

MARCH EVENT

Monthly Meeting: 8 p.m. Monday, March 13, 2023 Nicholas Rust on Habeneria

Day Hall at the ABG, and in simulcast by Zoom

Bring your blooming plants for our monthly ribbon judging

Nicholas Rust on *Habenaria*: A Basic Overview of the Breeding Traits of Species



Nicholas is an up-and-coming hybridizer in the orchid community. His orchid passion began in 2015 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, Australian terrestrial 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.

Nicholas studied biochemistry and molecular biology throughout college. He approaches his orchids with the same scientific perspective he uses 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 in 2018, focusing mostly 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 have a list of seedlings available for sale; he'll deliver the plants once they get a little bigger.



Habaneria Arbor Vitae 'REO' AM/AOS

For our Monthly Meetings...

We are putting together the list of speakers for our monthly meetings.

Do you have any suggestions for speakers? Are there specific topics you would like to learn that you would like to learn more about?

> Contact Firelli Alonso (<u>FiAlonso@outlook.com</u> or 914-391-1849).



Habaneria (medioflexa x (rhodochiela x militaris))

South Metro Atlanta Orchid Society Auction

South Metro OS is hosting an auction on April 15, starting at noon, at 135 South Mt. Carmel Road, McDonough, GA 30253 (404-630-5624). Contact Mikie Emerson (<u>mikieem-</u> <u>erson@yahoo.com</u>) or Mary Cawthon (<u>mmcawthon@bellsouth.net</u>) for more details.



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The Atlanta Orchid Society Bulletin

Volume 64: Number 3 - March 2023 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 Geogia.

Ecuagenera turns 30 this year!

Ecuagenera will celebrate its 30 year anniversary this year. There will be a great exhibition of orchids and exotic plants in June, as well as organized tours in Ecuador. If you are interested, go to docs.google.com/forms/d/e/ 1FAIpQLSft-KZGd84KGEW_70aZeKObiv7CWVg6lePyTsMZFM4YL6dmUg/ viewform for more information.



Welcome to New Members!

Welcome to people who joined us in February: Victoria Schaefer (Dahlonega) Annelies Carl (Decatur) Suzzane Loomis Edison Gu (Atlanta) Loy X (Atlanta) Mayra Villar-Buzo

EVENTS CALENDAR

March

11 – AOS monthly judging 13 - Atlanta Orchid Society Monthly Meeting (Day Hall): Nick Rust on Habanerias

April

8 - AOS monthly judging

10 - Atlanta Orchid Society Monthly Meeting (Day Hall): Ron Kaufmann on **AOS orchid conservation program**

15 – South Metro Orchid Society Auction (see front page for details)

.

May

8 - Atlanta Orchid Society Monthly Meeting (Mershon Hall): Charles Wilson on growing Bulbophyllums

13 – AOS monthly judging

June

10 – AOS monthly judging 12 – Atlanta Orchid Society Monthly Meeting

July

10 – AOS monthly judging 12 – Atlanta Orchid Society Monthly Meeting (Day Hall): ABG tour & ice cream social

March 2023

Judges' Corner

The Atlanta Judging Center met on February 11, 2023 at the Atlanta Botancial Garden for monthly judging. Thirteen plants were evaluated for awards and one plant received an AOS award:

Cattleya Bob Betts 'Glorie,' AM/AOS 80 points. (*C*. Bow Bells x *C. mossiae*) Exhibitor: Firelli Alonso and Jon Crate.

Congratulations to the Exhibitors!

Doug Hartong Chair, Atlanta Judging Center

The Atlanta Judging Center judged the Gulf Coast Orchid Society in Gautier, Mississippi, on February 4, 2023. Twenty-seven plants were pulled for award evaluation and 8 plants received AOS Awards. The Gulf Coast Orchid Society received both the AOS Show trophy and a Silver Certificate. Both awards received 86 points. All photograpy by Chad Besse. The following are AOS awards:

2023-2051 *Laeliocattleya* Santa Barbara Sunset 'Showtime,' AM/AOS 83 points. (*L.* anceps x *Lc.* Ancibarina). Exhibitor: Andy Braun.

2023-2052 *Cymbidium* Flirtation 'MBF,' CCM/AOS 87 points. (*Cym.* Zebra x *Cym.* floribundum). Exhibitor: Richard Crespin.

2023-2053 *Dendrobium* QF Mauka 'Cynthia Oetker's Thrill,' AM/AOS 80 points. (*Den.* Kaila Quintal x *Den. polyse-ma*). Exhibitor: Cynthia Oetker.

2023-2056 *Rhyncholaeliocattleya*. Montana Spirit 'Big Sky,' HCC/AOS 78 points. (*Rlc*. William Farrell x *C. loddigesii*). Exhibitor: Jim Georgusis.



Dendrobium QF Mauka 'Cynthia Oetker's Thrill' AM/AOS

2023-2057 *Dendrobium pentapterum* 'Forest's Rex Silvarum,' AM/AOS 81 points. Exhibitor Randy Bayer.

2023-2058 *Cymbidium* Gene Siskel 'Mount Airy', AM/AOS 82 points. (*Cym*. Doctor Baker x *Cym*. Ruby Eyes). Exhibitor: Andy Braun.



Rhyncholaeliocattleya Montana Spirit 'Big Sky' HCC/AOS



Laeliocattleya Santa Barbara Sunset 'Showtime' AM/AOS



Cymbidium Flirtation 'MBF' CCM/AOS



Dendrobium pentapterum 'Forest's Rex Silvar-um' AM/AOS



Cymbidium Gene Siskel 'Mount Airy' AM/AOS

2023-2059 *Paphiopedilum* Barry Cole 'Tony Vaz', AM/AOS 81 points. (*Paph*. Duguesclin x *Paph*. Magical Contrasts). Exhibitor: JoAnn Vaz.



Educational exhibit EE/AOS

2023-2060 *Rhyncholaeliocattleya*. Richard Rempel 'Dawn,' AM/AOS 80 points. (*Rlc*. Winner's Circle x *Rlc*. Oconee Circle). Exhibitor: Joe Paine 2023-2061 Educational Exhibit EEC/ AOS 84 points. Exhibitor: Gayle Green Aguirre

Congratulations to the Exhibitors! Doug Hartong, Chair, Atlanta Judging Center



Paphiopedilum Barry Cole 'Tony Vaz' AM/AOS



Rhyncholaeliocattleya Richard Rempel 'Dawn' AM/AOS



Gulf Coast Orchid Society exhibit, AOS Show Trophy and Silver Certificate

Atlanta Orchid Society Monthly Meeting Ribbon Winners for February, 2023

Notes by Mark Reinke; photos by Danny Lentz



Cattleya lueddemanniana

Class 1: Cattleya Alliance

Species

Blue: Cattleya lueddemanniana - Carson Barnes

If you were at the January meeting this year, you heard me describe C. lueddemanniana as one of my favorite species in the genus and this lovely example illustrates beautifully why I like it so much. A quite compact grower, it delivers large, intensely fragrant blooms with full shape and wonderful color. This one is a good dark example of the typical lavender form, but there is also an even richer color type known as forma rubra, as well as coerulea, alba, and semi-alba forms. In the typical form, the lip pattern, with yellow throat forming "eyes" on the front interior of the side lobes and a splattered pattern of purple on the main lobe radiating out from lines of the same shade in the throat creates an uniquely attractive ensemble that identifies it even from a distance. In almost all cases, the petals are nice and broad with crinkled and puckered edges. C. luddemanniana is native to Venezuela and grows on the lower portions of north facing slopes in the mountain ranges along the Caribbean coast west of Caracas as well as in scrubby hills a bit further west from there. It



Cattleya trianae

flourishes in warm and bright conditions and with good care is capable of making a showy specimen. While there aren't heavy amounts of rain in any month in its natural environment, and the winter months are especially dry, high humidity leads to almost nightly dew and mist which the large roots soak up readily. For best health, use large, open media on mature plants and allow it to dry totally between each good watering. This species is in the background of well over 15,000 registered hybrids. While February is the peak bloom season, various plants flower later in the spring and almost to the beginning of summer.

Red: Cattleya trianae – Jon Crate & Fi Alonso

Cattleya trianae is another important species that I don't want to miss the opportunity to discuss and contrast with *C. lueddemanniana*. It has a more limited bloom season usually confined to February and March. It comes from the upper Magdelana River valley in Colombia, in rather dry and scrubby areas similar to the habitat of the previous species, but a couple of thousand feet higher in elevation. The Magdelana River separates the eastern and western branches of the Andes Mountains in Colombia and flows northward nearly 1000 miles to empty



Cattleya maxima

into the Caribbean Sea at Barranquilla. The culture of C. trianae is similar to C. lueddemanniana except that it prefers a cooler temperature range, with record high temperatures in its natural habitat rarely reaching 90F. There are many exceptionally fine forms, with large, very full shaped medium lavender flowers that were wild collected in the past, especially in the Tolima department, southwest of Bogotá. These forms have become a major foundation of our modern large-flowered hybrids with nearly 25,000 registered crosses descending from them. This example with a streak of darker purple along the midrib of the petals is usually referred to as forma flammea. There are also several very famous pure white examples as well as coerulea, semi-alba and rubra forms. Most C. trianae are somewhat larger growing plants than C. lueddemanniana.

White: Cattleya maxima - Carson Barnes



Cattleya Orglade's Grand 'Tian Mu' AM/AOS

Hybrids

Blue: Cattleya Orglade's Grand 'Tian Mu,' AM/AOS - Carson Barnes

This absolutely stunning large semi-alba Cattleya was introduced by Jones & Scully in 1986 and is the offspring of two equally famous parents with the same color pattern, C. Mildred Rives and C. Persepolis. C. trianae, described previously, plays a significant role in in its genetics, introduced multiple times in the six generations of breeding leading to this result. The other most important parent is listed as C. mossiae, but was more likely, at least in some of the generations, C. Gravesiana 'Snow Queen,' FCC/RHS, a wild collected natural hybrid between C. mossiae and C. lueddemanniana that is tetraploid and has nearly perfect form. The semi-alba color pattern is created by a dominant gene found in rare mutations of many of the wild species. The gene blocks the expression of color in the sepals and petals. As a result, when making crosses between

a semi-alba and a regular lavender Cattleya, nearly all the offspring are semi-alba. When both parents exhibit this trait, the outcome is all but assured. There are a total of nine species in the background of *C*. Orglade's Grand, and all but one are large flowered types. Mature plants with such an ancestry should be grown in the largest media size available and given prefect drainage so that they root system can dry off between each watering. Typically, somewhat less water is applied in the winter months when days are short and cooler.

Red: Cattleya Bob Betts 'Glorie,' AM/AOS – Fi Alonso & Jon Crate

Red: Cattlianthe Blazing Sun 'NN,' HCC/ AOS – Jon Crate & Fi Alonso

White: *Rhyncolaelia* Aristrocrat – Danny Lentz & Dianne Morgan



Cattleya Bob Betts 'Glorie' AM/AOS



Cattleya Blazing Sun 'NN' HCC/AOS



Rhyncolaelia Aristocrat

Cymbidium Street of Gold

Class 2: Cymbidium Alliance

Blue - Cymbidium Street of Gold - Jon Crate & Fi Alonso

Cymbidium Street of Gold was the creation of Bob Harris on the Big Island of Hawaii where he runs a nursery specializing in this genus called Orchidpeople of Hawaii. The name, rather than indicating flower color is a combination of the parents, Cym. Golden Elf x Cym. Street Hawk. The former parent is a famous "miniature" cross using the very warm tolerant Cym. ensifolium, while the latter parent is primarily a mix of large-flowered standard types, with one grandparent being the compact growing Cym. floribundum. The end result is still a robust plant, but not quite the size of the traditional standard types and far more capable of tolerating our hot, humid summers than that group. Given the parentage, it is possible this plant can flower at other times of the year as well. I have a sister seedling from the same cross, Cym. Street of Gold 'Mana,' which exhibits this trait. It produced blooms in the late summer to fall of last year and is now spiking again. For optimal results, remember that most Cymbidium have large, aggressive root systems and grow where they can find moisture and nutrients year round. Hybrids such as this one flourish with abundant watering and feeding and if grown in a deep pot with somewhat open media, can sit in a small amount of water throughout the growing season.

Dendrobium Super Ise

Class 3: Dendrobium Alliance

Blue: Dendrobium Super Ise – Vinh Nguyen

Dendrobium Super Ise is a 1996 introduction by H&R Nurseries of Oahu, Hawaii and pairs Den. Super Star with Den. Ise. The former is a typical Den. nobile based hybrid while the latter combines two more delicate species, Den. monoliforme and Den. stricklandianum. The addition of those two species has the effect of making a more free flowering plant that doesn't need the traditional strict rest period of the Nobile types to flower well. The seedlings produced a range of color patterns and intensities, mostly in shades of lavender with either a green, yellow or dark purple throat. The exhibited plant is one with a more intense shade of lavender, giving it a striking appearance. The forest of new growths developing around the base of the plant are a harbinger of an even greater abundance of flowers in the future. Just recently at my local orchid show, sponsored by the Blue Ridge Orchid Society of South Carolina, one of the members displayed a plant of Den. Super Ise that I had sold them some years ago as a seedling. Now it is about 36 inches across with flowering stems spreading out in all directions and well over 200 open blooms. If you come across a plant for sale or trade nowadays I would recommend snatching it up and giving this showy type of Dendrobium a try. Give it copious water during the warmer months when it is actively growing, along with regular feeding, but stop feeding and reduce watering somewhat once all the new growths have matured.

Red: Dendrobium Oriental Smile 'Butterfly,' AM/AOS – Fred Pippin

White: Dendrobium tanii - Bailey Santwire



Dendrobium Oriental Smile 'Butterfly' AM/AOS





Dendrobium tanii



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 <u>www.</u> <u>orchiddigest.com</u> to join online.



Epidendrum Pacific Prince

Class 4: Epidendrum Alliance

Blue: *Epidendrum* Pacific Prince – Jon Crate & Fi Alonso

The Pacific series of reed-stemmed Epidendrum hybrids originate with Cal-Orchid, Inc. in Santa Barbara, CA. Like most of them, Epi. Pacific Prince is a remix over multiple generations of four wild species, two that are orange and two that are lavender. Despite the fact that the lavender species only account for about 28% of the genetics in this cross, their color dominates. The non-resupinate (lip upwards) habit of three of the species involved also dominates. Cal-Orchid has worked for a number of years to produce somewhat more compact growing plants, with fuller flowers than their almost weedy ancestors. Still, these plants can grow up to 36" tall with successive flowering inflorescences another twelve or more inches above that. Given bright light and good drainage, they are fairly easy to grow and flower and can been seen for sale to novice growers in well-stocked garden centers. While Cal-Orchid, Inc. has registered new crosses in a wide range of genera, nearly all of their introductions in more recent years have been this group of Epidendrum hybrids, which are easily grown outdoors year round in Southern California.



 $Epidendrum\ centropetalum$



Enanthleya Jackie Bright

Red: *Epidendrum centropetalum* – Bailey Santwire

White: *Enanthleya* Jackie Bright – Lizette De la Cruz



Oncidium cheitophorum

Class 5: Oncidium Alliance

Blue: Oncidium cheirophorum – Véronique Perrot

The bright yellow Oncidium cheirophorum is a miniature species native to rainy mountain forests from Nicaragua to Colombia, usually at several thousand feet above sea level. While the foliage is rarely even 6 inches tall, a well grown plant can produce many inflorescences with hundreds of flowers at once, primarily in the cooler months from October to February, but occasionally at other times as well. It is one parent in the famous and widely grown Oncidium Twinkle. Interestingly, when the yellow flowers of this species are matched with the lavender-pink flowers of the other parent in that cross, Onc. sotoanum, the colors tend to cancel each other out and most offspring are white, while just a small percentage of the seedlings will produce pale yellow or pink flowers. The flowers are considered fragrant, but to my nose have a rather medicinal scent. While in active growth, this species needs plenty of water, but should just dry in between. In the cooler months plants can stay dry for a day or two longer. In a controlled environment with higher humidity, Onc. cheirophorum will do well mounted to cork or another long lasting material, but will need daily watering in warm weather. It is likely to do poorly in our hot summer temperatures so is best for indoor culture or a controlled greenhouse environment.



Leomesezia Lava Burst

Red: Leomesezia Lava Burst - Fred Pippin



Paphiopedilum delenatii



Paphiopedilum haynaldianum

Class 6: Slipper Alliance

Paphiopedilum

Blue: Paphiopedilum haynaldianum - Danny Lentz & Dianne Morgan

I have written more than once about this showy multifloral species from the Philippines. It is superficially very similar in appearance to Paph. lowii from Borneo and Indonesia, but the telltale difference is that it has spots at the base of the dorsal sepal while the other species does not. The flowers are about six inches across open in succession on an inflorescence that can reach up to 30 inches in height. Most often, all the flowers open before the first to open begins to fade, but that sweet period may be brief when there are the maximum 6 or 7. The natural habitat ranges from sea level to nearly 5000 feet above, making this one of the most adaptable of the multifloral types. Watering should be especially frequent June through September, but should be reduced somewhat the balance of the year. In winter, plants should dry for a day or two between each watering.

Red: *Paphiopedilum delenatii* – Danny Lentz & Dianne Morgan

White: *Paphiopedilum* Deperle – Danny Lentz & Dianne Morgan

White: Paphiopedilum sukhakulii x mohrianum

Paphiopedilum Deperle



Paphiopedilum sukhakulii x mohrianum

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Phragmipedium Eric Young

Phragmipedium

Blue: *Phragmipedium* Eric Young – Danny Lentz & Dianne Morgan

Phragmipedium Eric Young was registered in 1991, and it, along with three other crosses introduced that year, were the first hybrids made with the recently discovered Phrag. besseae. This pastel-shaded example was likely made with the more recently described Phrag. besseae forma flavum. This was the first of many hybrids in this genus registered by the Eric Young Orchid Foundation on the island of Jersey in the English Channel. However, that firm has worked in a wide range of orchid genera and since 1984 has registered more than 2100 new hybrids. Phrag. Eric Young is now in the ancestry of more than 250 newer registrations and has racked up at least 45 awards. It, like all Phragmipedium, likes to grow rather wet and should never fully dry out. They prefer medium light and mild to warm, but not hot temperatures, doing especially well indoors under lights.

Red: *Phragmipedium x richteri –* Carson Barnes

White: *Phragmipedium* Cardinale – Carson Barnes

Phragmipedium x richteri



Phragmipedium Cardinale

March 2023



Phalaenopsis schilleriana

Class 7: Phalaenopsis

Blue: *Phalaenopsis schilleriana* – Fi Alonso & Jon Crate

The basis for more than 30,000 registered hybrids, Phal. schilleriana hails from the Philippines and is beautiful in its own right and fairly easily grown, so remains popular today. The entry form indicated that this example is a cross between a form native to Mindoro Island and another native to San Ramon Island. However, there does not appear to be an island of the latter name in The Phillippines, only several municipalities with that epithet, so it isn't clear what the specific locale of the second parent was. In addition to having many attractive flowers on branched inflorescences, this species is fragrant and bears handsome foliage with silver variegation above and purple below. There are many awarded examples with several hundred flowers open at once. In its native habitat, summers are rainy and winters are quite dry, but with frequent dew and fog due to high humidity, so plants should be kept rather moist in the warmer months and then watered less, but not allowed to stay totally dry for long periods in the cooler season. The cooler weather also helps stimulate good flowering and plants grown in even temperatures yearround will flower less or not at all.



Phalaenopsis Little Gem Stripes



Phalaenopsis hybrid

Red: *Phalaenopsis* Little Gem Stripes - Jon Crate & Fi Alonso

White: *Phalaenopsis* hybrid – Steve Schwab



Vanda tricolor variety suavis 'Bali Bottlerocket' AM/AOS

Class 8: Vandaceous Alliance

Species

Blue: *Vanda tricolor variety suavis* 'Bali Bottlerocket,' AM/AOS – Carson Barnes

Carson Barnes has two different awarded examples of V. tricolor v. suavis and we have seen both of them at monthly meetings over the past decade, both virtual and in person, multiple times. Obviously he knows what this species likes and have been consistently meeting its cultural requirements over many years, allowing him repeated enjoyment of the strikingly colored, fragrant and long lasting flowers. The species is native to the islands of Java and Bali in Indonesia, and has apparently become naturalized in parts of Australia and the Philippines. The color is somewhat variable with darker and lighter individuals noted throughout its range. The "suavis" variety is distinguished by having somewhat narrower but longer sepals and petals and showing a decidedly downward turn of the midlobe of the lip. Carson's

awarded plants have a fuller form than typical examples, but do definitely display the telltale lip formation. This species needs bright light to do well and is often seen growing in trees on the borders of tea plantations where it is quite exposed. However, the summer months are quite rainy so the cloud cover reduces the light intensity somewhat. While the roots must always dry quickly afterwards, water should be applied in abundance from mid-spring to late fall, then administered more sparingly December through March.

Red: Angraecum eburneum - Carson Barnes

White: Angraecum sesquipedale variety angustifolium – Fred Pippin



Angraecum eburnum



Angraecum sesquipedale variety angustifolium





Vanda Blaupunkt

first name listed would be the seed parent, so start there, and if no result comes up, try the other parent just to make sure. The RHS is the only source for officially registered orchid hybrids, having started the list with the earliest man created orchid hybrids about 170 years ago.

Red: *Vanda* Blaupunkt – Jon Crate & Fi Alonso

Vanda Teacher's Fantastic

Hybrids

Blue: Vanda Teacher's Fantastic – Fred Pippin

Last month, Fred Pippin received ribbons on two examples of V. Kulwadee Fragrance and I mentioned in my notes that about 60 new registered hybrids descend from it. Fred's tag listed the parents of the cross, V. Kulwadee Fragrance x Bitz's Heartthrob, but as of 2017 that combination was registered by a grower in Thailand with the above name. It is not at all uncommon that plants of a new cross become widely distributed before they are registered. If you want to check to see if a plant you have in your collection is now a registered hybrid you can go to the grex name search at the Royal Horticultural Society website: apps.rhs. org.uk/horticulturaldatabase/orchidregister/orchidregister.asp. Normally, the



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Lysudamuloa Red Jewel

Class 9: Miscellaneous

Blue: *Lysudamuloa* Red Jewel – Bailey Santwire

Originally registered as Angulocaste Red Jewel, the current accepted name reflects the fact that one ancestor was reassigned from Lycaste to Sudamerlycaste along with all the other similar species native to South America. Those native to Mexico and Central America were retained in the original genus. Lysudamuloa = Lycaste + Sudamerlycaste + Anguloa, but in the case of this hybrid, the last two genera account for less than 10% of the total ancestry, and for all intents and purposes you should treat this orchid as a Lycaste hybrid. While the flower size and bright color can be attributed in large part to the somewhat difficult Lyc. virginalis, three other more forgiving species in the family tree help to make this one a bit easier to grow and flower in our climate. While actively growing, it

should receive plentiful water with minimal drying in between, but once growths have matured, water should be less frequent with drying in between to aid in good flower production. When applying water, avoid the foliage which becomes spotty and unsightly if allowed to stay wet overnight.

Red: Ludisia discolor variety nigrescens – Danny Lentz & Dianne Morgan

Red: *Phaiocalanthe* Kryptonite 'Parkside' – Fred Pippin

White: Coelogyne mossiae 'Mendenhall' -Danny Lentz & Dianne Morgan



Ludisia discolor variety nigrescens



Phaiocalanthe Kryptonite 'Parkside'



Coelogyne mossiae 'Mendenhall'