



Bulletin

July 2018

Our speaker for the July meeting will be Mark Reinke from Marble Branch Farms. Mark and his partner Gary Collier joined the Atlanta Orchid Society in 2002. Two years later in 2004 they moved to the westernmost county in South Carolina, at the base of the Blue Ridge Mountains and started their own small plant nursery specializing in orchids and hardy carnivorous plants.

While the business is just over a decade old, Mark got his first orchid plants at the age of 12 and this year celebrates 50 years growing them. He now has his own seed sowing lab and does some of his own hybridizing, mainly in miniature and compact Cattleyas, Encyclia, and recently in some unusual Dendrobium and Paphiopedilum breeding.

Mark's program for our July



Dendrobium Yello Paney 'March'

JULY MONTHLY MEETING

8:00 pm Monday, July 9, 2018

Atlanta Botanical Garden, Day Hall

Pre-meeting Class (7:15-7:45) : Barbara Barnett on "What to Look For When Buying Orchids"

Program: Mark Reinke of Marble Branch Farms will give a presentation on "Decoding Dendrobium: the Surprising Orchids You thought you Knew!"

We still have gallon bags of Orchid bark in small and medium sizes that will be available for \$5 each at the meeting.

meeting will be "Decoding Dendrobium: the Surprising Orchids You thought you Knew!" This is an updated version of the program he gave some years back, and includes many new insights he has learned from further adventures in this fascinating orchid group.

While some orchid families have been split into many separate genera, Dendrobium remains a single large genus of about 1,300 recognized species, split into at least 40 different sections to accommodate the diversity of plant and flowering habits as well as care requirements. He will review about a dozen sections, some with which you will already be familiar, and some that may be new to you.

Whatever your growing conditions, there is some group of interesting and often spectacular dendrobiums that will do well for you. Mark will also bring lots of different plants for sale including some of his own unique hybrids and some unusual rare dendrobiums.

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Mark with one of his pet *Dendrobium lawesii* in bloom

The Society wishes to extend its heartfelt appreciation to Valorie Boyer for being the society's newsletter co-editor since February 2014. While the Society's other co-editor (Mark Reinke) focused mostly on the ribbon judging commentary, Valorie was responsible for the design and layout of the content. Valorie has done a fantastic job with the newsletter for five years, and she now gets a well-deserved rest.

THANK YOU, Valorie.

ATLANTA ORCHID SOCIETY**Officers****President****David Mellard** 404-310-9899**Vice-President/Programs****Helen (HB) Blythe-Hart** 770-656-4054**Secretary****Darrell Demeritt** 404-377-4187**Treasurer****Dan Williamson** 301-717-0939
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Lynne Gollob****Silent Auction – Carson Barnes****Monthly Ribbon Judging –
David Mellard****Newsletter – Danny Lentz & Mark Reinke****Orchid Digest Rep– David Mellard****Show Chair – Danny Lentz****Website Committee – Danny Lentz,
Jan Spenard, Mark Reinke****The Atlanta Orchid Society Bulletin**

Volume 59: Number 6/7 – June/July 2018

Newsletter Editors: Danny Lentz & Mark Reinke

The Atlanta Orchid Society is affiliated with the American Orchid Society, the Orchid Digest Corporation and the Mid-America Orchid Congress**Minutes of the May Meeting**

The May 14th, 2018 meeting of the Atlanta Orchid Society was held at the Atlanta Botanical Gardens. David Mellard, president, presided.

- The minutes of the April meeting were approved as presented, with the motion to approve being made by HB Helen Blythe-Hart and seconded by Larry Maas.
- David Mellard announced upcoming events:
- Memphis Orchid Society Show (May 18th-20th)
- Atlanta Judging Center (June 16th, Hardin Visitor Center).
- Unpaid Members: It was announced that we still have several unpaid members. Barbara Barnett will be contacting them.
- It is also planned to have an updated roster out by June.
- Other announcement included the need for a new newsletter editor, a new librarian, and a new show chair for the spring show at ABG.
- It was announced that James Roberts has volunteered for monthly hospitality and it was brought up that it would also be appreciated if members could bring small side dishes.

HB Blythe-Hart introduced the speaker for the evening, Robert Pemberton, who presented on "Deceit Pollination in Orchids."

The next monthly meeting of the Atlanta Orchid Society will be held on June 11th at the Atlanta Botanical Gardens. This will be our annual ice cream social and greenhouse tour of the ABG. The tour will start at 7 pm, and the meeting and social will begin at 8 pm. There will also be a silent auction and members are encouraged to donate plants. With no further business or announcements, the meeting was adjourned.

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/>

Events Calendar

July

9 - Atlanta Orchid Society Monthly Meeting, ABG, Day Hall – 8. Pm
Mark Reinke on Dendrobium

14 - American Orchid Society monthly judging, (noon) training, (1pm) judging, at the Atlanta Botanical Garden - Hardin Visitor Center - Turner Theater

August

11 - American Orchid Society monthly judging, (noon) training, (1pm) judging, at the Atlanta Botanical Garden - Hardin Visitor Center - Turner Theater

13 - Atlanta Orchid Society Monthly Meeting, ABG, Day Hall – 8 p.m.
Fred Clarke will speak on Catasetum. Pre-order deadline is August 7.

www.sunsetvalleyorchids.com

Later Events

September 21-23
Alabama Orchid Show
Birmingham Botanical Gardens
Free parking and admission

October 20
Atlanta Orchid Society Auction

October 26-28
Mid-America Orchid Congress
Fall Meeting in Independence, Missouri

October 31 – November 3
[AOS Fall Members Meeting & the International Slipper Orchid Symposium Meetings](#)
Apopka, FL

Minutes of the June Meeting

The June 11th, 2018 meeting of the Atlanta Orchid Society was held at the Atlanta Botanical Gardens. David Mellard, president, presided. This month's meeting was the annual Ice Cream Social and Tour of the ABG's Greenhouse, including those not open to the public. Plants were also available for auction, and bidding occurred throughout the evening.

After the tours and social event a brief business meeting was opened. Upcoming AOS judging was announced: Atlanta Judging Center (July 14th, Hardin Visitor Center, training at noon, judging starts at 1PM).

It was announced that Danny Lentz will assume the role of Newsletter Editor. David Mellard also announced that work is underway to update the member roster, and when ready it will be distributed to members. Additionally, David informed the members of a new offering of ABG parking passes, purchased by the society and available to members for their convenience. The cards will be sold for the ABG cost of \$26, which included 5 parking events, and are rechargeable at the Gift Shop/Visitor's Center.

Barbara Barnett announced several upcoming events in other states/regions, including The Cattleya Symposium in Ft. Pierce, FL, a Paph Symposium in Apopka in November, and the AOS Webinars that are available to members. Due to the special purpose meeting (Ice Cream Social and Greenhouses Tour, there was no speaker for this meeting.

The next monthly meeting of the Atlanta Orchid Society will be held on July 9th at the Atlanta Botanical Gardens. Mark Reinke will be the speaker for the evening and will present "Dendrobiums".

Hope to see you there!



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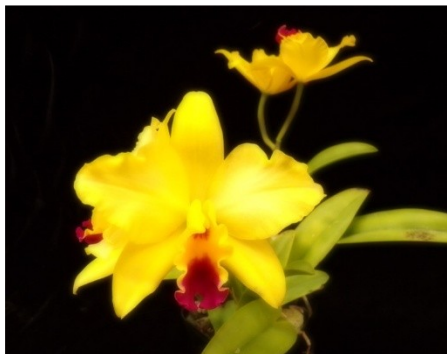
Single Membership, 1 year - \$65, 2 years - \$125
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Atlanta Orchid Society Monthly Ribbon Winners May 2018

Notes by Mark Reinke

Class I – Cattleya Group



Example of Cattleya Tokyo Magic

Blue – Cattleya Tokyo Magic 'Kitty' – Carson Barnes

Cattleya Tokyo Magic was introduced by Tokyo Orchid Nursery in 1993 and has proved to be an important parent in the breeding of compact cattleya orchids. It pairs the small, upright growing, bright yellow species, *C. briegei* with *C. Irene Finney* (1964), a large lavender "corsage" style cattleya. In many examples, such as the 'Kitty' cultivar exhibited, the result is a compact grower with clear yellow flowers accented by deeper yellow and a touch of red or purple on the lip, borne on nice upright spikes just above the foliage. However, due to a sort of color blocking in the genetics of *C. briegei*, some plants out of the cross have white segments and a colored lip. The flower size and blooming habits, along with the bright colors, have been a valuable asset in the further breeding of compact cattleya types and there are at least 64 registered first generation hybrids and 108 total progeny descended from this orchid. *C. Fire Magic* (x *C. Fire Fantasy*) is possibly the most successful in taking the breeding goals further as well as producing many awarded outcomes with a wide range of color patterns.

Since photos did not get taken at the meeting I have supplied a photo of my plant of *C. Tokyo Magic 'Kitty'* in flower.

Red – Cattleya x dolosa forma alba – Geni Smith



Red – Cattleya mossiae forma coerulea 'Siesta Time,' HCC/AOS – Carson Barnes

White – Cattleya Dream Catcher – Danny Lentz & Dianne Morgan

White – Rhyncolaeliocattleya Hawaiian Prominence 'America,' AM/AOS – Dan Williamson

Honorable Mention – Cattleya gaskelliana 'Blue Dragon' – Carson Barnes

**Class II – Cymbidium Group
No Entries**

Class III – Dendrobium Group



Example of *Den. devonianum*

Blue – Dendrobium devonianum – Vinh Nguyen

This orchid is one of the most sought after, yet difficult to find of the deciduous species that make up Section Dendrobium in the genus with the same name. After searching for years I found a few

plug sized seedlings last year, but have not seen it available again since.

It comes from the monsoonal mountain climates of Southeast Asia like many other species in this section, but arguably has the showiest flowers of the group, which are produced along half or more of the length of the slender stems from nodes opposite the alternate leaves. Each growth can be more than three feet long on mature plants and hang downward under its own weight. The effect of a mature plant in bloom is breathtaking. The flowers are 2 to 3 inches across with an exquisite color pattern that appears almost hand painted. The tip of each petal and the lip carries a precise zone of bright rose purple and the interior of the heavily fringed lip is washed in two equally precise patches of deep yolk yellow.

Many consider *Den. devonianum* challenging to grow, which likely contributes to its scarcity in collections. It requires copious water while actively growing, followed by a cool, dry winter rest, yet with some light water applied periodically so imitate the dew and mist that are still present during low rainfall months of winter and earliest spring.

In spite of its desirable beauty, there are no recorded hybrids made from *Den. devonianum*, which cannot possibly be from lack of trying. It must be somehow genetically incompatible with any of its brethren in the same section.

As far as I know, this is the first time this species has been exhibited at one of our meetings and Vinh deserves kudos for bringing it into flower for everyone to enjoy!

Red – Dendrobium Roy Tokunaga – Veronique Perrot

White – Dendrobium atrovioleaceum – Karl Harden

White – Dendrobium Vintner's Reserve 'Vino Time,' AM/AOS – Kurt Drewke & Ariel Christiansen

Class IV – Epidendrum Group

No Entries

Class V – Oncidium Group



Blue – *Tolumnia* Jairak Rainbow
'Plum Pretty' – **Danny Lentz & Dianne Morgan**

See the May 2018 newsletter for details about *Tolumnia* and how to grow them.

Red – *Tolumnia* "Margie Drovan"
(trade name) – **David Mellard**

Class VI – Cypripedium Group



Blue – *Paphiopedilum* *hisutissimum*
'Thank You Margaret,' HCC/AOS – **Carson Barnes**

This plant was also the blue ribbon winner last month. My notes from then are as follows: The plant exhibited is an absolutely beautifully grown example of this species from northeast India, Burma, northern Thailand and southwest China, where it grows in hilly and mountainous regions from about 2500 to 4000 feet above sea level. These locations have a monsoonal climate with warm, very wet summers and cool dry winters where rainfall is

sparse and humidity drops progressively until the start of the next rainy season. The cool (40s F at night preferred) and dry rest in winter seems essential for flowering and therefore, while a popular species, growers in most parts of the county would need a greenhouse to provide the right conditions.

The clumping growths are fairly large, but the flowers are as well, averaging better than 5.5 inches in natural spread. April is the peak month for recorded flowerings.

Close inspection will reveal many fine hairs covering the flowers, especially the two wide spreading petals, revealing the reason for the species name. While there are over two thousand hybrids descended from this species, most trace back to a 1907 cross named *Paph. Vandyck*, which pairs it with the hybrid between *Paph. insignis* and *Paph. boxallii* called *Paph. Sir George Holford*. This led to a series of complex hybrids that paved the way for the "Bulldog Paphs" that are currently experiencing a revival in popularity.

Red – *Phragmipedium* *wallisii* – **Danny Lentz & Dianne Morgan**

White – *Paphiopedilum* Ho Chi Minh – **David Mellard**



White – *Paphiopedilum* *godefroyae* – **Danny Lentz & Dianne Morgan**

Class VII – Phalaenopsis Group

Blue – *Phalaenopsis* "Harck Rose Red" '148' – **Kurt Drewke & Ariel Christiansen**

Red – *Phalaenopsis* Sogo Vivien – **Trac Nguyen**

Red – *Phalaenopsis* *wilsonii* x *parishii* – **Doug Hartong**



White – *Phalaenopsis* *parishii*
'Jumpin' Jimmies,' CCM/AOS
(provisional) – **Carson Barnes**

White – *Phalaenopsis* unknown – **James Roberts**

Class VIII - Vandaceous Group

Blue – *Renanthera* *citrina* – **Vinh Nguyen**

This rare species from the mountains of Vietnam has only been known for about two decades, but is finally becoming more available commercially. Well cultivated plants produce many more flowers per inflorescence than the original description of the species, perhaps because it survives in rather harsh conditions in the wild, inhabiting exposed ridge tops and enduring some nights below freezing in winter. Awarded plants have averaged more than 25 flowers per inflorescence with some examples having 4 or more branched spikes in progress at once. The yellow, starry flowers have a few random purple spots, the number of which varies from plant to plant and even from flower to flower on the same spike.

To flower well, this species, like others in the genus, needs very bright light just short of full sun. It does poorly in a pot for most growers, so is often cultivated in a basket or on a mount, where it will need daily watering from about May to September, then less often, especially in cool weather, the

balance of the year. It is likely nights in the 50's or 40's F in winter are needed to keep plants healthy in the long term. About a dozen hybrids have been registered in the last decade using *Ren. citrina*, but few photos are available to see what the results might look like.



Red – *Vanda barnesii* 'Triumvirate' – Carson Barnes

White – *Vanda Barbara Ferri* – Vinh Nguyen

Class IX – Miscellaneous



Example of *Acanthephippium sylhetense*

Blue – *Acanthephippium sylhetense* – David Mellard

There is scant information on this unusual terrestrial species from shaded dense forests in Southeast Asia, the Philippines, the Ryukyu Islands and Taiwan. Based on the climate in the lower elevations that it inhabits, intermediate to warm conditions probably suit it best, with plenty of water while actively growing and less in winter when it rests and sheds some or all of its leaves. The odd fleshy flowers appear to emerge with developing new growths in late spring into early summer.

Six of the eight global awards documented are for the same plant

owned by Hans Christiansen, a Dane, and exhibited in successive years at the Dresden, Germany exhibition in late March. Photos of that plant show it to be a large specimen with many flowers. The only two AOS awards are for Botanical Recognition on plants with just a few flowers present.

The genus itself comprises about a dozen known species from the region listed above and as far east as Fiji. They all have similar shaped flowers and growth habits, but in a variety of colors. There are no registered hybrids for any of them at present. It is suggested they may be compatible in crosses with *Phaius* or *Calanthe*. If so, the results would be very unusual at a minimum.

Blue – *Pleurothallis adelae* – David Mellard

Red – *Bulbophyllum maximum* – Geni Smith

Red – *Stenosarcos Vanguard* – David Mellard

Atlanta Orchid Society Monthly Ribbon Winners June 2018

Notes by Mark Reinke
Photos by David Mellard

Class I – Cattleya Group



Blue – *Brassocattleya Morning Glory* – Danny Lentz & Dianne Morgan

Brassocattleya Morning Glory is a classic combination of *Brassavola nodosa* and *Cattleya purpurata* originally registered in 1958 but has remained popular and has been remade multiple times. This version, which is producing unusually dark flowers for the cross, was done by Marc Burchette (curator of the Biltmore House orchid collection) and Graham Ramsey, who are good friends living in Asheville. They asked me to sow the pod several years ago and the results are starting to be revealed in flowerings of various seedlings, such as this one. I believe Graham supplied the *C. purpurata* used, which was an especially dark form, giving these plants a more intensely colored lip.

Typically this cross can flower twice per year, so we will see if that is the case in this rendition. Given time the plants will make nice specimens capable of producing several dozen flowers at once. For best results, high light levels are recommended, with a consistent watering schedule year round, allowing the pot to dry in between, but without any drier rest period in winter. These plants should tolerate



Join the Atlanta Orchid Society

Membership in the Atlanta Orchid Society is \$30 for individuals or \$45 for households. Yearly membership runs January 1-December 31. Anyone joining in the third quarter will get a 50% discount on the current year's membership. Anyone joining in the fourth quarter will purchase a membership for the following year. You can join at one of our monthly meetings, contact the society's Treasurer (see page 2) for a membership application, or complete an application online at our website:

www.atlantaorchidsociety.org

a very wide temperature range from 35 to 100F.

Red – *Cattleya* Endless Love ‘Eros’ – Larry Kikkert

White – *Nageliella purpurea* – Roy Harrow

Class II – Cymbidium Group

No Entries

Class III – Dendrobium Group



Blue – *Dendrobium* Silver King–Maegan Brass

Dendrobium Silver King is part of a recent breeding trend I call “Semi-Latouria.” The goal is to add more color to the typical Latouria Dens by bringing in some of the genes from members of the Phalaenopsis or Antelope sections. In the case of *Den.* Silver King, *Den. phalaenopsis* is one of the grandparents, while the other three are all Latouria type species. Registered by H&R Nurseries in 2013, the cross already has five Awards of Merit and one Highly Commended Certificate from the American Orchid Society. The mainly white flowers are flushed with purple in the lip and sometimes near the edges of the petals as well.

In addition to nice upright spikes of long lasting, showy flowers, the Semi-Latouria Dens have beautiful evergreen foliage clustered near the top of strong fluted canes. Each growth can flower four to six times over the course of several years, so that older plants will be covered in flowers when they bloom. The only

drawback is that plants want to be large, with multiple mature growths that are two or more years old before they start flowering even for the first time. So if you are not patient, pay the price to get a fully mature plant, or one in flower, rather than a seedling.

This group of dendrobiums will grow in a fairly wide range of conditions, from medium to bright light levels, and cool to warm temperatures. The most important factor is regular, year round watering, with good drainage, but minimal drying in between. Plants that are allowed to stay dry for several days between watering are usually going to perform poorly, have stressed foliage and likely will decline over time. Many sources also recommend a very light hand on fertilization or flowering may be sparse.

Red – *Dendrobium* Roy Tokunaga–Veronique Perrot

White – *Dendrobium bullenianum* – Darrell Demeritt

White – *Dendrobium devonianum*–Vinh Nguyen

Class IV – Epidendrum Group

Blue *Encyclia nematocaulon*–Darrell Demeritt

The spelling of the species name of this delicate plant seems to go against the rules of Latinized naming by ending in “n” rather than “a.” It is one that you will rarely see in collections and unusual in that it can be found in Mexico, Central America, and the western end of Cuba closest to the Yucatan peninsula. Few species found in Cuba are also found on the mainland, although it was once thought that several of them once grew in Florida and contributed to the development of the species known as *Encyclia tampensis*.

The tiny wiry stems and delicate flowers made it difficult for the camera to catch them in focus. At close view it can be seen that the flowers have greenish-bronze sepals and petals, and an off white lip with

distinctive raised veining. There can be up to a dozen on a single inflorescence, which can have a couple of side branches on well grown plants, such as this one.

The plant is a growing clump of small pseudobulbs, somewhat similar to *E. bractescens* with narrow, almost grass-like leaves, except in this case there is usually only one per growth. The habit is scrubby lower elevation forests, so this species enjoys bright indirect light and warm to hot temperatures, with some tolerance for nights in the 50's in the winter months. It should get regular water, but with perfect drainage when actively growing, and less frequent water, or morning misting in the winter and early spring months.

Class V – Oncidium Group



Blue – *Miltoniopsis*– Jon Crate

This stunning *Miltoniopsis* apparently lost its tag as it was entered without a grex name. It has a strong resemblance to *Mps.* Lillian Nakamoto or one of its parents, *Mps.* Lynne Waihee and could be a specific clone of one of those. But there is a fairly large group of cultivars that show this high contrast pattern with large white flowers showcasing dramatic dark centers. All of them seem to be late bloomers in the main spring to summer bloom season.

Miltoniopsis are moisture loving orchids, descended mainly from two Colombian species, *Mps. roezlii*, which comes from low to medium elevation rain forests, and *Mps. vexillaria*, which comes from higher elevation rain and cloud forests. In both cases, rainfall is abundant year round and humidity is always high. While the exhibited plant is

beautifully flowered, it may be not receiving quite as much water as it would like as evidenced by the slight “accordion” appearance of some of the foliage.

Many people find *Miltoniopsis* challenging to grow and you may have to experiment with several cultivars to find one that will adapt to your conditions. They like fairly bright, but diffused light, and tend to not do well in high heat. However, the wife of Bill Thoms, whose name is Doris Dukes, has received Certificates of Cultural Excellence on examples with more than 100 blooms that she has grown in her greenhouse in Sarasota, Florida. We have had the most success with them by giving them a fairly coarse media, but sitting the pots in commercial baking trays that retain a shallow pool of water at all times. But with a finer media, this method is not successful.

**Red – *Bratonia* Leopard Glo –
Danny Lentz & Dianne Morgan**

**Red – *Tolumnia* “Genting Orange” –
Danny Lentz & Dianne Morgan**



**White – *Macroclinium aurorae* –
Danny Lentz & Dianne Morgan**

Class VI – *Cypripedium* Group



**Blue – *Paphiopedilum superbians* –
Danny Lentz & Dianne Morgan**

This distinctive, intermediate growing species is also known as *Paph. curtisii*, and is described as growing in fairly bright locations in the mountains of north central Sumatra. This is an area of heavy year round rainfall, so plants should never be allowed to fully dry out, yet at the same time not stay soggy. A mix of medium and fine bark, with a bit of Perlite and possibly some chopped sphagnum seem to create a favorable substrate to achieve these conditions for most growers.

The long lasting, rather dark and brooding flowers have down swept petals that often curl back at their tips, and carry a dark purple fringe all along their edges. Knowing this, orchid judges are usually looking for good color, an upright dorsal sepal and symmetry in the position of the segments rather than a flat presentation when considering any flower quality award.

The bonus in this species is that these cute, quirky flowers sit atop spectacularly variegated foliage, usually displaying high contrast between a light background and darker tessellation or checkering. Each seedling has its own unique pattern. Perhaps this is part of the reason for the species name as even out of flower it is indeed superb.

As you might expect, *Paph. superbians* has been used extensively in hybridization and

nearly 7,000 registered hybrids have it in their family tree.

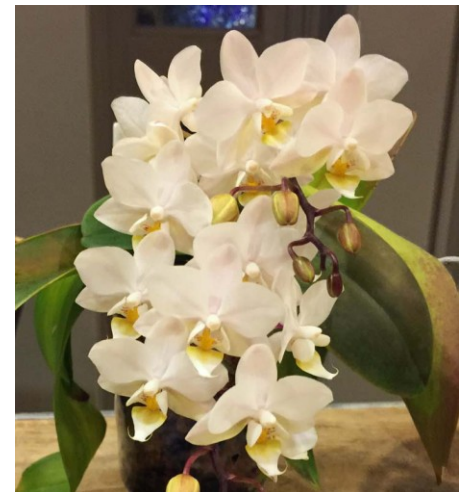
**Red – *Paphiopedilum* Carolyn
Butcher – Barbara Barnett**



**Red – *Phragmipedium* Natalie
Jensen – Danny Lentz & Dianne
Morgan**

**White – *Phragmipedium* Peruflora’s
Spirit – Danny Lentz & Dianne
Morgan**

Class VII - *Phalaenopsis* Group



**Blue – *Phalaenopsis* Timothy
Christopher – Kurt Drewke & Ariel
Christiansen**

Phalaenopsis Timothy Christopher is a cross registered in 1982 that has become a foundational ancestor to nearly 650 compact hybrids. It combines the small stature and good branching of *Phal. equestris*, with the fuller shape and neat tiling effect of *Phal. stuartiana* and *Phal. aphrodite* to create a floral profusion, and was recognized for these qualities by the AOS in 1998 when it received an

Award of Quality. Subsequent breeding efforts have taken these attributes in many different directions in terms of color, shape and pattern, producing numbers of offspring with multiple awards.

Culture for this orchid would be the standard recommendations for typical *Phalaenopsis* hybrids, which are frequently grown in the home without much fuss.

Red – *Phalaenopsis* Tying Shin
Golden Rose – **Roy Harrow**

Red -*Phalaenopsis mariae*(?) – **Trac Nguyen**

White – *Phalaenopsis violacea* –
Danny Lentz & Dianne Morgan

Class VIII - Vandaceous Group



Blue – *Aerangis distincta*–**Trac Nguyen**

This absolutely enchanting species comes from the African nation of Malawi, where it grows in the mountains in dense shade, usually above 3,000 feet in elevation. It is likely restricted to the protected national parks as most other areas have been deforested. Trac's presentation of the plant in an oriental style container typical for use in Japan with *V. falcata*, is stunning, and beautifully displays the long

trailing spurs that can be over 10 inches on some plants. The white flowers are brushed with salmon pink near the tips of the segments, as well as on the nectary and incipient ovary. Described in 1987, this species still seems uncommon in cultivation, and only two awards have been given to it by the AOS.

At the elevation it grows, summers are mild and winters are cool and less rainy, not dissimilar from the habitat of *V. falcata*. It is usually seen grown mounted, but that requires daily watering and high humidity in summer. Trac is employing the method used for *V. falcata* of growing the plant atop a mound of high quality sphagnum moss. This usually requires carefully wetting the roots so that they are flexible and replacing the moss on an annual basis. Such as special orchid as this definitely merits this kind of attention!

Red – *Vanda falcata*– **Trac Nguyen**

White – *Vanda Rumrill* – **Darrell Demeritt**

Class IX – Miscellaneous



Blue – *Lycaste Groganii* – **David Mellard**

This show stopper was listed under the parents, *Lyc. deppei* x *aromatica*, which, according to the RHS, was registered as *Lyc. Groganii* in 1902 by a person with the last name of Grogan. He/she registered a total of four other crosses in other breeding groups, all which are a Latinized version of that name.

There is one AOS award for this cross, given in 2006 to a plant

exhibited at the Pacific South Judging Center in Encinitas, CA. It scored an 84 point Award of Merit and had 115 flowers and three buds. The plant exhibited probably doesn't have quite that many but is still spectacular. Where is the green ribbon for J.C. Mobley cultural award? These flowers look as though they may be wider than the awarded example, which had a spread of 7.4 cm. (just shy of three inches).

Both species involved in this cross grow in the mountains of Central America or Mexico in rather damp forests with an extended dry season during the cooler months. As you can see by the photo, the resulting plant is deciduous and flowers just as new growths are emerging at what would be the beginning of the rainy season. *Lyc. aromatic* supplies the bright yellow color, while there is a small amount of speckling on the segments that comes from *Lyc. deppei*. I imagine David provides a bit of protection from our summer heat for this plant as our typical July high temperatures are very near the all-time record high for the native habitat of the two species.



Red–*Acanthephippium mantinianum*– **Vinh Nguyen**

Last month no photos were taken at the meeting so I did not cover in detail David Mellard's blue ribbon winner, *Acanthephippium sylhetense*. So, with a photo available to show the unusual flowers and habits of this genus, we can take a second look. Vinh's plant, in the foreground, has very large flowers in comparison to David Mellard's plant of the same

species in the background. There are 9 awards for this species and the average flower spread is 3.2 cm, which is about 1.25 inches. Based on the photo I would say that these blooms definitely exceed that size.

The genus of about a dozen members is spread across tropical Asia and into the Pacific islands as far east as Fiji. They are primarily terrestrial and thought to be related to *Phaius* and *Calanthe*, though no intergeneric hybrids exist at present. Considering the unusual flower structure of this group, it is hard to imagine what such potential crosses would look like!

Aca. martinianum comes from the Philippines where it grows in shaded lower elevations of mountainous regions. This means that it is a warm grower which likely prefers to stay above 60F year round. These regions get copious rainfall from summer into fall, followed by a much drier winter and spring, which likely accounts for their deciduous habits. Vinh seems to be growing his spectacular plant in a medium bark/Perlite mix, which I would think, might require nearly daily watering during the growing season. It is very special to see two side by side examples of a rather uncommon and unique orchid.



Maxillaria elegantula photographed at Orquideas Amazonicas in Moyobamba, Peru



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