



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

September 2010

www.AtlantaOrchidSociety.org

Volume 51: Number 9

SEPTEMBER MONTHLY MEETING

Topic: How to Grow the Ghost Orchid

Speaker: Keith Davis

**8:00 pm Monday, September 13
at the Atlanta Botanical Garden, Day Hall**

Keith Davis of Reidsville, NC became something of an overnight celebrity when his article "A Ghostly Pursuit" appeared in the July, 2009 issue of *Orchids* magazine. The story details his endeavor to discover the secret to growing the elusive and celebrated "Ghost Orchid," *Dendrophylax lindenii*, native to the Fakahatchee Strand of southwest Florida. This mysterious and beautiful leafless species has a notorious reputation. Growers find it relatively easy to produce quantities of seedlings in flask, but nearly impossible to grow them to adulthood once they are removed. After years of trying, Keith has discovered a method that works well for him and he will share his knowledge with us in his presentation. He is a witty and homespun speaker and we will be both enlightened and entertained by what he has to say. (Type "Keith Davis Ghost Orchid" into any search engine and you will find TWO articles that he wrote for *Orchids* magazine that you can read online for more info.)



Keith lives on his family farm just outside Reidsville, NC where he maintains a large greenhouse with an impressive collection of approximately 10,000 orchids, mostly choice cattleya hybrids. He will bring a selection of established divisions of some of his special plants to sell at the meeting.



***Dendrophylax lindenii*
'Glade Spirit' FCC/AOS
grown by our September speaker,
Keith Davis, and awarded in May, 2007**

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THE ATLANTA ORCHID SOCIETY**Officers****President –****Maureen Pulignano** 404-869-6980**Vice-President/Programs -****Greg Smith** 770-654-6170**Secretary –****Roy Harrow** 770-639-7052**Treasurer –****Danny Lentz** 770-640-0112

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Missbach****Show Chair 2011 –****Barbara Barnett****Show Hospitality 2011 – open****Telephone – Lynne Gollob***President's Message*

This month we will wrap up the summer season with a terrific speaker and an important business agenda for our members

The Board of Trustees has forwarded to the Membership the attached Bylaw Revisions. Please read them prior to the meeting. David Glass, Chair of the Bylaws Subcommittee, will present the changes for your consideration and discussion. In accordance with the requirements of our Bylaws, we will then vote on the proposed changes at the October meeting.

Members will be asked to vote at this meeting to select one member and one alternate to the 2010 Nominating Committee from the members of the Board of Trustees. Those selected will join Chair Lynne Gollob and previously selected members Gary Collier and Clark Weisner to formulate our Slate of Nominees for 2011.

Each month I have made space to thank one or more of our volunteers. This month it is Geni Smith's turn. Geni is in her third year as our Meeting Hospitality Chair. In addition to the special treats she brings to the refreshment table, she has an uncanny ability to attract yummy contributions from a great number of members. Let's all be certain to thank Geni this month.

One final note: Last month, due to a minor emergency at home, our speaker needed to be placed first on the agenda. Since the meeting I have had several positive comments about the change. Considering the issues that we will need to address as part of this business meeting, I have decided to once again place our speaker first. He will start promptly at 8:00 PM – so, don't be late!

- Maureen Pulignano

New Member Classes Prior to Monthly Meetings!

If you are new to the Atlanta Orchid Society or new to growing orchids, you'll be happy to hear that we are initiating brief, informative classes on a variety of topics related to how to care for your orchid plants beginning at 7:15 pm each month.

For more information: Barbara Barnett 706-579-2670

Events Out and About

September

Saturday, 9/11 - American Orchid Society monthly judging, Atlanta Judging Center, 2 pm, ABG basement workshop.

Monday, 9/13 - Atlanta Orchid Society Monthly meeting, ABG, Day Hall, 8 p.m.

Speaker: Keith Davis – a great orchid grower and winner of an FCC from the AOS for his 'Ghost Orchid!'

Sep. 24-26 - Fall 2010 Mid-America Orchid Congress and Kentucky Orchid Society's 2010 Fall Show. Fern Valley Hotel and Conference Center, Louisville, KY

October

Saturday, 10/9 - American Orchid Society monthly judging, Atlanta Judging Center, 2 pm, ABG basement workshop.

Monday, 10/11 Atlanta Orchid Society Monthly Meeting, ABG, Day Hall, 8 p.m.



**Speaker: Michael Coronado
Vice President of R.F. Orchids, Inc.**

October 22-24 –Tennessee Valley Orchid Society Show. 200 River St., Chattanooga, TN

October 27-31 - Fall 2010 AOS Meeting. Virginia Beach, VA

Future Shows:

Mar. 11-13, 2011 – Atlanta and South Metro Orchid Show, Day Hall, Atlanta Botanical Gardens, Atlanta, GA.

Nov. 14-23, 2011 - 20th World Orchid Conference, Singapore.

Atlanta Orchid Society Meeting Minutes August 9, 2010

The meeting was called to order by President Maureen Pulignano.

Because of a conflict requiring our speaker, Matt Richards, to leave early, he gave his talk on some of the orchid conservation efforts both in Georgia and elsewhere at the meeting's start.

After the refreshment break, 3 visitors were acknowledged. We had 30 people present and 21 plants on the display tables.

The motion made to approve the minutes of the July 12th meeting was passed.

Maureen asked for helpers for the Birmingham show (9/17 - 9/19) and the Louisville MAOC show (9/24 - 9/26). David Mellard will be doing the Chattanooga show (10/22) and Dan Schwartzberg offered to help.

It was pointed out that snail mail newsletters were costing the society \$2 each and we only plan to mail to members who do not have an email address. A reminder regarding the change in newsletter delivery will be emailed out later in the week along with a questionnaire called "AOS cares" to help the AOS align their actions with what the members need and use.

The proposed Bylaws revisions will be in the September and October newsletters for ratification during the meeting in October.

The appointed nominating committee chairperson is Lynne Gollob. Gary Collier and Clark Weisner were elected by the Board of Trustees to serve with her. Two more members will be selected by the members at large during the next meeting in September.

The silent auction during the July meeting and the auction at Roy's place netted almost \$650.

Fred Missbach announced the Slipper Symposium, Sunday, November 7, 9 A.M. near Tampa, Florida, sponsored by Krull-Smith and

June's Orchid Estate. Speakers will be Ron McHatton (AOS, new approaches to pest and disease control), William Goldner (Woodstream Orchids, Complex hybrids) and Andy Phillips (Eric Young Orchid Foundation, Paphs in the United Kingdom).

<http://www.slippersymposium.com>

He also announced that while the AOS might be selling its headquarters, there were no current plans to change anything else in the organization (magazine, judging, etc.).

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned and Terry ran the raffle.

Respectfully submitted,

Roy Harrow, Secretary Atlanta Orchid Society

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

Joint Membership 1 year \$80, 2 years \$155

Student Membership 1 year \$40, 2 years \$75

JOIN OR RENEW ONLINE AT: www.aos.org

Some scenes from the July 24th Member's Auction at Roy Harrow's House



Going once, going twice, SOLD!



Can that one be split four ways?



Welcome New Members!

Joining the Atlanta Orchid Society in August were:

Alice Henry and Kelly Stelzer

WE ARE GLAD TO HAVE YOU!

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/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](mailto:Fred.Missbach@atlantaorchidsociety.org) (404-237-1694)

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

For directions to the Atlanta Botanical Garden, please visit their web site at www.atlantabotanicalgarden.org or contact one of



Barbara Barnett, Jessica Wackerman, Keith Coleman & Roy Harrow check out Raffle Table bargains at the August meeting.



Speaker Matt Richards at the August Meeting.



Geni Smith plays 'Vanda White' and shows off the ribbon winners for the August meeting.



Lynne Gollob and new members Gary Glover and Greg Duncan engage in some serious orchid talk!

THANK YOU!

To all the members who brought goodies for us to enjoy during the August meeting:

Terry Glover, Marianne Gilmore,
Barbara Dampog, Lynn Gollob,
Dan Schwartzberg, Laurel Burrows
& Geni Smith.

Atlanta Orchid Society Monthly Meeting Ribbon Winners and Notes for July, 2010

By Mark Alan Reinke

Class I – Cattleya Group



Blue – *Rhyncholaeliocattleya* Hawaiian Passion ‘Carmela’ HCC/AOS – Roy Harrow

This very attractive and widely distributed orchid is from the breeding program at Kamodo Orchid Nursery in Hawaii, which produced its first registered hybrid in 1944. While the majority of its ancestors are familiar bi-foliate species like *C. forbesii*, *C. loddigesii*, *C. bicolor* and *C. guttata* (more likely *C. tigrina* given its bloom season), there is a sufficient dose of the larger

flowered, unifoliate species such as *C. dowiana* and *C. warneri* in the background to give the flowers some extra fullness. Even the rarely used *C. xanthina* (formerly a *Laelia*) makes an appearance in the family tree and may play a role in the color pattern. The resulting clear chartreuse flowers with a cream colored lip, bright yellow throat and prominent fragrance are enchanting enough to keep *R/c.* Hawaiian Passion popular and desirable even after almost 20 years on the market. When awarded, the ‘Carmela’ clone had four flowers, but our ribbon winner has at least 5 apparent in the photo, and a well grown, mature plant may be capable of even a couple more given its ancestry. Bi-foliate cattleya hybrids tend to prefer to grow under bright conditions, and in a very open mix that allows their thick roots to receive lots of fresh air and light. They can be resentful of disturbance, so growing them in a way that avoids frequent repotting is important. We prefer to use clay pots or wooden baskets and simply slip the entire plant and container into the next larger size as they grow rather than attempting to disturb the roots. Eventually, when the media in the original pot breaks down, it is simply teased out and replaced with something permanent like lava rock or Aliflor (expanded clay pellets). If you do attempt to repot a bi-foliate hybrid such as this one, do so only when new roots have started or are just about to start growing from the newest growths. Then, keep your plant shadier, in good humidity, but with little water for a few weeks to encourage those roots to grow well into the new media before resuming its normal care routine. Due to the way many of these hybrids grow, this could mean that they are, or have just completed blooming, at the optimal moment.

Red – *Rhyncholaeliocattleya* Hattie Sims – David Glass & Nancy Newton

White – *Brassocattleya* Yellow Bird – Cheryl Bruce

Class II – Cymbidium Group

No Entries

Class III – Dendrobium Group



Blue - *Dendrobium bracteosum* – Barbara Barnett

Dendrobium bracteosum is a great compact species that comes in a kaleidoscope of colors, with blooms that stay in perfect condition for five or six months, *and* it does not need an annual starving or chilling to induce flowering! It is a warm and rather shady grower from the island of New Guinea where it receives fairly even conditions year round, with only slightly less rainfall in the winter months. This makes it a great species for 'windowsill' culture provided some accommodation is made to provide good humidity around the plant. If growing in a greenhouse, keep in mind that this species prefers temperatures above 60 Fahrenheit year round. The individual flowers are usually less than one inch across and don't open fully, but they occur in tight clusters up and down the older canes and can be white, greenish, yellow, rose, pink, purple or dark red depending on the individual plant, but always with a bright orange to red-orange lip. There seems to be only a few species that are compatible with *Den. bracteosum* for hybridization and thus only 4 registered crosses exist, however a charming collection could be assembled using just the various color forms available.

Class IV – Epidendrum Group

No Entries

Class V – Oncidium Group



Blue - *Miltassia* Dark Star 'Orchidworks' – Barbara Barnett

Miltassia Dark Star is one quarter *Brassia* Rex and three quarters *Miltonia* species, primarily *Milt. spectabilis* with a dash of two other Brazilian species as well. Its almost perfectly reflects a middle point in characteristics between these vastly different looking genera, with rich color and fullness from *Miltonia* and starry form and spottiness from *Brassia*. The 'Darth Vader' AM/AOS clone looks very similar to 'Orchidworks' and is the most commonly seen. It apparently possesses extra vigor, as there are five cultural awards for it including one earned by our friends at Woodland Orchids in Charlotte. The most recent CCM, with a score of 85 points, went to a plant shown at the Northeast Judging Center in New York. That specimen displayed and amazing 121 open flowers and 15 additional buds when it was shown in September of 2006! Like other Oncidinae hybrids with thin roots, *Mtssa.* Dark Star prefers to have frequent watering while actively growing and allowed to go almost dry between watering the balance of the year. It likes bright, but diffuse light and will adapt to a wide temperature range from cool to warm.

Red – *Psychopsis* Kalihi – Geni Smith

White – *Ornithophora radicans* – David Glass & Nancy Newton

A SPECIAL INVITATION

From
South Metro Orchid Society
 To their
Annual Picnic and Auction

October 2, 2010

Lunch at 1:00 pm, Auction follows
 (covered dish, canned drinks, plant
 donations accepted)

Home of Mary Cawthon
 135 S. Mt. Carmel Rd.
 McDonough, GA 30254

Information and directions contact:
 Bill White, Secy.
 404-202-9131
white7343@bellsouth.net

Class VI – *Cypripedium* Group

Blue – *Phragmipedium longifolium* – Geni Smith

This robust species is listed as occurring from southern Mexico to Peru, and in at least some of its range it is practically a roadside weed, exploiting wet ditches and banks in road cuts where there is constant seepage and less competition from trees and shrubs. It is one example of how the activities of man have inadvertently created an expanded habitat for an orchid species. This process has also occurred closer to home with some of our showier native orchid species such as the Yellow Fringed Orchid (*Platanthera ciliaris*), although the increasing use of herbicides in place of mowing is now threatening to destroy many of these roadside havens. The flowers in the photo of our ribbon winner do not yet appear to be fully expanded, as the petals would normally extend

out fairly straight from the flower center at a slight downward angle. *Phrag. longifolium* has produced so many outstanding hybrids and breeding lines over the years that is fairly rare to see the species itself in modern collections. The very first registered cross was in 1873 when Veitch paired it with the diminutive *Phrag. schlimii* to create the lovely pink and white *Phrag. sendenii*, one of the few hybrids that was some color outside the greenish hues for more than a century until the discovery of the brilliant red-orange *Phrag. besseae*. This species and its immediate hybrids do well in fairly deep pots filled with a moisture retentive, but well draining medium, and grown in bright, diffused light with frequent watering and regular feeding year round.

Red – *Paphiopedilum* Transdoll – Cheryl Bruce

Class VII – *Phalaenopsis* Group**Species**

Blue - *Phalaenopsis hieroglyphica* var. *alba* – Bob Grzesik

Phalaenopsis hieroglyphica was so named because the pattern of intricate red markings on the flowers might suggest rows of Egyptian hieroglyphs. In this unusual color form the red pigment is entirely absent and the markings are a pale, clear green on a nearly white background, offset by a chevron of deeper yellow on the lip callus. The species is native to

shady, humid, warm environments in the Philippines and grows well under lights with even conditions year round. It is frequently recommended that the temperature for the water used on *Phal. hieroglyphica* be 70 degrees Fahrenheit or warmer, and that a bit of crushed limestone in the mix is beneficial. As with related species, the inflorescences continue to grow and produce flushes of flowers in season for several to many years, so do not remove them unless they are obviously dead. It has been little used as a parent, with only 9 first generation hybrids currently registered.

Red – *Phalaenopsis* Samera – Bob Grzesik

White – *Phalaenopsis leuddemanniana* – Roy Harrow

Hybrids



Blue – *Doritenopsis* Taida Pearl (syn. Elegant Deborah) – Geni Smith

The tag on this rich red-purple orchid with a crisp white border said "*Phal. Elegance Deb*," but there is no official registration under such a name. Unfortunately, many Taiwanese companies involved in mass production of *Phalaenopsis* are prone to labeling errors that can prove frustrating. However, a little additional searching found a hybrid name of *Dtps.* Elegant Deborah, which the RHS lists in their register as a *synonym* for *Dtps.* Taida Pearl. Our ribbon winner looks *exactly* like images I found of several of the varieties of that hybrid, especially the one named 'Taida Black Hole.' The parents of *Dtps.* Taida Pearl are *Dtps.* Ching Hua and *Dtps.* Sogo Davis and the registration was by Taida Horticultural Co., Ltd.

of Taiwan in 2001. Its genetic background includes spots, stripes and harlequin types and breeders have used it to create at least 50 new hybrids with unique color patterns already.

Red – *Phal* Yolanda x *Phal* Carmela's Beau – Roy Harrow

Class VII – Vandaceous Group



Blue – *Ascocenda* Crownfox Golden Dawn – Laurel Burrows

The rich, striking, color pattern and flat presentation on this particular example of *Ascd.* Crownfox Golden Dawn is outstanding and it should be shown to the AOS judges for consideration of a flower quality award. It is much better than any others for which I can find images. This appealing hybrid has less than 20% *Ascocentrum* species in its background, but that is enough to strongly influence both the color and the arrangement of the blooms. The spotted pattern is mostly courtesy of *Vanda sanderiana*, which comprises nearly 60% of its genetic background. That species also assures a beautifully flat flower. Although only used to make 3 registered hybrids thus far, two of them are of note for being unique genetic combinations. *Paravandrum* Crownfox Sun Splash (x *Paraphalaenopsis* Asean) which displays surprisingly flat, vivid flowers given the other parent, and *Coronadoara* Michael's Delight (x *Christensoniana vietnamica*), which is the first of a new hybrid genus named after our October 2010 speaker, Michael Coronado of R.F. Orchids. This orchid likes to grown in very bright

light, preferable in a wooden basket with warm to intermediate temperature, high humidity, daily watering, good air movement and heavy feeding when actively growing.



Blue – *Vascostylis Thai Sky* – Maureen Pulignano

Red – *Ascocenda Suksamran Sunlight* 'Tangerine' – David Glass & Nancy Newton

Red – *Angraecum Lemforde White Beauty* – Bob Grzesik

White – *Perreiraara Motes Leprechaun* 'Haiku Mint' HCC/AOS – Barbara Dampog

Class IX - Miscellaneous



Blue - *Stanhopea wardii* 'Twin Falls' – Maureen Pulignano

Though the plant tag indicates that *Stan. wardii* 'Twin Falls' has a Certificate of Cultural Merit from the AOS, none is listed in the award records. Nonetheless, it is a very nice example of the species, with good color markings and a quality presentation. This species comes from lush, but seasonally dry forests of Nicaragua and El Salvador, south to Colombia and Venezuela where it grows mainly as an epiphyte, often on trees covered in Spanish moss and bromeliads. It prefers moderately bright light, which may yellow the foliage slightly, but it will not flower well when grown under shadier conditions. Copious water should be provided from April through October, followed by a gradual lessening to only occasional watering or misting in the heart of winter. Flowering is principally in the summer months, and as is typical for the genus, inflorescences grow straight downward from the base of the pseudobulbs. They gradually develop into 3 to 10 large translucent buds, which burst open into fairly large (to about 5 inches across) flowers of bizarre beauty and strong fragrance, which last only 2 or 3 days. Large, well-grown specimens, however, can produce many inflorescences in the course of the bloom season, and cultural awards have been granted to examples with as many as 40 flowers open at once. *Stanhopea* are usually grown in wire baskets lined with moss or coconut fiber and filled with fast draining, but somewhat moisture retentive media. Although most *Stanhopea* hybrids are kept within the genus, a few bizarre crosses have been made with *Acineta*, *Coryanthes* and *Gongora*.

NOVICE TABLE REMINDER!!

We want to remind all our members that we have added a 'Novice Table' to our monthly 'show and tell' of orchid plants.

This category is for anyone who is a beginner grower of orchids. We want to encourage you to not be afraid to bring your plants in flower to the meeting and show off how you are doing with your new hobby! Though not eligible for points toward our quarterly prizes, the plants will be awarded ribbons and receive recognition both at the meeting and in the newsletter!

RECENT ACTIVITY AT 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 this page are © Maureen Pulgnano



Miltonia x cogniauxiae 'Mello Spirit' CCM/AOS
(*regnelii* x *spectabilis*)

Exhibited by David Mellard and Sal Marino



Bulbophyllum Magnifico 'Jo's Chasus'
HCC/AOS
(Louis Sander x *phalaenopsis*)

Exhibited by Charles & Susan Wilson



Phalaenopsis gigantea 'Magnifico' AM/AOS

Exhibited by Mrs. Ralph Levy



Phalaenopsis gigantea 'Magnifico' CCE/AOS

Exhibited by Mrs. Ralph Levy

Newsletter Submissions

To submit material for the newsletter, or to sign up for the email version of the newsletter, please contact Mark Reinke at markreinke@att.net. The deadline for submissions is the 20th of the previous month.

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.

In Bloom at Marble Branch Farms



Cattleya Jungle Beau x Encyclia phoenicea
A first blooming seedling of a new MBF hybrid.



Cattleya Gratrixiae (coccinea x tenebrosa)
An 'antique' mini-catt registered in 1901.



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Laelia Wellesley (lyonsii x superbiens)
Large, bizarre flowers on an 8-foot tall spike!