



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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SEPTEMBER MONTHLY MEETING

Monday, September 11, 2017
Atlanta Botanical Garden
Day Hall - 8pm

Graham Ramsey,
"Repotting With Orchiaata"

Come learn why many orchid hobbyists and professional growers consider Orchiaata to be the best bark medium available. This presentation will include how Orchiaata is produced in New Zealand, quite an interesting story in itself. Graham Ramsey will discuss the many different sizes of Orchiaata, and how a grower can determine which is best for his/her needs. The program is set up to engage members in discussion about both Orchiaata and orchid repotting in general. In addition, as the Chair of the American Orchid Society Membership Committee, Graham will briefly discuss the benefits of AOS membership. Q&A is strongly encouraged.

And finally, Graham will be offering a special deal on Orchiaata pallet orders, a great opportunity for members to purchase Orchiaata at much reduced price.

Graham Ramsey has lived in Asheville North Carolina his entire life. Like many orchid enthusiasts, his first orchid was a white Phalaenopsis, a gift for his wife purchased at the local



Graham Ramsey will discuss the many different sizes of Orchiaata, and how a grower can determine which is best for his/her needs.

hardware store. It wasn't until Graham's mother-in-law sent him home with 18 orchids from her Florida home that he realized there was more to orchids than white Phalaenopsis.

With his daughter off to college and suddenly a mix of orchids to care for, he co-opted his daughter's bedroom and attempted to create the perfect growing space, that is, until his wife objected to the humidifying of the bedroom! Off to the basement to create a full blown grow-room, and, eventually, a 600 sq. ft. greenhouse.

After the initial gift of orchids, a friend of Graham's mother-in-law and founder of the Western North Carolina Orchid Society insisted that Graham attend a WNCOS meeting. In no time Graham was asked to join the board of WNCOS and soon after

In This Issue

- 2 ATLOS Volunteer Listing & Upcoming Orchid Class
- 3 Events Calendar & Previous Meeting Minutes & Monthly Ribbon Winners
- 7 Mid-America Orchid Congress Announcement
- 8 Recent Activity Of The Atlanta Judging Center
- 9 Alabama Orchid Society 33rd Sale & Show Announcement
- 10 Breezy Hill Orchid Festival Announcement

THE ATLANTA ORCHID SOCIETY

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Monthly Ribbon Judging – David Mellard

Newsletter – Valorie Boyer, Mark Reinke

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Danny Lentz & Jan Spenard

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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 purchases from the Society's Brookstone 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

Orchid Growing Class

September 11, 2017

(7:15pm – 7:45pm, Pre Meeting)

"Mounting with Cool Logs"
with Lynne Gollob

2016 Plant Challenge

Have you looked at your 2016 Challenge plant this spring?

How is it doing? Is it growing? Does it have new roots?

In this beautiful weather it is time to fertilize it. You could even put it outside in medium mottled light. Don't let it get burned! It could bloom this year if it is happy. Remember the winner is the first to bloom with more than one flower; you will need it bring it to the meeting or be sure to take a dated picture if it will not last.

Good Growing and Good Luck!



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

September

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

11 - Atlanta Orchid Society Monthly Meeting, ABG, Day Hall - 8pm Speaker - Graham Ramsey, "Repotting with Orchia"ta"

22 - 24 - Alabama Orchid Show, Birmingham Botanical Gardens, 2612 Lane Park Drive, Birmingham, AL 35223 FREE Parking & Admission

29 - 30 - Breezy Hill Orchid Festival, 23 Glass House Rd, Graniteville, SC 29829 9AM-5PM all days, \$5 Admission

October

9 - Atlanta Orchid Society Monthly Meeting, ABG, Day Hall - 8pm Speaker - Cortney Hackney, "Care and culture of Cattleyas"

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

21-23 - Mid-America Orchid Congress, Cincinnati, OH

November

8-12 - World Orchid Conference, Quayaquil, Ecuador, www.woc22.com

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

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

he became WNCOS Vice President. Eventually Graham would serve as President of WNCOS for six years and for the past 10 years has served as Show Chair for the WNCOS Annual Orchid Show (now called Asheville Orchid Festival).

Along the way Graham met and became close friends with H. P. Norton of Orchidview. Norton became a mentor, especially in regards to the breeding and growing phragmipediums, with particular focus on kovachii influenced phrags - a favorite of Graham's.

After 15 years in the orchid world, Graham now has a propagation lab, a new indoor grow-room and a small greenhouse with about 400 orchids. To date he has received 16 AOS awards and is currently the Chair of the American Orchid Society Membership Committee.

Minutes of the August 2017 Meeting of the Atlanta Orchid Society

The August 14, 2017 meeting was held at the Atlanta Botanical Gardens. Jason Mills-Shoulta, President, presided.

It was announced that the Board vacancy created by Jared Wilson's resignation will be filled by Carl Harden. The Society is interested in identifying members willing to accept the roles of 2018 Show Co-chair, Show Exhibit Coordinator, and Hospitality Coordinator.

Mark Reinke announced that the Annual Society Auction will be held on Saturday, November 4th at Rock Springs Church.

This month's speaker was Mark Reinke, who presented on "The Exciting Encyclias".

Following the business meeting the results of the monthly ribbon judging were announced. The meeting concluded at approximately 9:45 PM.

The next monthly meeting of the Atlanta Orchid Society will be held on September 11, 2017 at the Atlanta Botanical Gardens at 8:00 PM. The speaker will be Graham Ramsey, presenting on the topic "Potting in Orchia"ta. See you there!

*Minutes compiled by
Darrell Demeritt*

Atlanta Orchid Society Monthly Ribbon Winners July 2017

*Notes by Mark Reinke
Photos by Daryl Wattley*

Class I – Cattleya Group

Blue – *Rhyncolaeliocattleya*
Samantha Duncan 'Paradise' –
Gary Collier & Mark Reinke
(Commercial Grower)

Rlc. Samantha Duncan is a compact growing cross registered by Hawaii Hybrids in 2006. It has a fairly complex family tree that involves 23 different species, including quite a few large flowered *Cattleya*, but the three most dominant are all considered miniatures. Two of those three have good growth and spiking habits and that trait has been passed on to this orchid, making it stand out to experienced growers who find they too often must carefully stake and manipulate the flowers of their mini-catts to show their best.

So far the only awarded form is called 'Orange Tart' but we have grown both the 'Paradise' and 'Red



Rhyncolaeliocattleya Samantha Duncan
'Paradise' – **Gary Collier & Mark Reinke**
(Commercial Grower)

Hot' clones and found them to be very nice too. The main requirement for doing well with this orchid seems to be giving the plants perfect drainage, so this example grows in a hanging plastic net pot and has bloomed nicely about twice per year on average.

Because it has that elusive strong flower spike there is already a new generation of hybrids made from it starting to make an appearance at shows and in commercial outlets. We have a few in the works ourselves for which we have high expectations.

Red – *Brassocattleya* Richard Mueller 'Orchidheights,' AM/AOS – **Gary Collier & Mark Reinke**
(Commercial Grower)

Red – *Cattlianthe* Trick or Treat – **Danny Lentz**

White – *Cattleya* Princess Clémentine x *Rhyncolaeliocattleya* Suncoast Sunspots – **Bob Grezsik**

Class II – Cymbidium Group

No Entries

Class III – Dendrobium Group

Blue – *Dendrobium tobaense*
variety *giganteum* – **Vinh Nguyen**

This beautiful and unusual species was described only about 25 years ago and is named after Lake Toba in Sumatra because it occurs in the evergreen woods on mountains in its vicinity. Toba is the largest volcanic lake in the world occupying the caldera of a super volcano that produced the largest explosive eruption on Earth in the last 25 million years. The eruption itself was approximately 70,000 years ago and seems to have killed most humans worldwide at the time, creating the narrow genetic makeup that we all share today.

This part of Sumatra is elevated and rainy, with a mild temperature profile year round. That effects cultural recommendations for this fascinating species, which should be protected from heat and given regular water, accompanied by excellent drainage all year with no rest period. All the segments of the flowers taper into long projections, giving them a spidery appearance. The base green color is highlighted by deeper venation in the sepals and petals and the lip is accented by a brilliant vermilion callus and a long white projection from the center of the midlobe. While even a well grown plant never has multitudes of flowers at once, they are borne one or two per inflorescence at random locations up and down the growths over the course of



Dendrobium tobaense variety *giganteum*
– **Vinh Nguyen**

several years and in no particular season. The *giganteum* form has larger sized flowers that can exceed three inches in spread.

While several crosses between it and other members of the *nigrohirsute* sub section have been registered, only the pairing with *Den. cruentum*, which is called *Den. Peng Seng*, passes on the special traits of color and form that attracts most people to this orchid.

Red – *Cadetia taylori* – **Danny Lentz**

Class IV – Epidendrum Group

Blue – *Encyclia alata* – **Gary Collier & Mark Reinke**
(Commercial Grower)

One of the more robust and stately of species, *E. alata* grows on the lower and middle slopes of the Atlantic drainage from the state of Campeche in Mexico southward to Costa Rica. The species name means "winged" and refers to the prominent side lobes of the lip the flare outwards away from the column like a pair of wings. They are most often a beautiful clear yellow, but can also be white, while the skirt-like



Encyclia alata – Gary Collier & Mark Reinke (Commercial Grower)

center lobe is white with radiating purple lines and a deeper yellow edge. The sepals and petals have a yellow-green to olive-green base color, that in darker forms is overlaid with strong purple for a chocolate brown effect. The daytime fragrance is strong and tropical fruit like. It is not unusual to have 50 to 75 flowers on each tall and branched inflorescence. This particular plant in flower was more than 6 feet tall from the base of the pseudobulbs to the tip of the spikes.

Other than being a large plant that requires space, *E. alata* is adaptable to intermediate to warm conditions and is easy to cultivate in our climate. Mature plants prefer baskets with plenty of free drainage and should be watered generously in summer and fall, then more sparingly the balance of the year. The most famous and most awarded hybrid made with it is *E. Orchid Jungle*, which was registered by Tom Fennell in 1984 and pairs it with *E. phoenicea*. The original

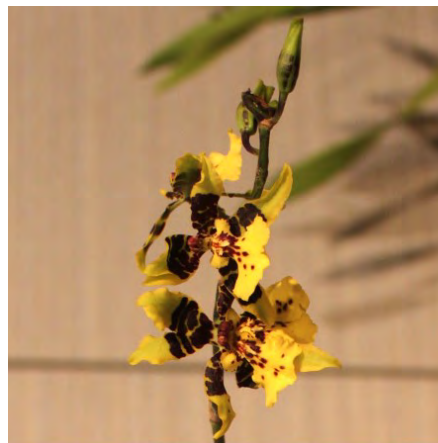
batch was particularly outstanding in producing many plants with vivid color and excellent form, but later re-makes have rarely come up to the same standard.

Red – *Epidendrum nocturnum* – Danny Lentz

White – *Epidendrum magnoliae* – Gary Collier & Mark Reinke (Commercial Grower)

Class V – Oncidium Group

Blue – *Brassidium Hybrid* – David Mellard



Brassidium Hybrid – David Mellard

Class VI – Cypripedium Group

Blue – *Paphiopedilum niveum* – Helen Blythe-Hart

The Snow-White Paphiopedilum grows in the wild on northwest facing limestone cliffs, close to the sea in the Langkawi island group just west of the border between Thailand and Malaysia, and possibly also on Tambelan Island, a tiny spec of land hundreds of miles away in the South China Sea between Borneo and Singapore. It is rather

small growing, with beautiful tessellated foliage and one or two, relatively large flowers that have a pure white background color, usually finely speckled in purple, but not always. It is a warm

grower that appreciates moderately bright, but diffused light and regular water most of the year with a drier rest in winter.

This species has been widely used in hybridization and is capable, in many pairings, of blocking out the darker shades of the other parent, resulting in flowers that are either white, or white blended with attractive pastel shades seldom otherwise seen.

Many growers debate whether the fact that so many Paphiopedilum species grow on limestone in the wild means they benefit from the addition of lime to their growing regimen. Personally, I don't have experience in this group. But a couple of years ago, while on a visit to speak to the Huntsville, Alabama Orchid Society I had the opportunity to visit the private collections of Bob and Marion



Paphiopedilum niveum
– Helen Blythe-Hart

Fallon in nearby Madison.

Marion's personal greenhouse was filled with the healthiest looking Paphs I have ever seen. She showed me a container of regular, grayish, powdered agricultural lime and told me that several times a year she broadcasts it over the media in the pots and waters it in. I certainly could not argue with the outstanding results she is achieving! One of her plants was in the Hunstville Orchid Society display at our show in 2016 and won three trophies including best flower in the show.

Red – *Paphiopedilum concolor* – Roy Harrow

Class VII - Phalaenopsis Group

Blue – *Phalaenopsis* Connie Moody (Venus x celebensis) – Danny Lentz

Red – *Phalaenopsis finleyi* – Jason Mills-Shoulta & Ed Shoulta-Mills

White – *Phalaenopsis hainanensis* – Jason Mills-Shoulta & Ed Shoulta-Mills

Class VIII - Vandaceous Group

Blue – *Cleisostoma racemiferum* – Vinh Nguyen

The small flowers set on a many branched spike make this species difficult to photograph, so the photo in the newsletter is not from the ribbon winning plant, but shows a good close up of the tiny blooms.

There is also little descriptive or cultural information on this species so I will quote directly



Cleisostoma racemiferum
– Vinh Nguyen

from Jay Phal's
orchidspecies.com website:

"Found in Assam India, Nepal, Sikkim, Bhutan, Yunnan province of China, Myanmar, Thailand, Laos and Vietnam in open forests on trees at elevations 600 to 2150 meters as an erect or pendulous, miniature to medium sized, warm to cold growing epiphyte with a stout leaf stem carrying coriaceous, broadly lorate, unequally bilobed apically leaves that blooms in the spring on an axillary, ascending, slender, 12" [30 cm] long, paniculate, 8 to 14 branched, successively few, many flowered inflorescence with a few distant sheaths and broad, short floral bracts."

Red – *Aeranthus grandiflora* – David Mellard

White – *Vanda* Hybrid – Andrew Dott

Class IX – Miscellaneous

Blue – *Habenaria medusa* – Roy Harrow

This unusual terrestrial species was described in 1893, but seems to only infrequently be available in commerce. A wave of available plants came through the "pipeline" in the last few years, but now they seem to be unavailable or very difficult to find.

The imposing plants are described as being up to 16 inches tall when in flower, but there are examples as tall as 89 cm (35 in.) among the descriptions of plants which have received cultural awards. The plants are terrestrial and come from seasonally dry grassland habitats in several of the larger islands that make up Indonesia. Other sources also include Laos and Vietnam in its range.

Well grown plants are capable of producing 25 or more flowers with a spread of up to 3 inches on a vertical raceme that blooms in successively from the lower portion, with all flowers being open at once for at least a few days or so. Most of the flower segments are inconspicuous, but the midlobe of the lip is divided



Habenaria medusa – Roy Harrow



Lycast deppei – David Mellard

into numerous radiating filaments that provide the showy attraction. There is also a fairly long nectar spur at the back of each flower, making it seem likely to be butterfly or moth pollinated.

After flowering, this species begins to die back to the ground and needs a distinct dry rest while dormant. It survives by producing fairly small vertical tubers and well grown plants will produce several per growth which sprout to form a clump the following season. You should wait until new growth is breaking the surface each spring before beginning to water again. This can be as late as April in my experience. A fairly rich terrestrial mixture is the best potting media, and while in active growth plants want plenty of water, and have been reported to grow better if sitting in a shallow saucer of water at that time.

Blue – *Lycast deppei* – David Mellard

This beautifully grown and flowered plant is an example of

the pale form of this species, usually referred to as *variety pallida*. Most commonly there is some amount of purple pigmentation overlaying the green base color creating a mottled brown effect.

Lyc. deppei is found mainly on the Caribbean slope of southern Mexico southward to Nicaragua, but also on the Pacific side in El Salvador. It grows on trees in mountain forests where rainfall is heavy in summer, but fairly scant the balance of the year. The locations do provide for dew and mist during the dry season, so while plants should be watered much less in winter, they should not stay totally dry for long periods. Drainage should always be excellent so that even in the summer months, the media dries somewhat in between watering. The plants seem to do well from bright to somewhat shaded conditions, but since they come from elevations that are cool to mild all year, probably need more shade in our climate during summer.

A few years ago a plant was awarded a CCM by the AOS in Toronto with 120 flowers plus an

additional 12 buds! All the plants with cultural awards were exhibited in locations with milder summers than Atlanta, so I would definitely ask David Mellard for growing advice if you want to add one to your collection!

Red – *Crepedium calophyllum* – Danny Lentz

White – *Orinchocephalus manabina* – Danny Letnz

Mid-America Orchid Congress - Save the Date!
Meet us in Cincinnati, OH,
for the Fall MAOC, Oct
21-23, 2017

We hope to see you in Cincinnati at the Mid-America Orchid Congress meeting, October 20-22, 2017. Mid-America registrants will have the opportunity to hear programs by two outstanding orchid experts, George Hatfield and Tom Harper. We'll meet in conjunction with the popular Greater Cincinnati Orchid Society Orchid Show & Plant Sale. Krohn Conservatory, the Art Deco glasshouse in Eden Park near downtown Cincinnati, offers a spectacular backdrop for the orchid show. The Mid-America lectures and meetings will be located at the Crowne Plaza Cincinnati Blue Ash, a short drive from the conservatory. Mid-America will provide transportation for registrants between the hotel and the orchid show.

We're very pleased to welcome George Hatfield to Mid-America! George is the current President of the American Orchid Society and the owner of Hatfield Orchids in Oxnard, CA, where he specializes in developing high quality and award winning Cymbidiums. He is a well-known speaker, and an accredited judge for both the

American Orchid Society and the Cymbidium Society of America. George will present a Saturday afternoon program on "Pendulous Cymbidiums," a topic that he is eminently qualified to address since he has produced some of the best pendulous Cymbidiums in the country. At our Saturday evening dinner, he will update us on what's new with the AOS.

We're also pleased to welcome back Tom Harper! Tom is a long-time supporter of the Mid-America Orchid Congress, having served as our President, Vice-President and Mid-American Editor. Tom owns Stones River Orchids in Franklin, TN, and is a Senior Judge for the American Orchid Society. He's also a founding member of the International Phalaenopsis Alliance and has held many responsible positions in the IPA. Most of us know Tom as a terrific speaker and author on various aspects of Phalaenopsis, and this Mid-America weekend will be no exception as he presents a Saturday afternoon program on "Big Lip Phalaenopsis."

Join us for an entertaining Saturday evening at the Crowne Plaza Cincinnati Blue Ash beginning with the ever-popular Mid-America auction, our main fund-raising event. After the auction we'll celebrate Cincinnati with our "Queen City Buffet" featuring Cincinnati chili and other local favorites. The Mid-America meeting will wrap up Sunday morning with the Affiliated Societies Breakfast and the Mid-America Business Meeting.

For more details and to register, please visit the Mid-America website, www.midamericanorchids.org. Registration forms will be available on the website soon.

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

No awards were given this month. Please check back next month.

**THE ALABAMA ORCHID
SOCIETY
33RD SALE & SHOW
SEPTEMBER 22-24, 2017**



WHERE: BIRMINGHAM BOTANICAL GARDENS

2612 Lane Park Rd, Birmingham, AL 35223

SHOW HOURS

Saturday 9/23 12 noon – 5 p.m.

Sunday 9/24 11 am – 4 p.m.

SALE HOURS

Friday 9/22 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Saturday 9/23 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Sunday 9/24 11 a.m. – 4 p.m.

FREE ADMISSION

Breezy Hill Orchid Festival

Orchids and Other Plants

Steve Arthur Orchids
23 Glass House Road
Graniteville, SC 29829

E-mail: orchids@stevearthurorchids.com

Friday Sept. 29 - Saturday Sept. 30

\$5.00 Admission Includes Both Days

9 to 5 Each Day

Lots of free parking

Orchid Vendors, Plant Vendors, Orchid Talks, Demonstrations

Indoor/Outdoor Plant Sales

Master Gardener Groups, Hort. Clubs, Orchid Societies

All plant folks invited

Raffles both days, 50/50 Raffle Saturday

Lunches for sale, Picnic area

Big day Saturday - AOS Outreach Judging 1:00 pm

Have plants to be judged here by 12 noon

Bring blooming orchids to be AOS judged

More Information at

www.stevearthurorchids.com/events/orchid-festival-2017

Please pass the word along

Scan For Vendor List

Other Info On Website as Available

