

DECEMBER EVENT

Monthly Meeting: Monday, December 9, 2024

Fellowship Hall at Oglethorpe Presbyterian Church

Gather at 6 p.m.

Holiday Potluck Party!!

see details below

Bring your blooming plants for our monthly ribbon judging



Our December meeting will be a Holiday Potluck Party with a White Elephant Gift Exchange at Oglethorpe Presbyterian Church in Brookhaven. This has become our regular location for events such as the auction and the holiday party.

We are gathering at 6 p.m. but dinner won't start until 6:30 p.m. because we have to set up at 6 p.m.

Atlanta Orchid Society Holiday Potluck Party

We ask you to bring a delish dish to share on our potluck table; the Society will provide a Honey Baked Ham and a Turkey. To make it less likely that we end up with a tableful of brownies and cookies, please bring a dish as suggested based on your last name:

A-F: Salad,
I-M: Dessert,
N-Z: Side Dish.

If you want to participate in the white elephant gift exchange, bring a **small orchid-related gift or orchid under \$25**. **Wrap your gift** and drop it on the gift table. We will be instructed on the White Elephant Gift Exchange.

We'll have monthly ribbon judging too, so bring in your bloomers. Feel free to wear your ugly Christmas sweater or any other holiday apparel to liven things

up. We'll also install the new Board members, so it will be a fun evening for all.

About the location of the party

Oglethorpe Presbyterian Church is located at 3016 Lanier Dr., NE, Brookhaven, GA 30319, one block off Peachtree Road behind Oglethorpe University at the corner of Lanier Drive and Woodrow Way. The entrance to our spot (Fellowship Hall) is on Woodrow Way.

New Members!

The Atlanta Orchid Society is delighted to welcome new members! We look forward to seeing you at the Holiday Party!

Please welcome Jennifer Schwab and Lacreteria Rocker

President's Message

We have one last thing coming up for the end of the year for our society before we celebrate the incoming New Year! We have our annual holiday potluck party, and I would love to see everyone there as well as share in the holiday joy! We will also uninstall the old and install the new members of the board respectively. This is also a good opportunity to exchange a gift or give away a division that you had established for someone who was searching for a particular plant. It never hurts to be kind, as kindness will be repaid back to you in due time!

Wow, a great year has come and gone just like that! We have observed our plants initiate growths, swell in size and

rest for the year, along with blooms if they are content enough to accept our nurturing efforts. I have met so many people serving as your society president, and that is an experience that I am thankful to have. It has been amazing to see more members return to our in-person meetings and be able to connect with so many individuals and share in our love for the hobby. It is bittersweet seeing that this is my last President's Message. It has been an honor and I only hope that you all enjoyed the newsletter over the course of the year. You will still be seeing me around as the Immediate Past President, as well as participating in the society as much as possible. I will quote

one thing before I go, "That's all folks!". Happy growing as always, and may your orchids prosper!

Bailey Santwire
Atlanta Orchid Society President

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The Atlanta Orchid Society Bulletin

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Newsletter Editors: [Véronique Perrot](#) & [Mark Reinke](#)

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EVENTS CALENDAR

December

7–8 – Fort Pierce Orchid Society Show (Ft. Pierce, FL)

9 – Atlanta Orchid Society Monthly Meeting: Holiday Party!

14 – AOS monthly judging

January 2025

11 – AOS monthly judging

13 – Atlanta Orchid Society Monthly Meeting: Chris Satch – Science of orchid care and blooming: understanding orchid physiology

February 2025

1–2 – Gulf Coast Orchid Society Show (Gautier, MS)

8 – AOS monthly judging

10 – Atlanta Orchid Society Monthly Meeting: Peter Lin – Spectacular orchids from around the world

21–23 – Mobile Area Orchid Society Show (Mobile, AL), unconfirmed

March 2025

7–9 – Atlanta Orchid Society Show (Atlanta, GA)

8 – AOS monthly judging

10 – Atlanta Orchid Society Monthly Meeting

April 2025

25–27 – Memphis Orchid Society Show (Memphis, TN)

Connoisseur's Corner

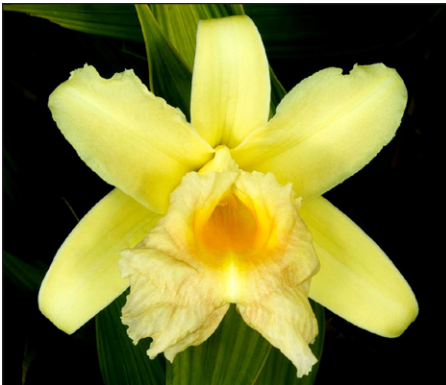
Sobralia, the Reeds of the Tropics

Pronunciation: soh-BRAL-ee-ah

Abbreviation: *Sob.*

Notable species: *Sob. callosa*, *Sob. crocea*, *Sob. fimbriata*, *Sob. macrantha*, *Sob. rosea*, *Sob. xantholeuca*

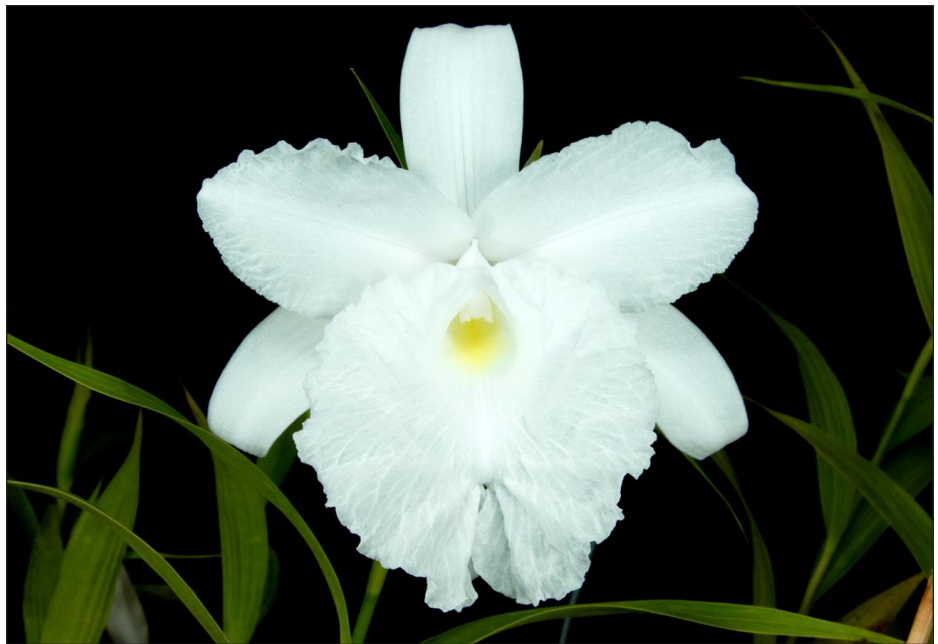
A genus of 95 reed-like species coming from the tropics, ranging from Mexico to Bolivia, known for their usually ephemeral flowers (flowers lasting for 1-2 days maximum). They have leaves that are lanceolate or elliptic resembling leaves of a palm or grass on a thin cane. The genus is still exposed to complicated taxonomy as there are limitations to herbarium collecting as well as hybrid swarms that occur in the wild. The genus is generally divided into two groups, the field group and the ephemeral group. The ephemeral group are species that have flowers that last less than a day while the field group contains species that have flow-



Sobralia xantholeuca 'Windflower' HCC/AOS (photo by Arnold Gum)



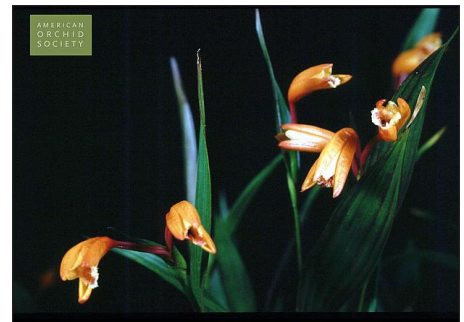
Sobralia decora 'Jaxon' AM/AOS (photo by Kay Clark)



Sobralia macrantha 'Cassandra' AM/AOS (photo by Arnold Gum)

ers lasting from 2-10 days. Examples of the ephemeral group are *Sobralia callosa*, *Sob. fimbriata*, and *Sob. powellii*. Examples of the field group are *Sob. caloglossa*, *Sob. macrantha*, *Sob. rosea*, and *Sob. xantholeuca*. Most growers are discouraged from growing *Sobralia* due to their large size, but there are some species with a compact stature that can be maintained in the home or greenhouse, such as *Sob. callosa* and *Sob. crocea*, which are miniatures growing no more than 18" tall, and *Sob. decora* and *Sob. fimbriata* that grow no more than 30" tall. Most of the other species can be monsters in terms of size, as some can get to the size of an adult human, or grow to 30-45' tall such as *Sob. altissima* and *Sob. rosea*. As with their size variability, *Sobralias* also have a temperature range that is depends on the species. Most *Sobralia* are intermediate growers, with some outliers categorized into cool or warm growers.

Sobralia are pretty fuss-free growers when established or acclimated. They are largely terrestrials, with some species being epiphytic or lithophytic. They have thick fleshy roots that can be tan in coloration and can be grown in virtually any media as long as the roots have access to ample air and even moisture. A good mix would be sphagnum moss, medium to small bark, perlite, in pots under 6" in diameter, but a more coarser media with more bark, charcoal and perlite can be used for plants growing in pots larg-



Sobralia crocea 'Tangerine Squeeze' CHM/AOS (photo by Richard Clark)

er than 6". When dividing or repotting this genus, it is imperative to minimize disturbance to the root zone. Most growers simply repot it all into a new pot and fill in the space with new media because their vigorous roots fill the pot like *Cymbidiums* do. Best practice is to use a garden hose and spray off the old media as much as you can before potting up. If dividing, it is best to have 5-8 canes in each division; using a hacksaw or machete to simply cut through the plant is the best method as it allows for one side of the plant to remain undamaged and able to re-establish the plant. Repot the plants into pots that are twice the size of the root ball to avoid repotting frequently.

Watering is important for all species, as they resent soggy or stale conditions at the roots but they do love their water. Thus, it is important to select a media

Continued on p. 4

Beginner's Corner: A Guide to Orchid Pots

In the previous Beginner's Corner column, we talked about growing media. Another important factor in orchid-growing success is the pot you choose. The size, shape, and material all play a role.

Materials: Terra Cotta vs. Plastic

There are two main types of pot materials: terra cotta and plastic.

Terra Cotta: I recommend terra cotta for experienced growers. While it's porous and allows roots to "breathe"; it can be challenging to balance air, moisture, and salt buildup. Repotting from terra cotta can also be difficult due to roots clinging to the rough surface. However, terra cotta makes a great cache pot for top-heavy orchids, adding stability.

Plastic: Transparent plastic pots are ideal for beginners. They let you see the roots and gauge watering needs—just lift the pot to check its weight. Repotting is easier because orchid roots detach smoothly from plastic. To maintain breathability, choose plastic pots with slits or openings on the sides.

Shape: Shallow vs. Deep Pots

In general, shallow pots are preferable because they encourage even moisture distribution, reducing the risk of constant wetness or anaerobic conditions. If using a deeper pot, compensate by adding a layer of large-grade pumice at the bottom to improve aeration.

Some orchids, like *Cymbidiums* and

slipper orchids, prefer deeper pots due to their need for consistent moisture.

The Golden Rule: Underpot Your Orchids

If you remember one tip, let it be this: underpot your orchids. Choose a pot that allows for only one or two years of growth. A smaller pot encourages healthier root systems and more frequent flowering. Avoid upsizing a pot to reduce watering frequency—instead, use more water-retentive media. Similarly, don't use a larger pot for stability; opt for a terra cotta cache pot or stakes to support the plant.

By choosing the right pot, you'll set your orchids up for success!

Edison Gu

Connoisseur's Corner

Continued from page 3

that has perfect drainage while allowing to water the plants once a week at minimum. *Sobralias* are tolerant of all, if not, most, water qualities, which makes them robust growers in various areas of the United States. A media that is more water retentive such as dirt or sphagnum moss would require less frequent watering compared to a plant grown in bark mixes.

Airflow is crucial to the health of the plant as the better the quality of air they get, the better they grow. When growing in enclosed spaces, it is best to have these plants in front of a fan where you can see the plant noticeably swaying from the breeze. This also allows for their thin leaves to tolerate higher levels of light. During warmer months, one can place *Sobralia* outdoors, as the fresh air is beneficial to them and their leaves grow a bit thicker as a result.

Sobralia can be grown in shady conditions provided that they get about 3-4 hours of good light. Most species can be grown in a south facing window or in full sun provided that they are acclimated properly and they get good airflow to minimize their leaves overheating and burning. One may notice that a plant grown in higher light conditions may look more yellowish, shorter in stature

but they will profusely bloom with more flowers at a faster frequency, whereas plants grown in shadier conditions tend to be taller, greener and better looking with flowers that are larger and with possibly more saturated color.

Fertilization is simple with this genus. They are heavy feeders and they do well with any fertilizer provided that they are flushed periodically of any salts that may build up in the media. Growers stress that the presence of trace nutrients are important for the long term survival of the plant as they promote better growth overall. Fertilization should take place weekly.

Weedy reedy *Sobralias* are generally trouble-free given their vigorous nature, but they may experience pest and diseases due to cultural deficiencies, especially in areas of airflow, light and watering. Pests tend to be slugs and snails, mites, and mealy bugs which can be proactively prevented by having good airflow and spraying down the plants daily or often throughout the growing season. An infestation can be simply treated with insecticide or horticultural oils, keeping in mind not to apply during the heat of the



Sobralia callosa 'Bright Eyes' CCM/AOS
(photo by Tim Morton)

day or under intense light. Plant rot can occur due to dividing the plant during active growth or when the pot drainage holes are blocked by the root mass which can be alleviated by immediately repotting the plant into fresh media and cleaning off any rotted roots down to the rhizome and removing discolored canes.

I hope this article inspired you to look for some *Sobralias* that deserve a place in your collection. Good places to source *Sobralia* species and hybrids are Cal Orchids, Bruce Roger Orchids, Andy's Orchids and preordering from South American vendors such as Ecuagenera, Perufflora, Orquideas Amazonicas, etc. .

Happy Growing!

Bailey Santwire

Atlanta Orchid Society Monthly Meeting Ribbon Winners for November, 2024

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



Rhyncholaeliocattleya Heaven's Gate 'Crystelle' FCC/AOS

Class 1: Cattleya Alliance

Blue: *Rhyncholaeliocattleya* Heaven's Gate 'Crystelle' FCC/AOS – Fred Pippin

Rhyncholaeliocattleya Heaven's Gate was registered by Krull-Smith in 2015. The 'Crystelle' form received an 87-point Award of Merit in January 2018 and a subsequent upgrade to a 91-point First Class Certificate in January 2021. The description is as follows: "Two magnificent, well-proportioned, heavily saturated, near black, deep red flowers on one inflorescence, stately, held above the foliage; sepals flat, lanceolate; petals obovate, margins undulate, gently recurved at tips, slight midrib; lip exceptionally deep red, old gold striations proximal half, old gold visible on reverse proximal half; column yellow, anther cap lighter yellow; substance firm; texture crystalline; cultivar award elevated from AM to FCC due to deeper color saturation and larger flower size." Those flowers were about 5.5 inch-

es wide and 6.25 inches tall. This flower color is very hard to photograph and the glowing, velvety depth of the dark red never seems to fully come through in images like it does in person. There are fully 25 different species in its genetics and eleven generations of breeding, including a dose on nearly all the large-flowered cattleya species. The largest share by far is *C. dowiana* (39%), without which colors such as this would be impossible to achieve. It is possible that this was the only good seedling out of the cross and no others have received awards to date. But you can still purchase a flowering-size plant of this awarded plant from Krull-Smith for a rather reasonable price considering the high award.

Red: *Vaughnara* Golden Spice 'Red Pepper' – Fred Pippin

Entered as *Bc.* Richard Mueller, this is actually a cross of *Bc.* Richard Mueller x *Epi. stamfordianum*.



Vaughnara Golden Spice 'Red Pepper'



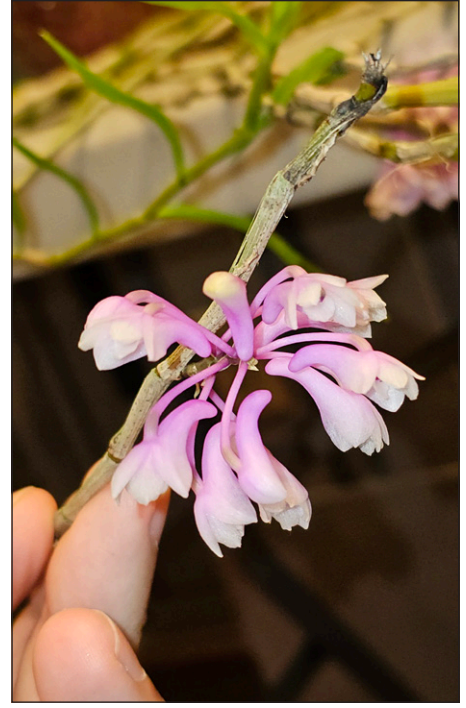
Cattleya Mini Song 'Petite' AM/AOS



Rhyncholaeliocattleya Nakornchaisri Delight

White: *Cattleya* Mini Song 'Petite' AM/AOS – HB Blythe-Hart

White: *Rhyncholaeliocattleya* Nakornchaisri Delight – Fi Alonso & Jon Crate

*Dendrobium Sakol Blue 'Elizabeth' HCC/AOS**Dendrobium rindjaniense*

Class 2: Cymbidium Alliance

White: *Dendrobium rindjaniense* – Vinh Nguyen

No Entries

Class 3: Dendrobium Alliance

Blue: *Dendrobium Sakol Blue 'Elizabeth'*
HCC/AOS – Carson Barnes

This stunning violet-blue orchid was registered in 2002 and comes out of Thailand. The flowers are fairly round because almost 60% of its background is species from the Phalaenanthus Section. The form of the species in that group is fairly dominant in crosses, so it swamps out the shape of the other 40% which is made up of species from the Spatulata Section, known for their “antelope-like” twisted petals. While both parents had magenta flowers, something about the genetics in the cross has produced bluish flowers. There are three different awarded forms worldwide and all of them bloom in that color range. The fact that this orchid originates in lowlands of Thailand should tell you what kind of conditions it prefers. Grow it and similar hybrids warm to hot and bright, with plentiful watering and perfect drainage in the summer months and more sparing water in the winter.

Red: *Dendrobium Green Flash* – Fred Pippin

*Dendrobium Green Flash*



Epidendrum melanoporphyreum

Class 4: Epidendrum Alliance

Blue: *Epidendrum melanoporphyreum* – Edison Gu

The species name of this eye-catching orchid means “black purple,” which accurately describes the dark blooms. There is also bright green on the lower portion of the fused lip and column. The unique color and swept back look of the flowers draw the attention of collectors, but this is not an easy species to grow in this climate and Edison should be commended for his effort. Coming from Peru in areas that are about 6000 to over 10,000 feet above sea level, it does not adapt well to our heat and must be grown in a controlled environment with mild to cool temperatures and bright light. (I have killed it twice in the past.) It does not like to dry out completely but also needs

fresh conditions at the roots at all times. Despite the challenges, there are several nice hybrids made with the species, but most of them involve another *Epidendrum* that is equally difficult to grow well. The best known and most awarded is *Epi. Kelly Forks* (x *hugomedinae*), which was released in 2021 and has five awards including an Award of Quality.



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*Oncidium Tsiku Marguerite*

Class 5: *Oncidium Alliance*

Blue: *Oncidium Tsiku Marguerite* – Fred Pippin

Oncidium Tsiku Marguerite takes *Onc. Twinkle* back to one of its parents, *Onc. sotoanum*. The other species involved is *Onc. chierophorum*. That species usually produces bright yellow flowers while *Onc. sotoanum* bears orchid pink flowers. When their genes are mixed, the two colors typically cancel each other out, leaving mainly white flowers. As something of an experiment to that fact, I purchased 60 seedlings that were a remake of the cross, using parents with strong colors. Fifty-five of those plants bloomed out with the typical white flowers, one opened pale yellow before fading to white, two kept the faintest tinge of pink and two were a strong orchid pink with somewhat larger flowers. You can guess which two I plan to keep. This orchid is a great choice for windowsill care as the plants stay compact and are very tight growing. The thin wiry spikes develop out of the most recent growths just as they are maturing and can produce a cloud of vanilla-scented flowers as this plant illustrates. The main issue in cultivation is keeping the foliage in good condition. Both species in the background come from montane forests

in Central America where the humidity remains high. There is abundant rain for half of the year, peaking in summer and fall, with much less in the other half. But with the high humidity there is frequent dew and mist. So, if watering is not sufficient to keep the media somewhat moist at all times, the leaves will develop spots and blemishes. The pot should always

be small for the size of the plant and the light should be bright but diffused. If you grow this orchid well, it can become an impressive sight in a relatively small container. A plant with approximately 2700 flowers was awarded in January of this year at the National Capital Judging Center. It had 27 inflorescences about 21 inches in length and was growing in a 6-inch container!

Blue: *Compactia speciosa* – Edison Gu

Here is yet another finicky species that Edison is flowering in Atlanta despite it coming from cool to mild very wet forests on the east facing slopes of the Andes in Peru and Ecuador. The flowers can be a deeper orange than this example with as many as 15 per inflorescence on a well grown mature plant. The most recent award for this species was an 84-point Award of Merit bestowed on a plant exhibited at the Peninsula Orchid Society Show (San Mateo, CA) in January 2023. It had seven open flowers and five buds on a single inflorescence. While in the greater *Oncidium Alliance*, *Compactia* species are notable for their prominent nectar spur which offers a reward to visiting pollinators. With the bright flowers of this species and the higher elevations in which it grows, I wonder if hummingbirds are attracted to them. Grow this orchid, if you dare, with fil-

*Compactia speciosa*

*Tolumnia* hybrid*Oncidesa* Cocoa Cappuccino 'Cocoa'

tered light, high humidity and frequent watering. When grown in a basket or pot, Baker recommends annual repotting because the continually moist conditions will break down the media quickly.

Red: *Tolumnia* hybrid – Danny Lentz & Dianne Morgan

Red: *Oncidesa* Gower Ramsey 'Orange Delight' – Cary Green

White: *Oncidesa* Cocoa Cappuccino 'Cocoa' – Véronique Perrot

*Oncidesa* Gower Ramsey 'Orange Delight'

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Paphiopedilum Sandra's Helen Maha

Class 6: Slipper Alliance

Blue: *Paphiopedilum* Sandra's Helen Maha – Steve Schwab

This cute little “teacup Paph” is currently the only *Paph. helenae* hybrid made and offered by Lehua Orchids on the Big Island of Hawaii. This type of breeding is so named because the small plants in flower could fit inside the space of a teacup. In addition to the species mentioned, this hybrid contains a good dose of *Paph. henryanum*, *spicerianum* and *insigne* on the other side of the family tree. The yellow-green background color of the petals and dorsal sepal should brighten up to a stronger yellow as the flowers mature, as is typical in *Paph. helenae* crosses. I would recommend growing this orchid in mild temperatures and dappled light as would be found indoors or in a controlled growing area. Our summer heat would be detrimental to

its well-being. The pot should never fully dry out.

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

White: *Paphiopedilum* Sandra's Barbary Coast – HB Blythe-Hart



Paphiopedilum *gratrixianum*



Paphiopedilum Sandra's Barbary Coast

*Holcoglossum lingulatum*

Class 7: Phalaenopsis

No Entries

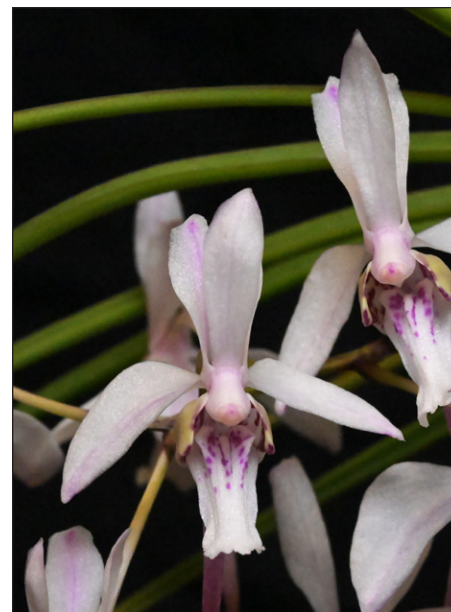
Class 8: Vandaceous Alliance

Blue: *Holcoglossum lingulatum* – Edison Gu

I'm starting to sound like a broken record, but once again Edison is treating us to an exceptionally well-grown species not commonly seen. According to *orchidspecies.com*, this orchid is "Found in northwest Guangxi and southeastern Yunnan provinces of China in open forests on tree trunks at elevations of 1000 to 1300 meters as a small to medium sized, warm to cool growing epiphyte with an ascending to arching stem carrying many, often basally twisting, secund, slender, fleshy, terete, adaxially channeled, acute leaves that blooms in the fall and winter on a slender, flexuous, shorter or nearly as long as the leaves, 1 to 6 flowered inflorescence with deflexed, ovate floral bracts." I will note that Edison's plant has *two* inflorescences, one with five flowers and the other with six. His plant is mounted on cork with a pad of sphagnum moss at the base of the plant and thick roots wandering all over. The one commercial source I found for it was Andy's Orchids, which offers stick mounted plants. They recommend two to four waterings per week with drying in between, bright indirect light and a maximum temperature of 85F.

Blue: *Vanda Patcharee Delight* 'Blue' – Vinh Nguyen

This very nice indigo blue standard vanda got trophies in both Taiwan and Brazil in 2012 but no awards or recognitions here in the United States yet, nice as it is. Like many crosses with this appearance, it is mainly a mix of *V. sanderriana* and *V. coerulea*. The various seedlings ranged from the intense blue shade in this example, to purple, and magenta, always with the reticulated veins. From the photo, I can see that this is a very



well-grown plant with beautiful foliage all the way up and down the stem. Such results require almost daily attention to watering with quick drying but good humidity at all times. More causal care will show up quickly with lower leaf loss and spotting.

*Vanda Patcharee Delight* 'Blue'



Vanda Siriporn Pink



Vanda

Red: *Vanda Siriporn Pink* – Cary Green

Red: *Gastrochilus calceolaris* – Fred Pippin

White: *Vanda* – Fred Pippin

**White: *Perrieraara Bangkok Sunset* – Jon
Crate & Fi Alonso**



Gastrochilus calceolaris



Perrieraara Bangkok Sunset

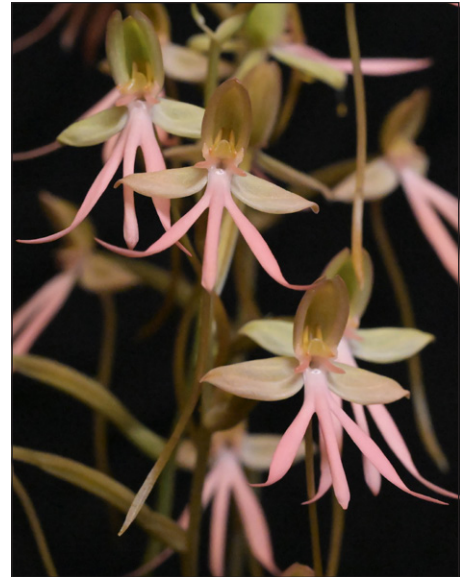
*Habenaria Áine*

Class 9: Miscellaneous

Blue: *Habenaria Áine* – Nick Rust

It took me a minute to find this new hybrid between *Hab. erichmichelii* and *Hab. porphyricola* registered by Nick in September of this year, as the name starts with a

“Latin capital A with an acute accent.” I’m sure there is a story behind it, so I asked Nick for an explanation: “That hybrid is from my series on Irish Folklore. Back in 2021, I registered a cross as *Hab. Pixie (roebelenii x chlorina)* because I thought it looked like a little pixie! That gave me



the idea to name hybrids that used some of the more inconspicuous and/or “bug-es-que” species after fairytales. I did some research and pretty quickly decided on Irish Folklore and fairytales because I loved how unique the names and how visceral the stories were. *Hab. Áine* (the “red mare”) is named for the goddess of summer and wealth because of its pink-orangish flowers and glistening, jeweled leaves (they’re so small, I doubt many even noticed!).”

Blue: *Catasetum x altaflorestense x Catasetum dupliciscutula* – Nick Rust

I wrote about this hybrid between a natural hybrid and a species in the November newsletter when covering ribbon winners for September. This example has male flowers in the color pattern I predicted would likely occur for this cross and they are large and striking.



Calanthe Rose Georgine 'Electric Pink'
HCC/AOS



Galeandra Penny Lane



Bulbophyllum spathulatum

Catasetum x altaflorestense x *Catasetum dupliciscutula*

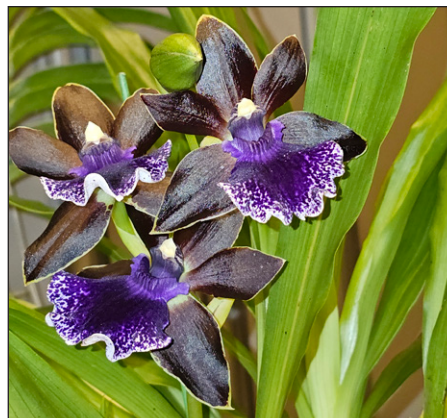
Red: *Calanthe Rose Georgine 'Electric Pink'* HCC/AOS – Fi Alonso & Jon Crate

Red: *Zygolum Louisendorf grex* – Paul Reavis

Red: *Galeandra Penny Lane* (community pot) – Nick Rust

White: *Bulbophyllum spathulatum* – Vinh Nguyen

White: *Catasetum Memoria Dorothy Wells* – Nick Rust



Zygolum Louisendorf grex



Catasetum Memoria Dorothy Wells