



# 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

May, 2012

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

Volume 53: Number 5

**CELEBRATING 65 YEARS 1947-2012**

## APRIL MONTHLY MEETING

8:00 pm Monday, May 14, 2012  
Atlanta Botanical Garden, Day Hall

**SPEAKER: Ivan Portilla, Ecuagenera**

**TOPIC: "Orchids of Ecuador"**

Ivan is the owner of Ecuagenera, grower and exporter of South American orchids. Located in Cuenca, Ecuador at 8,200 feet above sea level, their growing operation includes one of the largest selections of orchids available - including many cool-growing species. Their reserves consist of two huge tracts of high mountain jungle, one somewhat lower in elevation than the other - offering two distinctly different growing habitats. Their efforts with in situ orchid conservation has also blossomed into an eco-tourist business.

Ivan Portilla was born April 16, 1969, in a small town called Bomboiza at Amazon base in the southern part of Ecuador. He has been growing orchids for about 15 years and is in charge of doing the international orchid shows and propagation at the nursery.



*Cattleya maxima* forma *semi-alba* is a rare color variant of a native Ecuadorian species. Ecuagenera offers many select clones of *C. maxima*.



### In this issue....

Page	
2	ATLOS Volunteer Listing <b>Greengrowers Visit Announcement</b>
3	Events Calendar President's Message
4	Minutes from the March Meeting Deep South Orchid Society show exhibit
5-11	March 2012 Ribbon Winners and Notes
11-12	Growing Tips for April by Courtney Hackney
12	Heart of Dixie Orchid Society show exhibit
13	AOS Award Photos

## THE ATLANTA ORCHID SOCIETY

Officers**President****Geni Smith** 678-817-1915**Vice-President/Programs****Maureen Pulignano** 404-402-5897**Secretary****Jessica Wackerman** 678-521-1869**Treasurer****Clark Weisner** 404-881-8615  
1130 Piedmont Ave #707  
Atlanta, GA 30309**Immediate Past President****Greg Smith** 770-765-6170Trustees**Barbara Barnett** 706-579-2670**David Mellard** 404-310-9899**Laurel Burrows****Hal Morrison** 678-297-2705**Terry Glover** 678-705-7387**Lynne Gollob** 770-704-6432Other Volunteers**AOS Rep – Maureen Pulignano****Greengrowers – Maureen Pulignano****Librarian – Ken Ramborger****MAOC Rep – Doug Hartong****Meeting Hospitality – Cora Bell Ramborger****Membership Chair – Jessica Wackerman****Mentoring Coordinator– Laurel Burrows****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 – Keith Coleman****Greengrowers Visit – please R.S.V.P!****Marble Branch Farms,  
home of Gary Collier and Mark Reinke  
155 Marble Branch Trail  
Walhalla, SC 29691****(864)718-0152 – *Please R.S.V.P.*  
Saturday, May 5<sup>th</sup>, Starting at 12:00 noon***Just a small portion of the bog garden waking up for the spring!*

Marble Branch Farms is a small commercial orchid nursery specializing in miniature & compact Cattleya Alliance hybrids and species, and introducing many unique hybrids created on site. The greenhouse features several innovative systems including rainwater collection and storage, and a combination of solar heating and wood heating. *There will be many plants for sale at a discount, including items not found on their website:* [www.marblebranchfarms.com](http://www.marblebranchfarms.com).

The grounds around the house and greenhouse feature many native wildflowers, hybrid daylilies, a meadow garden, cottage gardens and **a large carnivorous plant bog (see photo).**

**A picnic pot-luck lunch will be served featuring, Abed's famous Arabian Rooster Fried Chicken from the Steakhouse Cafeteria in Walhalla! A \$2 donation per person is requested to help defray the cost of the chicken, & bring a side dish or dessert of your choice to add to the festivities. If you plan to attend please let Mark & Gary know at (864) 718-0152 or [info@marblebranchfarms.com](mailto:info@marblebranchfarms.com).**

Detailed directions will be sent out by request, please contact Mark Reinke at [markreinke@att.net](mailto:markreinke@att.net) and he will promptly send them to you!



## Events Out and About

### May

**May 5 – Greengrowers visit to Marble Branch Farms, Walhalla, SC. 12:00 noon to 4 pm. *Please R.S.V.P. if you plan to attend – see details on page 3.***

May 12 - American Orchid Society monthly judging, Atlanta Judging Center, 2 pm, ABG basement workshop.

**May 14 - Atlanta Orchid Society Monthly Meeting, ABG, Day Hall – 8 p.m.  
Ivan Portilla – Ecuagenera  
“Native Orchids of Ecuador”**

### 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"**

### 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.**

## President's Message

I have served as president now for several months and, would like to mention that my apprehension is slowly fading away. The members' enthusiasm and support - especially the attendance at monthly meetings - have been tremendous and much appreciated. It shows that we are all serious orchid growers and the speakers that we've had are impressed with the numbers of members present.

We took second place at the Savannah show for our exhibit and Nancy Newton got an AOS award for her beautifully grown orchid. *Sedirea japonica* 'Memoria David Glass' AM/AOS. Congratulations ! We also participated in the Huntsville show at which David Mellard did an educational exhibit and took second place. The next show will be in September at the Birmingham Botanical Garden. I encourage members to start thinking about grooming plants for the show. It's never too early to do so.

*Geni Smith*



*Members look over the many unusual species that Troy Meyers brought for silent auction at the April 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)



*Geni Smith did a fantastic job installing the club exhibit at the Deep South Orchid Society show in Savannah. Nancy Newton received an AM/AOS, a trophy & rosette, 2 blue ribbons & 3 reds. Maureen Pulignano got a blue ribbon & 3 whites. Geni Smith, one red & 2 whites and Barbara Barnett a red. Congratulations!*

## Minutes of the Atlanta Orchid Society April 9, 2012 Monthly Meeting

1. Geni Smith called the meeting to order at 8:00 pm. Fifty three people were present.
2. Membership payments are due. The newsletters will no longer be sent to anyone who has not renewed.
3. Maureen Pulignano introduced the speaker.
4. Troy Meyers of Meyer's Conservatory spoke about **"Orchid Propagation for Conservation"**.
5. The treasury report was given by Clark Weisner.
6. Geni Smith announced that Lynne Gollob is available to help new members grow orchids.
7. Geni Smith announced that Marble Branch Farms Greengrowers Visit is scheduled for May 5th.
8. Maureen Pulignano reminded all members to pre-order for next month. The speaker will be Ivan Portilla.

*Jessica Wackerman - Secretary*



*Troy Meyers speaks about helping to conserve orchid species through propagation at the April monthly meeting.*



## Atlanta Orchid Society Monthly Ribbon Winners April 2012

Notes and comments by Mark Alan Reinke

Photos courtesy of Cheryl Bruce

### Class I – *Cattleya* Group



**Blue – *Cattleya jongheana* – David Johnston**

This very rare and showy Brazilian species is named after the orchid nursery of M. de Jonghe, of Brussels, where it was first grown in the 1870's. It is native to a very restricted area on the east slopes of Pico do Intambé in a remote part of the state of Minas Gerais. There it is found growing on trees situated in deep ravines where there is some nightly dew and fog to carry the plants through the long and pronounced dry season that lasts most of fall and winter. While inside the tropics, the elevation of the area means that nights range between 50 and 60 degrees Fahrenheit and days stay generally in the upper 60's to mid-70's year round. This makes this species somewhat challenging to grow well in our climate with its hot, sultry summers without taken extra care to provide for its needs. The reward is the truly fabulous, large, long lasting flowers that can exceed the size of the plant itself. They typically come at the end of winter and are bright, rich orchid lavender with a very showy tubular lip highlighted by a deep yellow throat and various white and lavender markings. Well grown examples receiving cultural awards have displayed from several dozen to more than one

hundred flowers open at once! Most growers who succeed with this species recommend baskets or small pots filled with an open, fast draining medium, or mounting plants on tree fern or cork slabs if controlled humidity is possible. It needs frequent, often daily watering from May until September, with somewhat less after then until late fall, after which just enough to keep the plants from shriveling should be provided until new growth commences the following spring. Bright to very bright light, with vigorous air movement, and the use of evaporative cooling to keep the plants cooler in our hot summers will result in the most success. While enchanting on its own, this species has led to few, if any, commercially successful hybrids. Though there are at least 47 registered crosses dating back as far as 1892, just a handful date from more recent times, and those mostly at the hands of amateur breeders. Yet, the potential certainly seems there, to use it in combination with modern miniature hybrids to increase flower size and produce good flat form as well as interesting and beautiful lip shapes and colors.

**Red – *Leptotes bicolor* – David Mellard & Sal Marino**

**White – *Cattleya Dale Ott* – David Johnston**

### Class II – *Cymbidium* Group



**Blue – *Cymbidium* Chen's Ruby 'Golden Tiger' – Ken & Cora Ramborger**

This showy yellow *Cymbidium* is a relatively recent introduction that combines *Cym.* Golden Elf with a rather infrequently used species, *Cym. Iridioides*. The result is a rich golden yellow flower with striking red lip markings, on a "semi-compact" plant. Available images show that this hybrid has a floriferous nature and can produce specimens with many spikes in a relatively few short years. Because its background includes one-fourth *Cym. ensifolium*, it may be more tolerant of warm nights than most cymbidiums. Use a deep pot and a fast draining, but moisture retentive media to accommodate the large fleshy roots of this terrestrial orchid, with regular full strength feeding during the growing season to promote the robust development needed for spectacular blooming. Bright dappled or slightly diffused sunlight is best.

### **Class III – Dendrobium Group**



**Blue – *Dendrobium unicum* – Laurel Burrows**

The "unique" Dendrobium is so called because the flowers are unusual in being displayed in a nonresupinate (lip-upwards) manner. This lightly colored lip with deeper veins is offset by bright orange sepals and petals, which typically recurve and twist away from it. A well grown plant can be almost obscured by the profusion of blooms, which smell something like orange blossoms mixed with Crayola crayons. For this type of Dendrobium, the flowers are fairly long

lasting, often staying in good condition for up to a month. Not everyone finds this species easy to grow, however. It comes from northern Thailand, Laos and Viet Nam where it occurs on rocks and scrub in areas that receive copious rainfall and high humidity in summer, with less rain, but lots of fog and dew in fall and winter, then a very dry two month period in early spring, which typically induces flowering. Days in this area are fairly warm year round, and winter nights are in the 50's, so a cool down at that time is beneficial. In controlled humidity the best way to grow this species is mounted, with daily watering in summer, less in fall and just enough to keep the plants from shriveling in the months of March and April. Color, size and form can vary, so it is a good idea to purchase a plant in bloom if you care about the specific qualities of the flowers. A few interesting hybrids, that are somewhat easier to grow, have descended from this species including Den. Pixie Charm and Den. Yellow Chinsai. Both require little in the way of a rest period to flower well.

**Red – *Dendrobium thyrsiflorum* – Nancy Newton & in memory of David Glass**

**White – *Dendrobium Pam Tajima* – Cheryl Bruce**

### **Class IV – Epidendrum Group**



**Blue – *Epidendrum purum* – David Johnston**

This species was described in 1844, but it still uncommon in collections and without much information in the literature. On orchidspecies.com, Jay Pfal writes: "This medium sized, reedstem epiphytic species from Venezuela, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and

Bolivia is found at elevations of 500 to 2800 meters with terete, slightly swollen in the middle stems enveloped completely by tubular, scarious below to leaf bearing above sheaths carrying, narrowly linear, thin, erect, light green, acute leaves that blooms on a terminal, erect, few to several flowered, racemose inflorescence with fragrant flowers occurring in the fall and winter. The stems are somewhat thickened toward the middle, without forming pseudobulbs. Cool to warm conditions and water throughout the year, but reduce the watering after growth has mature." The scent of the pure white flowers is supposed to be similar to peppermint. Its floriferous nature and uncommon color seem perfect for use in hybridization, but so far none have been registered using it. A plant exhibited by Gabriel Sucre at the orchid show for the state of Miranda, Venezuela held in Caracas in 1999 received an uncommonly high score of 96 points when it was granted a cultural award with approximately 19,200 flowers on 384 inflorescences!

**Red – *Procyclus* Little Nuggets  
'Mendenhall,' HCC/AOS – Laurel Burrows**

**White – *Encyclia atropurpurea* - David Johnston**

## ***Class V – Oncidium Group***



## **Blue – *Trichocentrum ascendens* – Barbara Baines**

This plant is mis-labeled as *Oncidium* (*Trichocentrum*) *jonesianum*. Out of bloom, that species, plus *Trt. cebolleta*, and *Trt. ascendens* are quite difficult to tell apart, all displaying terete leaves topping a very small pseudobulb. It is a shame it is not the species entered as that one has the largest and showiest flowers of the group. But of the three, these blooms most closely match *Trt. ascendens*. It is a widespread orchid, growing in Mexico, Central America and the West Indies. We observed it growing and blooming in a patch of coastal forest adjacent to a large resort development facing the Caribbean on the Mayan Riviera. Despite its tough appearance, the locations it is found in reveal that it prefers rather high humidity, along with warm to intermediate temperatures and fairly bright light. It is easier to accommodate the growth habit when mounted, but the plant will need frequent watering when actively growing. In most of the areas it grows in, there is much less rainfall in winter, but humidity remains high and frequent dew is available, so plants should not be kept bone dry during that time. There are no registered hybrids derived from this species at the present time.

## **Red – *Brassia rex* – Roy Harrow**

**White – unknown, possibly a pleurothallid – Lynne Gollob.**



This unusual miniature orchid came from Steve Arthur and as mislabeled as an *Encyclia* ssp. It could possibly be some sort of pleurothallid, but as the due date on the newsletter, was still unknown.



## Class VI – *Cypripedium* Group



**Blue – *Phragmipedium* Memoria Dick Clements ‘Orchidbabies’ – Lynne Gollob**

Please see last month’s newsletter for notes about *Phrag. Memoria Dick Clements*.



The April judging team consisted of David Mellard, Marianne Gilmore and Barbara Barnett. When the judges begin their work, please take your seats so that they can finish quickly and help avoid having the meetings run overtime!



*Cyp. acaule* at Marble Branch Farms

### **Red – *Cypripedium acaule* – Ken & Cora Ramborger**

While *Cyp. acaule*, the Pink Ladyslipper Orchid is more common and occurs in greater numbers, *Cyp. parviflorum*, the Yellow Ladyslipper Orchid, if not split into two species, actually has a larger range in terms of the widespread locations in which it is found. Still the range of the pink species extends from the Northwest Territories in Canada to central Alabama, Georgia and South Carolina. Both Georgia and Tennessee include it on their list of rare species that could be threatened in the future. Interestingly, in the northern part of its range, the Pink Ladyslipper is most often found in boggy conditions where sphagnum moss grows, and often in the company of the Northern Purple Pitcher Plant (*Sarracenia purpurea* ssp. *purpurea*). My partner and I observed it in such conditions on the top of open boggy plateaus in Cape Breton Highlands National Park in Nova Scotia, where it was also accompanied by the rare Bog Rose orchid, *Arethusa bulbosa*. However, here in the southern part of its range, it grows more frequently in dry, acidic pinewoods or mixed hardwood forests. It is considered close to impossible to successfully transplant this species from the wild due to its reliance on mycorrhizal fungi on its roots for proper nutrient intake. When moved, plants slowly decline over



several years before dying completely. However, in recent years several nurseries have perfected the technique for growing this species from seed in vitro. These plants of cultivated origin grow to flowering size quicker and are easier to establish, with proper care to site and soil preparation, in a woodland garden setting. However, there are now numerous more easily grown hybrids available between the Yellow Ladyslipper and temperate species from both Europe and Asia that make much more satisfactory woodland garden plants, and should be tried first before one attempts this species, if it doesn't already grow wild on your property.

**White – *Paphiopedium philippinense* – Ellen Brand**

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



**Blue – *Phalaenopsis* Yin's Green Jewel 'L' – Jarad Wilson**

This unusually colored orchid was registered by Mr. Gwo-Horng Yin, of Taiwan, who introduced five new *phalaenopsis* hybrids in 2007 and seven in 2009, but none since, at least not under his own name. This cross shows a deft hand, so perhaps he is now working for one of the large Taiwanese firms specializing in cutting edge *Phalaenopsis* breeding. It has received a couple of trophies and a bronze medal at exhibitions in that country. All four of the species involved as parents in this orchid are shady and warm growers that produce persistent inflorescences with a only few blooms open at a time, but continuing to flower over several years so that a

well cared for, older plant, can be very showy. Because of the nature of these lowland species, *Phal.* Yin's Green Jewel will produce better results in controlled humidity in the 60% to 70% range.

**Red – *Doritaenopsis* Kun Nun Honey Peach 'Fieldcrest' – Heidi Landau**

**White – *Doritaenopsis* OX Honey – Geni Smith**

### **Class VIII – *Vandaceae* Group**



**Blue – *Ascocenda* Motes Burning Sands 'Mary Motes' – Nancy Newton & in memory of David Glass**

This 1994 introduction by Motes Orchids, while only one-eighth *Ascocenda miniatum*, continues to show that species in its background color and general presentation. The coalesced spotting on the lower segments is courtesy of *V. sanderiana*, while very little seems to indicate that its immediate pod parent is *V. lamellata*, except perhaps in the way the dots on the upper segments are concentrated in loose bands. Motes is fond of using this particular species in its breeding program. In the case of *Ascda*.

Motes Burning Sands, despite a very attractive outcome that earned the cross three flower quality awards, no further breeding has even been done with it. Perhaps this orchid is a reluctant parent since it seems unlikely no one has made attempts with it. All the species in its background are high light, warmth loving orchids, so grow it with typical "vanda" culture.

**Red – Ascocenda Peggy Foo 'Pink' – Barbara Dampog**

**White – *Renanthera monachica* – Nancy Newton & in memory of David Glass**

### **Class IX – Miscellaneous**



**Blue – *Arpophyllum giganteum* – Cora & Ken Ramborger**

*Arpophyllum* is an unusual genus of *Cattleya* relatives with five species, all occurring in Mexico, and some extending into nearby areas as well. The genus name refers to the sickle or scimitar shape to the leaves. *Arpo. giganteum*, as its specific name implies, is the largest growing species. It is also the most common, having a wide distribution in both upper and lower cloud forests in Mexico's two main

mountain ranges as well as the central plateau, and a range that extends through Central America to Colombia and even onto the island of Jamaica. A specimen plant in bloom is very impressive, with many ascendant spikes each bearing up to a hundred (my guess) or more closely spaced rose purple flowers that are nonresupinate. They open sequentially from the bottom of the inflorescence, and there is normally only a few days to a week when all blooms are in perfect condition, after which the first to open being to fade. Although considered to be related to *Cattleya*, there are no known intergeneric hybrids, and *Arpophyllum* are sufficiently unique that the Mid-America Orchid Conference includes them in the miscellaneous category for judging, so this plant was properly entered. Give this orchid bright, somewhat diffused light, strong air movement and excellent drainage, with plentiful water during the growing season and somewhat less during the winter. Plants seem to save their energy and bloom profusely every few years rather than putting on a reliable annual show.

**Red – *Lycaste tricolor* – David Mellard & Sal Marino**



**White – *Pleione pleionoides* – David Mellard & Sal Marino**

*This species, rarely seen in flower in Atlanta, was worth learning more about, so I asked David Mellard to explain how he grows it:*

"Pleione are alpine plants from the Himalayas and are somewhat difficult to grow in the southeastern US because of our warm summers. They are probably best grown under lights in an air-conditioned space. David grows his in a raised bog (Holman bog) outside in shade. The constant evaporation of moisture



from the bog keeps the roots cool enough for the plants to thrive. The mix is highly inorganic and consists of Turface, perlite, and Soil Perfector. To these inorganic components, tree fern roots and some sphagnum moss is added. The bulbs are partially buried in this mix and are surrounded by forest moss. Plants are watered mostly with rainwater with an occasional feed with MSU RO fertilizer at about 100 ppm nitrogen. Come fall, the bog is covered to dry out and to induce dormancy. Once the leaves have yellowed, the bulbs are removed, air dried for a few days, then placed in zip lock bags in a refrigerator set at 40 F. Come Spring, the bulbs are placed back into the bog once the chance of freezing nights is past. As the bulbs flower, new roots are produced and the cycle begins again."

### 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.**

## GROWING TIPS for May

By Courtney T. Hackney

Email: Hackneau@comcast.net



**P**aphs and phrags are largely terrestrial plants, which require more constant moisture. They have roots that do not have the hard protective covering found on epiphytes. Let these orchids sit bare-root for any length of time and the roots dry up and die. You can imagine my surprise when an experiment with a paph planted in lava rock yielded fantastic growth and flowers. Admittedly, the experiment was initially done because I am lazy and did not want to repot my paphs every year. Most paphs are grown in some kind of bark mix that holds more moisture, which is ideal for their fine roots. As terrestrial plants, they do not need roots that will survive the drying that epiphytes experience. Unlike some orchid groups, paphs and phrags can grow very fast under the right conditions, i.e. good light and nutrients.

Most expert paph growers repot these orchids at least annually, but there are ways of extending the time between repotting besides growing them in some rock mixture. If your paphs are potted in an organic mix, a simple approach that will extend the time between repotting is to spray a fine jet of water into the top of each pot to wash away the fine products of decay. Often, what are left are larger particles of bark, perlite and charcoal. Once all of the fine material is washed out, add some additional bark on the top and dress with pelletized dolomite lime on the surface to raise the pH of the medium. If the paph just falls from the pot at this time, it needed repotting anyway.

It is the acidity that comes from decomposing bark that causes problems for paphs and phrags. The slow release type of dolomite lime lasts longer, but needs to be added every month or so depending on the pH of your water. Most paph species naturally grow in limestone outcrops or soils derived from limestone, so the addition of the extra calcium

and magnesium found in dolomite lime is beneficial to the paph as well as a pH buffer.

Being basically lazy, my approach is to avoid organic media and use lava rock. Lava rock holds water and grows paphs and even phrags well as long as adequate fertilizer is applied. I put larger lava rocks in the bottom of the pot, ½-1" and smaller ones on top, depending on the pot size. My large paphs are in 6" deep plastic pots where 1-2" lava rock goes on the bottom. Even here in Florida where water is very basic, it is necessary to add dolomite lime. If you use an organic medium, follow the same procedure, except use plastic peanuts for drainage at the bottom and be aware that organic media can sour quickly. The only modification I have made since I began using lava rock 8 or 9 years ago is the addition of 10% or so of lime rock to the lava rock. I try to match the size of the lava rock when I add lime rock.

The only issue that results from growing large paphs in lava rock is that old growths and their roots eventually decay, producing the acid conditions around roots that can cause problems. Sometimes, a sterile cutting tool can be used to simply cut the old growth from new growths. If done when the orchid is wet the old roots will come out with the old growth, removing a source of decaying organic matter. A jet of water directed at the hole where the old growth was removed will get most of the decaying roots out. I also put a teaspoon of dolomite lime in the hole and cover it with new lava rock.

The only other issue so far with lava rock medium is the plant pushing up and out of the pot. As new roots fill the pot they seem to push the whole plant out and up. It does make it easy to move the whole plant, roots rocks and all into a new pot, but my goal is to not repot.

### Atlanta Orchid Society Exhibit and the Heart of Dixie Orchid Society Show 2012



*Photo courtesy of Jim Wilson*

At the Heart of Dixie Orchid Show in Huntsville, Alabama (April 28/29), David Mellard put in an educational exhibit about orchid names. The exhibit received a 2nd place ribbon and garnered a lot of interest from orchid society members as it also provided a handout of the educational materials. The material explained species, hybrid, cultivar, and trade names and how to properly write them. Thanks go to David and Maureen Pulignano for providing plants and to Greg Smith for bringing the exhibit home.



## 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***



*Paphiopedilum* Bel Royal 'Robin's Love,' AM/AOS  
Exhibited by David Kessler



*Paphiopedilum emersonii*  
'Robin's Peaches & Cream,' AM/AOS  
Exhibited by Rick Lockwood



*Phragmipedium* Cahaba Moonrise  
'Sunset Beach' AM/AOS  
Exhibited by David Kessler

### In Bloom at Marble Branch Farms



*Epicattleya* Cathy Meincer 'MBF'  
(*Epi. stamfordianum* v. *album* x *C. Angelwaker*)