



APRIL EVENT

Monthly Meeting: Monday, April 8, 2024

Day Hall, at the Atlanta Botanical Garden

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

Jim and Melana Davison: the Four Horsemen

The speakers will bring plants to sell

Bring your blooming plants for our monthly ribbon judging

Jim and Melana Davison: the Four Horsemen



Jim and Melana Davison are AOS Accredited Judges. They have an extensive and diverse orchid collection that seems to be continuously growing. Not only involved in caring for their orchids, they are actively involved in several South Florida orchid societies. Melana is the current President of the Orchid Society of Coral Gables and past President of the South Dade Amateur Orchid Club. Jim is the past President of the Orchid Society of Coral Gables and the East Everglades Orchid Society.

Jim's appreciation for orchids stems from his scientific background. Before his recent retirement, he worked as a Nuclear Chemistry Manager at the Turkey Point Nuclear Power Plant. Melana is more interested in the aesthetic qualities of orchids, especially the ones that look strange and other worldly. She owns her own Orchid Maintenance business and is

known as "The Orchidiva." They are currently preparing a new greenhouse and shade area and have opened their own retail nursery, Jim-N-I Orchids. Together, Jim and Melana have 7 grown children and five grandchildren. They live in Homestead with their 2 dogs, four of the five grandchildren and 5,000+ orchids in their own collection, with many more in the nursery.

They offer a wide variety of collectible species and hybrids, specializing in *L. anceps* and *C. walkeriana*.

The Four Horsemen presentation, Jim's favorite, will showcase the diversity and culture of four extraordinary Brazilian Cattleya species, *C. schilleriana*, *walkeriana*, *aclandiae*, and *nobilior*. Highly collectible and extensively used in modern breeding programs, come to the meeting and learn about these captivating species.

New Members!

The Atlanta Orchid Society is delighted to welcome new members that joined us at the show! We look forward to seeing you at the monthly meetings, if possible, in person!

Please welcome:

Anne Spengler
 Bruce & Sonia Thompson
 Mary Rauh-Ference
 Mark & June Martin
 Leslie Adams
 Anne Ludwig
 Garland Simon
 Svetlana (Lana) Thomas
 Holli Cortelyou
 Ken Chadwick
 Sarah Chisholm
 Cindy Pace

Lisa Sophy
 Eric Davis
 Jonathan Oden
 Natalia Hawthorn
 Reed Bearden
 Lynn Chen
 Deliah Provost-Boothe
 Mae Farhadi
 Summer & Forrest Davenport
 Julia Almeda
 Lyn Kirkland

President's Message

The swallows have returned to my area, which means that spring and the hot days of Georgia summer aren't too far off. While I am limiting my excessive exposure to the record levels of pollen, I try to make most of my excursions outside, planning the locations of each orchid for their growing seasons as well as cleaning and repotting orchids that call the greenhouse their permanent home. As I'm looking over my collection and creating divisions of those I want to share with others—and disposing of those that never quite made up for their rental space

Continued on p. 3

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The Atlanta Orchid Society Bulletin

Volume 65: Number 4 – April 2024

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](#).

AtIOS Board Business

Updates to the Bylaws: the Next Frontier

As per our bylaws, the updates to said bylaws were published in the March newsletter and were presented to the members at the March meeting. The updated bylaws will be voted on at this month's, April 8th, meeting. The revised bylaws would take effect if they are approved by a two-thirds majority of the membership present at the

April meeting, at which time the vote will be taken. A quorum must be present for the vote and, if approved, the revised bylaws would become effective at that time. Last month's newsletter's pages containing the revised bylaws will be attached to this newsletter for your reading pleasure.

Please come to the meeting and vote!



EVENTS CALENDAR

April

3–6 – AOS Spring Members' Meeting, (Apopka, FL)

5–7 – Apopka International Spring Orchid Festival (Apopka, FL)

8 – Atlanta Orchid Society Monthly Meeting: **Jim and Melana Davison**

12–14 – Western North Carolina Orchid Society Show (Asheville, NC)

13 – AOS monthly judging

26–28 – South Carolina Orchid Society Show (Columbia, SC)

May

10–12 – Triad Orchid Society Show (High Point, NC)

11 – AOS monthly judging

11–12 – Volusia County Orchid Society Show (DeLand, FL)

13 – Atlanta Orchid Society Monthly Meeting: **Manny Aybar on Greenhouses and Automation**

17–19 – Redland International Orchid Festival (Redland, FL)

17–19 – Memphis Orchid Society Show (Memphis, TN)

31–2 June – New Orleans Orchid Society Show (Metairie, LA)

June

1–2 Central Florida Orchid Society Show (Orlando, FL)

8 – AOS monthly judging

10 – Atlanta Orchid Society Monthly Meeting: **Ice Cream Social**

July

8 – Atlanta Orchid Society Monthly Meeting: **Ti Do (Florida Orchid House) on Soft Cane Dendrobium Cultivation**

13 – AOS monthly judging

Connoisseur’s Corner: The Catasetinae Subtribe

Commonly grown genera: *Catasetum*, *Clowesia*, *Cycnoches*, *Galeandra*, and *Mormodes*

Honorable mentions: *Catasetum tigrinum*, *Catasetum tenebrosum*, *Catasetum pileatum*, *Clowesia rosea*, *Cycnoches warscewiczii*, *Cycnoches cooperi*, *Galeandra baueri*, *Galeandra greenwoodiana*, *Mormodes ignea*, *Mormodes rolfeana*, and *Mormodes rosea*.

This fascinating group of orchids are notably known for their unique sexually dimorphic flowers on different inflorescences as well as rare cases of hermaphroditism or “perfect flowers.” *Catasetum* male flowers have mechanical triggers that shoot their pollen onto their pollinator or the unsuspecting child near.....

President’s Message

Continued from page 1

in my greenhouse—, making notes (or mental ones in my case) are important to keep your collection in top shape as we can dispose of those slackers and keep the proliferous ones. By now, we should be seeing the initiation of growths and buds that signal the need for more nutrients provided via time release fertilizers like Nutricote or water-soluble fertilizers like K-lite or MSU-RO.

There’s quite a few more shows coming up that are worthwhile to attend before the cessation that comes with summer as many orchids are focused on growing and growers lament at the lack of flowers to show. But with warmth, there’s plenty of hybrids and species that still provide a pop of color in our collections.

With sharing plant divisions comes with sharing knowledge. I strongly recommend talking with one another during our meetings or even outside of the meetings, as we all have our strengths and weaknesses. Hesitantly, I am not giving up on *Paphiopedilums* after getting some useful tips from HB from our panel discussion last month, so wish me luck! I’ll try my best in making them happier this year to put out more growths and hopefully flowers. If not, you’ll be seeing them on the auction or free plant table near you.

Happy growing as always, and may your orchids prosper!

Bailey Santwire
President
Atlanta Orchid Society

by and display a wide variety of shapes and colors, while the female flowers take on mostly green, hooded flowers. *Mormodes* introduces a variety of colors not often seen in Catasetinae such as the bright reds and oranges as well as spotting. *Clowesia* fills in the blooming circle by covering the winter and early spring while other Catasetinae are waking up, and are known for their “Lemon Pledge” scent. All of them are typically fragrant to attract the euglossine bees. The downside to these beauties is that their blooms seldom last longer than a week or so. The pros to having Catasetinae in your collection is that they’re quite floriferous and quite forgiving of conditions as long as certain rules are followed throughout the year. There has been emergence of more hybrids utilizing small parents to make them friendlier to windowsills for many more to enjoy! There’s always a Catasetinae that someone can grow.

Catasetinae are not picky about their media of choice as they can be grown in mounts or pots with soil or media mixes as long as they are able to drain well. They appreciate good airflow year-round to deter fungal issues. They typically like bright light ranging from the lower end of *Cattleya*-level lighting to full sun taking care to acclimate them slowly. Dormancy care occurs when the plants are leaf-

less usually during the late fall until early spring. The plants are kept dry to avoid rotting the roots and only watered when the bulbs shrivel excessively. When the emerging growth for the growing season emerges, restrain yourself from watering too soon. Repot before new growth emerges to avoid damaging new emerging roots that feed the plant during the growing season. Allow the new shoot to grow about 3–4 inches tall or until the leaves start to unfurl as this usually means the roots are already 4–6 inches long usually and water can be introduced in small amounts. At this stage, slowly increase your watering and fertilizer concentration as the growth develops until the growth completes its maturation and the bulb begins to fatten in preparation for dormancy. Reduce fertilizer once the bulbs have stopped developing further and signs of dormancy shows as the foliage changes from dark green to lighter shades. The leaves will gradually yellow from the tips to the bulb. This indicates the plant is entering dormancy; reduce watering to avoid rot. If the plants refuse to drop leaves into winter, stop watering altogether and forget about the plant for a few months.

Happy Growing!

Bailey Santwire



Catasetum Razzle-Dazzle ‘REO’s Purple Cow’ AM/CHM/AOS. Photo courtesy of Nick Rust



AtLOS exhibit after ribbon judging

Atlanta Orchid Society Show, 8–10 March 2024

The 62nd Atlanta Orchid Show, held from March 8–10 at ABG’s Day Hall, surpassed all expectations, drawing a remarkable crowd, especially in comparison to last year’s September show held over Labor Day weekend. The atmosphere was electric, pulsating with enthusiasm as numerous orchid vendors and societies displayed their most exquisite blooms, igniting a shared passion for these captivating flowers. Orchid enthu-

siasts, both seasoned and new, delighted in perusing the vibrant displays, eagerly adding to their growing collections. The Atlanta Orchid Society’s crowning achievement in securing the Show Trophy and an AOS Silver Certificate, with an impressive 85 points, stood as the pinnacle of the event. This triumph not only brought glory to the exhibit’s designers, Bailey Santwire and Edison Gu, but also filled our society’s exhibitors,



Visitors in Day Hall



Barbara Barnett and Doug Hartong at the AtLOS Membership table

volunteers, and members with pride. Adorned with a plethora of blue, red, and white ribbons, along with coveted “Best in Class” rosettes and trophies, our exhibit shimmered with prestige, leaving an indelible mark on all who attended. Truly, it was an unforgettable experience for everyone involved!

Firelli “Fi” Alonso
Show Co-Chair

Deep South Orchid Society Show, 21–24 March 2024

The Deep South Orchid Society celebrated its 36th Annual Orchid Show from March 22–24 at the Coastal Georgia Botanical Gardens in Savannah, GA. Once again, our Atlanta Orchid Society's exhibit was masterfully curated by Bailey Santwire and Edison Gu, featuring stunning orchids contributed by Carson Barnes, Jojo Stickney and Carl Quattlebaum, Nick Rust, Bailey Santwire, Edison Gu, and Firelli "Fi" Alonso and Jon Crate. The atmosphere crackled with excitement as orchid enthusiasts from far and wide converged to admire the dazzling displays showcased by numerous vendors and societies, reigniting their shared passion for these mesmerizing flowers. Despite our society's exhibit falling short of capturing the Show Trophy this time, it still gleamed with a profusion of blue, red, and white ribbons,



AtIOS exhibit after ribbon judging



Show Trophy-winning exhibit of Marble Branch Farms after ribbon judging

and a Best-in-Class rosette. The prestigious Show Trophy found its deserving home with the exhibit from Marble Branch Farms, owned by esteemed horticulturists Gary Alan Collier and Mark Alan Reinke (who are also members of the Atlanta Orchid Society). Heartfelt congratulations are in order for Gary and Mark on this well-deserved accolade!

Firelli "Fi" Alonso

Atlanta Orchid Society Monthly Meeting Ribbon Winners for March, 2024

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



Cattleya amethystoglossa



Caulathron bicornutum

Class 1: Cattleya Alliance

Species

Blue: *Cattleya amethystoglossa* – Jon Crate & Fi Alonso

Cattleya amethystoglossa is a bi-lobate species from the central Atlantic region of Brazil in the states of Bahia and Espírito Santo, normally at fairly low elevations somewhat inland from the coast. It was once common on both rocks and trees, but the plants growing on rocks have mostly been collected out of existence. The remaining plants are often high in the tops of palms and other trees out of reach, where they can be in very exposed situations. The wild plants growing in direct sun tend to have a growth of lichens all over the leaves which helps protect them from overexposure, so caution should be exercised in cultivation to give bright light but avoid the direct rays of the sun. The clusters of slightly fragrant flowers normally have a cream-white base color suffused with pale lavender and peppered with purple

spots. The spade-shaped or spatulate lip is a bright amethyst purple. This species does best if kept above 60F at night with a day temperature at least 15 degrees warmer, with watering year-round and only a very slight rest in winter if days are dull and damp. The pot used should be small for the plant size and a coarse media should be used so that the roots dry quickly after each watering cycle. Peak bloom is in February and March in the Northern Hemisphere.

Red: *Caulathron bicornutum* – Carson Barnes

Hybrids

Blue – *Rhyncolaeliocattleya Apricot Sands* x Loud Nine – Danny Lentz & Dianne Morgan

This stunning compact cross was made by Fred Clarke of Sunset Valley Orchids near San Diego California. As of March 28th of this year it still hasn't been registered with the RHS. Both sides of the family tree include *C. Califor-*

nia Apricot, a famous cross made with *C. coccinea* and each side includes some famous large flowered hybrids like *Rlc. Oconee*, *Rlc. Fortune* and *C. Horace*. There are also some genes of two other Brazilian miniature species, *C. luteola* and *C. pumila* to help keep the resulting plant compact in stature. The flowers on this particular seedling are very similar to the best examples of *Rlc. Loud Nine* with flat form, a round profile with vivid near red segments offset by a garnet red lip. In my opinion, a judging panel taking a close look would likely score it at least 80 points for an Award of Merit. Were that to occur, the award would be provisional until the cross was registered. Given the ancestry of this cross, I would recommend a controlled growing environment that does not get excessively hot in the summer months, and a media that provides rapid drainage. In a greenhouse, a basket or cork mount would be excellent options.

A word of caution when purchasing Cattleya hybrids from Sunset Valley Orchids: Only after several losses of plants



Rhyncolaeliocattleya Apricot Sands x Loud Nine

I purchased in 3-inch pots from SVO did I realize what the problem was that was making the plants unhappy in my conditions. As seedlings in cell trays, this grower uses a dense wad of sphagnum

moss around the roots of the orchid. When transplanting them into pots with bark, no effort is made to remove any of the moss. In a controlled growing environment, it may appear that the plant has



Cattlianthe El Cerrito



Cattleya NSA Big China

dried through the pot after watering, but the sphagnum plug can remain wet, leading to decline of the plant. I recommend de-potting the plants carefully soon after purchase and pulling out the sphagnum from the bottom with tweezers. I would typically soak the roots overnight to facilitate removing the moss from fragile roots. You will be amazed that when loose, the amount of sphagnum will be the size a baseball! If you do not do this, then make sure you wait extra days between watering to ensure that the moss core dries out and not just the bark mix.

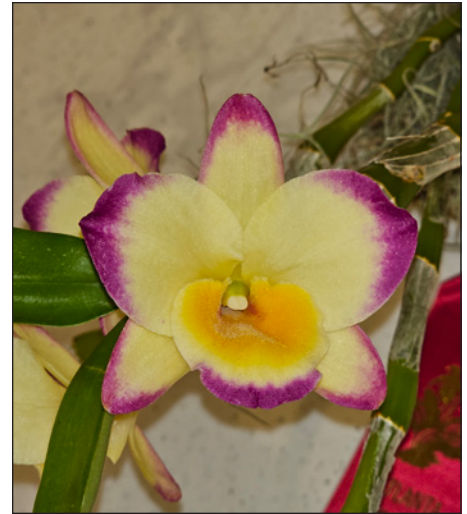
White: *Cattleya* NSA Big China – Danny Lentz & Dianne Morgan

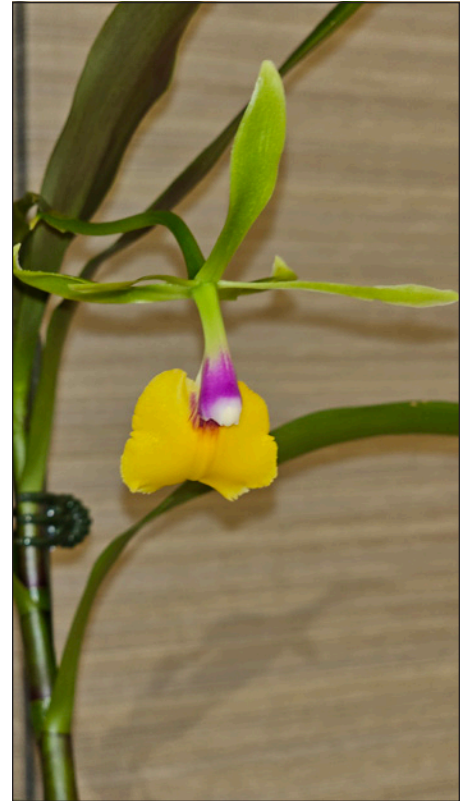
White: *Cattlianthe* El Cerrito ‘Cohryh’ HCC/AOS – Jon Crate Fi Alonso

*Dendrobium aphyllum***Class 2: Cymbidium Alliance****No Entries****Class 3: Dendrobium Alliance****Blue: *Dendrobium aphyllum* – Bailey Santwire**

If you are a long-time orchid grower like me, you may remember this species from Southeast Asia as *Dendrobium pierardii*. The current accepted name, however, is quite appropriate as it means “without leaves,” which is the state of the plant at flowering time. Growing in mountainous forests from southern India to southeast China in regions with high summer rainfall and an extended much drier and cooler rest period from mid-fall until early spring, *Den. aphyllum* responds by dropping most or all its leaves on the current season’s growth during this time and is part of the Section Dendrobium where the majority of the species that are seasonally deciduous are placed. Most plants produce fragrant flowers with pale rosy-mauve segments that may end with a touch of deeper color, offset by a cream to yellow fuzzy surfaced lip. A few select forms have deeper color and some are so pale as to be nearly white. *Den. aphyllum* is capable of mas-

sive flowering when well grown and there are numerous cultural awards for plants with hundreds of blooms and not a small number of examples with thousands of flowers! To achieve results like this, the plants should remain evenly moist from May until October when in nature, more than 100 inches of rain typically occurs. This means daily watering if mounted or in a free draining basket, which are growing methods that best accommodate the pendant growth habit. During this period, canes can quickly grow to up to 6 feet in length. Once growth is complete for the season, plants should dry out between watering and can remain dry for multiple days by late winter. Do not apply fertilizer during this rest period. A very bright position along with cool nights that provide about a 25-degree swing in temperature are important for the best flowering.

Red: *Dendrobium Fancy Lady ‘Royal Princess’* – Bailey Santwire**Red: *Dendrobium canaliculatum* – Bailey Santwire****White: *Dendrobium Micro Chip x Pygmy Chip* – Victoria Schaefer***Dendrobium Fancy Lady ‘Royal Princess’**Dendrobium canaliculatum**Dendrobium Micro Chip x Pygmy Chip*

*Epidendrum macrocarpum**Epicattleya René Marqués*

Class 4: Epidendrum Alliance

Blue: *Epidendrum macrocarpum* – Carson Barnes

This species is widespread across the hot lowlands of northern South America from Peru to Guiana, where it often grows on ant nests near streams. The species name means “large spurred” but since there is no nectar spur it probably refers to the overall look of the lip with its narrow extended column and three prominent lobes ending in a serrated margin. You will sometimes find it listed as *Epi. schomburgkii* which was applied to it in 1838. However, the accepted name dates all the way back to 1792, making it one of the earliest botanical names applied to an orchid that is still in use. Bright diffused light, warm temperatures and regular year-round watering with rapid drying in between best suit *Epi. macrocarpum*. However, Baker notes that this species doesn’t normally take to mounted culture, so a pot that is undersized for the plant is best. Despite its showy presentation, only a handful of hybrids have ever been registered using this orchid. The most recent one was a cross with *Epc. René Marqués*, our red ribbon winner this month. Imagining the

results, that one may be the most interesting of the bunch.

Red: *Epicattleya René Marqués* – Tim Cape



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Class 5: Oncidium Alliance

Blue: *Trichocentrum ascendens* – Barbara Barnett

The species name of this orchid refers not to the long terete leaves, which hang downward, but to the inflorescence that normally curves upward and bears a tight cluster of up to 70 small flowers just a bit more than one half inch in spread. The lip is normally bright yellow with some chestnut-colored blotches on the column, while the segments are usually greenish yellow with chestnut brown spots. *Trt. ascendens* occurs most commonly at lower elevations on both the Pacific and Caribbean sides of southern Mexico south to Panamá. A dis-



Trichocentrum ascendens

junct population is found in Bolivia and sometimes known as *Trt. bolivianense*. Years ago, Gary and I observed numerous plants of this species growing on lower tree trunks in fairly dense shade just a couple hundred meters in from the beach at a resort in the Riviera Maya on the Yucatán Peninsula, guarded from human collection by clouds of blood thirsty mosquitos! They were blooming well despite the recommendation to grow this plant in bright light. Give it plenty of water from about May to October and less the balance of the year, keeping in mind that in the habitat the humidity remains around 65% in the dry season so there is frequent dew and fog. Mounted culture suits *Trt. ascendens* best. There are no registered hybrids listed for this species.

Red: *Aspasia epidendroides* – Bailey Santwire



Aspasia epidendroides

*Paphiopedilum vietnamense*

Class 6: Slipper Alliance

Species

Blue: *Paphiopedilum vietnamense* – Cary Green

This is a fairly new species in cultivation, having been described in 1999. Per the *Orchid Species Encyclopedia*: “Found only in northern Vietnam as the most range restricted species in Vietnam with

an area of less than 200 square miles and is a warm- to cool-growing lithophyte or rare terrestrial in seasonally wet, primary, evergreen, broadleaf forests on shady vertical limestone bluffs, cliffs and on tops of mountain ridges of northern and northwestern exposure at elevation of 350 to 550 meters often in mossy clumps or partially shaded rock crevices. This orchid has 3 to 5, distichous, coriaceous-leathery, ovate to ob-

long-elliptic, obtuse and unequally bifid leaves that below are heavily violet spotted, and strongly keeled, and above with fine white to deep green tessellation. Most typical habitats are narrow shelves below overhanging bluffs and the orchid survives a 4 to 5 month dry period during the cooler winter. The erect, 1 to 2 flowered, 6” to 10” [15-25 cm] long, purple violet or purple brown with dense white or light brown haired inflorescence arising from a broadly ovate, acute, pilose, conduplicate floral bract occurs in the late winter and early spring.” While there are more than 40 first generation registered hybrids, the somewhat droopy “puppy dog ear” petals can often lead to rather questionable results.

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

White: *Phragmipedium schlimii* – Carson Barnes

*Paphiopedilum delenatii**Phragmipedium schlimii*



Paphiopedilum Emerald Mele

Hybrids

Blue: *Paphiopedilum* Emerald Mele – HB Blythe-Hart

Graham Wood of Lehua Orchids on the island of Hawaii combined two of his previous registered hybrids to create this one introduced in 2021. The mix of spe-



Paphiopedilum Memoria Joan Levy x Isobel

cies in the background is typical for the “Bulldog” types, but this breeding line which he inherited from Orchid Zone aims toward a mostly green flower with no spots or other markings save for the white border on the dorsal sepal. Usually, the flowers open mostly green but mature to bright clear yellow. This one, at least at the stage shown in the photo, maintains a significant amount of green veining in the dorsal and to a lesser extent on the petals. Since all five of the species in the ancestry are winter to early spring bloomers, it is rare for this plant or other “Bulldog” types to bloom at other times of the year. However, a well grown mature plant may have several large lacquer textured flowers at once or in succession during the bloom season. They generally do best in medium light (not directly under LED lights if used), regular watering with a moisture retentive, but quick draining mix, and cool to warm, but not hot temperatures.

Red: *Paphiopedilum* Fred’s Spring – HB Blythe-Hart

White: *Paphiopedilum* Memoria Joan Levy x Isobel – HB Blythe-Hart



Paphiopedilum Fred’s Spring



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Phalaenopsis King Shiang's Princess

Class 7: Phalaenopsis

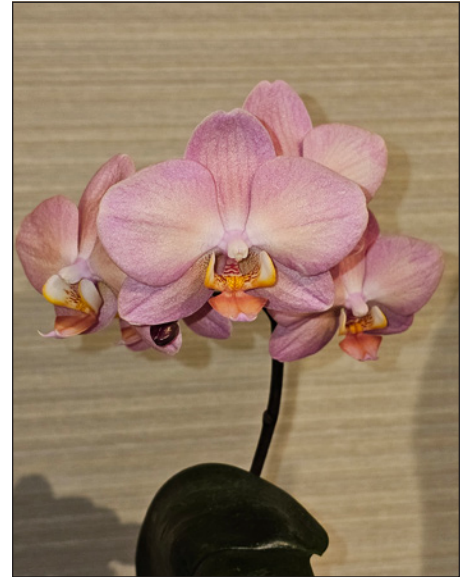
Blue: *Phalaenopsis* King Shiang's Princess – Jon Crate and Fi Alonso

This splashy orchid is entered without a clonal name, but presumably is the 'Papagayo' variety as there are numerous photos of it online showing identical color and markings to the one shown. Papagayo is one of the Spanish words used for "parrot" which is fitting due to the feathering of purple around the edges of the light-yellow segments. The sepals and petals of newly-opened blooms are golden yellow in color, and this lightens to a light lemon yellow shade as the blooms age. Consequently, the purple markings on the margins of the sepals and petals also fade slightly. There is nothing in the species ancestors of this orchid that would explain the unusual color pattern, which seems to be inherited from the pod parent, *Phal.* King Shiang's Rose. There is a form of that cross named 'Hinoto-

ri' which has a similar pattern, but tone on tone in shades of orchid pink. It may have been a chance mutation that arose in the tissue culture process. Unusual color aside, this should be an easy-care orchid with typical phalaenopsis toughness based on its species background.

Red: *Phalaenopsis* Surf Song – Jon Crate and Fi Alonso

White: *Phalaenopsis* "Scentsation" (trade name) – Bailey Santwire



Phalaenopsis Surf Song



Phalaenopsis "Scentsation"

*Vanda mariae*

Class 8: Vandaceous Alliance

Blue: *Vanda mariae* – Carson Barnes

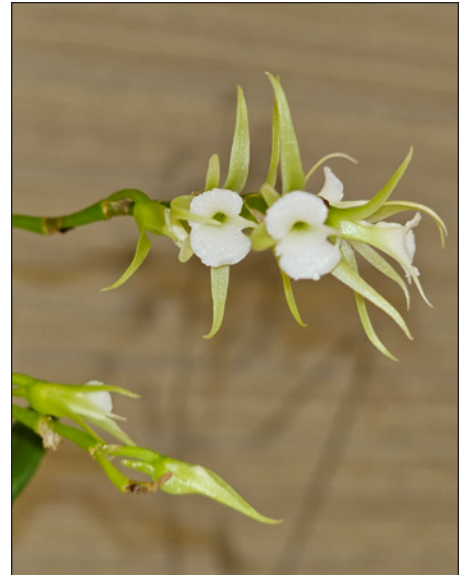
This is a very recently described species from Mindanao in the Philippines. I have struggled to find much information about it and its cultural needs. Jay Pfahl doesn't even have a listing for it in his *Orchid Species Encyclopedia*. Palmer Orchids in Bradenton, FL, sells divisions off their stock plants and lists it as free blooming, preferring bright diffused light and heavy watering spring through early fall. The sepals and petals are yellow, but heavily overlaid red to red-orange, an unusually

bright color for the genus, but normally only about 1.25 inches in spread. There can be ten or more per inflorescence.

Red: *Oeoniella polystachys* – Bailey Santwire

Red: *Gastrochilus calceolaris* – Carson Barnes

White: *Aerangis James G Coyner* – Bailey Santwire

*Oeoniella polystachys**Gastrochilus calceolaris**Aerangis James G Coyner*

*Chysis bractescens*

Class 9: Miscellaneous

Blue: *Chysis bractescens* – Bailey Santwire

Chysis bractescens is the largest and arguably showiest species in the genus of about 10 or 12 members. It is found primarily on the mid to lower slopes of mountains on Gulf of Mexico / Caribbean side of Mexico from the state of Veracruz southward to Nicaragua and also on the Pacific slope in El Salvador. The flowers can be up to about three inches in spread with several per inflorescence, which arise from the lower bracts of a newly developing growth in spring. They are typically white or cream with yellow shading especially on the sepals and in the lip and have a thick fleshy texture. There can be from four to eight per inflorescence. After flowering, the growths develop a club-shaped pseudobulb up to 12 inches, with several thin textured leaves toward the end that can be up to 16 inches long. Luckily all this exuberant foliage is normally shed in winter before flowering, giving maximum visibility

to the newly opened blooms. Specimen plants have been awarded with 25 to 35 flowers at once. The pseudobulbs are pendent with their weight, making a basket or suspended pot the easiest way to grow this species. Mounting works well too but will require very frequent water-

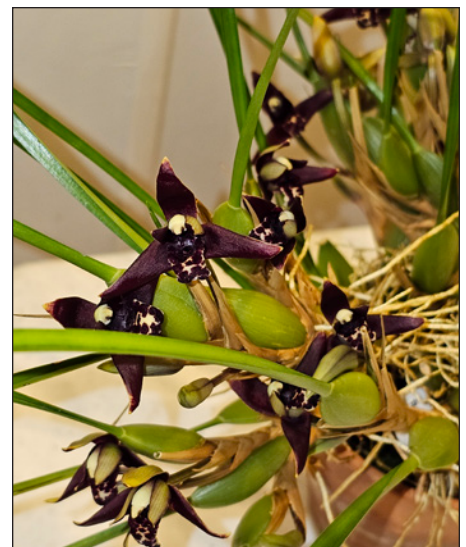
*Clowesia* Rebecca Northen 'Mikabi'

ing during the growing season. Diffused light levels and warm to intermediate temperatures are best.

Red: *Clowesia* Rebecca Northen 'Mikabi' – Danny Lentz & Dianne Morgan

White: *Arundinia graminifolia* – Danny Lentz & Dianne Morgan

White: *Maxillaria tenuifolia* – Danny Lentz & Dianne Morgan

*Arundinia graminifolia**Maxillaria tenuifolia*