



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

March, 2018

Volume 77: Number 3

MARCH MONTHLY MEETING

Monday, March 12, 2018
Atlanta Botanical Garden
Day Hall - 8pm

The Orchids of Mexico

Ron McHatton,
AOS Education Director

This is a survey presentation of the orchids from Mexico and all the different climate ranges from the area. There are many orchids from the country that are adaptable to our conditions and others that grow warmer than South American relatives that may be able to survive in Georgia.



There were reminders of several events:

- Atlanta Orchid Society Show and Sale: Friday March 9th (ribbon and AOS judging) through Sunday (4 pm), March 11
- Atlanta Judging Center, Monthly Judging: Saturday, March 10, Basement Classroom, Educational training noon, 1 pm
- AOS Members Meeting, Santa Barbara, CA, March 8-11, 2018
- Mobile Area Orchid Show, Feb 16 (entries), Feb 17 (judging) through Feb 18; Joe Paine, joe6w@aol.com
- Greengrowers, hosted by Dianne Morgan/Danny Lentz; 1045 Wordsworth Drive; Roswell, GA 30075; 770-362-0575; 11 am to 2 pm
- ABG Flower Show; No orchid class this year; Feb 21 (entries);

Feb 22 (Judging at 10 am; Preview at 6:30 pm); Feb 23-25 (Open to public); At Atlanta Botanical Garden

Program "Show Preparations" was presented by David Mellard and Barbara Barnett.

Minutes of the February 2018 Meeting of the Atlanta Orchid Society

The monthly meeting was held on February 12, 2018 at the Atlanta Botanical Gardens. The meeting was presided by President David Mellard.

The minutes of the January meeting were read and approved with no revisions. New and visiting members were welcomed and introduced. Dan Williamson presented the treasurer's report. Members were reminded that annual dues are due: Individual - \$30; Household - \$45.

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The Atlanta Orchid Society

OFFICERS

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David Mellard, 404-310-9899

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Helen "HB" Blythe-Hart, 770-656-4054

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142 Superior Ave
Decatur, GA 30030

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Trac Nguyen, 404-502-2969

Jody Gomez, 678-613-1449

Doug Hartong, 770-594-7334

Maegan Brass

OTHER VOLUNTEERS

AOS Rep - Barbara Barnett

Green Growers - Danny Lentz

Librarian - Valorie Boyer

MAOC Rep - Doug Hartong

Meeting Hospitality - Ed Shoulta-Mills

Membership Chair - Geni Smith

Education and Outreach - Lynne Gollob

Silent Auction - Carson Barnes

Monthly Ribbon Judging - David Mellard

Newsletter - Mark Reinke, Valorie Boyer

Orchid Digest Rep - David Mellard

Show Chairs - Danny Lentz & Jan Spenard

Website Committee - Maureen Mckovich,
Mark Reinke, Jan Spenard, Valorie Boyer



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 (7:15pm – 7:45pm, Pre Meeting)

Meet and Greet New Members To Orchid Growing

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/>



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

March

9-11 - Orchid Show & Sale,
Atlanta Botanical Gardens

**10 - American Orchid Society
monthly judging,** Atlanta
Judging Center, 1pm, Basement
Workshop next to Day Hall, ABG

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

April

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

**14 - American Orchid Society
monthly judging,** Atlanta
Judging Center, 1pm, Basement
Workshop next to Day Hall, ABG

The next monthly meeting will be held on March 12th at 8:00 PM at the Atlanta Botanical Gardens. Hope to see you there!

Minutes were prepared and respectfully submitted by President David Mellard and Secretary Darrell Demeritt.

Atlanta Orchid Society Monthly Ribbon Winners January 2018

*Notes by Mark Reinke
Photos by Madlen Wilmes*

Class I – Cattleya Group

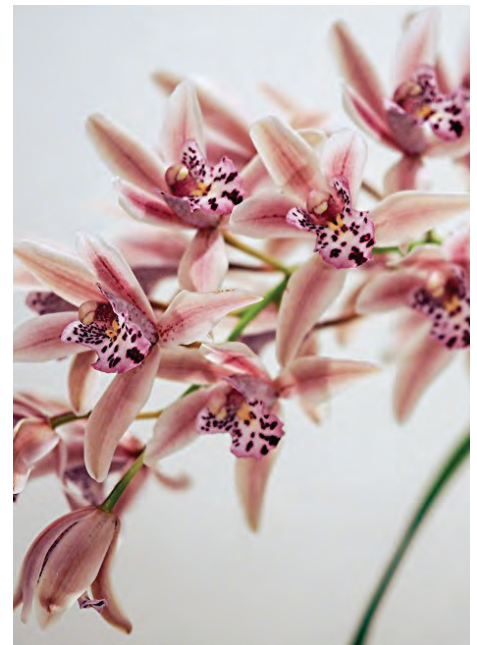
**Blue – Cattleya Dream Catcher –
Danny Lentz**

Cattleya Dream Catcher was originally registered in 1999 by H&R Nurseries, located on the island of Oahu, Hawaii, and is a cross between *C. Beaufort* and *C. Bright Angel*. While a “pie chart” of its genetics shows that it is over 56% *C. coccinea*, a fussy species from misty mountain forests of Brazil, it also has 25% *C. aclandiae* and 12.5% *C. luteola*, both lowland species from Brazil with a penchant for warmth. The resulting plant is small in stature but produces bright, eye catching flowers with a yellow base color overlaid in patterns of orange and red, and most have enough heat tolerance to do well in our climate with a bit of attention.

Likely, Danny is growing this plant under lights inside his home, and that is a great way to achieve a handsome “mini-specimen” such as this one, with leads going in all directions, each flowering about twice per



Cattleya Dream Catcher
– Danny Lentz



Cymbidium Flirtation
– David Mellard

year. In a greenhouse setting we have found it responds best to basket culture, where it can receive perfect drainage and plenty of air movement.

We have tried a number of crosses using our most outstanding examples of this wonderful mini-catt, but so far the results have not produced the wow factor of the original. H&R has remade the cross and it is currently on their retail list as seedlings, so if you like this beauty I would act quickly before they are gone again.

Red – Laeliocattleya Santa Barbara Sunset ‘Showtime,’ HCC/AOS – Carson Barnes

White – Cattlianthe Blazing Sun ‘NN,’ HCC/AOS – Jon Crate

Class II – Cymbidium Group

**Blue – Cymbidium Flirtation –
David Mellard**

Cymbidium Flirtation was introduced by Stewart, Inc. in

1955 when they were based out of San Gabriel, CA. It is one of the first group of "miniature" hybrids created by taking the species, *Cym. floribundum* and crossing it with one of the existing standard sized hybrids. It is available today by division due to its exceptionally hardy and vigorous nature. This plant came as a division off a plant we obtained approximately 15 years ago from a local specialty garden center. It had been in their family for decades and every so often they would divide it and sell small sections in four inch pots. Last year, our plant was divided for the *third* time after it had once again completely filled a twelve inch pot to overflowing. Before dividing it had produced 22 inflorescences with more than 400 flowers total and received the trophy for best plant in the 2017 Gulf Coast Orchid Show in Mississippi.

While all three species involved are classed as cool growers, this



Dendrobium Jayden
– Janice Lankford

orchid thrives in our climate and we grow it outdoors in half day full sun during the frost free season. During that time it is watered frequently, or set in a saucer of water so that the roots stay constantly moist. Heavy fertilization is administered until growths reach maturity in fall. We usually wait for a "freeze warning" to bring it into the greenhouse, by which time flowers spikes have initiated. In addition to the plant exhibited, our mother plant yielded 8 more six inch pot divisions, plus a larger section that we retained for ourselves, which just finished producing five nice inflorescences.

Class III – Dendrobium Group

Blue – *Dendrobium Jayden* –
Janice Lankford

Dendrobium Jayden is one of the "Aussie Dens" that mixes three species native to that country and was originally introduced there in 1994. Genealogically it is three quarters *Den. speciosum* and one eighth each *Den. tetragonum* and *Den. bigibbum*. It can come in many different colors depending on how these varied genetics play out in each seedling, ranging from pure white to yellow, to yellow with a purple lip, to white or yellow with a strong purple overlay on the apical two thirds of the segments.

The available images show that older plants can produce a number of inflorescences at once, which put on an impressive, if somewhat short lived display. Grow plants from this breeding line in a bright location, with enough watering to keep them moist during the active growing season, followed

by reduced watering and fertilization in the cooler months. Exposing the plant to cooler nights, at least in the 50'sF at this time will enhance flower production.

Red – *Dendrobium Violet Fizz* –
Magg Wattle

Class IV – Epidendrum Group

Blue – *Epidendrum parkinsonianum* –
Dan Williamson

This unusual, pendant species with showy and fragrant flowers comes from elevations in the 5,000 to 8,000 foot range on the Pacific slope from the south half of Mexico, southward to Panama. An older plant can produce curtains of succulent growths hanging up to six feet or more off native oaks in the seasonally dry forest which it inhabits. This size is rarely achieved in collections because this species tends to be difficult to maintain in good health once it begins to reach a significant size. It prefers a moderately warm and wet summer and a distinctly cooler



Epidendrum parkinsonianum
– Dan Williamson

and drier winter. Flowering peaks in spring, but there are bloom records in cultivation from almost every month, possibly due in part to its response to varied growing environments.

Amateur breeders with a flair for the eccentric have registered 17 hybrids pairing this species with various members of the greater Cattleya Alliance, but most are mere curiosities and lack the simple grace of the original.

Class V – Oncidium Group

Blue – *Trichocentrum splendidum* – Carson Barnes

Trichocentrum splendidum is one of the “Mule Ear Oncidiums,” named for the shape and leathery texture of its tough brownish purple leaves. It, along with about 90 other species were separated out of *Oncidium* in 2001 and classed as *Trichocentrum*.

This species is found in Central America at middle elevations, often growing in large colonies



Trichocentrum splendidum
– Carson Barnes

on rocks in rather exposed locations. In cultivation, midday full sun should be avoided, but otherwise very bright conditions are needed to produce good flowering. It generally prefers a warm temperature profile, even in winter, but watering in that season should be limited to occasional light applications or morning misting until new growth commences in spring. Much more frequent water accompanied by perfect drainage is called for from about May through October.

There has been a fair amount of hybridization between *Trt. splendidum* and other members of the genus, mostly resulting in slight variations of pattern and color distribution in the flowers from the original.

Red – *Aliceara Tropic Lily ‘Ice Palace’* – Kurt Drewke & Ariel Christiansen

Class VI – Cypripedium Group

Blue – *Paphiopedilum fairrieianum* – Danny Lentz

This compact, clumping species has a distinct look with plenty of personality and many people find utterly charming. It comes from Northeast India and Bhutan, growing on grassy slopes covering rock outcrops at elevations between about 5,000 and 7,000 feet above sea level. These locations receive very heavy rainfall in summer followed by a cooler and significantly drier winter and this pattern gives guidance in successful cultivation. Since the roots are protected by turf in the wild, plants in cultivation should not be allowed to fully dry out, but should receive much less water between November and



Paphiopedilum fairrieianum
– Danny Lentz

March. Brighter light is also required compared to many other *Paphiopedilum* and plants can tolerate some early or late direct sun provided there is good air movement. Winter nights should be in the 50'sF or even lower to insure flowering.

Despite, and in some cases because of its idiosyncratic look, *Paph. fairrieianum* has been used rather extensively in hybridization. Some of the recent crosses between it and large yellow flowered complex hybrids have been particularly appealing.

Red – *Phragmipedium pearcei* – Carson Barnes

White – *Paphiopedilum delenatii* – Danny Lentz

Class VII – Phalaenopsis Group

Blue – *Phalaenopsis amboinensis* – Jon Crate

The name of this species comes from Ambon Island, part of the

chain of islands east of Sulawesi in Indonesia known as the Moluccas, where it was originally found. It also grows on other nearby islands as well as in certain districts of Sulawesi itself. This is a warm, humid equatorial region where the record lows are around 65F. The rainfall is heavy throughout the year. These facts give the basics needed to produce an outstanding example of this species with multiple inflorescences. Growers recommend that water should be warmed to about 70F before being administered.

Phal. amboinensis produces a few, rather small, but colorful flowers at a time on a persistent inflorescence that continues to elongate and sometimes produces side branches. As plants grow older additional inflorescences are added so a well grown plant can have a dozen or more blooms scattered around the plant. The background color ranges from white to yellow overlaid with transverse red-brown bars.

Flower color is the most valuable asset *Phal. amboinensis* has when it comes to



Phalaenopsis amboinensis
– Jon Crate



Vanda A. F. Buckman
– Dan Williamson

hybridization and more than 15,000 registered crosses include it in their family tree. Depending on the pairing, it can help provide vivid patterning or intense solid colors with heavy substance.

Red – *Phalaenopsis* Taida King's Caroline x Taide Little Zebra – **Jon Crate**

White – *Phalaenopsis* King Shiang's Princess – **John Crate**

Class VIII - Vandaceous Group

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

If I'm keeping the right count, this plant has now made four appearances in our monthly ribbon tally over the past few years, continuing to improve with each showing. It 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 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.

Red – *Angraecum birrimense* – **Carson Barnes**

White – *Papilionanthe vandarum* 'Marisa' – **Carson Barnes**

Class IX – Miscellaneous

Blue – *Dendrochilum wenzelii* 'Mello Spirit,' CCM/AOS (yellow form) – **David Mellard**

This beautifully flowered example



Dendrochilum wenzelii 'Mello Spirit,'
CCM/AOS (yellow form)
– David Mellard



Lycaste lasioglossa 'Sal's Mello Spirit,'
AM/AOS – David Mellard

of a species from Luzon Island in the Philippines just received a provisional Certificate of Cultural Merit from the Atlanta Judging Center of the AOS. It will be verified to be the correct species in question, at which time the award becomes official.

There are two color forms in cultivation, with the red flowered type being the most commonly available commercially. The yellow form is not seen as frequently and will usually demand a higher price. The inflorescence extends out just beyond the foliage and consists of a crowded raceme of many small flowers arranged alternately in two ranks. As is evident in this example, a well grown specimen can have more than 100 inflorescences. In 2016, a plant in California was awarded 98 points for a near perfect Certificate of Cultural Excellence with 10,817 open flowers and 215 additional buds! The number seems odd if it was an estimate, but pity the student judge who actually had to count them if it were not.

This species grows at lower elevations where summers are hot and winters are warm. While there is a little less rain in winter, summers are quite wet. In

cultivation, they should always be well drained but not allowed to completely dry out. Bright, but diffused light is best.

Blue – *Lycaste lasioglossa* 'Sal's Mello Spirit,' AM/AOS – David Mellard

Originally from Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador, this orchid is now either very rare or extinct in most of its range and details about its habitat are sketchy. It seems to have inhabited cloud forests in the 4000 to 6000 foot range, in areas without a distinct dry season. Therefore it is not annually deciduous like some *Lycaste* and the leaves provide a green foil to the large bronzy to brownish flowers. As many as six to twelve can emerge from each mature pseudobulb over the mainly winter bloom season. The plant exhibited beautifully displays this characteristic, and has good broad segments and better form than many examples of the species.

While the color is somewhat somber, its size and floriferousness have been put to good use in breeding lines that have created such showy beauties as the currently popular *Lysudamuloa* Red Jewel, which can flower in both summer and winter.

Like most large flowered *Lycaste*, this species is not fond of hot temperatures, and should be given plenty of air movement and more shade if a controlled environment is not available and you are attempting to summer it outdoors. If attention is paid to plenty of watering while in growth, indoor culture may be a better option. While typically epiphytes in the wild, these orchids produce thick, hairy roots and do well in a mix more

commonly used for terrestrial orchids, which drains well, but also holds moisture.

Red – *Stenorrhyncos aldibo-maculatum* – David Mellard

White – *Masdevallia* Angel Heart – David Mellard

2018 Orchid Show

Our annual show is coming up at the beginning of March. Chair for the show is Danny Lentz (dblgongora@bellsouth.net). The show will be held from Friday March 9th through Sunday the 11th with setup on Wednesday and Thursday. As always we will need as many people as possible to pitch in and help with the event. We will have sign-up sheets for volunteers at the February meeting. Things we'll need help with include show setup/takedown, clerks to assist with Friday morning's ribbon judging, staffing society tables to answer questions and recruit new members, exhibit setup, and various other activities. If you're interested in helping with things like plant registration or show publicity please let us know.

We look forward to working with everyone to put on another great show this year, and will be sharing more details at the February meeting and next month's newsletter.

Orchid Show Volunteers

Clerks:

We need quite a few clerks on Friday morning to help with judging. Clerks help find the plants that the judges need to

look at in each class, place ribbons. This can be a good way to learn more about what judges look for in the plants. You don't need to be very experienced to help with this. Clerks will be coordinated by Terry Glover (adreidese@msn.com)

Membership Tables:

At our membership table we need people to answer questions, take membership applications and payment. We really need to get a lot of our members to help out with this, with coverage from Friday morning through Sunday afternoon. We could use someone to coordinate the staffing of the membership table.

Setup:

On Wednesday afternoon we will need some people to help set up the tables and put on table skirts, mark out exhibit areas, and get the room ready for the show. On Thursday we will need more people to help out. We will have 2 displays (in Day Hall and the Visitor's Center) to set up, plant entry to take care of, our vendors will need help bringing their stuff into Day Hall and getting set up, and there are always a couple miscellaneous errands to run. If you have any questions about setup contact Danny Lentz.

Takedown:

On Sunday afternoon we will need help clearing out the room. This is the glamorous stuff; helping vendors load their vehicles, putting away tables, sweeping the floor, taking out the trash.

Other:

Hospitality: Ellen Brand and Ed Shoulta-Mills will be coordinating hospitality at ABG throughout the show. They will need some

help setting up breakfast and lunch on Friday. JoJo Stickney and Carl Quattlebaum will be hosting a dinner at their house on Friday evening.

Education: During the show we will have a few Orchid 101 type talks in Day Hall. If you're interested in helping out let us know.

Publicity: We need everyone to help get the word out about the show. We will have some flyers (postcard sized) available at the February meeting.

Registration: We always need a person or two to help cut out/distribute name tags as plants are entered, and maybe help with plant entry if you are good with nomenclature.

Orchid Show Displays

We will need lots of blooming plants to fill in our two displays this year. We will have our normal large society exhibit in Day Hall. This exhibit will be judged, and all plants must be identified. Paul Thurner will be coordinating the society exhibit. We will have another non-judged exhibit down in the Visitor's Center. This will be more informal, and the plants do not need to be identified. If you have a nice plant without a name this would be a great place to show it off. We need someone to be in charge of the installation for the visitor center exhibit.

Orchid Show Plant Registration

We will be doing electronic entry again this year. The weekend before the show we

will send out blank entry forms that you can fill out and email to us for pre-entry. You will be able to fill it out and email it back to us anytime up until Thursday afternoon. If you can get us your entries a day or two ahead of time it will help greatly with the process of checking all of the names. Of course we will still enter any other plants that you bring on Thursday, pre-entry is not required. The process will be covered at the February meeting. Danny Lentz will be coordinating plant registration, with assistance from Carson Barnes.

Orchid Show and Sale Vendor List

Equaflor-A
(Cuenca, Ecuador)
<http://equaflor-a.com.ec>
Email: glbculture@gmail.com

Marble Branch Farms
(Walhalla, SC)
www.marblebranchfarms.com

Odom's Orchids
(Ft. Pierce, FL)
www.odoms.com

Owens Orchids, Etc.
(Pisgah Forest, NC)
<https://www.facebook.com/orchidheights2>

Peach State Orchids
(Woodstock, GA)
www.peachstateorchids.com

**No Atlanta
Judging Center
awards this month,
please check back
next time!**