Atlanta Orchid Society
Bulletin
September 2023

SEPTEMBER EVENT

Monthly Meeting: Monday, September 11, 2023.

Day Hall, at the Atlanta Botanical Garden

Gather at 7 p.m, program starts at 7:30 p.m.

David Edgley on Novelty Phalaenopsis

Members can bring plants to sell

Bring your blooming plants for our monthly ribbon judging

David Edgley: "Enjoying Novelty Phalaenopsis"

David has been growing Phalaenopsis for decades, introduced to them as a teenager living on a Navy base in the Philippines. A hobby grower, David has been active in local societies and shows, spreading the good news about Phalaenopsis. In his small and rather crowded (10'x12') greenhouse in the Pacific Northwest in the small tourist town of La Conner, Washington, David grows hundreds of orchids, primarily Phalaenopsis. In addition, David has made a few of his own crosses. Over the years, he has killed his fair share and hopefully learned most of what not to do. Having tried nearly every possible potting media (except shredded newspaper) and fertilizer fad, David has learned some hard but valuable lessons over the years. Some of David's favorite Phalaenopsis are Harlequins, multi-floras, reds, oranges, yellows and, of course, novelty hybrids. Favorite species include *Phal. schilleriana*, *equestris*, and *bellina*. He is an accredited American Orchid Society judge, former AOS trustee, and treasurer of the International Phalaenopsis Alliance (IPA).

Novelty Phalaenopsis have experienced a huge surge in popularity over the past few years. What are they and why are they so popular? Why aren't they for sale in the big box stores like all the other Phalaenopsis? Novelty Phalaenopsis bear little resemblance to the "no tag - no name" plants that are everywhere. They are more of a hobbyist, breeder, or collector plant. They have wonderful colors, patterns, and fragrances. Many have beautiful round glossy leaves that beautifully frame the flowers on fairly short inflorescences. Find out what Dragon Tree Eagle is and why it matters. And if you want blue or indigo flowers that aren't dyed, it will be a novelty Phalaenopsis!

The Atlanta Orchid Society Bulletin
Volume 64: Number 9 – September 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.

AtlOS Board Business: Nominating Committee

It's this time of year again: we need to put together the nominating committee, who will be in charge of assembling the slate of officers and trustees for which we will vote in October.

As per our bylaws, the nominating committee consists of five members of the Society: (1) a chair, not a current member of the Board of Trustees, appointed by the President, (2) the chair of the previous year's Nominating Committee, (3) **one member of the current Board of Trustees, selected by written ballot of the Society membership at its September meeting,** and (4) two members of the Society at large selected by the Board of Trustees.

Ballots will be distributed at the September meeting so that members in attendance may vote for one member of the current Board of Trustees to be included on the nominating committee.

The slate will be published in the November newsletter and will be voted on at our meeting on November 13.

EVENTS CALENDAR

September

1–3 – Atlanta Orchid Society Orchid Show at the Atlanta Botanical Garden

2 – AOS monthly judging. Note the unusual date

11 – Atlanta Orchid Society Monthly Meeting: David Edgley (accredited AOS judge) on novelty Phalaenopsis

15–17 – Alabama Orchid Society Show in Birmingham, AL.

24 – AtlOS Board Meeting. Contact Fi Alonso (FiAlonso@outlook.com) if interested in attending

October

7 – AOS monthly judging

9 – Atlanta Orchid Society Monthly Meeting: Manny Aybar (accredited AOS judge) on Orchids of the Dominican Republic

November

11 – AOS monthly judging

13 – Atlanta Orchid Society Monthly Meeting: Ron McHatton (accredited AOS judge), title TBA

Judges' Corner

The Atlanta Judging Center met on August 12, 2023, and considered 11 plants for AOS awards. One plant received an AOS award:

Phalaenopsis equestris 'KS-4N-1', AM/AOS 81 points. Exhibitor: Kimberly Munroe

Congratulations to the exhibitor!

Doug Hartong
Chair, Atlanta Judging Center

Phalaenopsis equestris 'KS-4N-1' AM/AOS

Atlanta Orchid Society Monthly Meeting Ribbon Winners for August, 2023

Notes by Mark Reinke; photos by Danny Lentz & Jon Crate

Brassocattleya Spotted Clown

Brassavola nodosa

Class 1: Cattleya Alliance

Blue: *Brassocattleya* Spotted Clown – Firelli Alonso & Jon Crate

I mentioned before that, while this recent batch of the cross between *Brassavola nodosa* and *Cattleya* Lulu produced plants that are floriferous and vigorous, they don't obtain the colors and patterns that originally inspired the name of the grex when registered 20 years ago. That fact can be illustrated by comparing these flowers to the first awarded plant of the original batch, the 'Arbec' clone, which received an Award of Merit of 82 points in July 2002. "Four stately flowers beautifully presented on one inflorescence; sepals and petals ivory green with maroon spots and venation concentrated toward edges and apices; lip white with maroon spots coalesced to lines radiating centrally from throat to lower edges, with additional spots along margin; substance firm; texture of sepals and petals waxy, lip matte and crystalline; commended for presentation and noteworthy substance." In the more recent batch the colors, if any besides white, are very light and any patterns they make are barely discernable, though the flowers themselves are coming out with a good substance and a flat presentation. The difference is that the more recent batch used a tetraploid *B. nodosa*, which with its double set of chromosomes seems to swamp out the colors that might exist in the other parent. In theory, using tetraploid parents is supposed to improve the outcome, and for the most part that has proven true in the breeding of the large-flowered art shade Cattleyas over the past few decades. But this is obviously not the case with tetraploid versions of *B. nodosa,* so I hope the hybridizers will take note of the results and go back to using diploid forms when they breed with it in the future so that we may have more colorful outcomes again.

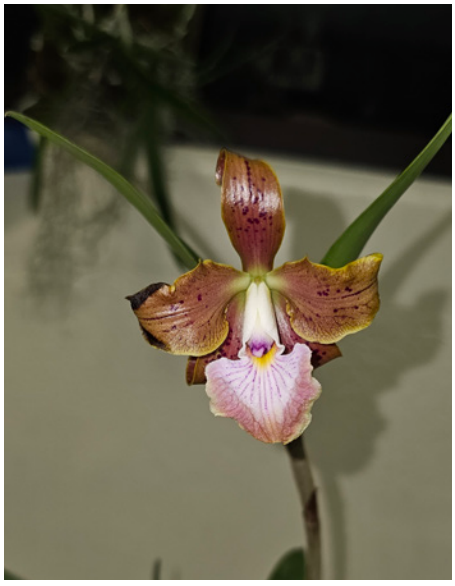
Blue: *Brassovola nodosa* – Fred Pippin

This species has a fairly large area of distribution on both sides of Mexico, through Central America and into both Colombia and Venezuela, possibly Guyana and beyond, always growing at fairly low elevations. We have a plant we collected as a small seedling from a mangrove swamp just behind Puerto Adventuras on the Caribbean coast of Mexico at least 25 years ago. It is now a large plant but lacks the floriferousness of some of the commercially available plants. This species does best in a basket or on a mount as we see with Fred's plant. This is the best way to maintain it in good condition over many years. If a pot must be used, select the largest possible media, and always allow the roots to dry completely before watering again. While the terete foliage indicates it likes bright light, I have seen massive colonies on shaded limbs of large old trees in the Yucatan that were covered with flowers, so it should be easily adaptable to growing under lights or on a reasonably bright windowsill. The reputation of this species is such that even people only casually acquainted with orchids have heard of the wonderful scent that can waft far from a plant in bloom, but only after dark when the "Lady of the Night Orchid" is advertising for pollinating moths.

Rhynchovola David Sander

Red: *Rhynchovola* David Sander – Firelli Alonso & Jon Crate

This cross between *Rhyncolaelia digbyana* and *Brassavola cucullata* was registered by Sanders of St. Albans in 1938. See my detailed description of that firm under *Paph*. Clair de Lune 'Edgar van Belle.'



Cattleya velutina

White: *Cattleya velutina* – Carson Barnes

White: *Cattleya* Laurietz Seda Ramirez – Firelli Alonso & Jon Crate

Class 2: Cymbidium Alliance

No Entries

Cattleya Laurietz Seda Ramirez

Dendrobium hekouense

Class 3: Dendrobium Alliance

Blue: *Dendrobium hekouense* – Véronique Perrot

This is a rare miniature species from southern China (named after the autonomous county of Hekou in southern Yunnan Province) and northern Vietnam that was not botanically described until 2011. It has been propagated and commercially available for a few years now, but this example has the most flowers I have seen on any plant so far, matching pretty closely with the 'J&L' clone which received an 82-point Certificate of Cultural Merit last year with 14 flowers and one bud. It seems Véronique's Kool-Log method of growing it has worked very well, and since I believe her plants are summered outdoors, apparently compensates for the fact that this species is described as cool growing. In the wild it is found in limestone areas at about 4000

to 5000 feet above sea level and is often described as growing on the underside of tree limbs high up in the canopy. This adaptation presumably keeps water out of the flowers, which are comparatively large compared to the tiny pseudobulbs and sparse, deciduous leaves. The habitat has a rainy monsoon season from April through September when there is also frequent fog, followed by a dry season that lasts the balance of the year, when fog is rare. I have seen *Den. hekouense* on the lists of several Hawaiian wholesale growers but have been reluctant to purchase any due to its description as a cool grower. These growers are in areas that even in summer have lows in the 60s and highs in the low 80s. But Véronique's success shows it can flourish in our hot summer climate with proper attention.

Encyclia phoenicea

Class 4: Epidendrum Alliance

Blue: *Encyclia phoenicea* – Carson Barnes

Encyclia phoenicea is one of the showiest and most fragrant species in the genus and has been much used in hybridization, with more than 250 registered crosses that have it in their family tree. The flowers are clustered near the end of a long inflorescence that can be three feet or more in length. The sepals and petals have a green base color overlaid with dark purple giving them a chocolate brown color that can be solid or mottled depending on the distribution of the pigment. The broad skirt-like lip has a wavy margin and is white usually overlaid with light purple, with darker purple veins toward the center. The rich day fragrance is also very "chocolatey" with some vanilla overtones depending on the nose and the plant. The growth habit is fairly robust with ovoid pseudobulbs that carry two or occasionally three large leathery leaves that are somewhat folded at the base and the tip. The most successful hybrid made with *E. phoenicea* has been its pairing with *E. alata,* called *E.* Orchid Jungle, introduced in 1984 by Tom Fennell. It has received at least 34 awards and has been used in 44 next generation hybrids. This hybrid has the advantage of a branched inflorescence that can produce flowers along much of its length. The species itself comes from Cuba where it is known as the Flor de San Pedro and grows at low elevations on palms in in scrub vegetation and is described as requiring hot conditions. Apparently, it is adaptable to cooler temperatures in winter as I have had good success with it in my greenhouse environment hanging high. It grows best in a basket or pot with very open medium, under high bright conditions with regular watering and quick drying.

Red: *Epidendrum neoporpax* – Graham Wyatt

Epidendrum neoporpax

Psychopsis Mariposa 'Green Valley'

Paphiopedilum Clair de Lune 'Edgar van Belle' FCC/RHS AM/AOS

Class 5: Oncidium Alliance

Blue: *Psychopsis* Mariposa 'Green Valley,' AM/AOS – Fred Pippin

Psychopsis Mariposa has a fairly simple family tree. It is the cross between *Pyp. papilio* and *Pyp. krameriana*, called *Pyp.* Kalihi, taken back to *Pyp. papilio*. That species grows in dense humid forests a few thousand feet above sea level in Trinidad, Venezuela, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru, whereas *Pyp. krameriana* is found in lower elevations in Costa Rica, Panamá, Colombia and Ecuador. The cross itself was registered in 1972 by Rueben Sauleda and the name is the Spanish word for butterfly, in case you didn't know. Having been around for so long there are a couple of variations including "albino" ones that are pale yellow with faint markings and peloric ones that are truly odd looking. The 'Green Valley' form as the highest flower quality award given to any plant from the cross, with an 86-point Award of Merit from June 2014. Like other *Psychopsis*, it produces one flower at a time in succession at the tip of a wiry inflorescence that can be about 24 inches in length and bloom for months or even years. The flowers can approach four inches in width and 6 inches or more to the tip of the "antennae" on well grown plants. For reasons I have not been able to establish, I have never been able to grow *Psychopsis* well and they usually decline and die after a couple of years, yet I have seen absolutely spectacular plants grown under typical windowsill culture. It may be that the cool nights in my greenhouse environment in winter are not to their liking. The best plants I have seen are usually growing in very shallow pots with a quick draining medium in moderate light levels. Baker's notes indicate they do well mounted but would need frequent watering in hot weather.

Class 6: Slipper Alliance

Blue: *Paphiopedilulm* Clair de Lune 'Edgar van Belle,' FCC/RHS, AM/AOS – Carson Barnes

Paphiopedilum Clair de Lune 'Edgar van Belle' is a classic, that while nearly 100 years old, continues to be popular and available through division. It was registered by Sanders of St. Albans, England in 1927, but with unusual vigor and large flowers, still compares with the best "Maudiae" breeding of today. It received an 88-point Award of Merit from the American Orchid Society as recently as 1993. The original *Paph.* Maudiae was registered in 1900 as a primary hybrid between *Paph. callosum* and *Paph. lawrenceanum*. It was made using both the normal color forms of those species and the albinistic forms, and the latter type is the grandparent of *Paph.* Clair de Lune on both sides. Completing the family tree is one extra dose of *Paph. lawrenceanum album* and a dose of *Paph. curtisii* (syn. *superbiens*) *album*. What gives the 'Edgar van Belle' version such vigor and lasting power may simply be a quirk of genetics.

Heinrich Friedrich Conrad Sanders was born in Bremen, Germany in 1847

Phragmipedium Andean Dream

Paphiopedilum henryanum

Phalaenopsis bellina

and was involved in the importation of orchid plants to England in the 1860's. In 1881 he established his nursery on four acres of land near St. Albans, Hertfordshire, England, about 20 miles northwest of London. That firm continued long after his death in 1920, registered over 2000 new orchid hybrids, the last occurring in 1957. Their crosses spanned a wide variety of genera with hundreds of new introductions in *Cattleya*, *Cymbidium*, *Paphiopedilum* and Oncidinae. The number of additional offspring that descend from those crosses numbers in the tens of thousands and influences an enormous share of the orchid hybrids available today. As a footnote, whether the name of this orchid was inspired by the famous Claude Debussey piano piece, I could not ascertain. But thinking of it did inspire me to pull it up and listen once again to its haunting beauty, which has held up to the years easily as well as this orchid.

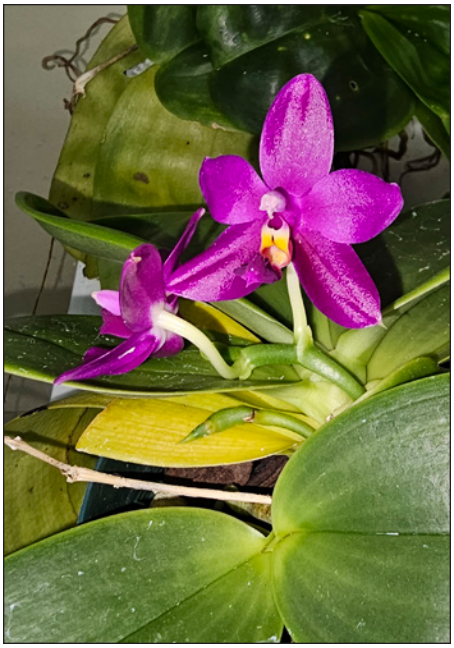
Red: *Phragmipedium* Andean Dream – Danny Lentz & Dianne Morgan

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

Class 7: Phalaenopsis

Blue: *Phalaenopsis bellina* – Danny Lentz & Dianne Morgan

Out of flower, *Phalaenopsis bellina* and *Phal. violacea* are virtually indistinguishable, and even in flower the size and shape of the blooms along with the blooming habits are the same. Since its botanical description as a separate species in 1995 it was accepted that *Phal. bellina* occurs in Borneo while *Phal. violacea* grows in Malaya, but recent studies have found that the two species grow in both locations with *Phal. violacea* also extending into Sumatra. The most common color form of *Phal. bellina* bears flowers that have white segments shading to green towards the tips with a magenta blotch at the base of the segments extending into the inner half of the lateral sepals. The column and the lip are also magenta, with contrasting yellow to almost orange side lobes that curl up and nearly touch each other. This well describes the flower we see in the exhibited plant. There are, however, plants with numerous variations in the color and pattern, and an alba form as well. Each short inflorescence produces several very fragrant flowers in succession but rarely are two open at the same time, but older plants can have several inflorescences which persist and



Phalaenopsis Luedde-violacea

Angraecum calceolus

flower in the summer blooming season for several years. This species and the related *Phal. violacea* prefer to grow in filtered light with year-round warmth, good humidity and regular watering.

Red: *Phalaenopsis* Luedde-violacea – Danny Lentz & Dianne Morgan

White: *Phalaenopsis violacea* – Danny Lentz & Dianne Morgan

Phalaenopsis violacea

Class 8: Vandaceous Alliance

Blue: *Angraecum calceolus* – Bailey Santwire

Out of the 200 plus species in the genus, *Angraecum calceolus* falls into the group for which I would use the term "connoisseur plants," grown as botanical curiosities more so than for a showy display. The greenish flowers are each less than an inch across and even the photo of the only plant to ever receive a Certificate of Cultural Merit with an estimated 200 flowers is somewhat underwhelming. That said, people grow orchids for many different reasons and there are collectors who receive deep satisfaction from cultivating botanicals with flowers much tinier than this "Little Shoe Angraecum." It has an unusually large area of distribution for the genus, occurring in many places in Madagascar, and also on the Comoros, Mascarene and Seychelle Islands, Réunion, Mauritius, and on the African mainland in Mozambique. It grows in forested areas with moderate rainfall from near sea level to 6000 feet above and therefore should be adaptable to growing in both cool and warm environments. Most of the areas where it grows have a 6-month rainy season in summer followed by less rainfall the balance of the year, but with enough humidity to produce dew and fog even in the dry season.

Red: *Vanda tessellata* – Bailey Santwire

Vanda tessellata

Habaneria medusa

Pleione maculata

Class 9: Miscellaneous

Blue: *Habenaria medusa* – Danny Lentz & Dianne Morgan

Kew accepts the spelling of this species from Sumatra and Java as I have it above, without the final "e" that is included on many plant tags. While described in 1892, this unusual terrestrial orchid wasn't seen in American collections until after the turn of this century but has managed to accumulate a constellation of cultural and flower quality awards in the last two decades. Well grown plants in cultivation are far more impressive than the species is described in the wild, with more, larger flowers and taller growth. The average spread of each flower on the awarded plants was over three inches, with more than 20 per inflorescence. A specimen awarded this time last year in Washington, DC had 17 inflorescences with 323 open flowers and 238 additional buds! Plants in the wild grow in warm to hot locations with a pronounced period of low rainfall from December to April, but not total dryness, so it is recommended that water be greatly reduced but not completely withheld during that period when the leafy parts of the plants die away leaving only underground tubers. The reason I failed to do well with this species in the past may be that I let the pots stay totally dry for long periods. Obviously, Danny and Dianne are administering the correct treatment of their plant which is putting on an impressive show. Therefore, if you acquire one yourself, I would ask them a few questions about their success.

Red: *Pleione maculata* – Danny Lentz & Dianne Morgan

White: *Catasetum* Dentrigrianum x Portagee Star – Jon Crate & Firelli Alonso

Catasetum Dentrigrianum x Portagee Star