



# 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: Margie Kersey

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

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## FEBRUARY MEETING

### The Monthly Meeting:

**Topic:** How NOT to Grow Phals

**Speaker:** Russ Vernon

**New Vision Orchids**

**8:00 pm Monday, February 11**

**Atlanta Botanical Garden, Day Hall**

Harry Russell Vernon, best known as Russ, operates a state-of-the-art greenhouse range located off Ind. 32 west of Yorktown, Indiana. His favorite orchids (if any can be claimed over the others) are Phalaenopsis.

Russ was born in Cleveland, Ohio. He had an early interest in plants, starting at age 5 growing cacti and was introduced to orchids by his uncle at age 12. Soon after, he became a member of the American Orchid Society and has been a member for over 40 years. He started growing orchids in a south window and under lights and built his first greenhouse when he was 18.

Russ is a graduate of Ohio State University, with a degree in horticulture and served in the Army and Army Reserve for 8 years, leaving service as a Captain. He has worked for Hausermann's Orchids, the Wheeler Orchid Collection and Species Bank at Ball State University, A&P Orchids and Jim Davis, the creator of Garfield the Cat. Russ is an accredited judge in the American Orchid Society, and is the First Vice-president of the International Phalaenopsis Alliance and the Mid America Orchid Congress. Three years ago, he and his wife Anita started New Vision Orchids. They have two daughters Zina and Lizan.



## Not Again!!

Alright, this is the LAST time we are going to talk about tessellation. Again it was wrong. Here is the correct spelling. Seriously...

**Tessellation** (tess-sel-LAY-shun) -- The checkered patterns found on some orchid flowers as in This lovely Vanda from RF Orchids in Homestead, Florida



V. Sansai Blue 'Acker's Pride' FCC/AOS  
(V. Crimson Glory X V. coerulea)



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## Atlanta Orchid Society Meeting Minutes January 14th, 2008

The Atlanta Orchid Society Meeting was brought to order by President Jeff Whitfield. Visitors were welcomed and introduced. The minutes from the last meeting were approved as printed in the newsletter.

Day passes to the upcoming World Orchid Congress in Miami are still available. Contact Jeff Whitfield if you are interested.

2008 memberships are now due. Cost is \$30 for an individual and \$45 for a family.

Quarterly ribbon judging winners for 2007 were announced. They were David Kessler, David Mellard, Cora Ramborger, and Mark Reinke.

A representative from the Southeastern Flower Show spoke and encouraged members to register orchids for the flower show. Roy Harrow is the society's contact person.

Geni Smith was recognized for the recent HCC award that one of her orchids received.

Members were reminded that American Orchid Society judging occurs the second Saturday of each month.

The treasurer's report said that the current balance is \$9788.13.

The speaker was last year's president, Mark Reinke. Mark gave an informative talk on the history of miniature cattleyas.

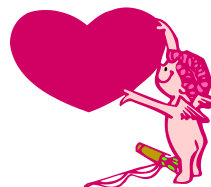
Our thanks to the orchid judges: David Mellard, James Van Horne, David Kessler, and Jeffrey Wolf.

Our thanks to those who donated plants to the raffle table: Reba Herzfeld, and others.

Our thanks to those who donated refreshments: Helen Weil, Lynne Gollob, Heidi Landau, Gary Collier, and others.

The meeting was adjourned.

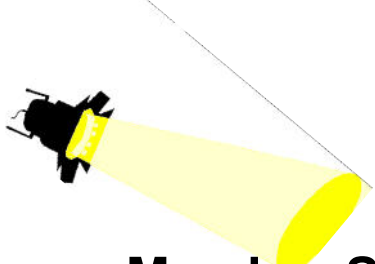
Respectfully submitted,  
Carl Quattlebaum



### 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, or contact the society's Treasurer (see page 2) for a membership application.

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.



## **Member Spotlight**

### **Maureen Pulignano**

I grew up in Southern California, where my mother nurtured a few orchids along with the ferns and other tropicals she treasured. My love of all plants and flowers came from her, as well as a bit of a green thumb. Transplanted to South Florida in 1975, I bought my first few orchids from a small garden shop - a shop with a large, hand-lettered sign saying, "Lawn Mowers Sharpened" - on South Dixie Highway.

One of the plants I bought that day more than thirty years ago lives and is blooming today in my greenhouse. I certainly cannot take credit for that; although, the "Dendrobium that could" is clearly responsible for sparking my never-ending fascination with all orchids.

In hindsight, growing appropriate genera in South Florida seemed to be more a matter of getting out of the way than meticulous cultivation and this suited me well since, by nature, I am more intuitive than scientific. For more than twenty years the fairly small collection did well under the trees, either in hanging pots or tied directly to the limbs. When I retired in the late '90s we built the slat house of my dreams. It took very little time for me to fill the structure and get more disciplined in my care for an increasingly diversified collection that approached 1,000 plants. Just as quickly as the slat house filled, I learned that far more issues arise in crowds!

Yet, the ongoing battles I waged in Florida against thrips, snails and giant grasshoppers pale in comparison to the learning curve that awaited me in 2005 when I arrived in Atlanta. Greenhouse construction, heating and cooling, ventilation, irrigation, misting, fogging all became part of my required reading list. Thanks to the advice and direction I have received from the Atlanta Orchid Society and many individual members, I am getting more comfortable with the controlled environment, but there is still much more for me to learn.



There are also some great rewards like blooming my first *Masdevallia* and *Dracula* and *Stanhopea* and *Miltonia* and... oh, there are many, many more I have yet to try!

My increasingly diverse collection and the advent of digital cameras led me back to another long-time fascination - photography. I believe there is nothing quite like the way light plays with an orchid and, other than family, orchids have clearly become my favorite photo subjects. One genus that has long attracted my grower's eye and my lens is *Galeandra*. I have just learned that the print of my *Galeandra batemanii* was awarded a second place ribbon at the World Orchid Conference! Until last year I worked only with my own collection. Now I am a photographer for AOS awards at the Atlanta Judging Center and my portfolio has expanded with a wonderful variety of beautifully presented flowers.



*Galeandra batemanii*

January 22, 2008

2nd Place Ribbon - Photography Competition,  
19th World Orchid Conference - Miami, Florida



## Remarks on the Natural History of Orchids Part 2 of many Billy Frye

*Editor's note: The first installment appeared in the December 2007 newsletter.*

I'll turn next to another obvious but basic question: "What is an orchid?" Some understanding of this is necessary in order to make any sense of the other questions that I will discuss. I'll begin this with a bit of historical and botanical context.

Not very long ago, orchids were so uncommon that most of us would not have recognized more than one or two varieties of orchids with any certainty. Much less could we have answered the question in a way that would enable anyone to distinguish an orchid from other kinds of flowering plants. Today, due to the development of remarkable new ways of propagating orchids and selling them inexpensively, orchids are much more widely accessible. But it is probably still the case that most of us could not answer the question with enough precision to be useful. I'll try to remedy this deficiency in the next few minutes.

Orchids comprise the largest and most varied, as well as evolutionarily the youngest and most advanced family of flowering plants, the **orchidaceae**. The exact number of species in the family is not known with certainty, but by most estimates there are between 25,000 and 30,000 different species (i.e., reproducing types) of wild orchids. Besides that, on the order of 100,000 distinct hybrids have been registered with the international orchid societies, and new wild species are still being discovered with some regularity. By way of comparison, the next largest families of flowering plants, the aster family (Compositae) and the grasses and their relatives (Gramineae), consist of about 20,000 and 8,000 species, respectively. Put another way, botanists estimate that there are between 250,000 and 300,000 extant species of flowering plants, so orchids make up about 10% of the total. This is a rather startling number when it is considered in light of the general lack of familiarity with and the mystery with which the family as a whole is shrouded.

By far the greater part of the family are found in tropical and subtropical climates, where most of them grow as epiphytes, that is, they grow upon trees and other larger plants, and upon cliffs rock outcroppings and

*Continued on page 10*

## Welcome Our Newest Members

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*Be sure to greet our newest members  
and make them feel at home.*

### EVENTS OUT AND ABOUT

#### February

**January 30-Feb 3 SE Flower Show**

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

**February 9 (Saturday) AOS Atlanta Monthly Judging**

**February 11 (Monday) AtlOS Monthly Meeting**

**February 15 -17 - Gulf Coast Orchid Society Show,**  
Singing River Mall, Gautier, MS. Contact: Glen Ladnier, 15559 Village, Biloxi, MS 39532; (228) 392-0919; gladnier@yahoo.com.

**February 27-March 2 - North Carolina Piedmont Orchid Society Show,** Charlotte Merchandise Mart, 2500 E. Independence Blvd., Charlotte, NC. Contact: Virginia Rappold, 10219 Rocky Ford Club Rd., Charlotte, NC 28269; (704) 912-2536; vrappold@aol.com.

# Table Awards

## Class I – Cattleya Alliance

### Species

**Blue- *Sophronitis* (formerly *Laelia*) *lundii* var *alba***  
– Collier/Reinke

*Sophronitis lundii* is an interesting and unique species from the coastal mountains of Brazil that has characteristics different from any other *Sophronitis*. It is not closely related to the rupicolous or 'rock dwelling' species and grows instead on branches and twigs in thickets where it rambles, with fairly long intervals between each rounded oval pseudobulb. Two, or sometimes three narrow, falcate leaves develop from new growth curiously after the flowers have come and gone, and it is the only Brazilian *Sophronitis* that regularly produces more than one leaf per growth. The exquisite flowers resemble miniature corsage cattleyas and are produced one or two per inflorescence in winter. In the normal color form they bear mostly white sepals and petals, with plenty of rich purple veins on the lip. The plant exhibited is the rare pure white form. A scant 13 registered hybrids have been made using this species and we have found it to be reluctant to produce fertile seed. A few years ago we obtained a division of *Brassophronitis* Sarah Black 'Big One' (x *B. nodosa*) from the originator of the cross and have found it to be a vigorous plant, which curiously, blooms in large flushes throughout the year *except* during the normal blooming season of *S. lundii*! Use a basket for this species to accommodate its growth habit and provide perfect drainage. It prefers intermediate temperatures bright light and regular watering when in active growth.



***Sophronitis* (formerly *Laelia*) *lundii* var *alba***

**Red – *Laelia anceps* var. *veitchiana* – Collier/Reinke**

**White – *Cattleya walkeriana* – Hallberg**  
**Hybrids**

**Blue – *Sophrulaeliocattleya* (formerly *Laeliocattleya*) Frosty Pink 'H&R' – Herzfeld**

With *Laelia anceps* as a grandparent and *Sophronitis* (formerly *Laelia*) *purpurata* as a parent, this hybrid displays relatively large flowers on strong upright inflorescences. It should have the ability, under good cultivation, to produce flowers in both summer and winter. Orchid hybridizers have only in recent decades discovered the value of including *Laelia anceps* in their breeding programs. It readily accepts the colors of the other parent, while contributing a strong upright spike, graceful form and ease of culture to the mix.



***Sophrulaeliocattleya* (formerly *Laeliocattleya*)  
Frosty Pink 'H&R'**

**Red – *Guarisophleya* (formerly *Laeliocattleya*)  
Spring Imp 'Lenette #3' HCC/AOS – Collier/Reinke**

**White – *Gratrixara* (formerly *Laeliocatonia*) Ernest Cromwell – Collier/Reinke**

**White – *Sophronitis* (formerly *Sophrulaelia*) Psyche 'China' AM/AOS – Collier/Reinke**



***Cymbidium Comet***

## **Class II – Cymbidium Alliance**

**Blue – *Cymbidium Comet* – Gollob**

**Red – *Cymbidium Sunshine Falls* ‘Butterball’ – Phillips**

*Cymbidium Sunshine Falls* is one of the earlier ‘novelty’ hybrids introduced by Stewarts Orchids in 1972. Like cattleyas, cymbidium breeding during the early and mid-Twentieth Century was almost totally dominated by standard hybrids with large flowers. But by the 1960’s and early 1970’s growers were experimenting with combining these standard hybrids with lesser known species to create more variety in flower and form. In the case of our ribbon winner, *Cym. King Arthur* was mated to *Cym. madidum*, an

unusual Northeastern Australian species from the eastern slopes of the Great Dividing Range. The result was an attractive plant with arching inflorescences of greenish yellow flowers of strong substance on plants that tolerate intermediate culture well. It appears, however, that this well awarded grex was something of a genetic dead end, as no offspring have ever been registered from it.

**White – *Cymbidium Pearl Sachiko* - Whitfield**

## **Class III – Dendrobium Alliance**

**Blue – *Dendrobium Yukidaruma* ‘King’ AM/AOS - Frank**

This spectacular *Dendrobium* hybrid, registered in 1973, is an excellent example of “line breeding.” Over a period of 99 years, beginning in 1874, the genes of *Den. nobile* have been combined and recombined with several related species and the resulting hybrids of those pairings over many generations to bring out their most desirable qualities. In 1977, this achievement was recognized by the AOS when the ‘King’ clone of *Den. Yukidaruma* was awarded a flower



***Dendrobium Yukidaruma* ‘King’ AM/AOS**

quality Award of Merit of 87 points. In more recent years cultivar has also been awarded a Certificate of Cultural Excellence with a score of 93 points for a magnificently well grown example with almost 350 open blooms! This orchid has also been put to good use as a parent with 50 first generation offspring currently on the books. The ‘nobile type’ dendrobiums require attention to certain cultural needs in order to flower well. They should be watered and fed regularly while in active growth in spring and summer, but given no fertilizer and cooler temperatures in fall and winter in order to induce the formation of buds. Failure to follow this advice tends to produce a profusion of keikeis instead of flowers. While some sources recommend reducing the water as well, unless you have a growing area with 70% or better relative humidity, continue to water the plants sufficiently to avoid shriveling of the canes.

**Red – *Dendrobium rigidum* - Dufano**

**White – *Dendrobium* hybrid, nobile type - Frank**

Watch the March issue for Part 3 of:  
***The History of Orchids***





*Dinema polybulbon* 'Golden Gate'

## Class IV - Epidendrum Alliance

### Species

**Blue - *Dinema polybulbon* 'Golden Gate'**

This charming and rambunctious creeping miniature is frequently still included in *Encyclia*, but despite obvious relationship to both *Encyclia* and *Epidendrum*, it definitely falls into a category by itself! It is native to the mountain slopes on the Gulf Coast of Mexico, the Caribbean slopes of Guatemala and Nicaragua, as well as the higher mountains of both Jamaica and Cuba where it forms extensive mats on tree trunks in a humid and fairly rainy environment. If given good drain-

age in a basket or mount and watered frequently to daily, it will quickly form a large specimen such as this blue ribbon example. That particular plant has already had several divisions taken from it and was but a tiny plant in a two inch pot just a few years back! Although each bronzy gold flower with a white lip is borne singly, their relative size to the tiny plant and their overall profusion can make quite a show in winter, with scattered blooms at other times as well. Sadly, this quirky mini-orchid seems totally unwilling to cross with other species and no hybrids have yet been registered using it.

**Red - *Prosthechea garciana* (syn. *Anachelium garcianum*) - Kessler**

**White - *Oerstedella centradenia* - Dufano**



### Hybrids

**Blue - *Epidendrum* (Sun Valley x Orange Glow) - Kessler**

**Red - *Epidendrum* (*pseudepidendrum* x *floribundum*) - Collier/Reinke**

**White - *Epidendrum* Pacific Vista - Kessler**



*Epidendrum* (Sun Valley x Orange Glow)

Please visit our web site at

<http://www.atlantaorchidsociety.org>

The Atlanta Orchid Society web site contains recent newsletters and articles, cultural information for growing orchids in Atlanta, as well as a calendar of events and information about our annual shows.

## Class V – Oncidium Alliance

### Blue – *Oncidium klotzschianum* – Hallberg

*Oncidium klotzschianum* is native to lower elevation tropical forests from Costa Rica south to Peru and is one of nine species in the 'Excavata' section, all of which have conspicuous flattened oval shaped pseudobulbs that bear a single leaf at the apex, and surrounded by several foliaceous bracts. It is a fairly shady grower that appreciates both good humidity and good air movement, and can bloom both in fall and spring, and occasionally at other times. Windowsill growers could achieve the necessary balance of humidity and air movement by placing one of the 'ultra-sonic' type humidifiers near their plants along with an electric mini-fan to continually blow the moist air through the plants. It would not only be very beneficial to the orchids, but would great a healthier living environment for the human occupants as well, especially during the winter heating season!



*Oncidium klotzschianum*

### Red – *Wilsonara Aloha Sparks* 'Edna's Flame' HCC/AOS - Whitfield

### White – *Lockhartia imbricata* - Wolf

## Class VI – Cyripedium Alliance

### Paphiopedilum species

### Blue – *Paphiopedilum lowii* – Kessler

This large and admired *Paphiopedilum* species is native to Malaysia, the main islands of Indonesia and Borneo, where it grows as a 'humus epiphyte.' Whether it is found growing on rocks, trees or on the ground, its roots actually live in the layer of humus and moss that accumulates in pockets and crevices. The areas where it grows receive heavy rainfall and it usually occurs in bright locations that may receive full sun for part of the day. Although *Paph. lowii* has been found to be more tolerant of salt buildup than other species, it still benefits from regular renewal of the mix. Five or more long lasting flowers, up to six inches in spread open sequentially from an upright inflorescence. The peak of blooming is spring, but plants have been observed blooming in cultivation almost every month of the year. This species appreciates good humidity and air movement at all times.



*Paphiopedilum lowii*

### Red – *Paphiopedilum gratrixianum* – Lentz/Morgan

### White – *Paphiopedilum appletonianum* – Lentz/Morgan

#### Name Origin

**Paphiopedilum** - Gr.: of Pahos, epithet of Venus; sandal) Named for the slipper-shaped lip.





***Paphiopedilum* Leeanum  
'Elaine Day' HCC/AOS**

## **Paphiopedilum Hybrids**

**Blue – *Paphiopedilum* Leeanum 'Elaine Day' HCC/AOS**

**\*\* This entry also received the J. C. Mobley Cultural Award \*\***

*This plant was similarly awarded in January of 2007. Please see the ribbon winner notes in the February, 2007 newsletter.*

**Red – *Paphiopedilum* Natasha Von Fox – Lentz/Morgan**

**White – *Paphiopedilum* Saint Swithin 'Magnifico' – Kessler**

## **Phragmipediums**

**Blue – *Phragmipedium* Elizabeth Castle 'Wedding Bells' AM/AOS – Kessler**

This beautiful *Phragmipedium* was awarded here at the Atlanta Judging Center in October, 2006 with two shapely flowers and two buds on a single free-standing inflorescence. It artfully displays what was undoubtedly the intended result of pairing two first generation *Phrag. besseae* hybrids with certain desirable traits and certain lesser ones. *Phrag. Memoria Dick Clements* (x *Phrag. sargenteanum*) has large flowers with deep color but with a more horizontal and open form, while *Phrag. Hanne Popow* (x *Phrag. schlimii*) has a full, rounded form, but a more pastel coloration and smaller size. In *Phrag. Elizabeth Castle 'Wedding Bells'* AM/AOS, the large size and rich saturated color of the one parent *and* the fuller, more rounded presentation of the other have been successfully married into one stunningly beautiful orchid. Naturally, this hybrid is already being put to use as a parent in the quest for yet more perfect red 'phrags' in the future!

**Red – *Phragmipedium* Rosalie Dixler – Geni Smith**

## **Class VII – Phalaenopsis Alliance**

**Blue – *Phalaenopsis sumatrana* – Lentz/Morgan**

### **JOIN THE AMERICAN ORCHID SOCIETY**

For \$60.00 per year, you reap the following benefits:

- 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 (\$108) 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.** For information, contact Evan Dessasau (404-241-4819)



***Phalaenopsis sumatrana***

## Class VIII – Vanda Alliance

### Blue – *Angraecum sesquipedale* – Pulignano

There is the misconception that this formidable orchid produces only a single flower per inflorescence. Of the 26 awards listed in my most recent update of Orchidwiz 4.02, the average number per inflorescence was 3.4 and one example even had an average of 7 flowers on each of three inflorescences! Perhaps the misconception arises in part from the challenge required to produce ideal growing conditions for this imposing plant! It occurs in the hot lowlands along much of the east coast of Madagascar where it receives year round warmth, high rainfall, bright diffuse light and near constant air movement. This species will also begin to flower when still young, with single bloom inflorescences. However, given enough time in suitable conditions, will eventually carry several inflorescences with several long lasting, very fragrant flowers each. This particular plant was the result of pairing two clones that had received an FCC award from the AOS, and it exhibits near perfect flat form. Many are familiar with the story of how Charles Darwin concluded that there must be a moth with a very long proboscis adapted to retrieve nectar from the nearly 12 inch spur and simultaneously accomplish pollination for this orchid. It was many years after his death that the hawk moth species *Xanthophan morgani praedicta* was discovered and named in honor of this evolutionary prediction.



*Angraecum sesquipedale*

### Red – *Vandachostylis Colmarie* - Whitfield

### White – *Rhyncostylis gigantea* var. *alba* – Nierenberg

### White – *Amesiella monticola*- Lentz/Morgan

## Class IX – Miscellaneous

### Blue – *Pterostylis curta* – Mellard/Marino

Please refer to the September, 2006 newsletter for a great article by David Mellard on growing this interesting Australian terrestrial that looks like an **extra-terrestrial**!



*Pterostylis curta*

### Red – *Coelogyne mooreana* 'Brockhurst' HCC/AOS, FCC/RHS – Mellard Marino

*Coelogyne mooreana* is one of the showiest species of the genus and deserves to be seen in collections more often. It was originally discovered in the Lang Bian mountain range of Vietnam, about 150 miles northeast of Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon), in 1905 and sent to England where it flowered for the first time in 1906. The large pristine flowers can be four inches across, and are produced four to eight per each upright inflorescence which emerges out of the center of a newly developing growth. They can last 4 to 6 weeks if kept cool and in reduced light and are beautifully fragrant. Grow this species shady, with good air movement and plentiful water during summer, but somewhat drier and cooler in winter. While it may not produce a spectacular single display of bloom as does *Coel. cristata*, it can flower several times per year as new growths develop. Attempts to reproduce this orchid by seed have mostly failed and available plants are generally divisions of existing cultivars such as the superior 'Brockhurst' (a.k.a. 'William Brockhurst') clone exhibited.

### Red – *Masdevallia* Geneva Spots - Hallberg

### White – *Platystele oxyglossa* – Wolf

### White – *Masdevallia mejiana* – Lentz/Morgan

other supportive structures. However, notwithstanding the prevalence of the epiphytic mode of life of most species in the tropics, orchids are found growing in virtually every kind of habitat on earth, except in the arctic and the driest deserts. As one moves from their tropical epicenter into colder and drier climes, the epiphytic mode of life is discontinued in favor of the terrestrial habitat exclusively, presumably because the terrestrial habitat provides some protection of the roots from frost, drought, and mechanical injury in the most boisterous climates of temperate and sub-arctic habitats. Interestingly, even then most orchids do not truly grow in the ground, but in the surface layers of moist, porous humus or peat, through which their roots and rhizomes permeate in a way that is reminiscent of those that grow as epiphytes.

Even more interestingly, every continent and major region of the earth has its own characteristic and distinctive orchid flora. With relatively few exceptions most species of orchids are not found world wide, but have a geographically restricted distribution – that is, although orchids as a family are global, most species exhibit a high degree of endemism, a significant point that I will come to again later.

Tropical orchids were not known in Europe until rather late in the period of global exploration and colonization. The first tropical species flowered in England in 1733, a rather non-descript but none-the-less exotic species from the Bahamas. By mid-century, the importation of orchids had exploded, and collecting them by wealthy land-owners and patrons of horticulture had developed into a mania. This obsession with orchids was unmatched before or since except perhaps by the mania for tulips that developed in Holland and other North European countries during the late Ottoman Empire some two hundred years earlier. Orchids were literally stripped from tropical forests and shipped back to Europe by the ton, even the shipload. Among the more famous explorers and seafarers to become involved in the orchid trade were Captain John Cook of the Endeavour, and Captain William Bligh of Bounty fame.

Professional collectors went into the most remote and dangerous areas of the tropics and literally collected many desirable species to the point of extinction, while back home, like tulips 200 years before, the plants, often sold for exorbitant prices, sometimes the equivalent of several months' salary. Many collectors

died of injury and disease or at the hands of endemic tribes who did not welcome these forays. So competitive was this activity that collectors often would burn or otherwise destroy remaining populations of orchids after they had taken all they could, and some were even murdered at the hands of unscrupulous competitors in order to squelch competition and to prevent knowledge of the location of rare species from spreading to others. It was not a pretty sight, and was all the more inexplicable because in the early years more often than not most of the plants died, if not before they reached their destination, then afterwards in the hands of collectors and gardeners who had no knowledge of the conditions under which the plants grow in nature.

But success occurred often enough to provide the necessary reinforcement until eventually successful methods for growing and propagating the plants were developed, whereupon orchid-mania became truly epidemic, and was here to stay. This crazed mind set of some orchid collectors continues even today, as you will know if you had the opportunity to read the recently published book "the Orchid Thief," which was excerpted in the *New Yorker* magazine. We could easily spend an entire evening on the fascinating history of orchid collecting. But I must get on with the question, "What is an Orchid?"

The question can be restated in a slightly more instructive way: "What are the characteristics that all orchids share in common, and that distinguish them from other flowering plants?" The answer for the most part is found in the structure of the flower and reproductive parts of orchids. (It is generally believed that the flower is the most invariant part of any species of plant, and therefore, is the most reliable locus of diagnostic characteristics by which a plant may be identified.)

### *Part 3 will appear in the March issue*

#### **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 \$32 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 extra-special issue devoted to a single genus.

***For membership application forms contact  
Fred Missbach (404-237-1694)***



# ORCHID



Larry Allain @ USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database

This is *eulophia ecristata*. What is unique about this orchid?

*Answer on page 13*

## Dues Are Due

Now is the time of year to renew your membership to the Atlanta Orchid Society, only \$30.00 individual and \$45.00 family. Dues are to be payable to AtIOS and sent to:

Reba Herzfeld, Treasurer  
4798 Summerset Lane  
Dunwoody, GA 30338



Dues must be received by March 1 so you can be included in the 2008 Member Directory. This is also the time to make sure we have your current contact information - address, phone and email address.

## Orchid Lover Down-Sizing

Phaius t. alba or Bebe Chien in bloom 2-3 spikes \$25, KS Bennett The Tropical Asiatic Slipper Orchids \$35, Joyce Stewart, Mark Griffiths Royal Hort Soc Manual of Orchids \$25, Rentoul Growing Orchids, Bk 1, Cymbidiums and Slippers, soft-cover \$25, Rentoul Growing Orchids Bk 4, The Australasian Families, hardcover \$45, Rentoul Expanding Your Orchid Collection R\$25.95 \$20, Rentoul The Hybrid Story \$20, Pridgeon Illustrated Encyclopedia of Orchids (huge hardcover) \$20, Cash The Slipper Orchids \$75, Orlean The Orchid Thief \$4, Taiwan Paphiopedilum Society Paphiopedilum in Taiwan \$40, Penn Valley Orchids Paphiopedilum Hybrids, Their Parents and Progeny as registered from 1856-(published in 1994) \$5, Cuddy Orchid Species You Can Smell An Index of Fragrant Orchid Species \$10, Orchid Digest 1995 #3 Paphiopedilum issue, and 1997 #1 \$5, Stewart Kew Gardening Guides Orchids \$20, Cribb The Genus Paphiopedilum \$90, Rhodehammel A Masdevallia Cultural Guide \$50, Kelleher Intriguing Masdevallias \$30, Oakely Lycaste Species The Essential Guide \$20

**Linda Wish 404-252-5872**

[orchidwish@comcast.net](mailto:orchidwish@comcast.net)

## Winners - Quarterly Table Judging



L to r: Mark Reinke, David Mellard, David Kessler And Gary Collier. Not pictured, Sal Marino and Cora Ramborger



Geni Smith displays notecards featuring her orchid:

**Lc. Secret Love ' Geni Smith ' HCC/AOS**

It was awarded December 8, 2007 at the Atlanta Judging Center. Congrats Geni!

## Newsletter Submissions

To submit material for the newsletter, or to sign up for the email version of the newsletter, please contact Margie Kersey. The deadline for submissions is the 20<sup>th</sup> of the previous month.

MAIL TO: Margie Kersey  
PO Box 464381  
Lawrenceville, GA 30042

EMAIL: [Margie@callkbs.com](mailto:Margie@callkbs.com)

## Advertising

Advertising is now being accepted for our newsletter. The size and number of ads may be limited at the discretion of the editor. Advertising Rates per issue are: ¼ page \$10, ½ page \$20, 1/8 page text only \$5.

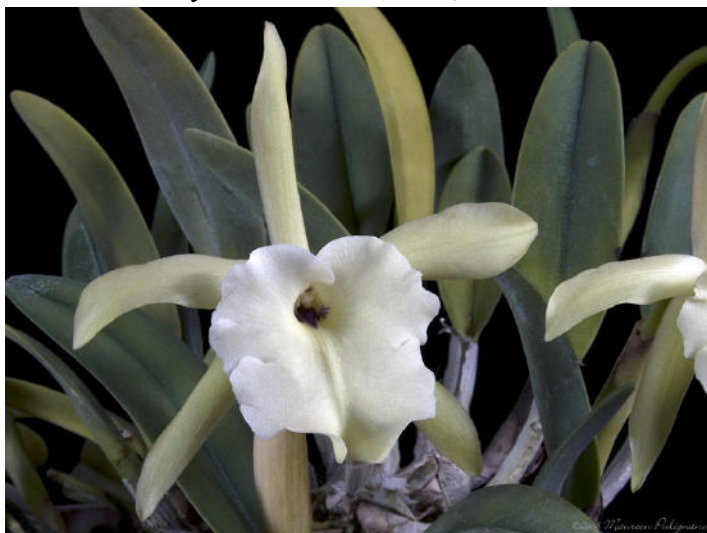
# Recent AOS Awards at the Atlanta Judging Center



Cattleya Jentri 'Aileen' AM/AOS  
C trianae x C jenmanii  
Barney & Aileen Garrison, Exhibitors



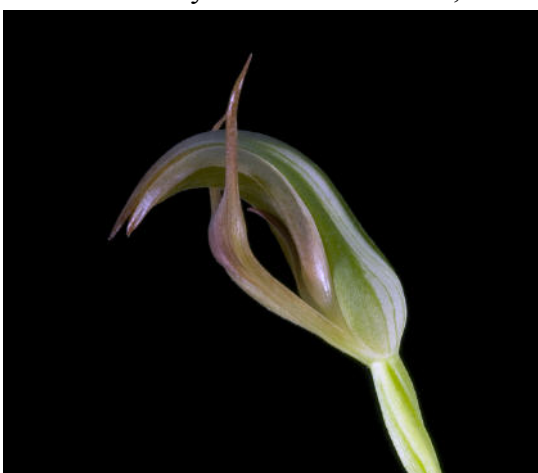
Dtps. (unnamed) 'Stones River' AM/AOS (provisional)  
DTPS. Davis' Valentine x Dtps Yu Pin Lady  
Stones River Orchids, Exhibitor



Rhyncholaelia glauca 'Atlanta' HCC/AOS  
Barney & Aileen Garrison, Exhibitors



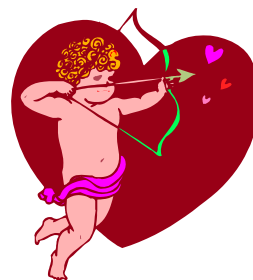
Laelia anceps 'Blue Danube' AM/AOS  
Fred Misbach, Exhibitor



Pterostylis Cutie 'Harold's Pride' HCC/AOS  
Ptst. baptistii x Ptst. cucullatum  
David Mellard & Sal Marino, Exhibitors



Dendrobium speciosum  
var. Curvicaule  
'Creme Brulee' CHM/AOS  
Fred Misbach, Exhibitor



*Official photos by  
Maureen Pulignano*

It is the tallest American orchid with a record height of 5 feet, 7 inches