

Bulletin

August 2018

Fred Clarke Sunset Valley Orchids

"Catasetum Species, Hybrids and their Culture'

Catasetums are from the Tribe Cymbidieae. Individually, it has been considered an orchid oddity. or "botanical", of interest mainly to the seriously addicted enthusiast. These plants have a brief deciduous period in winter, when the plants need a definite dry rest period bordering on neglect. These robust orchids are native to lowland tropical forests in Central and South America and are usually grown in warm intermediate conditions.

Commercially, Catasetum have occupied a small market niche on the edge of a sea of Cymbidiums, Cattleyas, Phalaenopsis, Dendrobiums, Epidendrums, and so on. Until recently, they have not attracted much attention from hybridizers, but in the past several years some spectacular hybrids have been produced, receiving great acclaim and an increasingly large collection of awards from the American Orchid Society.

This talk will feature a slide show on some of the species, new hybrids and plant culture of Catasetums.

AUGUST MONTHLY MEETING

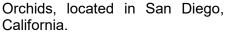
8:00 pm Monday, August 13, 2018 Atlanta Botanical Garden, Day Hall

Pre-meeting Class (7:15-7:45): Rick Martinez will discuss growing orchids in his new greenhouse and things he has learned.

Program: Fred Clarke of Sunset Valley Orchids will speak on Catasetum Species, Hybrids, and Their Culture.

We will have dinner with our speaker at Ru San's on Piedmont at 6:15. All are welcome, please let Helen Blythe-Hart know if you intend to join us.

Fred Clarke has growing been orchids for 42 years and has been hybridizing for 36 of those vears. With over 35 years as a professional grower and manager in the horticultural industry, Fred applies these skills at his orchid nursery; Sunset Valley



He is a passionate orchid grower whose curiosity in orchids is broad and varied. Although developing Cattleya hybrids has been his sustaining interest, he is also actively creating new Australian **Dendrobiums** and Paphiopedilum hybrids plus some others to be named if they work out!

His pioneering work in Catasetum intergeneric hybrids led to the development of several notable hybrids, most recently the grex, *Fredclarkeara* After Dark, which produced "the blackest flower ever witnessed". This grex has received eight FCC's and over 90 awards worldwide.



Fred is an accredited judge in the Pacific South Judging Region. His plants have received hundreds of quality awards from the American Orchid Society.

Fred is accepting pre-orders until August 7. Pre-orders will receive a 10% discount. The best way to place your order is by email at fred.clarke@att.net. You can visit his web site at www.sunsetvalleyorchids.com to see his selection.

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The Atlanta Orchid Society Bulletin

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The Atlanta Orchid Society is affiliated with the American Orchid Society, the Orchid Digest Corporation and the Mid-America Orchid Congress



Minutes of the July Meeting

The July 9th, 2018 meeting of the Atlanta Orchid Society was held at the Atlanta Botanical Gardens. David Mellard, president, presided. The meeting minutes of the June meeting were approved and Dan Williamson, Treasurer, provided the monthly financial report.

Several reminders were communicated, including: Several garden parking passes are still available for purchase by members; July **14**th **and August 11**th – AOS Judging (Training at noon, judging 1:00); **August 13**th – Monthly Society Meeting; Speaker Fred Clarke "Catasetums"; pre-orders for plants are available; **September** – Birmingham Area Show; and **October 20**th – Annual Society Plant Auction at Rock Springs Presbyterian Church

It was also announced that, after 5 years of service as Editor of the Newsletter, Valorie Boyer will be transitioning responsibilities to Danny Lentz who has agreed to continue as Editor.

Members were reminded of the interesting AOS Webinars and that the AOS Fall meeting this year would be held in Apopka, Florida.

David Mellard informed members that the membership roster has been updated and asked that members report any inaccuracies so that corrections can be made.

Hope to see you there!

Submitted by Darrell Demerritt

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

August

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

12 – AtIOS Board MeetingContact David Mellard for details.

13 - Atlanta Orchid Society
Monthly Meeting, ABG, Day Hall
– 8 p.m.
Fred Clarke will speak on
Catasetums.

September

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

10 - Atlanta Orchid Society Monthly Meeting, ABG, Day Hall - 8 p.m.

Peter T. Lin will speak on Mini-Cattleyas.

http://www.diamondorchids.com/

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

29 – South Metro Orchid Society Picnic and Auction see page 4 for details

Later Events

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

In Memory of

Dr. James Newsome

October 28, 1955 - July 12, 2018



by David Mellard

While many people called him Dr. Newsome, I knew him as Jim, Jimbo, and Bubba, and he knew me as David and Goober. Sometimes for fun. we'd switch our nicknames for each other. We met 20 years ago at an orchid auction in Cullman, Alabama, and became fast friends because of our interest in plants and, in particular, orchids. A few years later, we joined the AOS judging program together in 2002. One of our favorite things was to share a bottle of wine while studying for the judging program. I like looking for those good but cheap (less than \$10 at the time) wines so brought my bottle of Glen Ellen cabernet from Kroger. As you can imagine, it was just so-so. But then Jimbo said, "Wait, I'll be back in a minute." He returned with an \$800 French Bordeaux he had in storage. I thought...this is the start of a beautiful friendship. Jim helped me sometimes with repotting and always left with a tray of orchids made up of cuttings, backbulbs, or pieces that came off the plant. I asked him once if the pieces actually came apart naturally or did he tug on them. He smiled.

You'd think Jim would breeze through the orchid judging program but it actually took him a little bit longer to finish because of his health issues, plus he didn't like writing reports. He became a solid orchid judge, regularly attending monthly judging at the Atlanta Botanical Garden, regional shows in the southeast, and Mid-America conferences, as well

South Metro Orchid Society Annual Picnic & Auction

Saturday Sept. 29, 2018.

Location: Home of Mike & Mary Cawthon

Cawtnon

135 South Mt. Carmel Rd. McDonough, GA 30253 678-583-4096

 $\underline{mmcawthon@bellsouth.net}$

If you think you might like to go, please let this email address know in case we need to plan on a large number of new visitors.

Registration will start at 11:00am Lunch at 12:00 Auction at 1:00pm

Proceeds from the sale of all plants/items will go to the SMOS (a 501C3 organization)

Guests to provide casseroles, salads, desserts etc. Hosts will provide beverages.



Join the Atlanta Orchid Society

Membership in the Atlanta Orchid Society is \$30 for individuals or \$45 households. Yearly membership runs January 1-December 31. Anyone joining in the third quarter will get a 50% discount 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

as participating in several orchid societies. What people might not know is that he was a long-time member of the Atlanta Orchid Society, although he didn't attend many meeting because of the distance. Still, he sponsored trophies at our show many times. Even when his MS had progressed to the point where he was wheelchair bound, this didn't stop Jim. He had caregivers who helped him get ready and into the wheelchair and then hired a driver to bring him to judging and to shows. Now that I look back on this, that was an amazing accomplishment to maintain his independence and to continue to pursue his love of orchids. Because of these efforts, I think he became an ambassador for AOS by showing that someone can contribute to the orchid worldeven with serious health challenges.

Here are some things people said about Jim...

I am very sorry to hear about Jim. He was a real trooper and held on much longer than most people could have. He will be missed by many. (Lowell Jacks, AJC)

I remember well when Jim was being considered for accredited status, there was much concern that he wouldn't be able to fulfill his duties as a judge because of his health. We needn't have worried, Jim did an amazing job of overcoming his problems. Cathy and I always had great respect for his efforts and told him so whenever we had a chance. He will be missed (Bill Meincer, AJC).

A model of courage and though I will truly miss him, I am so thankful he is no longer suffering—do not believe I could have been that strong. (Aileen Garrison, AJC)

This is such sad news. I will miss judging with him. (Robert Stanton, AJC)

Jim will be missed by all. I will always remember him tall and handsome repotting orchids at Jim Steve's Orchid Nursery in Birmingham when I first met him in 1993. I thought he was the nursery help. He modestly spoke to me answering my question never letting on he was a physician. Such a humble, kind man who always gave generously of his knowledge, time, and home to his orchid friends. (Beverly VonderPool, Alabama Orchid Society)

A few months before he passed, Jim asked me to take his orchid collection because it was becoming more difficult to care for them. After the Memphis show on May 19, Doug Hartong and I stopped by for a visit and realized that Jim wasn't doing well. Taking his orchids was hard on both of us because I knew how much they meant to him. I continued to visit Jim on Sundays, and we started a little tradition of guiltless hamburgers and fries until he passed. My last visit was on Wednesday, and he passed peacefully during the night with his sister Robin by his side. Robin and Janet (his other sister) held a nice remembrance service for Jim a week later at the Birmingham Botanical Garden. I have warm memories of our friendship and will miss his playful sense of humor.

Atlanta Orchid Society Monthly Ribbon Winners July 2018

Notes by Mark Reinke Photos by Daryl Wattley

Class I - Cattleya Group

Blue – Cattleya loddigesii 'Blue Sky' AM/AOS– Carson Barnes



What are now recognized as two separate species, C. loddigesii and C. harissoniana, were for many years lumped together as the former. They both come from the same general area of southeastern Brazil, but are distinguished by their flower form, bloom season and growth habits. Breeding between the two groups has blurred the line to some extent, making the identification of specific plants in collections somewhat difficult. Generally, the common wisdom is that C. loddigesii has fuller form flowers with overlapping segments, a more delicate lavender in the typical color form, a more widespreading, bell shaped lip in which the predominant interior color is white, and the habit of blooming mostly in winter to early spring on fully hardened and rooted growths. C. harrisoniana, on the other hand, has both a more slender growth habit and more narrowly segmented, more intensely colored flowers in the typical form. The lip is not as wide spreading and typically has a fair amount of yellow in the interior, and flowers are produced mostly in summer on new growths that are not yet fully hardened off, and which tend to flower before producing roots.

Using this scale of distinction, 'Blue Sky' fits more closely in the description of C. harrisoniana than it does in that of C. loddigesii. Not knowing the origins of this particular plant and the fact that the mauve flowered "coerulea" forms often do possess less full form than the typical color forms leaves the question somewhat open, but I would be inclined to call this orchid C. harrisoniana 'Blue Sky,' AM/AOS Originally awarded in 1987 and having been so well known in commerce as C. loddigesii for three decades means despite its habits, we are probably stuck with a dubious identification.

Whatever it is called, a well flowered example such as this is beautiful to behold. In strong light the pale violet flowers have a sparkling texture. Like many bifoliate species from this part of Brazil, plants are best grown in the intermediate temperature range, not too hot, and not too cool, with strong light and good air movement. They should also not receive too much of a dry rest in winter as rainfall, though decreased, is still present during that time and humidity remains high year round. As with most bifoliate cattleya species, it is extremely important to only repot the plant when new roots are being generated from the most recent growth. Consider any measures that can be taken in choosing a container and potting media that will allow minimal disturbance over time to help keep plants in good condition as they mature and gain size. Once a plant starts to decline it can be difficult to impossible to bring it back to health.

Red – Catteya Walkerinter – Danny Lentz and Dianne Morgan

White—Cattleya tigrina forma coerulea —Carson Barnes

Class II - Cymbibum Group

Blue – Grammatocymbidium Memoria Nathan Newman 'NN' – Karl Harden



This cross, registered in 2015, is genetically 75% *Grammatophyllum scriptum variety citrinum* and its chartreuse color predominates. The rest of the genetics are one eighth *Cym. ensifolium*, and one eighth a handful of larger flowered Cymbidium species, which contribute to the more upright inflorescence, and fuller, more funnel shaped lip.

For cultivation purposes it is probably best to treat this orchid more like the *Grammatophyllum* parent which prefers very bright light and warmth, along with year round watering for best results.

While the intergeneric mix of *Cymbidium* and *Grammatophyllum* is not new, more of this type of breeding is being done and entering the market. This increases the options for growers in hot climates where traditional cymbidiums may be more difficult to cultivate.

Based on the photo, I would recommend that this plant receive more frequent watering and heavier feeding to produce larger, stronger growth and inflorescences with more flowers. A well grown mature plant can be fairly large, but will produce up to twenty or more flowers per inflorescence.

Class III – Dendrobium Group

Blue— Dendrobium Hibiki 'Pauwela'-Nancy Newton and in memory of David Glass



Dendrobium Hibiki is a cross between Den. laevifolium and Den. bracteosum and good examples, such as this one, can be more spectacular than either parent. The cross has better temperature tolerance as the former parent is cool growing while the latter is hot growing.

Like many Dendrobium in this group, Den. Hibiki is "gradually deciduous." I use this term to describe its habit of producing new growths at nearly any time of the year, which can take more than one year to fully develop. Once mature, they gradually lose their leaves, taking about another year to fully Typically, only fully defoliate. leafless growths will flower, which in the case of this plant, are shorter, older growths rather than the most recent to develop. So, at some point in the future, flowering will occur up and down the longer, still leafy growths and the plant will be even showier than it is now. Those taller growths represent the approximate maximum height of this cross between a miniature and a compact growing species.

The flower clusters of *Den.* Hibiki are exceptionally long lasting and can stay in perfect condition for 5 or 6 months. Give this orchid medium light levels, intermediate to warm temperatures, and water year round, with some reduction in frequency in winter to correspond to less daylight and slower growth, but never allowing the plant to become bone dry.

Red – Dendrobium lawesii variety bicolor– Gary Collier & Mark Reinke

White – Dendrobium laevifolium – Nancy Newton and in memory of David Glass

Class IV – Epidendrum Group

No Entries

Class V - Oncidium Group

Blue – Bratonia Shelob 'Red Spider' – Dan Williamson



Bratonia Shelob was introduced two decades ago, but has remained popular because of its stellar performance and vigorous habits. About 75% of its genetic background consists of three Brassia species, two of which are hot growers and contribute great heat tolerance, a desired trait for climates such as ours.

This is my first encounter with the 'Red Spider' but it looks essentially the same as the most commonly seen clone called 'Tolkein' with dark markings overlying the segments and a significant amount of lavender in the lip, which is peppered with dark purple spots ringed in yellow. There is a mutation of this clone called 'Okika' also available, which has identical flowers, but with leaves variegated with a distinct white margin.

As mentioned earlier, this is a vigorous orchid that will quickly fill a pot when well grown and required dividing every couple of years, which many growers will consider a welcome "problem" to have! Most growers have the best luck with a plastic pot for this and other intergeneric Oncidinae, which prefer to receive rather frequent water and never fully dry out. Any mix that will retain moisture, but allow for good drainage is acceptable. release fertilizer pellets are especially effective with these orchids as they are typically in constant growth.

Red – Brassidium Pisgah Recluse – Danny Lentz & Dianne Morgan

Red – *Miltoniopsis* Andrea West 'HOF' HCC/AOS – **Carson Barnes**

White – *Trichocentrum* Ollie Palmer – Darrell Demeritt

Class VI – Cypripedium Group

Blue – Paphiopedilum Prince Edward of York – Nancy Newton and in memory of David Glass



By the time Henry Sanders' orchid company in St. Albans, England registered this cross in 1897 they already had nearly two decades of orchid breeding under their belt. Combining two of the most spectacular species, *Paph.*

rothschildianum and Paph. sanderianum, they fittingly named their creation after the heir to the throne. Just three years later the prince was crowned Edward VII.

One hundred and twenty years have not diminished the appeal of this magnificent orchid, and multifloral *Paphiopedilum* breeding still hasn't produced many results that can top a good example of this cross. The best seedlings today are probably superior to the original since each parent has been line bred, giving very high quality plants to work with.

The blue ribbon example appears to be a first blooming seedling. It is good deep color and petals favoring Paph. sanderianum while the boldly Paph. dorsal favors striped rothschildianum. It appears that the petals of top two flowers haven't fully extended yet. This process can take a couple of weeks from the time a bud first opens. The length and position of these petals is the most variable feature between seedlings due to the extreme contrast in stance and coloration of those of the When fully mature there parents. can be five and sometimes even six huge blooms per inflorescence. Naturally, there is a list of many awards for this impressive orchid, including ten First Class Certificates bestowed by the AOS, the most recent from just last year!

Dappled light and warm, humid conditions suits this fairly large growing orchid best. Plants should never completely dry out and generally do best in plastic pots with a fairly fine media that offers drainage, but retains moisture for several days to minimize watering chores.

Red – Paphiopedilum William Ambler– David Mellard

Red- Papiopedilum stonei - Carson Barnes

White – Paphiopedilum Claire de Lune 'Edgard van Belle' AM/AOS – Carson Barnes

Class VII - Phalaenopsis Group

Blue – Phalaenopsis Purple Martin – Helen Blythe-Hart



Phalaenopsis Purple Martin uses two doses of Phal. violacea for intense violet color, and one does of Phal. pulcherrima for added flower count and possibly a bit more lenient care requirements. Despite being on the market for almost three decades, the AOS has given it only one flower quality award so far. It was for a clone called 'Sapphire's Pride' and received an 80 point Award of Merit at Huntington Botanical Gardens in July of 2015. It had 3 open flowers and 7 additional buds spread between two inflorescences. This plant seems to have six open flowers and several more buds coming on just one inflorescence and perhaps larger flowers than the awarded example, so I wonder if the judges have scored it?

The best way to grow this orchid is in very filtered light or under lights, in nice even warm and fairly humid conditions. It should never sit dry for any period of time and would likely benefit from time release fertilizer for year round good growth.

Red – Phalaenopsis violacea– Danny Lentz & Dianne Morgan

Red -Phalaenopsis (in water)— David & Janice Lankford

Class VIII - Vandaceous Group

Blue – Vandachostylis Lou Sneary 'Bluebird'–Ariel Christiansen & Kurt Drewke



Anyone unfamiliar with this cross between Vanda (formerly Neofinetia) falcata and Rhyncostylis coelestis is missing out on a very satisfying and pretty tough little orchid that will never take up much space, but will yield ever improving results as the years pass. We have had a plant of a form called 'Pinky,' AM/AOS for more than 25 years. While slow growing, it finally got so large that it had to be divided a few years back. The portion we kept is already a sizeable clump in an eight inch basket and last year produced at least 25 inflorescences of delightfully fragrant flowers. The jasmine-like scent has a clean finish which doesn't overwhelm sensitive noses.

The 'Bluebird' clone has been the most easily available commercially in the last few years, with its beautiful white flowers tipped in violet than can come in waves of bloom several times from mid-summer to early winter, or burst out all at once in profusion in early fall. Our plants of this color form spiked 3 times last year, but so far are holding off for this season. The tight, compact fans of growth generally add about an inch in height, or a bit less, each year, and once the main fan is of sufficient age, additional fans sprout around the base of the plant, so that eventually there are multiple flowering growths at once. There is a cultural award for a plant of the 'Bluebird' variety with more than 300 flowers open at once. The fragrance must have been extraordinary! But that pales in comparison to the 'Sossity' clone, which in September of 1997 had just over 1.000 flowers when presented in

a 6 inch basket (obviously overflowing with plant) at the Susquehanna Orchid Society show in Pennsylvania.

As I mentioned earlier, this is a pretty tough, rather forgiving orchid owing to the strength of its parents. It can take temperatures from near freezing to over 100F, and will bloom in less light than large flowered Vandas require. It can, however, tolerate near full sun if acclimated gradually. For the best results, I recommend basket culture. possibly setting the pot of a recently purchased young plant into a basket and gradually filling in with chunky material as it grows. Plants will grow lots of thick, long roots as they become older and they can't easily be contained in a pot. Frequent, even daily watering when warm and dry, benefit the plants in the warmer months, with less water, but possibly brighter light, in the cooler months. Dividing an older plant is a real project, so choose wisely for future growth with minimal disturbance.

Red – Vanda Paki x Bill Burke– Dan Williamson

White – Vandachostylis Lou Sneary 'McLellan M2598' AM/AOS – Carson Barnes

Class IX - Miscellaneous

Blue – Catasetum expansum – Carson Barnes



If a person unfamiliar with this species were to see a dozen or more plants in flower, side by side, they might have difficultly believing they were all *Catasetum expansum*. While the growths would all look more or less alike, the variability of the flowers might appear to represent

multiple different species. Not only can the plants produce either male or female flowers which look completely different, but the colors range from clear pale green to bright yellow, and many are overlaid with anything from tiny dots to large blotches of red or purple. The plant exhibited has male flowers that are yellow green heavily overlaid with intricate blotches and figuring of purple.

Ctsm. expansum comes from low to middle elevations in seasonally dry forests of the western provinces of Ecuador. It prefers bright light, but not full sun with good air movement at all times. Warm temperatures, preferable above 60F year round are best, but not too much baking heat. It should be watered fairly heavily when actively growing, but still allowed to dry in between. In fall, watering should be drastically reduced to allow the growths to naturally defoliate. Only very light watering or occasional misting should be provided during dormancy and up until the new growths are well underway with their own set of new roots penetrating the media. Spider mites are often a nuisance for this and other thin leaved orchids. especially in hot, dry conditions. I recommend blasting the underside of the leaves with a spray of water at least once a week during the growing season to keep those tiny arachnids, which are not affected by typical insecticides, at bay.

This species has been a fundamental part of Catasinae breeding for the last 50 years and is still used even as a direct parent in

the most recently registered crosses.

Red-Stanhopea oculata- Roy Harrow

Red – Bulbophyllum carcunculatum– Annalies Carl

White – Crepidium calophyllum– Danny Lentz & Dianne Morgan

White – Lycaste bradeorum– David Mellard



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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 (404-237-1694) or visit www.orchiddigest.com to join online.



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Pleurothallid growing in situ at Historic Sanctuary of Machu Picchu, Peru