

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: Cheryl Trusty



May 2010

www.AtlantaOrchidSociety.org

Volume 51: Number 5

May Meeting

Topic: Atlanta Orchid Society Plant Auction

Speaker: None, instead there will be a pot luck dinner!

(Please note the dish assignments.)

6:00 pm May 10, 2010 Atlanta Botanical Garden, Day Hall

Hello All, Meeting starts at 6:00 this month.

Don't forget our annual Atlanta Orchid Society auction and social at the regular meeting May 10 also remember there will be no ribbon judging or speaker so come early, but bring lots of money and someting for the pot luck supper that starts at 6:00 pm. The auction starts at 7:00 pm till tenish.

This auction is one of our annual fund raisers for the society so please come and spend some of that rusty old money. There will be hundreds of beautiful orchids, species and hybrids up for auction. Fred Missbach has obtained great plants from numerous suppliers so don't miss this opportunity to add to your collection or find that special plant you have been looking for.

So tell all your orchid friends and come join us!

Pot-luck Dish Assignments A-B - Drinks C-E – Dessert F-J - Salad K-N - Side Dish P-Z - Main Dish

Newsletter Submissions

To submit material for the newsletter or to sign up for the e-mail version of this newsletter, please contact Cheryl Trusty.

The deadline for submissions is the 20th of each month.

Please note the new e-mail address: orchidnewsletter@gmail.com



The Atlanta Orchid Society

<u>Officers</u> President – Maureen Pulignano 404-869-6980

Vice President – Greg Smith 770-654-6170

Secretary – Roy Harrow 770-639-7052

Treasurer – <u>Reba Herzfeld</u> 770-394-3731

Immediate Past President – Jeff Whitfield 770-634-6153

<u>Trustees</u>

Terry Glover 678-705-7387 David Mellard 770-488-0727 Fred Missbach 404-237-1694 Geni Smith 678-817-1915 Barbara Barnett 706-579-2670 David B. Glass 404-377-4187

Other Volunteers

Annual Plant Auction - Fred Missbach

AOS Rep - Maureen Pulignano

Greengrowers Coordinator -Greg Smith

Librarian - James Van Horne

MAOC Rep - Doug Hartong

Meeting Hospitality - Geni Smith

Membership Chair - <u>Barbara Barnett</u>

Mentoring Coordinator - David B. Glass

Monthly Plant Raffle - Barbara Barnett

Monthly Ribbon Judging -David Kessler

Newsletter - Cheryl Trusty

Orchid Digest Representative -Fred Missbach

Show Co-Chairs -Jeff Whitfield & David Mellard

Show Hospitality - Reba Herzfeld

Telephone - Lynne Gollob

Atlanta Orchid Society

Meeting Minutes April 12, 2010

The meeting was called to order by President Maureen Pulignano.

Visitors were acknowledged and we had 43 people in attendance. Maureen reminded everyone about the May society auction and potluck at Day Hall including the change of starting time. Then after recognizing some visitors from Athens, Georgia who might be starting their own local orchid society Maureen reminded everyone of the green-growers trip to Athens May 22nd.

The motion made to approve the Minutes of the March 8th meeting was passed.

Reba Herzfeld presented the Treasurer's Report, indicating a balance in checking account of \$7,030.31 with several checks outstanding.

Old Business:

Another report on our March, 2010 show said that we made a profit and all of the vendors wanted to be asked to come back to our next show.

Barbara Barnet acknowledged our new members present and challenged everyone that this is the last month for our membership contest. Maureen pointed out that Barbara's program, 'Orchids 101', had already been passed around and would be presented at the AOS annual show this fall. Barbara asked for additional "Orchid Words of Wisdom" to be transmitted to her for editing and redistribution.

David Glass asked for more seasoned members to sign up as mentors.

New Business:

Doug Hartong gave a report on the Mid-America Meeting breakfast and mentioned the loss of some orchids due to their lack of care, due to the death of their owner, before another person could step in and take over the collection.

Mark Reinke reminded people of the RSVP, 110 mile Green Growers trip one way to Marble Branch Farms on May 1st. and apologized for the fact that Walhalla added a traffic light last year between the time he issued the directions and the actual date of last year's trip. Directions and more details are in last month's bulletin.

An announcement that the Atlanta Botanical Gardens would be having an "Orchid Fire Sale" of left over plants from their "Orchid Daze" exhibits on Wednesday thru Friday April 14 - 16.

Following a 10 minute refreshment break, David Kessler announced the Monthly Ribbon Awards.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned to open the floor to our speaker, HP Norton from Orchidview in Monk's Corner, S.C., to discuss his blue Phalaenopsis orchids. He mentioned a few of his 'tricks' in his orchid seed flasks and community pots. He said that his germinating media was 1/2 strength regular Phytotechlab agar with the missing sugar replaced. He pointed out that 20 of the 23 grams of regular mix was sugar. He puts a sheet of split paper towel over his seedling just out of flask and then slowly hardens them off to stronger sunlight. He also pots his original community pots with sphagnum and Styrofoam peanuts. When they finely move to single pots he used a mix of 6 parts seedling bark, 1 part regular bark, 2 parts sphagnum and 1 part pearlite or sponge rock.

Respectfully submitted,

Roy Harrow, Secretary Atlanta Orchid Society

President's Message May 2010

It's time for our Annual Plant Auction and I am busy making room in the greenhouse for new orchids! Fred Missbach has been collecting plants from growers near and far, assuring that there will be something to tempt everyone. This is also a major fund-raiser for our society, so please plan to come early, stay late and bid often!

Barbara Barnett and I enjoyed putting in the Atlanta exhibit at the Deep South Orchid Show in Savannah – and we received the trophy for best exhibit in our class, thanks to the beautiful plants we received from Cora Bell Ramborger, David Mellard and Cheryl Bruce. (Barbara and I took a few of our own, too.) Together we earned nine blue, six red and three white ribbons. David also received a best in class trophy for our centerpiece plant, his Dendrobium thrysoflorum.

We have only two shows remaining in our planned calendar for this year and they are in the fall. Please consider volunteering to help in Birmingham or Chattanooga. It is hard work – and it is great fun!

See you early on the 10th!

Maureen



Welcome our new Members for April Edmund Whitlock and Suzanne Zoda Don and Sue Baker Joanne Williams

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-ranged to advanced grower nothing beats the *Orchid Digest*. For just \$34 per 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 extraspecial devoted to a single genus.

For membership applications forms contact:

Fred Missbach (404-237-1694)

ATLANTA ORCHID CLUB PLANT AUCTION

Our yearly club plant auction is almost upon us. As announced earlier, this year it will be held at Day Hall on the evening of May 10th at the time of our regular monthly meeting for May. As we have done in the past, we ask those attending to bring a covered dish item for a pot luck meal beginning at 6:00 PM with a brief business meeting during dinner. Bidding will start promptly at 7:00 PM so that it may end in the normal time-frame of our meetings. Checkout will be available prior to the auction end for those willing to miss some great plants.

The plants for the auction will represent many genera and be supplied from many outstanding growers ranging from Georgia to Hawaii.

Don't miss it, and better yet bring a friend!

Pot-luck Dish Assignments A-B - Drinks C-E - Dessert F-J - Salad K-N - Side Dish P-Z - Main Dish

Thank You!

We would like to extend our Thanks to those people and businesses who helped make the April AtOS a success!

Hospitality

Members who brought & shared goodies to Monday's April meeting: Marianne Gilmore, Dan Swartzberg, Barbara Dampog, Doug Hartong, Lynne Gollob, Cameron Carter, Cheryl Bruce,Reba Herzfeld & Geni Smith.

Geni Smith

Raffle Donations

Thank You to the following individuals for your donations to the April Raffle Table: Cheryl Bruce, Roy Harrow, Lynne Gollob.

Barbara Barnett

Membership Challenge

The deadline for the MEMBERSHIP Challenge was May 1.

Thank you to our members who encouraged and recruited so many of our friends and acquaintances to join us in our passionate hobby, Orchids.

Welcome to them and thank you to all of you that participated.

Congratulate our winner, Greg Smith for recruiting three new members.

He will receive a \$50 credit to our Orchid Auction on May 10.

> There will not be a Raffle at the May Meeting due to the AUCTION.

Greetings Orchid Lovers,

Western North Carolina Orchid Society invites you to be a part of the biggest orchid show in the southeast (excluding Florida). Never before have there been this many world class vendors gathered under one roof. This two day extravaganza will feature orchid sales, programs, orchid art and thousands of orchids on display. *Swamped with Orchids* will take place on March 27 and 28th at the North Carolina Arboretum, 100 Frederick Law Olmsted Way, Asheville, NC 28806. Please come join us in a celebration of spring and become *Swamped with Orchids*!

Graham Ramsey

President Western North Carolina Orchid Society 828.691.1121

G_Ram@yahoo.com www.wncos

Events Out and About

May 10, 2010 – Atlanta Orchid Society Plant Auction, Atlanta Botantical Gardens Day Hall. Pot luck starts at 6pm, auction at 7:00.

Sept 24-26 – Fall 2010 Mid-America Orchid Congress, hosted by the Mid-America Orchid Congress, and Kentucky Orchid Society's 2010 Fall Orchid Show. Fern Valley Hotel and Conference Center, Louisville, KY.

October 27-31, 2010 – Fall 2010 AOS Meeting Virginia Beach, VA

Nov 14-23, 2011 - 20th World Orchid Conference, Singapore. <u>www.20woc.com.sg</u>

Nov 2014 - 21st World Orchid Conference, Pretoria, South Africa. Check the AOS website!

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

Joint Membership 1 year \$80, 2 years \$155

Student Membership 1 year \$40, 2 years \$75

Dear Orchid Lovers:

Mark your calendars now for the Fall 2010 Mid-America Orchid Congress, September 24-26, 2010. The conference is hosted by the Mid-America Orchid Congress and will be held in conjunction with the Kentucky Orchid Society's 2010 Fall Orchid Show. Both Mid-America and the orchid show will be at the Fern Valley Hotel and Conference Center, Louisville, KY. Watch for details in The Mid-American.

I hope you will include this message in upcoming issues of the Society newsletter and/or announce it in Society meetings. Whatever you can do to help us get the word out -- we are appreciative.

We hope to see you in Louisville.

Doris Asher for THE MID-AMERICA ORCHID CONGRESS

AtOS Ribbon Winners and Notes for April 2010

Class I – Cattleya Alliance



Photo courtsy of Mark Reinke

Blue- *Laeliocatanthe* Newberry Lava Burst 'Marble Branch' AM/AOS – Gary Collier & Mark Reinke

This showy hybrid is from the breeding program of Gene Crocker at Carter and Holmes Orchids. It combines Cattlianthe Rojo with Laelia (Schomburgkia) undulata. The result is a vigorous plant with strong upright spikes of saturated wine red flowers, typically with amethyst purple ovaries and arranged in a terminal cluster facing all directions. The 'Marble Branch' clone was the first of this cross to receive an award, earning an 80 point Award of Merit as a first blooming seedling in March, 2005, when the hybrid had yet to receive its registered name. Since then, five more plants have received Awards of Merit, another fell slightly short with a 79 point HCC, and still another earned a cultural award with 342 flowers and buds on 19 inflorescences. Apparently, only about one fourth of the seedlings inherited the compact growth habit and manageable spike length of Ctt.Rojo. The others, while still very showy are a good deal larger

with towering inflorescences that are a bit too tall for a pleasing balance. We are trying yet again to self pollinate this particular plant, but past attempts have not resulted in a fertile pod. Perhaps in the future we will have it tissue cultured instead so that more people can enjoy its long lived spring 'fireworks' display.

Red – Leptotes bicolor – Doug Hartong

White – *Brassavola perrinii* – Gary Collier & Mark Reinke

Class II – Cymbidium Alliance

Blue – Grammatophyllum scriptum 'Leopard' AM/AOS – Maureen Pulignano

This striking and large orchid can display as many as 100 open flowers per inflorescence, and with time is capable of becoming a huge specimen with many spikes. In fact, two cultural awards bestowed within the last five years have been for individual plants with more than 3,000 open blooms and one can only wonder how the plants in question were transported to the judging center! This species requires very bright light, short of burning the foliage, and warm temperatures, combined with high humidity and good air movement to flourish. Several Southeast Asian orchid nurseries have recently produced hybrids between Gram. scriptum and Cymbidium, Eulophia, and Cycnoches and it would be fascinating to see the results of these unusual combinations!

Class III - Dendrobium Alliance



Photo courtsey of Mark Reinke

Blue – *Dendrobium* Pixie Charm - Gary Collier & Mark Reinke

Some seedlings of Dendrobium Pixie Charm, like this one, can look almost exactly like a huge flowered version of Den. unicum, the species that is both a parent and great-grand parent of this hybrid. This resemblance was enough to recently convince an AOS judging team to provisionally award a mislabeled plant as the species itself, though some on the panel rightly questioned the identification. Two other species, Den. moniliforme, and Den. hererocarpum, add to the size and vigor to this hybrid that is much more easily grown than Den. unicum itself, though the characteristic 'Crayola crayon' fragrance of the latter species usually carries through. The cross was made by H&R Nurseries of Hawaii in 1991, and recently re-made so that a number of young plants flowering for the first or second time are

now out on the market. Although this cross flowers off the side nodes of semi-deciduous canes from the previous season, similar to Den. nobile and its hybrids, Den. Pixie Charm does not need a 'starving' or chilling in the winter months to induce blooming in spring and will thrive under typical intermediate conditions with a variety of other types of orchids. New growths initiate with the onset of budding and from then until fall, water should be plentiful, along with bright indirect light and good air movement. Less water is needed in winter, but continue to provide moisture as soon as the plant dries out, the frequency of which will depend on whether the plant is potted or mounted. Drainage should always be perfect with this type of Dendrobium and in an environment with controlled humidity, mounted culture will provide the best results in the long run. Mature plants will be showy specimens with dozens or even hundreds of open blooms, which last in good condition for about one month

Red – *Dendrobium kingianum* – David Mellard & Sal Marino

White – *Dendrobium* Roy Takanuga – Maureen Pulignano

White – *Dendrobium* Aussie's Chip – Maureen Pulignano

Class IV - Epidendrum Alliance



Photo courtsey of Mark Reinke



Photo courtsey of Cheryl Bruce

Blue - *Epicattleya* Cathy Meincer - Gary Collier & Mark Reinke

Epicattleva Cathy Meincer is an unusual cross between C. Angelwalker and Epi. stamfordianum made by AOS judge Bill Meincer in the early 1980's. When he and his wife decided to close Florafarm Nursery in the late 1990's, we purchased this plant from them as an unflowered seedling. As far as Bill knows, this is the only plant from that cross that has survived! Although it appeared to be blooming size when we obtained it, for the next several years flowers we not forthcoming, and it almost ended up in the compost pile. For the first couple years after if finally bloomed, the low number of spikes compared to the volume of plant, was still not very impressive. But finally in 2005 it began to explode with new growth in all directions and a magnificent specimen formed quickly. It is impressive how much Epi. stamfordianum influences the flower count, with up to 20 on each, often branched, inflorescence, in spite of the fact that the other parent averages only 2 or 3 per spike. We tried to self pollinate this plant for several years but did not succeed. So last year, in cooperation with Carter & Holmes Orchids, the process of tissue culturing this beauty began so that in the future it will be available commercially. The cross was registered by us, with Bill Meincer's

permission, in January of this year and named after his wife Cathy, also an AOS judge.

Red - *Epidendrum* Hokulea 'Super Red' AM/AOS – Cheryl Bruce

White – *Epicyclia* Mabel Kanda x *Encyclia randii* – Barbara Dampog

Class V – Oncidium Alliance



Photo courtsey of Cheryl Bruce

Blue - Oncidium Oriflamme - David Johnston

Oncidium Oriflamme (sometimes seen incorrectly spelled with just a single 'm') is a primary hybrid between *Onc. concolor* and *Onc. marshallianum* originally registered by the venerable French firm of Vacherot-Lecoufle in 1932. Both species involved are Brazilian and come from mountain

ranges near the coast in the southeast part of that country. I am assuming the ribbon winning plant is from a more recent re-make of the original hybrid, though it does not seem to be widely available commercially. The overall look of the flowers strongly favors *Onc. marshallianum*, but with less separation between the two front lobes of the showy yellow lip and a slightly bolder pattern of brown markings at the base of the lip and on the petals. In general, hybrids such as this one prefer plentiful water while growing, combined with excellent drainage and are commonly cultivated in rather small pots for the size of the plant. They benefit from fairly frequent repotting into fresh mix, best done immediately after spring flowering.

White – *Brassidium* Shooting Star x *Brassia rex* – Lynne Gollob

White – *Howeara* Lava Burst 'Puanani' AM/AOS – Cheryl Bruce

Class VI – Cypripedium Alliance



Photo courtsey of Cheryl Bruce

Blue – *Phragmipedium* Cahaba Gracile – Maureen Pulignano

Despite the fact that this 2009 introduction from Orchidbabies is five-eighths *Phrag. longifolium*, it seems to have maintained the smaller growth habit of *Phrag. besseae*, and still has plenty of that species' good bright color as well. With so much of the larger species in its background, this plant should show good branching of the inflorescence when mature, so that it can display several open flowers at once. Any *Phragmipedium* hybrid dominated by these two species will want to stay continually moist and get flushed regularly with plant of good fresh water. Fairly bright, but filtered light will suit them best, though in the wild they often get blasts of bright, clear sunshine between the passing clouds of their rainforest habitats. *Phrag. longifolium* is a frequent colonizer of the sides of wet ditches along road cuts in its natural habitat.

Red – Paphiopedilum lowii – Barbara Barnett

White *–Phragmipedium* Kai Quintal – Cheryl Bruce

Note: This plant was entered as *Pharg*. Sorcerer's Apprentice (4n) x amazonica 'Birchwood.' The latter species name is a trade name for *Phrag*. *richteri*. These two parents were registered in 2005 as *Phrag*. Kai Quintal by Fritz Schomburg of Madison, WI.

Class VII – Phalaenopsis Alliance



Photo courtsey of Cheryl Bruce

Blue –. *Doritenopsis* Sweet Strawberry 'Shortcake' HCC/AOS – Cheryl Bruce This cute hybrid is like a half-size replica of a large *Phalaenopsis* hybrid with excellent form and presentation of the inflorescence. Its small size is courtesy of *Phal. equestris*, which figures in on both sides of its family tree and accounts for more than one third of its genetic make up. While the end result of 17 generations of breeding, the influence of the miniature *Phal. equestris* goes back only four generations. Undoubtedly, with additional breeding, future hybrids of small stature will be found in a greater array of colors and patterns like their full size cousins.

Red – *Phalaenopsis* Sogo Grape 'Y-N' AM/AOS – Doug Hartong

White - Phalaenopsis lobii - Roy Harrow

White – *Doritenopsis* Fuller's Miss (peloric variant) – Geni Smith

Class VII – Vanda Alliance



Photo courtsey of Cheryl Bruce



Photo courtsey of Mark Reinke

Blue – Renanthopsis Persian Carpet - Gary Collier & Mark Reinke

Already fairly impressive, this plant, which is a cross between Renanthera Cheok Thiam Huat and Phalaenopsis Golden Buddha, is but a first blooming seedling. In years to come it will mature to an impressive specimen with branched spikes of up to 50 or more good sized flowers. So why aren't more *Renanthopsis* hybrids available commercially? The eventual rewards of such a combination are offset by the very slow growth rate, making them generally commercially impractical to grow on a large scale. In the case of this particular cross, it has taken about a decade from seed to first bloom, and still only 4 of the 30 or so plants surviving from the flask have flowered, with many others having yet a couple more years to go before results can be seen. This was the first Renanthopsis cross Gary Collier had ever tried, and he did not realize at the time how lucky he was to get a fertile pod. We have attempted many such hybrids in the decade since, but still have not yet made another fertile cross. Despite the very tall growth habit of the *Renanthera* parent, hybrids such as these generally take their cues from the Phalaenopsis side of the family tree and stay compact with fairly broad leaves.

Red – *Sedirea japonica* – David Glass & Nancy Newton

White – Angraecum germinyanum – Barbara Barnett

Class IX – Miscellaneous



Photo courtsey of Cheryl Bruce

Blue – *Masdevallia* Heathii – David Mellard & Sal Marino

Masdevallia Heathii is an old primary hybrid originally registered in 1899 by Heath that combines two brilliantly colored high elevation species, *Masd. ignea* and *Masd. veitchiana*, the former from Colombia and the latter from Peru. Both are usually found and terrestrials at elevations between 8,000 and 13,000 feet above sea level and are adapted primarily to cool, moist conditions. Kudos to David and Sal as this hybrid would be considered challenging to grow in this climate without the aid of a mist fogger or evaporative cooling pads, providing high humidity along with both good air movement and perfect drainage.

Red – Sarcoglottis speciosa x Stenorrhynchus speciosum – Roy Harrow

White - Stenochoryne vitellina - Cheryl Bruce

Novice Category

Blue – Ansellia africana – Fran Carter

Ansellia africana is a large growing and variable orchid with a wide distribution across much of tropical Africa. The form and markings of the flowers can be quite different from plant to plant, so if you are particular it is wise to purchase one in bloom, or a seedling from known high quality parents. At least 14 plants have received an Award of Merit from the AOS for flower quality and in March of 2009 an enormous plant owned by Cal-Orchid, Inc. was awarded a 95 point Certificate of Cultural Excellence at the Santa Barbara International Orchid Show. It was described as being 2 meters (6.5 feet) high and wide with 40 inflorescences holding a staggering 5625 open flowers and 281 additional buds! Grow this orchid in bright diffuse light under warm conditions, water often while actively growing, but allow for perfect drainage. In winter, allow plants to dry out well between watering in order to induce a nice display of blooms in spring.

AOS Corner

AOS Corner

The American Orchid Society is getting ready for its Spring meeting where it will be electing a new President. Carlos Fighetti, the pesent AOS President, has worked terribly hard for all orchid growers whether they were members of AOS or not, and we all appreciate his efforts. Carlos was president for 2 and a half years but it probably felt like 15 to him! Thanks for all your hard work Carlos!

All orchid society boards are made up of volunteers who are working hard trying to do what is right for the society. It is not easy and we hope that the AOS Affiliated Society Committee can help by bringing together societies to exchange ideas and then sharing these ideas. Working together does lighten the load and makes for some great friendships as well as teaches us about orchids. So watch for AOS Rep info, check out the AOS web site, both the forum and the Affiliated Society page, and our Facebook page for ideas on making your society the best it can be. And thanks to all of the volunteers who make the orchid community the special place it is.

Carol Holdren

AOS Affilaited Society Committee

Atlanta Orchid Society Judging Center Awards

All awards are provisional until published by the AOS



Photo courtsey of Maureen Pulignano Cattleya schilleriana 'Southern Charm' AM/AOS Exhibited by Fred Missbach



Photo courtsey of Maureen Pulignano Ascda Princess Mikasa 'Sapphire' AM/AOS Exhibited by Gene Gadilhe



Photo courtsey of Maureen Pulignano Calanthe argenteo-striata CCM/AOS Exhibited by David Mellard and Sal Marino

Join the Atlanta Orchid Society

Membership in the Atlanta Orchid Society is \$30 for individuals or \$45 for households. Yearly membership runs January 1 through 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, or contact the society's Treasurer (see page 2) for a membership application.

For directions to the Atlanta Botanical Garden, please visit their website at www.atlantabotanicalgarden.org