noon (training), 1 pm (judging), Turner Theater, Hardin Visitor Center (entrance to garden), ABG

announced: AOS, Atlanta Judging Center; Monthly judging April 14 (Saturday); Spring Mid-American Orchid Conference and the West Shores Orchid Show, April 27-29, Strongsville, OH; AtIOS Board of Directors Meeting, Saturday, May 5 th at Southern Bistro on Roswell Road, 1-3PM; AOS Monthly Judging, Atlanta Judging Center, May 12 (Saturday); and the Memphis Orchid Society Show will be on May 18-20. The annual Ice Cream Social and Greenhouse Tour is tentatively scheduled for June 11 (Monday). Annual membership dues are now past due. Annual dues are Individual - \$30; Household - \$45. The next monthly meeting of the Atlanta Orchid Society will be held on May 14 at 8:00 PM at the Atlanta Botanical Gardens, Day Hall. The program is to be announced. Hope to see you there!

Minutes respectfully submitted by Darrell Demeritt, Secretary.

Atlanta Orchid Society Monthly Ribbon Winners March 2018

*Notes by Mark Reinke
Photos by Darryl Wattley*

Class I – Cattleya Group

Blue – Cattleya schroederae – Carson Barnes

This large flowered species, native to the mountains of Colombia, is not considered one of the easier *Cattleya* to cultivate, but when well grown, is glorious in its delicate beauty and heady fragrance. The long lasting flowers are a pale, ethereal lilac-rose with a contrasting yolk orange area inside the opening of the frilly, trumpet shaped lip.



Cattleya schroederae – Carson Barnes

There are both deeper colored and near white variations found in the wild, but the typical color form described above, in my mind, has the most distinct appeal.

To do well, *Cattleya schroederae* needs frequent water, combined with perfect drainage while actively growing. This is usually from about May to October. Then, it must have a drier period in December to March, where there is a longer interval between watering, and when light is as bright as the plants can tolerate. In the natural habitat, the temperatures are intermediate year round without much variation, and it prefers nights in the 60's and days not above 80F if possible, with tolerance both above and below those values if care is taken to keep plants drier when cooler and well ventilated when warmer. The flowers, as mentioned can last well, up to 8 or 10 weeks, but moisture should not be allowed to stay on them as their delicate texture can be easily marred.

Surprisingly, this delicately colored orchid is the starting point of over 2,000 hybrids in the orange to red range thanks to the hybrid between it and *C. cinnabarina* registered in 1900 as *C. G.S. Ball*.

Red – *Cattleya intermedia* forma *coerulea* 'Super Blue' – **Carson Barnes**

White – *Cattleya* Walgery – **Carson Barnes**

White – *Cattlianthe* Jewel Box – **Darrell Demeritt**

Class II – Cymbidium Group

Blue – *Cymbidium* unknown – **Darrell Demeritt**

Class III – Dendrobium Group

Blue – *Dendrobium hancockii* – **Carson Barnes**

This unusual species from the mountains in Yunnan Province, China, when mature, looks more like a small twiggy shrub with sparse foliage than an orchid. It is a plant that most growers find difficult to maintain in our hot summer climate as it comes from elevations where the all-time record high is what our average daytime temperature is for almost three months of the year. Carson has done a great job with this plant and it is about as good as I have seen in person. However, there are photos of plants that are growing under more comfortable conditions for the species, such as Australia and South Africa, which are impressive in size and have hundreds of flowers at once.

Den. hancockii should be watered heavily in spring and summer, then reduced in winter, but without allowing the plant stay dry for extended periods. Filtered light, especially in hotter weather is best.

One reference noted that this species is collected and dried for use in Chinese medicine and consequently is in under threat in



Dendrobium hancockii - **Carson Barnes**

the wild.

Red – *Dendrobium* Nestor – **David and Janice Lankford**

White – *Dendrobium nobile* – **Danny Lentz & Dianne Morgan**

Class IV – Epidendrum Group

Blue – *Encyclia bractescens* 'Jennifer,' AM/AOS – **Carson Barnes**

For some reason Carson wrote *Encyclia plicata* on his entry slip, but this plant is definitely *Encyclia bractescens*, and the photo of it shows that the name is correct on the plant tag. April is the peak bloom month for this compact and vigorous species that comes from mostly lower elevations of the Atlantic slope in the southernmost states of Mexico, as well as Belize, Guatemala and Honduras.

This plant is presumably a division off of the 'Jennifer' clone which received an 82 point Certificate of Cultural Merit in March of 2015, and then an 84 point Award of Merit and 94 point Certificate of Cultural Excellence in March of last year,

in both cases at the Orchid Society of Highlands County (CA) Show. In the latter award the plant had 1864 open flowers and 466 additional buds! The flowers show good dark color on the segments and above average size. At close view, it can be seen that the "pink" lip is actually white overlaid with many closely spaced purple lines.

It should be noted that while the flower quality award will also apply to any division or mericlone of the original awarded plant, cultural awards do not, as they are bestowed to the grower/owner of the plant based on the condition at the time of exhibition.

E. bractescens is definitely a species worth seeking out for this climate where it seems to be easy to grow. While some species of the genus are slow to form clumps, this one will do so quickly. The plants are compact with small round pseudobulbs and two or three narrow leaves. The inflorescences are thin and wiry with up to ten flowers each, and often with one small side branch. They last two months or sometimes longer.

The best and most awarded



Encyclia bractescens 'Jennifer,' AM/AOS – **Carson Barnes**

offspring is the cross with *E. alata* called *E. Boricana*, which is also easily grown, floriferous, and worth seeking out.

Red – *Anacheilium* (Syn. *Prosthechea*) *chacoensis* – **Dan Williamson**

While the genus name *Anacheilium*, (literally “lip upwards”) was proposed in 1842 for all the species in this group that are nonresupinate, Kew does not currently recognize them as separate from *Prosthechea*. Whether lip upwards or down, all of these species can be distinguished from *Encyclia* by their thin textured, generally wider leaves, and laterally compressed, softer pseudobulbs.

White – *Encyclia alata* var. *virella* – **Dan Williamson**

Class V – Oncidium Group

Blue – *Tolumnia* “Pink Butterfly” – **Kurt Drewke & Arial Christiansen**

This beautiful, full flowered *Tolumnia* was either sold under an unregistered trade name, or the actual cross name was missing or omitted from the entry form. While this would present problems if exhibiting the plant in an AOS sanctioned show or judging, it doesn't present any challenges for understanding how to grow it as opposed to some other *Tolumnia* hybrid. That is because nearly all breeding in this group traces more than 95% of its family tree to just two Jamaican species, *Tolu. pulchella* and *Tolu. triquetra*, which grow in the same general area of that island nation and therefore have the same cultural expectations.

Tolumnia hybrids are generally appealing to most people

because of their compact size and brightly colored flowers that occur in a myriad of patterns. They are so variable that most of the seedlings from any given cross will be distinctly different from their siblings in pattern and hue. However, finding the right combination of conditions in your own growing area to keep these beauties happy can take some trial and error, and they aren't good choices for a laissez-faire approach.

The area of Jamaica their ancestor species come from is called the Cockpit Region, a rugged landscape covering a large section of the interior of the west half of the island. It consists of a limestone plateau that is highly eroded into steep knobby hills separated by deep narrow valleys. Geologists refer to this type of formation as karst landscape. In the Cockpit Region, it is densely covered in scrubby vegetation. The humidity is typically 70% or higher year round, while rainfall is only moderate but consistent and the temperature is always warm, but seldom hot due to the elevation of one to two thousand feet above sea level.

The plants are typically growing on twigs in this



Tolumnia “Pink Butterfly”
– Kurt Drewke & Arial Christiansen

environment, exposed to moderate light, good air movement and rapid drying after rains. So finding a balance between all of these factors is the key to success in your growing area. What works for my situation may be exactly wrong for yours. *Tolumnia* are probably good candidates for growing under lights indoors where a consistent environment is easier to maintain.

Class VI – Cypripedium Group

Commercial Entries

Blue – *Paphiopedilum hisutissimum* ‘Thank You Margaret,’ HCC/AOS – **Carson Barnes**

The plant exhibited is an absolutely beautifully grown example of this species from northeast India, Burma, northern Thailand and southwest China, where it grows in hilly and mountainous regions from about 2500 to 4000 feet above sea level. These locations have a monsoonal climate with warm, very wet summers and cool dry winters where rainfall is sparse and humidity drops progressively until the start of the next rainy season. The cool (40s F at night preferred) and dry rest in winter seems essential for flowering and therefore, while a popular species, growers in most parts of the county would need a greenhouse to provide the right conditions.

The clumping growths are fairly large, but the flowers are as well, averaging better than 5.5 inches in natural spread. April is the peak month for recorded flowerings.

Close inspection will reveal many fine hairs covering the flowers, especially the two wide



Paphiopedilum hisutissimum 'Thank You Margaret', HCC/AOS – Carson Barnes

spreading petals, revealing the reason for the species name. While there are over two thousand hybrids descended from this species, most trace back to a 1907 cross named *Paph. Vandyck*, which pairs it with the hybrid between *Paph. insigne* and *Paph. boxallii* called *Paph. Sir George Holford*. This led to a series of complex hybrids that paved the way for the "Bulldog Paphs" that are currently experiencing a revival in popularity.

Red – *Paphiopedilum appletonianum* – Carson Barnes



Paphiopedilum Saint Swithin – Ellen Brand

White – *Paphiopedilum liemianum* – Carson Barnes

Amateur Entries

Blue – *Paphiopedilum* Saint Swithin – Ellen Brand

While entered under the parents of *Paph. philippinense* and *Paph. rothschildianum*, this beautifully flowered example of *Paph. St. Swithin* illustrates the spectacular look that must have caused a sensation when introduced in 1901. It is a vigorous combination that has been used to create more than 250 additional hybrids, and in addition to more than 90 Awards of Merit and 8 First Class Certificates from the American Orchid Society, also has 9 Certificates of Cultural Excellence for specimen plants exhibited with as many as fourteen inflorescences!

Both parents are low elevation rain forest species that thrive and warmth and frequent watering, with dappled bright light conditions preferred. Temperatures below 60F should be avoided. All of this points to an orchid that should thrive indoors under LED lights.

Based on all the award photos I can find, I don't see any reason why the judges wouldn't consider scoring this plant if presented in this condition at a monthly judging.

Red – *Paphiopedilum* Mint Chocolate – Roy Harrow

White – *Paphiopedilum* Gina Short – Danny Lentz & Dianne Morgan

Class VII - Phalaenopsis Group

Blue – *Phalaenopsis* unknown hybrid – Danny Lentz & Dianne Morgan

Red – *Phalaenopsis* Tying Shin Fly Eagle 'Wilson' – Danny Lentz & Dianne Morgan

White – *Phalaenopsis* Equalacea 'Phylo's Purple Peloric', HCC/AOS – Jon Crate

Class VIII - Vandaceous Group

Blue – *Sarcochilus* Heidi – Roy Harrow

The *Sarcochilus* consist of about 25 species all native to northeast Australia, with large fleshy roots and growths consisting of compact fans of channeled leaves. They are considered members of the Vandae Tribe, and there are a few examples of hybrids between them and other genera in that group, such as *Aerides*, *Phalaenopsis*, and *Rhyncostylis*. However, the vast amount of breeding, primarily done in Australia, has stayed within its own genus. The sprays of flowers, with five prominent and evenly sized segments, and a less conspicuous lip, give this orchid a specific look that many people find enchanting. *Sarco.* Heidi was introduced 35



Phalaenopsis unknown hybrid – Danny Lentz & Dianne Morgan



Sarchochilus Heidi – Roy Harrow

years ago, so does not have quite the size, form or color of more recent hybrids, but the exhibited plant is beautifully flowered.

While widely grown in coastal California, where the temperature profile is similar to native range, my experience, while limited, is that *Sarchochilus* are not hard to grow well with a little attention even in the Southeast with our hot, humid summers. I received a few plants in bud from my contract grower last winter when he was short on cattleya types. They were the results of the latest breeding for Scott Barrie in Australia. I kept one to see how it would do for me, growing it on the bench with most of my cattleya seedlings. A year later, it had 10 spikes totaling 104 flowers on it and just received an Award of Merit at the Deep South Orchid Society show on April 6th!

Generally, these orchids want frequent watering accompanied with excellent drainage and heavier feeding than most orchids while in active growth. Generally "cattleya" light levels or a little shadier are sufficient to flower these beauties and they may be good candidates to try indoors under LED lights in a situation where good humidity can be maintained. Most breeding is still done in Australia, but many of the newest hybrids

are now available through Sunset Valley Orchids in California if you want to give these beauties a try. While still scarce in wholesale quantities, I was just able to obtain 30 seedlings each of three new hybrids and look forward to having plants available to sell that have been acclimatized to this region for a couple years.

Red – *Neobathiea grandidieri* – Carson Barnes

White – *Aerangis* LOC Cardinal Gem – Danny Lentz & Dianne Morgan

White – *Vanda miniata* – Darrell Demeritt

Class IX – Miscellaneous

Blue – *Lycaste bradeorum* – Carson Barnes

While there are at least six *Lycaste* species with primarily yellow flowers, *Lyc. bradeorum* is arguably the showiest in flower size, form and color intensity. I can see at least twelve blooms in the photo, and all appear to be generated from the base of one pseudobulb. There have been two different cultural awards given to plants grown in its native Costa Rica with more than 100



Lycaste bradeorum – Carson Barnes



Cynorkis guttata 'Mello Spirit'
– David Mellard

open blooms, attesting to the floriferous nature of a well grown specimen. It is also documented from Nicaragua, El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras.

Lyc. bradeorum grows on the lower and middle mountain slopes in seasonal tropical forest, and does well in both intermediate and warm conditions, but with a distinct drier rest from about November/December to April, when fertilizer should be withheld and water limited to light applications once per week or less. During this time, the leaves are shed off the recently matured pseudobulbs.

Blue – *Cynorkis guttata* 'Mello Spirit' – David Mellard

Red – *Catasetum* Dragon's Teeth 'Rolf's Flight of Fancy' – Danny Lentz & Dianne Morgan

Red – *Bulbophyllum lemniscatoides* – Danny Lentz & Dianne Morgan

White – *Coelogyne lactea* – Carson Barnes