



MAY EVENT

Monthly Meeting: Monday, May 12, 2025

Mershon Hall, at the Atlanta Botanical Garden

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

Tom Mirenda: Tom's African adventure... My awesome trip through Mauritius, Kenya, South Africa and Gabon

Bring your blooming plants for our monthly ribbon judging

Tom Mirenda: Tom's African adventure... My awesome trip through Mauritius, Kenya, South Africa and Gabon

Not many people have seen the huge variety of orchids native to southern Africa. Just prior to the Covid lockdowns Tom was honored to be asked to be the invited judge and lecturer for the prestigious Kenya Orchid Society. An offer and adventure he couldn't refuse, Tom spent a month exploring many orchid-rich areas in neighboring countries and developed a great love for this astoundingly beautiful continent.

Tom Mirenda has dedicated most of his life to his passion for orchids, cultivating them since his childhood and altering his career path from Marine Biology to Horticulture, as an orchid specialist at several of the world's most spectacular botanic gardens, and the historic Greentree Estate collection in Long Island where he has successfully grown multitudes of orchids for display.

For the past 25 years, Tom has contributed 2 monthly columns for the ORCHIDS magazine, the Bulletin of the American Orchid Society. Tom was a founding member of the North American Orchid Conservation Center and continues his support of orchids conservation there, and around the world.

Tom took a leadership position at the Hawaii Tropical Botanical Garden, an orchid paradise just north of Hilo on the Big Island. Orchids of virtually all types, both lowland and montane species and hybrids, seem to thrive, simply planted in the trees. Tom has never looked back! Now retired and pursuing his own agenda, Tom's latest project is the OGCN



(Orchid Garden Conservation Network) This project seeks to discover all the people growing orchid species in gardens and reserves around the world, and connect them all for the purposes of education, collaboration, sharing of best practices and fundraising. In recent years he's been asked to plan and coordinate orchid conferences around the world. A way to encourage friendship and collaboration in the orchid world.

Ultimately, he believes that the concept of growing orchids in Garden settings, to be a viable model world-wide for orchid conservation and encourages the ex-situ cultivation of orchids by diverse stakeholders in the orchid community and that it is only with the cooperation of Botanical Garden Professionals, Commercial Growers, academia and committed orchid collectors and backyard growers, that orchids will survive the vicissitudes of climate change.

Auction News!! Annual AtLOS Auction AND Special Auction

Mark your calendars for the **AtLOS annual auction**, set for Saturday, 1 November. Details to follow.

There will also be a **special auction on Saturday, 24 May, noon-4 p.m.**, to auction plants from Linda Miller's collection.

Longtime AtLOS member and past-president Linda Miller passed away at the end of March. Linda had been active in the Atlanta society since the 1970s, although we didn't see her much lately as she and her husband split their time between Georgia and Florida.

Linda has left many of her plants to

Continued on p. 3

President's Message

Dear Members of the Atlanta Orchid Society,

Spring is in full bloom, and with it, the vibrant energy of our orchid community continues to grow! I'm excited to share some wonderful updates and upcoming events that highlight just how dynamic our society truly is.

First and foremost, we are honored to welcome **Tom Mirenda**, an esteemed **accredited AOS judge** from the **Hilo Judging Center**, as our guest speaker for our **monthly meeting on May 12**, taking place at **Mershon Hall**. Tom will be

Continued on p. 3

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The Atlanta Orchid Society Bulletin

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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](#).

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For more information contact us at judges@aos.org



EVENTS CALENDAR

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

24 – Special Auction of Linda Miller's collection (see front page for details)

30 – 1 June – New Orleans Orchid Society Show

June

9 – Atlanta Orchid Society Monthly Meeting: Challen Willemsen (visiting from Guatemala), on Orchids in Guatemala

14 – AOS monthly judging

July

12 – AOS monthly judging

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

August

9 – AOS monthly judging

11 – Atlanta Orchid Society Monthly Meeting

September

5–7 – Kentucky Orchid Society Show (Louisville, KY) NOTE THE DATE CHANGE (was originally 26–27 September)

8– Atlanta Orchid Society Monthly Meeting

13 – AOS monthly judging

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

November

1 – Atlanta Orchid Society Auction



Some of the plants from Linda Miller's collection to be auctioned on 24 May

Auction News !!!

Continued from page 1

the society. There are more than 100 plants available, mostly cattleyas, papilionopodilums and phragmipodilums, with a few other things such as dendrochilums. We will be auctioning many of the plants on 24 May. There is also a variety of supplies (potting mix, bark, perlite, charcoal, osmunda, baskets, tree fern, clay pots, plastic pots, etc.) available.

Carson Barnes will be the auctioneer, and the auction will take place at the Fellowship Hall of Oglethorpe Presbyterian Church in Brookhaven (3016 Lanier Drive NE, Atlanta, Georgia 30319; easiest access to the Fellowship Hall is from Woodrow Way). This is where the AOS monthly judging, our holiday party and annual auction all take place.

President's Message

Continued from page 1

presenting his fascinating talk: "Tom's African Adventure... My Awesome Trip through Mauritius, Kenya, South Africa, and Gabon." This will be a unique opportunity to journey through exotic landscapes and extraordinary orchid habitats through Tom's eyes and stories. You won't want to miss it!

Another exciting event on our horizon is the **auction of orchids from the collection of Linda Miller**, a cherished past president of our society (2003). Linda generously donated her collection, and this auction is not only a great opportunity to acquire some truly special plants, but also to honor her legacy and contributions to the Atlanta Orchid Society. The auction will be held at Oglethorpe Presbyterian Church's Fellowship Hall on Saturday, May 24 from noon to 4 PM.

Our recent **orchid show held March 7-9** was a blooming success! We were thrilled to welcome a **surge of new members—nearly 30 and counting!** To all our new orchid enthusiasts, welcome! We're so glad to have you with us and look forward to sharing the beauty and joy of orchids together.

For our existing members, a gentle reminder: **please don't for-**

get to renew your membership, if you haven't already done so. You can do so easily by clicking this link: [Membership Renewal Form](#)

As we move into May, here are a few orchid care tips:

Watch the temperatures: As the weather warms, orchids may need more ventilation. Avoid direct midday sun but ensure they get plenty of bright, indirect light.

Watering and feeding: Your orchids are likely in growth mode, so increase watering slightly and resume regular feeding with a balanced fertilizer.

Repotting: If your orchids are bursting out of their pots or the media has broken down, now is a great time to repot.

And of course, don't forget to **bring your blooming beauties to the May meeting** for our monthly **Ribbon Judging!** It's a great way to share the fruits of your labor, learn from others, and celebrate the diversity of orchids we all love.

See you all on May 12!

Warm regards,

Firelli "Fi" Alonso
President, Atlanta Orchid Society
2025

Judges' Corner: Deep South Orchid Society orchid show

The Deep South Orchid Society Show was held 4-6 April 2025 at the Coastal Botanic Gardens, Savannah, GA.

Nine accredited judges participated in the efforts: Carson Barnes, Barbara Barnett, Aileen Garrison (Emerita), H.B. Blythe-Hart, Doug Hartong, David Janvrin, Bailey Santwire, Charles Wilson and Susan Wilson, enabling two AOS judging teams along with three student judges: Scott Elliott, Edison Gu, and Paul Reavis.

The show included 175 orchid entries from ten exhibitors from which 27 orchids were nominated for AOS award judging consideration, five of which received a combined six awards. (Photos by Charles Wilson.)

The Deep South Orchid Society exhibit received a score of 86 points garnering the AOS Show Trophy as well as a Silver Certificate.



Deep South Orchid Society – AOS Show Trophy and Silver Certificate, 86 points

Paphiopedilum Egret's Moonbeam 'Pepper's Surprise,' AM, 80 points, grown by Karen Schuck, Deep South Orchid Society



Paphiopedilum Egret's Moonbeam 'Pepper's Surprise' AM/AOS



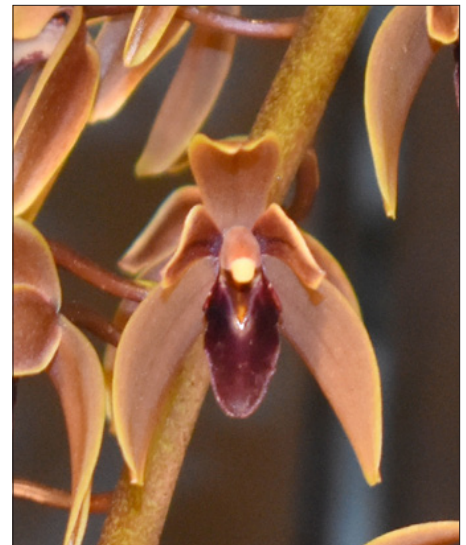
Cymbidium Marble Branch Falls 'Ramsey Creek,' CCM, 86 points, grown by Mark Rienke, Marble Branch Orchids

Catasetum (Fonseca Alfaro x Double Down), HCC, 79 points, grown by Scott Elliot and Susan Hill, Maneki Hill Orchids

Cattleya Good Friend 'Suwada,' AM, 86 points, grown by Jaime Yu, Deep South Orchid Society



Catasetum (Fonseca Alfaro x Double Down) HCC/AOS



Cymbidium Marble Branch Falls 'Ramsey Creek' CCM/AOS



Cattleya Good Friend 'Suwada' AM/AOS



Dendrobium finnisterrae 'The Masters'
HCC/AOS



Laelianthe Memoria David Bankes Glass 'MBF' CCM/AOS, AM/AOS

Paphiopedilum rothschildianum
'Memoria John Wright,' FCC, 91 points,
grown by James Arnold, Jacksonville
Orchid Society

Laelianthe Memoria David Bankes
Glass 'MBF,' CCM 86 points, AM 83
points, grown by Mark Rienke, Marble
Branch Orchids

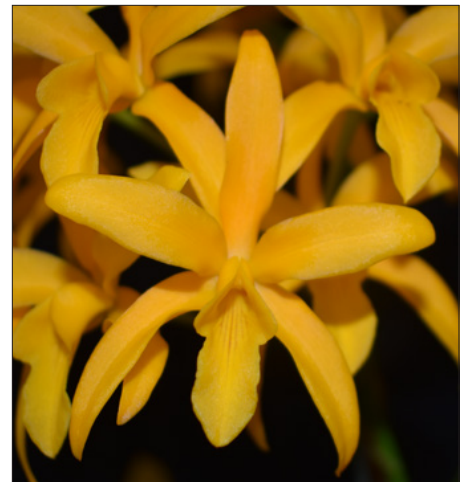
Dendrobium finnisterrae 'The Masters,'
HCC, 77 points, grown by Sheila Nichol-
son, Owens Orchids

Respectfully submitted,

Charles Wilson
Chair, Atlanta Judging Center



Paphiopedilum rothschildianum 'Memoria
John Wright' FCC/AOS



Judges' Corner: April monthly judging

Monthly judging April 12, 2025, for the Atlanta Judging Center had 12 Accredited judges, 1 Associate judge and 3 students comprising 3 teams to judge the 27 orchids entered.

Accredited Judges: Barbara Barnett, H.B. Blythe-Hart, Aileen Garrison (Emerita), Douglas Hartong, Lowell Jacks (Emeritus), David Janvrin, Butch Lewandowski (Senior), David Mellard, Bailey Santwire, Cynthia Van Der Wiele, Charles Wilson, Susan Wilson; Associate Judges: Andy Braun; Student Judges: Ben Overlie, Sam Overlie, Paul Reavis.

The below nine awards were made to eight orchids, all grown by Ken Avant, Memphis Orchid Society & Orchid Society of Middle Tennessee. (Photos by Charles Wilson.)

Phalaenopsis Phylo's Dragon Princess
'Tejas Gem,' AM, 82 pts

Phalaenopsis KS Super Zebra 'Tejas,'
CCE (91 pts) and AM (85 pts)

Paphiopedilum Hilo Black Eagle
'Tejas,' AM, 85 pts



Phalaenopsis KS Super Zebra 'Tejas' CCE/
AOS, AM/AOS



Phalaenopsis Phylo's Dragon Princess 'Tejas
Gem' AM/AOS



Paphiopedilum Hilo Black Eagle 'Tejas' CCM/
AOS, AM/AOS





Phalaenopsis Ambrotana 'Tejas' AM/AOS



Phalaenopsis Ambrotana 'Tejas Ruby'
AM/AOS



Phalaenopsis Ambrotana 'Tejas Princess' AM/AOS

Paphiopedilum Anita Baby 'Tejas,'
FCC, 90 pts

Phalaenopsis Ambrotana 'Tejas,' AM,
86 pts

Phalaenopsis Ambrotana 'Tejas Ruby,'
AM, 83 pts

Phalaenopsis Ambrotana Tejas
Princess,' AM, 83 pts

Phalaenopsis bastianii f. helvola 'Tejas
Deutsch Gold,' CHM, 82 pts



Paphiopedilum Anita Baby 'Tejas'
FCC/AOS



Phalaenopsis bastianii f. helvola 'Tejas
Deutsch Gold' CHM/AOS

Our next monthly judging (May 10)
will be held at Oglethorpe Presbyterian
Church Fellowship Hall. Training pro-
gram at noon (open to all) with formal
judging at 2 p.m. Free and convenient
parking.

Respectfully submitted,

Charles Wilson
Chair, Atlanta Judging Center



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Memphis Orchid Society – AOS Show Trophy and Silver Certificate

Judges' Corner: Memphis Orchid Society orchid show

The Memphis Orchid Society Show was held 25-27 April 2025 at the Memphis Botanic Gardens, Memphis, TN.

Nine accredited judges, three associate judges and three student judges representing 4 judging centers participated in the efforts: Accredited (Atlanta): Carson Barnes, Tom Harper, Bailey

Santwire, Charles Wilson, Susan Wilson, (Mid-America): Nathan Bell, Loretta Franklin, Melissa Garner, (Cincinnati): Stephen Benjamin; Associate (Atlanta): Firelli Alonso, Jon Crate, and (Dallas): Tim Brown, enabling three AOS judging teams, along with three student judges: (Atlanta): Scott Elliot, Edison Gu and



Dendrobium Sheng Yi Bumblebee
'Swamprad's Arwen' AM/AOS



Phalaenopsis 'Pylo's Gift Tejas' AM/AOS

(Mid-America): Anh Rongish.

The show included 266 orchid entries from ten exhibitors, from which 24 orchids were nominated for AOS award judging consideration, five of which received six combined awards. Additionally, the Memphis Orchid Society exhibit received a score of 85 points, garnering the AOS Show Trophy as well as a Silver Certificate. (Photos by Marcus Valentine.)



Maxillaria tenuifolia 'Windy Hill's Black Coco' CCE/AOS, FCC/AOS



Dendrobium Sheng Yi Bumblebee
'Swamprad's Arwen,' AM, 83 points, exhibited by Mark Mills, Memphis Orchid Society

Phalaenopsis Pylo's Gift 'Tejas,' AM, 82 points, exhibited by Ken Avant, Middle Tennessee Orchid Society

Maxillaria tenuifolia 'Windy Hill's Black Coco,' CCE, 90 points, and FCC, 90 points, exhibited by Marilyn LeDoux, Windy Hill Orchids

Dendrobium Hawaiian Punch 'C of O Grape Chaos,' AM, 83 points, exhibited by Nathan Bell of Springfield Orchid Society:

Phalaenopsis lueddemanniana (alba)
'Max-Snow Lover,' CHM, 83 points, exhibited by Marcus Valentine:

Our next monthly judging (Saturday, May 10) will be held at Oglethorpe Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall, 3016 Lanier Drive NE. Training program at noon (open to all) with formal judging at 2 p.m. Free and convenient parking.

Respectfully submitted,

Charles Wilson
Chair, Atlanta Judging Center



Dendrobium Hawaiian Punch 'C of O Grape Chaos' AM/AOS



Phalaenopsis lueddemanniana (alba)
'Max-Snow Lover' AM/AOS

Atlanta Orchid Society Monthly Meeting Ribbon Winners for April, 2025

Notes by Mark Reinke; photos by Elaine Cekis and Jon Crate



Cattleya schilleriana

Class 1: Cattleya Alliance

Blue: *Cattleya schilleriana* – Edison Gu

Cattleya schilleriana is a compact growing bifoliate species from the state of Espirito Santo in Brazil. It is the first state north of Rio de Janeiro along the Atlantic coast. It is considered quite rare in the wild and only found on cliffs above the north branch of the Rio Jucu near the town of Domingos Martins. It is usually on moss covered rocks and trees near springs or small waterfalls that keep the humidity up during the drier winter months. A happy mature plant can produce up to five flowers per inflorescence in spring, with the peak of bloom in April and May. The glossy flowers are fairly long lived and are usually about four inches in spread, with undulating segments in olive-brown accented by darker random dots and a widely spreading spade-shaped lip that is white, heavily overlaid with radiating purple lines and a touch of yellow in the throat. They have a light fragrance. This species has been heavily used in the breeding of spotted and deeply colored hybrids and more than 6500 registered hybrids descend from it. As with other cattleya species

with rather large, thick roots, *C. schilleriana* is best grown either mounted, as Edison is doing, or in a basket with large, open media. It needs rather frequent watering late spring through early fall and



Cattleya lueddemanniana forma rubra

less in winter, though due to the high humidity in the natural habitat, it should not stay dry for extended periods.

Red: *Cattlianthe Naranja en Flor* – Fi Alonso & Jon Crate

White: *Cattleya lueddemanniana forma rubra* – Edison Gu



Cattlianthe Naranja en Flor

*Cymbidium Waimea Wahine*

Class 2: Cymbidium Alliance

Blue from March Meeting: *Cymbidium Waimea Wahine* – Fi Alonso & Jon Crate

This entry was left out of the information I received last month. It is a brand-new registration from the Orchidpeople of the Big Island of Hawaii. That grower specializes in *Cymbidium* hybrids, many with good tolerance for warm summers even though they are located at about 3000 feet above sea level on the north end of the island where it is mild year-round. One parent was one half *Cym. ensifolium* and the other one half *Cym. flori-bundum*. Both lend warmth tolerance and reduced size, but as I mentioned in last month's newsletter with my description of the heirloom variety *Cym. Swan Lake*, the color range in such combinations, is mostly limited to white with blush tones. Because *Cym. ensifolium* is mostly summer to fall blooming, this particular cross could flower more than once per year.



it, they are not closely related to *Cymbidium*, but rather to *Eulophia*, *Grammangis*, and *Ansellia*. This particular species is almost always found growing in association with *Platycerium madagascariense*, a distinctive form of Staghorn Fern in forests on the eastern side of the island. The stout inflorescence emerges from the base of a pseudobulb and can bear up to 20 successive blooming flowers about three inches in spread, usually with a few open at one time. The segments are apple green with petals heavily peppered in dark spots. The large midlobe of the lip is crimson red and usually reflexed at the tip. It has a yellow central stripe covered in dark spots. The bloom season peaks in May and June. *Cymla. rhodochila* is not readily available commercially, but if you find one, grow it in filtered bright light with warm temperatures and year-round watering and feeding.

Blue from April Meeting: *Cymbidiella rhodochila* – Edison Gu

There are three recognized species of *Cymbidiella*, all native to Madagascar. Despite the name and a similar growth hab-

*Cymbidiella rhodochila*

*Dendrobium nobile*

Class 3: Dendrobium Alliance

Species

J. C. Mobley Cultural Award: *Dendrobium nobile* – Vinh Nguyen

This beautifully grown plant shows the potential for *Den. nobile* and its hybrids when well grown and given the proper seasonal care. In the way of review, this means copious watering with regular feeding May through August, continued watering through October, but with no additional fertilizer, then less water with cool night temperatures and a large diurnal range in winter to initiate flowering. The light level needs to be on the bright side as well.

Blue: *Dendrobium fimbriata* var. *oculatum* – Véronique Perrot

This showy species belongs to the Callista Section of the genus and is widespread in southeast Asia, normally growing several thousand feet above sea level in climates like the above species, with

a strong seasonal variation each year. It is a robust grower, but the ultimate size varies from plant to plant, with some staying in the 24–30-inch range when mature, while others can exceed six feet

in height. The leafy canes need to be at least two years old to begin flowering but will then flower from nodes at their upper portion for several years as they gradually become deciduous. An older,

*Dendrobium fimbriatum* var. *oculatum*

*Dendrobium bellatulum**Dendrobium lituiflorum**Dendrobium tangerinum*

well-grown plant can have hundreds of flowers at once, though they last only about a week. The flowers hang in clusters of about 6 to 15 and are usually sunny yellow with a lip that is highly fringed. The *oculatum* form has a dark purple patch in the throat for an attractive contrast. As with *Den. nobile*, this species wants bright light and copious watering during the warmer months, with a drier rest and cooler nights in winter to initiate flowering. It is not a plant for small spaces, but with time and patience it can be quite spectacular.

Red: *Dendrobium bellatulum* – Edison Gu

Red: *Dendrobium sanderae* variety *major* – Edison Gu

Red: *Dendrobium trigonopus* – Vinh Nguyen

White: *Dendrobium lituiflorum* – Vinh Nguyen

White: *Dendrobium tangerinum* – Edison Gu

*Dendrobium Surprise*

Hybrids

Blue: *Dendrobium Surprise* – Vinh Nguyen

Perhaps the main surprise here is not the name of the plant, but seeing one cultivated today, as it is an early *Den. nobile* type hybrid registered in 1964. It has probably been kept going all this time by sharing keikis over the decades. This example does not have a surprising flower

for the breeding group, so it is hard to know why Richella Orchids of Honolulu, HI chose the name. My guess is that both parents were early crosses that exhibited a yellow base color which is absent in their offspring. This is likely because species with lavender flowers make up about 65% of the resulting cross and the gene for that flower color is dominant. The other lavender species in its family

tree besides *Den. nobile* is *Den. findlayanum*, which has distinctive swollen nodes where each leaf grows on the stem and a bit of that trait is apparent in this orchid.

Red: *Dendrobium Little Atro* – Karl Harden

White: *Dendrobium Love Memory 'Fizz'* AM/AOS – Karl Harden

*Dendrobium Love Memory 'Fizz'**Dendrobium Little Atro*

*Prosthechea baculus*

Class 4: Epidendrum Alliance

Blue: *Prosthechea baculus* – Bailey Sant-wire

This distinctive species grows from southern Mexico southward through Central America and possibly in Colombia and Brazil in humid forests a few thousand feet above sea level. It is unique in that there are normally two flowers per short inflorescence, oriented back-to-back. They are non-resupinate (lip upwards), fragrant and up to three inches in spread. This particular plant is flowering a bit earlier than the usual peak season of May through July. It prefers filtered bright light, warm temperatures and plenty of water in summer with only light watering or misting in winter.

Red: *Encyclia cordigera* variety *alba* – Edison Gu

White: *Encyclia Rioclarense* – Edison Gu

*Encyclia cordigera* var. *alba**Encyclia Rioclarense*

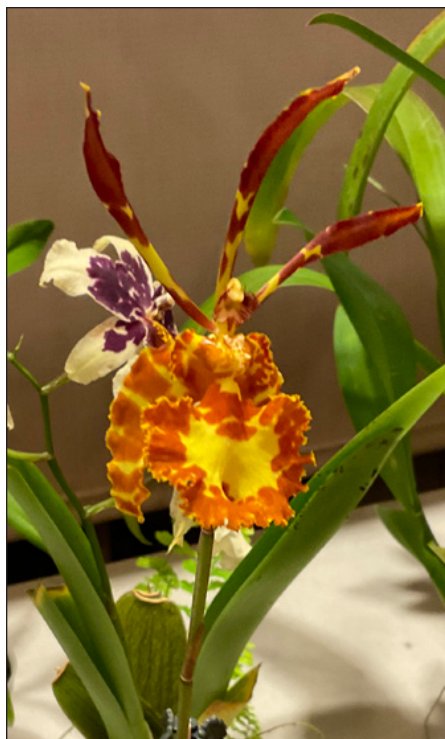
*Caucaea olivacea* var. *rhodosticta*

Class 5: Oncidium Alliance

Species

Blue: *Caucaea olivacea* variety *rhodosticta* – Edison Gu

The genus *Caucaea* is part of the Oncidium Alliance and consists of a dozen or so fairly small growing species native to high elevations in the Andes Mountains. This particular species is known from Colombia, growing between 7500 and 11000 feet above sea level. Some taxonomists consider *Cauc. olivacea* var. *rhodosticta* a separate species and cite differences in the shape of the callus in the center of the lip as one reason. Right now, Kew keeps them together. As is often the case, Edison is growing an orchid that would be considered challenging in this area. Plants in the wild receive nights in the 40's year-round with daytime highs staying in the upper 60's to low 70's. They get frequent water from rainfall

*Psychopsis versteetiana*

most of the year, with somewhat less in winter, though the humidity remains 60-70% in the “dry” season. I would expect this orchid only to do well in a strictly controlled cool to mild growing area.

Red: *Psychopsis versteetiana* – Edison Gu

Red: *Trichocentrum carthagenense* – Edison Gu

White: *Oncidium sphacelatum* – Edison Gu

*Oncidium sphacelatum*

*Miltoniopsis Quintals Lava*

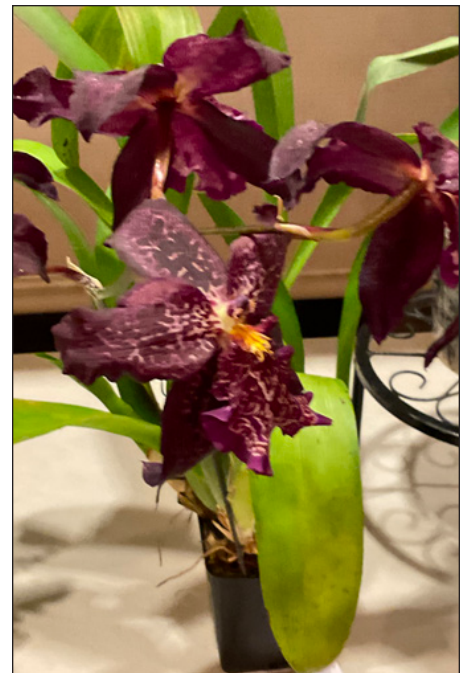
Hybrids

Blue: *Miltoniopsis Quintals Lava* – Fi Alonso & Jon Crate

Miltoniopsis Quintals Lava is a new introduction from Quintal Farms in Kurtistown, HI (Big Island), registered in 2022. For whatever reason, they are shipping plants out with a tag that says *Mps. Molten Lava* (clone) instead of the actual registered name. The color pattern of the large flowers is different to many of the standard clones that have been mass produced in the last couple of decades, giving it a refreshing and dramatic look. The lip has a bold “lava burst” pattern in red and yellow over a stark white background. At the right time of day, they are extremely fragrant. Like most modern hybrids in this group, the breeding line began in 1889 when *Mps. roezlii* and *Mps. vexillaria* were crossed to create *Mps. Bleuana*. This orchid is the ninth generation in that family tree. It is about 70% *Mps. roezlii*, the lowest growing of the five species in the genus, happy in warm temperatures, but still not fond of hot conditions. If your growing area has days in the 90s in the warmer months, it is best to look for something more adapted to heat, even though it is difficult to match the sheer beauty of a *Miltoniopsis* full of blooms.

**Red: *Schunkeara Big Shot ‘Hilo Sparkle’*
AM/AOS – Karl Harden’**

**White: *Aliceara Marfitch ‘Howard’s Dream’*
AM/AOS – Karl Harden**

*Schunkeara Big Shot ‘Hilo Sparke’**Aliceara Marfitch ‘Howard’s Dream’*



Paphiopedilum hirsutissimum h.v. esquirolii

Class 6: Slipper Alliance

Blue: *Paphiopedilum hirsutissimum h.v. esquirolii* – Edison Gu

I wrote extensively about this species in last month's newsletter in case you are looking for greater detail about it. Variety *esquirolii* has at times been considered a separate species and refers to the plants that come from northern Thailand and the Guizhou Province of southwest China. Edison's plant seems to be compact for the species and is absolutely stunning with three perfectly spaced boldly colored flowers.

Red: *Paphiopedilum wardii h.f. album* – Fi Alonso & Jon Crate

Red: *Paphiopedilum malipoense* – Edison Gu

White: *Paphiopedilum sukhakulii x mohrianum (matersianum)* – Duguesclin



Paphiopedilum wardii h.f. album



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*Phalaenopsis* No ID

Class 7: Phalaenopsis

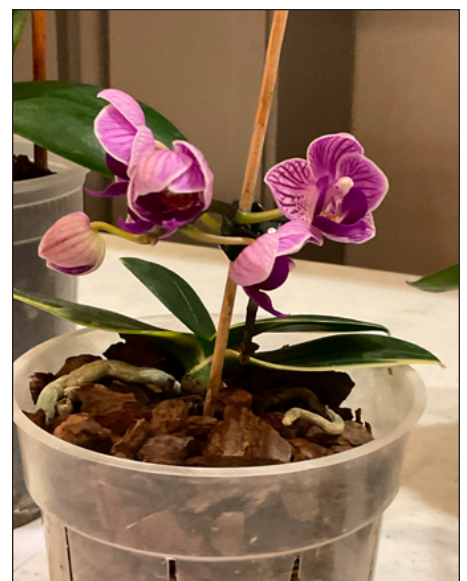
Blue: *Phalaenopsis* No ID – Emma Dahl

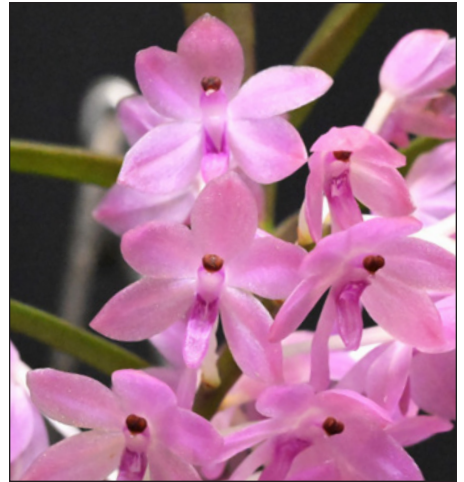
This beautiful flower-laden plant almost certainly has *Phal. equestris* in its immediate family tree, given the shape of the lip and the branched multifloral presentation. Try as I might, I couldn't find a name for it, but it deserves to have one.

Red: *Phalaenopsis parishii* – Edison Gu

White: *Phalaenopsis* No ID – Steve Schwab

White: *Phalaenopsis* No ID – Steve Schwab

*Phalaenopsis parishii**Phalaenopsis* No ID

*Vanda christensoniana**Vanda garayi*

Class 8: Vandaceous Alliance

Blue: *Vanda christensoniana* – Vinh Nguyen

Originally described as *Ascocentrum christensonianum* in 1993, this species from southern Vietnam was moved to *Vanda* in 2012 along with the other *Ascocentrum* species. It apparently grows wild only in a narrow valley of the Song Chi River between two mountain ridges, where the elevation is no more than 500 feet above sea level and the landscape is dry and dusty with bushy semi-deciduous monsoon forest. However, the humidity remains high throughout the year so while rainfall is low except in fall, there is frequent dew and mist at night which the thick fleshy roots readily absorb. The dense racemes of rosy pink flowers come

chiefly in winter to early spring under most conditions and a well grown plant like this one can support many spikes. In 2020 and 2021, the American Orchid Society awarded three different plants of this species with a simultaneous First Class Certificate and Certificate of Cultural Excellence. The plants were all grown in Florida, where the heat and humidity is just what this orchid wants. It is adapted to rather high light levels with its narrow, almost terete leaves and scrambling habit. However, it should not be subjected to direct sun unless vigorous air movement can be provided.

Red: *Vanda denisoniana* – Edison Gu

White: *Vanda garayi* – Carson Barnes

*Coelogyne flaccida*

Class 9: Miscellaneous

Blue: *Coelogyne flaccida* – Bailey Santwire

Described by Lindley in 1830 and named for the lax to pendent inflorescences, this species comes from moderate elevations in the mountains of Ne-

*Bulbophyllum barbigerum*

pal across to southwest China. This is a nicely grown example, well on its way to becoming a show stopping specimen. Mature plants can produce hundreds of flowers, so the bar is set quite high for award consideration with this species. The creamy white flowers with a yellow throat open all at once and have a fragrance not to every person's liking. Give *Coel. flaccida* medium light levels and co-

pious watering in late spring to early fall, with much less the balance of the year. Cool nights during the rest period, at least as low as the mid-50s are important for proper flowering. This species is one parent of *Coel. Unchained Melody*, a well-known pass along plant which is often mislabeled as *Coel. cristata*.



Pleurothallis cyanea

Red: *Bulbophyllum barbigerum* – Edison Gu

White: *Pleurothallis cyanea* – Edison Gu

White: *Huntleya wallisii* – Edison Gu



Huntleya wallisii