



DECEMBER EVENTS

Monthly Meeting: 7 p.m. Monday, December 9, 2019
Rock Spring Presbyterian Church, 1824 Piedmont Ave., Atlanta
**Annual Holiday Party/Potluck Dinner/
Gift Exchange**
See below for details

Coming for the January AtIOS Monthly Meeting: Orchid Chat

Bring your biggest triumphs or worst tragedies and get gracious kudos or helpful advise from our fellow members in this lively "Orchid Chat" evening. Discuss your orchid questions or concerns with experienced members who have found ways to solve orchid issues like persistent pests, annoying funguses, fertilizers, watering or cultural challenges around windowsill growing, semi-hydroponic growing, or even artificial light systems.

Bring your questions about whether your conditions will support growing that rare species or if that overseas online orchid supplier is reliable. Chances are, one of our members has been there and done that!

Issues with repotting? Don't know what to do with that overgrown orchid

or creeping cattleya? Bring it in! We'll do some live potting demos and show some options for orchid growing media like Orchiata vs. bark vs. sphagnum or cypress mulch. Debating the pros and cons of plastic vs. clay pots vs. Kool Logs? Ever wonder about orchid judging? Bring it on!! Let our expert orchid growers shed light on the subject.

Peruse selections from our collection of helpful orchid books in the Society's free lending library. Learn the ways a membership in the American Orchid Society can benefit you. This is a great opportunity to start the New Year by connecting with other orchid lovers and to share the wealth of information so we can continue to cultivate both our Orchid loving community as well as our beautiful orchid flowers.



Oncidium sphacelatum

**Atlanta Orchid Society Annual
Holiday Party/Potluck Dinner/Gift Exchange
and Monthly Meeting**

The party will take place at **Rock Springs Presbyterian Church**, just down the road from ABG on Piedmont (1824 Piedmont Ave.). Bring a dish to share; the Society will provide 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, and members may bring plants to sell.

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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](#) 404-307-6035

Treasurer

[Dan Williamson](#) 301-717-0939

142 Superior Ave
Decatur, GA 30030

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[Doug Hartong](#)

[Trac Nguyen](#)

[Maegan Brass](#)

[Atsushi Matsumoto](#)

[Carl Quattlebaum](#)

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AOS Rep – [Barbara Barnett](#)

Greengrowers – [Danny Lentz](#)

Librarian –

MAOC Rep – [Doug Hartong](#)

Meeting Hospitality –

Membership – [Barbara Barnett](#) &
[Maegan Brass](#)

Education and Outreach–
[Lynne Gollob](#)

Silent Auction – [Carson Barnes](#)

Monthly Ribbon Judging –
[David Mellard](#)

Newsletter – [Véronique Perrot](#) &
[Mark Reinke](#)

Orchid Digest Rep– [David Mellard](#)

Show Chairs (2020) – [Danny Lentz](#) &
[Jody Gomez](#)

Website/Social Media – [Danny Lentz](#) &
[Jeremie Carroll](#)

The Atlanta Orchid Society Bulletin

Volume 60: Number 12 – December 2019

Newsletter Editors: [Véronique Perrot](#) & [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 November 11th, 2019, Meeting of the Atlanta Orchid Society

The November 11, 2019 meeting of the Atlanta Orchid Society was called to order by David Mellard, President, at 8 p.m. There were no guests to introduce at this meeting. The minutes of the October 2019 monthly meeting will be published in the December newsletter (see below).

Dan Williamson gave a brief treasurer's report and stated that the auction made \$2,727 in profits.

AJC Monthly Judging will be held on December 14th in the Georgia Pacific classroom at ABG, which is near the orchid greenhouses. Judges training will start at noon and AOS judging will start at 1 p.m.

Several additional announcements of upcoming events were provided by David, including: regular society meeting (Jan 11), AOS monthly judging (Jan 14), the Gautier Orchid Show (Jan 25-26), and the Mobile Orchid Show (Jan 29-30). See the events calendar for more details.

The next monthly meeting of the Atlanta Orchid Society will be on Monday evening, December 9. This meeting will be the society's holiday party at the Rock Springs Presbyterian Church on Piedmont Avenue about a mile from ABG. There will be a covered dish (setup at 6:30) with dinner and gift exchange starting at 7PM. Anyone interested in participating in the gift exchange should bring an orchid-related gift. David also shared that he has been informed that the Rock Springs Presbyterian Church will be closing, so another venue will be identified for 2020 events.

David Mellard asked that if any member is

not receiving the monthly newsletter to let him know so that the mail group can be updated.

The slate of society officers and incoming trustees for 2020 were introduced and included:

President: Helen Blythe-Hart

Vice President: Danny Lentz

Treasurer: Jon Crate

Secretary: Jody Gomez

Trustee: Larry Kikkert

Trustee: Veronique Perrot

The society unanimously voted their approval, which resulted in loud applause.

They will join remaining trustees Trac Nguyen, Maegan Brass, Atsushi (Mat) Matsumoto, Carl Quattlebaum, and David Mellard (past president).

David thanked the members of the nominating committee: Veronique Perrot, HB Blythe-Hart, Danny Lentz, Larry Kikkert, and Bob Grzesik.

After a brief break so that judges could complete the monthly judging of plants brought in by members, the announcement of the ribbon recipients was made, and the winning plants were presented.

With no further business or announcements, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:45 PM.

The next AtIOS monthly meeting will be December 9 at the Rock Springs Presbyterian Church on Piedmont Road. This is the society's holiday party and set up will start at 6:30 and festivities will start at 7 p.m.

Minutes of October 14th, 2019, Meeting of the Atlanta Orchid Society

The October 14, 2019 meeting of the Atlanta Orchid Society was called to order by David Mellard, President at 8 p.m. There were no guests to introduce at this meeting. The meeting minutes of the September 2019 monthly meeting were approved as presented in the monthly newsletter, with Carson Barnes making the motion for approval, Larry Kikkert sec-

onding, and unanimously approved by members in attendance.

There was no treasurer's report. Detailed expense and revenue information is available to any member by contacting Dan Williamson, Treasurer.

AJC Monthly Judging will be held on No-

Continued on p. 3

Events Calendar

December

9 – Atlanta Orchid Society Holiday Party, Rock Springs Presbyterian Church, 1824 Piedmont Ave. NE, Atlanta. Covered dish buffet and meeting start at 7 p.m. Bring an orchid related gift for exchange.

14 – American Orchid Society monthly judging, training at noon, AOS judging starts 1 pm, the Atlanta Botanical Garden – Georgia Pacific classroom (next to the orchid greenhouses)

January

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

13 – Atlanta Orchid Society Monthly Meeting: Orchid Chat

17-19 – Tamiami Orchid Festival, Miami, FL, tamiamiorchidfestival.com

25-26 – Gulf Coast Orchid Society Show, Gautier Convention Center, 2012 Library Lane, Gautier, MS 39553

February

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

10 – Atlanta Orchid Society Monthly Meeting

20-30 – Mobile Orchid Show, Bellingrath Gardens (www.bellingrath.org), 12401 Bellingrath Gardens Rd, Theodore, AL. Contact Joe Paine joe6w@aol.com

Future Events

March 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.

Minutes of October 14th, 2019, Meeting, continued from page 2

November 9th in the Magnolia Room of the ABG, with judges training starting at noon and judging starting at 1 p.m. HB Blythe-Hart will be providing a talk on judging oncidiums.

Several announcements of upcoming events were provided by David Mellard, including: AOS Members Meeting, Oct. 16-20, Homestead, Florida; Annual AtIOS Auction and Covered Dish, Saturday, Nov. 2, Rock Springs Presbyterian Church, 11:00 lunch, auction starts at noon; AOS Monthly Judging, Nov. 9, Magnolia Room ABG;

The next monthly meeting of the Atlanta Orchid Society will be on Monday evening, November 11th. Steven Frowine will be presenting a talk on Fragrant Orchids.

The AtIOS Holiday Party will be held on Dec. 9 at the Rock Springs Presbyterian Church. There will be a covered dish (setup at 6:30) with dinner and gift exchange starting at 7 p.m. Anyone interested in participating in the gift exchange should bring an orchid-related gift. David also shared that he has been informed that the Rock Springs Presbyterian Church will be closing, so another venue will be identified for next year's events.

David Mellard asked that if any member is not receiving the monthly newsletter to let him know so that the mail group can be updated.

All current officers of the board will reach

their term limits at the end of this year, as will trustees Jody Gomez and Doug Hartong. The slate of Trustees and Board Officers for 2020 were announced.

President: Helen Blythe-Hart

Vice President: Danny Lentz

Treasurer: Jon Crate

Secretary: Jody Gomez

Trustee: Larry Kikkert

Trustee: Véronique Perrot

Remaining Trustees:

Trac Nguyn and Maegan Brass through 2020

Atushi Matsumoto and Carl Quattlebaum through 2021.

David Mellard thanked the members of the nominating committee, Véronique Perrot, HB Blythe-Hart, Danny Lentz, Larry Kikkert, and Bob Grzesik, who identified candidates.

After a brief break so that judges could complete the monthly judging of plants brought in by members, the announcement of the ribbon recipients was made, and the winning plants were described.

With no further business or announcements, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:30 p.m.

The next AtIOS monthly meeting will be November 11th at the Atlanta Botanical Gardens (Day Hall).



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 2019**

Notes by Mark Reinke
Photos by Danny Lentz

Class I – Cattleya Group



Blue – Cattleya June Bug ‘Venice Sunshine,’ AM/AOS – Larry Kikkert

This charming, small growing hybrid from Carter and Holmes Orchids (registered in 1987) combines *C. Beaufort* with *C. bicolor*. The tall, skinny growth habit of the latter parent is kept remarkably in check by the dwarf habit of the former parent, which is a hybrid between *C. coccinea* and *C. luteola*. Some of the siblings from this cross produce flowers that have a bronzy or greenish cast to the segments, but the ‘Venice Sunshine’ form is typically a clear bright yellow that contrasts very well with the fiery red lip. Generally the flowers are long lasting for a cattleya type, and can come at various times of year depending on the exact growing environment.

Whether this orchid does well for you or not depends in part on whether you have a plant from one of the early or later mericlone batches produced from the original. The later batches, which use a different multiplication technique for the meristem tissue, have been in my experience, exceedingly slow growing and less vigorous compared to early batches.

As with most miniature cattleya hybrids, this plant, when small and not yet flowering size, may need extra coddling to coax it along. But once flowering size is achieved, it is important that it be given a situation with perfect drainage that allows drying between each water cycle. This allows the plant to create a larger, more vigorous root system that can carry it into the future for many years of enjoyment.

Red – *Leptotes harryphillipsii* – David Mellard

Class II – Cymbidium Group



Blue – *Cymbidium cyperifolium* ssp. *indochinense* – David Mellard

Cymbidium cyperifolium is a fairly small growing terrestrial species that is included in a section of the genus called *Maxillarianthe*, presumably for the superficial resemblance of the flowers to some members of the new world genus *Maxillaria*. Subspecies *indochinense* occurs in Burma, Thailand and Cambodia, growing at between 1000 and 3000 feet above sea level in open, deciduous forest with grassy undergrowth that experiences periodic fires. The small pseudobulbs are often produced below ground level and protected from the fires by the fibrous sheathing of the leaf bases. There isn’t a large amount of information about the species, but these details come from *The Genus Cymbidium*, Du Puy & Cribb (1988). They also state that the bloom season for this subspecies is normally May to July, so this plant would be flowering at an

atypical time.

Between 5 and 7 blossoms are possible on each inflorescence and are described as having a lemon scent. The narrow sepals are about the same width as the two petals which helps distinguish this subspecies from *Cym. ensifolium* ssp. *haematodes* and *Cym. sinense*, whose natural ranges overlap with it. The two petals are held forward, forming a “roof” over the column. There are three named hybrids using *Cym. cyperifolium*, all of which were registered in the last few years by various Asian breeders. One of those entities is Pakkret Floriculture of Thailand, which does some wonderful and creative breeding using smaller *Cymbidium* species that unfortunately is rarely available in the US. market.

Class III – Dendrobium Group



Blue – *Dendrobium* no ID – Larry Kikkert

Class IV – Epidendrum Group

No Entries



American Orchid Society
Education. Conservation. Research.

JOIN THE AMERICAN ORCHID SOCIETY

12 issues of *Orchids*, the Society’s monthly full color magazine chock full of insightful articles and tempting ads for plants and supplies. 10% off purchases from the Society’s Bookstore and Orchid Emporium. Reduced or free admission to participating botanical gardens. For a limited time, if you join for two years you will also get a \$30 gift certificate (good on an order of \$100 or more) at any one of 13 commercial growers who advertise in *Orchids*.

JOIN TODAY

Single Membership, 1 year - \$65, 2 years - \$125

Student membership, 1 year - \$40, 2 years - \$75

JOIN OR RENEW ONLINE AT www.aos.org

Class V – Oncidium Group



Blue – *Oncostele* Eye Candy ‘Pinkie’ – Karl Harden

This 2010 introduction by Okika Orchids in Hawaii lives up to its name with large, full flowers and bold pattern. The full form descends from *Onc. alexandrae*, formerly known as *Odontoglossum crispum*, and typically associated with lack of heat tolerance due to its cloud forest origin. But in the case of this hybrid, that species only represents about 16% of the total family tree. That, coupled with the fact that one immediate parent is the tough and reliable *Onc. Catante* means that *Onc.* Eye Candy will perform well in our area with reasonable care.



JOIN THE ORCHID DIGEST CORPORATION

Don't let the name fool you, the Orchid Digest is a non-profit membership-based organization dedicated to orchids. Designed to appeal to the mid-range to advanced grower, nothing beats the Orchid Digest. For just \$39/year you get 4 issues of full-color, in-depth articles about orchids. The magazine is large format and the fourth issue of the year is always an extra-special edition devoted to a single genus. For membership application forms contact David Mellard (404-237-1694) or visit www.orchiddigest.com to join online.

That said, most of the modern intergeneric *Oncidinae* hybrids are not big fans of extreme summer heat, so should be grown shaded and well-watered if kept outside during that season. They are great subjects for growing under LED lights, and indeed, those fixtures are best kept at least a couple of feet above the foliage to prevent it from yellowing. Regular feeding, and periodic repotting into a moisture retentive, but well draining mix will help keep this group of orchids happy in the long term.

Class VI – Slipper Alliance



Blue – *Paphiopedilum* Shun-Fa Golden – Danny Lentz & Dianne Morgan

This much awarded hybrid between *Paph. hangianum* and *Paph. malipoense* can produce flowers that are huge for the size of the plant. The average spread of the awarded flowers was nearly 5.5 inches and the two plants that have received First Class Certificates in recent years were greater than 6 inches across. From what I can tell based on the photos provided, this flower compares very favorably with the higher scoring awarded plants.

Both parents of this fantastic orchid come from the mountains of northern Vietnam or neighboring Southeast China, in areas that typically experience cool to chilly nights in winter. However, since I know that Danny and Dianne are growing under LED lights inside where it doesn't fall below the 60's F, that chill does not seem to be a requirement for good culture given proper attention to watering, feeding and the condition of the media in the pot.

Not surprisingly, there are already a baker's dozen of new registered hybrids using *Paph.* Shun-Fa Golden as one parent. Quite a few are being done by James Fang of Hilo Orchid Farm on the Big Island of Hawaii so hopefully that means more will be available to the US market soon.

Red – *Paphiopedilum* Oto – Danny Lentz & Dianne Morgan

White – *Paphiopedilum* World Tour – Danny Lentz & Dianne Morgan

White – *Phragmipedium* Cahaba Moonrise – Danny Lentz & Dianne Morgan

Class VII - Phalaenopsis Group



Blue – *Phalaenopsis* Ambonosa – Danny Lentz & Dianne Morgan

This is a really stunning example of this primary hybrid between *Phal. amboinensis* and *Phal. venosa*. Most examples do not have such a strong yellow base color or such bold and bright markings. With two or more flow-



You can help out the Atlanta Orchid Society simply by shopping at Amazon through their Amazon Smile program. To do this simply go to 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: smile.amazon.com/gp/chpf/about/

ers to the spike, it would be a contender for a flower quality award in my opinion. Certainly, someone breeding for good yellows might find it a valuable parent, if it proved to be fertile.

Both parents come from Indonesia, in and around the island of Sulawesi, and have similar flowering habits, typically producing a few flowers at a time, in sequence, from persistent inflorescences. Older, well grown plants can have a couple dozen to scores of flowers open at once on many inflorescences.

This is an orchid that will do best in year round warmth, with good humidity levels, medium light and regular watering with no rest period.

Red – *Phalaenopsis fasciata* – Larry Kikkert

Class VIII - Vandaceous Group



Blue – *Cleisostoma subulatum* – David Mellard

There are nearly 100 known species of this vandaceous genus, widespread across tropical Asia, the Philippines, parts of Indonesia and Australia, yet they are not common in collections. This particular species is named for the awl-like, narrow pointed leaves, and occurs in all the above mentioned locations except Australia, growing in lower elevations

as a pendant epiphyte. While the individual flowers are small, they are numerous on a downward growing inflorescence, and each is beautiful on close inspection, with honey and bronze toned segments and a white lip touched with amethyst at the apex and backed by a small nectar spur. Though not much detail is given about growing this species, it is described as needing warm to hot temperatures and bright, but indirect light. It is always shown growing mounted, so probably needs daily watering in hot, dry weather.

Red – *Vanda falcata* – David Mellard

White – *Angraecum birrimense* – David Mellard

Class IX – Miscellaneous



Blue – *Pterostylis obtusa* 'Tuscarora Spirit' CCM/AOS (provisional) – David Mellard

Here is some information provided by the grower of this plant:

"*Pterostylis obtusa* is like other *Pterostylis* except in one important aspect. Like other species in this genus, *Ptst. obtusa* is summer dormant and emerges in the fall, usually in September or October in the northern hemisphere. But unlike other species that typically bloom in late winter (February/March), *Ptst. obtusa* blooms shortly after emerging. Even more unusual, blooming plants consist of a tall stalk with shortened leaves along the stalk rather than from a basal rosette of leaves like most other *Pterostylis*. Non-blooming plants produce only a basal rosette of leaves. This plant received a certificate of cultural merit (86 points) from the AOS on November 9 with 142 flowers and 9 buds. The dorsal sepal and petals form a hood called



a galea that protects the column while the lateral sepals are upswept ending with two upright sepaline tails that give Greenhoods their distinctive, almost prehistoric-like look. Pollination occurs because the hinged lip will rock back and forth when touched by the pollinator, usually small, flying fungus-gnats or mosquitos in the order *Diptera*. These features of an actively-moving labellum, along with the galea, are unique to *Pterostylis*. Sexual deception has been shown to occur in at least some *Pterostylis* with the flower producing a chemical attractant to lure male fungus-gnats. As the pollinator explores the labellum, the hinged lip moves forward to either deposit pollinia on the insect or to remove pollinia, placing it on the stigma. Unfortunately for the now frustrated insect, no reward is offered by the flower for all this effort.



Here's a photo of a 5 mm fungus-gnat (*Mycomya* sp) showing pollinia from *Ptst. nutans*."



November was a good month for slipper orchids at our house. We had some plants flowering for the first time (the *malipoense* hybrids) and some old favorites blooming again (*gratrixianum* and *Oto*). —Danny & Dianne