

MAY EVENTS

Monthly Meeting : 8:00 pm Monday, May 13, 2019
Atlanta Botanical Garden, Day Hall

Pre-meeting Class (7:15-7:45) : Barbara Barnett will have a short class on repotting

Program: Robert Pemberton – Robert will give a conservation talk about pollinators: "Orchids must have their pollinators, but who are their pollinators and what do they require?"

We will be taking our speaker to dinner at 6:00 at Ru San's near the garden at Piedmont and Monroe.

Members may bring plants to sell.

Greengrowers : June 1 – At the home of Cathy and Bill Meincer

Greengrowers – Saturday June 1

You are invited to an outing at the home of Bill and Cathy Meincer on Saturday, June 1, beginning at 10:30 a.m.

The Meincer's have been members of the AtlOS since 1980 and both are AOS orchid judges. They have a 13' X 20' greenhouse they are shutting down and all plants and greenhouse equipment will be for sale as well as orchid books, potting supplies etc. at very reasonable prices. Their plant collection contains orchids with a focus on species and hybrids that are miniature in size or compact growers. This also makes them good candidates for growing under lights.....**100% of the sales proceeds** will be donated and split between the AtlOS and Atl Judging Center.

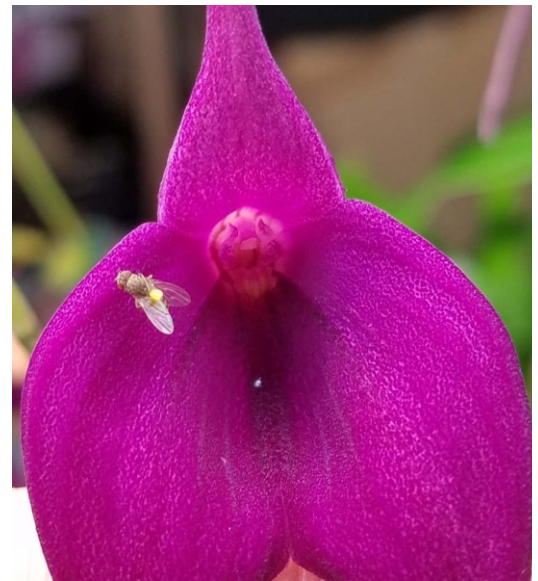
The Meincer's home and greenhouse is located at: 112 Ridge View Dr, Ball Ground, GA., however, their physical location is actually 9 miles south of Ball Ground between the towns of Cumming and Canton, GA.

Meincer's phone: 770-888-1813 or cmeincer@gmail.com

Pictures of many of the plants being offered can be found at:
<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/d1sw5u7d98lsohf/AAD8ci65HJQ7DDvIKCzRawysa?dl=0>

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The insects that pollinate the parents of Masdevallia Machu Picchu 'Crown Point' are probably about the same size as this fly that got into my basement last year.



Bill & Cathy's greenhouse

ATLANTA ORCHID SOCIETY**Officers****President****David Mellard** 404-310-9899**Vice-President/Programs****Helen (HB) Blythe-Hart** 770-656-4054**Secretary****Darrell Demeritt** 404-307-6035**Treasurer****Dan Williamson** 301-717-0939
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Volume 60: Number 5 – May 2019

Newsletter Editors: Danny Lentz & Mark Reinke

The Atlanta Orchid Society is affiliated with the American Orchid Society, the Orchid Digest Corporation, the Mid-America Orchid Congress and the Garden Club of Georgia.

**Minutes of April 8, 2019 Meeting of the Atlanta Orchid Society**

The April 8, 2019 monthly meeting of the Atlanta Orchid Society, at the Atlanta Botanical Garden, was called to order at 8:00 PM by David Mellard, President. Members and guests were welcomed, and one guest (Bonnie) was introduced. The minutes of the March meeting as presented in the newsletter were approved by membership after the motion for approval was moved and seconded. There was no treasurer's report this month.

David Mellard reminded everyone that annual dues should be paid. Dues are \$30 for individuals and \$45 for families. David provided a review of several upcoming events:

The **Atlanta Judging Center Monthly Judging** from now on will be in the Magnolia Room at the Atlanta Botanical Garden on Saturday, April 13th. This AOS judging is always the 2nd Saturday of the month.

Several shows and orchid events are upcoming. The **Memphis Orchid Show** will be held on May 4th – 5th. More information about the Memphis show can be found on their website: <http://www.memphisorchids.org/>. The **Redland International Orchid Festival** will be held at Fruit and Spice Park, Homestead, Florida, on May 17th – 19th. It is anticipated that over 60 vendors will be represented. More information about this festival can be found at <https://www.redlandorchidfest.org/>. And finally, at the society's June 10 meeting, we will have a tour of the ABG greenhouses followed by an ice cream social and silent auction. Please consider donating a plant or two for the silent auction.

Carson Barnes, a member of the society, gave a very informative talk on the genus *Phragmipedium*. The results of the monthly plant judging and ribbon awards were announced. With no further business or announcements, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:45 PM.

The next meeting of the AtIOS will be Monday, May 13 at 8:00 PM at the Atlanta Botanical Gardens.

Welcome New and Returning Members

Faye Banks (Atlanta)

Events Calendar

May

May 3-5 [Memphis OS Show](#)

11 - American Orchid Society monthly judging, (noon) training, (1pm) judging, at the Atlanta Botanical Garden – Magnolia Room behind Day Hall

13 - Atlanta Orchid Society Monthly Meeting, ABG, Day Hall – 8 p.m. Robert Pemberton will speak on conservation of pollinators.

May 17-19 [Redland Int'l Orchid Festival](#)

June

June 1 – Greengrowers outing at the home of Cathy & Bill Meincer, starting at 10:30am.

Get your orchid growing questions answered by long time growers, AtlOS members, and AOS judges Bill & Cathy. They will also be selling a variety of well grown orchids as they reduce their collection so that they can shut down their greenhouse this year. Sale proceeds will benefit AtlOS and the Atlanta Judging Center.

2 – AtlOS Board Meeting (2:00)
Contact David Mellard for details.

8 - American Orchid Society monthly judging, (noon) training, (1pm) judging, at the Atlanta Botanical Garden – Magnolia Room behind Day Hall

10 - Atlanta Orchid Society Monthly Meeting, ABG, Day Hall – 8 p.m. Tour of ABG Greenhouses, Silent Auction and Ice Cream Social

Future Events

2020 – [World Orchid Conference](#) in Taichung, Taiwan

Announcements, Notes, Classifieds, etc.

If you have a few things you want to sell or swap, or are thinking about ordering something that others might be interested in splitting, let us know and we can put a note in the newsletter.

In Memory of Fran Carter

I learned recently that a former, long-time member of the Atlanta Orchid Society passed away in December 2018. Fran Carter joined the society in 1997 and came regularly for many years until her health began to fail. Even then, her son Cameron often attended meetings for her so he could bring her plants in for monthly judging. Fran was a classy lady who enjoyed growing and showing her orchids. Services were held on April 12 at the Catholic Church of St. Ann in Marietta. - David Mellard.

I finally refrained from watering my Habenaria plants over the winter and all three of them actually survived and are sending up new growth. There might be something to that "dry winter rest" idea. - danny



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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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Education. Conservation. Research.

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Single Membership, 1 year - \$65, 2 years - \$125
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JOIN OR RENEW ONLINE AT www.aos.org

Atlanta Orchid Society Monthly Ribbon Winners April 2019

Notes by Mark Reinke
Photos by Danny Lentz

Class I – Cattleya Group

Cattleya Species



Blue – *Cattleya intermedia* forma *coerulea* 'Super Blue' – Carson Barnes

There are numerous color forms of *C. intermedia*, many of which have been selectively bred in cultivation for many generations, leading to widespread availability of superior plants. Seedlings will bloom with one or two flowers when still quite small, but mature plants can be over a foot tall and bear 5 to 7 flowers per inflorescence. Still, that number is uncommon and the median average for all the awarded plants is 3.4 flowers per inflorescence with a natural spread of just over four inches.

In the wild the most common color is pale lilac-lavender with darker color in the lip. These plants inhabit low elevations, especially humid coastal swamps, from near Rio de Janeiro southward all the way to near the Uruguayan border and often grow in near full sun. While this habitat is near sea level, it is also below the Tropic of Capricorn and experiences cool nights in winter. Plants can tolerate occasional light freezes and this species is sometimes grown out of doors in coastal California from Santa Barbara southward. It will

also grow beautifully in an intermediate greenhouse with bright light, high humidity, strong air movement, and regular watering, though roots must dry quickly to stay healthy. Like many of the bifoliate *Cattleya* species, *C. intermedia* resents root disturbance, so it is advisable to think ahead when choosing a container and media type in which to grow it. If repotting must be done, only attempt it when there are new roots emerging from the newest growths. Rather than risk losing a prized plant, we often simply slip the entire plant as is into a larger pot or basket, and once it is established, carefully pick out any old and decaying media from the original pot and replace it with lava rock. As might be expected, this species is in the background of more than 4,500 registered hybrids and the first recorded one, *C. Dorminiana* (x *C. maxima*) goes all the way back to 1859, making it one of the earliest man made crosses in the genus.

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

Red – *Cattlianthe* Fire Dance 'Patricia', AM/AOS – Carson Barnes

White – *Cattleya intermedia* forma *coerulea* 'Head Honcho' – Carson Barnes

Cattleya Hybrids



Blue – *Rhyncolaeliocattleya* Jessie Lee 'Aloha' – Maegan Brass

This plant was entered as the tag read, which included the parent names (*Rlc.* Hawaiian Thrill x Marlene Lundquist) and the clonal name 'Aloha'. The cross was registered by Hawaii Hybrids of Hilo, HI in 2016, but it is not uncommon for this nursery to mericlone a good plant, give it a clonal name and then begin selling it before they have officially registered the cross. So, as listed above is the correct name for this beautiful art shade cattleya.

The color pattern is a more intensified version of one of its principal ancestors, *Rlc.* George King 'Serendipity', AM/AOS, which factors into the family tree twice. The other side of the lineage includes such well-known beauties as *Rlc.* Fortune and *Rlc.* Hisako Atkatsuka. All counting, there are 27 different species contained in this orchid's ancestry, which is about as many as I have ever noticed in any large flowered cattleya hybrid. Likely, the fragrance during the daytime is outstanding.

Once mature, all hybrids like this one with many large flowered species in their family tree prefer a coarse, well drained growing medium, and should dry between each watering. Water and feeding should be on the heavier side when actively growing, especially in the warmth of summer, then reduced somewhat in the short days of winter.

Red – *Rhyncattleanthe* Love Passion 'Island Romance' – Maegan Brass

White – *Rhyncattleanthe* Hsinying Catherine 'Dogashima' – Karl Harden

White – *Brassolaelicattleya* Cecillia Irene – Larry Kikkert

Class II – Cymbidium Group

No Entries

Class III – Dendrobium Group

Blue – *Dendrobium sulcatum* – Carson Barnes

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This is a nicely flowered example of one of the more unusual species in the Callista Section of the genus *Dendrobium*. The evergreen stems are flattened, especially in the upper two-thirds, and carry several fairly thin, but tough leaves. Tight clusters of yellow, pendulous, cupped flowers are produced from the upper portion of older and recently matured growths, usually all at about the same time. The somewhat boat shaped lip is a slightly deeper hue, with a fuzzy edge and red-purple markings deep inside. Like most members of this group, they are rather short lived and so it is a lucky event when a plant such as this is in perfect condition for a show or exhibition.

Culture for this intriguing species is like other members of the group. Water should be generous to copious during the May to September growing season, then reduced considerably the balance of the year, especially the last two months of winter, when morning misting or very light occasional watering is all that is required. Fertilizer should be eliminated during this rest phase and a large swing in day/night temperatures or night temperatures into at least the mid-50's F to help initiate flowering. There are no registered hybrids that have been made from this species.

Red – *Dendrobium* Yasuko Sugiyama 'Parade', AM/AOS – **Kurt Drewke & Ariel Christiansen**

White – *Dendrobium* Utopia x Santa Claus – **David & Janice Lankford**

White – *Dendrobium* Antelope Type no ID – **Kurt Drewke & Ariel Christiansen**

I cannot positively identify this plant. The flower shape and small size indicates that it descends from *Den. canaliculatum*, a dwarf antelope type from northern Australia. It may be a form of *Den. Blue Twinkle* (x *Den. Betty Goto*) or one of the 25 offspring descended from that very popular hybrid that came out in the early 1990's.

Class IV – Epidendrum Group



Blue – *Encyclia bractescens* 'Jennifer', AM/AOS – **Carson Barnes**

April is the peak bloom month for this compact and vigorous species that comes from mostly lower elevations of the Atlantic slope in the southernmost states of Mexico, as well as Belize, Guatemala and Honduras.

This plant is presumably a division off of the 'Jennifer' clone which received an 82 point Certificate of Cultural Merit in March of 2015, and then an 84 point Award of Merit and 94 point Certificate of Cultural Excellence in March of 2017, in both cases at the Orchid Society of Highlands County (CA) Show. In the latter award the plant had 1864 open flowers and 466 additional buds! The flowers show good dark color on the segments

and above average size. At close view, it can be seen that the "pink" lip is actually white overlaid with many closely spaced purple lines.

It should be noted that while the flower quality award will also apply to any division or mericlone of the original awarded plant, cultural awards do not, as they are bestowed to the grower/owner of the plant based on the condition at the time of exhibition.

E. bractescens is definitely a species worth seeking out for this climate where it seems to be easy to grow. While some species of the genus are slow to form clumps, this one will do so quickly. The plants are compact with small round pseudobulbs and two or three narrow leaves. The inflorescences are thin and wiry with up to ten flowers each, and often with one small side branch. They last two months or sometimes longer.

The best and most awarded offspring is the cross with our red ribbon winner this month, *E. alata*, called *E. Boricana*, which is also easily grown, floriferous, and worth seeking out.

Red – *Eycyclia alata* – **Jon Crate**

Class V – Oncidium Group



Blue – *Gomesa echinata* – **Danny Lentz & Dianne Morgan**

This Brazilian species was known as *Baptistonia echinata* until 2009 when it, along with all the Brazilian *Oncidium* were reassigned to a new

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genus, *Gomesa*. This was the result of genetic testing which showed that they were closely related to each other, but more distantly related to the *Oncidium* species from the Andes, Central American, Mexico and the Caribbean.

Whatever its close relatives might be, *Gom. echinata* is unique and quirky in its own way. The dense, lax clusters of flowers remind many people of a swarm of bees, and the species name, which means "spiny," refers to the set of fang-like projections at the base of the lip. These unusual attributes are likely meant for some very specific pollinator.

The 25 awarded examples of this species averaged more than 100 flowers per branched inflorescence. Since the spikes can be up to two feet in length, room to hang the plant while in flower is required. It would be possible to train the spikes upright instead, but this would require frequent adjustment as they grow to create a pleasing effect.

Gom. echinata comes from the foothills of the mountains in and around Rio de Janeiro and São Paulo growing in semitropical rainforest. The temperatures are basically mild year round, but with both hot and cold extremes that indicate a tolerant growing habit. Rain falls year round, but more heavily in the summer months, so plants should not be given a winter rest, but water and food should be decreased below summer levels. Bright but filtered light is best.

Red – *Oncidium* Tsiku Marguerite – Véronique Perrot

Class VI – *Cypripedium* Group

Phragmipedium

Blue – *Phragmipedium* Peruflora's Spirit 'Memoria Phillip W. Chancey, Jr.', AM/AOS – Danny Lentz & Dianne Morgan

Phragmipedium Peruflora's Spirit was one of the first dozen hybrids made with the newly available *Phrag. kovachii* that were registered



in 2007. That species made a sensation when discovered a few years earlier, with unusual purple flowers that were huge for the genus, leading to enormous excitement about future breeding lines. In this case, the other parent was *Phrag*. Eric Young, one of the better known and well awarded *Phrag. besseae* hybrids from the early 1990's. While the results may not have exceeded the wildest dreams of the breeders at Peruflora in Lima, large pastel pink to coral pink flowers resulted and have so far generated 17 awards for this cross. This particular form was awarded here in Atlanta in 2013 and the clonal name, long as it may be, is correct as listed above. Five of the other dozen crosses registered in 2007 have also garnered at least as many awards, with *Phrag. Fritz Schomburg* (x *besseae*) leading the pack with 74 to date. In that cross, the best have come out with large, flat flowers in a shade of pink that is almost fluorescent.

There are many anecdotal tales about the difficulty in cultivating *Phrag. kovachii* and I do not purport to be an authority who can sort out what is fact from speculation, but at least in its hybrids, the culture seems more or less straightforwardly similar to any *Phragmipedium* hybrid: bright filtered light, cool to warm, but not hot, temperatures, and continual moisture in a well drained medium.

Red – *Phragmipedium longifolium* variety *gracile* 'The Other One' – Carson Barnes

Paphiopedilum

Blue – *Paphiopedilum hirsutissimum* 'Thank You

Margaret', HCC/AOS – **Carson Barnes**



The plant exhibited is a repeat blue ribbon winner from this month last year, and 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 country 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 discover 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. insigne* 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.

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Red – *Paphiopedilum hookerae* variety *volonteanum* – Danny Lentz & Dianne Morgan

White – *Paphiopedilum sukhakulii*
 'Windsong's Buzz', HCC/AOS –
Clark Weisner

Class VII - Phalaenopsis Group



Blue – *Phalaenopsis* Tying Shin
 Smart 'Pelo Adelina' – **Jon Crate**

This plant appears to be a peloric mutation of this 2005 introduction from Tying Shin Orchids of Taiwan. The five existing awards were all bestowed in Taiwan, even though two were by the American Orchid Society guest judging at an event. The Taiwan Orchid Grower's Association gave the cross an Award of Quality plus two Silver Medals for a group of twelve plants in March of 2007 and the award photo shows a range of beautiful hues of purple, rose and coral. The awarded plants all had typical flowers for the cross. An image search located several photos of peloric forms, but none with this specific clonal name, so I'm not sure how many different ones exist at this time. The mutation definitely creates a look that will or will not appeal to individuals depending on their tastes.

One parent of the cross was *Phal. equestris*, which clearly shows itself in the multifloral nature and petite size. This, combined with the other mix of species in the background should produce a plant that is fairly tolerant and easily grown with typical phalaenopsis culture.

Red – *Phalaenopsis mannii* –
Danny Lentz & Dianne Morgan

White – *Phalaenopsis*
lueddemanniana 'Clovercroft' – **Jon**
Crate

Class VIII - Vandaceous Group



Blue – *Jumellea arachnantha* 'Mello
 Spirit', CCE/AOS – **David Mellard**

As the species name indicates this orchid is known as the Spider Flowered Jumellea. It is a rather large, monopodial plant native to Grand Comoro Island, which lies in the Mozambique Channel between the northern tip of Madagascar and the African mainland. While the elevation the plants grow at was not reported, the experience of growers is that *Jum. arachnantha* does best in cool to intermediate conditions. This indicates that it probably grows several thousand feet up the slopes of the volcanic peak that dominates the island. Nowadays all the lower elevations are cultivated, so if it still exists in the wild, it must be in that forest preserve area remaining on the volcanic slopes.

Although each inflorescence normally carries just a single flower, the plant will produce many at once. When awarded in 2016 this plant had 78 flowers and buds all at once.

The blossoms are fragrant and last about a month.

Given its aversion to high heat, a greenhouse with evaporative cooling is probably the best way to grow this orchid in our area. Indoors, under lights, may be another possibility, but probably only if the growing area is cool at night. The light level does not need to be high for flowering, so it does not require a choice location where its size may rob space from other plants. Plenty of water in summer, but more sparing in winter, as with many orchids, is the recommended routine for this one.



Red – *Vanda falcata* – Véronique
Perrot

This first flowering seedling has exceptionally dark flowers for the species. It was a sibling cross between one called 'Pink Shower' and another called 'Lavender Dream'. I have flowered one other out of the batch of seedlings I obtained from a wholesale supplier last year and it had only lavender tinges near the tips of the segments. This plant is one to keep!

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

White – *Vanda* Vernon Kebodeau
 'Puff Pooch' – **Carson Barnes**

Class IX – Miscellaneous

Blue – *Bifrenaria harrisoniae* –
Carson Barnes

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Top contender for the showiest species in the genus, *Bifrenaria harrisoniae* comes from Brazil near Rio de Janeiro, where it is described



as growing on almost vertical east facing cliffs exposed to strong winds and almost full sun. Despite this harsh environment, plants flower just as well without such rigorous treatment, and also retain better looking foliage. I have a plant that is a division of the 'Ruth', AM/AOS clone that came from Russ Bolt of Looking Glass Orchids in NC. While I have flowered mine well in very bright light following the guidance of

the habitat description, the older leaves are fairly yellow. Russ keeps his plants in relative shade on the bench, and continues to water regularly through winter. He still gets plenty of flowers and the foliage stays lush and attractive. Perhaps originally the species occupied forested slopes that have been overtaken by the favelas of Rio and their last refuge is to be found on these inaccessible rock faces? Whatever the case, this is a vigorous and tough orchid that can be divided every few years. I'm not sure why it isn't more commonly seen.

While flowering peaks in spring, I have found that some years all the flowers are open at about the same time, while other years they come staggered over several months. I'm not sure what environmental factors govern this habit. The main flower segments are white or can have pink or yellow tinges while the lip is fuzzy and ranges from purple (like this plant) to a rusty burgundy shade, like mine. There are photos of plants that apparently are alba forms with no purple in the lip. These are quite attractive and desirable.

Given the latitude at which it grows, *Bif. harrisoniae* probably needs some degree of cool in winter to flower properly. If anyone has experience flowering this orchid indoors under lights or in a warm greenhouse, I would like to hear about it.

There are a few hybrids made from this species, though little imagery to reveal the degree of their success. There is a cross from 1998 that supposedly pairs it with *Cymbidium floribundum*. That would be a highly unusual occurrence if that information is correct. It is extremely rare that New World and Old World species from differing genera are genetically compatible enough to produce offspring.

Red – *Zygopetalum* Jumpin' Jack – Larry Kikkert

Red – *Stenosarcos* Vanguard 'Mello Spirit,' HCC/AOS – David Mellard

White – *Ancistrochilus rothschildianus* – Carson Barnes

White – *Lycaste bradeorum* – Carson Barnes



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



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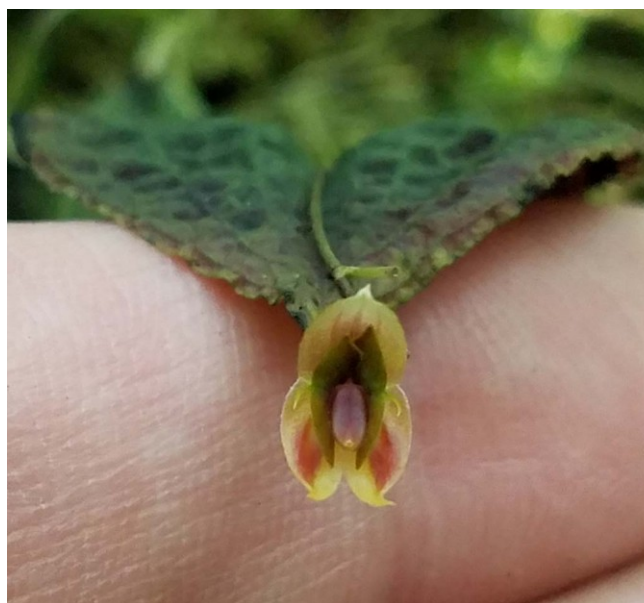
Recent Blooms at the Atlanta Botanical Garden (April 2019)



Pleurothallis dilemma



Guarianthe x laeliodes



Lepanthes corrugata



Restrepia antennifera?