



MAY EVENT

Monthly Meeting: 8 p.m. Monday, May 9, 2022

In person in Day Hall at the Atlanta Botanical Garden!

Nicholas Rust on Jewel Orchids

see details below

Bring your blooming plants for our monthly ribbon judging

Nicholas Rust on Jewel Orchids

Nicholas Rust is an up-and-coming hybridizer in the orchid community, seriously growing and studying orchids for about 7 years. His orchid passion arose during the end of high school when a mini *Phalaenopsis* was gifted to him. Like a flame to gasoline, this gift quickly pulled him into the diverse world of orchids. Shortly after his interests were formed, he began exploring the culture of several unique genera of terrestrial orchids. He

now specializes in *Habenaria* and other related genera, jewel orchids, and *Bulbophyllum*. In 2019, this obsession bloomed into a small orchid nursery, RustyExotics Orchids, which he uses to share the wonders and beauty of his work.

Through studying biochemistry and molecular biology throughout college, Nicholas approached his orchids with the same scientific perspective he used while working in a research lab. This led

to an interest in the entire growth cycle of orchids, and the start of his own hybridization program which also focuses on terrestrial orchids, especially *Habenaria*. His aim is to use rarely cultivated species and distinct variations of species to create truly exceptional shapes and colors that will pave new directions for unique hybrids.

Nicholas will speak about jewel orchids

Judges' Corner

The Atlanta Judging Center met on April 9, 2022, in the Garden Workroom at the Atlanta Botanical Garden. Nine plants were evaluated and 3 plants received AOS Awards. All photography by Charles Wilson.

Rlc. Adelain 'Chasus,' AM/AOS 85 points (*C. Floralia's Triumph* x *Rlc. Jack Stalker*). Exhibitor: Charles and Susan Wilson

Vanchoanthe (Vct.) Memoria Holland Tan 'Lissabug,' AM/AOS 82 points (*Vandacostylis Ocean Storm* x *Papilionanthe Mimi Palmer*). Exhibitor: Melissa Garner

Vanda Loxahatchee Firecracker 'Lissabug,' AM/AOS 87 points (*V. Piyafly* x *V. Thonglor (1971)*) Exhibitor: Melissa Garner

Congratulations to the recipients of these awards.

The Atlanta Judging Center depends on financial donations from its member societies. These funds are utilized for operational expenses of the Judging Center to cover monthly rent at the Botanical Gardens. Please consider a donation to the center when you are formu-



Rlc. Adelain 'Chasus' AM/AOS



Vct. Memoria Holland Tan 'Lissabug' AM/AOS

lating your yearly budget. As you know, the Center provides ribbon judging as a courtesy for your show and also American Orchid Society judging. A grateful thank you to those societies that have already donated to the Center this year.

We meet the second Saturday of each month in the Garden workroom of the Atlanta Botanical Garden, with education at noon and judging commencing around 1:30 p.m.

Doug Hartong
Chair, Atlanta Judging Center



V. Loxahatchee Firecracker 'Lissabug' AM/AOS

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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](#).

May Growing Notes

I just noticed that it is almost time to repot the Phalaenopsis. Most of them will be finished blooming soon. Last month I briefly mentioned Phals, but there are more details to consider. At this time of the year, they usually have more new roots, which makes it a great time to repot. They will reestablish easier.

A major question is what medium to repot the plants in? Usually, if a plant is doing well and you don't have problems keeping it watered with good roots, you can stay with the same type of mix. Remember that plants in New Zealand sphagnum moss must be repotted every year, as the moss deteriorates. With larger pots, it is better to switch to a bark mix or a combination of moss and bark. The reason for this is that larger pots of sphagnum hold more moisture which could cause the roots to rot. Plants in bark mix don't have to be repotted every year. It is helpful to add aliflor or sponge rock to keep the mix open.

Frequently, we ask if we should cut the old flower stem or leave it. If it dies back by itself, cut it off to where it has died back. Whether it will rebloom depends on the plant's parents. Therefore, if the stem stays green and the plant looks healthy, leave it. But if the leaves or roots don't look well, cut the stem back and give the plant a chance to recuperate.

May presents another dilemma: finding a safe place outside for your orchids. By safe, I am referring to protecting your plants from the damage that wind, sun, and rain as well as wildlife can wreak on them.

Wildlife: I spoke to a friend who has had experience with this particular issue. Her solution has been to hang her orchids in the trees.

Wind: place plants in a heavier pot to anchor them.

Sun: plants may do best when exposed to early morning light. Avoid bright mid-day sun or harsh west sun. If plants have been in medium light you need to introduce them to brighter light gradually. You can provide extra shade with some "clothesline" and a piece of screen from the hardware store or the ever popular Japanese maple.

Rain: you have to be weather wise as droughts can sneak up on you when you get busy, and the thermometers can rise without much notice. Just as those thunderstorms come in, and it rains daily. Those plants will be begging for shelter.

Keeping your orchids outside in the summer isn't as carefree as we would wish, but when done right, your plants will thank you with growth and blooms.

B. Barnett

EVENTS CALENDAR

May

- 9 – Atlanta Orchid Society Monthly Meeting: Nick Rust on Jewel Orchids
- 13-15 – Tamiami Orchid Festival
- 14 – AOS monthly judging

June

- 4 – AtIOS Potluck and Auction
- 11 – AOS monthly judging
- 13 – Atlanta Orchid Society Monthly Meeting

Atlanta Orchid Society Monthly Meeting Ribbon Winners for May, 2022

Notes by Mark Reinke; photos by Danny Lentz



Cattleya schilleriana



Cattleya walkeriana forma coerulea
'Manhattan Blue'

Cattleya Alliance

Blue – *Cattleya schilleriana* – Jon Crate & Fi Alonso

This compact growing bifoliate species is rather rare in its natural habitat in Espirito Santo, a state in southeast Brazil just to the north of Rio de Janeiro. There it exploits niche climates near springs and waterfalls on cliff faces, where the extra humidity helps carry it through the intervals between somewhat sparse rainfall. There may be as many as five wide spreading flowers on an inflorescence, with the best forms reaching a span of about four inches. They are somewhat fragrant, but not nearly so as the somewhat similar looking species, *C. aelandiae*, found in the neighboring state of Bahia to the north. First described in 1857, *C. schilleriana* has been used extensively in hybridization with well over 2500 registered descendants to date, but still widely grown for its own merits. 2021 was a banner year for awards for this species, with seven individual Awards of Merit being given out. Four of those went to Ben Oliveros on the Big Island of Hawaii, who used to be a member of the Atlanta Orchid Society.

**Red – *Cattleya walkeriana forma coerulea*
'Manhattan Blue' – Carson Barnes**

White – *Cattleya G.S. Ball* – Barbara Barnett



Cattleya G.S. Ball



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*Dendrobium aphyllum*

Dendrobium Alliance

Blue – *Dendrobium aphyllum* – Véronique Perrot

Anyone who has been growing orchids for many years remembers this species as *Den. pierardii*, which despite not being the first name it was given, is the one that stuck in the trade. The species name currently recognized was applied as early as 1795 and means “leafless.” This is obviously in reference to the winter rest and bloom period in which the slender stems are indeed often totally bare. Véronique has given her plant slightly more gentle treatment, and the flowering growths have retained some leaves near their apex. It is normally recommended to give this species a pronounced cool and dry rest to induce flowering. By contrast, from spring to fall the plants should never be allowed to dry out in order to achieve the best growth for the next bloom period. Mature plants can have pendant stems that reach six feet in length, and there are awards for quite a few examples that had more than one thousand flowers open at once. The native habitat is throughout the mountainous regions of Southeast Asia, where the monsoon weather pattern is quite pronounced. For someone trying a *Dendrobium* like this one from that part of the

*Dendrobium trantuanii*

world for the first time, it is important to restrain from fertilizing the plant once the season’s new growths have reached their apex. Otherwise, you will have few blooms and lots of keikis in their place.

Red – *Dendrobium trantuanii* – Véronique Perrot

White – *Dendrobium lichenastrum* – Véronique Perrot

*Dendrobium lichenastrum*

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*Encyclia profusa*

Epidendrum Alliance

Blue – *Encyclia profusa* – Véronique Perrot

This attractive species has very little written about it except that it is found in Colombia and is warm to hot growing. Presumably, the habitat is in the lower elevations of that country. The slightly fragrant flowers are pale green with a white lip delicately dressed in fine purple lines and as the name implies, are found in great numbers on fully mature plants. The awarded examples averaged 89 flowers per branched inflorescence, or panicle. There are a handful of registered hybrids using this species, but none that have been widely available. Based on my personal experience, I would recommend growing this species above 60°F year-round. Plants that I have grown and flowered always slowly declined over time despite my best efforts, so presumably the cool temperature profile in my greenhouse for six months of the year did not suit them.

Oncidium Alliance

Blue – *Tolumnia* “Pretty n’ Pink” – Danny Lentz & Dianne Morgan

Red – *Trichocentrum ascendens* – Barbara Barnett

Since I have written about *Tolumnia* a number of times in the past, I decided to focus on this interesting species, which although widespread in habitat, is not often seen in collections. It is an orchid mainly of lower elevations from Mexico through Central America and the eastern lowlands of Bolivia and possibly Colombia. The most distinguishing characteristic of *Trt. ascendens* is the slender terete leaves that are usually pendant and can

*Tolumnia* “Pretty n’Pink”

be up to 30 inches long. The inflorescence arises from the base of a recently matured growth and can occasionally carry as many as 70 small flowers. Barbara’s plant has especially good markings on the segments, offering nice contrast to the solid yellow lip. This species performs best when grown mounted, with plenty of water in the summer months and lighter amounts with occasional misting in the cooler months. I once observed this species in the wild on the Yucatan peninsula growing in a lightly shaded forest just a hundred yards away from the beach on a tract of undeveloped land beside a popular all-inclusive resort of the Mayan Riviera.

*Trichocentrum ascendens*



Paphiopedilum delenatii (blue ribbon)



Paphiopedilum haynaldianum



Paphiopedilum exul 'Exalted One'



Paphiopedilum delenatii (white ribbon)

Red – *Paphiopedilum haynaldianum* – Barbara Barnett

White – *Paphiopedilum delenatii* – Danny Lentz & Dianne Morgan

White – *Paphiopedilum exul* 'Exalted One' – Carson Barnes

Slipper Alliance

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

Both this and the white ribbon winners for species are the darker form of the species usually noted in the awards as *Paph. delenatii* forma *vinicolor*, but often commonly seen listed also as *var. dunkle* which is the word for “dark” in German. Originally discovered almost a century ago in the northern part of Vietnam, the species has more recently been located also in the mountains of the southern part of that country, typically growing in rather acidic conditions. The habitat indicates that plants like to dry somewhat between waterings most of the year but should be kept more moist in autumn when rainfall is plentiful. *Paph. delenatii* is both much awarded and extensively used in hybridization.



Paphiopedilum Julius

Hybrids

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

Danny and Dianne showed off two very striking multifloral hybrids this month, both with the foundation of *Paph. rothschildianum* to give them size and a wide spreading presentation. *Paph. Julius* was originally registered by Sanders of St. Albans in 1914 and is a cross between that species and *Paph. lowii*. As might be expected, it has received buckets full of awards in the intervening century, with the average size of the four to five flowers being just over eight and three quarters inches in spread. However, looking at the color pattern of this example closely, I wonder if it might actually be *Paph. Houghtoniae*, which is *Paph. rothschildianum* x *haynaldianum*. The reason for my thinking on this is that there are spots on the dorsal sepal and the vertical stripes are especially wide and pronounced. There are many images of *Paph. Julius* available to look at and none of them have the spots on the dorsal sepal, a characteristic that helps distinguish *Paph. haynaldianum* from *Paph. lowii*. By contrast, all the available images I can find for *Paph. Houghtoniae* do have those spots as well as the more boldly presented stripes.

Red – *Paphiopedilum Saint Low* – Danny Lentz & Dianne Morgan

Danny and Dianne's red ribbon winner is a 1984 registration originally done in Australia that takes *Paph. Saint Swithun* (*rothschildianum* x *philippinense*) and crosses it with *Paph. lowii*. The net re-



Paphiopedilum Saint Low

sult is somewhat similar to *Paph.* Julius, except for the somewhat smaller size and the gentle twist to the petals due to the influence of *Paph. philippinense*. Both of these crosses prefer medium light and generally warm temperatures with regular watering throughout the year. If the previous plant is actually *Paph.* Houghtoniane, it will have more tolerance for cooler temperatures in winter due to the influence of *Paph. haynaldianum*.



Phalaenopsis Hybrid No ID (red ribbon)



Phalaenopsis Hybrid No ID (white ribbon)



Phalaenopsis Joy Auckland Beauty 'Lover'

Phalaenopsis

Blue – *Phalaenopsis* Joy Auckland Beauty 'Lover' – Jon Crate & Fi Alonso

This boldly patterned *Phalaenopsis* originated with Joseph Wu Orchids of Taiwan, but was registered by Joseph Scully of Sarasota, Florida after receiving an Award of Merit on the Palmeadows form in March of 2003 at the judging center in Tampa. Most of Mr. Wu's crosses begin with the word "Joy" and "Auckland Beauty" simply borrows a portion of the name from each parent. The mesmerizing pattern of the blooms is impressive and a great combination of the characteristics of *Phal. gigantea* and *Phal. lueddemanniana* which together make up nearly two thirds of the genetic background, with the remaining third being shared by an additional eight species. The use of *Phal. gigantea* to create new colors and patterns has been a breeding trend in recent years. In just the last three, more than 65 new crosses using that species as one parent have been registered. It comes from Borneo and is a very shady, warm grower that prefers a high humidity, but is very prone to rot if kept too wet. It is important to make sure the foliage is dry quickly after each watering.



Phalaenopsis Tyin Shin Smart 'Pelo Adelina' HCC/AOS

Red – *Phalaenopsis* Hybrid No ID – Danny Lentz & Dianne Morgan

White – *Phalaenopsis* Hybrid No ID – Norrie

White – *Phalaenopsis* Tying Shin Smart 'Pelo Adelina,' HCC/AOS – Jon Crate & Fi Alonso

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*Vanda Kasem's Delight x Wilas*

Vandaceous Alliance

Red – *Vanda Kasem's Delight x Wilas* – Vinh Nguyen

The color of this orchid is exactly what you would expect by crossing the purple to violet *V. Kasem's Delight* with the salmon orange *V. Wilas*. The latter parent is one half *V. curvifolia*, formerly an *Ascocentrum*, making me guess the attempt of the cross was to bring down the plant size and bring up the flower count. The presence of that species will also add tolerance of lower light levels and cooler temperatures than the traditional larger flowered hybrids such as the *V. Kasem's Delight* prefer due to the influence of *V. sanderiana* on which they are largely based. At shows and street markets I receive lots of inquiries for *Vanda* hybrids by novice growers who are attracted to their flowers and growth habit. Few seem to understand that at this latitude, they require more attention than other orchids even if you have a greenhouse or controlled growing environment, with at least daily watering of their free hanging roots and adequate humidity. Trying to grow them inside the house on a windowsill is even that more challenging and only rarely successful.

*Tainia cordifolia*

Miscellaneous

Blue – *Tainia cordifolia* – Nicholas Rust

Nicholas always has something unusual and likely never before seen to show us and this orchid is no exception. *Tainia cordifolia* is a terrestrial species from the forests of Taiwan, and possibly also China and Vietnam. The genus has about 35 known species scattered around Asia from India to China south to Indonesia. Several are showy enough that you would expect to see them in cultivation. The species name of this one is in reference to the single heart shaped leaf with each growth. The inflorescences arise directly from the rhizome to about 10 inches in height and can carry 6 to 8 flowers, each a bit over 1.5 inches in spread. There are a couple of flower quality awards for this orchid, listed under the name *Mischobulbum cordifolium*, which is the name you will most commonly see if you happen to find one in commerce. That description was made in 1911, but Kew recognizes the plant under the name we used in the entry listing, which was applied years earlier in 1889. You might need to inquire with Nicholas about sources as I can't find any listings of plants for sale.

*Sarcoglottis portillae**Bifrenaria harrisonianae* 'Putley's Pink'

Red – *Sarcoglottis portillae* – David Mellard

Red – *Bifrenaria harrisonianae* 'Putley's Pink' – Carson Barnes