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

November, 2017

Monday, November 13, 2017 Atlanta Botanical Garden Day Hall - 8pm

Graham Ramsey,

"Repotting With Orchiata"

Come learn why many orchid professional hobbyists and growers consider Orchiata to be the best bark medium available. This presentation will include how Orchiata is produced in New Zealand, quite an interesting story in itself. Graham Ramsey will discuss the many different sizes of Orchiata, 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 Orchiata 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 offerin a special deal on Orchiata pallet orders, a great opportunity for members to purchase Orchiata 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 Orchiata, 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

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THE ATLANTA ORCHID SOCIETY

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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 November 13, 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 4+ flowers; 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!



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.

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Events Calendar

November

4 - Atlanta Orchid Society Annual Auction, Rock Spring
Presbyterian Church, 11am - 3pm

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 - Cortney Hackney, "Care and culture of Cattleyas"

December

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

11 - Atlanta Orchid Society Monthly Meeting, Rock Spring
Presbyterian Church

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 October 2017 Meeting of the Atlanta Orchid Society

The October 9, 2017 was called to order at 8:00PM at the Atlanta Botanical Gardens. Jason Mills-Shoulta, President, presided.

The minutes of the August meeting were read and approved with no revisions. The Treasurer, Dan Williamson provided the financial report. New and visiting members were welcomed and introduced.

The evening's program was presented by speaker Dr. Courtney Hackney, who gave a wonderful talk on Cattleya species and hybrids with a focus on culture.

The nominating committee presented their recommended

slate of Board officers and trustees for 2018, which was approved by the membership.

The annual society auction will be November 4 (Saturday) from 11 am to 3 pm at Rock Springs Presbyterian Church on Piedmont Avenue (just north of ABG). Members should bring a covered dish. If you have plants to donate, send a list to Mark Reinke and Jason Mills-Shoulta before the auction.

The next monthly meeting of the Atlanta Orchid Society will be held on November 13th at the Atlanta Botanical Gardens. The speaker will be Graham Ramsey, who will talk about Orchiata mix for potting orchids. See you there!

Minutes compiled by Darrell Demeritt

Atlanta Orchid Society Monthly Ribbon Winners July 2017

Notes by Mark Reinke Photos by Daryl Wattley

CORRECTION: The correct owner of Cadetia taylori in the list of August ribbon winners for Dendrobium is Doug Hartong!

Class I – Cattleya Group

Blue – Cattleya Schilleriana grex (1898) 'Paradise Blue' – Carson Barnes (Commercial Grower)

Not to be confused with the species *Cattleya schilleriana*, this hybrid between *C. intermedia* and *C. purpurata* was originally classed as Lealiocattleya which gave a dose of separation between the two plants with similar names. Nowadays, the RHS will not accept a name that duplicates one in a

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Blue – Cattleya Schilleriana grex (1898)

'Paradise Blue' – Carson Barnes

(Commercial Grower)

"breeding group" rather than just in the same genus so that similar situations do not cause confusion in the future. The way I have listed the entry is the preferred way for fully distinguishing this man made hybrid from the species with the same name.

As the clonal name implies, this particular example was made by crossing the coerulea forms of both species and is a beautiful white flower with a contrasting violet purple on the lip. species have many color forms so there are quite a few different versions of C. Schilleriana grex (1898) that are possible. current plants are likely from recent remakes of the cross that correspond to the resurgence in interest in primary hybrids. All four of the AOS flower quality awards for it have been bestowed since the turn of the 21st Century.

C. Schilleriana grex (1898) should be a fairly tough and reliable plant to grow, willing to endure a wide range in temperatures. While mature plants want to dry between watering, they should not be subjected to a winter rest where water is greatly reduced as both species involved come from the same area of coastal SE Brazil

where rainfall is moderate year round.

Red – Cattleya forbesii 'Equilab,' AM/AOS - Carson Barnes (Commercial Grower)

White – Rhyncolaeliocattleya Egyptian Queen – Meagan Brass

Class II – Cymbibum Group

No Entries

Class III – Dendrobium Group

Blue – Dendrobium Hibiki 'Pauwela' – Nancy Newton & in memory of David Glass

Dendrobium Hibiki is a charming primary hybrid between the cooler growing and miniature Den. laevifolium and the hot growing and larger bracteosum. The former comes from 2000-7000 feet above sea level on islands to the east of New Guinea, usually growing in misty elfin forests that get the occasional blast of hot sunshine. The latter comes from sea level in the western part of New Guinea and neighboring islands, usually growing in swampy areas with high humidity and regular rainfall. Both have dense tufts of lona lasting flowers, primarily from summer into fall, but occasionally at other times as well.

The blooms on this orchid come from mature, generally leafless older growths, so when starting with a young plant you will have to wait several years before it begins to put on a show. Even then, in my experience at least, some years have more profuse blooming cycles than others. However, their long staying power and showy



Dendrobium Hibiki 'Pauwela' – Nancy Newton & in memory of David Glass

presentation when produced in sufficient quantity makes this orchid well worth growing. should get filtered but bright light and regular water accompanied by excellent drainage and more or less treated the same way year round. Intermediate to temperatures seem to suit it best.

Red – Dendrobuim bracteosum var. album – Nancy Newton & in memory of David Glass

Red – Dendrobuim oligophyullum – Nancy Newton & in memory of David Glass

Class IV – Epidendrum Group

Blue – Encyclia atrorubens – Roy Harrow

This somewhat infrequently seen species with fairly compact growth habits comes from the Pacific slope of Southwest Mexico, usually at about 1,000 feet above sea level in areas with

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seasonally dry forest. Its dark red-purple flowers with brighter lip are not large, but are eye catching nonetheless. They are rather widely spaced on a long inflorescence that typically produces several alternately arranged branches. Because the wet season comes late in this region, new growth often does not commence until June and, unusual for Encyclia species, the inflorescence begins to develop before the growths are fully mature. Flowers come from fall into winter and are quite long lasting.

Many of these traits would seem to make E. atrorubens a desirable starting point for excellent hybrids, but it has proven to be rather reluctant to produce fertile seed, or offspring that will go on to mature from the seedling stage. To date only 4 first generation hybrids have been registered. One that is a good illustration of what might achieved be is Encyvola Atro-Stars, a cross between it and Brassavola Little Stars registered by Florida Suncoast Orchids in



Encyclia atrorubens - Roy Harrow

2009. While *Brassavola* tends to pass along its lighter colors to their offspring, in this case, the best plants from the cross inherited the shape of that parent but also the intense colors of *E. atrorubens*.

You may see this plant labeled Encyclia diota as variety atrorubens but taxonomists mostly agree that it is a separate Encyclia diota comes species. from a larger range which extends from southern Mexico to Nicaragua and has similarly shaped flowers and spiking habits to E. atrorubens, but with somewhat broader, spatula like segments that are typically yellowish tan with a yellow orange and white lip with a few darker markings.

Red – Dimenandra stenopetala – Roy Harrow

White – Epidendrum magnoliae - Roy Harrow

Class V – Oncidium Group

Blue – *Oncestele* Wildcat 'Green Valley' – **Sarina Parker**

Originally when registered in 1992 by the Rod McClellan Company, this cross considered a Colmanara, which combines Miltonia Odontoglossum + Oncidium. However, three species in its genetic ancestry have had subsequent name changes. Odontoglossum uroskinneri was reassigned to Rhvncostele uruoskinneri, and more drastically, Miltonia warscewiczii became Oncidium fuscatum and Odontoglossum crispum became Oncidium alexandrae. Thus, it is now a combination of just Oncidium and Rhyncostele which



Oncestele Wildcat 'Green Valley'

– Sarina Parker

results in the present nothogenus of *Oncostele*. I presume that it should be pronounced using the soft "c" from Oncidium. As far as I can there are no current registered hybrids that would still qualify as Colmanara since all that had previously existed were affected by the above changes. Yet the possibility still exists for that combination to be recreated in the future.

The family tree of *Ons*. Wildcat goes all the way back to 1898 with the registration of what was then called Ondontoglossum Eximium (now Oncidium) and is fairly complex, requiring nine generations to reach the present result. Actually, that statement is not fully accurate in that many of the present clones of *Ons*. Wildcat, such as the 'Green Valley' from exhibited, are mutations that occurred in the mericloning process of selected individuals descended from the original batch. This cross seems especially prone to this event, which is usually a rare occurrence laboratory orchid multiplication. My current Orchidwiz X4.0a update shows photos of 48 different color forms and I know of a few more that aren't pictured. They range from

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a nearly all yellow flower to a nearly all deep purple flower and every degree of pattern involving yellow, purple and white in between.

Ons. Wildcat is considered a tough and easily grown hybrid, capable of flowering in much less than optimal growing conditions. However, if you want a spectacular plant, capable of producing two branched spikes per growth with up to 40 or more flowers each, follow this advice. Grow in bright, filtered light and temperatures between 50 and 90F, providing good air movement especially when hot or very humid. Divide and repot every two years into a fresh medium that both provides good drainage and will retain moisture. Feed regularly year round and do not allow the medium to fully dry out before watering again. Such extra attention is well rewarded.

We buy plants in spike grown in Hawaii in 3.5" plastic pots in straight sphagnum moss because we cannot produce them from plug size more



Paphiopedilum Doll's Kobold
- Danny Lentz

economically. The sphagnum is a good choice in a pot that size since the root system is large and quickly draw will up the moisture. However, any plants we don't sell are generally moved into a six inch plastic pot with a pre-moistened $\circ f$ mix commercial "cypress mulch," large Perlite and chopped sphagnum. Usina only sphagnum in a pot that size would result in the roots staying too wet. We often use a time release fertilizer to supplement the 1/8th strength K-lite formula dissolved in the water we use since this type of hybrid grows rapidly with no rest season. In our greenhouse twice per week generally needed, water is sometimes even more often when conditions are very bright and dry. If given this type of care the plants will often fill the 6" pot in only one year and produce several magnificent spikes at once. We have tried growing this and similar hybrids in medium bark and found that it dries too quickly, even with daily watering to produce robust well flowered plants.

Red – Oncidium cristatum – David Mellard

White – *Brassia* Spider's Gold 'Prolific' – Carson Barnes (Commercial Grower)

Class VI – Cypripedium Group

Paphiopedilum

Blue – *Paphiopedilum* Doll's Kobold – **Danny Lentz**

Paph. Doll's Kobold is a primary hybrid between Paph. henryanum and Paph. charlesworthii registered by Peter



Phragmipedium Wössner Supergrande
– Danny Lentz

Hilmar Doll of Bonn, Germany in 1992. It is but one of dozens of *Paphiopedilum* hybrids he registered in about a 10 year period from 1988 to 1997. The most famous and awarded is *Paph*. Dollgoldi (*rothschildianum x armeniacum*) which has received more than 100 awards from orchid judging bodies worldwide.

Likely one of the goals of this particular cross was to translate the dramatic spotting of *Paph. henryanum* onto the larger, wider dorsal sepal of *Paph. charlesworthii*. Although slightly reflexed, our blue ribbon winner successfully exhibits this trait.

Both of the species involved in this orchid come from middle elevations in mountainous parts of Southeast Asia where summers are warm and rainy, but not hot, and where winter is both cooler and drier. This is true of many of the complex hybrids with solid green leaves descended from these and other species as well. Therefore they require more skill to grower and flower in our climate than the mottle leaf types.

Red – *Paphiopedilum* Hilo Citron x Hilo Mojito – Ariel Christiansen & Kurt Drewke

White – Paphiopedilum henryanum – Helen Blythe-Hart

Phragmipedium

Blue – *Phragmipedium* Wössner Supergrande – **Danny Lentz**

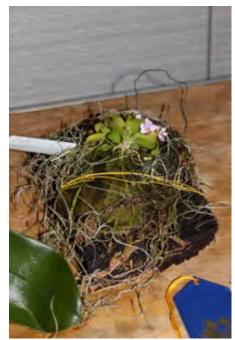
Red – *Phragmipedium* Sedenii – Danny Lentz

White – Phragmipedium richteri – Carson Barnes (Commercial Grower)

Class VII -Phalaenopsis Group

Blue – *Phalaenopsis* Tassanee Jongdamkerng – **Roy Harrow**

The registered name of this primary hybrid between *Phal.* equestris and *Phal.* appendiculata takes up as much room as the plant itself! It was registered by Mr. Yanyong Punpreuk of



Phalaenopsis Tassanee Jongdamkerng – **Roy Harrow**

Bangkok, Thailand in 2007, a grower who has registered mostly *Bulbophyllum* hybrids, but the originator of the cross is listed as Thanaphatr Johgdamkerng, also of Bangkok, so presumably it is named in honor of one of his family members.

While a tiny grower, I have found a couple photos online of well grown plants bearing two inflorescences with 5 to 7 flowers and buds each. It seems to favor Phal. appendiculata in that the flowers open in succession and the lower ones may fade before the final ones open. That species grows on twigs and small branches in a few isolated locations in hot, humid and shaded forests of Malaya. The other parent, Phal. equestris, comes from hot, lowland locations on Luzon in the Philippines where rainfall is heavy in summer, but scarce in The most well grown winter. plants I see from the photos are growing mounted like our blue ribbon example. Being small and a bit fussy, this orchid probably requires frequent attention in order to do well

Red – Phalaenopsis bellina - Bob Grzesik

White – Phalaenopsis pulcherrima forma champornensis – **Karl Harden**

Class VIII -Vandaceous Group

Blue – Vandaenopsis Irene Dobkin 'Elmhurst,' HCC/AOS – Trac Nguyen

This intergeneric cross between a *Vanda miniata* (formerly *Ascocentrum miniatum*) and Phalaenopsis Doris was registered nearly 50 years ago in

1968 and remains one of the few hybrids ever created between those two groups. Its compact stature and unique color, described in awards descriptions as tangerine with lavender striations, has made it almost irresistible for anyone interested in growing orchids to try. Yet, kudos must be given to Trac Nauven because this seems to be a plant that is easy to kill and difficult to flower! While there are at least fifteen different named clones in the award records, the 'Elmhurst' variety, first awarded in 1978, is the only one I have seen that has been commercially produced quantity.

It is hard to say what makes this orchid a difficult subject for most growers. The majority of the awards were given in Hawaii, California and Florida, but that may simply be a reflection of availability and the large number of growers in these locations. The one plant that received a cultural award (with an amazing 123 open flowers and an additional 98 buds on three inflorescences), was grown in a basket, and likely growing this plant more like the Vanda parent with minimal medium in a basket and providing daily watering, is the way to keep it happy in the long term.

There have been nearly 50 hybrids made using this unusual intergeneric as one parent, mostly decades ago, though a few have been done more recently by growers in Asia. Of those that have photos to show the results, most have not proven to be as beautiful as the original, let alone show progress to some higher goal.

Anyone who wants to try this temperamental beauty should ask for growing advice from Trac

as I count myself among the large number of admirers of *Vdnps*. Irene Dobkin who have killed it, perhaps with kindness!

Red – Vanda vietnamica – Trac Nguyen

White – Holconopsis Newberry Jasmine – Danny Lentz

White - Vandachostylis Fuchs Pink Glow x Vanda Fuchs Blue -Rick Martinez

Class IX – Miscellaneous

Blue – Habenaria rhodocheila – David Mellard

This alluring species is widespread in SE Asia in climates with a distinct dry winter and is found in several color forms. The two forms most frequently seen in commerce are bright fluorescent orange, such as this plant, and coral pink. There are also pale pink forms, other reddish shades, and pure yellow forms, though these may be



Habenaria rhodocheila – David Mellard

difficult to locate to add to your collection at present.

While essentially grown as a terrestrial, it is described as often living on moss covered rocks in the wild, which likely accentuates the level of dryness Typically after in winter. flowering, the above ground parts of the plant begin to fade and die away, leaving behind small vertical tubers with a fuzzy surface in the media. A healthy growth can produce several of these, allowing it to become a colony over time. Such is the case with this well grown example.

While resting in winter, most growers usually withhold all water, though some sources recommend keeping the media barely damp. In a greenhouse environment, putting the pots away from the reach of water seems to work best. New growth will start to emerge in spring, sometimes as late as May in my experience. As purplish shoots being to emerge, the grower can separate them into individual pots or keep them as a colony depending on the desired result. While actively growing the plants should be watered frequently and fertilized regularly. Some growers have success allowing the pots to sit in a shallow amount of water at this time since they may require more water than other plants growing nearby. Warm to intermediate temperatures. briaht. filtered light, and a media that is well draining, but moisture retentive suits Hab. rhodocheila best.

Blue – Coelogyne ovalis 'Memoria Helen Hardin' – Roy Harrow

This is another Southeast Asian

species that enjoys wide distribution in the wild, growing at a variety of elevations and both on trees and on rocks. The common factor throughout this region is high rainfall in summer, followed by a six month dry period with cooler nights from late fall to spring. However, humidity remains high even though rainfall is low or nearly absent, so plants continue to receive some moisture through nightly dew and mists.

The fairly compact growths of Coel. ovalis form a clumping plant that can become quite a large mat of growth, and several cultural awards have been given to plants with more than 300 flowers and buds present at once. Each inflorescence can produce of up 3 flowers in succession over a primarily fall bloom season that peaks in October. The species name refers to the oval shape of the midlobe of the lip, but there is quite a bit of variation in the exact shape and color palette from plant to plant. Usually the overall look is a tan to brown with a much darker lip.

Red – Bulbophyllum longissimum – David Mellard

Red – Cycnoches barthiorum – Jody Gomez

White – Pleurothallis stricta – David Mellard

White – Bulbophyllum tingabarinum – Lynne Gollob

Fundraising Auction Saturday, November 4th

Our annual fundraising auction is this coming Saturday, November 4th! It will be held as a daytime event, with pot-luck

dining, starting at 11 a.m. and winding up about 3 p.m. and will be held in the usual location at the activity hall at the rear of Rock Spring Presbyterian Church at 1824 Peidmont Ave. NE. For anyone who hasn't yet been to an event there, it is only about 1 mile north (towards Buckhead) from the entrance to the Atlanta Botanical Gardens and on the left if coming from that direction. Take the driveway to the left of the main building to the parking lot in Please bring food for everyone to enjoy and use this chart based on the first letter of your last name so that we have a variety dishes and plenty to drink:

A thru D – Side Dish E thru H – Salad I thru M – Dessert N thru S - Drinks T thru Z - Main Dish

Of course no one will complain if you want to bring more than one item!

This year we have possibly the best line up of plants we have ever had to bid on! There will be more than 100 entries from a wide variety of genera, and more than 80% of the plants will be in bud or blooming! We have carefully selected both things that easy for novice growers and more unusual and hard to obtain species and hybrids for the more adventurous. You can preview the auction at

https://trello.com/b/ERwYvNFt/2017-auction which shows photos of the plants and other details such as pot size and whether the item is in spike or bloom. We encourage you to spread the word to any other orchid lovers you know outside the membership to help encourage plenty of spirited bidding.

So come an enjoy the food, fun, fellowship and excitement. We look forward to seeing you there!

Amazon Smile

You can help out the Atlanta Orchid Society simply by shopping at Amazon through their Amazon Smile program. To do this simply go to http://smile.amazon.com every time you want to shop at Amazon. When you go to checkout for the first time, you will be asked to designate your charity. If you type Atlanta Orchid Society in the search bar, we are the only result that comes up. Select that one. You can change the charity at any time, by following the directions on the About page. All of the details of the Amazon Smile program can be found on the Amazon site at: https://smile.amazon.com/gp/chpf/about/

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.