



Bulletin

December 2018

DECEMBER EVENTS

Monthly Meeting: 7:00 pm Monday, December 10, 2018
Rock Springs Presbyterian Church
 1824 Piedmont Ave NE, Atlanta (in the Fellowship Hall)

Annual Holiday Party / Potluck Dinner / Gift Exchange

Recommended dishes to bring (based on last name):
 A-E: Side Dish, F-K: Salad, L-O: Dessert, P-Z: Main Dish.
 The society will be providing a ham.

If you plan to participate in the gift exchange, please bring an orchid-themed gift of about \$20 value

We will have ribbon judging. Members may bring plants to sell.

Annual Show Volunteers:

We need to start getting ready for our next show! Some of the positions we could really use help with for the March show include: someone to be in charge of the society exhibit; someone to coordinate publicity for the show; someone to coordinate the setup and staffing of the society table. There are plenty of other things to do for the show, if you've noticed something in the past that you might want to help with please let me know.

Some of the other things you may want to consider for the next year...

Group Orders:

If enough people are interested we could do another order for bark (Orchiata or whatever people want to buy) soon. Ordering that for delivery at the March show worked pretty well last time. Please let me know if you might want to participate. If you are interested in ordering something else orchid related (supplies or plants) where there are quantity or shipping discounts involved and you think other people may be interested, let me know. I can always put a note about it in the next newsletter.

Greengrowers Visits:

It's nice to visit someone else's growing area to see what plants they are growing and how they are being grown. If you might be interested in allowing your fellow society members to come over and view your collection sometime next year please let me know. You don't need to have a greenhouse, have a huge collection of plants, or be the world's best grower.

Member Profiles:

We used to have a short writeup each month about a society member so we could get to know each other a little better. It would be nice to start doing this again. If anyone would be willing to send me a picture and a short bio I could start up that column again. -danny lentz



Phalaenopsis sanderiana at ABG

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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
142 Superior Ave
Decatur, GA 30030**Immediate Past President****Jason Mills-Shoulta** 678-383-2936**Trustees****Rick Martinez**, 678-583-8695**Karl Harden**, 678-414-3644**Jody Gomez**, 678-613-1449**Doug Hartong**, 770-594-7334**Trac Nguyen**, 404-502-2969**Maegan Brass****Volunteers****AOS Rep – Barbara Barnett****Greengrowers – Danny Lentz****Librarian –****MAOC Rep – Doug Hartong****Meeting Hospitality – James Roberts****Membership – Barbara Barnett****Education and Outreach– 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 12 – December 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 November 12, 2018 Society Meeting***submitted by Darrell Demeritt*

The November 12th, 2018 meeting of the Atlanta Orchid Society was held at the Atlanta Botanical Gardens. David Mellard, president, presided. The minutes of the October meeting were approved with one minor revision by membership after approval being moved and seconded. (The revision was needed because the October minutes were accidentally titled as being from September.)

The treasurer's report was presented by Dan Williamson, Treasurer. Detailed information, account balances, etc. are available through Dan for anyone interested.

Doug Hartong reported on the Mid-America Orchid Conference (MAOC) held in Independence, MO on October 26-28 and the AOS Member's Meeting which was on October 31-November 3rd in Apopka, Florida. The next meetings of these two groups will be in February/Lansing and in March/San Diego, respectively.

David Mellard reminded members of a number of upcoming events:

- AOS Monthly Judging, Atlanta Judging Center, December 8th at 1:00 PM at the Turner Theater (Harden Visitor Center), near the entrance to the Garden.
- The Monthly Meeting of the AtIOS will be the annual holiday meeting, including covered dish dinner, gift exchange, and installation of the officers and trustees. Members may bring plants to sell. If you plan to participate in the gift exchange, please bring an orchid-themed gift of about \$20 value. Please use this guideline, based on your last name, when choosing your favorite covered dish to bring: A-E: side dish; F-K: salad; L-O: dessert; and P-Z: main dish.

The slate of officers for 2018 were presented and were elected unanimously by the membership: President: David Mellard; Vice-President: Helen Blythe-Hart; Secretary: Darrell Demeritt; Treasurer: Dan Williamson; Trustee: Carl Quattlebaum; Trustee: Atushi "Matt" Matusumoto.

David Mellard recognized and extended appreciation to the Nominating Committee for their work: Danny Lentz, Chair; Doug Hartong, Past Chair; Daryl Wattley; Carson Barnes; and HB Blythe-Hart.

(continued on next page)

Events Calendar

December

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

10 - Atlanta Orchid Society Holiday Party, Rock Spring Presbyterian Church, Fellowship Hall - 7 p.m.

January

January 11-13 – Tamiami International Orchid Festival
Miami, FL
<http://tamiamiorchidfestival.com/>

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

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

January 19 – AtIOS Board Meeting (contact David Mellard for details)

Future Events

March 8-10 – Atlanta Orchid Society Show & Sale at the Atlanta Botanical Garden
<http://www.atlantaorchidsociety.org/homepage/atlanta-orchid-show/>

2020 – World Orchid Conference in Taichung, Taiwan
<https://www.woc23.com/>

This month's speaker was Steven Frowine who provided an interesting talk entitled "Fabulous Phalaenopsis".

The next meeting of the AtIOS will be the annual holiday party on Monday, December 10th, 7:00PM at Rock Springs Presbyterian Church (1824 Piedmont Ave NE, Atlanta).

Hope to see you there!



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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

Atlanta Orchid Society Monthly Ribbon Winners November 2018

Notes by Mark Reinke
Photos by Darryl Wattlely &
Danny Lentz

Class I – Cattleya Group

Species

Blue – *Brassavola subulifolia*
'Sevier' – Dan Williamson



This species is known only from the island of Jamaica, where it grows in many locations from a few hundred to a few thousand feet above sea level. It has small, but more numerous flowers compared to its better known sister species, *B. nodosa*. Additionally, the segments are more distinctly green in contrast to the white lip. The main bloom season is fall and the flowers are fairly long lasting. I still remember distinctly a visit to one of Jamaica's many all-inclusive resorts about 25 years ago when I saw a large specimen growing on a tree on the property covered with thousands of flowers. The old name, *B. cordata*, referred to the heart shape of the lip and was originally applied in 1836. Further research has shown that it is the same orchid described in 1831 as *B. subulifolia*, referring to the awl-like shape of the leaves. Nomenclature rules dictate that the earlier name should apply. These terete leaves can be more than twelve inches long.

To do well, this orchid needs very bright light, just shy of burning the foliage, perfect drainage,

intermediate to warm temperatures, and consistent year round watering, but always allowing the roots to dry off in between. *B. Little Stars* (x *B. nodosa*) is the offspring from it which is the best known, most awarded and most used for additional breeding.

Red–*Cattleya maxima* forma *coerulea* 'Hector,' AM/AOS – Carson Barnes



There are two forms of this species. One is from the lowlands of Ecuador around Guayaquil and another from higher in the mountains of Ecuador, Colombia and Peru. This plant appears to be the beautiful *coerulea* form of the lowland type, with a larger growth habit and the ability to make up to a dozen flowers per spike on fully mature plants. In this case the color is the palest mauve with deeper violet veining in the lip and the characteristic yellow blaze.

While there are 109 registered crosses with *C. maxima* in their background, barely a dozen were ever used to make additional hybrids and only four ever received an AOS award. While the species itself has an elegant beauty with narrow, somewhat quilled, wide spreading segments and a lovely trumpet lip with intricate lines and that yellow blaze, these qualities don't usually pair well with other cattleya types to produce improved results. The few hybrids that do show notable qualities also have *B. nodosa* in the family tree as well. So, personally, I wouldn't rush out to buy unflowered seedlings of crosses made from *C. maxima*, but would

seek out several of the many color forms to create a mini collection of the species itself. Flowering favors fall, but varies from plant to plant and blooms are possible almost any time of the year. Grow the larger, lowland types warm and bright and the smaller upland types more intermediate. The highland types have full sized, but fewer flowers per inflorescence. I have found both the alba and semi-alba forms have very pale leaves and should be grown a bit shadier to avoid bleaching of the foliage.

White–*Laelia anceps* – Karl Harden

Hybrids

Blue – *Cattleya* Dream Catcher – Danny Lentz & Dianne Morgan



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 good results. In a greenhouse setting we have found it responds



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best to basket culture, where it can receive perfect drainage and plenty of air movement. Flowers can come off and on all year long as the plant continues to develop additional leads.

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 was on their 2018 retail list as seedlings earlier in the year, but apparently has already sold out.

Red—*Laelia anceps* Hybrid – Carson Barnes

White—*Cattleychea* Siam Jade – Dan Williamson

Class II – Cymbidium Group

No Entries

Class III – Dendrobium Group

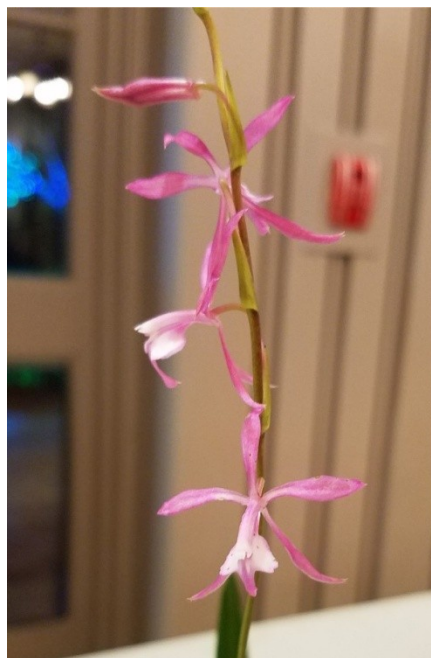
No Entries

Class IV – Epidendrum Group

No Entries

Class V – Oncidium Group

Red— *Oncidium vulcanicum* (*Cochlioda vulcanica*)– David Mellard



While this plant is struggling somewhat to live up to its full potential, it is understandable given that it is a high elevation, very damp cloud forest species from Peru and Ecuador that grows as high as 11,000 feet above sea level. As of 2008, it is accepted as a member of the *Oncidium* genus. The species name refers to its original location of discovery on Turgurahua Volcano.

There was a flurry of hybrids made with this species in the early part of the 20th Century, but they were mostly done in the mild climate of Great Britain. In 2004, a plant with 153 flowers and 39 additional buds on 16 inflorescences received a well-deserved 85 point Certificate of Cultural Merit at the Greater New York Orchid Show, but the plant was apparently grown in coastal California where the average temperatures are close to those at the lowest elevations which it inhabits in the wild. The owner must have felt that such an exceptional specimen warranted the long coast to coast trip to the venue!

Class VI – Cypripedium Group

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



Personally, this is one of my favorite paph species and the exhibited plant has about as good color, markings and form as you will see. The spotting in the dorsal sepal is truly outstanding and there is less reflexing at the edges than you will normally see. The base yellow color of the petals and pouch lip is also more intense, setting off the chestnut brown overlay.

Paph. gratrixianum was first described in 1897 and named in honor of S. Gratrix Esq, an English orchid enthusiast of the 19th Century. It comes from seasonally wet cloud forests in Laos and Vietnam, growing on bluffs of granite and other lime-free substrate. The plants easily form clumps, with rather narrow green (sometimes faintly tessellated) leaves that have small purple dots on the underside near their base. A well grown fully mature clump can have 10 or more flowers open at once, which last easily two months or longer. The bloom season is mostly fall and winter.

This is a more intermediate species that experiences nights in the 50's F in its natural habitat during the winter months. It likely can adjust to minimums around 60 F and still grow and flower well. Light can be fairly bright if filtered (or provided artificially) and watering should be frequent in the summer months and less often in winter, but without total drying at the roots.

While there are many hybrids made with this species, I struggle to

find any that represent an improvement over the original. The flashy dorsal spots which I love rarely are passed along in the process.

**Red – *Phragmipedium d'alessandroi*
– Danny Lentz & Dianne Morgan**

**White – *Phragmipedium schlimii* –
Carson Barnes**

**White – *Paphiopedilum spicerianum*
– Carson Barnes**

Class VII - Phalaenopsis Group

**Blue – *Phalaenopsis* Yu Pin Lady
'Magic Art' – Ariel Christiansen &
Kurt Drewke**



So here this month we have a plant with a tag confirming that it is the 'Magic Art' form of this 2003 registration. This clone, as stated last month, has some of the best, boldest markings I have seen in researching the hybrid. I'm surprised that it hasn't yet been awarded. The flowers are fairly consistent in their markings for such a bold color pattern. However, looking at the available photos, it seems that each shot of this variety looks slightly different, so either the color pattern varies somewhat with each flowering or there is variation coming out of the multiplication

process, which would not be unusual. My experience with growing some seed from Harlequin type parents is that the results are variable to the extreme, with some plants reverting back to older, plainer color patterns from before the mutations occurred, and the remainder running the range of flares, dots, stripes, splashes and bursts commonly seen within this breeding group. This is probably why growers don't sell unflowered seedlings of Harlequin types. They could make few reliable statements as to the outcome. Of the ones I grew up, only a small minority were nearly as good as the parents and only a couple rivaled them. The rest were average at best. I am glad this extreme variability doesn't usually appear in *Cattleya* and *Dendrobium*, the two breeding groups I most commonly work in!

Red – *Phalaenopsis equestris forma coerulea* – Carson Barnes

**Red – *Phalaenopsis* Little Gem
Stripes – Danny Lentz & Dianne
Morgan**

Class VIII - Vandaceous Group

**Blue – *Renanthera* Mary Christine
Motes 'Polka Pants', AM/AOS –
Carson Barnes**



This very attractive orchid combines

the wide lateral sepals and vivid color of *Ren. imschootiana* with the spotted pattern of *Ren. bella* and especially *Ren. monachica* for a very attractive flower on a multi-branched inflorescence. The cross was registered in 2012 and the 'Polka Pants' clone received an 82 point Award of Merit for Carson at the Atlanta Judging Center in October of last year.

To grow and flower well *Renanthera* want high light and warmth. Perfect drainage is essential and they are often grown with little or no media around their roots, which means special attention must be paid to watering, especially in hot dry weather where they may need it twice per day. They are tolerant of some direct sun and can tolerate some cool nights in the winter months, but generally grow into large plants and so require some space to be appreciated. About a decade ago I purchased a seedling of *Ren. Tom Thumb* (*monachica* x *imschootiana*) under the mistaken belief that the name implied a smaller growing plant. It is now about 42 inches tall with half a dozen side growths, and when in flower in spring each year, the inflorescences themselves can extend up to three feet beyond the main stem! Nonetheless these are magnificent orchids with reasonably long lasting flowers if space can be found to house them.

**Red – *Aerangis mysticidii* – David
Mellard**

**White – *Vanda* No ID – Larry
Kikkert**

Class IX – Miscellaneous

**Blue – *Bulbophyllum* Elizabeth Ann
'Buckleberry', FCC/AOS –
Veronique Perrot**



This example would be considered a “starter size” plant of this famous hybrid between *Bulb.*

rothschildianum and *Bulb. longissimum* which was registered back in 1969. There are several clones of the original cross out there, but the ‘Buckleberry’ form got the very best of both parents in both flower size and color. There are a number of awards bestowed on this orchid listing hundreds of flowers when presented for judging, attesting to its vigor. One specimen scored 98 points in December, 1993 and just 11 months later came back to the judges even more magnificent so they raised the score to 99. I suppose they are a bit tired of seeing it anymore and while divisions continue to get trophies at shows around the country, it rarely is pulled for award consideration. How do you elevate an essentially “perfect” score? Anyone who keeps their plant happy for a few years soon has plenty to share. We bought a small division off a plant at the Atlanta Show a decade or so ago, when it was held in November, and now, even after dozens of

divisions removed, it is too big to come out of the greenhouse when in flower.

If you are up to the challenge, give this orchid intermediate to warm temperatures, filtered but bright light and plenty of water with excellent drainage year round. Over the long term, a plastic or metal basket that will remain intact for years is the best way to grow it, and you will need enough vertical space to accommodate the inflorescences, which can bear flowers twelve inches long and hang well below the plant. Also note that they have a mildly unpleasant fragrance which will be more apparent as the plant bears more flowers!

Red–*Pterostylis obtusa*– David Mellard

White – *Anoectochilus burmannicus* – David Mellard

Recent Blooms at the Atlanta Botanical Garden – November 2018



Cattleya deckeri (coerulea form)



Prosthechea pygmaea



Cattleya crispa



Coryanthes alborosea