



# 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

May 2013

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

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## MAY MONTHLY MEETING

8:00 pm Monday, May 13, 2013

Atlanta Botanical Gardens, Day Hall

Speaker: David Mellard, Ph. D.

Title: Orchid Names: The Basics

David's talk on Monday came out of an exhibit he put in for the society at the Heart of Dixie two years ago. In addition to displaying the society's orchid entries on a moss-covered tabletop, he had two posters that described the basics of orchid names. For a beginner, orchid names can be rather daunting as one maneuvers through a bewildering set of rules surrounding orchid names. And then there are all those abbreviations, which mean something to an intermediate and experienced grower, but can be bewildering to the beginner. All that and more will be covered at this talk, which comes with a PowerPoint presentation and a handout. When you leave, you'll know how to correctly write genus and species names, what's capitalized and what's not, how to include the person's name who identified the orchid, and even where to put commas.

David became interested in orchids in the mid-1990s when a friend traded 10 or so orchids for a handfed cockatiel. At the time, he told the lady she didn't need to give him the orchid names; he just wanted to grow them for their beauty. That has changed. Like most others in the society, this led to a mild obsession with knowing everything about orchids. Books were purchased, orchid societies were joined, and many orchids were purchased. He started out growing by windows, then under lights, and now has a 16 x 48 foot greenhouse. While he has a mixed collection, he focuses mostly on odd and unusual terrestrials. He's an accredited AOS judge and past president, vice-president, treasurer, secretary, show-chair, and trustee of the Atlanta society. His other interests include growing carnivorous plants, trillium, begonia, and moss.



**May Blooming Hardy Orchids**  
***Cypripedium Little Henry***  
**(*parviflorum* x *henryanum*)**

One of the new hardy Lady Slipper orchid hybrids that is now available to grow in a woodland garden setting. This clump has increased to produce 10 flowers in just a couple years.

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## THE ATLANTA ORCHID SOCIETY

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&amp; Jan Spenard

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THE  
ELEVENTH ORCHID DIGEST SPEAKERS'  
DAY!!****“WONDERFUL WORLD OF ORCHIDS”**Huntington Library and Botanical Gardens, San Marino,  
California

Saturday, June 8, 2013 – 12:30 pm to 8:00 pm in the

**Ahmanson Classroom**

FEATURING

All Genera Flower Display – Orchid Sales– Expert Lectures  
– Dinner**Remember!!** AOS judging at 10:00 AMOpen at 11:00AM to bring your blooming plants for the  
flower display

Prize for best species and best hybrid,

**Lecturers:** Thomas Mirenda (Virginia), Ron Kaufmann  
(San Diego),

Paul Tuskes(San Diego), Mario Ferrusi (Toronto)

Dinner Speaker: Alec Pridgeon (Florida)

**VENDORS:** Cal Orchids; Sunset Valley Orchids, Andy's Orchids**Tickets: \$60 (\$75 at door)** for afternoon Seminars, Wine and  
Cheese Happy Hour; Dinner and Evening Entertainment**Please Contact: Simone Friend, 4349 Dogwood Ave., Seal Beach,  
CA 90740**Phone: (562) 431-1247 E-mail: [orchidsimonef@aol.com](mailto:orchidsimonef@aol.com)**Limited Space!! Make Your Reservations Now!****THANK YOU!**

David Mellard and Roy Harrow would like to thank all the people who helped make the orchid exhibit at the Southeastern Flower Show a success, especially those who entered plants: Nancy Newton, Cora Ramborger, Joe Swain, and others. We'd also like to thank the people who helped with setup and take down (Danny Lentz, Nancy Newton, and Joe Swain) and the people who volunteered at the exhibit to answer questions about orchids and who encouraged people to visit the Atlanta Orchid Society (Nancy Newton, Cheryl Bruce, Geni Smith, Lynne Gollob, Helen Weil & Carole Wooten). We also appreciate the 14 AOS judges who helped with ribbon judging and the two photographers who turned up (while sick) to photograph any possible AOS awards (Maureen Pulignano & Geni Smith). Thanks again. Without you, it would not have been near as good as it was!

## **Events Out and About**

### **May**

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

**May 11 – Open House Marble Branch Farms – 11 am – 4 pm**

Available for anyone who can't make the April 27<sup>th</sup> date.

Email RSVP to [markreinke@att.net](mailto:markreinke@att.net)

**May 13 - Atlanta Orchid Society Monthly Meeting, ABG, Day Hall – 8 p.m.**

**David Mellard – “Orchid Names – The Basics”**

### **June**

June 01 – International Phalaenopsis Alliance regional meeting at Lines Orchids, Signal Mountain, TN.  
Mike Mims, Speaker

June 08 - American Orchid Society monthly judging, Atlanta Judging Center, 2 pm, ABG basement workshop.

**June 10 – Atlanta Orchid Society Monthly Meeting, ABG, DAY HALL – 7 p.m.**

**Behind the Scenes ABG Tour and Annual Member Social – MEET AN HOUR EARLY**

### **July**

**July 08 - Atlanta Orchid Society Monthly Meeting, ABG, Day Hall – 8 p.m.**

**Ruben Salueda – Ruben in Orchids, Homestead, FL  
“Encyclias and Their Hybrids”**

July 13 - American Orchid Society monthly judging, Atlanta Judging Center, 2 pm, ABG basement workshop.

**July 27 – Orchid Auction Sponsored by Roy Harrow at his house. Potluck event. 2872 Gray Rd, Smyrna Georgia 30081-1921. H-770 434 8059 c-770 639 7052  
Helpers arrive at 9 am  
Public arrive at 10 am**

## **President's Message**



This should be titled “How I spent My Birthday.” For the record, last Saturday was one of the best ever! A great group of friends and orchid lovers gathered at Marble Branch Farms in Walhalla, SC for our annual visit and pot luck. Every year the greenhouse and property become more exciting to see. If you have never been, or if it has been a while, I strongly recommend you make the trip next year.

Meanwhile, back at the AtlOS, our membership numbers are on the cusp of surpassing last year's total. We have excellent educational programs scheduled for the balance of the year. And, we have fun social events, too. The not-to-be-missed ABG Greenhouse Tour in June will once again be topped off with an Ice Cream Social and Silent Auction, in addition to our brief business meeting. September will bring the Annual Awesome Auction and December is pure party to celebrate the holidays and another terrific year for the Atlanta Orchid Society. I especially hope the new members will join with us for the education and the friendship.

See you at the meeting!

*Maureen Pulignano*





## 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](http://www.aos.org)

## Minutes of the April 2013 Meeting of the Atlanta Orchid Society

Date: April 8, 2013, 8:00 pm

Location: Day Hall, Atlanta Botanical Gardens

The meeting, with 37 people present, was called to order by the president, Maureen Pulignano. Four new members, Blooma Slaughter, Cam Trippe, Nancy Murphy and Eryn Walker, were introduced. Previous members, Ray Bullard, Jeff Whitfield and Bill White, were welcomed back as members of the society,

### Announcements:

Maureen Pulignano congratulated the members whose plants won awards at the Southeastern Flower Show. Cora Ramborger said that the five top awards at the Southeastern Flower Show were given to plants entered by members of the Atlanta Orchid Society

Sadly, Gene Gadilhe died recently and will be missed by members of the society. His family has decided to donate his orchids to the Atlanta Orchid Society. The society appreciates their generosity.

Geni Smith will set up a display for the society at the Deep South Orchid Show in Savannah. Anyone who has plants for the display please contact Geni.

Mark Reinke announced that there will be a greengrowers outing at Marble Branch on April 27. Please notify him by e-mail if you will attend.

Ellen Brand moved that the minutes from the March 13, 2013 meeting be approved as published in the newsletter. The motion was seconded and passed.

### Treasurer's report:

Clark Weisner, treasurer, asked that anyone with outstanding bills please submit them to him.

Maureen Pulignano introduced the speaker, Mark Reinke of Marble Branch Farms. He gave an outstanding talk on Dendrobiums. He gave excellent information on the various sections of the Dendrobium group.

Maureen Pulignano adjourned the meeting.

There was a break for refreshments that were kindly provided by Marianne Gilmore, Greg Smith, Nancy Newton, Lynne Gollob and Geni Smith.

Barbara Barnett, Jeff Whitfield and Ray Bullard performed the monthly table judging. Mark Reinke announced the ribbon winners and gave interesting comments on many of the winners.

Lynne Gollob and Maureen Pulignano made generous donations of plants for the monthly raffle and silent auction that was conducted by Terry Glover.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Nancy Newton, Secretary*

### 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](http://www.atlantaorchidsociety.org)

For directions to the Atlanta Botanical Garden, please visit their web site at [www.atlantabotanicalgarden.org](http://www.atlantabotanicalgarden.org)

## Member Spotlight



### Marianne Gilmore

"My addiction to orchids began way back in 1975. I was working at Egleston Hospital as a Medical Technologist in the laboratory. Every afternoon I walked through the lobby as I was leaving to go home. There was a showcase there that always had a very unusual blooming plant on display. Then one afternoon as I was leaving with a co-worker, I asked her if she knew what these plants were. "They are orchids," she replied. Orchids??!! Oh my! I must learn more about them! Up until then, I thought there were 2 kinds of orchids – a white cattleya and a purple cattleya. These I had seen often over the year in corsages. My co-worker said she thought there was an orchid society that met at Fernbank.

After I got home, I looked up Fernbank in the phone book, called there, and found out about the meetings on the second Monday of each month. I went to the very next meeting and was hooked! So many beautiful orchids brought in by the members for ribbon judging! I wanted on of everything!

Well, the first five I bought didn't survive even a year. I was determined to succeed. I attended many meetings, asked lots of questions and eventually had 500 (give or take a few) orchid plants. I even managed to bloom them and win numerous ribbons.

I grow under lights. I've purchased freezer racks from a second hand restaurant equipment company. Starting with one, I now have five. They have to be 52 inches long, 24 inches deep and 27 inches tall to accommodate the 28 inch shop lights. There are 3 shelves per rack adjusted to different plant heights based on their distance from the lights. There are 2 light fixtures per shelf, hung with "S" hooks and one fixture hung from the ceiling.

I use two cool white bulbs and two grow lite bulbs per shelf. I grow them in a daylight basement on the east side of my home. Since I can't water with a hose, each plant sits on a clear plastic saucer filled with gravel and are watered using a vacuum sprayer purchased at Home Depot. I mix my fertilizer in gallon jugs a day before using it, once a week.

My plants seem to respond best with Dnya-Gro (7-9-5, 3-12-6, and Mag Pro). Light feeders receive ¼ tsp. per gallon, heavy feeders such as Cymbidium and Dendrobium, ½ tsp. per gallon. My Phals get Mag-Pro in August and September at ¼ tsp. per gallon.

I've tried just about every kind of orchid to find out what will grow and bloom under lights. Some do very well, especially the Phals. Those that don't usually die, or wind up on the raffle table recommend for greenhouse growing.

I have been a member of the Atlanta Orchid Society since 1975 and still enjoy every minute of the meetings, the speakers, the shows and the members. And by the way, those orchids in the lobby of Egelston were from the greenhouse of one of the pediatricians on staff there, who also was a member of the Atlanta Orchid Society.

Growing orchids is a never ending learning experience and I love it. By the way, my children were nearly grown before I got addicted to orchids, so they were never neglected!"

*Marianne Gilmore*

### CORRECTION!

In the April issue it was erroneously reported that Cora Ramborger won the trophy for Best Cymbidium at the Atlanta Orchid Show. That trophy was actually won by Barbara Dampog.  
CONGRATULATIONS, BARBARA!

## AOS CORNER

Welcome to the newly elected members of the Board of Trustees of AOS. At the Members' meeting held in March in San Diego, California, Fred Clarke was re-elected to the Board of Trustees for a three year period and Harry Gallis, David Toyoshima and Carol Zoltowski were newly elected for the same three year period. For more information on these new Trustees' background information may be found on the AOS website. In addition, Alan Koch, Tom Etheridge and Linda Wilhelm are the outgoing Trustees.

In addition at the Trustees and Members meeting, Frank and Taylor Slaughter of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, each received separate AOS Silver Medals for their dedicated service to the AOS. Taylor for her service to the AOS judging system, as the first chair of the Governance Committee and service as a member of the Board of Trustees in various capacities for a number of years. Frank received his award for his service to the technology needs of the AOS.

Direct-mail marketing assistance for AOS Affiliated Societies' Shows is available the purpose of promoting the shows, seminars and special society events via direct mail from the AOS's Membership Services Department. Please contact AOS well in advance of your anticipated mailing with the states, countries or zip or postal code ranges you are interested in obtaining. While this service is free of charge to affiliated societies, AOS would appreciate a donation to help defray costs associated with producing and mailing these lists (if print copies are requested). Contact the Society's Membership Services Department at 305-740-2010.

Interesting Orchid Hybrid Trivia from AOS Website:

The total number of grex names in the register is currently 154,660 (as of now). This figure increases daily. Each year The International Orchid Register adds between 3000-4000 new hybrids.

The most popular genera for hybrids are:  
 Phalaenopsis — 31,382  
 Paphiopedilum — 23,871  
 Cymbidium — 14,688

Dendrobium — 11,910

So far there are about 2349 hybrid generic names, but not all of these are in use. There are about 5,600 species involved in hybridization.

*Lynn Fuller, Chair*  
 AOS Affiliated Societies Committee

## IPA SE Region Summer Meeting

Saturday, June 1, 2013  
 Lines Orchids, Signal Mountain, TN  
 9 AM – 3:30 PM

### Agenda

9 AM – Greenhouses Open – Hospitality and Plant Sales

10 AM – Announcements and 1<sup>st</sup> Speaker (at Walden Town Center across highway)

#### **Rick Lockwood** **“Orchid Nutrition”**

Rick is a long-time member of the Orchid Society of Middle Tennessee in Nashville. Recently he wrote and had published an article in the March 2013 AOS **Orchids Journal** entitled “What do Orchids Eat?” Rick will bring us his latest findings and share with us the need for the right nutrients to feed your orchids and the amazing results when you do.

11:30 AM – Lunch on your own – Options include Bar-B-Que, Mexican and Chinese. Information provided.

1 PM – 2<sup>nd</sup> Speaker

#### **Mike Mims** **“Stop and Smell the Phals: The Art of Colorful Backyard Breeding”**

Mike lives near Asheville, NC and is considered to be a backyard breeder of novelty Phalaenopsis. His recent successes and numerous AOS awards speak to his detailed eye to breed quality novelty Phalaenopsis, most of which are fragrant. Mike's pictures of his creations will definitely impress all Phalie lovers.

2:30 PM – Auction to benefit the IPA and Region 12 (at Lines Orchids)  
 (Please bring selected divisions, keikis, mericlones and selected plants to donate to the auction.)

3:30 PM – Meeting ends. Have a safe trip home!



## Atlanta Orchid Society Monthly Ribbon Winners for April 2013

Notes and comments by Mark Alan Reinke  
Photos courtesy of Cheryl Bruce

### ***Class I – Cattleya Group***



**Blue – *Cattleya* Bow Bells x *Rhyncolaeliocattleya* Sweet Amy – Gary Collier & Mark Reinke**

This unregistered hybrid recycles the genes of the famous Rlc. George King 'Serendipity,' AM/AOS for a similar effect on a somewhat more compact plant. That well known cross is one of the parents of Rlc. Sweet Amy. The other parent is the bright orange-red miniature C. Psyche 'China,' AM/AOS. In pairing Rlc. Sweet Amy with the classic white C. Bow Bells, we hoped to achieve good results with beautiful blends of lavender, peach and yellow. This is the first plant from that cross to bloom that we are aware of, though many unbloomed seedlings were sold over the past few years so there may be others that have already shown their potential as well. We still have a handful left and hope to see what variations might show up, so we have held those plants back from sale for now. The other question yet to be answered is whether or not we were able to infuse any of these plants with the repeat blooming habits of Rlc. Sweet Amy. Among large flowered cattleya hybrids, only a very few will bloom more than once per year, making them better choices for the space they take up and the care they require. Mature cattleya types like to grow in a very open, large grade media, and must dry out regularly between watering in order to keep the roots healthy. They also like bright light, good air

movement and will tolerate temperatures from the 40's to the 90's. Good cultural practices are rewarded with larger flowers, better colors and stronger substance. While the form of this particular example is good, it could improve even more as the plant matures.

**Red – *Cattleya* Tropical Pointer 'Cheetah,' HCC/AOS – Geni Smith**

**White – *Cattleya* Mini Purple x Janet – Gary Collier & Mark Reinke**

### ***Class II – Cymbidium Group***



**Blue – *Cymbidium lancifolium* – Cora & Ken Ramborger**

*Cymbidium lancifolium* is one of several small to medium sized species that have wider foliage than we typically associate with the genus, resembling *Aspidistra*, the "Cast Iron Plant" grown in shady gardens in the Deep South. It is considered the most widespread species, growing from the Himalaya region eastward over much of Southeast Asia, Japan, Taiwan and into Indonesia and New Guinea. The pseudobulbs are also atypical, being more fusiform shape,

with a swollen middle and equally tapering ends. This places the auxiliary nodes from which the inflorescences emerge further up the bulb than is normal for the genus. Usually four to eight small flowers are borne per spike. They have a greenish background and a red stripe running through the mid vein of the petals and sometimes the sepals as well. The lip is near-white with some red marks and a yellow anther cap, offering subtle contrast. It is a shady grower, preferring light levels more typical of *Phalaenopsis*, and adaptable to a wide range of temperatures including light freezes during the winter months. Some coolness is required to encourage flowering. Give it copious water and fertilizer while actively growing, and less in winter, though it should not go completely dry. There are only seven registered hybrids in extant that list *Cym. lancifolium* as one parent, and I was unable to locate photos of any of them to see what kinds of results might be possible.

### ***Class III – Dendrobium Group***



**Blue – *Dendrobium trantuanii* – Barbara Dampog**

This small, intermediate to warm growing species from Vietnam was only described a decade ago, and named after the person who collected it in the wild, Tran Anh. While tags will show various permutations of the species name, the correct accepted spelling is the one I'm giving here. The flowers can be up to two inches across, which is large for the plant, with up to three per inflorescence. They are wide spreading with a glossy surface and delicate coloring of lavender suffused over a white background. The small, fuzzy lip is chestnut colored, contrasting with a lime column and flanked by a yellow or greenish patch of color at

the base of the two lateral sepals. From head on, the central area of the flower resembles some sort of bee or other flying insect and is no doubt a form of mimicry designed to attract a specific pollinator. The short pseudobulbs are compressed laterally and topped by several broad leaves which are often shed on flowering growths. While cultural information is still scarce on this species, given the region it comes from it most likely prefers culture similar to other *Dendrobium* from monsoonal climates, with plenty of water during the development of new growths in late spring through summer, and reduced water and somewhat cooler conditions when resting from late fall until flowering. Higher light levels in winter will likely help promote better flowering. So far, no hybrids have been registered that use this charming miniature species.

**Red – *Dendrobium Nestor* – Geni Smith**

**White – *Dendrobium trigonopus* –Maureen Pulignano**

### ***Class IV – Epidendrum Group***



**Blue – *Epidendrum coronatum* – Lynne Gollob**

The "Crown-like Epidendrum" is widespread across both Central and South America, usually at lower elevations, but occasionally as high as 6,000 feet above sea level in parts of Costa Rica. It forms clumps of reed-stemmed growths up to about 30 inches in height, topped by pendant inflorescences of up to 25 pale colored



flowers each up to 1.75 inches across. It is not frequently seen in collections and only little used in hybridization, with all but one of the seven current registrations being 30 or more years old. Grow this species fairly warm and bright, but not in direct sunlight, with a fast draining media that won't remain wet for long during the growing season when plants should be heavily watered. Reduce water in fall and winter, but don't let plants remain dry for long periods of time.

**Red – *Enanthleya* Jackie Bright 'Hilo Stars' – Gary Collier & Mark Reinke**

**White – *Encyclia bractescens* – Lynne Gollob**

### ***Class V – Oncidium Group***



**Blue – *Oncostele* Wildcat 'Chadwick,' AM/AOS – Lynne Gollob**

This popular and showy intergeneric hybrid introduced by Rod McLellan Company in 1992 comes in many color variations and still competes favorably with the best of the most recent introductions. The tall branched spikes produce dozens of well-spaced, flat flowers of good size. Its generic name has been changed twice due to reassignment of some of the species in the background from one genus to another. *Oncostele* = *Oncidium* + *Rhyncostele*. Quite a few of the better color variations

available were the result of mutations that took place in the process of mass tissue culture, and there are currently greater than 50 named cultivars in existence. All are variations involve a yellow background color on the segments, overlaid with varying amounts and patterns of purple. The color on the lip appears brighter because its background color is white instead. Flowers can last more than two months in perfect condition if plants are kept well watered and not overly warm while in bloom. These plants flourish in air with good humidity, grown in bright shady conditions with temperatures from the 50's to the 80's and in a mix that both retains moisture and drains quickly. During the growing season, which commences with the onset of flowering, these plants want copious amounts of water and regular feeding, but both should be reduced considerably from November until April, with the plants allowed to approach, but not reach, dryness between watering. Annual repotting into fresh media, in a container only large enough to accommodate the new season's growth, is highly recommended.

**Red – *Tolumnia* Jairak Rainbow 'Plum Pretty' – Lynne Gollob**

**White – *Golumnia* Kimberly Kosaki – Cora and Ken Ramborger**

### ***Class VI – Cypripedium Group***



### **Blue – *Phragmipedium Giganteum* – Cora & Ken Ramborger**

The name of this orchid sounds like a species, but is a hybrid dating from 1894 and introduced by the firm of J. Veitch & Sons of Buckshire, England. It takes their earlier hybrid from about a decade before, *Phrag. Grande* (*caudatum* x *longifolium*) back to the *Phrag. caudatum* parent, achieving flowers with very long petals like that species, but somewhat more robust growth. Despite the earliness of this cross, it has been used very little in additional breeding. Grow this orchid in moderately bright light levels, in a media with both good drainage and moisture retention, and do not ever allow it to dry out completely. It is tolerant of a range of temperatures from cool to warm and growing conditions should be maintained all year long.

### **Red – *Paphiopedilum Moon Stone* – Barbara Dampog**

### **White – *Paphiopedilum Hawaiian Illusion* – Geni Smith**

## ***Class VII – Phalaenopsis Group***



**Blue – *Phalaenopsis Joy Dreamy Jade*  
'FANGtastic' – Elaine Jacobson  
\*\*J. C. Mobley Cultural Award\*\***

From Elaine Jacobson:

"I started a new routine with the phals two or three years ago when the summers started getting too hot for them in the greenhouse. In the summer I used to put all my orchids, except the phals, outside. But I decided to start bringing the 14 phals up to the house and put them in the sunroom, which is 10 by 22 feet with a solid top and glass on three sides. They get all-morning southeast sunshine (they are right up to the glass), with hardly any shade from trees in the afternoon. They get a little air from the two doors which stay open into the rest of the house. The lowest sunroom temperature in the winter is in the 58-60 degree area. Each pot sits on a clear plastic pan with several quarter-inch raises in the bottom, so they don't usually sit completely on the flat tray bottom. The reason I water the orchids (and any other plant in the sunroom) every day is to keep water in the pans to help humidify the room (the humidity now seldom goes lower than 40% and sometimes goes much higher.) I feel the reason the roots don't rot with all this watering is because I always put a layer of white Styrofoam peanuts in the bottom of every pot. I seldom re-pot because I use bark and sponge rock, with a little peat moss, as a mix. I use clay pots.

I was somewhat disappointed with this plant because it failed to develop a stalk like the other phals and look like them. However, it started enlarging in circumference and developing a few flowers, and the leaves were so shiny! It now is 18 inches wide with 20 flowers on the several low branches and is most attractive, which make me wonder what it's going to look like next year!"



**Blue – *Phalaenopsis Dragon Tree Eagle*  
'Dragon Tree #1,' AM/AOS – Bob Grzesik**

Our member and exhibitor, Bob Grzesik received the Award of Merit from the Atlanta Judging Center of the American Orchid Society in April of 2009 for this stunningly colored orchid. The vividly contrasting shades are the result of several generations of breeding using, primarily, just two species, *Phal. violacea*, and *Phal. venosa*, with a touch of *Phal. lueddemanniana* and *Phal. amboinensis*. However, while the genetics were present to create the strong zones of color we see, both parents were much more subdued in their own coloration, blending the shades rather than segregating them into distinct areas. The cross was registered in 2004, and since then, has been used in the background of at least 36 additional hybrids. Of all the photos I could find of these progeny, none quite matched the vivid appeal of their parent. Given the two species that dominate, this orchid would grow best with shaded, humid and warm conditions, kept slightly moist at all times.

**Red – *Phalaenopsis* Jiaho's Pink Girl (a.k.a. "Wenlong Pink Girl" – unregistered trade name) – Geni Smith**

**White – *Phalaenopsis* Mini Mark 'Holm' – Nancy Newton & in Memory of David Glass**

### **Class VIII – Vandaceous Group**



**Blue – *Ascocenda* Kultana Expert – Maureen Pulignano**

This 2012 registration of Bangkok based Kultana Orchids owes its unusual coloring to a blend of the three main species in its background, *V. sanderiana*, *V. coerulea*, and *Asctm. curvifolium*. Nine generations of recombining their genes has produced this result. Undoubtedly, the seedlings from the cross vary in color from purple through fuschia to more unusual layered color effects like this one. Grow this orchid in high humidity with frequent watering, intermediate to warm conditions and bright light. Plants do well in baskets with very open media and their roots hanging free of the container where they can dry quickly. We have found that in our less than ideal conditions for this type of orchid, all of our vandaceous hybrids do better with live Spanish Moss (*Tillandsia usenoides*) growing around their roots to help maintain the high humidity they prefer.

**Red – *Sarcochilus* Heidi – Helen Weil**

**White – *Ascocenda* Motes Burning Sands 'Mary Motes,' AM/AOS - Nancy Newton & in Memory of David Glass**

### **Class IX – Miscellaneous**



**Blue – *Masdevallia triangularis* – Cora & Ken Ramborger**



This small species comes from cloud forest environments in Venezuela, and possibly Colombia and Ecuador as well, living at elevations where lows are below 60 year round and highs are below 80, so like many others in the genus, needs special attention to grow well through our hot southern summers. Some method of evaporative cooling would be the best solution. The flowers are borne singly, and while the main portion of the bloom may be only about 1 inch across, threadlike tails can trail off another couple inches from the segment tips. These appendages are just barely visible in the photo. This orchid should be kept moist during the growing season, but given less water, while not allowing it to dry out completely, in the short days of winter. The warmer the temperatures, the more shaded it should be grown, though in the wild plants often receive brief periods of bright, direct sunshine every day.

**Red – *Trigonidium* ssp. – Cora & Ken Ramborger**

**White – *Masdevallia ventricularia* – Maureen Pulignano**



### **In Memory of Sara Groves (Jan 1, 1916 – March 28, 2013)**

*By David Mellard and Jeff Whitfield*

Many of you may remember a frail but feisty little lady that came with Jeff Whitfield and Bill White to our orchid society meetings. We do. Her name was Sara Groves and she was always kind and gracious and loved to talk about plants. She was a member of the

society from 2006 to 2010 when her health finally prevented her from attending. As we talked over the years, we realized that Sara lead a fascinating life. We heard bits and pieces about working on a secret government project and meeting famous people. If you saw her garden, you'd be amazed at the variety of plants and skill in growing them. She had a plot of *Calanthe sieboldii* that would knock your socks off. Yes, *Calanthe sieboldii* is hardy in Atlanta.

Her adventures reminded us of the Forrest Gump movie and started as a child when a family friend arranged for her to fly with Amelia Earhart (for 25 cents). After receiving her degrees in nutrition, she taught Duke medical students and married a colonel. This started her world adventure where she rode horses with General George Patton and worked with him to develop a nutritional program for soldiers. The War Department took note and hired her again as a nutritionist for the Manhattan Project to develop the atomic bomb. While we knew that she worked on this top-secret project, she never would say very much. Later, she worked with Jack Valenti to develop and market Uncle Ben's Rice, which lead to meeting Lady Bird and the future President LBJ. While in Texas, she worked with Coach Bear Bryant at Texas A&M on a nutrition project for football players. Her love and knowledge of plants lead her to the position of head horticulturist at Georgia Tech, and her idea of growing and selling plants in 4 inch pots changed the nursery industry by creating instant gardens.

So, Sara came to the Atlanta Orchid Society late in her life and was at the point where she just loved to be around plant people. Her outings with Jeff and Bill were a blessing, both for her and for us, as we came to know this extraordinary woman. It reminds us of David Glass's journey because he came to the Atlanta Orchid Society after doing so many other things with his life. They have both left their mark either directly or indirectly on our society.

A very nice article about Sara written by Crystal Tatum can be found at:

<http://www.newtoncitizen.com/news/2010/mar/24/golden-gardener-groves-story-a-bouquet-of/>

## Atlanta Orchid Society Members Take Major Awards at the Southeastern Flower Show

By David Mellard

As you may know, the Atlanta Orchid Society plays a major role in the orchid exhibit at the Southeastern Flower Show (SFS) held March 15-17, 2013. The orchid exhibit is placed within the Horticulture Division, which consists of numerous categories where the public can enter plants (e.g., begonias, ferns, gesneriads, and, of course, orchids). Roy Harrow and David Mellard are advisors for the orchid class and are responsible for registration and set-up of the orchid exhibit.

The SFS is a judged event with ribbon judging and horticultural awards given by specialty judges from all over the U.S. Ribbon and AOS judging for orchids is done by American Orchid Society judges from the Atlanta Judging Center. In addition, the SFS has several judging panels to select plants for major awards, such as the National Garden Club medal and Best in Show.

We can be proud that Atlanta Orchid Society members took many of the major awards at the 2013 Southeastern Flower Show. Nancy Newton's *Dendrobium thyrsiflorum* won Best in Show by being awarded the Northwood Garden Club Trophy for horticulture excellence. Yes, that's best plant in the entire show. This plant was exhibited the previous week at the Atlanta Orchid Show. A few more inflorescences were in bloom for the SFS so the plant was even more spectacular. Cora Ramborger's *Paphiopedilum Shin-Yi Tiger* was awarded the National Garden Club Medal for horticulture. This highly coveted award is accompanied by a framed gold medal. David Mellard's *Stenorrhyncos albidomaculatum* 'Mello Spirit', CCM/AOS was awarded the Max Ellenberg Orchid Trophy for best orchid specimen plant. In other horticultural classes, David also was awarded a Certificate of Cultural Excellence from the Garden Clubs of America for his Trillium exhibit. This exhibit consisted of 8 species of sessile trillium from the Southeastern US along with a map showing their range and text describing the genus. David's *Asarum maximum* was also awarded best species in the show. Congratulations to all the Atlanta Orchid Society members for their awards. You represented the society well at the 2013 Southeastern Flower Show.







Paph. Shin-Yi Tiger  
Cora Ramborger  
National Garden Club Medal



*Stenorrhyncos albidomaculatum*  
David Mellard  
Best Specimen Orchid Plant



*Dendrobium thyrsiflorum*  
Nancy Newton  
Best Plant in the Show

### ATLANTA ORCHID SOCIETY EXHIBIT AT THE DEEP SOUTH ORCHID SOCIETY SHOW



There were a total of 23 plants entered and 16 ribbon awards. The exhibit received the trophy for Best of Class 7 – Group Exhibit 25 Square Feet Maximum. Members who received ribbons: Maureen Pulignano – 5 Blue & 1 Red, Barbara Barnett – 2 Blue & 1 Red, Nancy Newton – 2 Red & 1 White, Geni Smith – 1 Blue & 1 Red, Lynne Gollob – 1 Red, Cora Ramborger – 1 White. *THANKS to all who contributed orchids to the exhibit and to the hard work of Geni Smith who installed and took it back down.*



## RECENT ACTIVITY OF 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 photographs are © Maureen Pulignano or Jack Schlacter**



*Phragmipedium Jason Fischer 'M & B', AM/AOS, 82 pts.  
Exhibited by David Kessler*



*Encyclia patens 'Panther Creek', AM/AOS, 84 pts.  
Exhibited by Barney & Aileen Garrison*



*Encyclia patens 'Panther Creek', CCM/AOS, 85 pts.  
Exhibited by Barney & Aileen Garrison*



*Masdevallia Heathii 'Booga Booga', AM/AOS, 80 pts.  
Exhibited by The Orchid Gallery*



*Cattleya lueddemanniana f. alba* 'Spring Snow',  
HCC/AOS, 79 pts.  
Exhibited by Fred Missbach



*Phragmipedium besseae* var. *besseae*  
'Virginia Anne', AM/AOS, 87 pts.  
Exhibited by David Kessler



*Phalaenopsis* Brother Success 'Shazam',  
AM/AOS, 85 pts.  
Exhibited by Stones River Orchids



(*Lycaste Isabella* x *Auburn*) 'Key Lime Pie',  
AM/AOS, 83 pts.  
(Provisional pending registration)  
Exhibited by Fred Missbach



*Phragmipedium* Glen Decker 'John Cole', AM/AOS, 85 pts.  
Exhibited by David Kessler





*Vanda barnesii* 'Global Snowball', AM/AOS, 80 pts.  
Exhibited by Carson Barnes



*Maxillaria variabilis* 'Evets', JC/AOS  
Exhibited by David Mellard & Sal Marino



*Phalaenopsis* Taisuco Little Stripe 'Dootsie's  
Pride', HCC/AOS, 79 pts.  
Exhibited by George Kilgore



*Dendrobium ayubii* 'Chasus', CHM/AOS, 82 pts.  
Exhibited by Charles & Susan Wilson



**Marble Branch Farms at the Deep South Orchid  
Society Show, April 2013**  
Best open Exhibit 25 Sq Ft or Less  
Best Specimen Plant  
Best Dendrobium Alliance  
Best Cattleya Alliance