

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

January, 2012

www.AtlantaOrchidSociety.org

Volume 53: Number 1

JANUARY MONTHLY MEETING

8:00 pm Monday, January 9, 2012 Atlanta Botanical Garden, Day Hall

SPEAKER: Tom Harper, Stones River Orchids TOPIC: 12 Most Important Phalaenopsis Species Influencing Modern Phalaenopsis Hybrids

Tom began growing orchids on a windowsill in 1967. By 1975, he had registered his first orchid hybrid and founded Stones River Orchids as a business. A long-time supporter of the Mid-America Orchid Congress, Tom served as its President, Vice-President and Mid-American Editor (the MAOC newsletter).

Tom is also a founding member of the International Phalaenopsis Alliance (IPA) in 1989 and has served in many responsible positions including Vice



Tom assisted in writing and editing the Phalaenopsis species section of the soft cover Ortho book entitled <u>Complete Guide to Orchids</u>. He has written several articles on Phalaenopsis for Orchids, Orchid Digest

articles on Phalaenopsis for Orchids, Orchid Digest and the IPA Journal.

Tom has traveled coast to coast and internationally speaking on various aspects of Phalaenopsis. He lectured at the 16th World Orchid Conference in 1996 in Brazil, and the 19th WOC in January 2008 in Miami. Additionally, he was invited to speak in March 2005 and again in 2007 at the Taiwan International Orchid Show and Symposium in Hsinying, Taiwan, Republic of China. He returned to Taiwan in 2010 and plans to travel there again soon. Most recently, he spoke at the 15th Annual International Phalaenopsis Alliance meeting in the United Kingdom in June 2009

In 2008, he received his first FCC/AOS on Dtps. Brother Success, 'Laura' (The highest flower quality award given by the American Orchid Society) in the Heart of Dixie Show in Huntsville, Alabama.

He has been an accredited American Orchid Society judge for over 25 years and is based in the Atlanta Judging Center



Doritaenopsis Yu Pin Lady 'Stones River' HCC/AOS

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THE ATLANTA ORCHID SOCIETY

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AOS Rep – Maureen Pulignano Greengrowers – Maureen Pulignano

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Mentoring Coordinator– David Glass

Plant Raffle – Terry Glover

Monthly Ribbon Judging – David Mellard

Newsletter – Mark Reinke

Orchid Digest Rep– Fred Missbach

Show Chair 2011 & 2012 – Barbara Barnett

Telephone – Lynne Gollob

Webmaster – <u>Keith Coleman</u>

In Memory of David Glass



As December came to an end, we lost a very special member. I am not alone when I call David my friend.

David served on our Board of Trustees for three years and volunteered for some of our most important tasks. When I proposed we begin a Mentoring Program, David's hand went up to volunteer as the Coordinator, and many of our newer members have benefitted from his guidance. When we decided to review and update our bylaws. David volunteered to chair the committee, and he thoughtfully led us through the process. When the board felt it important to survey our membership a few months ago, David was the member who stepped forward to do the job, ultimately presenting the results in a protective mask to guard against infection at his final board meeting. Even during the periods when his illness prevented him from physically entering our annual show, David was there to view the exhibits through the patio windows and to receive the list of trophy winners to take to the printer. The large signs listing the winners that appeared at the shows were there because of David.

His willingness to accept challenges was a factor, but not the most important factor, in the affection David's fellow board members felt for him. We all recognized that David was not only a willing worker, he was also a most gentle leader who never was heard to speak ill of anyone. Most importantly, David was a friend to the Atlanta Orchid Society.

When your Board of Trustees learned that David had entered Hospice care at the beginning of December, we overwhelmingly approved a proposal to name the show trophy for Best Vanda Alliance in David's honor. I was able to notify him of this while he was still receiving email. He replied, saying that he was overwhelmed and asked that, when the time came, I should let you know, in his words, "...how much I loved the Atlanta Orchid Society and appreciated everyone's help in learning to become a better grower."

Maureen Pulignano

Events Out and About

January

Jan 9 - Atlanta Orchid Society Monthly Meeting, ABG, Day Hall – 8 p.m. Speaker: Tom Harper – Stones River Orchids, Topic: Phalaenopsis species

Jan 14 - American Orchid Society monthly judging, Atlanta Judging Center, 2 pm, ABG basement workshop.

February

Feb 11 - American Orchid Society monthly judging, Atlanta Judging Center, 2 pm, ABG basement workshop.

Feb 13 - Atlanta Orchid Society Monthly Meeting, ABG, Day Hall – 8 p.m. Rory Jones, Topic: Angraecoids

March

Mar 10 - American Orchid Society monthly judging, Atlanta Judging Center, 2 pm, ABG basement workshop.

March 12 - Atlanta Orchid Society Monthly Meeting, ABG, Day Hall – 8 p.m. Harry Phillips, Andy's Orchids

Upcoming Orchid Shows!

Jan 27-29, 2012 – Gulf Coast Orchid SocietyShow, Gulfport, MS

Feb 17-19, 2012 – Mobile Area Orchid Society Show, Mobile, AL

Mar 9-11, 2012 – Atlanta Orchid Show Atlanta Botanical Gardens, Day Hall

Mar 23-25, 2012 – Deep South Orchid Society Show – Savannah Mall, Savannah, GA

Mar 30-Apr 1, 2012 – Greater Pensacola Orchid Society Show, Pensacola, FL

Mar 31-Apr 1, 2012 – Western North Carolina Orchid Society Show – NC Aboretum at Bent Creek, Asheville, NC

David Glass Memorial Service

There will be a Memorial service for David on January 7th at 4 pm in the Little Chapel of Glenn Memorial Church, 1660 North Decatur Road, Atlanta, GA. A reception will be held from 5:30 to 7:30 in David's home at 1058 Clifton Rd. NE, Atlanta, GA 30307. Please join the family at either or both events.

In an attempt to help others afflicted with this disease, Nancy and Elliot have set up an endowment fund to support myeloma research at Winship Cancer Institute. If you would like to honor David, please consider a contribution to the "David Bankes Glass Multiple Myeloma Research Fund" at Winship Cancer Institute of Emory University (checks payable to Winship Cancer Institute), 1762 Clifton Road, Suite 1400, Atlanta GA 30322

(<u>http://cancer.emory.edu/support</u>). Please no flowers.

2012 DUES!

Annual membership dues are payable at the January meeting. Dues are \$30 for one member of a household or \$45 includes all household members. Check may be made payable to "The Atlanta Orchid Society, Inc." and given to the Treasurer, Clark Weisner

You may also renew online at <u>www.atlantaorchidsociety.org</u> or mail your payment to:

> Clark Weisner 1130 Piedmont Ave. NE Unit 707 Atlanta, GA 30309

(When renewing online choose the "Membership" tab, then click on the "Join/Renew" button)

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

President's Message

I hope everyone had a wonderful Holiday Season. At our Holiday Party, it was wonderful to see that everyone had a great time sharing good company, and scrumptious food. Thank you to Paul Thurner's trio for providing us with the beautiful music that made it a very festive evening. I would like to take this opportunity to let everyone know that I'm a bit overwhelmed with the responsibility and the job expected of me, but I'm confident that the Atlanta Orchid Society members will help me through the coming year. We have great speakers scheduled already and I encourage everyone to attend our meetings. I also encourage members to come to the AOS Judging that is scheduled the second Saturday of each month. It is an opportunity to view excellent orchids and listen in on how orchids are judged for AOS awards. Student judges do presentations and it is also very educational.



Monthly Ribbon Judging Fourth Quarter Winner & Yearly Wrap-Up



Each Blue Ribbon awarded to a plant you bring into the meeting and enter in the ribbon judging is worth 5 points, Red ribbons are worth 3 points and White ribbons, one point.

The quarterly winners each receive a \$25 check from the club, and the annual winner receives a \$75 check! Congratulations!

> Fourth Quarter Geni Smith – 26 points

YEARLY WINNER! Lynne Gollob – 97 points

TOP FIFTEEN POINT EARNERS FOR THE YEAR 2011!

Lynne Gollob – 97 points David Glass/Nancy Newton – 92 points David Mellard/Sal Marino – 80 points Geni Smith – 69 points Roy Harrow – 68 points Cora & Ken Ramborger – 65 points Maureen Pulignano – 58 points David Johnston – 42 points Cheryl Bruce – 36 points Gary Layman – 28 points Laurel Burrows – 27 points Maura Caffrey – 23 points Gene Gadilhe – 20 points Gary Collier/Mark Reinke – 19 points Greg Smith – 18 points

Atlanta Orchid Society Monthly Ribbon Winners December, 2011

Notes and comments by Mark Alan Reinke Photos of ribbon winners and December meeting highlights courtesy of Cheryl Bruce

Class I – Cattleya Group



Blue – *Cattleya* (formerly *Laelia*) *praestans*– David Johnston

This miniature species produces only one flower per inflorescence, but it can be as large as the plant itself! Closely related to Cattleya pumila, its flower form is considered not quite as good, and thus has played a much smaller role in the hybridization of compact and miniature orchids than its more famous sister. However, a quick look at the many clones that have been awarded in Brazil where it is endemic reveals that perhaps individuals worthy of consideration as parents just haven't made it into the hands of the hybridizers as there are more than a dozen that are truly spectacular in fullness and flat presentation. While no "alba" forms are known, there are some attractive color variations recognized by the Brazilian growers, such as C. praestans f. concolor, which is a very uniform and delicate shade of orchid pink which causes the yolky yellow throat to appear lighted from within.

Many hobbyists struggle to grow this species well. In part this is due to the many imported

plants that are not well acclimated or established before being sold, and general lack of good seed cultivated stock. But also, this species, along with C. pumila, prefer somewhat shadier conditions than typical Cattleya, with regular moisture year round, couples with absolutely perfect drainage. They are not particularly quick growers and attention must be paid to make sure that the roots remain healthy. Only when the plant has reached a mature size does it begin to take off and exhibit more vigor. If grown in a pot, clay is best, with very open, long lasting, medium. A basket is also an excellent choice, and if you can maintain high humidity and water often in hot, dry weather, a cork or wooden mount is even better.

Red – *Cattleya crispata* (formerly *Laelia flava*) – David Johnston

White – *Rhyncattlianthe* Golden Chieftain 'Akukii' – Hal Morrison

Class II – Cymbidium Group No Entries

Class III – Dendrobium Group

No Entries

Class IV – Epidendrum Group



Blue – *Bardendrum* Nanboh Pixy 'Cherry Moon,' HCC/AOS – Lynne Gollob

Bardendrum Nanboh Pixy is an unusual intergeneric cross between Barkeria and Epidendrum that was registered by a Japanese grower in 2001. It is exceptionally floriferous and vigorous and in a greenhouse setting will grow into an overwhelming specimen with time. We have had a plant for about a decade now, and it currently sports a dozen strong inflorescences, each four feet in height and carrying between 30 and 50 open flowers, with one or two secondary spikes, equally as full, developing just beneath the main ones! The individual flowers might seem delicate, but they last in good condition for two or three months, and with the addition of the secondary spikes, there is often some bloom on the plant into early spring. Last season, I cut back the spent inflorescences only about half way, and even more spikes of blooms erupted from them in late spring. These same spikes then went on to produce numerous adventitious keikis, some of which even have a few flowers on them now! These can eventually be detached and potted up as separate plants.

Give this plant and similar hybrids excellent drainage, good light and allow the roots to ramble. They produce copious numbers of them, and we do give ours a "haircut" now and then as they will grow four or five feet long eventually. They don't need a lot of water in winter while in bloom, but welcome light syringing or misting. When new growths develop in spring water and feed with regularity. Beware, as Barkeria and its hybrids are magnets for spider mites, which can take over a plant guickly in hot, dry weather. If left untreated, the mites will eventually spread to other nearby plants causing unwelcome damage. If you see silvery white specks appearing on the leaves, you have an infestation. The mites themselves are tiny brown dots, mostly on the underside of the leaves. They do not respond to typical insecticides, but can be quickly dispatched with an ounce of mineral oil and a squirt of liquid soap mixed in a gallon of water.

Red – Prosthechea cochleata var. triandra – David Johnston

Class V – Oncidium Group



Blue – Oncidi	<i>um</i> Gold Dust	- Laurel Burrows
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Oncidium Gold Dust is a charming miniature grower introduced in 2003 by H&R Nurseries of Hawaii. It is three quarters Onc. cheirophorum, and one quarter Onc. sotoanum (the species erroneously identified and sold commercially for many years as Onc. ornithorhyncum). The plant generally stays under six inches tall and typically produces two branched inflorescences carrying many flowers on each new growth. Our blue ribbon example, with its nearly white background color and peachy orange callous is somewhat atypical for the cross, with most seedlings tending toward butter yellow with a bright orange callous. It would be particularly effective if grown or displayed next to one of these more typical plants. While fragrant with overtone of vanilla, there can be medicinal aspects of the scent, courtesy of Onc. cheirophorum, that most noses will not find especially appealing. This little gem appreciates a tight potting in a fast draining medium, and annual repotting into fresh mix after flowering. It can also be grown mounted if situated in a greenhouse and well watered.

Red – *Howeara* Lava Burst 'Puanani,' AM/AOS – Lynne Gollob

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White – Oncostele Wildcat – Gary Layman

Recent nomenclature changes in the species that make up this popular hybrid have once again resulted in a name change. Its current nothogenus is *Oncostele*, a combination of *Oncidium* and *Rhyncostele*.

Class VI – Cypripedium Group



Blue – *Paphiopedilum venustum var. album* 'Barbara's Surprise,' AM/AOS – Barbara Barnett

Paph. venustum inhabits the humus layer in dense jungle undergrowth and bamboo thickets on the lower slopes of the eastern Himalayan mountains. The flowers, borne one and rarely two to an inflorescence, have prominent green venation on all segments, especially notable in the album form where the usual brown spots and reddish orange shadings on the petals and pouch are absent. As the description of their habitat implies, these orchids are shady, humid growers (with lovely mottled foliage) that appreciate ample water in the summer months. During that season, 70 or more inches of rain can fall! However, winter rainfall is scant and plants persist on dew, mist and the continued high humidity levels, so during that time they should approach dryness between each watering cycle, but not be allowed to go completely dry. Though used as a parent many times in hybridization, the most defining characteristics of the blooms do not typically dominate in the offspring, making its progeny not readily apparent. Barbara Barnett originally obtained this plant from Hoosier Orchids at the Atlanta Orchid Show and received her Award of Merit for it at the January, 2010 session of the

Atlanta Judging Center, held the second Saturday of each month in the lower level workshop underneath the old entrance to the Atlanta Botanical Gardens.

Class VII – Phalaenopsis Group



Blue – Doritaenopsis OX Prince 'OX Spot,' AM/AOS – Heidi Landau

The registered name of this orchid should be spelled with both a capital "O" and and a capital "X" and has nothing to do with the animal by that name, but is one of the many Phalaenopsis introductions by OX Orchids of Taiwan. It is a good example of third generation breeding from the Phal. Golden Peoker, the seminal "harlequin" mutation of Phal. Golden Buddha. Despite the wonderful color and pattern, nearly 60% of the genetic background of this hybrid is dominated by the famous white flowers species, which give it the requisite full form and tiled presentation worth of its flower quality award. If you like to water your orchids regularly, consider growing *Phalaenopsis* in a more open medium like that typically used with Cattleya. This will avoid problems with root health, since, while they need frequent moisture, they don't like their roots to stay saturated. Commercial growers often use sphagnum or pro mix (peat moss and perlite), but they grow their plants in carefully controlled humidity and the moisture retentive mix enables them to water only once every few weeks to save on labor and expenses. This growing method is hard to reproduce in a hobby situation and it is a shame that many people fascinated with the idea of growing orchids start out with a *Phalaenopsis* plant that was nursery grown in this manner.

Blue – Acampe praemorsa – Laurel Burrows

The tag on this plant should be changed as the accepted name for the species is *Acampe praemorsa*, presumably because it was initially given the name *Epidendrum praemorsum* by Roxbury in 1795, well before Lindley described it as *Acampe papillosa* in 1853. The genus name he gave this group means "rigid" and is a reference to the brittle, inflexible flowers, which are only about one-half inch across and occur in dense lateral inflorescences. It grows in lowland forests in Sri Lanka, India the Eastern Himalayas through Myanmar to Camodia and possible other nearby areas and appreciates warm, bright conditions with regular watering and excellent drainage year round.

Red – Angraecum eburneum forma superbum – Maureen Pulignano

White – *Angraecum eburneum* 'Scott,' CBM/AOS – Sondra Nierenberg

Class IX – Miscellaneous



Blue – Brasiliorchis schunkeana (syn. Maxillaria schunkeana) – David Johnston

This little gem is another species, that like our blue ribbon winner last month, can have flowers so dark purple they appear black. Unlike Max. variablils, this species comes from the southern hemisphere, specifically the state of Espíritu Santo in Brazil, where it grows in the coastal mountain ranges. The very dark flowers are less than an inch across, borne singly, don't open fully, and are somewhat hidden low among the foliage. Nontheless, a well grown specimen can produce a few dozen at once. Based on updated research done in the last decade, Kew now accepts this and the other species in the Max. picta alliance, all originating in the Atlantic forests of Brazil, under a new genus, Brasiliorchis. Grow this species in moderate light, with good humidity, intermediate to warm temperatures and good air movement. It prefers to grow in an open medium that drains well, or on a mount in controlled humidity, with plentiful water in summer, and less in winter, when in its natural habitat the main source of moister is dew and mist. There are no registered hybrids originating from this species.

Red – *Bulbophyllum longibrachiatum* – Greg Smith

White – *Pleurothallis mathildae* – Laurel Burrows

Class VIII – Vandaceous Group

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Join the Atla<mark>nta</mark> 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 or contact one of our society's officers listed on page 2.

Minutes for the December 12, 2011 Meeting of the Atlanta Orchid Society

We ate first before the business meeting and the spread was great lots of food. It was decorated to a tee.

The president Greg Smith brought plants and bark to sell. Lynne Gollob had really nice *Phalaenopsis* for silent auction and a small raffle.

The gift exchange was great. Hal Morrison performed the raffle for this one. Everyone had fun and got great gifts.

Minutes from the November meeting were approved.

The president reported that there was not a quorum of members at the November meeting so we must have a quick vote for the new board at the December meeting. The slate of new officers and trustees for 2012 is as follows:

Geni Smith - President Maureen Pulignano - Vice-President Jessica Wackerman - Secretary Clark Weisner - Treasurer Terry Glover - Trustee (2012-15) Lynn Gollob - Trustee (2012-15)

A quorum of the membership was present at this meeting so a motion to approve the new officers & trustees was called for and seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

The society's holiday party was well attended and took place in Mershon Hall instead of Day Hall.

We had an installation ceremony for the incoming board members performed by former President Paul Thurner. It was very nice.

The outgoing president was presented with a gift of a plaque for his great service and a gift certificate for Outback Steakhouse. The old board members where presented with a certificate of service by Greg Smith.

The new president was presented with a gift of step stool so the rest of us can see her over the podium!

The society wishes to thank everyone who brought food to the festivities and anyone who contributed to the event.

Greg Smith

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 \$34/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 issue devoted to a single genus. For membership application forms contact <u>Fred Missbach</u> (404-237-1694)



The Double Reed Trio, featuring our own Paul Thurner on Oboe, provided festive holiday music for the December meeting.

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GROWING TIPS for December By Courtney T. Hackney

Email: Hackneau@comcast.net



Each year there are many email questions related to problems with growing specific orchids or asking for help diagnosing some disease or pest. There is also the occasional general question which asks "what is the most difficult challenge I face growing orchids?" It is also a question I get when I speak to orchid societies. The answer is growing many different species and hybrids, which come from many different habitats in one greenhouse. Orchid species are always the most difficult because they evolved within a specific habitat and environment and often there is some critical need for rest, dryness, etc. during some part of the year that must be met or the orchid dies or does not flower. Some hybrids derived from these species may also have a similar requirement, but typically hybrids are more forgiving if one forgets to give them the appropriate conditions.

In many cases a dry period is required to coincide with drought in the orchid's native habitat. It is fairly easy to set plants requiring a dry period aside and limit watering if there is lots of space or there are just a few orchids, but more difficult if one has several thousand orchids in a relatively small space. Over the years I have developed several approaches that have allowed me to manage problematic orchids.

The primary approach has been to place plants that require dry conditions in extremely coarse media or even to mount them. They are grown in the brightest part of the greenhouse where they dry quickly even when they are in a growth mode. While they may dry out more than would be ideal during their growth cycle, they also are more than dry enough during their dry season as well. For most, the dry requirement coincides with winter when watering is reduced anyway. I also take advantage of the change in the angle of the sun so that these orchids get more direct light in winter.

More problematic are orchids that want more water in winter and less in summer. These have not fared well over the years, but lately they have been moved outside during summer where they get only the occasional shower and little or no fertilizer and then moved under vandas in baskets during winter as these get watered most during the cool part of the year. There are also orchids in my collection that do not like summer heat. Some of these come from high elevations where nights regularly go down into the 40's F, but never above 80 F during the day. I grow these mounted or in very coarse media also and keep them under benches in summer where it is coolest. Admittedly, they do not thrive in summer, but survive. Once the Fall Equinox arrives, they are moved into more light and in winter they go right against the glass in places where water drips during the coldest nights. Typically, they grow well and flower before the heat returns and they are re-turned to their under bench hiding spot where lots of air movement is maintained. If I forget to move them under the bench in time they go downhill fast and have been lost.

Roaches have been my biggest enemy since arriving in Florida. After the last mention of this problem in the "Tips" column there were several suggestions regarding Diatomacious Earth. I have used this before in the house, but not sure if it would help in a greenhouse. Nevertheless, I obtained a bag and spread it on tables, but not on plants. Within a week or two dead roaches appeared on the greenhouse floor. These were the larval stages that cannot fly, but this is the first time I have had any success again these vermin. Thanks to those who sent me the suggestion.

Check out the Fuqua Orchid Conservatory Blog:

www.theorchidcolumn.com

ATLANTA ORCHID SOCIETY MAKES 2011 DONATIONS TO SUPPORT EDUCATION RESEARCH AND CONSERVATION

Did you know that each year, our club donates money to help fund various orchid related organizations that promote education, research and conservation?

This year, the board elected to contribute a total of \$1200.00 towards these ends, split as follows:

American Orchid Society - \$400 Atlanta Orchid Judging Center - \$250 Atlanta Botanical Gardens Native Plant Conservation Projects - \$250 International Phalaenopsis Alliance - \$200 Jay Phal (<u>www.orchidspecies.com</u>) - \$100



A nice selection of Phalaenopsis were brought in by Lynne Gollob for both silent auction and raffle at the December meeting.

December Meeting Holiday Celebration Highlights



The parterre gardens in front of Mershon Hall were all decked out in holiday lights.



Members help themselves to the holiday buffet.



Laurel & Steve Burrows



Barbara Dampog, Marianne Gilmore & Liz Wyman



More amazing lights!



John Odom, Priscilla Pope, the Pulignanos, the Gollobs and Colleen Maye from Orchiata.



Eva Silbiger, Heidi Landau & Angel Johnston



Joyce and Rick Martinez



Helen Weil, Ellen Brand & Sondra Nierenberg