

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

www.AtlantaOrchidSociety.org

Volume 49: Number 6

July 2008

JULY MEETING

The Monthly Meeting:Topic:Bulbos Now and ThenSpeaker:Bill Thoms

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

Bill Thoms and his wife, Doris Dukes, have been growing orchids around Central Florida for 35 years and to date have won more Awards for Culture than just about anyone else in the world, (62 in over 20 genera, including 19 in the bulbophyllum alliance (capped off with a 95 point Certificate of Cultural Excellence for Cirr. rothschildianum 'A-doribil' FCC/AOS).

They were one of the first to receive the new award 'Certificate of Cultural Excellence' for a score above 90 points, and that was for a Miltoniopsis which is very difficult to grow in Tampa, Florida. They have received four First Class Certificates in the past few years as well as every other award given by the AOS.

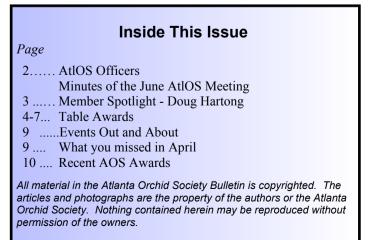
Bill Thoms got his first orchid in 1969 when he rescued plants of Enc. tampensis in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida. (He actually just picked them off trees pushed over for a new Condo, but it sounds better.) After moving to the Tampa area in the early 70's and, after having an orchid nursery for 20 years called Hilltop House, he and his wife, Doris Dukes, (whom he met at the Tampa Orchid Club in the early '80s), took several thousand of their favorite plants and built their own greenhouse at home to retire from the retail business, relax, and continue their hybridizing program (making about 200 crosses a year). Since then, their plants grew back up to 10,000 and the awards have grown too: 62 Awards for Culture in over 20 genera including 20 in the bulbophyllum alliance and 6 Certificates for Cultural Excellence (90 points or better); First Class Certificates for Cirrhopetalums, Paphiopedilums and Phragmipediums; and about 200 total awards in all categories. Bill recently received one of the most prestigious awards given to a hybridizer, an Award of Distinction which is given for a worthy new avenue of breeding. The plant



Bill Thoms shown here with his winning Cattlya labiata "Sherwood" AM/AOS

that received the award was a cross he made between two Trias species and was named Trias Emily Clarkson.

No matter what kind of plants you grow, Bill will give you tips to make them grow and bloom better. Many people say he is one of the best speakers they have ever heard. Come and see for yourself. And take this opportunity to bring an orchid enthusiast friend with you, if possible.



THE ATLANTA ORCHID SOCIETY

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MAOC Rep – Doug Hartong catmando@mindspring.com

AOS Rep – Evan Dessasau

Society Auction Chair / Orchid Digest Rep- Fred Missbach fredmissbach@aol.com

Newsletter – Margie Kersey Margie@callkbs.com

BIG Congrats!

The American Orchid Society elevated 2 new judges on Saturday, June 14, 2008 - David Mellard and Jeff Whitfield. Jeff is serving as the current President of the Atlanta Orchid Society and the South Metro Orchid Society. David is a Past President of the AtlOS and is currently serving as the Show Chair.

It takes an average of over 6 years to become a judge and these men have worked hard. Congrats!



David and Jeff examining the details of an orchid

Must downsize orchid greenhouse to move to apartment!

Hundreds of Paphs, a couple dozen each Cymbidiums and Phrags, miscellaneous others - Catts, Oncidiums, Miltonia, Stanhopea (reliable very fragrant summer bloomers), Phaius, Bulbos, and more. Tree fern pots and logs, flasks, other supplies. IN bloom - Paph Andronicus and other multiflorals, two Phrags, white Phaius species, Brassia hyrbid, Miltonia. . . also books and Orchid Album lithographs. Just inside 285 near 400.

Linda Wish, 404-252-5872, orchidwish@comcast.net

The Minutes of the June meeting were unavailable at press time.

They will be published along with the July Minutes in the August issue of the Newsletter.

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.

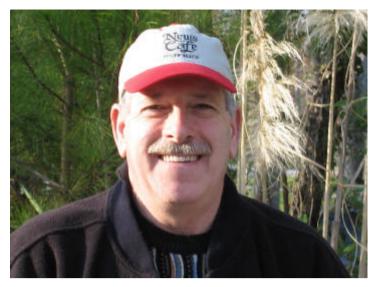
For directions to the Atlanta Botanical Garden, please visit their web site at <u>www.atlantabotanicalgarden.org</u> or contact one of our society's officers listed on page 2.

Member Spotlight

Doug Hartong

My interest in orchids started in the late 1970's after having relocated to Atlanta with the purpose of changing careers and enjoying warmer weather. I decided to pursue pharmacy instead of polymer chemistry and eventually earned my doctorate in pharmacy in 1984. When a friend gave me a Den. Jacquelyn Concert that he could not get to flower, I put my "green thumb" to the test and flowered the dendrobium the following year. This challenge led to more orchid purchases and then joining the Atlanta Orchid Society in 1982. From there it was a greenhouse and subscriptions to Orchids, Orchid Digest and finally Awards Quarterly. After having served as Trustee, 2 years as Treasurer, Vice-President and then President in 2002 of The Atlanta Orchid Society, I decided to enter the American Orchid Society Judging Program in 2006. Now the real learning begins! Since joining the judging program I have been pleased to have had two CHM's and one HCC bestowed on 3 of my plants.

Since my move into a new home two years ago, I have had to relearn good orchid growing techniques. My greenhouse (too old and small) was sacrificed in the sell of the old home , so I attempted to grow my collection in the basement under shop lights and on one 8 X 12 table illuminated with a 400 W high intensity sodium light on a track. Although the orchids survived their home in the basement each Winter, the problem of needed humidity and fresh air movement were constant challenges. Too much humidity in the basement and up into the house it goes with all its apparent problems. The orchids were growing but certainly not thriving like they did in my greenhouse.



A greenhouse (although filled with hidden numerous expenses) still is , in my opinion, the most satisfactory way to grow orchids. My collection consists mostly of Cattleya, Stanhopea and Bulbophyllum species with other odds and ends thrown in. If it is weird and smells good it is fair game! In the Summer a great part of my collection goes outside under a large dogwood tree and into a screen house I constructed. Even with the greenhouse I now have , I can see the plants really start growing in the outside clime.

I have been growing orchids for nearly 30 years now and finally have had to accept the fact that it is better to focus on growing a few genera well instead of a lot of genera poorly. I try not to focus on all the plants that have "passed on" and never keep old tags as reminders ! Collecting in the Brazilian Amazon in 1996

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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 20th of the previous month.

MAIL TO:	Margie Kersey
	PO Box 464381
	Lawrenceville, GA 30042
EMAIL:	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: $\frac{1}{4}$ page \$10, $\frac{1}{2}$ page \$20, 1/8 page text only \$5.

Table Awards

Photos courtesy of Danny Lentz Commentary courtesy of Mark Reinke

Class I – Cattleya Alliance

Blue- Bishopara Kat Golden Eye 'Carmela' – Dampog

Even though this attractive miniature hybrid was registered in 2003, it was marketed until quite recently by Carmela orchids of Hawaii under the parental names, just as it was entered for ribbon judging. While there are a total of five species in its background, what makes the hybrid so good is essentially the marriage of positive traits from the two which make the largest genetic contribution: *Broughtonia sanguinea* and *Cattleya walkeriana*. The former provides depth of color and a strong inflorescence while the latter imparts greater flower size, and both species reinforce flat, round form and a miniature growth habit. I would also expect there to be a tendency to bloom twice or more per year as each new growth develops. Neither of these species like to have their roots confined, so basket or mounted culture is going to produce the best growth, along with fairly bright light and good air movement. Though hybrids of this lineage rarely elicit awards from the AOS judges, they are rewarding for their willingness to bloom often and grow vigorously.

Red – Sophrocattleya Dream Catcher - Glass

White - Rhyncosophrocattleya Little Toshie 'H&R' AM/AOS - Glass

Class II – Cymbidium Alliance

No entries



Dendrobium farmeri - Geni Smith

JOIN THE ORCHID DIGEST CORPORATION

Don't let the name fool you, the Orchid Digest is a non-profit membership-based organization dedicated to orchids. Designed to appeal to the mid-range to advanced grower nothing beats the *Orchid Digest*. For just \$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)

Class III – Dendrobium Alliance

Blue – Dendrobium farmeri – Geni Smith

The medium to large sized species can be a spectacular sight in full bloom when well grown. In fact, the fist CCE (Certificate of Cultural Excellence) ever bestowed on an orchid plant by the Atlanta Judging Center was given to Den. farmeri 'Orchid Country' in March of 2001 with a score of 91 points! The plant, growing in a 10 inch pot, exhibited 954 open flowers and 51 additional buds. Were it not for the fleeting nature of the blooms and the overall plant size. this species would rate as a 'must have' for easy culture and flower profusion. The blooms are produced on long pendulous inflorescences which arise from side nodes near the tip of the canes, and open with pale mauve sepals and petals and a bright yellow orange lip. The mauve guickly fades to near white as the blooms mature. Native to tropical forests from the Eastern Himalayas to Malaysia, Den. farmeri likes warmth and copious water and fertilizer during the growing season, with a drier and slightly cooler treatment during the winter to help initiate flowering. As soon as spikes develop it is essential to resume good watering to keep the numerous blossoms hydrated and help their fleeting spectacle last a few days longer.

Red – Dendrobium pseudoglomeratum - Hartong

White – Dendrobium Yellow Magic - Glass

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.

Photo not available



Prosthechea vitellina - Pulignano

Class IV - Epidendrum Alliance

Blue – Prosthechea vitellina – Pulignano

Formerly *Encyclia vitellina*, this species occurs primarily in Mexico where it grows at fairly high elevations, typically in cloud forest environments, on mountain slopes facing the Gulf of Mexico. It is considered a challenge to grow in a warm summer climate such as Atlanta, so hats off to Maureen for bringing it into flower! The blossoms are among the most brilliantly colored in the entire *Epidendrum* alliance, and can be produced on a previous season's growth at this time of year, or on a current season's growth in late summer to early winter. The normal recommended temperature range for cultivating *Psh. vitellina* is around 50 degrees Fahrenheit at night and no warmer than 75 during the day. Its vivid coloration has been put to use in at least fifty first generation registered hybrids, but their inherited

preference for cool cultivation has sadly limited their commercial availability.

Blue - Encyclia Renate Schmidt - Glass

Red – Epidendrum Pacific Sunsplash – Brinton/Park

Red – Encyclia parviflora 'Evets' - Harrow

White - Procyclia Green Hornet - Glass

Class V – Oncidium Alliance

No entries

Class VI – Cypripedium Alliance

Blue – Paphiopedilum Susan Booth – Harrow

This multifloral *Paphiopedilum* has at least 100 flower quality awards to its name, and is listed as a primary hybrid between *Paph. rothschildianum* and *Paphl glanduliferum*. However, the identity of the latter species is something of a taxonomic quagmire as many experts believe the plants currently sold under that name are actually *Paph. praestans*, and that the true *Paph. glanduliferum* has not been seen again since first botanically described in 1848. Whatever the truth may be in that respect, this hybrid, when well grown, will produce four to five imposing flowers up to eight inches across, often well spaced and placed directly above one another on a strong inflorescence that can occur almost any month of the year once a growth is sufficiently mature.

Red – Paphiopedilum Salvadore Dali – Lentz/Morgan

White – Paphiopedilum Ho Chi Minh – Mellard/Marino



Paphiopedilum Susan Booth – Harrow

Name Origin

Brassia -

The genus was described in 1813 by Robert Brown who named Them In honor of William Brass, Esq., a British botanical illustrator of the 18th to 19th centuries.



Doritenopsis City Girl 'Madonna' HCC/AOS – Geni Smith

Class VII – Phalaenopsis Alliance

Blue –. *Doritenopsis* City Girl 'Madonna' HCC/AOS – Geni Smith

Red – *Phalaenopsis* Brother Oconee 'YPR 54' – Geni Smith

White - Phalaenopsis Aventurine - Geni Smith

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)



Renanthera Nancy Chandler 'Red Dragon' HCC/AOS – Pulignano

Class VII – Vanda Alliance

Blue – Renanthera Nancy Chandler 'Red Dragon' HCC/ AOS – Pulignano

Successfully growing Renanthera generally means given them everything Vanda requires, only more! More light. more heat, more humidity will be needed in most cases to encourage these orchids to produce their large, branched spikes of brilliant red flowers. The most dominant species in this particular hybrid is Ren. storei, which is a large rambling plant native to the Philippines and found growing in full tropical sun! The other species, playing the less dominant role, is Ren. monachica, from the island of Luzon, also in the Philippines. It will tolerate a bit of shade and still flower well, thus improving the chances of success with this hybrid under greenhouse culture. Renanthera dislike disturbance and may take several years to adjust to repotting, so they are best grown in a basket or in large pots with an inert media such as lava rock and left alone! Too much fertilization can also inhibit blooming so it is best down sparingly.

Red - Neofenetia falcata - Hartong

White - Vanda Crownfox Starburst - Whitfield

Quote of the Month:

"Decide what you want, decide what you are willing to exchange for it. Establish your priorities and go to work."

- H. L. Hunt



Oberonia iridifolia - Pulignano

Continued from page 3

and then recently two wonderful trips to Ecuador have taught me that being observant is the best teacher in growing orchids well. When I observe orchids growing in the wild, I make mental notes of where the plants are growing with respect to sunlight, air movement, altitude and ambient temperature. If I can't supply it at home then why sacrifice a plant? Another great educational opportunity has been attending three World Orchid Conferences (fortunate enough to have participated and won awards at the WOC in Miami this past January) and one European Orchid Conference where I have seen species I may never see anywhere else and beautifully executed exhibits as well as hearing fantastic lectures by world renown speakers; not to mention the great variety in the sales area at these huge events. Of course all this has to fit into my full-time job as clinical pharmacist at Northeast Georgia Medical Center in Gainesville, Georgia.



Oberonia iridifolia - Pulignano (close up)

Class IX – Miscellaneous

Blue - Oberonia iridifolia - Pulignano

Red - Cyrtopodium punctatun - Whitfield

This large, to massive orchid is native to open swamps and savannahs of tropical America in vast range that extends from the Florida Everglades southward to Argentina! The plants were once harvested by the many thousands and their sap used as a source of glue for book binding. Cyrtopodium punctatum is now a protected species in its Florida habitat, and the remaining populations are small and widely separated. It is deciduous during the winter dry season and the bare conical and elongated pseudobulbs inspired the common names of Cowhorn Orchid and Cigar Orchid. Concurrent with the onset of new growth in spring, large panicles of flowers are produced from the base of the plant, creating a mass of yellow, orange and brown flowers that account for another common name, the Bee Swarm Orchid. The individual flowers are guite intricate and beautiful upon closer examination. Should you find a reliable source for seed grown plants of this species and have the available space to house it, give it plenty of warmth, water and fertilizer in the summer growing season, with less water, no fertilizer and somewhat cooler conditions during its winter resting phase.

White - Lycaste deppei – Mellard/Marino

Did You Know?

Bill Thoms Award

This Award is given by the American Orchid Society to the grower of the orchid plant, either species or hybrid, which is regarded as the most outstanding example of the Bulbophyllinae Subtribe whose award was officially recorded during the preceding calendar year. The award was established in 2007 and endowed by donations to recognize Mr. Bill Thoms, noted Bulbophyllum grower.



Photos courtesy of David Mellard



The Atlanta Orchid Society exhibit at the Deep South Orchid Show in Savannah May 30 to June 1 took best in class for society exhibits and first place in society exhibits less than 50 feet. The moss covered exhibit with driftwood and a partially hidden water feature showcased plants from David Kessler, David Mellard, Danny Lentz /Dianne Morgan, Roy Harrow, Richard Hallberg, and Doug Hartong. David Mellard, who put in the exhibit for the society, also won a trophy for best Dendrobium for his Den. Nora Tokunaga. The 45 or so plants in the exhibit took numerous ribbons (12 first place, 9 second place and 5 third place), which were removed for better viewing of the exhibit and the plants....save one overlooked red ribbon. One of the trophies was Harold Koopowitz's 2008 Tropical Slipper Orchids: Paphiopedilum and Phragmipedium Species and Hybrids, which is now in the society's library. A big thank you to David and the other members who donated plants. Great going guys! Now ladies, we can't let the guys take all this glory so one of you needs to show the guys what the ladies can do. The Alabama Orchid Society has a show in the fall if someone wants to step up.

THINGS YOU MIGHT HAVE MISSED IN JUNE

Your Pictures need herel Send your photos for the newsletter To margie@callkbs.com

Orchid Auction

Once again it is time for the Orchid Auction at Roy Harrow's home. If you have never attended, plan to be there this year! If you have been there, you already know how much fun we have. Roy is opening his home at 10 am and the auction begins at 11. You should plan to either show at 10 or stay a little later so you can tour Roy's greenhouse and grounds. He has some interesting plants - orchids and otherwise.

Bring your chair, a hat or umbrella for shade and food to share. And of course, bring your plants! 10% of the sales will be donated to the Atlanta Orchid Society.

For the auction everyone is allowed up to 10 sales (a box full can be one sale), after which the rest go to the end of the auction when everyone has run out of money. We again have one framed and matted Reichenbachia print that Bob has put in from his collection. (http://www.panteek.com/ReichOrchid/index2.htm to see what they are like and retail price). Don't expect to sell your orchids for high prices. But do expect to get some old, overgrown and unusual stuff. If you have any other plants to give away, please bring and add to the stack that we go through afterwards for free as we did last year's 156 plants (begonias, bromiliads, alocasias, bananas, etc). One year someone brought 5 hardy elephant ear tubers in plastic bags. You just never know. You are welcome to trade for free before the auction starts. And if someone beat you in the price war, try to buy a piece of it off of them later.

2872 Gray Rd, Smyrna Ga 30081-1921 H-770 434 8059 c-770 639 7052

Parking is at the elementary school 7 houses down!

EVENTS OUT AND ABOUT

July 12 - AOS Atlanta Monthly Judging

July 14 - AtlOS Monthly Meeting

July 26 - Orchid Auction at Roy Harrow's house. open at 10, auction at 11, eat potluck at 1, should be over by 4. Bring friends, chairs, plants, folding cash and a little extra food. Drop off and park 7 houses back at the elementary school. Rain or shine. Make sure your name is on the bottom of the bowl and chairs. Wear appropriate clothing, if you pass out from the heat, you might wake up with only your head held above water. We have had people bid from the pool. You don't have to buy or sell a thing but if you do remember the 10% rule we use to avoid filing tax reports.

2872 Gray Rd, Smyrna Ga 30081-1921 H-770 434 8059 c-770 639 7052

July 28 - 8 pm South Metro Orchid Society Meeting

You are invited to visit the South Metro Orchid Society! The July speaker is AtlOS's own Maureen Pulignano presenting "How to Photograph Orchids".

> Reynold's Nature Preserve 5665 Reynolds Road Morrow, GA 30260



David Mellard serves as auctioneer at last year's event

Atlanta Judging Center Awards June 2008

Photos courtesy of Maureen Pulignano All awards are provisional until published by the AOS



Phal mariae 'Cherry Jubilee' AM/AOS Stones River



Phal I'Hsin Lime - 'Cooler' AM/AOS Stones River



Ascda Crown Fox Cutie 'Sweet Tart' HCC/AOS R.F. Orchids



Dtps City Girl 'Madonna's Blush' HCC/AOS Geni Smith



C Pittiae 'Panther Creek' HCC/AOS Barney & Aileen Garrison



Den moschatum 'Mellow Spirit' CHM/AOS David Mellard



Den Christabella 'Crown Fox Nyela' AM/AOS R.F. Orchids



Phal 'Kathy Bowen' HCC/AOS Art Moore



Phal x gersellii 'Cinnamon' CHM/AOS Stones River

July 2008