



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

www.AtlantaOrchidSociety.org

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NOVEMBER MONTHLY MEETING

Monday, November 10, 2014

8:00 PM

Atlanta Botanical Garden,
Day Hall

Mark Reinke
Marble Branch Farms

"Honey, I Shrunk the Or-kids!" (The History of Miniature and Compact Cattleyas)

For our November meeting, outgoing president and co-owner of Marble Branch Farms will reprise a program that had its debut at the January, 2008 meeting of the Atlanta Orchid Society and has since been presented to orchid societies all over the Southeast.

While the structure of the presentation is the same, it has been updated to keep up with the latest developments in the breeding of small stature cattleya type orchids, both at Marble Branch Farms and the industry as a whole. The entire program is filled with beautiful photography, all of which was taken by Mark himself.

But going beyond illustrating the beauty and fascination of these small gems of Orchidom, Mark will give plenty of helpful growing advice for the various breeding lines we have today and for the species from which they originated. Mark and Gary will be bringing plants to sell at the meeting, including some of



A few of the more unusual miniature and compact cattleya alliance hybrids that have been produced by Marble Branch Farms

their newest crosses that are not yet available to the general public.

Minutes of the October 2014 Meeting of the Atlanta Orchid Society

Date: October 13, 2014, 8:00 pm

Location: Day Hall, ABG

Attendance: 46 people

The meeting, with 46 people present, was called to order by the president, Mark Reinke.

Membership chairperson, Geni Smith, introduced one guest – William Frye.

Carson Barnes moved that the minutes from the September 8 meeting be approved as published

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August, 2014
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Education, Conservation, Research

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Though Marble Branch Farms specializes in compact growing and unusual cattleya hybrids, they occasionally do more conventional crosses as well. Pictured is C. Bow Bells x R/c. Sweet Amy



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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 [David Mellard](#) (404-237-1694) or visit www.orchiddigest.com to join online.

Events Calendar

November

07-09 Fall 2014 Mid-American Orchid Congress

Franklin Park Conservatory
Columbus, OH

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

10 - Atlanta Orchid Society Monthly Meeting, ABG, Day Hall, 8 pm - Mark Reinke - Marble Branch Farms, Walhalla, SC "Honey, I Shrunk the Ok-Kids!"

December

08 - Atlanta Orchid Society Monthly Meeting 7 pm - Rock Spring Presbyterian Church Activity Hall - Annual Holiday Season Banquet Monthly Ribbon Judging will also take place.

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

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

January

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

12 - American Orchid Society monthly meeting, ABG, Day Hall - 8PM

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Beautiful fall weather is finally here and the leaves will be changing quickly as you read this. The crisp nights and dry, clear days will require that most of orchids that have summered out of doors come inside to their winter growing areas. But you can still hold off on Cymbidiums, Nobile type Dendrobiums, and Callista types, such as *Den. lindleyi*, *farmeri* and *thysiflorum* for now. They all grow in places where 40's and even 30's are common at night during the cool months and will flower better because of the chill and drier conditions. Today I was staking the new growths on our crop of *Den. nobile* hybrids and noticed that already some of them are beginning to show little "nubs" along the canes that will become the future blooms. I *definitely* don't want these to develop too quickly as our first show participation isn't until February. Prolonging their time in the chilly nights will encourage bloom development to take place more slowly.

The nominating committee, headed by Chris File, and including David Mellard, Geni Smith and Rick Martinez has done a great job and found a slate of officers and trustees to carry on the duties of the society for 2015. Ellen Brand has been selected as our next President, Barbara Barnett as Vice-President, Valorie Boyer as Secretary, and Jason Mills will return as our Treasurer. The two new Trustees to serve three year terms are Danny Lentz and Jan Spenard. The committee also recommended Rick Martinez as their pick to complete Ellen Brand's final year as a trustee, which the board will vote on at their next meeting on December 6th. *We are also looking for someone who would like to replace Ellen as hospitality chair to coordinate refreshments at the monthly meetings and help organize our two annual pot-luck meetings. Anyone who is interested, please contact me or Ellen. THANKS!*

This month I will be our speaker for the monthly meeting, reprising my program on the history and development of miniature and compact cattleyas entitled "Honey, I Shrunk the Or-Kids!" This presentation has been revised and updated significantly since I first presented it almost 7 years ago at our January, 2008 meeting. Mini-catts have been one of my main passions since I got my first orchid plant more than 40 years ago. Because of that, of the goals of Marble Branch Farms has been to carry forward the breeding of this orchid group, building on what has been done in the past or improve growth habits and cultural ease, and to think outside the box to bring something new and different to the world of small growing cattleyas. Along the way we have learned the best ways to grow these small wonders to their fullest potential in a climate like ours with its hot and sultry summers. I'm sure everyone will enjoy both the beautiful photography and wealth of down to earth cultural advice I have packed into this visual presentation.

in the newsletter. The motion was seconded and passed.

Announcements:

The nominating committee has proposed the following for officers and trustees for next year:

President – Ellen Brand
Vice-President – Barbara Barnett
Secretary – Valorie Boyer
Treasurer – Jason Mills
Trustees – Danny Lentz and Jan Spenard

Rick Martinez has agreed to serve as a trustee in Ellen Brand's place but the current Board of Trustees must first approve his appointment.

Geni Smith announced that the society won a blue ribbon for the display at the Birmingham Orchid Show. The following were awarded ribbons – Carson Barnes, David Mellard, Geni Smith, Barbara Barnett and Jason Mills. Also, Barbara Barnett's entry won a trophy.

Jason Mills, treasurer, reported that the total of all accounts is \$24,701.69.

Mark Reinke introduced Jason Fischer, the speaker for the evening. Jason gave an excellent and educational talk about *Phragmipedium* hybridization and culture.

There was a break for refreshments kindly organized by Ellen Brand, hospitality chair, while David Mellard, Barbara Barnett and Helen Blythe-Hart carried out the monthly table judging.

Mark Reinke and David Mellard announced the ribbon winners.

Carson Barnes conducted the monthly raffle and silent auction.

Mark Reinke adjourned the meeting.

*Minutes compiled by
Nancy Newton*

Atlanta Orchid Society Monthly Ribbon Winners October 2014

Class I – Cattleya Group

Blue – *Cattleya* Longriver Compton 'Golden Star,' FCC/AOS – **Matt Matsumoto**

Registered in 1988 by Long River Orchids of Taiwan, this classic semi-alba carries on a line of breeding excellence in this color form that goes back to C. Pegi Mayne, introduced by H. Patterson & Sons in 1956. That New Jersey firm was one of the great producers of outstanding large flowered cattleyas in the middle two decades in the Twentieth Century. While there are 10 different species involved in the background of C. Longriver Compton, three bear the lion's



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

share of its genetic background and are the most influential in its cultural preferences: *C. warscewiczii*, *C. dowiana* and *C. mossiae*. However, the semi-alba color trait goes all the way back

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.



Cattleya Longriver Compton 'Golden Star', FCC/AOS – **Matt Matsumoto**

7 generations to *C. labiata* v. *semi-alba*, which only makes up a tiny contribution in terms of how many times it was used compared to the other species, resulting in just 3.1% of its "genetic pie-chart." The color pattern of the semi-alba mutation of this species is very dominant, as was discovered in 1894 when it was crossed with the yellow *C. dowiana* to create *C. Fabia*, good examples of which are still some of the most stunning semi-alba cattleyas today, due in large part to the dramatic lip patterns possible. Undoubtedly, most of the other species involved in our blue ribbon winner were also semi-alba mutations. But even when a lavender form is crossed with a semi-alba, the color blocking genes are usually effective in maintaining the semi-alba line in the offspring.

Getting back to the cultural requirements as dictated by the main species involved in this cross, they are all bright growers that come from either Colombia or Venezuela in areas with seasonal rainfall. This

dictates that during the winter months this orchid needs a rest period with infrequent or very light watering, no fertilizer, and strong light to perform at its best. Too much water or fertilizer can produce out of season growth that interferes with proper blooming and can even lead to progressive rot of the rhizome that is eventually fatal. Conversely, the less frequent water and bright light often encourages additional root growth which improves the overall health of the plant and size and quality of the flowers.

Red – *Encyleyvola* Grapelade 'H&R' – **David Johnston**

White – *Rhyncolaeliocattleya* Memoria Helen Brown 'Sweet Afton,' AM/AOS
– **Matt Matsumoto**

White – *Laeliocattleya* Ann Akagi x *Cattleya* Lana Coryell – **Nancy Newton & in memory of David Glass**

Class II – Cymbidium Group

No Entries

Class III – Dendrobium Group

Blue – *Dendrobium victoria-reginae* – **Gary Collier & Mark Reinke**

This beautiful species is thankfully becoming much more readily available and should be grown more often for its steady stream of violet-blue flowers. Rather than coming at a specific season, they are produced along the upper portion of mature, often leafless canes, off and on throughout the year. Sometimes there are just a few, and sometimes the entire plant flushes with blooms. The plants are slowly, but continually producing new canes that will lead to future flowers, and a mature plant can be in near constant bloom.

While it is true this orchid does not like 90 degree weather, it doesn't require truly cool conditions to flourish. Since it prefers rather shaded locations, it is easier to keep the plant happy during warm weather with regular watering and good air movement. In a greenhouse with evaporative cooling, this species does beautifully in this climate. Mounting on a Kool-Log is another way to maintain cooler conditions at the roots.

From May till November watering should be frequent, but drainage should always be excellent. We found that plastic net pots, filled with a porous media that retains some moisture, work beautifully. In the winter months, this native to the Philippines receives little rainfall, but grows in humid, shaded



Dendrobium victoria-reginae – **Gary Collier & Mark Reinke**

locations where dew and mist are still frequent. So in cultivation, watering should be reduced but not eliminated in that season, being careful to not allow the plants to stay dry for more than a day or two.

There are a number of hybrids made using *Den. victoria-reginae*, but they are difficult to locate commercially. We have a second generation cross, *Den. Doctor Judith*, which combines this species with *Den. gonzalesii* and *Den. goldschmidtianum* that produces, smaller, but deeper purple and more numerous flowers and is also more vigorous.

Red – *Dendrobium* Chao Praya Candy - **Geni Smith**

White – *Dendrobium* Royal Wings - **Geni Smith**

Class IV – Epidendrum Group

Blue – *Epicanthe* Stephanie Takasaki 'Paradise' - **Gary Collier & Mark Reinke**

Here is a great example of the attractive hybrids possible when *Epi. stamfordianum* is crossed with a cluster flowered cattleya-type hybrid. In this case the other parent was *Ctt. Selsal's Supernova*, a not particularly well known variety, but a child of the popular *Ctt. Gold Digger*, which itself is the other half of another

great *Epi. stamfordianum* cross, *Ett. Don Herman*. Not only do the flowers exhibit lots of bright color and interesting pattern, but despite coming from two once blooming parents, these crosses typically flower in both fall and spring. The exhibited plant is a first blooming mericlone and will have clusters of a dozen or more flowers when mature, sometimes with inflorescences that produce additional side branches.

We love *Epi. stamfordianum* hybrids and have tried repeatedly to produce something new with it in our own breeding program without success. It may be a somewhat reluctant parent, or possible only specific specimens are fertile.

Grow this orchid with typical cattleya culture, giving it bright conditions and perfect drainage, and allowing the plants to dry between watering to encourage good root growth. If you purchase a young plant in this breeding line, expect it to take several years to show its full beauty.



Epicanthe Stephanie Takasaki 'Paradise' - **Gary Collier & Mark Reinke**



Miltoniopsis Lillian Nakamoto 'Tanto' – **Carson Barnes**

Red - *Laelia undulata* x *Epidendrum longipetalum* – **Gary Collier & Mark Reinke**

Class V – Oncidium Group

Red – *Miltoniopsis* Lillian Nakamoto 'Tanto' – **Carson Barnes**

Please see the September, 2014 newsletter for a write up on this orchid and on *Miltoniopsis* culture in general.

Red – *Tolumnia lucayana* – **David Johnston**

There are at least two dozen *Tolumnia* species scattered across the Caribbean basin, the nearby Bahamas and even parts of southern Florida, but only a few of those have figured prominently in to the numerous hybrids available today. *Tolu. lucayana* is an uncommon species in collections and has only a handful of hybrids, all registered by W. W. Goodale Moir in the 1960's. As the name

implies it is native to several of the Bahamas, growing in scrub along the edge of beaches or in Mangrove trees in swamps. This type of habitat is typical for the entire genus. As such locations imply, *Tolumnia* prefer bright, dappled light, high humidity, excellent air movement and the ability to dry quickly after

watering. They are most commonly grown in small clay pots with very little medium (sometimes only a chunk of charcoal or nothing at all) or mounted on cork or hardwood if humidity can be kept high. It is reported that a mature plants of *Tolu. lucayana* can produce fans of leaves up to 5 inches long and carry an inflorescence of up to 24 inches that can bear as many as 60 flowers at once. Our show table example is undoubtedly still a young plant that will improve considerably with time.

White – *Tolumnia haitiense* – **David Johnston**

Class VI – Cypripedium Group

Blue – *Paphiopedilum* Gloria Naugle – **Walter Echols**

This unusual, but much awarded cross combines two very dissimilar looking species. *Paph. rothschildianum* is a large plant with a tall, multi-floral inflorescence bearing up to 4



Paphiopedilum Gloria Naugle – **Walter Echols**

large flowers with narrow wide spreading petals and colored in dramatic patterns of mahogany on a white background. *Paph. micranthum* is a small plant that produces a single bizarre flower on each tall stem with a huge, inflated pouch in pale pink overshadowing the remaining segments which, while attractively marked, are highly abbreviated. So did the originator of this odd pairing know that there would be many outstanding progeny as a result? We can only speculate whether science or serendipity ruled the day.

There are at least 28 Awards of Merit and 1 First Class Certificate among the numerous awards granted to individual plants of *Paph. Gloria Naugle*, and many of them clearly received best qualities of both parents based on the photos I was able to locate. While this particular flower (on our blue ribbon winner) isn't quite up to the standard of some, it did get excellent color, strong markings and nearly horizontal placement

of the petals, which can droop a bit in some of the less successful examples from the cross. By contrast, some genetically blessed and well grown plants have produced up to three perfectly formed flowers over six inches in total spread each!

This orchid should perform well in medium light levels and warm temperatures, given a well-drained, but moisture retentive media that should not be allowed to completely dry out between watering.

Red – *Phragmipedium longifolium* variety *gracile* 'Bronze Elf', AM/AOS – **Carson Barnes**

White – *Paphiopedilum spicerianum* (Chinese form) – **Carson Barnes**

Class VII - Phalaenopsis Group

Blue – *Phalaenopsis* Leopard Prince – **Carson Barnes**

This peloric mutation of what is otherwise a rather run of the mill

spotted, pink phalaenopsis may be the only one of its kind. I was able to locate a few other photos of peloric forms of this cross, but none of them were as flat and well-shaped as our blue ribbon winner. Typically when the two petals of a phalaenopsis have mutated to mimic the lip, they also are quite crinkled and angled well forward. Carson bought this plant from a now defunct company called the Nurserymen's Exchange in Half Moon Bay, California. They typically got plant material of this genus in from Taiwan, and this was the only plant in the batch that was different. If fertile, it is possible this mutation could lead to a new look in phalaenopsis hybrids. Already there are a few hybrids descended from a plant with reverse peloricism, where instead the lip looks more like a petal – larger and flatter than typical. Some of the offspring in this example have been quite good.

Red – *Phalaenopsis* Pylo's Joyful Price – **Jarad Wilson**

White – *Phalaenopsis* Tiger Butter x *bellina* – **Jarad Wilson**

Class VIII - Vandaceous Group

Blue – *Perrierara* Bangkok Sunset 'Enya', AM/AOS – **Geni Smith**

Perrierara takes a bit of practice to pronounce, and is the combination of *Aerides*, *Rhyncostylis*, and *Vanda*. Though the pendent flowering *Aer. houletiana* makes up one half of this cross, the inflorescences are upright like the other parent, *Vandachostylis* Thai Noi. That hybrid of *Rhy. coelestis* and *V. flabellata* had blooms of rather



Phalaenopsis Leopard Prince – **Carson Barnes**



Perrieraara Bangkok Sunset 'Enya', AM/AOS – Geni Smith

dull coloration, but by adding in the third species, *Prra*. Bangkok Sunset achieves a brighter hue, but with a very unusual color palette.

Given its background, this orchid should be tolerant of intermediate to warm conditions and medium to bright light conditions. It would prefer to have a basket or a pot with coarse, perfectly draining media, with frequent water during the growing season, but less during the winter months.

Red – *Vandachostylis Colmarie* – Roy Harrow

White – *Jumellea comorensis* – Nancy Newton & in memory of David Glass

White – *Amesiella monticola* – Ellen Brand

Class IX – Miscellaneous

Blue – *Bulbophyllum* Wilmar Galaxy Star – Nancy Newton & in memory of David Glass

there was some speculation at the meeting when this plant was being presented that perhaps this has occurred with *Bulb. dearei* also. But based on the information I was able to gather, it seems to remain a separate species for now. It bears much more closely spaced pseudobulbs than does *Bulb. lobbii*, and that trait has had strong influence on this hybrid. Perhaps achieving a less rambling growth habit was one of Mr. Williams' reasons for making the cross.

Both species come from rainy forests in Southeast Asia, Borneo and the Philippines, ranging from near sea level to several thousand feet above, and are adapted to a temperature range between 50F and 90F at the extremes, but happiest in the middle portions of that scale. They like medium light levels and should not receive direct sunlight. Regular water year round, enough to keep the plants moist, combined with good air movement, good drainage and adequate humidity produce



Bulbophyllum Wilmar Galaxy Star – Nancy Newton & in memory of David Glass

optimal results. To be on the safe side, we withhold water for the most part during extended cloudy, cool periods in winter to avoid the risk of rot.

Red – *Zygonisia* Cynosure 'Blue Birds,' HCC/AOS – **Carson Barnes**

White – *Spiranthes odorata* – **Geni Smith**

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 © Jason Mills



Rhyncholaelia-cattleya (Rlc. Frank Gilmore x C. Horace)
'Panther Creek', AM/AOS, 85 pts.
Exhibited by Fred Missbach



Phalaenopsis pulcherrima 'My Laura', AM/AOS, 83 pts.
Exhibited by Stones River Orchids



Cattleya Royae Evelyn 'Cathy', AM/AOS, 84 pts. & CCM/AOS, 83 pts.
Exhibited by Cathy & Bill Meincer



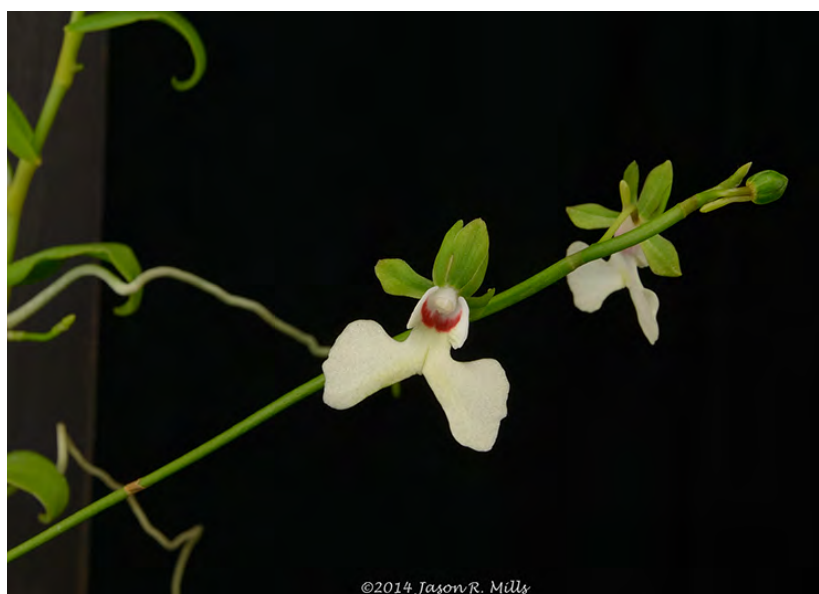
Perrierara Bangkok Sunset 'Enia', AM/AOS, 81 pts.
Exhibited by Geni Smith



Cattleya jenmanii f. *semi-alba* 'Memoria
Dan Brandt', AM/AOS, 80 pts.
Exhibited by Fred Missbach



Pterostylis obtusa 'Mello Spirit', CBR/AOS
Exhibited by David Mellard & Sal Marino



Oeonia rosea 'Rose Gimlet', CHM/AOS, 81 pts.
Exhibited by Carson Barnes