



The Atlanta Orchid Society Bulletin

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The Orchid Digest Corporation and the Mid-America Orchid Congress.*



Newsletter Editor: Margie Kersey

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SEPTEMBER MEETING

**Topic: Prominent Bulbophyllum
Species & their Culture**

Speaker: Howard Gunn

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

Greetings, I just wanted to take a few moment to offer a brief biography about my experience with orchids. I am a hobbyist. I have been growing orchids since 1965. I have 2 greenhouses, the intermediate one is 24' x 28' and the warm one is 9' x 20'. I grow 1900 orchids; about 500 are paphs and phrags, 365 are bulbos and the rest are miscellaneous species. I have a total of about 1500 different species of orchids. My slides are all of plants that I have had or have in my collection. I take all of the photos myself. I have been doing programs for about 10 years, usually about 6 or 8 a year. Speaking keeps me potting and moves the extra divisions along to others. I have completed orchid programs on Miniature Species, Growing Specimen Plants, Paphs, Phrags, Dendrobiums, Leafless and Other Wierd Orchids, Bulbophyllums, the Stanhopea Tribe, and mounting and general culture (Q & A) and My Culture Tips. • I have 40 AOS Awards: 1 CCE, 8 CCMs, 2 CBRs, 3 CHMs, 5 AMs and the rest are HCCs. We spent a month in Australia a couple of years ago as the guest of David Banks, editor of the Australian Orchid Review. I went on 14 bushwalks looking at orchids in the wild. I have done the same on two trips to Mexico and one trip to Ecuador. The plant table will be mostly Bulbos.

Newsletter Submissions

To submit material for the newsletter or to sign up for the email version of this newsletter, please contact Margie Kersey. The deadline for submission is the 20th of each month.

Margie@callkbs.com



Bulbophyllum thaiorum grown by Howard Gunn,
Photo by Eric of SF, found on www.flickr.com

Birmingham Show Alert

If you would like to enter your orchids in the Birmingham show on the weekend of Sept. 18 - 20, please bring them to the meeting Monday night.

Maureen Pulignano, Geni Smith and Doug Hartong will be traveling to the show and setting up our Society display. They need your plants!

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Atlanta Orchid Society Monthly Meeting

August 10, 2009

The meeting was called to order by president Jeff Whitfield. Guest Daniela Schutz was welcomed.

Reba Herzfeld gave the July Treasurers report indicating a balance of \$11,175.65. A new family joined the orchid society during the auction last month.

Old Business:

1. Roy reported that the auction was a great success with good food and a good time had by all. He gave \$288 to the orchid society received as proceeds from the auction. Roy also announced that he has retired from Assurant. Future communications should be done through his home phone and email.
2. Orchid Digest dues are going up in September. Subscribe now for the old rate.
3. The Atlanta Orchid Show is scheduled for the second weekend of March, 2010. Contact David Mellard, Maureen Pulignano or Jeff Whitfield if you are interested in serving on a Show committee or helping in any way.

New Business:

1. Cora Ramborger has seed pods of several plants if anyone is interested.
2. The pre-paid cards for the parking deck are magnetic and can be erased if they come into contact with something magnetic or even a cell phone. Be careful where you store them.
3. The Board meeting will be in two weeks at Hastings. See Jeff if you have any items to be included on the agenda or if you would like to serve on the board next year.

David Kessler presented the monthly ribbon judging results and thanked everyone for bringing plants.

Congratulations to all who were awarded ribbons this month.

The speaker was Jim Rose from Cal Orchids in Santa Barbara, California. His topic was *Lycaste skinneri* and its hybrids. *Lycaste skinneri* is found in the high mountains of Guatemala. It grows in conditions that are very shaded and wet high in the mountains. Threats to this species include over collection and deforestation. The solid white variety is "Monja Blanca" (White Nun) and is the national flower of Guatemala. It is endangered because it is so highly prized that it is stolen from the wild and sold at lower elevations in Guatemala City where it dies. Hybridization of *Lycaste* is occurring primarily in Japan.

We thank those who brought plants for the raffle table: Linda Miller, James Rose, Gene Gadilhe, Jim Rose of Cal Orchids.

Our thanks to those who brought refreshments: Cora Ramborger, Marianne Gilmore, Barbara Daumpog, Geni Smith, Terry Glover, Bob Grzesik, Lynne Goldhoff.

Roy conducted the plant raffle and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl Bruce

Acting Secretary

Table Awards - August

*Commentary courtesy of Mark Reinke
Photos courtesy of
Margie Kersey and Bill White*

Class I – Cattleya Alliance

Blue- *Sophronitis (Cattleya) dayana* ‘Leah’ – Maureen Pulignano

This sweet little miniature from the mountains around Rio de Janeiro in Brazil creates one of the more complicated situations in the reassignment of Brazilian *Laelia* and *Sophronitis* to the genus *Cattleya*, and I have not yet seen how the RHS is planning on resolving it. The problem stems from the fact that in addition to this species, Mr. Day lends his name to two natural hybrids of Brazilian species that have nothing at all to do with this particular one, but under the new nomenclature would both be called *Cattleya* Dayana



Sophronitis (Cattleya) dayana ‘Leah’

or *Cattleya x dayana* (the common way to signify a hybrid that occurs in nature). There is the one which formerly was *Laeliocattleya* Dayana (*C. velutina* x *L. crispa*) and the one always known as *Cattleya* Dayana (*C. forbesii* x *guttata*). Stay tuned to see how this confusing problem gets sorted out. The actual species in question grows on moss and lichen covered tree trunks in humid environments with bright diffused light usually near streams. It likes to be well watered and perfectly drained year round, with perhaps less water in winter as long as humidity can be maintained at high levels. The individual flowers are large for the plant size, borne one per inflorescence. Their tendency toward somewhat droopy segments is offset by a striking dark purple lip with a white throat highlighted by raised keels of the same dark purple. A few selected varieties have much better form and are worth seeking out. Rare semi-alba and cerulean forms are occasionally available commercially as well and both of these types display better than average form.

Red – *Brassocattleya* Keowee ‘Newberry’ – Maureen Pulignano

White – *Cattlianthe* Sierra Skies ‘Leone’ – Cora Ramborger

AtIOS Annual Orchid Show

It's time to start working on the Annual Orchid Show! It is now scheduled for the second weekend in March 2010. The dates are March 11 - 14. Mark your calendar so you can attend. We also need your help. Every year there are great opportunities to get involved with the show - you can help set up or tear down, you can help with the food or you could welcome visitors and answer orchid questions. Remember the public attends this show and they have lots of questions. You can also clerk with the judges. - no experience necessary! This is a great opportunity to learn what the judges are looking for and how they think.

Once again, the show will be held in Day Hall at the Atlanta Botanical Gardens. Contact President Jeff Whitfield for additional information.





Eulophia euglossa

Class II – Cymbidium Alliance

Blue – *Eulophia euglossa* – Geni Smith

Eulophia is a genus of over 250 species of terrestrial orchids found in Africa, Asia, and both North and South America. This widespread distribution suggests that the origins of this genus date back to a time when these far flung land masses were joined together into the Pangean supercontinent. Though uncommon in collections, *Eulophia euglossa* is one a handful of species that are commercially available. It is deciduous and comes from the tropical regions of central and western Africa where it grows in sandy river valleys, producing its tall racemes of eye catching green and purple flowers in summer. This species likes to be well watered and fertilized in summer while in active growth, with much less water and no fertilizer on winter while dormant. A few *Eulophia* species have truly adapted to desert conditions, and spend much of the year below ground as dormant tubers.

Red – *Cymbidium sinense* – Cora Ramborger

Class III – Dendrobium Alliance

Blue – *Dendrobium amabile* – Lynne Gollob

Dendrobium amabile is a medium to large sized evergreen species from the mountainous regions of central Vietnam and the nearby Chinese island of Hainan. It is a member of the Callista group, which includes other species of similar habit such as *Den. farmeri* and *Den. thyrsiflorum*. This species is distinguished by the rose suffusion on the flower segments and the area of strong orange color that does not extend all the way to the edges of the lip. For about two weeks each summer, showy pendant inflorescences up to 12 inches long appear from near the tips of the canes and bear as many as several dozen two inch flowers. In the wild, this orchid experiences the heaviest rainfall in the autumn, but there is always plentiful dew or mist year round, so plants should not be allow to stay dry for long periods. While considered a cool to intermediate grower it adapts well to our southern summers as long as it can receive nights in the 50's throughout the cooler months of the year.

Red – *Dendrobium auriculatum* – David Mellard / Sal Marino

White – *Dendrobium bigibbum* variety *compactum* – Geni Smith



Dendrobium amabile

Class IV - Epidendrum Alliance

Blue - *Prosthechea cochleata* – Cora Ramborger

Prosthechea cochleata is one of the most recognizable members of the Epidendroideae subfamily that includes over one thousand species. Its natural range includes all the land areas that ring the Caribbean basin including the southernmost portion of peninsular Florida in the United States as well as the Mexican states that border the Gulf of Mexico up to just south of the Texas border. It occurs from near sea level up to as much as 5,000 feet and is an adaptable and easily grown species. While many taxonomists prefer to include it in the genus *Anachielium* created in 1842 by Hoffmannsegg to accommodate those species with 'lip upwards,' this is currently not accepted by the RHS or Kew. However, plant tags that still include the outdated names of either *Epidendrum cochleatum* or *Encyclia cochleata* should be corrected. The distinct 'cockleshell' flowers open successively over many months on an inflorescence that can slowly extend to over two feet in length, and occasionally branch to produce additional flowers. Each inflorescence carries just a few open flowers at any given moment, but a specimen plant with several inflorescences can be in bloom year round. *Prosthechea* species will flower well even in somewhat shaded conditions and prefer to not go completely dry between watering. Some weird and wonderful hybrids have been created with this species but sadly very few are ever commercially available.



Prosthechea cochleata

Red - *Encyclia rhyncophora* – Maureen Pulignano

White – *Epidendrum floribundum*- Cora Ramborger

South Metro Orchid Society Auction

On Saturday, Sept. 26, the South Metro Orchid Society will hold it's annual auction at the home of member, Mary Cawthorn. Bring a chair, a dish to pass, orchids to sell and money to pick up new orchids! Get to know other orchid lovers and bring your friends. It will be a lot of fun!

The event starts at 11, lunch around 1, auction to follow.

Directions from I75 South:

Exit 221, right on Jonesboro Road. At the first traffic light, turn LEFT on Mill Road. At the 4 way stop, turn RIGHT on Mt. Carmel Road. At the first paved road, turn LEFT on South Mt. Carmel Road.

Mary's house is the third house on the LEFT

135 South Mt. Carmel Road
McDonough, GA 30253

678-583-4096



***Miltonia moreliana* 'MAS' AM/AOS**

Class V – Oncidium Alliance

Blue – *Miltonia moreliana* 'MAS' AM/AOS – Maureen Pulignano

Kew and the RHS give this Brazilian orchid separate species status, while others consider it a variety of *Miltonia spectabilis*. That latter is a common species in the rain forests of the states of Rio de Janeiro and Espirito Santo, while *Milt. moreliana* is restricted to a smaller area in Espirito Santo only. Its flowers are a deeper and richer purple than the typical form of *Milt. spectabilis*, but otherwise the flower size and plant habits are essentially identical. There are, however, more improved forms of *Milt. moreliana* commercially available and it has a higher number of flower quality awards, including an FCC for 'Hartford's Ebony Star' exhibited in August, 1995. This is a very easy and forgiving orchid to grow and bloom, doing well under a variety of light conditions and warm to intermediate temperatures. Under bright light, the foliage and pseudobulbs will have quite a bit of yellow and this is normal, usually resulting in stronger

growth and more flowers. The large showy flowers and easy cultivation have made this species a popular parent, despite the fact that rarely is more than one bloom per inflorescence.

Red – *Oncidium* Sweet Sugar 'Emporer' – Gene Gadilhe

White – *Aliceara* Hilo Ablaze 'HOF' – Maureen Pulignano

Class VI – Cypripedium Alliance

Blue – *Paphiopedilum* Magic Lantern – Cora Ramberger

Paph. Magic Lantern is a much awarded primary hybrid between *Paph. micranthum* and *Paph. delenatii* registered in 1990. While both parents come from shady environments in Vietnam, *Paph. micranthum* grows on weathered limestone substrate (basic) and in cooler habitats while *Paph. delenatii* grows on weathered granite substrate (acidic) in warmer areas. The resulting hybrid is thus adaptable to somewhat varied conditions and fairly easy to keep happy under lights or in 'windowsill' conditions. The very long lasting flowers occur singly and are produced more frequently in spring, but can appear at nearly any time of the year.



***Paphiopedilum* Magic Lantern**

Class VII – Phalaenopsis Alliance

**Blue – *Doritenopsis*
Newberry Parfait ‘Picotee’
AM/AOS – Geni Smith**

Dtps. Newberry Parfait is another hybrid that owes its unique color pattern in large part to *Phal.* Lipperose registered in 1968, which appears on both sides of its family tree. (See the June, 2009 newsletter for the description of *Dtps.* Champion Lightning.) The art of recognizing and accentuating chance mutations that occur from many generations or recombining the genes of just a handful of otherwise unremarkable species is a hallmark of a great orchid breeder.

We are fortunate that there are always gifted individuals who can see potential for new directions in orchids that others, influenced by conventional taste only, might simply dispatch to the compost heap!



***Doritenopsis* Newberry Parfait ‘Picotee’ AM/AOS**

Red – *Phalaenopsis* Nobby’s Little Candy – Geni Smith

White – *Doritenopsis* Purple Martin ‘KS’ – Geni Smith

Class VII – Vanda Alliance

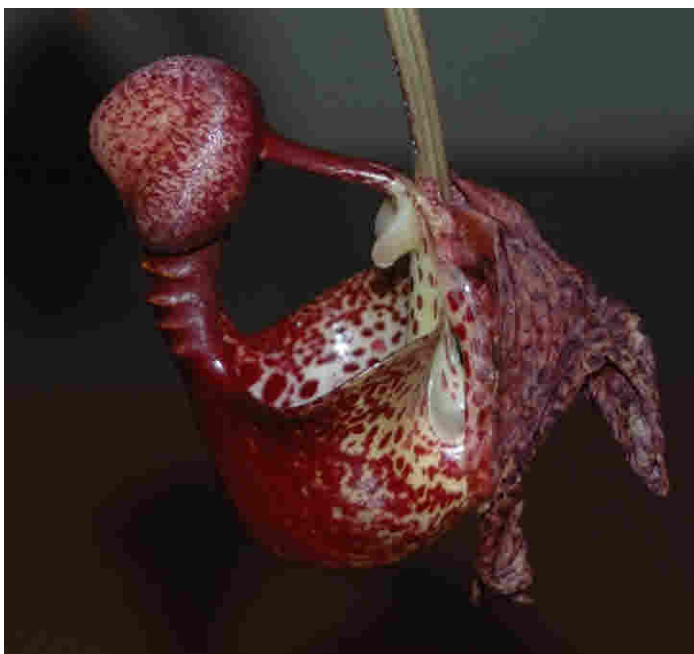
**Blue – *Vascostylis* Fine
Wine ‘Burgundy’ AM/AOS
– David Kessler**

**Red – *Opsistylis* Suree –
Cora Ramborger**

**White – *Vanda* Scott
Thompson – Gene Gadilhe**



***Vascostylis* Fine Wine ‘Burgundy’ AM/AOS**



Coryanthes Mamadon

EVENTS OUT AND ABOUT

September 14- AtlOS Meeting

September 12 - Atlanta Judging Center

Sept 18-20 - Alabama Orchid Society Show, will be held in the Birmingham Botanical Gardens. For more information contact Sally Mickle, orchidldy@bellsouth.net

Sept 26 - South Metro Orchid Society Auction will be held at the home of Mary Cawthorn,

135 South Mt. Carmel Rd
McDonough, GA 30253

Bring a chair, a covered dish, money and a friend.

Oct 10-11 - Gainesville Orchid Society Show, Kanapaha Botanical Gardens, 4700 SW 58th Dr., Gainesville, FL. Contact: Joan MacLeod, 4411 NW 15th Pl., Gainesville, FL 32605; (352) 375-6744; neilmacleod@bellsouth.net.

Oct 31 - Nov 1 - 50th Anniversary of the Mid-America Orchid Congress and Tenn. Capital Orchid Show. Franklin Marriott Hotel, 700 Cool Springs Blvd., Franklin, TN. Contact: Steve Burger & Tom Harper, 9651 Fredonia Rd., Manchester, TN 37355. (931) 394-2713; gandsgh@blomand.net.

Class IX – Miscellaneous

Blue – *Coryanthes Mamadon* – Cora Ramborger

Crths. Mamadon is a primary hybrid between *Crths. mastersiana* and *Crths. macrantha* that was registered in 2000 by Michel Bourdon of France, who has made a number of crosses within Gongoreae. The short lived flowers of *Coryanthes* border on the bizarre with their fleshy, bucket shaped lip that holds a pool of scented nectar essential in the courtship activities of certain Euglossa bees. The bees, in turn, are essential for cross pollination and the continued existence of the *Coryanthes* in a remarkable example of coevolution. All the species of this intriguing genus are found in lowland tropical forests with high rainfall of the New World and grow almost exclusively in ant colonies on trees overhanging streams. The ants produce formic acid, which creates a very acidic environment of about 3 on the pH scale. In cultivation, maintaining this extremely acidic environment is an essential key to the long term health of these orchids which can otherwise be short lived. Redwood bark is considered the best medium to produce such a low pH, with long fibered sphagnum moss the next best substitute. Plants should be grown in open baskets to accommodate the pendant inflorescence and kept humid, well watered and fairly warm year round. The combination of these cultural conditions and the short life of the flowers, not to mention the fairly large size of the plants, all factor into the rarity of these fascinating orchids in cultivation.

Red – *Bulbophyllum laxiflorum* – Maureen Pulignano

White – *Dendrochilum magnum* – Cora Ramborger

JOIN THE ORCHID DIGEST CORPORATION

Don't let the name fool you, the Orchid Digest is a non-profit membership-based organization dedicated to orchids. Designed to appeal to the mid-range to advanced grower nothing beats the *Orchid Digest*. For just \$34 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)**

Atlanta Judging Center Awards August 2009

Photos courtesy of Maureen Pulignano and Bill White

All awards are provisional until published by the AOS



Paphiopedilum In-Charm White x
Paphiopedilum Island Mist HCC/AOS
David Kessler, Exhibitor



Blc Samantha Duncan 'Orange Tart' AM/AOS
Stones River Orchids, Exhibitor

The Atlanta Judging Center meets and reviews plants on the second Saturday of every month in the basement at the Atlanta Botanical Gardens. Exhibitors and visitors are allowed to sit in the training sessions and to observe the judging. This is a great way to learn more about orchids and the entire judging process.

Van Fine Wine 'Burgandy' AM/AOS
David Kessler, Exhibitor





Ponerochis graminifolia 'Mello Spirit' CHM/AOS
David Mellard & Sal Marino, Exhibitors



Dtps Chew Tiek San 'Stones River' HCC/AOS
Stones River Orchids, Exhibitor



Close up of a single flower
Ponerochis graminifolia 'Mello Spirit' CHM/AOS
David Mellard & Sal Marino, Exhibitors

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

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Annual AtIOS Auction



THINGS YOU MIGHT HAVE MISSED IN AUGUST

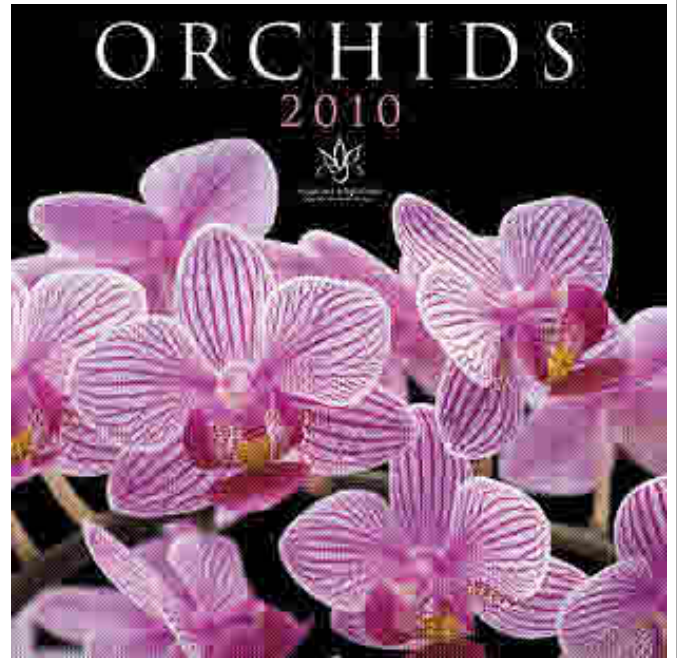


Got it, David... You're tired of having your picture taken. It's ok, we wanted a picture of Sal.



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You can tell when the speaker does an especially good job - Fred Missbach looks like this!



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I'm not sure which is better - the food or the conversation!

Join the Atlanta Orchid Society

Membership in the Atlanta Orchid Society is \$30 for individuals or \$45 for households. Yearly membership runs January 1 through 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 website at www.atlantabotanicalgarden.org