

MARCH EVENT

Monthly Meeting: 8 p.m. Monday, March 9, 2020

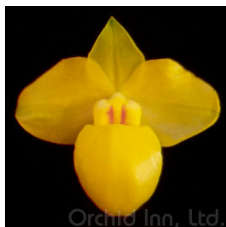
Note the **UNUSUAL LOCATION: Yaarab Shrine,**

400 Ponce de Leon Ave., Atlanta, GA 30308

Sam Tsui: The Brachypetalum and Parvisepalum

Paphiopedilums and Their Culture

Meet with the speaker over dinner at 6 p.m. at *Après Diem*, 931 Monroe Dr NE, Ste C103, Atlanta 30308 (next to Landmark Midtown movie theater)



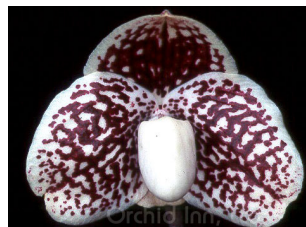
Paphiopedilum armeniacum



Paph. micranthum var. eburneum



Paph. niveum



Paph. leucochilum-CH



Paph. Ma-Belle (Paph. bellatulum x malipoense)

The Brachypetalum and Parvisepalum Paphiopedilums and Their Culture

Sam Tsui was born and raised in Hong Kong. He traveled to the United States at the age of 22. He attended Illinois State University graduating with a bachelor's degree in computer science and a minor in accounting. He has since completed his MBA. While still an undergraduate student, Sam was employed by Country Insurance and Financial Services based in Bloomington-Normal, Illinois, from which he retired in 2008. Sam is now concentrating full time on his orchid growing business. Sam met Jeanie Ting, also from Hong Kong, while studying at the university, and they were married in 1983.

He began growing orchids in the early 1980's. After trying many types of orchids, he became a serious *Paphiopedilum* grower in 1985. In 1990, he began hybridizing with *Paphiopedilums* and continues that work today. As he became more involved with *Paphiopedilums*, he

started selling commercially in 1995 as the Orchid Inn. He grew orchids in his basement and greenhouses attached to his house. As the business grew, in 2004 he purchased six acres of property and built his first commercial 6,000 square foot greenhouse. Currently he makes over 300 crosses, produces 4,000 to 5,000 flasks or approximately 100,000 seedlings annually.

Hybridizing is Sam's passion. He emphasizes *Paphiopedilum* species, Brachypetalum, Parvisepalum and Multifloral hybrids. He only selects the best, most vigorous parent plants in his collection for breeding and hybridizing. He continues to improve his breeding stock by selecting plants or flasks from his fellow orchid growers that he believes are outstanding examples of their type.

As a result of Sam's breeding program, his orchids have been honored

with approximately three hundred and eighteen awards (as of July, 2019) from the American Orchid Society, Cymbidium Society of America and European Orchid Congress. His most prestigious awards from American Orchid Society include Seventeen First Class Certificate (FCC/AOS) awards; six Cultural awards including an 93 points Certificate of Cultural Excellence (CCE/AOS) award; and seven breeder Award of Quality (AQ/AOS) awards. Two of our recent *Paphiopedilum rothschildianum* sibling crosses have been awarded with two GM/DOG and also the Grand Champion at the Dresden International Orchid Show in Germany both in March 2017. Our *Paphiopedilum charlesworthii fma. album* has been awarded GM/DOG in January, 2018.

Sam will talk about the brachypetalum and parvisepalum *Paphiopedilums* and their culture. Sam will introduce the natural habitats of the species in these two groups and also some of their hybrids. Then he will talk about their culture, and will answer questions from the audience.

Sam will be selling plants, and he is giving a 10% discount on pre-orders made through Wednesday, March 4. His web site is www.orchidinnusa.com.

Save the Dates!

The Atlanta Orchid Society will hold its **yearly auction** on **Saturday, 18 April.**

The Atlanta Orchid Society will hold its **show** on the weekend of **Saturday, 26 September.**

Watch this space for more details!

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The Atlanta Orchid Society Bulletin

Volume 61: Number 3 – March 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 February 10, 2020, Meeting of the Atlanta Orchid Society

The February 10, 2020, meeting of the Atlanta Orchid Society was called to order by Helen Blythe-Hart, President, at 8 p.m. There were two guests introduced. The meeting minutes for January were approved by the members present.

David Mellard discussed the upcoming flower show at the ABG which was held February 21st-23rd. Danny Lentz an-

nounced the speaker, George Guenther, who gave a talk about growing in indoors titled: "Miniature Jungles in Your Living Room: Wardian Cases, Wine Coolers, & More for Indoor Orchid Growing." After the talk, George answered member questions about growing in such environments. A ribbon judging was held, and the meeting was adjourned.

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Announcements, Notes, Classified...

From Ron McHatton, American Orchid Society Chief Education and Science Officer

The rates for the American Orchid Society membership increased in January to \$79/\$153 for one and two year regular memberships, and \$54/\$103 for one and two year student memberships. Membership now includes access to OrchidPro, the replacement to OrchidsPlus. OrchidPro will eventually be the digital access to all sorts of orchid information, not just awarded orchids

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New Members

Welcome to new members Anthony Kameen, Suzanne Loomis and Rickman Ryals, from Atlanta; Terry Arnholt from Blue Ridge.

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Orchid Market Weekends at the ABG

In connection with the Orchid Daze exhibit (Feb. 1 – April 12), the Atlanta Botanical Gardens organizes an orchid marketplace, where there will be plants for sale, as well as a wide variety of potting supplies.

The market will be held on the first weekends of March (Mar. 7 – 8) and April (Apr. 4 – 5).

EVENTS CALENDAR

March

9 – Atlanta Orchid Society Monthly Meeting: Sam Tsui on brachipetalum and parvisepalum Paphiopedilums. Check the location on front page.

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

27-29 – Savannah Orchid Show, Savannah, GA. Contact Jenni Tucker, tuckerbrodie@msn.com

April

4 - 5 – Asheville Orchid Show, wncos.org

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

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

18 – Atlanta Orchid Society Auction, location TBA

May

9 – American Orchid Society monthly judging

11 – Atlanta Orchid Society Monthly Meeting

August

10 – Atlanta Orchid Society Monthly Meeting: Mark Reinke, probably on Cymbidiums

September

14 – Atlanta Orchid Society Monthly Meeting: Dave Sorokowsky (Paph Paradise) on Paphiopedilums

25-27 – Atlanta Orchid Society Show

October

12 – Atlanta Orchid Society Monthly Meeting: Peter T. Lin (Diamond Orchids)



Phragmipedium Jason Fischer 'Janet's Patience', AM/AOS, 80 pts

Many of you will remember James Roberts, who recently moved to California after getting married. He received his first AOS award recently and writes this about it:

"It is the first time I've ever brought anything to an AOS judging. I bought it as a one inch seedling from ebay in Feb 2018 and grew it in my living room, and this is its first flowering.

I took it to the Pacific South Judging Center at Long Beach (Peter Lin and Brandon Tam were there). The cross is *Phragmipedium* Jason Fischer (Dick Clements 'Rocket Flash' x besseae 'Cow Hollow II')."

With over 100 awards to *Phrag.* Jason Fischer, you must have an amazing flower to get another award to this grex. Still, this hybrid has all the right stuff: a vibrant intense color and excellent form. *Phrag.* Jason Fischer has more First Class Certificates (FCC) than any other hybrid. Its FCC count is only beaten by *Paphiopedilum rothschildianum*, a species. Plants can bloom 1 to 2 years from flask and can be up to 2 feet wide once established. The cross was registered in 1996 and the first award was in December 1997. Awards are still readily being given to *Phrag.* Jason Fischer, with two in 2018 and six in 2017. Most awards now are likely to be triploid and tetraploid because the extra DNA tends to give larger, more intensely colored flowers—traits that go a long way in getting awards. Kudos to James for not only getting his first AOS award, but for getting it with such a beautiful flower. James also lives within driving distance of Andy's Orchids and several other well-known orchid vendors, so we suspect he'll be getting more awards.

Atlanta Orchid Society Monthly Ribbon Winners March 2020

Notes by Mark Reinke; Photos by Danny Lentz

Class I – Cattleya Group



Blue – Laelianthe Meadow Gold – Darrell Demeritt

This classic orchid was registered in 1965 and was the first of just ten named hybrids from amateur grower Isao Takemoto of Honolulu, Hawaii. It is a cross between *Laelia anceps* and *Guarianthe aurantiaca* (which was called *Cattleya aurantiaca* at the time), and most of the plants in existence now are divisions from the original two or three named varieties that resulted out of the cross. In many cases the clonal name has been lost from the tag, and some plants have been awarded a second time under a different name. This form, which is clear yellow with distinct purple lines in the throat is more likely than not, the 'Kirch' variety, which has received four different cultural awards over the years, including a plant we had awarded at the South Carolina Orchid Show in 2015 with 114 open flowers. There is also a form called 'Karen' with orange flowers overlaid with lavender that is fairly common.

Orchidwiz contains a photo of a plant owned by a grower in South Africa, which looks to me to be more likely a cross between *Laelia aurea* and *Lnt. Meadow Gold* or *Gur. aurantiaca*, with deep color, wider, rounded tipped segments and a distinct dark purple throat. Genetically, I see no way to achieve that dark throat and orange color without having *L. aurea* in the mix.

This is a rewarding orchid to own, with vigorous growth and easy culture, but will most likely be found as a division obtained from a friend or up for bid at an orchid auction, since I do not believe it has ever been mericlone. Bright light and perfect drainage, with regular water during the growing season and somewhat less in winter will achieve beautiful results in just a few years.

Red – Cattlianthe Blazing Sun – Jon Crate

White – Cattlianthe Fairyland – Larry Kikkert

Class II – Cymbidium Group

No entries

Class III – Dendrobium Group

Species



Blue – Dendrobium thyrsiflorum – Darrell Demeritt

This showy species from the mountains of Southeast Asia can have many hundreds of flowers when grown into a mature specimen. The AOS has given cultural awards to over a dozen plants, with four of those plants displaying one thousand to nearly two thousand open flowers! Probably many more equally spectacular plants never made it to a judged event since the flowers last only about a week. Despite this drawback, and the fact that plants can be up to two feet tall, many growers find the annual show worth the wait. Each growth, with a slender pseudobulb and several leathery leaves near the top, can produce inflorescences annually for several years, and well grown plants will add new growth from multiple points around the plant, given even newly acquired plants "mini specimen" status in just a few years.

This orchid prefers bright, but diffused light and copious watering during



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the growing season from May to October. Less water, plus nights in the 50's or lower, or a 30 degree swing between day and night temperatures are necessary to achieve profuse flowering, similar to the culture of *Den. nobile* and its hybrids. I do not recommend total dryness in winter as that leads to unsightly plants with fewer leaves. Photos of this species in flower in the wild show that it is almost always growing on tree limbs heavily encased in mosses and other epiphytes, which suggest while rainfall may be very low in winter, there is frequent dew or fog available for moisture.

While not an easy orchid to find in commerce, I did notice that Orchids by Hausermann currently has it on their list, and R.F. Orchids has a lovely hybrid between it and *Den. densiflorum* called *Den. Dream Cascade*. There are several other wonderful hybrids between this species and other members of the Callista Section that are worth keeping an eye out for. If you find one but don't want to buy it for yourself, call me immediately!

Red – *Dendrobium amethystoglossum* – Larry Kikkert

White – *Dendrobium spectabile* – Jon Crate

White – *Dendrobium spectabile forma aureum* – Nicholas Rust



White – *Dendrobium moniliforme* 'Tenshoukou' – George Guenther

The judges had a bounty of wonderful *Dendrobium* species and hybrids to select from at the February meeting, which I'm sure made selecting the winners difficult. This plant received a white ribbon, but is



the "type" species for the genus, and revered in Japan, so I wanted to highlight its charms and contribution to hybrids even though it didn't take a blue.

George has beautifully displayed this plant in a traditional Japanese manner, mounted on a dome of sphagnum moss gracefully sitting atop a slender, glazed oriental style container. This is how the most prized examples of this species are grown and displayed in that country. This particular named form is unusual for having a deep purple patch inside the lip, contrasting with the bright white overall color. Other sought after examples are pink, yellow, or forms with distinct variegated foliage. Like *Vanda falcata*, another Japanese native orchid, the most desirable cultivars can sell for astoundingly high prices.

First described in 1799, *Den. moniliforme* is the "type" species for the genus. Japan and Korea represent the northern limits of the range of this rather tough little plant, where it grows in lower elevations, often on rocks near the sea in very exposed locations. Further south, where it occurs in subtropical Taiwan and neighboring islands, it may range as high as 9,000 feet above sea level. Plants can withstand temperatures into the mid-20's F for brief periods, or perhaps even lower. Tony Avent of Plant Delights

has kept a plant of *Den. moniliforme* alive for a number of years growing on a tree at his nursery in Raleigh, NC.

While a small plant, and rarely totally covered in flowers, this species, when crossed to typical *Den. nobile* hybrids, results in plants that are easier to flower without a distinct winter rest, and are more compact in stature. They are often capable of producing a scattering of blooms at other times of the year following a mass flowering in winter or spring. The small stature of our red ribbon winner in this group, *Den. Spring Bird*, is a result of having about one third *Den. moniliforme* in its ancestry.

Hybrids



Blue – *Dendrobium Royal Wings* – Bailey Santwire

Dendrobium Royal Wings is a second generation hybrid in the breeding program of Latouria section of the genus pioneered by Roy Tokunaga of H&R Nurseries on Oahu in Hawaii. The name is a play on the parents, which are *Den. Roy Tokunaga* and *Den. Silver Wings*. Each is a primary cross between *Den. johnsoniae* and another species in the section. The most recently awarded example of this cross, 'Windy Hill's White Wings' received both an 85 point Award of Merit and an 83 point Certificate of Cultural Merit with 55 open flowers and 34 additional buds when exhibited at the Springfield Orchid Society Show (Missouri) in

March of last year. The natural spread of the flowers was just a hair shy of four inches.

Because *Den. johnsoniae* comes from very bright locations, I have found that this hybrid needs higher light levels than most other *Latouria* types to flower well. It would probably do spectacularly under LED lights. Warm temperatures are preferred and plants should be grown in a quick draining medium but must have regular, fairly frequent water with slight drying in between.

Red – *Dendrobium* Spring Bird ‘Kurashiki,’
AM/AOS – **Darrell Demeritt**

White – *Dendrobium* Yellow Song ‘Canary’ –
Darrell Demeritt

Class IV – Epidendrum Group

Red – *Epidendrum centradenium* – **Bailey Santwire**

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Class V – Oncidium Group



Blue – *Trichopilia suavis* – **Véronique Perrot**

There are more than 40 species in the genus *Trichopilia*, scattered from Central America in the north to Brazil in the south. In most cases, the overall flower form is similar to this example and rather unlike most members of the sub-tribe Oncidiinae in which they are placed. *Tr. suavis* is one of the showiest species, with its large funnel shaped white frilly lip generously marked with rose pink, and graced with a delightful fragrance. It comes from Costa Rica, Panamá and Colombia, where it grows several thousand feet above sea level on moss covered trees. Most of the cultural awards for this species were given to plants exhibited at shows in that region, and a couple of those were for plants with more than 100 open flowers. What an amazing sight they must have been!

So far, I have not personally done well with this beautiful species, so I applaud Véronique for growing this example with seven beautiful flowers. The climate data from its natural habitat would suggest mild to cool temperatures are preferred, but Carter & Holmes Orchids in Newberry, SC, not far from sweltering Columbia, has been growing it well and offering plants in bloom for sale at the South Carolina Orchid Show for the past few years. Baker’s notes say: “These plants have a reputation for being very easy to grow, even by novice growers.” Perhaps I should attempt it for myself again. The climate in its natural habitat is very rainy, except during the flowering season in winter, so plants should be kept rather moist most of the year, but in a media that can drain well. Light levels should

be moderate or filtered. This might be a good species to try under lights.

Red – *Schunkeara* Big Shot ‘Hilo Sparkle’ –
Jon Crate

White – *Brassia euodes* – **David Mellard**

Class VI – Slipper Alliance



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

This interesting example of complex breeding takes perhaps the quintessential “Bulldog” type, *Paph.* Winston Churchill back to the species *Paph. farrieanum*. Because of the exceptionally round and full shape of the former, the typically distinct characteristics of that species are barely noticeable in the result. In fact the flower is a near identical, but smaller copy of *Paph.* Winston Churchill ‘Indomitable,’ one of the cultivars that received a First Class Certificate in 1973.

After having fallen out of favor with American growers for a couple decades, larger flowered complex *Paphiopedilum* hybrids are definitely back, and improvements in those in shades of yellow have been the focus of several recent breeding programs. Those, such as this example, with large spotted dorsal sepals and rich chestnut to burgundy colors already achieved their zenith more than half a century ago, so new crosses being made often have at least one parent that has been around for decades.

The family tree of all of these large,

impressive flowers that look as though they have been lacquered traces back to five or six species from Southeast Asia, that grow several thousand feet above sea level, and often on limestone or dolomitic cliffs and ledges. While each has its own beauty, they are all less full and more delicate plants. An intensive breeding and selection program over decades of time has transformed their look.

Diffused but bright light is preferred by hybrids such as these, with plenty of regular watering, though perhaps a bit less in winter. They can easily tolerate cooler nights in winter, even as low as the 40's and will survive light freezes, though since Danny and Dianne are growing their plants indoors under lights, the drop in temperature may not be needed to initiate flowering. Regular repotting every couple of years into new media is beneficial.

Red – *Paphiopedilum barbatum* variety *nigrum* – **David Mellard**

White – *Paphiopedilum* Puna Moon – **Helen Blythe-Hart**

Class VII - Phalaenopsis Group



Blue – *Phalaenopsis* Taida King's Caroline 'Little Zebra,' AM/AOS – **Jon Crate**

This cute little multifloral *Phalaenopsis* has at least 14 different species in its family tree. About a quarter of that is *Phal. equestris*, which is enough to scale the flowers down and encourage much branching of the flower spikes. In 2017 a plant of this orchid was exhibited in Pennsylvania with 51 open flowers and an additional 134 buds on eleven inflorescences. The plant had six keikis spiking along with the main plant! There are at least four variations of the clonal name 'Little Zebra' in the award records, but I have a strong suspicion they are all the same meri-clone since they look exactly alike.

With so many species in the background, culture for this orchid should be

rather straightforward with a preference for filtered light, warmth, and slight drying in between regular watering.

Red – *Phalaenopsis lobbii* – **David Mellard**

White – *Phalaenopsis* Tying Shin Smart 'Pelo Adolina,' HCC/AOS – **Jon Crate**

Class VIII - Vandaceous Group



Blue – *Vandachostylis* Lou Sneary 'Bluebird' – **Danny Lentz & Dianne Morgan**

The number of different months in which *Van.* Lou Sneary 'Bluebird' has received a ribbon attests to the very extended bloom season of this particular form of the cross. It can flower in several flushes from late summer into winter. This is not the case with all forms of *Van.* Lou Sneary. I have a cultivar named 'Pinkie' which I got from R.F. Orchids about 25 years ago that usually only flowers once per year, in late summer, but can have many inflorescences when it does. I have written about this orchid so many times that there isn't much more to say. You can refer back to either the August or November, 2018 newsletters for more detailed information.

Red – *Vanda miniata* – **Darrell Demeritt**



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Class IX – Miscellaneous



Blue – *Ludisia* Lightning – Danny Lentz & Dianne Morgan

This is the only registered hybrid in the genus and is listed as a cross between *Lus. dawsoniana* and *Lus. bicolor* var. *ordiana*. However, Kew considered both parents as forms of the same species, *Ludisia bicolor*. Its natural habitat is widespread through damp forests in the mountains of Southeast Asia, so it is natural that variations occur throughout the range.

This is an orchid that many people grow well, treating it more like a foliage plant in care. Last year a plant exhibited

in Jamaica received a 90 point CCE with 176 inflorescences and well over 3,000 flowers and buds. Given the exuberant award description it is remarkable the plant didn't score even higher. Perhaps they were leaving room for a specimen that had to be delivered in the back of a truck!

Any little piece of rhizome from this orchid will readily root. Plants prefer filtered light and regular watering. Some growers even sit the plants in a shallow saucer of water during the growing season with good results.

Red – *Zygolum* Louisendorf grex – Jon Crate

White – *Cranichis muscosa* – Danny Lentz & Dianne Morgan

White – *Bulbophyllum* Jo Davis – Nicholas Rust

White – *Restrepiella ophiocephala* – Bailey Santwire

