



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, 2011

www.AtlantaOrchidSociety.org

Volume 52: Number 9

SEPTEMBER MONTHLY MEETING

**8:00 pm Monday, September 12, 2011
at the Atlanta Botanical Garden, Day Hall**

**Speaker – Dr. Martin Motes, Motes Orchids,
Redland, FL**

Topic – Month by Month Vandaceous Culture



Vanda Mary Motes
(Blue Grig x tessellata)

Martin Motes, a second generation orchidist, has been growing vandas in South Florida for over 50 years. He has bred hundreds of new hybrids, receiving scores of AOS awards, including three FCCs & 3 Awards of Quality. His hybrids swept Gold, Silver and Bronze medals at the 18th World Orchid conference in Dijon, with V. Mary Motes garnering the trophy as "Best Vanda in Show." Motes's hybrids have been recognized by the Royal Horticulture Society and in other international judging venues. He is an accredited AOS judge.

Author of Vandas: Their History, Botany, And Culture (Timber Press 1997) the definitive study of the genus to date, Martin's frequent articles have appeared in The Orchid Digest, The Orchid Review, Orchids & elsewhere. Dr. Motes has spoken at national orchid conferences in the U.S., Britain, Thailand, Nepal & Australia and was a featured speaker at the World Orchid Conferences in Rio, Dijon and Kuala Lumpur, where he chaired the Hybridizer's Forum.

Dr. Motes is currently working on a monograph of the genus Vanda in collaboration with Dr. David Roberts of the UK. He is married to Mary Motes, author of the widely praised memoir of Yugoslavia, Kosova, Kosovo, and the cult, best-selling comic novel Orchid Territory. They reside in Homestead, FL.

In this issue....

Page	
2	ATLOS Volunteer Listing Highlights of the annual auction
3	Events Calendar A Note from the President
4	Minutes from August Meeting
5-10	August Ribbon Winners and Notes
11	AOS Corner
12-13	Growing tips for September
15	Recent AOS Awards at Atlanta Judging Center

THE ATLANTA ORCHID SOCIETY**Officers****President****Greg Smith** 770-654-6170**Vice-President/Programs****Geni Smith** 678-817-1915**Secretary****David Mellard** 770-488-0727**Treasurer****Danny Lentz** 770-640-01121045 Wordsworth Dr.
Roswell, GA 30075**Immediate Past President****Maureen Pulignano** 404-869-6980**Trustees****Mark Reinke** 864-718-0152**Fred Missbach** 404-237-1694**Barbara Barnett** 706-579-2670**David Glass** 404-377-4187**Laurel Burrows** 404-229-0706**Hal Morrison** 678-297-2705**Other Volunteers****Auction Chair – Fred Missbach****AOS Rep – Maureen Pulignano****Greengrowers – Geni Smith****Librarian – Ken Ramborger****MAOC Rep – Doug Hartong****Meeting Hospitality – Cora Bell
Ramborger****Membership Chair – Maureen
Pulignano****Mentoring Coordinator–
David Glass****Plant Raffle – Terry Glover****Monthly Ribbon Judging –
David Kessler****Newsletter – Mark Reinke****Orchid Digest Rep– Fred
Missbach****Show Chair 2011 & 2012 –
Barbara Barnett****Show Hospitality 2011 – Geni
Smith (Exhibitors, Vendors and
Volunteers), Laurel Burrows
(Judges' Luncheon)****ANNUAL SOCIETY AUCTION AND POT
LUCK PICNIC A RESOUNDING SUCCESS!**

This year's auction, held on Saturday, August 27th at the Garden Hills Recreation Center, was an afternoon of fun and excitement as many dozens of unusual, interesting and hard to find orchids went up for bid to a healthy crowd of members and several guests. Our auction chair, Fred Missbach, did a fantastic job of procuring a wide selection of plants to please all tastes, from showy Phalaenopsis in full bloom to rare species that had members scrambling to computers and reference books seeking information on what they were bidding on. All told, the auction raised an outstanding gross total of \$4568 for the society!



*Fred Missbach auctioning off a very special tetraploid seedling of *Guarianthe (Cattleya) skinneri*.*

As auctioneer, Fred kept the pace moving quickly and the bids were flying fast and furious as each item came up before the crowd. Greg Smith did a great job of making sure a new plant was in his hands and ready as each previous item sold, and Danny Lentz and Diane Morgan kept track of winning bid and bidder, keeping the whole event running like clockwork! Many thanks to their hard work, and to Geni Smith and the other members who helped set up the food, ice, drinks and utensils for our pot luck lunch. Delicious fried chicken was piled high and surrounded by numerous platters and bowls of tasty side dishes, along with plenty of tempting desserts, assuring that everyone was well satisfied.

And many, many thanks to the members who bid so generously and came away with plenty of healthy and exciting additions to their collections.

Events Out and About

September

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

Sep 12 - Atlanta Orchid Society Monthly Meeting, ABG, Day Hall – 8 p.m.

Speaker : Martin Motes - Vandaceous

Sep 16-18 – Alabama Orchid Society Show, Birmingham Botanical Garden, Birmingham, AL

October

Oct 8 - American Orchid Society monthly judging, Atlanta Judging Center, 2 pm, ABG basement workshop.

Oct 10 - Atlanta Orchid Society Monthly Meeting, ABG, Day Hall – 8 p.m.

Keith Davis – Ghost Orchid (*Dendrophylax lindenii*) – Rescheduled from October, 2010!

November

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

Nov 14 - Atlanta Orchid Society Monthly Meeting, ABG, Day Hall – 8 p.m.

Nov. 13-20, 2011 - 20th World Orchid Conference, Singapore.

www.20woc.com.sg

Mar 9-11, 2012 – Atlanta Orchid Show Atlanta Botanical Gardens, Day Hall

Mar 23-25, 2012 – Deep South Orchid Society Shows – Savannah Mall, Savannah, GA

Mar 31-Apr 1, 2012 – Western North Carolina Orchid Society Show – NC Arboretum at Bent Creek, Asheville, NC

A Note from the President

Hello Everyone,

First I want to give a special thanks to Fred Missbach who did a great job of obtaining pants, coordinating, and auctioneering for our annual Society auction on Saturday the 27th. The food was excellent as always. I think everyone had a great time. The society made enough money to help significantly with funding our operations for the next year and our members got a chance to buy some really great plants. I want to thank everyone who donated time and money or food to the Auction.

Don't forget the raffle for September. If anyone has plants to donate please bring them. All proceeds from the raffle table directly benefit the society.

Our speaker will be Dr. Martin Motes of Redlands, FL, who, along with his wife Mary, is well known for his work with vandaceous hybrids and will be speaking on the month by month care of that orchid group. I'm sure everyone will find his program both helpful and interesting.

The time is upon us to select new officers for 2012. The membership must elect one board member to be on the nominating committee with the other four members already selected, so we will have ballots ready for you at the upcoming meeting. Also on the committee this year are: Chairperson Steve Burrows, last year's chair, Lynne Gollob, and members at large Terry Glover and Marianne Gilmore. They will report back to us with their list of nominees during our October meeting and the actual member vote will come during our November meeting.

Thanks a lot everyone and hope to see you at the meeting!

Gregory Smith

JOIN THE AMERICAN ORCHID SOCIETY

12 issues of Orchids, the Society's monthly full color magazine chock full of insightful articles and tempting ads for plants and supplies.

10% off on purchases from the Society's Bookstore and Orchid Emporium. Reduced or free admission to participating botanical gardens.

For a limited time, if you join for two years you will also get a \$30 gift certificate (good on an order of \$100 or more) at any one of 13 commercial growers who advertise in *Orchids*.

JOIN TODAY.

Single Membership 1 year \$65, 2 years \$125

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

JOIN OR RENEW ONLINE AT: www.aos.org

Minutes of the Atlanta Orchid Society August 2011 Monthly Meeting

1. President Greg Smith called the meeting to order at 8 pm on August 11 and the membership present approved the July minutes as published in the newsletter. There was a good turnout for the ice-cream social and tour of the ABG greenhouses.
2. The Alabama Orchid Society will hold its annual orchid show September 16-18 at the Birmingham Botanical Garden. Orchid entry and exhibit set up is Friday, September 17 with ribbon and AOS judging on Saturday, September 17.
3. The AtlOS annual auction and pot luck is August 17 at the Garden Hills Recreation Center (339 Pinetree Drive NE, Atlanta, GA 30309). Set up is at 11:00 am with lunch and plant preview at noon. The auction starts at 1 pm. Please bring a covered dish for lunch.
4. The nominating committee will be formed in September. If you are interested in serving on the nominating committee, please talk to Greg Smith. The 5-member nominating committee consists of (A) a chair appointed by the president,

(B) last year's chair of the nominating committee, (C) one member from the Board of Trustees selected by the society, and (D) two society members selected by the Board of Trustees.

5. Acadian Wholesale Supply donated two bags of Orchidata, a new potting product for orchids. More information about their products are available at <http://www.acadianwholesalesupply.net/>
6. Roy Harrow reported that \$221 was given to the AtlOS from the auction he sponsored in July at his house. Thanks go to Roy and Becky for their hospitality and hard work.
7. Maureen Pulignano reported that the society has 122 paid members.
8. The society welcomed the following new members:
 - a. Tim, Maggie, and Colleen May of Acadian Wholesale Supply,
 - b. Kyong (pronounced Key) and Ahja Chou, and
 - c. Charles and Susan Loeb.
9. David Glass reminded members, particularly new members, that the society has a mentoring program designed to answer orchid-related questions. If you have questions, please contact David at 404-377-4187, and he will answer your question or find a society member who can.

David Mellard, Secretary

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@orchiddigest.com) (404-237-1694)

Atlanta Orchid Society Monthly Ribbon Winners August, 2011

Notes and comments by Mark Alan Reinke

Photographs courtesy of Cheryl Bruce

Class I – Cattleya Group



**Blue – *Rhyncolaeliocattleya* Hattie Sims –
David Glass & Nancy Newton**

Rlc. Hattie Sims is a 2008 introduction by Carter & Holmes that represents the 10th generation in breeding towards producing fine, full, flat yellow cattleyas. All told, its family tree reveals the entire history of breeding toward this end that began in the 1880's and proceeded through 98 different registered hybrids based on 25 or 26 different species (depending on how you count them) to the result we see today. Over and over again, famous and important hybrids appear and re-appear on both sides of this orchid's family tree, as breeding efforts recombined the best of the best, seeking to perfect the form that today we take as standard. The last thirty years toward this end were under the hand of Gene Crocker at Carter & Holmes in Newberry, SC. But his efforts were based on several decades of work that preceded him under by the famous Stewart's Orchids of Carpinteria, CA. And that firm assembled *their* breeding stock from the best results of cattleya breeding houses from around the world that had made great strides prior to the turmoil of the Second World War. Slightly more than half of the genetic background of *Rlc.* Hattie Sims is attributable to *Cattleya dowiana*. And while this species is magnificent in its own right with butter yellow segments and an outstanding purple lip veined

in gold, not to mention the most captivating orchid perfume one can imagine, even the best forms are a far cry from the even, flat form we see here. Its two petals tend to thrust forward out of alignment with the sepals, and none of the segments are really broad enough to overlap. So those of us that grow and enjoy such magnificence in color and form owe much to the many amateur and professional orchid breeders who gave continued life to this ideal over the past 120 years. The form of *Rlc.* Hattie Sims can be even flatter than our ribbon example. Here is a photo of another seedling from that cross:



Rlc. Hattie Sims 'Marble Branch'

A word of caution, however, to remember when buying unflowered cattleya seedlings in the yellow and art shades. Even with parents of the highest of pedigree, there are some unfortunate faults that will crop up among some of the seedlings due to the bad traits of some distant ancestors. One is the tendency for flowers to "cripple," which is to show deformed, unmatched petals or extra foliations under the column, marring their symmetry. The other is to revert to the "isthmus lip" of *Cattleya bicolor*. This is because the 1901 *Cattleya* Iris, (*C. bicolor* x *dowiana*) was one of the key first steps in flattening the flower and creating more substance, and is in the ancestry of nearly all our modern yellow, red and art shade large cattleya hybrids. We always buy several seedlings in order to increase our chances of seeing exceptional results.

When it comes to culture, the large yellow, summer blooming cattleya hybrids still have a significant amount of *C. dowiana* in their genes, and have a reputation for being more difficult to

grow well. The key to success is to provide more or less the same conditions this ancestor species prefers. Brighter than “typical” cattleya light, very good to extreme drainage, and a very bright, dry winter rest when the plant is watered just enough to keep it from shriveling and fertilizer is withheld completely. Due to the low sun angle at this time, the plant should be located in the brightest part of your growing area to properly “harden” for the coming growing season. The foliage should be distinctly yellow green, rather than dark green, when grown properly. It may seem odd that how you treat your plant in winter will affect its flowering six months in the future, but try these recommendations and you will be pleased with the results!

Red – *Brassavola* David Sander – Roy Harrow

White – *Tetratonia* Dark Prince – Geni Smith

Class II – Cymbidium Group
No Entries

Class III – Dendrobium Group



Blue – *Dendrobium munificum* – Ken & Cora Ramborger

In *Dendrobium*, so far, the “lumpers” are ahead of the “splitters” when it comes to taxonomy. This species, known for years as *Inobulbon munificum*, is still often found under that name in commerce. There are many qualities that make this unusual and charming species unique, such as its squat conical pseudobulbs ringed in long bristly fibers at each node, and the fact that the arching inflorescence frequently branches to hold as many as 150 flowers that are an inch or slightly more across. Though the color palette is somewhat muted, mixing olive green, brown, white and burgundy, it is laid out in a very attractive and rather sophisticated pattern that nearly everyone finds appealing. Another atypical feature of this *Dendrobium* is that the flowers open each morning and close each evening throughout their life. Unfortunately, this was already occurring when the photos of our ribbon winner was taken, so it is difficult to see the attractive color pattern of the open blooms. Other traits of this species are typical for *Dendrobium*. Aside from the persistent bristles, the plants have a very similar look to some Australian species such as *Den. speciosum*, and like this and many other species, the inflorescence emerges from side nodes on the upper half of pseudobulbs from previous seasons’ growth, not the most current growth.

Den. munificum comes from humid, shady forests of the island of New Caledonia, where it is often found on moss covered tree limbs well off the ground. Plants can be grown on slabs if good humidity can be maintained in the growing area, or in pots with an open, fast draining medium. They like moderate, not high, light, intermediate to warm temperatures, and regular watering through the summer growing season with somewhat less in winter, though plants should never stay dry for long periods of time. There are no recorded hybrids between this species and any other orchids.

Red – *Dendrobium linguiforme* – Gary Layman

White – *Ceratostylis rubra* – Maureen Pulignano

Class IV – Epidendrum Group



Blue – *Prosthechea cochleata* – Maura Caffrey

While still seen in commerce as *Encyclia cochleata*, and sometimes even as *Epidendrum cochleatum*, this well-known species is recognized by Kew, and the RHS for registration purposes, as *Prosthechea cochleata*. That genus comprises a number of former *Encyclia* that share similar growth characterized by elongated, laterally compressed soft pseudobulbs and thinner and often broader leaves than the “hard bulb” true *Encyclia*. *Psh. cochleata* has an extensive range centered in the Caribbean basin that includes extreme South Florida, many of the West Indies, across northern South America from French Guiana to Colombia, through Central America and along the Atlantic slope of Mexico. As should be expected with such a widespread habitat, there is a great deal of variation in plant and flower size. Some are quite compact, producing only a few open blooms at any given time on successive inflorescences, while others are far more robust, and can exhibit 7 to 9 open flowers at once, each of which can be up to 5 inches in total spread. It pays to seek out divisions of good cultivars, or seedlings from selected parents. All forms exhibit flowers of relatively similar shape and color pattern, presented in

nonresupinate fashion (cup shaped lip uppermost) with the other segments trailing out and downwards. The overall background color is pale or apple green, overlaid on the lip by dark purple creating a near black effect. A layer of yellow pigment further overlays the purple in the uppermost portion of the lip, and the throat is accented by prominent radiating lines of the dark purple. Both the species name and the common name, the Cockleshell Orchid, allude to the impression the lip by itself creates, while the flower form as a whole leads some to call this the Octopus Orchid. Each inflorescence can bloom successively for many months, and may also branch to produce additional flowers, so that mature plants are typically in bloom more often than not.

Psh. cochleata is considered easy to grow, and appreciates moderate to bright indirect light, an open medium with good drainage, lots of fresh air movement, and plenty of water during the typical growing season, with somewhat less in winter. Many of the areas it grows in naturally experience very low rainfall in winter, but the plants are supplemented by good humidity, and frequent dew or fog. Those looking for something very unique would appreciate the sometimes bizarre hybrids this species is capable of producing, but very few are ever commercially available. We hope to have a good supply of several somewhat bizarre crosses we have made at Marble Branch Farms using this species within a couple years.

Red – *Encyclia alata* ‘Crestwood’ – Gary Layman

Welcome New Members!

Kyong and Ahja Chou

Tim, Maggie & Colleen Maye

Charles & Susan Loeb

Class V – *Oncidium* Group



Blue – *Brassidium* unknown hybrid – Maura Caffrey

Red – *Miltonia moreliana* – Maureen Pulignano

White – *Brassidium* Shooting Star x rex – Lynne Gollob

Class VI – *Cypripedium* Group



Blue – *Paphiopedilum* Nighthawk x Hsinying Web – Maura Caffrey

Wow! This “vinicolor” *Paphiopedilum* is approaching black, especially in the pouch. In fact, I would call the evenly purple-black pouch color exceptional. This hybrid has not been registered as of the latest update from the RHS, but most likely will be soon if other seedlings from it show similar results. This dark color profile has been achieved in *Paphiopedilum* primarily by crossing selected forms of *Paph. callosum*, and *Paph. lawrenceanum*, with just a dash of other species across 7 generations of breeding. While not visible in the photo, these hybrids typically have very attractive mottled foliage, sometimes surprisingly light in color, for dramatic contrast with the flowers, and always attractive even when no blooms are present. These are low light orchids, capable of blooming even when grown under fluorescent lighting. This combined with the fact that they thrive in the normal household temperature range make them excellent “windowsill” orchids. They do appreciate regular watering and feeding and should not dry out completely. The amount of water they require will hasten the decomposition of the potting mix, so they are best repotted into fresh mix each year once flowering is complete. New, vigorous root growth normally follows this procedure.

Red – *Paphiopedilum* Hsinying Alien (Supersuk x Raisin Pie) – Maura Caffrey

With a very heavy and sad heart, I am reporting the death of our long-time friend and former orchid society member, Frank Gilmore. Frank and his late wife (Lou) could almost be called founding members of the orchid society. The orchid society was founded in 1967. Frank & Lou (if memory serves me correctly) became members shortly thereafter. As long as Lou's health permitted, they both remain good faithful members. Ever since then, Frank has proven many times just how much the orchid society meant to him by all of the many things he did. He was a true southern gentleman in every way. He will truly be missed by all who knew him.

Margie Holder – Alabama Orchid Society

Class VII – *Phalaenopsis* Group



Blue – *Doritaenopsis* Merry Musick – Roy Harrow

While the RHS and Kew have yet to come into agreement on the topic, most taxonomists are now placing *Doritis pulcherrima* back into *Phalaenopsis*. For now, however, the official registered name of this orchid remains *Doritaenopsis* Merry Musick (note that there is a 'k' in the official name). This unusual hybrid is three quarters *Dor. Pulcherrima* and one quarter *Phal. chibae*, an unusual near miniature species from Vietnam with upright spikes of tiny pale yellow, brown spotted flowers with back swept segments that contribute significantly to the flower form in our ribbon winner this month. A recent registration (2009) with atypical breeding that may not score well in judging, *Dtps.* Merry Musick offers something different and refreshing with its elfin flowers of diamond dust texture and rich orchid purple overlaid with orange. A mature example of this hybrid should be capable of producing multiple spikes from the main plant and developing side shoots that spring up around the base. In the wild, *Dor. Pulcherrima*

grows as a terrestrial in sandy, well-drained soil, typically under the shade of shrubs, so the mix used for this particular hybrid should be somewhat fine and moisture retentive, but well drained at the same time. Increasing the number of holes in the pot it is grown in can also be beneficial to the drainage and therefore the overall root health.

Red – *Doritis pulcherrima* var. *champornensis* – Roy Harrow

Class VIII – *Vandaceous* Group



Blue – *Aerangis luteoalba* – Ken & Cora Ramborger

This beautiful miniature is the only species in the genus with a brilliant vermilion column contrasting with the typical white or off-white background color. Though commonly labeled *Aerangis luteoalba* var. *rhodosticta* there does

not seem to be a 'typical' form of the species that it should be distinguished from, and the earliest botanical description, given by Schlechter in 1918, simply calls it *Aerangis luteoalba*, a name which Kew accepts as correct. Therefore, I prefer to save space on my tags and stick with the simpler form of the name. A tiny epiphytic inhabitant of riverine forests in Central and East Africa, it prefers a fairly shaded, humid environment with mild temperatures year round. In the wild, there are two rainy seasons, one in spring and the other in fall, followed by drier periods in summer and winter. In cultivation, an environment where good humidity and air flow are constant is a must for keeping this beauty happy. As long as this high humidity level can be maintained, this species does best when mounted. We grow our plants in front of the cooling pads where they are watered daily most of the year except on dull, damp days when they need to be kept dry. It is important, especially during the corresponding wet seasons of its nature habitat, that *Aerangis luteoalba* gets the moisture it needs without staying wet and soggy. A happy plant can flower in both fall and spring with one or several inflorescences each displaying up to 20 neatly placed and very long lasting flowers. The only registered hybrids are with other members of the genus and, in my opinion at least, none of them offer any improvement on the species itself.

Red – *Schoenorchis fragrans* – Ken & Cora Ramborger

White – *Rhynchostylis coelestis* 'Fuchs Indigo,' AM/AOS – Geni Smith

Class IX – Miscellaneous

Blue – *Stenoglottis longifolia* – David Mellard & Sal Marino

Stenoglottis is a genus of 4 species from East and South Africa that typically grow as terrestrials, and occasionally as lithophytes or semi-epiphytes. They have fleshy, tuberous roots, and basal rosettes of deciduous leaves. *Sngl. longifolia* comes from the area around Natal in South Africa when it tends to grow in fairly bright locations on mossy rocks or in humus on banks and rock outcrops. Though these areas are not as hot as Atlanta, the species seems adaptable if proper care is given.



It does best in pots filled with a fine, fast draining, but moisture retentive medium such as a commercially prepared terrestrial orchid mix, and should be well watered and fertilized during the growing season, then kept nearly dry after flowering, when the leaves begin to turn yellow and die naturally. Several sources caution about keeping the plants bone dry during dormancy, but only a very small amount of water should be supplied, to keep the roots from desiccating. While the individual flowers are small, with a pale lilac background peppered with purple dots, the mass effect of many flowers per inflorescence, each with a deeply fringed lip, is charming, and a specimen plant with many spikes is impressive. There is a nice hybrid between this species and *Sngl. fimbriata* called *Sngl. Venus* that is worth seeking out, with flowers that are slightly fuller, darker and more densely packed on the inflorescence. It has received several awards both from the American and South African Orchid Societies and is popular in California, but not well known elsewhere.

Red – *Habenaria rhodocheila* 'Cardinal's Roost' – David Mellard & Sal Marino

White - *Ponerorchis graminifolia* 'Mello Spirit' - David Mellard & Sal Marino

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 our society's officers listed on page 2.

AOS Corner

Lynn Fuller, Chair

AOS Affiliated Societies Committee

As I write this, summer is winding down. AOS has had a busy summer and this AOS Corner is devoting it's time to a few of the newer projects that were developed over the last few months. First, I hope you have had an opportunity to check out the new AOS website (www.aos.org). Some of the projects discussed below are featured prominently on the website. In addition, if you are an individual member be sure to register and log in for access to the members' only section which is growing daily. You may also edit your individual profile, manage your membership and any individual membership add-ons. If you are not an individual member in the AOS, check out the benefits of being a part of us and join.

Myrtle Head Savanna Conservation Project

The AOS is working with The Nature Conservancy (TNC) to assist them with a management project of property TNC owns in North Carolina known as the Myrtle Head Savanna, a part of the ecologically rich Green Swamp. This is a remarkable and ecologically important area in which our collective support can help to resuscitate and sustain a critical habitat for native orchids, as well as numerous other plant and animal species. AOS has a goal to raise \$10,040.

I hope that you as individuals or your society as a group will be able to support this effort generously and be able to take pride in protecting orchids in the wild. To support this project, go to the AOS webpage (www.aos.org) and there is a tab marked "Myrtle Head Savana" on the home page has more information and instructions on giving. You do not have to be a member of AOS to support this project. Even small amounts add up to large numbers when it comes to conservation!

Orchid Photo of the Week

Do your friends and family tell you how beautiful your photos of your orchids are? Do you think they deserve recognition? Do you have what it takes to go up against the very best? Then maybe it's time for you to submit something to "Photo of the Week" it your best shot!

Each week one image from the Flickr® group, Orchid Photo of the Week, will be featured on the website homepage of the AOS. The very best will be selected for a feature in Orchids magazine. Be sure to read the complete instructions here. And remember, we are looking for the cream of the crop of orchid photography. So fire up your digital camera and get shooting!

Orchid Fangdango

The AOS Fall Members' and Trustees meeting will be held in San Antonio, Texas, October 26 – 30, 2011. It is being sponsored and organized by the Alamo Orchid Society. Speakers include Martin Motes, Bill Thoms, Tom Mirenda, Gene Crocker, Fred Clarke, Steve Frowine and Jeff Bradley. Lots of vendors will be available as well – 18 in all – including Brazil, Taiwan, Florida, Hawaii and many areas in between. For a complete listing of vendors and further information on the show, check out their website at www.alamoorchidsociety.org.

Please support your local orchid shows.



Calopogon tuberosus, the Grass Pink Orchid is one of nine orchid species endemic to Myrtle Head Savanna in Green Swamp, NC

GROWING TIPS for September

By **Courtney T. Hackney**

Email: Hackneau@comcast.net



(Editor's Note: Dr. Courtney T. Hackney, Dept. of Biology, University of North Florida, is a member of the St. Augustine Orchid Society, and author of American Cattleyas. He writes a monthly orchid growing tips column and has graciously allowed us to begin including it in our newsletter! I'm sure you will find it informative and fascinating reading.)

For many years, the only water available to me for my orchids was too salty and getting even worse from salt water intrusion into the aquifer. A concrete cistern was constructed to collect and hold rainwater. Rainwater contains almost no dissolved solids, so you can imagine my surprise when an analysis of my water showed high levels of dissolved solids. Concrete cisterns are made of lime and some of that is lost to the water through leaching. Fortunately, other than making the water basic and leaving a white film on leaves, there was never a problem using this water. My orchids thrived with this calcium laden rainwater. After 4 or 5 years, water from the cistern was just slightly higher in solids than rainwater.

I often recommend keeping a log book indicating when various pesticides were sprayed, fertilizers used, etc. This is important in diagnosing the cause of problems that arise from time to time. An orchid growing friend had been using some of the bench in my greenhouse when I installed the cistern and was amazed at the incredible growth of his paphs under my care. After obtaining a few paphs of my own and studying the natural habitat it was clear why paphs had grown so well. It was the extra calcium and magnesium leaching from my cistern. To

compensate for the slow change in water as my cistern reached equilibrium, I began adding dolomite lime to pots containing paphs and they thrived. I also began using Peters Cal Mag, which provided even more calcium and magnesium each time fertilizer was applied. My cattleyas and other orchids grew well under these conditions, except in the summer when I would experience new growths that rotted. I would also lose seed pods from rot.

Every orchid hobbyist knows that moving to a new greenhouse requires a reexamination of culture, and my move to Florida four years ago has been no exception. The one big surprise was an issue that had occurred before, always in the summer, that was never resolved to my satisfaction. During very warm summers there would be the occasional rotting of new growths on cattleyas as well as on new leaves of phalaenopsis. Most surprising was that the issue occurred on both species and hybrids that should have been fine under high heat and temperatures based on their countries of origin. On these occasions, various anti-bacterial and anti-fungal agents were used.

Based on the premise that most horticultural issues are caused by culture, various attempts were made including altering fertilizers, increasing air movements, etc, with no real clear success. The problem typically disappeared once temperatures cooled in fall. Most frustrating was the loss of countless seed pods of some potentially great hybrids. They would begin rotting from the tip and the rot would eventually progress, destroying the seed pod.

I have finally discovered as the cause of this problem, blossom-end rot; the same malady that causes tomatoes to rot from the old bloom tip, which is low calcium and magnesium. Orchids are "cold-blooded" and when it gets warm they are capable of growing at a very fast rate. To do this, they must take up nutrients at an accelerated rate, too. Calcium and magnesium are required for proper cell development in new leaves and other tissues, e.g. seed pods. That was what was missing from my culture during the heat of summer.

During summer's high temperatures, many orchid hobbyists report loss of new leaves especially when growing outdoors. Heavy rains flush nutrients, especially calcium and magnesium, from media, and at the same time, high temperatures and humidity foster very rapid

growth. It did not occur to me to increase the calcium and magnesium content of the water I am now using since it comes from a limestone aquifer and is loaded with minerals, including calcium. My fertilizer now is fish emulsion instead of the cal-mag fertilizer I have used in the past. Essentially, I am now providing more of the essential growth nutrients, mainly nitrogen, but not enough calcium for my orchids in this high growth time of the year.

When I first realized what was causing the increased loss of new growths and seed pods, I hand spread dolomite limestone powder all over the plants in the greenhouse. My orchids looked like it had snowed. I also placed a couple of pounds in the reservoir from which my Dosatron draws water after I have applied fertilizer. Within a week, there ceased to be an issue of rots despite the highest summer temperatures of the year.

Even some of what I consider intermediate temperature orchids have responded to the extra calcium and magnesium by growing extremely well in the heat. Most orchid growing advice suggests acidifying water. Adding dolomite raises pH, but has not had any negative effects so far. I still flush regularly and fertilize with fish emulsion and this keeps the pH of the medium at the right level for growth.



Members Marianne Gilmore, Barbara Dampog (with husband as guest) and Bob McLean enjoy ice cream and conversation at the August meeting.



Members Jessica Wackerman and Walter Echols share a moment of conversation at the August meeting.



New members Kyong and Ahja Chou at the August meeting.



Maura Caffrey, and husband Phillip Chancey, recent additions to our membership, enjoy the August ice cream social.

**INVITATION FROM
South Metro Orchid Society
To their
Annual Picnic and Auction**

October 1, 2011

Lunch at 1:00pm Auction follows
(covered dish, canned drinks, plant
donations accepted, 10% to SMOS)

Home of Mary Cawthon
135 South Mt. Carmel Rd
McDonough, GA 30253

Information: Bill White, Sec.
404-202-9131
white7343@bellsouth.net



Geni Smith, Marianne Gilmore and David Mellard get read to help themselves to the pot luck fare at the auction held at Garden Hills Recreation Center.



Cora Ramborger and Steve Berger check out the impressive Phalaenopsis ready to be sold to the highest bidder at the member auction. Some of these went for bargain prices!



Gary Collier and Helen Weil inspect a blooming cattleya hybrid at the member auction.

ATLANTA ORCHID SOCIETY LOGO CONTEST

We are looking to enter the digital age with a color logo that is easily transferred across various media and can be resized easily for various used including the newsletter banner and cover art. PLEASE HELP!

Please submit your entry to David Mellard at DMellard@cdc.gov by Sept 12, 2011.

Logo Guidelines

1. Logo should be in color.
2. Should contain images of a tropical orchid or orchids.
3. Should be readily identifiable (at least to the genus level, e.g. *Cattleya*, *Paphiopedilum*, *Phalaenopsis*).
4. Contain the words "Atlanta Orchid Society" that are still readable when logo has dimension of 1 inch square.
5. Should be appealing if printed in grayscale.
6. Should be in a common digital image format with high resolution.

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 award photos this page © Maureen Pulignano



*Doritaenopsis Yu Pin Lady 'Stones River' HCC/AOS
Exhibited by Stones River Orchids*



*Doritaenopsis Yu Pin Shirasagi 'Stones River'
AM/AOS
Exhibited by Stones River Orchids*



*Ryncolaeliocatleya Sun Spots 'Memoria John Henry Lynch'
AM/AOS
Exhibited by Fred Missbach*



*IN BLOOM AN MARBLE BRANCH FARMS
Laelia (Schomburgkia) schultzei*