Atlanta Orchid

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 Editors: Mark Reinke & Valorie Boyer

August, 2014

AUGUST MONTHLY MEETING

Monday, August 11, 2014, 8:00 PM Atlanta Botanical Garden, Day Hall

MEMBER LED PANEL DISCUSSION

Best Cultural Practices - Pest Control and Potting

It has been a couple of years since we have had a meeting based on this format.

This month expert growers from among our own membership will share their tips, and invite discussion on orchid culture in general, feeding, methods of pest control and best potting practices. They will also field your questions about growing better orchids, any issues you are having and how to improve the health of your paints. Whatever conditions you are able to provide, there are likely dozens of different kinds of orchids that can be made to flourish in them. Sometimes it's just a matter of discovering which types will grow compatibly together in your collection. Come ask questions from members who have had decades of experience (and are still learning too!)

Members who wish, may sell plants at the August meeting. Keep in mind that 10% of all your sales proceeds are to be donated to the club.



Volume 55: Number 8



Are your orchids flourishing and becoming spectacular specimens in bloom? If not, our panel of experts will help you fine tune your growing environment and cultural techniques so that you can have results like these! Don't miss the opportunity to discover new things that will make your orchid hobby (or obsession) even more satisfying!



This incredibly well grown *Dendrobium oligophyllum* exhibited by Larry Mayse at our July meeting illustrates how the correct growing vessel can help in cultivating a fussy miniature species, here mounted on a ceramic Koo-Log.

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THE ATLANTA ORCHID SOCIETY

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Membership Chair – Geni Smith

Mentoring Coordinator– Lynne Gollob

Plant Raffle – Terry Glover

Monthly Ribbon Judging – David Mellard

Newsletter – <u>Mark Reinke</u> & Valorie Boyer

Orchid Digest Rep- <u>David</u> <u>Mellard</u>

Show Chairs 2014 Danny Lentz & Roy Harrow

Website Committee Maureen Pulignano Mark Reinke & Jan Spenard



American Orchid Society

Education, Conservation, Research

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 git 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: <u>www.acs.org</u>



Mark Reinke's pick for the most impressive "runner up" on July's monthly show table: *Sarcoglyphis comberi* exhibited by Larry Mayse and grown to perfection on one of his Kool-Logs.



When you're serious about Orchids

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 \$39/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 edition devoted to a single genus. For membership application forms contact <u>David Mellard</u> (404-237-1694) or visit <u>www.orchiddigest.com</u> to join online.

Events Calendar

August

09 - American Orchid Society monthly judging - Atlanta Judging Center, ABG basement workshop, 2 pm

11 - Atlanta Orchid Society Monthly Meeting - ABG, Day Hall, 8 pm - TBA

September

08 - Atlanta Orchid Society Monthly Meeting - Rock Spring Presbyterian Church - 7 p.m. Annual Auction!

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

20-21 – Alabama Orchid Society Show and Sale -

Birmingham Botanical Gardens, 2612 Lane Park Road, Birmingham, AL 35223. Free parking and admission.

27 - Greengrower's Outing Marble Branch Farms, Walhalla, SC

October

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

13 - Atlanta Orchid Society Monthly Meeting, ABG, Day Hall, 8 pm - TBA





Well the "Dog Days" of summer are proving to be anything **but** this year! As I write this message I'm glancing over at the thermometer and noticing it is a pleasant 77F at what is normally the hottest part of the afternoon. This is, in fact, the second day in a row that we have failed to reach 80F for a daytime high, even though we have clear skies and sunshine. I even pulled a blanket over me last night as the chilly air came through my open window. I'm sure all of our intermediate growing orchids are appreciating this brief respite from the warm muggy weather, which will inevitably return in a few days.

I find there are still lots of potting chores to conquer in the greenhouse. I always try to perform this job at the most optimal time for each type of orchid we grow, and some are only just now getting ready to send out new roots from their current season's growth. There are even a few types that don't send out new roots until fall or early winter, so, contrary to most of the advice you read, that is when I recommend doing any repotting necessary for such tardy growers.

This month we will forego a flashy presentation for some good, solid practical cultural advice from a panel of members who are considered expert growers. I will moderate the program and we will take questions from the membership regarding growing and caring for the many different types of orchids. So come to learn and enjoy!

Greengrowers Outing – Open House Marble Branch Farms

Saturday, September 27th – 12noon – 4 pm RSVP to 864-718-0152 or markreinke@att.net

A potluck picnic lunch will be served featuring Abed's Arabian Rooster Fried Chicken from the Steakhouse Cafeteria in Walhalla!

The outdoor Bog Garden will be in is full glory and features an extensive and fascinating display of hardy carnivorous plants.

There will hundreds of potted hardy pitcher plants for sale and the greenhouse will be filled with orchids for sale at discounted prices. Watch for more details and directions in the September newsletter.

Minutes of the July 2014 Meeting of the Atlanta Orchid Society

<u>Date:</u> July 14, 2014, 8:00 pm <u>Location:</u> Day Hall, ABG <u>Attendance:</u> 44 people

The meeting, with 44 people present, was called to order by the president, Mark Reinke. Membership chairperson, Geni Smith, introduced new members, Sharon Ahmed and Sandra Trapp attending a meeting for the first time.

Barbara Dampog moved that the minutes from the June 9 meeting be approved as published in the newsletter. The motion was seconded and passed.

Announcements by the president:

• Plants are available for the monthly silent auction.

• Members might consider buying a long term parking pass, as then the rate is less per entry.

• Valorie Boyer was thanked for editing the newsletter this month. She will continue in this capacity and also will assist with the web site.

• Roy Harrow's annual auction and pot lunch meal will be held at Roy house on July 26.

Mark Reinke introduced the speaker, Fred Clarke, who gave



Cattleya schofieldiana – David Johnston



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 application. membership or complete an application online at website: our www.atlantaorchidsocietv.org

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

an entertaining and informative talk about many aspects of Australian Dendrobiums.

There was a break for refreshments that were kindly organized by Ellen Brand, hospitality chair.

Barbara Barnett, David Mellard and Carson Barnes did the monthly table judging. David Mellard announced the ribbon winners and gave interesting comments on many of the winners.

Mark Reinke adjourned the meeting.

Minutes compiled by Nancy Newton

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Dendrobium laevioflium – Gary Collier & Mark Reinke

Atlanta Orchid Society Monthly Ribbon Winners July 2014

Comments by Mark Alan Reinke Photos by Cheryl Bruce

Class I – Cattleya Group

Blue – Cattleya schofieldiana – David Johnston

Cattleya schofieldiana ("skoe-feeld-ee-AH-na") is а tall growing bi-foliate species that can produce 36 inch high pseudobulbs when mature. It is from the state of Espírito Santo in Brazil which lies immediately north of the state of Rio de Janeiro on the Atlantic Coast. Though described in 1882, it is rare in collections and as recently as 1988, Withner in Vol. I of The Cattleyas and Their Relatives described it as poorly known.

It was thought by many to be a variety of C. granulosa, but is now generally accepted as a separate species. The plants are generally taller, with fewer (five maximum, usually less), but larger and more spotted flowers, and their range is several hundred miles further south of C. granulosa, where it us found on trees growing on steep slopes or cliffs with a northeast exposure at between 1,000 and 2,500 feet above sea level. C. granulosa, by contrast, grows in hot, humid coastal swamps where night time temperatures generally remain above 70 degrees year round. It normally flowers ahead of C. schofieldiana in late spring or early summer. That being said, both species as known in modern collections exhibit a great deal of variability in flower color and form, and it is possible some plants are misidentified. C. schofieldiana requires bright

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growing conditions with strong air movement at all times. There is no distinct dry season in the habitat, so plants should be not be allowed to remain dry for long periods at any time and planted in a rapidly draining mix. There are only 10 registered hybrids made with this species, and none are commercially available at this time.

Red – Brassavola martiana – Jason Mills & Ed Shoulta

White – Laeliocattleya Mini Symphony 'Elfin Blue' – David Johnston

> Class II – Cymbibum Group

No Entries

Class III – Dendrobium Group

Blue – Dendrobium laevioflium – Gary Collier & Mark Reinke

The "Shiny Leaved Dendrobium" is a totally enchanting species that rarely exceeds a few inches in height, yet can be covered for months in relatively large flowers that are typically pink or purple, though a pale peachy yellow form also exists. It is native to a number of islands in the southwest Pacific Ocean, from just east of the mainland of Papua New Guinea to Vanuatu, and grows in in thick moss at the base of trees, or among thick mosses and lichens on stunted trees in misty forests where the near constant moisture is punctuated by brief bursts of bright sunshine. Ranging from about 1700 to 7700 feet above sea level, it is a cool to intermediate grower. Often considered difficult to grow, it needs to be constantly moist, yet

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not soggy, receive high humidity but with constant air movement, and would prefer to stay below 80-85 degrees during the day and in the 50's or 60's at night. While these conditions are difficult to achieve in most growing environments in the home, they are possible in a greenhouse where evaporative coolers and shading can keep this orchid happy through our summer months. Anyone who grows *Masdevallia* or miniature *Pleurothallids* would have no problem with this plant. This species responds well to being mounted on one of Larry Mayse' Kool-Logs, which are excellent at keeping the moisture even and the roots cool. We have also had great success growing the plants in straight sphagnum most in a plastic net pot (as with the example exhibited), which also allows evaporation at the roots and promotes even moisture. Blooming can occur at any time, with a preference for summer to fall, mostly from older growths



Encyclia steinbachii – David Johnston

that are partially or fully leafless. Plants sometimes make more growth then blooms in one year, and then more blooms than growth in the next. The shiny leaves on the newer growths make a wonderful backdrop for the sparkling flowers.

Red – Cadetia pomatophila – Larry Mayse

White – *Dendrobium* Nora Tokunaga – Gary Coliier & Mark Reinke

White – Dendrobium oligophyllum – Larry Mayse

Class IV – Epidendrum Group

Blue – Encyclia steinbachii – David Johnston

steinbachii Encvclia was described in 1922, but has only been available commercially in the last decade or so and is still uncommon in collections. lt deserves to be grown more often. Considered the southernmost occurring member of the genus, it comes from the vicinity of Buena Vista, Bolivia, the capital of a the thinly settled province of Ichilo at the base of the Andes Mountains, the southwestern-most near corner of the Amazon Basin. It is described as being lithophytic (growing on rocks) and favoring open, rather sunny locations. The plants are medium-large in size with when mature. ovoid pseudobulbs that carry three rigid, arching leaves (two when plants are still young). The inflorescence is a branched panicle that can carry up to 50 or more, long lasting, wonderfully perfumed flowers, each about 1

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inch across and at their peak in mid-summer. The spoon shaped sepals and petals are light green or yellowish-green, accented by a white lip bearing seven to nine purple lines on the mid-lobe and a bright yellow anther cap. Our own mature plant is currently bearing 6 strong inflorescences carrying over 200 flowers total, with the plant overflowing a 10 inch square wooden basket and is too big to bring in to the show table. We keep it hung up high in the greenhouse where it can receive the most sunshine and warmth throughout the year. There is but a single registered hybrid made using this species, but we currently have several crosses coming along that we think take good advantage of its charms, and will offer them commercially once they are large enough to sell.

Red – Epidendrum laterale – Larry Mayse

White – Encyclia tampensis - Gary Collier & Mark Reinke

Class V – Oncidium Group

Red – Psychopsis papilio forma aurea – **Carson Barnes**

Psychopsis is a genus of up to five species, occurring from Peru, northward to Panama, and eastward to Trinidad, in mainly lower to middle elevation, humid tropical forests. They produce persistent, wirv, arching inflorescences that generate one fascinating flower at a time for several years, each flower lasting about a month. Anyone who sees them in bloom is drawn to their unusual beauty and the urge to possess one is high. However, a large volume could be written on the successful

culture of these somewhat finicky orchids, and much of the information out there is confusingly contradictory. lt seems there are just as many ways to keep this orchid alive as there are to kill it! When one finds a routine that works for their plants, they should stick with it. Unfortunately, a recent flood of mass produced plants that have been grown in plastic pots with a peat moss and perlite mix under very controlled conditions have only made matters worse since it is very difficult for the hobby grower to maintain them using this media and type of container. The basics for healthy Psychopsis would

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include: maintaining evenly mild to warm conditions year round, providing hiah humidity combined with aood air movement in filtered shade, growing in a long lasting and well-draining mix that also will retain some moisture, in a container that allows the plants to just dry out between each watering and will allow for minimal disturbance in the future. The habitat these orchids are from receives heavy rainfall in summer and considerably less in winter, but still approaching the dewpoint on a nightly basis at that time and therefore providing some moisture in the form of dew and mist. The plant



Psychopsis papilio forma aurea – Carson Barnes



Phragmipedium Mini Grande 'Bossy,' AM/AOS – Carson Barnes

exhibited is a mutation that lacks darker pigmentation, leaving a flower that is basically yellow with deeper yellow markings. Plants of this form are generally less robust, with smaller flowers than line bred examples with the typical coloration.

Class VI – Cypripedium Group

Blue – Phragmipedium Mini Grande 'Bossy,' AM/AOS – Carson Barnes

Carson Barnes is the registrant of this hybrid and offers these fascinating details:

"The	long	petaled
Phragmipedium		ladyslippers

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from Mexico, Central and South America have undergone a bit of revision. Time was these were all *Phraa. caudatum* and varieties: now, the Mexican and Central American species is humboldtii, having gone through a time of being popowii and warscewiczii. The one-time Phrag. wallisii is now Phrag. warscewiczianum. Don't worry, you're not the only one a little confused: a plant of humboldtii, once known as warscewiczii, was awarded the FCC/AOS as warscewiczianum last year, which means the judges must have compared it to plants of wallisii, whose petals are about shorter 30% than warscewiczii/popowii/humboldtii, so it must have seemed fabulously darkly colored with enormously long petals for the species. Actually, it's pretty good for humboldtii!

Anyhow, so there are five long petaled species, the three above (from north to south, *humboldtii, warscewiczianum* and *caudatum*) and the oddities *exstaminodium*, which, as the name suggests, lacks a staminode (and in all other respects is the same as *humboldtii*) and *lindenii*, the pouchless ladyslipper.

In 2001 there were plants of "*Phrag. ecuadorense*" in the trade, being a larger form of pearcei which is the tiniest *Phragmipedium* of all. The typical form from Peru has a plant about six inches across with dainty flowers; the Ecuadorean form is twice the size.

I was thinking about the problems with *Phrag. Grande*, which is *caudatum x longifolium*: the plants are rather large, and importantly for shipping, the ovary meets the back of the flower at a rather broad angle,



Phalaenopsis hieroglyphica v alba – Bob Grzesik

Red – *Paphiopedilum* Avalon Pearl – **Geni Smith**

White – Phragmipedium Sedenii – Carson Barnes

Class VII -Phalaenopsis Group

Blue – Phalaeopsis hieroglyphica variety 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 areen on а nearly white background, offset by a chevron of deeper yellow on the lip callus. The "tone on tone" effect is mesmerizina close nogu inspection. The species is native

which makes buds easy to snap off. The cross with a form of *pearcei* instead of *longifolium* was intended to bring the plant size down, while still making nice, long petals (17.2 cm long petals on this blooming), hence the name Mini Grande - like Grande but a mini.

Growing it is a bit of a challenge, as the plants don't like too much water in the winter and can overheat and just drop dead - intermediate temperatures in summer and moderate watering in winter are good starting points, though this wasn't obvious at first as the pearcei parent will take all the water it's given the plants are often found at streamsides with roots in flowing water!

Having registered the cross 13 years ago, I finally took one of the two or three plants I still have to judging and was very pleased that the judges felt it worthy of an AOS award. - Carson"



Aeranthes arachnites – David Mellard & Sal Marino



Catesetum atratum 'Jiffy OK,' AM/AOS – Carson Barnes

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 used little as a parent in the past, but more crosses have been registered recently, with 14 of the 17 first generation hybrids added in just the last decade.

Red - Phalaenopsis Tying Shin

'Golden City' – Geni Smith

White – Phalaenopsis cornu-cervi var. chattaladae – David Johnston

White – Phalaenopsis cornu-cervi var. flavum – David Johnston

Class VIII -Vandaceous Group

Blue – Aeranthes arachnites – David Mellard & Sal Marino

The Spider Aeranthes comes from the island of Reunion in the Ocean, Indian east of Madagascar. While this land mass appears as a tiny speck on the map, it is a volcanic island with a rugged topography that reaches up to 10,000 feet above sea level. It has a mild and fairly wet tropical climate. Aer. *arachnites* grows rather in shaded forests on the islands lower elevations. The clumping, monopodial plants produce arching light green leaves and many thin roots that like to grow out into the air. Very thin, wiry inflorescences, often several to a single growth, will produce several spidery green flowers in succession over an extended bloom season that runs from early summer to late fall. Each bloom is about two inches across. Plants grow well mounted in controlled humidity with watering frequent during summer, or in pots filled with a very open and fast draining mix. While this species will cross with Anaraecum, the results are more curious than beautiful.

Red – Cleisocentron gokusingii – **Carson Barnes**

Red – *Vanda* Vernon Kebodeau – **Carson Barnes**

White – Seidenfadenia mitrata – Geni Smith

White – Vanda falcata forma variegata 'Silver Sword' – Carson Barnes

Class IX – Miscellaneous

Blue – Catesetum atratum 'Jiffy OK,' AM/AOS – Carson Barnes

This fascinating Brazilian species occurs from the state of São Paola southward in Brazil, which puts it at the boundary between tropical and sub-tropical in the Southern Hemisphere. It is a fairly robust species with growths up to 2 feet in height, producing either male or female flowers on a single arching inflorescence (rarely both on the same spike). The male flowers are considered showier, and are what our blue ribbon winner produced on this flowering. *Catetesum* typically produce either one or the other depending on queues received from their cultural environment. While winter conditions in their natural range are cool and wet, experience from those who grow this species well has shown that it is difficult to follow this routine in cultivation. Instead, it is recommended to keep plants close to bone dry through winter, when they will lose all or most of their leaves, and not resume regular watering until new growth in spring is several inches high. Carson also recommends keeping them bright in winter, but providing a bit more shade as spikes begin to develop. Bright light tends to favor the less showy female flowers. Good air movement is also an essential factor for the health of these orchids, which are magnets for spider mites in hot, dry, still conditions.

Red – Maxillaria reichenheimiana – Larry Mayse

White – Sarcoglyphis comberi – Larry Mayse

ABG SAGE Parking Facility Rate Update

New discounted rates were posted in Clippings, the ABG monthly bulletin for garden members. Pricing for member, multi-visit, parking passes and re-loads have changed: \$6 new pass (i.e., card) fee, \$20 for 6 visits, \$40 for 13 visits, \$60 for 21 visits, \$80 for 31 visits, and \$100 for 40 visits.

If you purchase the 13 visit pass, parking costs about \$3 per visit!

New cards and reloads can be purchased on-line at https://onlinesales.atlantabotanicalgarden.org/public/show.asp?shcode=55 or at the ABG gift shop. These fees are discounted from the fees posted on-line for non-garden members.

Note that parking cards must be used both when entering and when exiting the facility.

RECENT ACTIVITY OF THE ATLANTA JUDGING CENTER

The following awards were granted at recent sessions of the AOS judging center. They are provisional awards pendingpublication 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 © Jason Mills



Catasetum atratum 'Jiffy OK', AM/AOS, 83 pts. Exhibited by Carson Barnes



Phalaenopsis Ossirah 'Stones River', HCC/AOS, 79 pts. Exhibited by Stones River Orchids



Cattleya Sarah Jessica Parker 'Hot Vision', AM/AOS, 82 pts. Exhibited by Barney & Aileen Garrison



Phragmipedium Mini Grande 'Bossy', AM/AOS, 80 pts. Exhibited by Carson Barnes