



## FEBRUARY EVENT

Monthly Meeting: 8 p.m. Monday, February 10, 2020

Atlanta Botanical Garden, Day Hall

**George Guenther:**

### Miniature Jungles in Your Living Room

*Members may bring plants to sell*

## Miniature Jungles in Your Living Room: Wardian Cases, Wine Coolers, & More for Indoor Orchid Growing

George Guenther began growing orchids in the windowsill of his college dorm room ten years ago while pursuing a degree in biology focused on the ecology and conservation of tropical ecosystems. Following graduation, George continued to expand his collection of orchids and was employed by Jerry and Jason Fischer of Orchids Limited in Plymouth, Minnesota. During his two years at Orchids Limited, he developed a strong interest in controlled environment horticulture and a love for miniature orchid species. In order to grow many of these species at home, he began experimenting with small-scale indoor growing spaces such as light stands and Wardian cases. His passion for greenhouse growing ultimately led him to pursue a Master's Degree in Horticulture at the University of Minnesota, where he focused on the effects of high root zone temperatures on container-grown tomatoes. Following the completion of his thesis, George moved to Atlanta to assume his current role as Orchid Horticultural Curator at the Atlanta Botanical Garden. He remains an avid grower of miniature orchids, with over 200 different varieties (primarily species) represented in his personal collection, focused primarily on *Bulbophyllum*, *Dendrobium*, and various members of the Pleurothallidinae. Nearly all of his plants are grown under lights in a variety of controlled environments ranging from vivaria to a modified wine cooler. Improving small-scale growing systems for hobby growers remains the central focus of his pursuits in the orchid hobby

George will be presenting on the design and implementation of small-scale indoor growing spaces such as Wardian cases and modified wine coolers for demanding orchid species. He will cover essential environmental components such as light and air circulation, as well as highlight certain genera/species which grow well in these home microenvironments.

### Advance Notice

At the March meeting of the Atlanta Orchid Society, Sam Tsui will speak on **The Brachypetalum and Parvisepalum Paphiopedilums and Their Culture**. He will offer 10% discount (except on divisions and packages) to any pre-orders received a week prior to the meeting. Members can email him their order at [samtsui@orchidinnusa.com](mailto:samtsui@orchidinnusa.com). Look up what he has to offer at [www.orchidinnusa.com](http://www.orchidinnusa.com).



### Save the Date!

The Atlanta Orchid Society will hold its **yearly auction** on **Saturday, 18 April, in the evening**. Watch this space for more details!

## ATLANTA ORCHID SOCIETY

### Officers

**President**

[Helen \(HB\) Blythe-Hart](#) 770-656-4054

**Vice-President/Programs**

[Danny Lentz](#)

**Secretary**

[Jody Gomez](#)

**Treasurer**

[Jon Crate](#) 770-846-9541

270 17th Street NW, Unit 4501

Atlanta, GA 30363

**Immediate Past President**

[David Mellard](#) 404-310-9899

### Trustees

[Trac Nguyen](#)

[Maegan Brass](#)

[Atsushi Matsumoto](#)

[Carl Quattlebaum](#)

[Larry Kikkert](#)

[Véronique Perrot](#)

### Volunteers

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 61: Number 2 – February 2020

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 the January 13, 2020, Meeting of the Atlanta Orchid Society

The January 13, 2020, meeting of the Atlanta Orchid Society was called to order by Danny Lentz, Vice-President, at 8 p.m. There were no guests to introduce at this meeting. The meeting minutes for December 2019 were approved by the members present.

Danny introduced Mark Reinke to lead the cultural Q&A. Mark took advantage of questions posed by members present to offer general cultural advice for various orchid groups.

Meeting was adjourned by Helen Blythe-Hart, President, at 9:25 p.m.



One of February meeting speaker George Guenther's orchidariums.

## EVENTS CALENDAR

### February

1-April 12 – Orchid Daze at the Atlanta Botanical Gardens

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

10 – Atlanta Orchid Society Monthly Meeting, George Guenther on small-scale indoor growing spaces. See front page for details.

14-16 – Spring MAOC Show, Dayton, OH.

28-March 1 – Mobile Orchid Show, Bellingrath Gardens ([www.bellingrath.org](http://www.bellingrath.org)), 12401 Bellingrath Gardens Rd, Theodore, AL. Contact Joe Paine [joe6w@aol.com](mailto:joe6w@aol.com)

### March

9 – Atlanta Orchid Society Monthly Meeting: Sam Tsui on brachipetalum and parvisepalum Paphiopedilums

9 – 29 – [World Orchid Conference](#) in Taichung, Taiwan

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

20-22 – NC Piedmont Orchid Society Show, Belmont, NC. Contact Linda Wilhelm, [orchidfrau@bellsouth.net](mailto:orchidfrau@bellsouth.net)

27-29 – Savannah Orchid Show, Savannah, GA. Contact Jenni Tucker, [tuckerbrodie@msn.com](mailto:tuckerbrodie@msn.com)

### April

13 – Atlanta Orchid Society Monthly Meeting: Kevin Holcomb on Pleurothallids

18 – Atlanta Orchid Society Auction, 7 p.m., location TBA

## Announcements, Notes, Classified...

### From Annette Samson

I've been bitten by the orchid bug and have a collection now. I would love to learn more about keeping them healthy. I do not like driving into Atlanta. Is there anyone going to the Monday meetings that lives near exit 4 of I575 that could give a ride?

Contact Annette directly at [annette1547@gmail.com](mailto:annette1547@gmail.com)

.....

### Orchiata Group Order

Jon Crate will place a group order for full bags of Orchiata, at \$40 per bag (including S&H). See [besgrow.com/orchiata](http://besgrow.com/orchiata) to pick the grade of Orchiata you want. Members can split a bag, obviously. If you are interested, place your order with Jon ([jon@fai.us](mailto:jon@fai.us)) by the February meeting at the latest for pick up at the March meeting. .

.....

### New Members

Welcome to new members Ali Ghazi and Haydeh Zarshenas from Alpharetta, who joined at the January meeting.

.....

### From the Gulf Coast Orchid Show in Gautier, MS, Jan 25-26.



Mark Reinke, a long-time member of the society and co-owner of Marble Branch Farms with his partner, Gary Collier, put in this wonderful tabletop exhibit at the Gulf Coast Orchid Society show. The quality of the exhibit is shown by multiple first place ribbons and at least two tricolor rosettes, which are given for best in class. The exhibit contained a variety of orchids, including five bulldog *Paphiopedilum*, four *Cymbidium* hybrids, and a well-grown *Calanthe*. The exhibit has a pleasing color flow.

Continued on page 4



At the Gulf Coast Orchid Show in Gautier, MS, Jan 25-26, the largest exhibit and winner of the AOS Show trophy was awarded to the Gulf Coast Orchid Society.

Kudos go to Sydney Dyche who headed up a team of society members who put in the exhibit. Society exhibits often are the most difficult to set up because you don't know what plants are coming and often have to find a spot for late arrivals. The team put in an 18 ft by 7 ft exhibit that gave each plant its own space, allowing the flowers to present well to observers. At least seven tricolor rosettes can be seen, attesting to the quality of the flowers entered. The large, yellow, corsage-type *Cattleya* in the center of the exhibit won best flower.



The Gulf Coast Orchid Show in Gautier, MS, had a fabulous educational exhibit put in by Gayle Greene-Aguirre, the president of their society. The exhibit, titled "Where in the world can you find orchids?", showed a world map and described examples of orchids that are found on each continent. Packed with photos and full of text about each continent and its orchids, the exhibit received a well-deserved Educational Certificate from the American Orchid Society. Gayle also included several potted orchids, from the common *Ludisia discolor* and a nobile hybrid *Dendrobium* to the rare *Pterostylis curta*. AOS culture sheets were available for viewers to take home, thus proving that the intent of the exhibitor was to educate show goers.

# Atlanta Orchid Society Monthly Ribbon Winners January 2020

Notes by Mark Reinke; Photos by Danny Lentz

## Class I – Cattleya Group



**Blue** – *Brassolaeliocattleya* Cecillia Irene – Larry Kikkert

This is a nice, dependable cross between *Bc. Richard Mueller* and *Laelia aurea* registered by H&R Nurseries in 2011. For many years, *Laelia aurea* was considered a color variety of *Laelia rubescens*, which would have precluded a registration under a separate name since *Bc. Richard Mueller x Laelia rubescens* was registered by the same entity in 1998 as *Bc. Petite Stars*. That cross almost always comes out white with lavender touches and a dark throat and only rarely does the yellow color of *Bc. Richard Mueller* come through. But in the case of *Bc. Cecillia Irene* the flowers are invariably yellow with a dark throat, as in our blue ribbon winner by example.

Typically easily grown and free flowering, this cross prefers bright light and excellent drainage, with definite drying between each watering cycle. If potted, clay is best, but over the long run a basket or mount would probably be even better. In addition to being compact and not difficult to grow, most *Bc. Richard Mueller* hybrids will bloom on each new growth and grow into showy specimens with time.

**Red** – *Cattleya* Purple Cascade ‘Fragrant Beauty’ – Mark Reinke & Gary Collier

**Red** – *Cattleya trianae* – Jon Crate

**White** – *Cattleya* Love Castle ‘Kurenai,’ AM/AOS – Danny Lentz & Dianne Morgan

**White** – *Rhyncolaeliocattleya* MBF Exotic Dream – Mark Reinke & Gary Collier

## Class II – Cymbidium Group



**Blue** – *Cymbidium* Ramble on Rose ‘#5’ – Mark Reinke & Gary Collier

This compact and attractive *Cymbidium* was registered in 2013 and is an example of “heat tolerant” breeding, meaning that it is easier to maintain in hot summer climates than most of the large, standard size *Cymbidiums*, which tend to have only cool growing species in their background. *Cym. Ramble on Rose* inherits that heat tolerance from *Cym. ensifolium*, which grows as far south as southern India and Sri Lanka. That species contributes to smaller growth size as well. It makes up five eighths of the genetic background of the cross, having been introduced into the family tree in multiple generations.

One immediate parent of *Cym. Ramble on Rose* is *Cym. Valerie Absolonova*, which combines two famous *Cym. ensifolium* hybrids, *Cym. Peter Pan* and *Cym. Golden Elf*. That cross was registered in 1989 by Milton Carpenter of Everglades Orchids, based in Belle Glade, FL, which lies inland in south Florida near Lake Okeechobee, where summers can be sweltering. This illustrates just how heat tolerant this breeding line can be.

Another advantage of using *Cym. ensifolium* in breeding is that its main flowering season is summer. When combined with the primarily winter flowering standard types, the resulting plants can bloom twice per year.

If properly cared for, even the large standard types can be grown well in our climate. The key factors are giving the plants a rich mix and large, deep pot that suits their large root system and terrestrial nature, and heavy watering and feeding while growing. I let my plants stand in shallow trays of water during the summer, either in the brightest part of the greenhouse, or outside in morn-



## 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](http://www.orchiddigest.com) to join online.

ing sun and dappled afternoon light. The standard types generally need a chill to set bud, so they stay out until a freeze is forecast and are usually spiking by the time they come in. Even in winter, plants should not go completely dry at any time for the best health. Most hybrids are vigorous and can make glorious specimen plants in only a few years. Once they are too big, they can be split apart, albeit with some effort, and the resulting divisions establish quicker than typical epiphytic orchids.

### Class III – Dendrobium Group



**Blue – *Mediocalcar decoratum* – Vinh Nguyen**

This mat forming *Dendrobium* relative is rather un-orchid-like in both the growth habit and appearance of the flowers. It grows as an epiphyte in mountain forests of New Guinea from middle to higher elevations and was described fairly recently in 1989.

While the flowers are tiny and produced one to a stem, they can cover well grown plants. This example had only a few open flowers at the time it was exhibited, but many more buds that likely opened within a few days of the meeting. The sepals are orange, and fused together in a ball for half their length before they change to yellow, spread out and recurve into pointed tips. The yellow petals and lip are indistinguishable from each other and also recurve into points like the sepals creating the effect of a tiny six petal flower on top of an orange ball.

While this species grows in a wide range of elevation, it does best with in-



termediate conditions year round, filtered light and only minimal drying between each watering cycle. It is likely a good candidate to grow under LED lights, but the lights should be well above the plants or off to the side to avoid too much purple in the foliage.

**Red – *Dendrobium Nobile* Type no ID – Karl Harden**

### Class IV – Epidendrum Group



**Blue – *Epidendrum nocturnum* – Jon Crate**

*Epidendrum nocturnum* is one of the most widely distributed orchid species, ranging from southern Florida, across the Caribbean, Mexico, Central America and South America as far as Brazil. It is an epiphyte with evergreen, leafy stems that can reach up to nearly two feet in length. The apex of each stem bears a persistent inflorescence that will produce a number of flowers, usually one at a time, over the course of several years. The flowers themselves have long narrow segments that are greenish to bronze and a white, three lobed lip, whose center lobe is long

and narrow, like the segments. They are fragrant, especially at night, but last only a few days. Still, a plant with many mature growths can stay in bloom for an extended period of time. In the best examples, flowers can be about five inches from tip to tip. Flowers will often self-pollinate, which may account for the wide area of distribution. If you want more flowers, remove the developing pods as they occur.

A very adaptable orchid, *Epi. nocturnum* can do well in a variety of conditions, ideally in bright, filtered light, intermediate to warm temperatures, and year round watering. It does well mounted if watered two or more times per week, but will grow just fine in a pot with an open, well-drained mix.

There are bloom records from every month of the year for this orchid, but peaking in fall to winter. A handful of hybrids have been registered with *Epi. nocturnum* as a parent, from as early as 1907 to as recent as 2018. However, I haven't been able to locate any photos that would give an idea of what the resulting flowers or growth habit is like.

**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 [smile.amazon.com](https://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/](https://smile.amazon.com/gp/chpf/about/)

**Class V – Oncidium Group**

**Blue** – *Schunkeara* Big Shot 'Hilo Sparkle' – **Jon Crate**

This showy and powerfully day fragrant hybrid was originally registered as a *Beal-lara* (*Brassia* + *Miltonia* + *Odontoglossum* + *Oncidium*) when it was introduced in 2006. However, recently *Odontoglossum crispum* was renamed *Oncidium alexandrae* and *Miltoniopsis* was again separated from *Miltonia*, making this orchid a *Schunkeara* (*Brassia* + *Miltonia* + *Miltoniopsis* + *Oncidium*).

Whatever you call it, the large flat white flowers with bold purple markings

near the center held on erect stems is a glorious sight in full bloom. The genealogy indicates that 25% of the background of this orchid is *Miltoniopsis roezlii*, which likely accounts for the powerful perfume. On the way to a recent orchid show I had just six plants of *Shk.* Big Shot 'Hilo Sparkle' in the van and the resulting scent, while enchanting, was at times overwhelming during my eight hour drive!

I have found this orchid to be fairly easy to grow with typical "Oncidium" culture. Filtered bright light, regular water with minimal drying, and regular re-potting into new mix as the plants quickly grow to fill their container are the basics. Blooms can arise at any month of the year and are unusually long lasting for this group.

**Red** – *Aliceara* Peggy Ruth Carpenter 'Morning Joy,' AM/AOS – **Karl Harden**

**White** – *Oncidium* Sharry Baby – **Karl Harden**

**Class VI – Slipper Alliance**

**Blue** – *Paphiopedilum haynaldianum* – **Mark Reinke & Gary Collier**

The flowers of this multifloral species from the Philippines strongly resemble *Paph. lowii* from Indonesia, but can be distinguished by having spots not only on the petals, but also on the lower portion, and more white in the upper portion of the dorsal sepal. Between those two areas there are also strong vertical purple lines. The dorsal sepal of *Paph. lowii* is usually green with a purple shaded base and discreet purple veining above with no spots and little if any white.

The average spread of good examples is about five inches and while there are usually three to five flowers, there can be as many as six or more on exceptional examples. The blooms open in succession, but are open all together for at least a couple of months before the first to open fades.

Because this species can grow as high as 4500 feet above sea level in the mountains of Luzon Island, it is more adaptable to cool winter nights than some of the other large multifloral types. I have found it to be easy to grow under my conditions, which include nights between 50F and 55F for most of the cooler months. Medium to bright, filtered light, regular watering with good drainage, and a pot large enough to accommodate the root system of the plant as it forms a clump are solid recommendations. *Paph. haynaldianum* is well represented in multifloral breeding programs.

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

**White** – *Phragmipedium* Charleston Sunrise – **Danny Lentz & Dianne Morgan**



**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](http://www.aos.org)

**Class VII - Phalaenopsis Group****Blue** – *Phalaenopsis amboinensis* – Jon Crate

I have written about this Indonesian species several times in the past, highlighting its importance in modern *Phalaenopsis* breeding, especially for bringing bright colors and pattern into the mix. It is one of those species with persistent inflorescences that produces a few flowers at a time for a number of years and there are a number of awards for plants with several dozen open blooms at once, despite the average per spike being between three and four. This example has very good markings, but not as broad of segments as some of the prized examples.

*Phal. amboinensis* prefers warmth, filtered light and high humidity with no rest from watering. When growing under LED lights, it probably can be somewhat off to the side and still receive optimum brightness for healthy growth and flowering.

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

**White** – *Phalaenopsis Little Gem Stripes* – Jon Crate

**Class VIII - Vandaceous Group****Blue** – *Amesiella monticola* – Danny Lentz & Dianne Morgan

This recently described (1998) species from the mountains of Luzon Island in the Philippines has large flowers with a long nectar spur when compared to the plant size. It can apparently produce up to five of these blooms on a single inflorescence. It comes from elevations high enough to create a fairly cool environment year round and possibly does better in cooler regions. Danny & Dianne have been growing this plant under lights indoors where at least it is not exposed to high heat. While I have flowered several, I have only kept one plant alive over the long run, and it is mounted and watered daily, but still isn't living up to its potential.

The small vandaceous plants have a maximum span of about six inches and usually consist only of a few leaves. I did find one photo of a plant that appeared to have multiple growths, but that must require ideal conditions or considerable time. Baker's description notes that as many as three flower spikes may be produced at one time, but I couldn't find photos of plants with more than two at once.

Likely, this orchid is happiest with nights in the 50's F and days in the 70's F year round, with copious water during the summer when its natural habitat is drenched by rainfall and somewhat less the balance of the year. I noticed that out of the four registered crosses made with this species, three were done by Louisi-

ana Orchid Connection in Baton Rouge, so the next time I see those guys I'm going to ask how they are able to grow it down there.

**Red** – *Vanda No ID* – Larry Kikkert

**Class IX - Miscellaneous****Blue** – *Bonatea speciosa* – Nicholas Rust

In person, I found this plant to be jaw dropping, larger in all parts than you might imagine looking at photos. Plants can grow up to three feet tall. It comes from South Africa and also Zimbabwe, and apparently grows from low eleva-



tions to near 4,000 feet above sea level. Generally it is found in sandy soils, and as stems die back after flowering new shoots are developing from woody, cylindrical tubers.

While there is a drier period during winter in the natural habitat of *Bonatea speciosa*, apparently the soils always retain some moisture, so reduced watering, but not total drying is recommended. Baker notes that it is important to flush the pot with fresh water periodically to help keep the roots happy. The only registered hybrids made with this orchid are with other members of the same genus.

The American Orchid Society website notes that the most often seen cultivar is called 'Green Egret,' which received a 91 point First Class Certificate in 1999. It also notes that plants can form sizeable clumps over time and tall pots should be used to accommodate the tubers.

Orchids in the genus *Bonatea* from southern Africa have escaped to the wild in Australia, where they are considered a weed because they compete with native Australian orchids.

**Red – *Dendrochilum wenzelii* – Véronique Perrot**

**Red – *Fredclarkara* After Dark 'SVO Black Pearl,' FCC/AOS – Karl Harden**

**White – *Maxillaria variabilis* – Danny Lentz & Dianne Morgan**

**White – *Phaiocalanthe* Kryptonite 'Parkside' – Véronique Perrot**