

Bulletin

September 2025

SEPTEMBER EVENT

Monthly Meeting: Monday, September 8, 2025 **Gardenhouse Workshop** at the Atlanta Botanical Garden

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

Helen Hull-Sanders on Identifying and Controlling Insect Pests

Bring your blooming plants for our monthly ribbon judging

Helen Hull-Sanders—Stealthy Saboteurs: The Art of Identifying and Controlling Insect Pests

Helen is a proud civil servant and government employee (currently; may change tomorrow). She took the academic route as a professor of entomology. and never wants to grade another exam in her life. She went to China for two years as a visiting professor, and came home to work on the Asian Longhorned beetle invasion. Then went to work for the EPA. Got an offer from the USDA during the pandemic and now safeguards American Agriculture as well as Protects Human Health and the Environment. Helen has degrees in Zoology, Biology, Statistics, and Entomology-all focusing on the evolution and ecology of

plant-animal interactions.

Helen began her love affair with orchids working in Saukville, WI, where she encountered the showy lady slipper, *Cypripedium reginae*. Throughout the years, she would have a phalaenopsis or two in her home, but it wasn't until she moved to Virginia that she began collecting in earnest. Helen currently has "a lot" of orchids. She grows outside from April to October and inside from November to March. That being said, she also has Masdevalias in terraria, Dracula orchids in her home office with a humidifier, and Bulbophyllums in the bathroom.



President's Message

Dear Members of the Atlanta Orchid Society,

I'm excited to welcome you all back for our monthly society meeting on Monday, September 8 at the Atlanta Botanical Garden's Gardenhouse Workshop. We are honored to have Helen Hull-Sanders as our guest speaker, presenting her talk Stealthy Saboteurs: The Art of Identifying and Controlling Insect Pests.

Helen Hull-Sanders is a seasoned entomologist with over a decade of experience studying plant-insect interactions. Her research focuses on the ways insects impact plant health—perfectly aligned with our ongoing goal of protecting our orchids from harmful pests. This will be an engaging, practical session, and I encourage all members to attend and bring your questions.

Upcoming Event - Alabama Orchid Show

Mark your calendars for **September 19–21** for the **Alabama Orchid Show.** At lOS will be participating with a society exhibit, coordinated by **Bailey Santwire** and **Edison Gu.**

- * If you'd like to help assemble the exhibit, please let us know.
- * If you have blooming orchids you would like to showcase, contact **Bailey** or **Edison** directly so we can include them.

This is a great opportunity to share our plants with a wider orchid community and to represent AtlOS in a regional event.

Nominating Committee Update

The **Nominating Committee** for 2026 is chaired by **Dan Alvear**. At our September meeting, we will hold a vote to elect **one current member of the Board of Trustees** to serve on this committee.

The current members of the Nominating Committee are:

- * Dan Alvear (Chair)
- * Barbara Barnett (last year's Chair)
 - * Paul Reavis
 - ***** Jennifer Schwab

Your participation ensures a fair and thoughtful nomination process.

Continued on p. 3

ATLANTA ORCHID SOCIETY

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Website - <u>Danny Lentz</u> Social Media - Firelli Alonso

The Atlanta Orchid Society Bulletin

Volume 66: Number 9 – September 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 Geogia.



EVENTS CALENDAR

September

5–7 – Kentucky Orchid Society Show (Louisville, KY)

8- Atlanta Orchid Society Monthly Meeting: Helen Hull-Sanders on Orchid Insect Pest Control

13 – AOS monthly judging

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

October

11 - AOS monthly judging

13 – Atlanta Orchid Society Monthly Meeting: Véronique Perrot on Botany for Orchid Enthusiasts

November

- 1 Atlanta Orchid Society Auction
- 8 AOS monthly judging
- 10 Atlanta Orchid Society Monthly Meeting: Susan Wilson on Bifoliate Cattleyas

December

8 - Atlanta Orchid Society Monthly Meeting: our Holiday Party!!

13 - AOS monthly judging

President's Message

Continued from page 1

September Orchid Growing Tips

September is a transitional month for orchid care, especially in our region:

- * Light: Days are getting shorter—gradually increase your orchids' exposure to bright, indirect light to maintain energy for fall and winter blooming.
- * Watering: Reduce watering slightly as temperatures cool, but avoid letting plants dry out completely.
- * Fertilizing: Continue with a balanced fertilizer (20-20-20 or similar) every 2-3 weeks, but at half-strength as growth slows.
- * **Repotting:** Only repot if necessary—plants should be in active root growth for best results.
- * Pest Check: Cooler nights can trigger pest activity. Inspect leaves, sheaths, and roots regularly for mites, mealybugs, and scale.

Let's make this September one of strong growth and healthy blooms!

I look forward to seeing you on the 8th.

Warm regards,

Firelli "Fi" Alonso President, Atlanta Orchid Society 2025



Judges' Corner: Monthly Judging at the Atlanta Judging Center, August 9, 2025

The monthly judging on August 9, 2025, presented an opportunity to say thank you to the following societies for their donations to the Atlanta Judging Center:

\$250 from Mark Mills (Memphis Orchid Society) in appreciation of Lowell Jacks

\$175 from the auction of plants donated by Ken Avant at the Memphis Orchid Society July 27 meeting to benefit the Atlanta Judging Center.

We are truly appreciative of this support which makes the continuing operation of our center possible. Thank you.

The August monthly judging for the Atlanta Judging Center had 13 Accredited judges, 1 Associate judge and 4 students comprising 3 teams to judge the 14 orchids entered.

Accredited Judges: Firelli Alonso, Carson Barnes, H.B. Blythe-Hart, Aileen Garrison (Emerita), Doug Hartong, Lowell Jacks (Emeritus), David Janvrin, David Mellard, Bailey Santwire, Cynthia Van Der Wiele, Charles Wilson, Susan Wilson, Carol Klonowski (Visiting Judge – California Sierra Nevada Center); Associate Judge: Jon Crate; Student Judges: Scott Elliott, Edison Gu, Samuel Overlie, Paul Reavis.



Holcoglossum kimballianum 'Haocheng Gu' HCC/AOS



Cattleya Who Dis 'All That' HCC/AOS

The below five awards were made. (Photos by Charles Wilson.)

Cattleya Who Dis 'All Dat' HCC, 78 pts, exhibited by Lynne Madonia (Ooltewah, TN)

Holcoglossum kimballianum 'Haocheng Gu' HCC, 79 pts, exhibited by Edison Gu

Catasetum Dianne F. Polmanter 'Maneki Hill' AM, 82 pts, exhibited by Scott Elliott and Sue Hill

Catasetum Franco Berrios Gines 'Maneki Hill' AM, 84 pts, exhibited by Scott Elliott and Sue Hill



Catasetum Dianne F. Polmanter 'Maneki Hill' AM/AOS



Catasetum tenebrosum 'Maneki Hill' AM/AOS

Catasetum tenebrosum 'Maneki Hill' AM, 80 pts, exhibited by Scott Elliott and Sue Hill

Please join us at our next monthly judging (September 13, 2025) at Oglethorpe Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall (3016 Lanier Dr NE). Judge training program starts at noon open to all ("Paph sanderianum and its Hybrids" by Benjamin Overlie) with formal judging at 2 p.m. Free and convenient parking.

Calendar of regional and nearby shows:

6 Sep 2025 - Kentucky Orchid Society (Louisville), Tim Brooks, Show Judging Chair

20 Sep 2025 - Alabama Orchid Society (Birmingham), Carson Barnes, Show Judging Chair

The following shows have been approved by AOS for 2026:

21 Feb 2026 - Middle Tennessee Orchid Society (Nashville), Tom Harper, Show Judging Chair

14 Mar 2026 - Atlanta Orchid SocietyBailey Santwire, Show Judging Chair Best regards,

> Charles Wilson Chair, Atlanta Judging Center



Last Month's Meeting

Last month's meeting of the Atlanta Orchid Society featured Carol Klonowski. Carol was visitng us from the San Francisco Bay aera, and we sat in rapt attention as she gave us a whirlwind tour of Cymbidums. With energy, wit, and deep expertise, Carol took us on a whirlwind journey through the captivating world of Cymbidiums.

Commonly known as Boat Orchids, these remarkable plants are among the most popular and extensively hybridized orchids on the planet. Celebrated in the Far East since Confucian times, Cymbidiums first reached Europe in the 1800s, where their exotic elegance quickly captured the imagination of collectors. By the Victorian era, their extraordinary range of forms and colors fueled an active hybridization movement—one that continues to flourish today.



While many growers think of them as cool-climate orchids, Carol reminded us that several species originate from warmer regions. These have played a vital role in creating temperature-tolerant hybrids, expanding the possibilities for Cymbidium cultivation well beyond theirtraditional range.

Atlanta Orchid Society Monthly Meeting Ribbon Winners for August, 2025

Notes by Mark Reinke; photos by Jennifer Schwab and Jon Crate



Cattleya dowiana h.f. aurea

Class 1: Cattleya Alliance

Blue: Cattleya dowiana h.f. aurea – Firelli Alonso & Jon Crate

Cattleya dowiana is highly regarded for its distinct beauty and notable fragrance. It is the only large-flowered species characterized by yellow coloration, making it especially valuable for hybridization. The labellum exhibits deep gold tones accentuated by radiating purple lines and a ruffled purple margin; no two specimens display identical combinations of these features. The exhibited plant is particularly glorious. This species has played a foundational role in hybrid development, as evidenced by approximately 35,000 registered crosses that include C. dowiana in their lineage. Notably, "art shade" cultivars such as the current red ribbon recipient, Rlc. Siam Red, rely on the genetic contributions of this species. Despite its

aesthetic appeal, the natural form of *C. dowiana* does not typically produce full, flat flowers, necessitating multiple generations of selective breeding to achieve contemporary yellow, orange, and red large-flowered cattleyas.

As the genus is currently recognized, *C. dowiana* is the only species to occur naturally beyond South America. It is native to the mountains of northwest Colombia but also occurs in Costa Rica and possibly Panamá. The more northern plants often have some purple feathering in the petals and are referred to as *C. dowiana variety rosita*.

Cultivating this species can be challenging due to its specific requirements, which may not suit casual growers. *C. dowiana* prefers warm, humid conditions without excessive heat. Proper drainage is essential, especially during winter when careful watering is required to prevent root moisture retention. Increased



Rhynchnolaeliocattleya Siam Red



Brassavola nodosa

light levels during winter are advisable, reflecting its native environment, where partially deciduous forests reduce canopy cover in response to lower rainfall. In cultivation, mounting on cork slabs with near-daily watering in summer or using baskets filled with coarse medium watered every two to three days has proven effective. Flowering typically commences in late summer, peaking in October and November.

Red: Rhyncholaeliocattleya Siam Red -Fred Pippin

White: Brassavola nodosa - Fred Pippin





Cymbidium dayanum h.f. album

Class 2: Cymbidium Alliance

Blue: Cymbidium dayanum h.f. album 'Lady Elizabth' CHM/AOS - Fred Pippin

Cymbidium dayanum is among the most widely distributed species within its genus, occurring throughout Southeast Asia from northeast India to southwest China, as well as in Japan, Korea, the Philippines, Borneo, and Indonesia. In natural habitats, it may be found growing epiphytically on trees and hollow logs or terrestrially on steep slopes and ravines. This species adapts readily to cultivation and is suitable for growers with sufficient space. During frostfree months, it can be kept outdoors in bright, dappled light, while overwintering indoors near a well-lit window is recommended. In this region, flowering typically occurs in August or September. The typical color form features white flowers with a red-purple stripe down the middle of the segments and a red lip. There is also a deeper colored form with same mid stripe, sometimes referred to as variety angustifolium.

The exhibited specimen has not yet reached full maturity, and the primary consideration in cultivation is adequate space, as mature plants can achieve substantial size. For example, the cultivar 'Lady Elizabeth' in my personal collection has approached four feet in diameter and two feet in height, producing abundant, arching narrow foliage even when grown in a relatively small hanging pot (5.5" square). All three color forms are represented in cultivation; notably, the clone described herein tends to flower slightly earlier than the others. Inflorescences emerge in a staggered manner, but at peak bloom, a mature plant can present hundreds of individual flowers. Each spike may carry up to a dozen blooms about 1.5 inches in spread, resulting in a gracefully cascading floral display beneath the foliage.

This species thrives under bright light and tolerates direct sun during the morning or late afternoon. Sufficient air circulation helps maintain healthy foliage in warm, humid conditions. Generous watering is advisable during the warmer season, permitting the medium to dry slightly between waterings in winter.



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 to join online.





Dendrobium Enobi Purple 'Splash' AM/AOS

Dendrobium Ecuagenera Rainbow

Class 3: Dendrobium Alliance

Blue: *Dendrobium* Ecuagenera Rainbow – Paul Reavis

This miniature Dendrobium takes the cross between Den. cuthbertsonii and Den. aphanochilum back to the former species, whose influence is evidenced in the rough texture of the leaves. In the case of this plant, the vivid colors of that species were not inherited, and the flowers lean towards the white-flowered latter species with just a blush of pink and some yellow in the lip. The example on the Ecuagenera website has more defined color. Both species are native to elevated forests, with Den. cuthbertsonii coming from New Guinea starting at about 6000 feet above sea level and Den. aphanochilum originating in the Molucca Islands starting at about 3000 feet. Therefore Den. Ecuagenera Rainbow will need to stay mild to cool and rather damp to flourish. Paul's plant is performing very well mounted to a Kool-Log (pourous ceramic vessel) and undoubtedly kept in a controlled environment.

Red: *Dendrobium* Enobi Purple 'Splash' AM/AOS – Paul Reavis



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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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Encyclia dichroma

Class 4: Epidendrum Alliance

Blue: Encyclia dichroma- Carson Barnes

Encyclia dichroma is a showy Brazilian species that deserves to be seen more often in collections given its compact size and long-lasting flowers. While the bloom records are spread throughout the year, my plants have always flowered about now. In their natural habitat of central coastal Brazil, they are said to flower in both spring and fall. The plants grow at low elevations close to the coast in scrubby vegetation where their roots can sometimes be covered by the sand of shifting dunes and where they can live for months and nothing more than nightly dew.

As the species name implies, the flowers are generally two-toned, with orchid pink segments and a deeper colored lip. Some plants produce flowers that are entirely in the darker shade, but these usually do not have as good of form as the typical ones. The inflorescence is thin and wiry with the five to eight flowers slightly less than two inches in spread concentrated near the apex.

Perfect drainage, bright light and generally warm conditions are what this species prefers. However, my plants flower well every year even though they are subject to nights around 50F in the winter months. They are growing in baskets with large bark and given no special attention compared to the plants around them.

Red: *Encyclia* Lorraine Smith – Jon Crate & Firelli Alonso



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



Encyclia Lorraine Smith





Miltonia Guanabara

Class 5: Oncidium Alliance

Blue: Miltonia Guanabara - Fred Pippin

I am intrigued by where Fred Pippin sources his orchid plants, as both this entry and the red ribbon winner *Gbt*. Dancing Lady are crosses made in the 1960s by the prolific and eccentric William Whitmore Goodale Moir, who lived in Honolulu and registered more than eleven hundred new hybrids between 1948 and 1984 as well as three posthumously after his death in 1985. While his crosses opened many new paths in orchid breeding, few of the hybrids he originally registered can be found in commerce today.

However, Carter and Holmes in Newberry, SC, did receive an AQ on a new crop of the cross in 1970 and an Award of Merit on the 'Mendenhall' form in 1973, so there were plants available in this part of the country then, and perhaps some have been grown and divided over the years from that batch.

Compared to photos of other cultivars of *Milt*. Guanabara, this plant has particularly dark flowers, which indicates it likely had *Milt*. *spectabilis var. moreliana* in its ancestry, which today has been granted separate species status. The other two species involved are *Milt. regnelli* and *Milt. clowesii*. All three species come from wet forests in the coastal mountains of southeast Brazil. They like frequent watering with good drainage and medium light levels. The plant exhibited appears to be growing on a piece of driftwood.

Red: Gombrassiltonia Dancing Lady – Fred Pippin



Gombrassiltonia Dancing Lady





Psychopsis Mendenhall 'Hildos'

Brassia Aunty Diana Aki

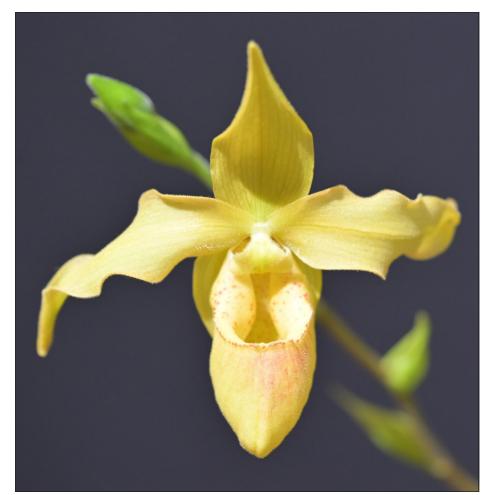
Red: *Brassia* Aunty Diana Aki – Véronique Perrot

White: Gomesa imperatoris-maximiliani – Edison Gu

White: *Psychopsis* Mendenhall 'Hildos' FCC/AOS – Bailey Santwire



Gomesa imperatoris-maximiliani



Class 7: Phalaenopsis

Blue: *Phalaenopsis cornu-cervi* – Firelli Alonso & Jon Crate

The "stag horn" Phalaenopsis exists in multiple forms and has an extensive distribution throughout Southeast Asia, Indonesia, and Borneo. It grows in various habitats, most commonly in humid areas with dense vegetation. Its inflorescences regularly produce a limited number of flowers at a time in succession. Mature plants with numerous growths and spikes have been recorded with up to 50 flowers open simultaneously. The primary blooming period occurs from July to October. There are nearly 500 registered hybrid crosses involving this species.

Phragmipedium Mountain Maid

Class 6: Slipper Alliance

Blue: *Phragmipedium* Mountain Maid – Bailey Santwire

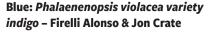
Phragmipedium Mountain Maid is a primary hybrid between Phrag. besseae and Phrag. richteri. In the case of this plant, it is likely the flavum form of the former species was used since the predominant color is yellow. Both species like to stay rather damp in mild to warm temperatures and medium light levels. They are sequential flowering, so while only one bloom at a time is usually displayed on an inflorescence, there can be a number of flowers over a period of months. The exhibited plant is on its sixth blossom and another bud is already visible to take its place in a few weeks. The cross was registered in 1997 and has since been used as a parent in an additional twelve registered hybrids.



Phalaenopsis cornu-cervi



Phalaenopsis violacea variety indigo



This vivid violet blue form is a horticultural variety, not found in the wild



Phalaenopsis Queen Beer





Phalaenopsis First Ray Sunspots

but bred by humans. It closely resembles *Phal. violacea forma coerulea*, and distinctions between such color forms are unclear. Fortunately, naming nuances aren't essential for cultivation—provide steady warmth and humidity, as with other species from Borneo, Sumatra, and Malaya. Grow *Phal. violacea* for its unique flowers; typically, only one or two bloom at a time, yet they re-flower annually. Awarded plants of the magenta type have produced up to 26 flowers, while the violet blue form's record is 7 flowers on 3 inflorescences out of 260 global awards.

Red: *Phalaenopsis* First Ray Sunspots – Jon Crate & Firelli Alonso

White: *Phalaenopsis* Queen Beer – Kim Williams



Holcoglossum kimballianum

Class 8: Vandaceous Alliance

Blue: Holcoglossum kimballianum – Edison Gu

Holcoglossum kimballianum produces sprays of breathtaking sparkling white flowers with an amethyst-purple lip from a rather thin, terete plant that scrambles over rocks or tree branches in its wild habitat of southeast Asia. It is often



found in full sun locations, but at 4000-5000 feet above sea level, where there is considerable cloudiness in summer and where winter nights are quite cool. It needs to grow in a basket or similar container with a very open medium and where its roots can hang down freely

to receive good air movement and dry quickly. Edison's plant is rooted to a slab of cork which likely necessitates daily watering in hot weather. In the wild, summer is rainy but from October to April, only scant moisture falls. For much of that period, there is frequent dew and mist at night, so cultivated plants need light waterings and misting from time to time. Cool nights in winter are needed for good blooming later in the year.

Red: *Vanda* Kulwadee Fragrance – Fred Pippin

White: Vanda sanderiana - Edison Gu



Vanda Kulwadee Fragrance



Vanda sanderiana



Aganisia cyanea

Class 9: Miscellaneous

Blue: Aganisia cyanea (syn. Acacillis cyanea) – Edison Gu

Aganisia cyanea is one of three recorded species within this genus, though there is limited information available about the other two. All species are known to grow as epiphytes at low elevations in the Amazon basin in Brazil and neighboring countries, and A. cyanea also occurs in the upper Orinoco River basin in Venezuela. These species are noted for their contribution to warmth tolerance in Zygopetalum breeding efforts. Species from eight different genera have been hybridized with A. cyanea in first generation registered crosses, some of which are less commonly referenced. Wild-collected plants were difficult to cultivate and most did not survive beyond a year, whereas seed-grown populations show higher survival rates yet still require consistent care. Recommended cultivation practices include mounting the plant in a humid setting with frequent watering (slightly reduced in winter), bright filtered light, and maintaining a minimum temperature of approximately 65°F. In natural habitats, these plants are found in seasonally flooded forests, sometimes growing partially submerged with only a few leaves and inflorescences above water. Edison is trying to simulate that environment with his plant mounted on a piece of cork with the lower end sitting in a damp, mossy saucer. This method must be working well, as his plant has more flowers than when he brought it in this time last year.

Red: Trichoceros onaensis - Edison Gu

Red: *Galeandra greenwoodiana* – Edison Gu

White: Angraecum calceolus - Paul Reavis

White: Warczewiczella amazonica -Stephen Schwab



Warczewiczella amazonica



Trichoceros onaensis



Galeandra greenwoodiana



Angraecum calceolus