



## APRIL EVENT

**Monthly Meeting:** Monday, April 14, 2025

**Mershon Hall**, at the Atlanta Botanical Garden

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

### **Loy Xingwen: A Botanical Garden's Role in Orchid Conservation**

*Bring your blooming plants for our monthly ribbon judging*

## **Loy Xingwen: A Botanical Garden's Role in Orchid Conservation**

Orchids are one of the largest families of flowering plants, but they are also one of the most threatened. Botanical gardens are essential to the conservation of threatened plants. Gardens bring together horticultural and botanical expertise, horticultural facilities and sustain extensive living collections. They also help to promote the importance of plants to millions of people worldwide. In this talk, I share some of the ways in which the Atlanta Botanical Garden's Southeastern Center for Conservation is helping to save plants in the Southeast, with a focus on some of our recent projects involving native orchids. I will discuss some of our latest research on two threatened species, the small whorled pogonia and the white fringeless orchid, as well as efforts to support orchid conservation in Puerto Rico. The Center's work is made



Small whorled pogonia, *Isotria medeoloides*

possible through partnerships with our state and federal institutions, universities, non-profit organizations, and with help from dedicated volunteers. Working together is key to securing a future for threatened native plants.

Dr. Loy Xingwen is the Research Scientist in Ecology at the Atlanta Botanical



Garden's Southeastern Center for Conservation. Loy has been studying plants for 19 years. At the Center, Loy conducts ecology research to help plant conservationists find solutions for ongoing biodiversity declines. Loy trained in horticulture in his home country of Singapore, received his Bachelor's in botany from the University of Queensland in Australia, and received his PhD in ecology from Emory University in Atlanta, GA.

## **President's Message**

Dear Members of the Atlanta Orchid Society,

Spring is in full bloom, and with it comes one of my favorite months of the year—April! Not only are our orchids responding to longer days and warmer temperatures, but we're also reminded of our responsibility as stewards of nature as Earth Day approaches on April 22. Let's celebrate by renewing our commitment to conservation, both in our own collections and in the wild places where orchids naturally thrive.

In keeping with that theme, I'm thrilled to announce that our monthly meeting on April 14<sup>th</sup> will feature a very special

speaker: Dr. Loy Xingwen, Research Scientist in Ecology at the Atlanta Botanical Garden's Southeastern Center for Conservation. Loy is also an active member of our Atlanta Orchid Society. His talk, "A Botanical Garden's Role in Orchid Conservation," will highlight the important work being done right here in Atlanta to protect endangered orchid species and their habitats. Whether you're passionate about conservation or simply curious about what goes on behind the scenes at ABG, this promises to be an inspiring evening. I hope you'll join us!

We are also still basking in the glow of the incredible success of the 63rd Atlanta Orchid Show – *Orchid Wonderland!*

Thank you to every single volunteer, exhibitor, AOS judge, and supporter who made this event a true wonderland for orchid lovers. From the breathtaking exhibits to the seamless organization, it was a team effort, and it showed. I couldn't be more proud of what we accomplished together!

As for what to do in April for your orchids, now is the time to take advantage of the growing season's momentum. With temperatures rising and days lengthening, most orchids are waking up and ready to grow! Here are a few tips for this month:

*Continued on p. 3*

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## The Atlanta Orchid Society Bulletin

Volume 66: Number 4 – April 2025

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](#).

## New Members!

The Atlanta Orchid Society is delighted to welcome a particularly abundant crop of new members! We look forward to seeing you at the monthly meetings.

Welcome to

Emily Robinson

Asia Elliot

Stacy Horton

Johari Humbles

Cathrine Gritzmacher

Sarah Kelehea

Allison Dooling

Lila Bradley

Felicia Asher

Brynne Cross

Kevin Kovalchik

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Dominique Purifoy

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Danielle Fernandez

## EVENTS CALENDAR

### April

4-6 – Deep South Orchid Society Show (Savannah, GA). AOS judging on Friday.

9-12 – AOS National Annual Spring Members Meeting (Annapolis, MD)

12 – AOS monthly judging

14 – Atlanta Orchid Society Monthly Meeting: Loy Xingwen on the role of a botanical garden in orchid conservation

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

25-27 – South Carolina Orchid Society Show (Columbia, SC)

### May

10 – AOS monthly judging

12 – Atlanta Orchid Society Monthly Meeting: Tom Mirenda (visiting from Hawaii) on his trip through Mauritius, Kenya, South Africa and Gabon

30 – 1 June – New Orleans Orchid Society Show

### June

9 – Atlanta Orchid Society Monthly Meeting: Challen Willemsen (visiting from Guatemala)

14 – AOS monthly judging

### July

12 – AOS monthly judging

14 – Atlanta Orchid Society Monthly Meeting: ABG Greenhouses Tour and Ice Cream Social

### September

19 – 21 – Alabama Orchid Society Show (Birmingham, AL)

26-28 – Kentucky Orchid Society Show (Louisville, KY)

## Staking and Repotting Workshop Once Again a Success!

On March 10, the Atlanta Orchid Society held its much-anticipated monthly meeting, marking our first repotting and staking session of the year. This hands-on workshop provided an invaluable opportunity for members to refine their skills under the guidance of seasoned orchid enthusiasts.

We were thrilled to welcome several new members, who eagerly participated and benefited from the expertise of our dedicated mentors. Jon Crate led the staking demonstrations, while Barbara Barnett, Loretta Rocker, Edison Gu, Paul Reavis, Carson Barnes, and Fi Alonso each managed their respective tables, offering personalized guidance on repotting.

The event was not only educational but also a wonderful occasion for members—both new and long-standing—to connect, share experiences, and nurture their passion for these exquisite plants. Everyone left with newfound confidence in caring for their orchids.



## President's Message

*Continued from page 1*

**\* Repotting** – If you have orchids bursting out of their pots or media breaking down, early spring is a perfect time to repot before the heat of summer sets in.

**\* Watering and Fertilizing** – As growth picks up, increase watering and resume or step up your fertilizing routine. Remember the mantra “weekly, weakly!”

**\* Light and Air Circulation** – More light encourages growth, but be mindful of the strengthening sun. Provide shade where necessary and ensure good air movement to prevent pests and disease.

**\* Pest Watch** – Warmer weather brings out pests. Inspect your plants regularly and address issues early.

Let's celebrate Earth Day this month by cultivating our orchids with care, learning more about conservation, and appreciating the beauty and diversity they bring to our lives and to the planet. See you on April 14th!

Warm regards,

Firelli “Fi” Alonso  
President, Atlanta Orchid Society

2025



## Judges' Corner

The Atlanta Orchid Society Show was held 7–9 Mar 2025 at the Atlanta Botanical Gardens, Atlanta, GA, with morning AOS judging for the show and that afternoon the regular monthly judging was held along with judge training for the Atlanta Judging Center. Below is a combined report for these two events.

Twelve accredited judges participated in the efforts: Bailey Santwire (show judging chair), Carson Barnes, Barbara Barnett, Ray Bullard (Senior), Aileen Garrison (Emerita), Tom Harper (Senior), H.B. Blythe-Hart, Doug Hartong, David Janvrin, Butch Lewandowski (Senior), David Mellard, Cynthia Van Der Wiele, Charles Wilson and Susan Wilson, along with three associate judges: Firelli Alonso, Andy Braun and Jon Crate, and 5 student judges: Scott Elliott, Edison Gu, Ben Overlie, Sam Overlie and Paul Reavis. Four judging teams were established for both of these events.



Atlanta Orchid Society exhibit

The show included 151 orchid entries from eleven exhibitors, from which 25 orchids were nominated for AOS award judging consideration. Five plants received a combined six awards.

(Photos by Charles Wilson.)

The Atlanta Orchid Society exhibit received a score of 85 points, garnering the AOS Show Trophy as well as a Silver Certificate:

Three entries were awarded AMs (Award of Merit, 80-89 points):

*Dendrobium* Chinsai 'MBF' AM/AOS, 81 points, exhibited by Marble Branch Farms.

*Paphiopedilum* Whyte Thorne Savior 'FOH' AM/AOS, 80 points, exhibited by Hoang Kim

*Holcovanstylis* Ping Pong 'Ruel's Wish' AM-CCM/AOS, 84 point AM and additionally an 87 point Certificate of Cultural Merit, exhibited by Joe Sayers

Two HCCs (Highly Commended Certificate, 75-80 points):

*Dendrobium* Burana Sundae 'Sangria' HCC/AOS, 78 points, exhibited by Edison Gu

*Paphiopedilum* Barbato-Purpuratum 'Paula Ann' HCC/AOS, 77 points, exhibited by Paul Reavis



*Dendrobium* Chinsai 'MBF' AM/AOS



*Paphiopedilum* Whyte Savior 'FOH' AM/AOS



*Dendrobium* Burana Sundae 'Sangria' HCC/AOS



*Paphiopedilum* Barbato-Purpuratum 'Paula Ann' HCC/AOS



*Holcovanstylis* Ping Pong 'Ruel's Wish'  
AM-CCM/AOS

One AM (Award of Merit, 80-89 points) was awarded at the monthly center judging that afternoon:

*Cattleya* Richard Degenardt 'Palmetto Freeze' AM/AOS, 81 points, exhibited by Fred Missbach.

Charles Wilson  
Chair, Atlanta Judging Center



*Cattleya* Richard Degenardt 'Palmetto Freeze' AM/AOS



## Become an AOS Judge

**The American Orchid  
Society Judging Program  
is seeking highly motivated  
orchid enthusiasts to join  
the judging ranks**

Contact us at [judges@aos.org](mailto:judges@aos.org)



# Atlanta Orchid Society Monthly Meeting Ribbon Winners for March, 2025

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



*Cattleya lueddemanniana* forma *coerulea*

## Class 1: Cattleya Alliance

### Species

#### Blue: *Cattleya lueddemanniana* forma *coerulea* – Bailey Santwire

We are in the peak bloom season for this wonderfully fragrant and compact growing large-flowered species from Venezuela. There, it is endemic to the Caribbean slope at fairly low elevations from just west of Caracas to Barquisimeto, often in scrubby areas that appear unsuited to such a beautiful plant. While it comes in a number of color forms, this example and many others that were installed in the club display at this year's orchid show, are the pale violet "coerulea" form. Like the typical form, which is a strong orchid lavender, the lip color is darker and includes yellow (or sometimes white) streaks in the throat which fan out around the upper portion of the main lobe, often creating "eye spots."

This is particularly noticeable in the intense purple "rubra" form. There is also an alba and a semi-alba form, although a good flat example of the latter can be hard to find. The petals are wide, with undulating margins. As mentioned earlier, growth is compact for such a large flower, making it a good choice where vertical space is an issue. *C. lueddemanniana* thrives on warmth but will tolerate nights as low as 50F in winter if given an elevated position with bright light. Water generously in summer and somewhat less in winter but always pot in a quick drying medium. More than sixteen thousand currently registered hybrids include this species in their family tree.

#### Blue: *Rhyncattleanthe* East Texas Sunset – Fi Alonso & Jon Crate

*Rhyncattleanthe* East Texas Sunset combines two of the most famous winter/spring flowering cluster hybrids: *Cattlianthe* Rojo and *Rth.* Orange Nugget. Those two combined have generated another 800 registered hybrids in the last few decades. What all these crosses

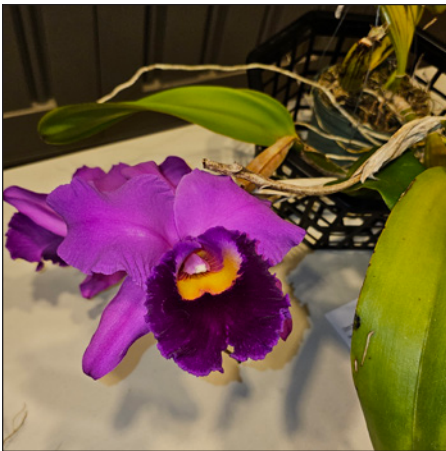


*Rhyncattleanthe* East Texas Sunset

have in common is the ease of growth and flowering inherited from *Guarianthe aurantiaca*. Multiple leads over time can produce showy specimens with rather long-lasting flowers, making them perfect candidates to add masses of color to displays in the peak of orchid show season. My latest copy of *Orchids* magazine lists 59 American Orchid Society sanctioned shows taking place across the country in February and March, and you can bet nearly all the displays will be punctuated with many orange cluster-flowered cattleyas such as this one. Orchids in this group are good choices for beginners and rewarding subjects for specimen plants that will impress even experienced growers.

**Red: *Rhyncholaeliocattleya* Sarah Palin  
'Hockey Mom' – Bailey Santwire**

**White: *Cattleya walkeriana* (tipo) – Fi  
Alonso & Jon Crate**



*Rhyncholaeliocattleya* Sarah Palin 'Hockey Mom'



*Cattleya walkeriana* (tipo)



*Cymbidium* Waimea Wahine

## Class 2: *Cymbidium* Alliance

**Blue: *Cymbidium* Waimea Wahine (*Cym.*  
Warmly Passionate 'Ice White' x *Olymilum*  
'White Elf') – Fi Alonso & Jon Crate**

More about this plant will come in next month's newsletter—stay tuned!





*Dendrobium Red Senator*

### Class 3: Dendrobium Alliance

#### Blue: *Dendrobium Red Senator* – Carson Barnes

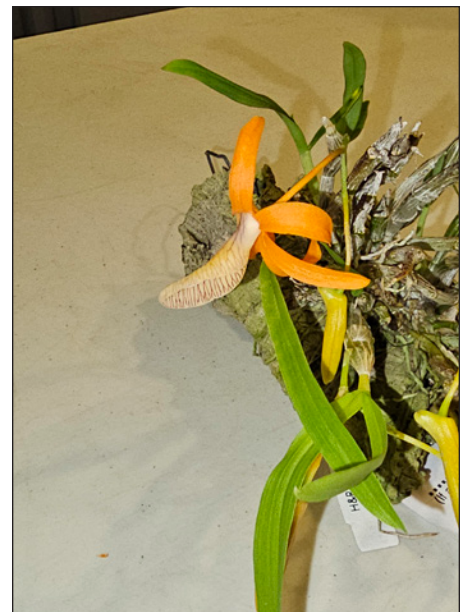
*Dendrobium Red Senator* is one of the many showy hybrids created by Yamamoto Dendrobiums of Japan. Despite the name, it is a white flower shading to intense lavender at the apical portion of the segments, with a deep purple throat edged in yellow. The color pattern is similar to that of *Den. nobile* from which it descends but with larger and fuller flowers. For many years, Yamamoto Dendrobiums operated a facility on the Big Island of Hawaii and shipped their wonderful creations all over the USA. Sadly, the manager of that location retired a few years ago and it is becoming more difficult to find many of the plants they created, especially the yellow forms and unusual color patterns. I bought as many mature plants as I could just before they closed and now use them as stock plants, propagating new plants from keikis on a small scale. It generally takes about 3 years from a potted keiki to a plant with at least one full-size growth and good flowering. Growing this group well requires an understanding of their specific care requirements based on the climate

in which they occur in the wild. Native to the mountains of Southeast Asia, the species used in these hybrids receive an annual summer monsoon with copious rainfall and warm temperatures followed by a drier and cooler winter. They like bright filtered light and can tolerate morning sun during their active growth phase from about May to August. In these 4 months new shoots from the base of the plant will quickly reach full size so frequent water and fertilization is necessary. After August, fertilizer should be eliminated but frequent water continued into October, when it can be slowly reduced. Plants must be subjected to at least a thirty-degree temperature difference between night and day as fall progresses into winter in order to stimulate bud formation. Without a greenhouse, this is best accomplished by growing plants outdoors during the entire season and leaving them out until the first freeze is forecast. By then, they will have received the stimulus needed to start budding. However, if brought into household warmth at that time, you should expect open flowers in 60 to 90 days. Keeping the plants cool at night will slow this process down and produce later flowers. I would still recommend light watering

at least once per week in the winter to prevent shriveling of the canes, especially in low household humidity. In nature, dew and mist are plentiful from late fall into early winter, becoming less frequent in late winter and early spring.

**Red: *Dendrobium secundum* – Bailey Santwire**

**White: *Dendrobium unicum* – Bailey Santwire**

*Dendrobium secundum**Dendrobium unicum*





*Encyclia patens* x *incumbens*

#### Class 4: Epidendrum Alliance

##### Blue: *Encyclia patens* x *incumbens* – Bailey Santwire

The combination of these two species creates a flower that is rather subtle in coloration. In this example, a strong greenish yellow bloom with purple overlaid on the segments given them a bronze hue. I'm not sure if there was a specific goal in mind when this pairing was made, but the latter species is quite fragrant and can produce well over 100 flowers on a single branched inflorescence when mature, despite having a compact growth habit. If those traits are inherited, then when fully grown, this one could make quite a statement. The former species occurs in the interior of southern Brazil while the latter grows in rather high elevations in the state of Chiapas, Mexico. The combination should create good temperature tolerance from cool to hot. Watering should be frequent while actively growing in summer and reduced but not eliminated in winter, always with excellent drainage. A basket is

a good choice for this and most *Encyclia*, but plants can also be mounted on slabs if you are willing to water more often.



**American Orchid Society**

*Education. Conservation. Research.*

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12 issues of *Orchids*, the Society's monthly full color magazine chock full of insightful articles and tempting ads for plants and supplies.

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*Oncidopsis Onolicious 'Vivid'**Miltoniopsis Andrea West*

## Class 5: Oncidium Alliance

### Blue: *Oncidopsis Onolicious 'Vivid'* – Fi Alonso & Jon Crate

While this showy and compact orchid is a combination of *Oncidium* and *Miltoniopsis* as indicated by its nothogenus, the latter genus makes up more than 80 percent of its family tree and therefore it looks like and should be grown like a typical *Miltoniopsis* hybrid. The strong color is inherited from *Oncidium noezlium*, which itself is a high elevation species. This means keeping the plants in cool to somewhat warm temperatures and not subjecting them to our summer heat where they will languish. These orchids also do not like to totally dry out between waterings and allowing them to do so will lead to quick decline. If your plant is in sphagnum careful monitoring is required in order to maintain a balance between sopping wet and totally dry. Once completely dry, that medium is hydrophobic, and a casual watering will simply run through the pot without remoistening it. A better choice would be a mix of medium bark and large perlite. Then the pot could be situated on a saucer or tray where about a quarter inch of water could remain after each watering, lessening the burden. Once the water is gone, the plants should be rewatered and occasionally flushed well with pure water to reduce any mineral build up.

Bright but diffused light is the best for this group. Flowering can occur on new growth anytime from late winter to early fall, so generally at least twice in a year.

### Red: *Miltoniopsis Andrea West* – Fi Alonso & Jon Crate

### White: *Tolumnia Jairak Flyer 'Cardinal Bird'* – Bailey Santwire

*Tolumnia Jairak Flyer 'Cardinal Bird'*

**Orchid  
Digest**

When you're serious about orchids.

## JOIN THE ORCHID DIGEST CORPORATION

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 [www.orchiddigest.com](http://www.orchiddigest.com) to join online.



*Paphiopedilum hirsutissimum*

## Class 6: Slipper Alliance

**Blue:** *Paphiopedilum hirsutissimum*  
**'Thank You Margaret' HCC/AOS – Carson Barnes**

The uniquely shaped flowers of this species from the mountains of southeast Asia are aptly named, as close inspection will reveal minute hairs densely covering all surfaces of the blooms. It does not seem closely related to any other group of species in the genus, but has been widely used in hybridization resulting in more than 150 first generation crosses and over 2500 total progeny. Orchidwiz lists over 350 awards given to *Paph. hirsutissimum* worldwide, including at least six First Class Certificates from the AOS. The most recent of those was in April 2019, awarded to a plant grown by the late Hadley Cash of Marriott Orchids in North Carolina. The description of the species indicates that it can be found in thick humus at the base of trees, on moss covered rocks and on cliff faces, but is most often found in the crotches of tree branches which moss and humus collect. The flowers are usually a bit over five

inches across and held above green strap shaped leaves that can span up to eighteen inches. The bloom season peaks in March, April and May. While appreciating plenty of water while in active growth from spring to fall, this species needs a cooler rest in winter, with some growers recommending subjecting it to temperatures in the low forties in December and withholding water for thirty to forty days with only occasional misting to get good flowering.

*Paphiopedilum delenatii*

**Red:** *Paphiopedilum charlesworthii* x  
*Paphiopedilum rungsuriyanum* – Steve Schwab

**White:** *Pragmipedium Mini Grande* – Bailey Santwire

*Pragmipedium Mini Grande*





*Phalaenopsis* Miva Smartissimo 'Firelli' AM/AOS

## Class 7: Phalaenopsis

### Blue: *Phalaenopsis* Miva Smartissimo 'Firelli' AM/AOS – Fi Alonso & Jon Crate

This orchid was introduced by Michel Vacherot Orchids of Roquebrune-sur-Argens, France, in 1988. That town is in Provence not far from the famous resorts of Cannes and Saint-Tropez. Translated from the French, their "About Us" page reads: "After leaving the company founded in 1886 in Boissy-Saint-Léger by Henri Vacherot, Michel Vacherot and his grandson settled at the foot of the rock of Roquebrune-sur-Argens in 1984. Today run by his daughter Raphaëlle, our orchid garden covers 2,500 m<sup>2</sup> of heated greenhouses equipped with an in vitro culture laboratory. It is thanks to this laboratory that we produce thousands of plants each year for your enjoyment. A visit to our greenhouses will allow you to discover our orchids at different stages of growth, from the in vitro jar to

the flowering plant. Our clientele is very diverse." They have registered over 500 new crosses including a large number of *Phalaenopsis*, and most of their registered names start with the word "Miva." This particular hybrid has a fairly typical mix of species found in modern crosses. Some of the resulting plants had solid pink flowers, while this one, awarded in March 2018 here in Atlanta, has a beautiful stippling of darker rose pink. Looking back over previous mentions of *Phal. Miva* Smartissimo 'Firelli' AM/AOS in our newsletters reveals that it has been well flowered at all seasons of the year giving it high marks for performance.

**Red: *Phalaenopsis schilleriana* – Bailey Santwire**

## Class 8: Vandaceous Alliance

**No Entries**



*Phalaenopsis schilleriana*



*Warczewiczella amazonica*

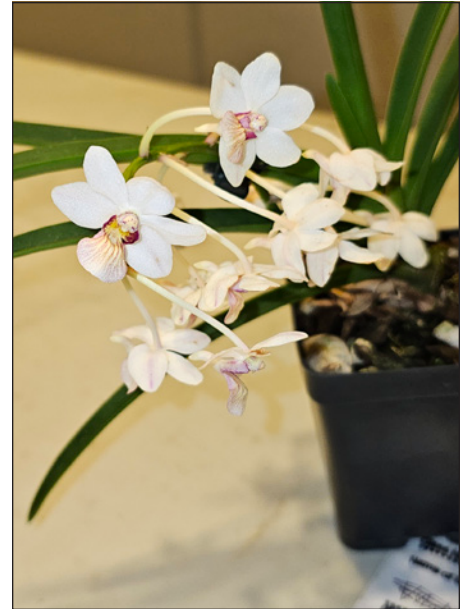
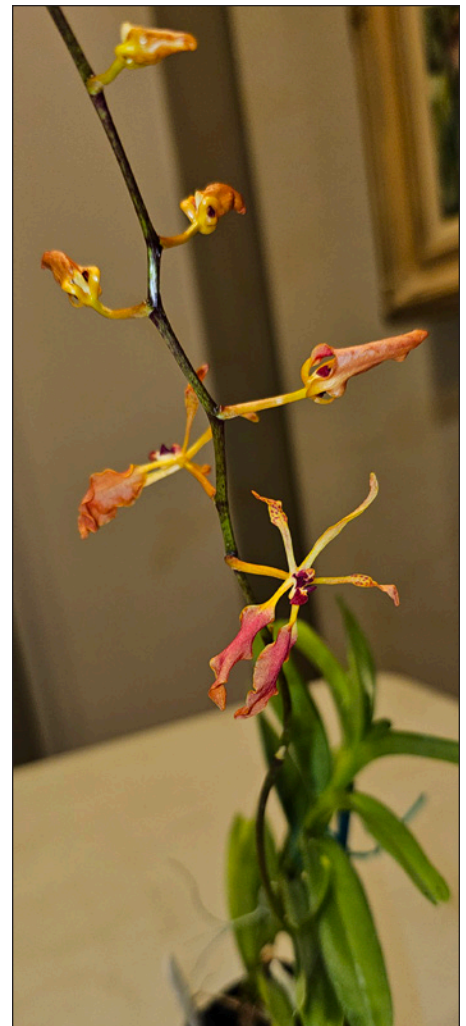
## Class 9: Miscellaneous

### Blue: *Warczewiczella amazonica* – Bailey Santwire

This compact growing species with relatively large flowers comes from the Amazon basin of Brazil and the lower slopes of the Andes in the Amazon drainage of Peru and Ecuador. Some sources also include Colombia, Venezuela and Surinam in its range. It grows in shade and in areas of heavy to very heavy rainfall year-round. Because of the wet climate it has not evolved any water storage device and needs frequent watering with excellent drainage year-round. Its preferred temperature range is between 60F and 90F. Each growth produces a fan of soft flat leaves from which several single flowered inflorescences will emerge over time. The white flowers

have a rather heavy substance and can be up to four inches in size, with a wide lip that carries radiating violet purple lines. They are described as fragrant, but so far, my nose has not detected any scent. The bloom season seems to be concentrated in the cooler months of the year. Several sources stress that the roots are subject to rot if the media breaks down, so regular repotting is recommended. Plants may also be found which are labeled *Cochleanthes amazonica*, a name first used in 1959, but Kew currently recognizes the above name first applied in 1854, the best pronunciation of which would be “Var-sa-vitz-élla.”

**Red:** *Holcoglossum rupestre* x *Rhynchostylis gigantea* ‘Pink’ – Steve Schwab

*Holcoglossum rupestre* x *Rhynchostylis gigantea* ‘Pink’*Renanthera pulchella*

**White:** *Renanthera pulchella* – Carson Barnes