



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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APRIL MONTHLY MEETING

Monday, April 10, 2017
Atlanta Botanical Garden
Day Hall - 8pm

Barry Woolf
Representative of
Ten Shin Gardens of Taiwan
"Chinese Cymbidiums"

Our speaker this month is Barry Woolf. With a background as an educator and photographer, Barry is a long-time grower and a long-time member of several orchid societies. He is currently a representative of Ten Shin Gardens of Taiwan.

Ten Shin's mission is to grow and provide line bred orchid species, and select hybrids, to the orchid collector. His job entails speaking and selling at Orchid Societies and Shows in the U.S. and Canada.

In his presentation, he will discuss the culture and diversity of variegated and peloric Chinese Cymbidiums native to Taiwan. He will share how he grows these showy and yet surprisingly easy to grow orchids. According to Barry, Chinese Cymbidiums are not your grandmother's old style west coast Cymbidiums.

Time permitting, he will showcase a few of his favorite



A wonderful example of a Chinese Cymbidium

orchid species and varieties that are new to the trade. Most of which are easy to grow and flower on windowsills, under lights or in a greenhouse.

Minutes of the March 2017 Meeting of the Atlanta Orchid Society

The March 13, 2017 was called to order at 8:00PM at the Atlanta Botanical Gardens. Jason Mills-Shoulta, President, presided. The minutes of the February meeting were read and approved with no revisions. The Treasurer, Dan Williamson provided the financial report. New and visiting members were welcomed and introduced. There was a silent plant auction as well

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Silent Auction– Carson Barnes

Monthly Ribbon Judging – David Mellard

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You can renew online at
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or at our monthly
meetings. Please note, all
past-due memberships
are now considered
delinquent!

Upcoming Orchid Shows

Deep South Orchid Show

April 28-30, 2017

Georgia Coastal Botanical
Gardens
Savannah, GA

Memphis Orchid Show

May, 2017 (exact days TBA)
Memphis Botanical Gardens
Memphis, TN



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

Events Calendar

April

08 - American Orchid Society monthly judging, Atlanta Judging Center, 2pm, Georgia-Pacific Classroom - Fuqua Orchid Center, ABG

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

May

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

13 - American Orchid Society monthly judging, Atlanta Judging Center, 2pm, Georgia-Pacific Classroom - Fuqua Orchid Center, ABG

June

10 - American Orchid Society monthly judging, Atlanta Judging Center, 2pm, Georgia-Pacific Classroom - Fuqua Orchid Center, ABG

12 - Atlanta Orchid Society Monthly Meeting, Ice Cream Social and Silent Auction

July

8 - American Orchid Society monthly judging, Atlanta Judging Center, 2pm, Georgia-Pacific Classroom - Fuqua Orchid Center, ABG

10 - Atlanta Orchid Society Monthly Meeting, ABG, Day Hall - 8pm Speaker - Bill Thoms - Bulbophyllums

as plants for sale, both with proceeds going toward the Atlanta Society. The evening's program was presented by speaker and guest Sam Tsui of Orchid Inn (Bloomington, IL) who presented "Ease of Growing Multifloral Paphiopedilums". Following the program the results of the monthly ribbon judging were announced after which, with no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:00 PM.

*Minutes compiled by
Darrell Demeritt*

Atlanta Orchid Society Monthly Ribbon Winners February 2017

*Notes by Mark Reinke
Photos by Daryl Wattley*

Class I – Cattleya Group

Amateur Growers

**Blue – *Brassavola cucullata* –
Danny Lentz**

Note: a photo of the ribbon winning plant apparently did not get taken. The photo shown is an example of the species grown at Marble Branch Farms.

Brassavola cucullata, like many members of the genus, has a fairly wide area of distribution from Mexico, through Central America, into Venezuela, Trinidad and reportedly other islands in the West Indies as well. The long, thin, terete pseudobulbs and leaves typically arch out and downwards, presenting the large, "drooping spider" blooms at the optimal angle for moths to find and pollinate them at night, when they casting they fragrance far into their surroundings. Each



Brassavola cucullata – Danny Lentz

recently matured growth can produce several flowers over an extended bloom season that peaks in summer and fall. Flowers can be as large as seven inches from top to bottom, and the drooping sepals and petals can be tinted reddish or yellow on the most desirable plants. The rounded lip is usually white with a serrated edge and a long trailing mid-lobe that mimics the color and effect of the other segments.

The best grown plants are usually seen mounted or in baskets. Excellent drainage seems essential to cultivating this species well. More water is applied during the summer months when new growths are developing and much less in the winter months, though in a growing environment with low humidity more water may still need to be provided. This species is best grown into a specimen plant and resents being divided. Bright light and intermediate to warm temperatures bring good results.

There are a number of unusual hybrids made with *B. cucullata*, whose flower characteristics are highly dominant. Perhaps the least successful crosses are with other parents that are in the lavender hues, while stronger shades or whites can pair with it to produce outstanding results. Both the species and its hybrids

can be slow growing, so patience may be required.

Commercial Growers

Blue – *Guarianthe skinneri* forma *coerulescens* 'Orchidglade' – **Carson Barnes**

Note: a photo of the ribbon winning plant apparently did not get taken. The photo shown is an example of this clone from online postings.

Known as *Cattleya skinneri* for many years, this species is one of a handful that occur exclusively in Central America and Southern Mexico that were split off into their own genus by taxonomists. All produce upright growths with two to three leaves and rounded clusters of flowers facing out in all directions. *Guarianthe* means "beautiful flower" and is an apt name for the group, despite the fact that it doesn't readily roll off the tongue of English speaking North Americans.

This particular plant is an unusual color form in which the normally strong lavender color is instead quite pale and leans toward an ethereal violet shade. We have a clone called "Hewlett" that has similar very pale pastel shading to the flowers. They seem to have a more delicate



Guarianthe skinneri forma *coerulescens* 'Orchidglade' – **Carson Barnes**

texture than typical forms.

This tough and usually robust orchid species can grow into a beautiful specimen with minimal effort on the part of the grower. It is the national flower of Costa Rica, where it flowers near the end of the period they locally call "summer," which is actually the dry season that begins in December and runs until April or May. While not the true astronomical summer since that country is north of the equator, it is the time of year with the most sunshine and low rainfall, when *Gur. skinneri* is accustomed to receiving scant water. The balance of the year, from May to November is when rainfall may occur almost every day and the plants are adding and maturing their new growths for the next year's flowering. This is when cultivated plants need regular water and food. It should be noted that while temperatures in its wild habitat are rarely below 60F it has been discovered that *Gur. skinneri* is tolerant of readings close to freezing in its resting season as long as plants are kept dry when temperatures are that low.

Red – *Cattleya maxima* forma *coerulea* 'Deep Blue' – **Carson Barnes**

Class II – Cymbidium Group

No Entries

Class III – Dendrobium Group

Blue – *Dendrobium lindleyi* variety *majus* – **Lynne Gollob**

This orchid is still known to many people as *Den. aggregatum* but the officially accepted name is



Dendrobium lindleyi variety *majus*
– **Lynne Gollob**

now *Den. lindleyi*. Variety 'majus' refers to plants with larger than average blooms, though there isn't clear evidence that there is a distinct population with such habits in the wild. However, selected plants with larger flowers have been used to create strains of superior flowering plants for cultivation.

The species has a wide distribution in Southeast Asia, usually growing several thousand feet above sea level in the canopies of deciduous or semi-deciduous hardwood trees in areas with a wet summer and drier winter.

Well grown plants can produce copious numbers of flowers from older, mature growths and more than a dozen and half with a flower counts greater than 1,000 have received cultural awards from orchid societies worldwide. The blossoms, however, are ephemeral, lasting in good condition between a week and 10 days. Still the free flowering and easy growing nature of the species makes it perennially popular.

This is one orchid with fairly extreme temperature tolerance, enduring sub-freezing lows in the 20'sF and highs above 100F with ease. A chill of about a month of nights in the 50's helps to trigger blooming, along with plenty of water while growing

and less in winter while resting. Bright light in winter can also aid in flower production. Some growers insist on no water at all in winter, but this is not required to produce flowers and can overly desiccate the plant. When not in flower, plants are rather compact and are worth including in any well rounded collection for their annual explosion of golden yellow. They are most easily managed in baskets due to the pendant nature of the inflorescences.

Red – *Dendrobium hancockii* –
Vinh Nguyen

White – *Dendrobium Hiroshi*
Tokunaga – Vinh Nguyen

Class IV – Epidendrum Group

No Entries

Class V – Oncidium Group

Blue – *Brassia gireoudiana* –
Carson Barnes (Commercial
Grower)

Brassia gireoudiana comes from Costa Rica and Panama and is named after a German amateur botanist of the mid-19th Century. The species name is usually pronounced in six syllables, making it a bit of a tongue twister for many. The fragrant, spidery blooms can be as much as 12 inches from tip to tip on the best specimens. Two primary crosses between it and other *Brassia* species done in the 1960's by W. Goodale Moir have been the foundation of our current intergeneric breeding lines showing off colorful, often large, star shaped flowers. These are



Brassia gireoudiana – Carson Barnes
(Commercial Grower)

often easy growing, vigorous hybrids that perform well under varied conditions. Two of my favorites are *Bratonia* Shelob and *Aliceara* Pacific Nova. Both make specimens quickly and are quite free flowering. They do, however, inherit a somewhat wandering habit and climb out of their pots more quickly than other types.

These hybrids mix so many species from differing climates together that they tend to grow year round and have no specific bloom season. The species itself, however, expects copious watering May through October, followed by significantly less the balance of the year. It tends to flower in spring or early summer.

Class VI – Cypripedium Group

Blue – *Paphiopedilum*
gratrixianum 'Violet Surprise',
HCC/AOS – Carson Barnes
(Commercial Grower)

This charming and colorful species from Vietnam and Laos has been only lightly used in

hybridization. It seems that the characteristics that make it unique and beguiling in its own right do not translate well into particularly interesting results in most of the crosses that have been attempted. It has petals that curve distinctly forward and a dorsal sepal that is reflexed into almost a funnel shape. In its natural form, these are well equipped to show off its often dramatic color patterns that in the best forms can include near orange petals and dramatic purple spots on a white dorsal. The exhibited plant has good form for the species and a strong flush of purple on that dorsal sepal which undoubtedly inspired the clonal name.

This species generally grows in lime free areas on bluffs and rock ledges with heavy rainfall in summer followed by a dry winter where it receives mostly dew and mist for survival. It seems to require a cool winter rest to insure blooming.

Red – *Paphiopedilum*
moquetteanum 'Bulby Baby' –
Carson Barnes (Commercial
Grower)

White – *Phragmipedium*
Charleston Sunrise – Danny
Lentz



Paphiopedilum gratrixianum 'Violet
Surprise', HCC/AOS – Carson Barnes
(Commercial Grower)

Class VII - Phalaenopsis Group

Blue – *Phalaenopsis lobbii* – Doung Hartong

Phalaenopsis lobbii is named for Thomas Lobb, who collected orchids in the wild for the British firm of Veitch and Sons in the 19th Century. It occurs in a number of countries in Southeast Asia, usually growing on rough barked trees in the range of 1200-1500 feet above sea level. These areas have a warm, very wet summer and a protracted dry, cooler period the balance of the year. The miniature plants are often deciduous in the wild, while in cultivation under less rigorous conditions they will retain leaves, though rarely does a plant have more than a couple at any given time. The root system is unusually large and extensive for such a small grower.

A well grown plant, such as the one exhibited, can produce more than one spike, bearing up to 6



Blue – *Phalaenopsis lobbii*
– Doung Hartong

(usually less) small flowers about an inch across. They open sequentially from the bottom of the inflorescence but last long enough that all can be open at the same time.

The hybrid between *Phal. lobbii* and *Phal. maculata*, called *Phal. Micro Nova*, has been the most important offspring of this species in the efforts towards miniature breeding. *Phal. Mini Mark* and *Phal. Fantasy Musick* are two frequently seen and well awarded grexes that come for this pairing.

Cultural sources for this species warn that roots should be carefully preserved and never trimmed unless damaged when repotting. If enough water can be applied during the growing season, then mounting, such as for the exhibited plant, may be a better strategy. In nature, the roots continue to branch and extend away from the plant for quite some distance.

Red – *Phalaenopsis* No ID – Jon Crate

White – *Phalaenopsis* Tying Shin Fly Eagle 'Wilson' - Danny Lentz

Class VIII - Vandaceous Group

Blue – *Vanda* A.F. Buckman – Dan Williamson

This orchid was originally registered as a cross between *Neofinetia falcata* and *Ascocentrum christensonianum* just a few years back in 2008, but both species have now been transferred to the genus *Vanda*. It will likely take a few years more to get used to such small monopodial hybrids as this, with different cultural requirements than traditional large flowered Vandas, to be called by that



Vanda A.F. Buckman – Dan Williamson

name.

The pale rose lavender tones of *V. christensoniana* seem to be intensified in this cross, or at least made more opaque by mating with *V. falcata*, and the nectar spurred is definitely lengthened. But the primary attraction of growing this little charmer is likely in the fact that by combining a warm and a cool growing species, *V. A. F. Buckman* is more adaptable to less than perfect conditions than either parent, with perfect drainage being the most critical factor. This particular plant has been a ribbon winner at least twice in the past, but is just now starting to show the ultimate potential of the cross in terms of flower production.

Red – *Sarcohilus* Sweet Melody x Hot Ice 'Pink Perfection' – Dan Williamson

White – *Holconopsis* Newberry Jasminel – Danny Lentz

White – *Vanda barnesii* 'Global Snowball,' AM/AOS – Carson Barnes (Commercial Grower)



Gastrochis steinhardtiana 'Malagasy Surprise' CHM/AOS (provisional)
– Carson Barnes

Class IX – Miscellaneous

Commercial Growers

Blue – *Gastrochis steinhardtiana* 'Malagasy Surprise' CHM/AOS (provisional) – Carson Barnes

Gastrochis steinhardtiana is a recently described (1997) terrestrial species from Madagascar. There is little detailed information about it in orchid literature or databases at present. The grower, Carson Barnes, received this plant labeled as another species, *Gs. humblotii*. Orchidspecies.com offers the following brief description: "This terrestrial cool to warm growing orchid is found in Madagascar in shady, humid forests at altitudes of 800 to 1700 meters where it blooms on a 2 to 4' [60 to 120 cm] long, basal inflorescence arising as the pseudobulbs mature with several [12], long lasting flowers held near the apex that can occur at any time of the year."

Amateur Growers

Blue – *Stanhopea* Garuda – David Mellard

Stanhopea Garuda is a primary hybrid between *Stan. connata* and *Stan. platyceras* created by Rolf Wilhelm of Woodland Orchids in Charlotte, NC, and registered in 2012. Garuda is a bird-like deity of both Hindu and Buddhist mythology and seems to be a fitting name for these large and unusual flowers. So far, I have not seen an example of this cross bearing more than two flowers on a single inflorescence, but it is possible a mature, well grown example may develop three. Such a plant could also produce several inflorescences over an indistinct bloom season spanning from February to October.

Stanhopea are fascinating New World orchids that produce highly fragrant, short lived, but fantastically shaped and colored flowers on spikes that generally grow straight down from the base of recently matured pseudobulbs. While they are in perfect condition for only a couple days in general, the slow and fascinating development of

the buds themselves can be a lesson in plant theatre. Large specimens can have many inflorescences with a staggered schedule that helps extend the show. They however, are not well suited for windowsill situations and require some attention to do well. They need as much light as possible, short of overly marring the foliage, to flower well, and want to be well watered and well drained year round. Baskets with plenty of open space that will not block developing spikes are the most common way they are grown, though with a controlled environment and dedication, they can be grown mounted as well.

Red – *Taeniophyllum biocellatum* – Danny Lentz

Red – *Pterostylis erecta* – David Mellard

White – *Pleione pleionoides* – David Mellard



Stanhopea Garuda – David Mellard

RECENT ACTIVITY OF THE ATLANTA JUDGING CENTER

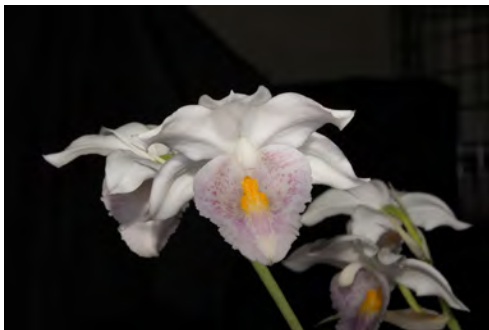
The following awards were granted at recent sessions of the AOS judging center. They are provisional awards pending publication by AOS.

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-Shoulta



Phalaenopsis Lianher Happy Dancer 'Stones River',
AM/AOS, 83 pts.
Exhibited by Stones River Orchids



Gastrorchis steinhardtiana 'Malagasy Surprise',
CHM/AOS, 82 pts.
Exhibited by Carson Barnes



Pterostylis Display 'Pteri Turtle
Beats Roger Rabbit', ART/AOS
Exhibited by David Mellard



Phalaenopsis Hampshire Snowbird 'Stones River',
AM/AOS, 84 pts.
Exhibited by Stones River Orchids



Paphiopedilum Oriental Green 'Clovercroft',
HCC/AOS, 76 pts.
Exhibited by Stones River Orchids



Paphiopedilum Oriental Wolf 'Stones River',
AM/AOS, 83 pts.
Exhibited by Stones River Orchids



This is the exhibit that Geni Smith and Jason Mills did in two and a half hours at the WNCOS. The ATLOS took third place on the society exhibits! The ATLOS entered 22 plants and had 11 ribbons, 2 rosettes, 1 lavender (AOS CONSIDERED AWARD) with two trophies, one for Best-in-Class Cymbidium Alliance and one for Best-in-Class in Miscellaneous!