



# 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

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[www.AtlantaOrchidSociety.org](http://www.AtlantaOrchidSociety.org)

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## CELEBRATING 65 YEARS 1947-2012

**SPEAKER: Pete Furniss, AOS**

**TOPIC:** "Orchid Shows and Judging Around the World Plus the AOS at Fairchild"

Pete Furniss received his BS in Commerce (major in Accounting) from the University of Virginia in 1963; served in the U.S. Navy from 1963-1967; and then spent his career in the manufacturing of refrigeration and air conditioning products, first at Larkin Coils where his last position was President, and then at Computer Process Controls where he was Chairman of the Board. He and his wife, Gail, currently live on a horse farm some 50 miles southwest of Atlanta, GA.

They have been involved with orchids since the 1960s but their passion dates to the early 1980s. He has served in various positions with the AOS including Assistant Treasurer, Treasurer, Executive Vice President, and President. He was made an Honorary Vice President in 1999, given the AOS Gold Medal of Achievement in 2002, and the AOS Ambassador Award in 2004.

His service on the World Orchid Conference Trust began as Trustee in 1992; and he has been President twice – 1996 to 1999 and 2005 to current. The Organizing Committee of the 17th World Orchid Conference presented him with a Gold Medal of Appreciation in Shah Alam, Malaysia, in 2002. From 1995-2007, he was an Honorary Advisor to the Asian Pacific Orchid Conference Main Committee and served on the International Orchid Commission from 1993 until 2008. He was a Vice Chairman for the last 6 years of that service.

He has been a member of the Atlanta Orchid Society since 1981 and served as President in 1986; the Greater New York Orchid Society since 1991; and charter member of the International Phalaenopsis Alliance as well as the Pleurothallid Alliance.

The Furnisses have both been Accredited AOS judges for 17 years in the Atlanta Judging Center. They have received some 39 AOS awards, one of which was the 2007 Benjamin Kodama Sr. Dendrobium Award for the most outstanding example of the Dendrobium Alliance awarded during the previous year.

Pete also serves on the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) Orchid Committee as well as the RHS Advisory Sub-Committee on Orchid Hybrid Registration.



*Peter "Pete" Furniss shares his name with an Edinburgh based clarinetist and concert and recording artist! While our Pete won't be performing musically at the June meeting we are lucky to count him and his wife Gail as members of the ATLOS!*

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## THE ATLANTA ORCHID SOCIETY

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**Monthly Ribbon Judging – David Mellard**

**Newsletter – Mark Reinke**

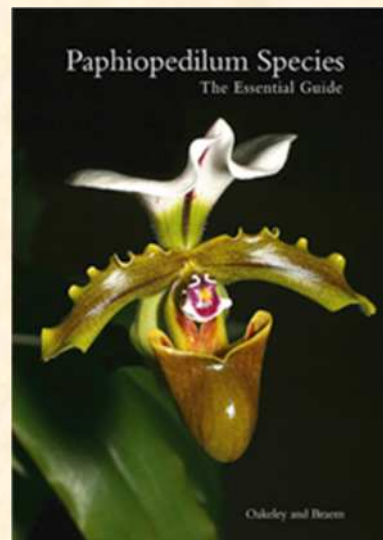
**Orchid Digest Rep – Fred Missbach**

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## Fantastic Book Opportunity!



Pete Furniss, member and speaker at our June meeting will be bringing copies of Henry Oakeley and Guido Braem's Paphiopedillum Species - The Essential Guide, a wonderful 86 page soft back 6" by 8 1/4" book that is chock full of fabulous color photographs of the species as well as details on the pictured ones. It will be \$10.00 of which \$4.00 will go to the Atlanta Orchid Society and the other \$6.00 to him to help defray the cost of the book.



A fabulous selection of blooming Phalaenopsis were offered at May's raffle table. MANY THANKS to Lynne Gollob who donated the plants!

## Events Out and About

### June

June 9 - American Orchid Society monthly judging, Atlanta Judging Center, 2 pm, ABG basement workshop.

**June 11 - Atlanta Orchid Society Monthly Meeting, ABG, Day Hall – 8 p.m.**  
**Pete Furniss - "Orchid Judging Around The World" & "AOS Into The Future"**

**Members may bring plants to sell at the June meeting.**

### July

**July 9 - Atlanta Orchid Society Monthly Meeting, ABG, Day Hall – 8 p.m.**  
**"Behind the Scenes" visit to ABG Greenhouses.**

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

### August

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

**August 13 - Atlanta Orchid Society Monthly Meeting, ABG, Day Hall – 8 p.m.**  
**Mark Reinke – "Honey, I Shrunk the Ok-Kids!"**

### September

September 08 - American Orchid Society monthly judging, Atlanta Judging Center, 2 pm, ABG basement workshop.

**September 10 - Atlanta Orchid Society Monthly Meeting, ABG, Day Hall – 8 p.m.**  
**ANNUAL FUNDRAISING PLANT AUCTION**

## President's Message

Summer is here and some of us home growers are giving our orchids the advantage to spend their time outside. The fresh air and warm weather is ideal for them and make sure that they are secure where they're located.

I also had the pleasure of again attending the Redland Orchid Festival in Homestead, FL., a couple of weeks ago with two other members of ATLOS, Greg Smith and Roy Harrow. They had lectures, demo's and beautiful display of awarded orchids. Greg was able to purchase great plants for our September auction. Thank you Greg!

We also trekked up to Signal Mountain, TN., last Saturday (6-2-12) for the IPA (International Phalaenopsis Alliance) meeting and it was an excellent presentation and lecture about phalaenopsis species and miniatures. I encourage members to try and go to the next meeting in late winter. It was very educational with awesome photos of Phal species from their country of origin.

A reminder about our July meeting which is our social, and the tour of ABG's greenhouse. We will have a silent auction that evening of plants and orchid related items. See you at the meeting!

*Geni Smith*



*Mary Booth Cabot, Barbara Dampog & Jessica Wackerman look over and look up information on the many Ecuadorian species brought by Ivan Portillo to the May meeting.*



## 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](http://www.aos.org)



*Smiles across the board at the May meeting!*



*New member Elaine Carlisle looks over the plants entered in the monthly ribbing judging.*

## Minutes of the Atlanta Orchid Society May 14, 2012 Monthly Meeting

1. Geni Smith called the meeting to order at 8:00 pm. Thirty six people were in attendance.
2. Maureen Pulignano gave a biography of Ivan Portilla and introduced the speaker.
3. Ivan Portilla of Ecuagenera spoke about "Orchids of Ecuador."
4. The treasury report was given by Clark Weisner.
5. Geni Smith announced that Lynne Gollob is available to help new members grow orchids. Lynne would prefer being emailed.
6. Geni Smith made a motion to approve last month's minutes. The motion was approved.
7. Upcoming: July's meeting will feature a tour of the Atlanta Botanical Garden's greenhouse.
8. Upcoming: In September, there will be an auction.

Respectfully submitted by  
Jessica Wackerman -Secretary



*Ivan Portilla of Ecuagenera sharing some information about one of his plants for sale with Helen Weil. He was on his way to the Redlands show, so members who attended got first pick of his great selection of Ecuadorian species.*

## **Atlanta Orchid Society Monthly Ribbon Winners May 2012**

Notes and comments by Mark Alan Reinke

Photos courtesy of Cheryl Bruce

### **Class I – Cattleya Group**



**Blue – *Rhyncolaeliocattleya* Delta King  
'Tanderglow' x *Laelia anceps* 'Déjà vu,'  
AM/AOS – Roy Harrow**

*Rlc.* Delta King is a spectacular large yellow cattleya, and presumably the originator of this cross, Cal-Orchid, Inc., was hoping for some yellow offspring with colored lips. While some siblings in the grex may indeed turn out that way, the results of *L. anceps* hybrids are typically rather variable and lavender often tends to prevail. The particular clone used in this cross is a vibrant shade of lavender. One famous example that did achieve some seedlings of the desirable warmer shades is *Lc.* Coastal Sunrise (*L. anceps* x *C.* Helen Veliz). In that cross at least one seedling, 'Lemon Chiffon' is a soft yellow with darker lip markings and another, 'Cariad's Dawn' a deeper orange. But a number of the siblings were primarily lavender. Whatever color they turn out, hybrids between *L. anceps* and more typical cattleya types have a special appeal, with strong, fairly long stems and

flowers of graceful shape and carriage. They tend to need extreme drainage and prefer basket culture to pots. Plants can be a bit rambling, so the baskets also better accommodate their growth habits as well. They are often good re-bloomers, flowering twice or more per year. Achieving fertile results when making this kind of hybrid can be challenging, and often many attempts are necessary to finally get viable seedlings to grow up and enjoy. I for one, would love to see many more of these temperature tolerant beauties!

**Red – *Cattleya* G. S. Ball – Hal Morrison**

**White – *Cattleya* Jungle Eyes – Roy Harrow**

### **Class II – Cymbidium Group**

**No Entries**

### **Class III – Dendrobium Group**



**Blue – *Dendrobium trantuanii* – Barbara Dampog**

The above spelling is the one accepted by Kew as correct for this recently described species, having been published in 2003. *Den. tuananhii*, published in 2004, is synonymous with it, but the earlier name takes priority. In both cases the species name is derived from Tran Ahn, the original Vietnamese collector who found it in the northwest part of that country, where it occurs in dryish broadleaf forests at elevations between 2500 and 3000 feet above sea level. It is a small growing species, with flattened, pseudobulbs that carry several broadly elliptical leaves, which are deciduous after one or two seasons. The flowers are produced one to rarely three per inflorescence, waxy textured, about two inches across and open wide and flat,



with lavender shading that intensifies toward the edges. The two lower sepals transition into a yellow zone at their bases, framing the small, fuzzy, reddish purple lip. The lip and associated column create the illusion that a bee is in the center of the flower, and this may attract pollinators. Though not much is written about its culture as of yet, the locations in which *Den. trantuanii* is found would indicate it to be a warm to intermediate grower, preferring bright, but filtered light, with ample water during the summer growing season, with less in winter, especially if grown in a humidity controlled environment. To date, no hybrids have been registered using this species.

**Red – *Dendrobium* “Theras Blue” – Helen Weil**

**White – *Dendrobium rigidum* – Lynne Gollob**

### ***Class IV – Epidendrum Group***



**Blue – *Encyclia parviflora* – Roy Harrow**

Kew still recognizes this orchid as a subspecies of *Encyclia alata*, though few taxonomists are inclined to agree with them. The plant and flowers have a resemblance to a reduced size version of that species, hence the name which means “small flowered.” It seems likely in time that proof will come that this charming orchid is indeed a separate species. While the overall color scheme is similar between the two species, *E. parviflora* doesn’t have the lip detail

or fragrance that is so characteristic of *E. alata*, and in all respects: plant, inflorescence and flower size, is about one third to one half smaller and these characteristics are consistent. It comes from fairly dry tropical forests along the east coast of Mexico and down to Nicaragua. This fairly large range also argues in favor of species over subspecies status. Along with most *Encyclia* and their hybrids, this orchid grows especially well in a basket filled with an open, fast draining medium, given bright diffused light and good air movement. This time of year is the big flowering season for many of the showiest and most floriferous *Encyclia* species.

**Red – *Epidendrum* Pacific Sunset – Geni Smith**

**White – *Encyclia Rioclarense* - Barbara Dampog**

### ***Class V – Oncidium Group***



**Blue – *Tolumnia Jariak* Rainbow ‘Freckle Face’ – Maureen Pulignano**

This hybrid is the eighth generation of selective breeding, primarily between two Jamaican species, *Tolu. pulchella* and *Tolu. triquetra*, with less than 5% of its genetic background derived from three other species. All *Tolumnia* are rather small growing, fan shaped plants that come from humid forests of the West Indies, some endemic to a single island, while others distributed between several. They typically grow on small trees and shrubs in areas with bright filtered light and high humidity, and are accustomed to drying off thoroughly between rains, often surviving for extended periods

primarily of dew or mist. In cultivation situations where high humidity isn't possible to be maintained at all times, they grow well in small clay pots to which a couple large chunks of charcoal or bark have been added. The genetic nature of *Tolumnia* hybrids is such that the offspring are highly variable in color and pattern, so that nearly every seedling from a specific pairing will look significantly different from its siblings. While this fact maintains a strong element of surprise when anticipating the first flowering of a cross, it also limits interest in making new hybrids since it is difficult to move breeding toward specific goals in terms of color and form.

**Red – *Cischweinfia dasyandra* – Maureen Pulignano**

**White – *Brassia rex* 'Tahoma,' AM/AOS – Nancy Newton & in memory of David Glass**

### ***Class VI – Cypripedium Group***



**Blue – *Paphiopedilum* Magic Lantern – Maureen Pulignano**

This hybrid between *Paph. delenatii* and *Paph. micranthum* was introduced in 1990, and has since received numerous awards from the American Orchid Society and other judging organizations throughout the world. There is a certain special and near universal appeal encapsulated in the color, shape and size of the flowers as they are held elegantly over dramatically mottled compact foliage. While color does vary somewhat, our blue ribbon example is fairly typical for the cross. A few

less typical results include the clone 'Opalescent' which received a Judges' Commendation for its overall opalescent white color, and 'Chasus' which has received both a Certificate of Cultural Excellence and a First Class Certificate and is described as bright raspberry red with heavy darker raspberry reticulation. Both parents of this cross prefer shaded and warm conditions, with ample humidity, and do not like to completely dry out between watering.

**Red – *Paphiopedilum Armeni White* 'Supreme,' AM/AOS – Barbara Barnett**

### ***Class VII – Phalaenopsis Group***

#### **Species**



**Blue – *Phalaenopsis corningiana* 'Fernbrook,' AM/AOS – Bob Grzesik**

This species from Borneo is infrequently seen in collections and considered difficult to grow, coming from a habitat of extremely even conditions with high humidity, plentiful rainfall and a small diurnal temperature range, roughly 70 degrees at night and 80 during the day throughout the year. It is so sensitive to variation from its normal ranges that experts recommend using water that is warmed to about 70 degrees, since colder water can result in bud blast and cellular damage. So kudos must be given to the exhibitor for successfully flowering *Phal. corningiana* without the aid of a greenhouse environment! The short, arching flower spikes produce one to three sequentially



opening flowers per season, which are star shaped and fleshy textured. They are normally white, cream or yellow, heavily overlaid with red to brown-purple bars except at the edges. The bars are typically arranged in a transverse pattern across the lower portion of the segments, changing to a longitudinal patterning near the tips. This characteristic is a distinguishing factor between this species and *Phal. sumatrana*, to which it bears a resemblance. A number of hybrids have been attempted using this species over the years, but none have become commercially successful.

**Red – *Phalaenopsis violacea* ‘Pink Blush’ – Bob Grzesik**

**White – *Phalaenopsis parishii* – Maureen Pulignano**

**Hybrids**



**Blue – *Phalaenopsis* Tzu Chiang Chrisna x *tetraspis* – Roy Harrow**

This is a very interesting cross between a white, or near white complex *Phalaenopsis* hybrid, and the curious and variable species, *Phal. tetraspis*, which usually produces white starry flowers marked by a few widely spaced transverse bars of purple across some or all of the segments. The result is very intriguing and it would be interesting to see how many of these charming flowers there are on an inflorescence of a mature plant. There is a strong fragrance with this beautiful orchid, and it should be able to continue flowering from the same inflorescence for up to several years. The majority of species in this orchid's background prefer even warm

temperatures throughout the year, strong air movement and high humidity in order to perform their best, so it would not be as adaptable to household conditions as the typical mass produced hybrids.

**Red – *Phalaenopsis* Princess Kaiulani – Bob Grzesik**

**White – *Phalaenopsis* I-Hsin Salmon ‘Joy No. 3’ – Bob Grzesik**

## **Class VIII – Vandaceous Group**



**Blue – *Renanthera imschootiana* – Nancy Newton & in memory of David Glass**

While *Renanthera* require very bright conditions just short of full sun to flower regularly and profusely, they do not require year round warmth like most of their *Vanda* cousins, and in fact, *Ren. imschootiana* needs a cool, drier rest in winter in order to induce proper flowering. The plant exhibited illustrates the many flowered, branched inflorescence that will result from proper growing conditions. During the growing season it prefers warmth and frequent watering and feeding, but from December to February should be kept rather dry with only occasional misting or light watering adequate enough to



prevent signs of stress. Winter nights should be in the 40's to 50's. Good air movement is important at all times to prevent fungal diseases with this, and all *Renanthera* species. Many interesting and some rather unusual hybrids have been made over the years between this species and other orchids in the Vandaceous family.

**Red – *Ascocenda Fulford's Gold* 'Mary Motes,' AM/AOS – Maureen Pulignano**

**White – *Vascostylis Pine Rivers* – Maureen Pulignano**

### ***Class IX – Miscellaneous***



**Blue – *Dracula ripleyana* – Maureen Pulignano**

Not a great deal is written about this species first described in 1979, other than the fact that it is native to Costa Rica and named in honor of the late Harold Ripley of San Francisco, who cultivated it. Even the location in Costa Rica where it was originally collected appears unknown, but presumably, given the typical cultivation requirements of *Dracula ssp.*, it was from a cloud forest environment where temperatures are relatively cool for the tropics. In our hot summers that usually means evaporative cooling or misting of some sort is required to keep plants healthy, combined with good air movement and moderate shade. Like most other members of the genus, *Drac. ripleyana* will produce persistent arching to pendant inflorescences that bear a single flower at a time over a long period. The genus name is derived not from the horror character created by Irish author Bram Stoker, but from the

resemblance of the flowers with their long tails to an open dragon's mouth in miniature.

**Red – *Maxillaria tenuifolia* – Lynne Gollob**

**White – *Cyclopogon lindleyanum* 'Silver Screen,' CHM/AOS – Maureen Pulignano**

#### **Join the Atlanta 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](http://www.atlantaorchidsociety.org)

For directions to the Atlanta Botanical Garden, please visit their web site at [www.atlantabotanicalgarden.org](http://www.atlantabotanicalgarden.org) or contact one of our society's officers listed on page 2.

#### **Membership Contest**

The contest runs from date of announcement to June 30, 2012. Each current member is encouraged to bring in at least one new member. ***A \$10.00 credit at the Society's auction in September will be awarded to the current member for each newly recruited member.***



*Another view of the specimen E. parviflora brought in by Roy Harrow to the May meeting.*

## GROWING TIPS for May

By Courtney T. Hackney

Email: Hackneau@comcast.net



Once again, I find that I have misjudged how quickly my orchids are drying out. The humidity has been low for the past few months with lots of bright sunny days, but it still surprises me how quickly pots dry each year when these conditions persist. This year, the wakeup call occurred when I began to repot cattleyas from a crowded bench. Despite watering earlier that morning, some of the pots were very dry. Clearly, I was not getting water into the interior of the bench. No matter what the time of year, it is important to thoroughly drench your orchids each time you water. The more plants you have, the more difficult this can be.

Many years ago, an old-time commercial grower demonstrated how his growers were instructed to water. It seemed silly at the time, but his method of watering at a sharp angle really does work. When cattleyas are placed on a bench and allowed to grow, their leaves will cover the surface above the pot to maximize light capture. Watering directly onto these plants from above allows water to flow around the pot and not wash through the medium. A good drenching means that the water flows generously through the pot. Watering at an angle can accomplish such a drench and soak the medium. Soaking the medium is necessary if you are going to deliver adequate water to roots.

Some growers have a formula they use to decide when it is time to water, which takes into account temperature, light, air movement and especially humidity.

Watering at night or late afternoon is strongly discouraged in most "how to" books. However, this is what happens in Nature and is practiced by many commercial growers, especially in the tropics. It also works for me here in Florida if I can meet the following criteria.

The daily humidity is relatively low, my greenhouse is open with great air movement, and night temperature is above 60 F. I water late afternoon and plants are still wet in the morning when I water again with a dilute dose of fertilizer. As soon as I began the practice this spring my orchids immediately perked up. Once humidity gets high again, usually in May or early June, the rate of drying declines and I begin the normal early morning soaking practice. When humidity is high and air movement low do not water at night.

Obviously, if other media are being used, e.g. sphagnum, it is relatively easy to wet your medium. While it is easy to wet sphagnum, some media that hold water well most of the year may be hard to wet. Media (and soil too) become hydrophobic if they are dry too long under low humidity. Fir bark is vulnerable, especially if a white mold appears on the surface. Once this appears, it becomes almost impossible to adequately wet the bark and repotting is necessary.

My experiments using sphagnum showed me that tightly packing sphagnum in the pot worked best for that medium, at least under my growing conditions. If packed properly, water will actually sit on the surface and only slowly drain through the medium. If you are growing in sphagnum, which is a common medium for pot plants, be sure you flush the pot at least once a month or high levels of salts will accumulate. This may require two passes through the greenhouse or in your sink.

Air conditioning has or will become necessary throughout the South soon. If you grow inside under lights or in a window, you will experience what those of us growing in a greenhouse have been experiencing, low humidity and rapid drying of pots and plants.

If there are spikes with a few flowers left on your phals, consider cutting the spikes off. First bloomed orchids will appreciate this and start their growth cycle earlier if you remove remaining flowers.

You should already be applying fertilizer so that increased light levels can be converted into more roots and leaves by your orchids. Remember, fertilize weakly weekly, using just ¼ the recommended fertilizer concentration. This remains one of the hardest things for most new orchid hobbyists. If you are using Nutricote, also known as Dynamite, no additional fertilizing is necessary, but continue to flush once a month.



## 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 photographs are © Maureen Pulignano*



*Bulbophyllum Tsiku Taurus 'Swamprad,'*  
CCM/AOS  
Exhibited by Dr. Mark Mills



*Cattleya purpurata f. striata 'Eyecatcher,'*  
AM/AOS  
Exhibited by Fred Missbach



*Bulbophyllum Tsiku Taurus 'Swamprad,'*  
CCM/AOS  
Exhibited by Dr. Mark Mills

### IN BLOOM AT MARBLE BRANCH FARMS



*Bro. sanguinea 'Star Splash' x Mep. humboldtii*