



Bulletin

November 2025

NOVEMBER EVENT

Monthly Meeting: Monday, November 10, 2025

Mershon Hall at the Atlanta Botanical Garden

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

Susan Wilson on Bifoliate Cattleyas

Bring your blooming plants for our monthly ribbon judging

Susan Wilson on Growing Bifoliate Cattleyas

Susan Wilson, a retired Registered Nurse, is an American Orchid Society accredited judge out of the Atlanta Judging Center. She was formerly a member of the Portland, Cherry City and Oregon Orchid societies (as well as a lifetime member of the Memphis Orchid Society) and is currently a member of the Atlanta Orchid Society and served as the Education coordinator for the Pacific Northwest Judging Center. She was a pioneer in utilizing virtual student training in December of 2017. She is now the Education Coordinator for the Atlanta Judging Center. She has served on the AOS Conservation and Education Committees, as well as serving on the Task Forces for the National Judging Committee and the National Judging Education Committee. She also serves on the Conservation

Committee and the Affiliated Society Committee of the Mid-American Orchid Congress. She and her accredited judge husband Charles live on the Yellow River east of Atlanta, where they grow orchids and enjoy fishing and travel.

Susan will talk about her favorite subject, bifoliate Cattleyas, like *Cattleya aclandiae* pictured below.



We need your feedback!

Please take a few minutes to share your thoughts with us!

Is there a topic you would like to hear about, a speaker you are interested in, an orchid related question you can't answer?

Go to www.atlantaorchidsociety.org/feedback/ and let us know.

President's Message

Dear Members of the
Atlanta Orchid Society,

I hope you all had a **delightful experience** at our **annual orchid auction** last **November 1!** What a *fun and lively afternoon* it was—and wasn't **Mark Reinke** just a *fantastic auctioneer*? His deep orchid knowledge, quick wit, and remarkable efficiency made the event both **educational and entertaining** from start to finish.

A special **thank you** as well to **Carson Barnes** and **Véronique Perrot** for their wonderful assistance throughout the auction—gracefully ferrying orchids from the display tables to the auctioneer and finally to the **winning bidders**. Your



teamwork helped everything flow so smoothly and added to the excitement of the day!

Thank you also to Edison Gu for the *real-time monitoring* of the auction—seamlessly recording bidders and bids, ensuring accurate accounting, and making checkout at the end of the day efficient and stress-free.

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The Atlanta Orchid Society Bulletin

Volume 66: Number 11 – November 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](#).

From the 2025 Nominating Committee

October 20, 2025

Dear Members,

This is to inform you that we will be voting on this Ballot for new members of our Board of Trustees at the meeting on November 10, 2025.

Officers

President: [Firelli Alonso](#)

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Chair,

2025 Nominating Committee

EVENTS CALENDAR

November

1 – Atlanta Orchid Society Auction: see details on poster page 4

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!! (see flyer on page 7; details in December newsletter)

13 – AOS monthly judging

January 2026

10 – AOS monthly judging

12 – Atlanta Orchid Society Monthly Meeting: [Mark Reinke](#) on [Dendrobiums](#)

31 – Gulf Coast Orchid Society Show ([Gautier, MS](#))

February

9 – Atlanta Orchid Society Monthly Meeting: [Fi Alonso](#)

14 – AOS monthly judging

21 – Middle Tennessee Orchid Society Show ([Nashville, TN](#))

President's Message

Continued from page 1

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who helped make our annual orchid auction such a tremendous success! Your teamwork, generosity, and enthusiasm truly reflected the spirit of our Atlanta Orchid Society family.

To those who **procured the orchids**—**Mark Reinke, Danny Lentz, and Paul Reavis**—your dedication ensured a *wonderful and diverse selection* that kept bidders excited and inspired throughout the afternoon!

To those who **donated orchids**—the **Atlanta Botanical Garden, Mark Reinke, Nick Rust, Edison Gu, and Larry Mayse**—your generosity added *tremendous value and beauty* to the event. Each plant told its own story and brought delight to all who attended!

To those who **put together the auction catalog**—**Mark Reinke, Jason Mills-Shoulta, Edison Gu, and Fi Alonso**—thank you for your *meticulous attention to detail* and tireless coordination behind the scenes. Your work made bidding smooth, fun, and informative!

To everyone who **staged the orchids for display**—**Mark Reinke, Jason Mills-Shoulta, Larry Mayse, Carson Barnes, Véronique Perrot, Jon Crate, Paul Reavis, and Jody Gomez**—your artistry and teamwork made the Fellowship Hall bloom with color and excitement! Thank you as well for your help with **cleanup and resetting tables and chairs**—every bit of effort was appreciated and made the day run seamlessly.

And finally, a warm **thank you to everyone who attended and participated** in our auction! We issued a total of **24 auction paddles** to enthusiastic bidders, and your generous **financial support** was instrumental in helping us **raise funds for our Atlanta Orchid Society**. Your presence and participation truly made the event a success—we couldn't have done it without you!

Looking Ahead

Our **monthly society meeting** will be held on **Monday, November 10, at 7:30 PM** in ABG's **Mershon Hall**. Our guest



Plants ready to be auctioned



We had a profusion of big Vandas



Mark and Carson in action



New owners of beautiful plants

Continued on p. 4

President's Message

Continued from page 3

speaker will be Susan Wilson, an AOS Accredited Judge and Education Coordinator for the Atlanta Judging Center. Susan brings with her a wealth of experience—she was previously active in the Portland, Cherry City, and Oregon Orchid Societies, and is a lifetime member of the Memphis Orchid Society.

Now, as a proud AtIOS member, she'll share her passion in her talk: "Growing Bifoliate Cattleyas"—one of her favorite topics!

This meeting will also serve as our Annual Meeting of Members, during which we'll elect our 2026 officers and Trustees. Please come and take part in shaping the future of our society—your presence and participation matter!

And of course, don't forget to bring your blooming orchids for ribbon judging—they always brighten our evenings and inspire everyone to grow better!

November Orchid Growing Tips

As we head into the cooler months, remember:

Water less frequently—days are shorter and orchids dry out more slowly. Always check before watering!

Maximize light—move orchids closer to bright windows or supplement with grow lights as natural light diminishes.

Watch the temperature—most orchids prefer nights around 60°F and days in the 70s.

Fertilize lightly—once or twice a month with a balanced fertilizer ("weakly, weekly" no longer applies in winter).

Improve air circulation—even indoors, gentle airflow helps prevent rot and mold as humidity rises indoors.

Your orchids will thank you for these small adjustments—and reward you with strong roots and beautiful winter blooms!

Happy growing,
Firelli "Fi" Alonso
President, Atlanta Orchid Society



Almost done!



Active bidding!

All auction photos by Jon Crate

Judges' Corner: Monthly Judging at the Atlanta Judging Center, October 11, 2025

SPECIAL NOTE: The Atlanta Judging Center will be changing its monthly starting time to 1 p.m. effective October 2025, immediately following educational training which starts at noon.

Monthly judging October 11, 2025, provided an opportunity to express thanks for the \$50 donation in honor of Lowell Jacks from the Alabama Orchid Society and the \$150 donation from the Mid-American Orchid Congress. These thoughtful donations assist in making possible the continuing operation of the Atlanta Judging Center. Thank you!

Monthly judging on 11 October 2025 for the Atlanta Judging Center had 9 Accredited judges, 1 Associate judge and 4 students comprising 3 teams to judge the 14 orchids entered.

Accredited Judges: Firelli Alonso, Ray Bullard (Senior), Aileen Garrison (Emerita), Doug Hartong, Lowell Jacks (Emeritus), David Mellard, Bailey Santwire, Charles Wilson, Susan Wilson; Associate Judge: Jon Crate; Student Judges: Edison Gu, Ben Overlie, Samuel Overlie, Paul Reavis. The below three awards were made (Photos by Charles Wilson):

Bulbophyllum Sun Bear 'Equuleus' AM, 81 pts, exhibited by Paul Reavis, Atlanta, GA :

Rhyncholaeliocattleya Hubert Garton 'NJ Gibbs' AM, 85 pts, exhibited by Nadia Gibbs, Columbus, GA:



Bulbophyllum Sun Bear 'Equuleus' AM/AOS



Rhyncholaeliocattleya Hubert Garton 'NJ Gibbs' AM/AOS

Paphiopedilum henryanum 'Eva Sperk NJ' AM, 83 pts, exhibited by Nadja Gibbs, Columbus, GA:

Please join us at our next monthly judging (November 8, 2025) at Oglethorpe Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall (3016 Lanier Dr NE). Judge training program starts at noon and is open to all ('Beyond the Fragrance: Judging the Zygopetalum Alliance' by Firelli Alonso) with formal judging at 1 p.m. Free and convenient parking.

The following shows have been approved by AOS for 2026:

31 Jan 2026 – Gulf Coast Orchid Society (Gautier, MS), Andy Braun, Show Judging Chair

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

7 Mar 2026 – Mobile Area Orchid Society, Andy Braun, Show Judging Chair

14 Mar 2026 – Atlanta Orchid Society, Bailey Santwire, Show Judging Chair

Best regards,

Charles Wilson
Chair, Atlanta Judging Center



Paphiopedilum henryanum 'Eva Sperk NJ' AM/AOS

**STAY CONNECTED.
STAY INSPIRED. RENEW
TODAY!**



SCAN ME

It's time to renew your
Atlanta Orchid Society
membership for 2026!



SAVE THE DATE
ANNUAL
HOLIDAY PARTY
POTLUCK DINNER
DECEMBER 8
STARTING EARLIER AT 6 PM
OGLETHORPE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
FELLOWSHIP HALL


Atlanta Orchid
SOCIETY

AND DON'T FORGET TO BRING YOUR BLOOMING ORCHIDS
FOR MONTHLY RIBBON JUDGING!

Atlanta Orchid Society Monthly Meeting Ribbon Winners for October, 2025

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



Cattleya maxima forma *coerulea* 'Paris' AM/AOS



Class 1: Cattleya Alliance

Blue: *Cattleya maxima* forma *coerulea* 'Paris' AM/AOS – Edison Gu

This plant clearly demonstrates why its species was named as it is. Originating from the hot, humid lowlands around Guayaquil in Ecuador, the original form of *C. maxima* is known for its large size and impressive display of flowers. Edison's specimen, for example, boasts up to 15 sizable blooms on its largest spike. The typical flower color ranges from pale to strong lavender, depending on the individual plant, with lips often featuring darker veins and a yellow blaze from the throat. This particular one is the "coerulea" variety, which usually shows a very

pale mauve-violet shade in *C. maxima*. There is also an upland variant found in Peru, Ecuador, and Colombia that is generally smaller, produces fewer flowers per inflorescence, and tends to have deeper or more intense colors. The upland type likely tolerates cooler night temperatures better, although both forms thrive in our region with standard cattleya care.

Red: *Guaritonía* Why Not – Fred Pippin



Guaritonía Why Not



Psychopsis Butterfly

**White: *Brassocatanthe* Little Mermaid
'Janet' AM/AOS – Vinh Nguyen**

Class 2: Cymbidium Alliance

No Entries



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Dendrobium antennatum (Jaden's)

Class 3: Dendrobium Alliance

Blue: *Dendrobium antennatum* – Jaden McKelvey

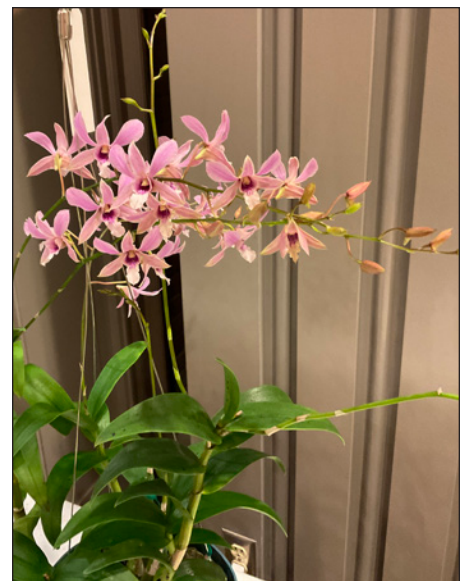
This species from section *Spatulata* is a perfect example of why the species in this group are often called the Antelope Dendrobiums. The two petals of each flower grow upright in a spiral fashion and taper to a point. The name is obviously derived from the word antennae, so best pronounced “ann-tenn-AH’-toom.” The species occurs at lower elevations in New Guinea, neighboring islands including the Solomon Islands, and the Cape York Peninsula in northern Australia. It is usually found in bright locations with high humidity. Flowering can occur

at various times of the year but is more concentrated in the spring. Both newly matured stems and older stems will bear inflorescences from side nodes on the upper portion of each stem. The two ranked leaves have a succulent texture and graduate smaller toward the apex of each growth. It grows best with rather high light levels, warmth and year-round watering but in a mix that offers quick and perfect drainage. The plant will be happier if the rhizome is positioned slightly proud of the growing medium and repotting should be done before the mix begins to break down.



Red: *Dendrobium (bigibbum x lineale) x Theodore Takiguchi – Vinh Nguyen*

Kew recognizes *Dendrobium bigibbum* as a synonym for *Den. phalaenopsis*. That would make (one parent of) this plant *Dendrobium Helen Park*, registered by the Singapore Botanical Gardens in 1940.



Dendrobium Helen Park x Theodore Takiguchi



Dendrobium antennatum (Fred's)

White: *Dendrobium antennatum* – Fred Pippin



Epicyclia Belmont x *Encyclia profusa*

Class 4: Epidendrum Alliance

Blue: *Epicyclia Belmont* x *Encyclia profusa* – Joe Sayers

This plant was entered with the first parent listed as *Epidendrum floribundum* x *Encyclia tampensis*. That cross is named *Epicyclia Belmont* and was registered in 1992. Here it has been crossed with another *Encyclia* species so named because of the profusion of flowers it can produce, with the awarded examples averaging over 100 blooms per inflorescence. That being noted, it is odd that it seems to be producing less than 10 blooms per spike even after multiple previous flow-

erings. Perhaps it just needs more time to accumulate the stored energy for such a show, or the mix of genetics has resulted in an unexpected outcome. The growth habit definitely fits what one would expect from the combination of two species with short pear-shaped pseudobulbs and one with tall leafy stems. It would prefer a fairly high light level and perfect drainage with distinct drying being each watering. In a controlled environment, it would flourish in a basket.



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



Oncostele Wildcat 'Bobcat' AM/AOS

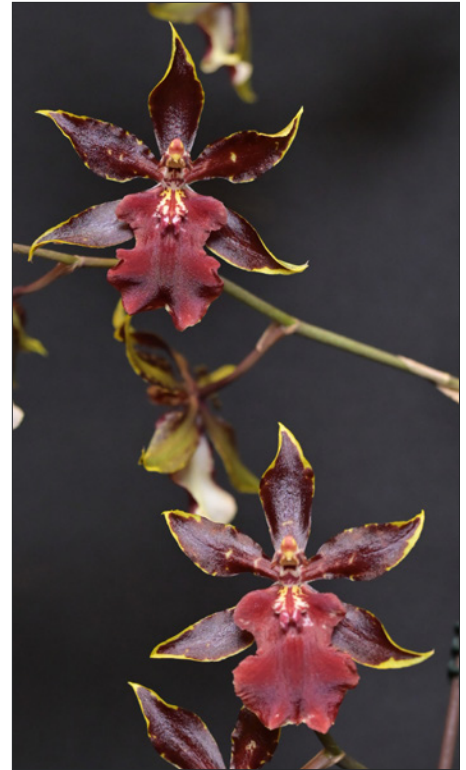
Class 5: Oncidium Alliance

Blue: *Oncostele Wildcat 'Bobcat' AM/AOS* – Paul Reavis

Oncostele Wildcat was originally registered in 1992 by Rod McLellan Co. as *Colmanara Wildcat*. A *Colmanara* was *Miltonia* + *Odontoglossum* + *Oncidium*. However, since then all the species in its background have either been assigned to *Oncidium* or *Rhynchostele*, thus the current nothogenus. The 'Bobcat' form of the cross was first awarded in 1997 and has a total of six awards from the AOS. *Ons. Wildcat* has very fluid genetics and each time a particular plant is tissue cultured, new color variations show up. So far more than 50 different cultivars have

been awarded by the AOS. It is considered a fairly easy and forgiving member of the *Oncidium* family to grow, but the best care can result in branched inflorescences carrying more than fifty flowers, which can occur at any time of the year a new growth is maturing. The family tree would suggest that it will perform best if grown mild to warm, but not hot, with filtered good light and regular watering without total drying in between year-round.

Red: *Erycina pusilla* – Paul Reavis



Erycina pusilla

*Oncostelopsis* Fran's Jewels

White: *Oncostelopsis* Fran's Jewels – Paul Reavis

*Paphiopedilum* Whyte Thorne Savoir

Class 6: Slipper Alliance

Blue: *Paphiopedilum* Whyte Thorne Savoir – Danny Lentz & Dianne Morgan

Here we have an interesting cross recently registered in 2022 between *Paph. charlesworthii*, a well-known species from Myanmar with more than 3000 descendants and *Paph. rungsuriyanum*, a peculiar dwarf species from northern Laos only described in 2014. The resulting flower is almost as large as the plant itself. The color pattern is a bit lighter than might be expected from this pairing, but the shape is nice, and both the dorsal sepal and the petals are covered in fine hairs taking after *Paph. rungsuriyanum*. The entire plant, which is already on its second flowering, is growing in a two-inch round pot! Perhaps because of its small size and unique look, there are already at least 35 first generation hybrids that have been registered using *Paph. rungsuriyanum*. Not all the results were particularly special, but the cross with *Paph. farrieanum*, called *Paph. Hanoi Fairy* has great charm. It was registered in South Africa, so likely difficult to come by.

Red: *Paphiopedilum* Cloud's Prime Chrystal – Fred Pippin

White: *Paphiopedilum* Arthur – Fi Alonso & Jon Crate

*Paphiopedilum* Cloud's Prime Chrystal*Paphiopedilum* Arthur



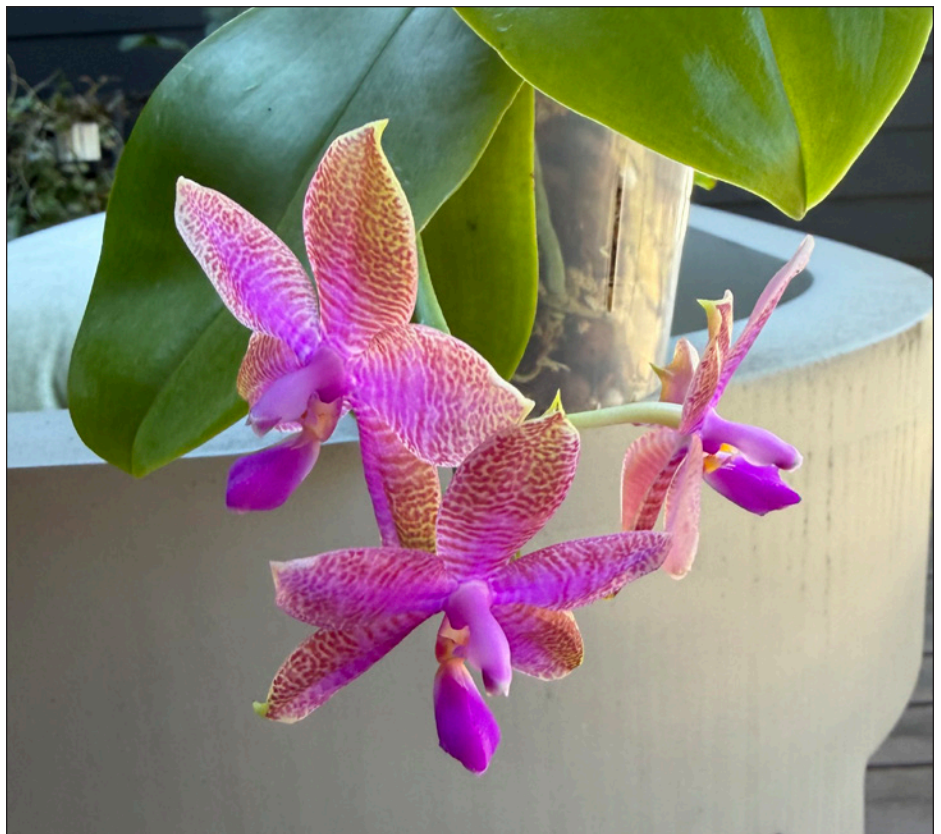
Phalaenopsis violacea variety indigo

Class 7: Phalaenopsis

Blue: *Phalaenopsis violacea variety indigo* – Fred Pippin

This form of the species was also a blue-ribbon winner the last two months, so I will repeat “This vivid violet blue form is a horticultural variety, not found in the wild 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 Mainshow Hiero* – Kim Williams



Phalaenopsis Mainshow Hiero



Vandachostylis Ploenpit Blue

Class 8: Vandaceous Alliance

Blue: *Vandachostylis Ploenpit Blue* – Joe Sayers

This compact violet-purple orchid combines *Rhychostylis coelestis*, *Vanda sanderiana*, *V. coerulea*, and a hint of *V. curvifolia*. Registered in Thailand in 2015 by Boonserm Pumploenpit, it received several American Orchid Society Awards of Merit in 2021 and 2022. While awarded plants have different clonal names, they appear identical, suggesting they may be mericlones of a single cultivar. The mix of species means the orchid thrives in intermediate to warm conditions with daily watering during hot weather.

Red: *Vanda Blue Spot* – Fred Pippin

White: *Vanda Charles Goodfellow* x *Tiean Chai* – Fred Pippin



Vanda Blue Spot



Vanda Charles Goodfellow x *Tiean Chai*

*Paphinia herrerae*

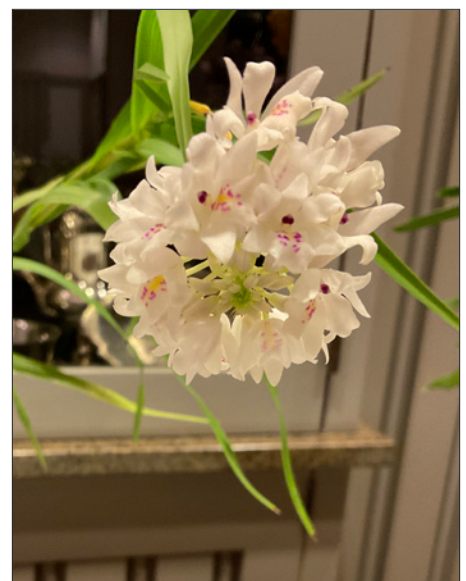
Class 9: Miscellaneous

Blue: *Paphinia herrerae* – Edison Gu

There are sixteen recognized *Paphinia* species found in warm, wet South American forests, growing as epiphytes. Related to *Lycaste*, *Stanhopea*, and *Zygopetalum*, they produce star-shaped, downward-hanging flowers, commonly with a red or purple tessellated pattern and a distinct fimbriated lip. *Paphinia herrerae*, native to Ecuador's eastern Andean slopes, can yield three to seven four-inch flowers per inflorescence, with several blooming periods from new pseudobulbs. *Paphinia* thrive in baskets with open media, or mounted if humidity is high, preferring filtered light, 60°F temperatures minimum, and frequent watering. While five registered crosses exist between *Paphinia* and *Stanhopea*, only one photo was found on Ecuagenera's site, showing the cross resembles *Paphinia* but with an elongated lip and column despite the complex flower shape of the other parent.

Red: *Lycaste lassioglossa* – Edison Gu

White: *Polystachya neobenthamia* – Carson Barnes

*Lycaste lassioglossa**Polystachya neobenthamia*