



Bulletin

December 2025

DECEMBER EVENT

Monthly Meeting: Monday, December 8, 2025

Fellowship Hall at Oglethorpe Presbyterian Church

Gather at 6 p.m.; Dinner starts at 6:30 p.m.

AtIOS Holiday Potluck Party!

See below for details

Bring your blooming plants for our monthly ribbon judging

Atlanta Orchid Society Holiday Potluck Party

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

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

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

A-F: Dessert,

G-M: Side Dish,

N-Z: Salad.

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

We'll have monthly ribbon judging too, so bring in your bloomers. Feel free to wear your ugly Christmas sweater or any other holiday apparel to liven things up. We'll also install the new Board members, so it will be a fun evening for all.

About the location of the party

Oglethorpe Presbyterian Church is located at 3016 Lanier Dr., NE, Brookhaven, GA 30319, one block off Peachtree Road behind Oglethorpe University at the corner of Lanier Drive and Woodrow Way. The entrance to the parking lot for the Fellowship Hall is on Woodrow Way, beside the children's playground.



And now for the not-so-fun things...

Beware of phishing!

No officer of the AtIOS board will contact you by email and demand money!

If you get such a message, DO NOT SEND MONEY and forward the email to president@atlantaorchidsociety.org

President's Message

Dear Members of the Atlanta Orchid Society,

It's hard to believe we've reached the end of another orchid-filled year, and what better way to celebrate than with our **best cultural event of the year**—our **Annual Holiday Potluck Dinner**! This year's gathering will be held on **Monday, December 8** at the **Fellowship Hall** of Oglethorpe Presbyterian Church, and we're starting a little earlier to make the evening even more enjoyable. Please gather at 6:00 PM, with dinner beginning promptly at 6:30 PM.

This special evening is one of my favorite traditions, filled with warmth,

laughter, and the wonderful sense of community that makes the Atlanta Orchid Society so unique. Not only will we be sharing delicious food and holiday cheer, but we will also hold the **installation of our new officers and trustees for the 2026 AtIOS Board**. Please join us in congratulating and supporting the incoming leadership as they step into their roles for the coming year.

There will be **no guest speaker this month**, which means more time for what we orchid lovers enjoy most—**socializing and talking about our orchids**! And yes—we will still hold **Ribbon Judging**,

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ATLANTA ORCHID SOCIETY

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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](#).

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.

EVENTS CALENDAR

December

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

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 on preparing for AOS orchid exhibits

14 – AOS monthly judging

21 – CANCELLED: Middle Tennessee Orchid Society Show (Nashville, TN)

March

7 – Greater Area Mobile Orchid Society Show (Mobile, TN)

9 – Atlanta Orchid Society Monthly Meeting

13–15 – Atlanta Orchid Society 64th Show

President's Message

Continued from page 1

so remember to bring your December-blooming orchids for everyone to admire and evaluate.

We're also keeping the fun alive with our annual **White Elephant Gift Exchange**. Please bring a wrapped orchid-related gift (up to \$25) to participate. The surprises, the steals, the friendly chaos—it's all part of the merriment!

To add to the festive spirit, we encourage everyone to **wear your ugliest holiday sweater** or any colorful, cheerful, or sparkly attire that celebrates the season. Let's fill the room with joy and laughter—this is the time to shine!

As always, don't forget to bring your assigned dish—salad, dessert, or side dish—to share with the group. Our wonderful VP will once again procure the **honey baked ham and roasted turkey breast**, so we will be well-fed and ready to celebrate together.

Thank you all for making 2025 such a vibrant and successful year for AtlOS. I am deeply grateful for your support, enthusiasm, and friendship. I can't wait to celebrate with you on December 8!

Warmest holiday wishes,
Firelli "Fi" Alonso
President, Atlanta Orchid Society

Orchid Growing Tips for December

December can be a tricky month for orchids in the Southeast—short days, cooler nights, and dry indoor air can all impact your plants. Here are some timely reminders:

Light

Days are short! Give your orchids as much bright, indirect light as possible.

Clean your windows and consider shifting plants closer to brighter exposures.

Watch for sunburn during cold, clear mornings when the sun angle changes.

Water

Most orchids require **less water** this time of year. Allow media to dry more thoroughly between waterings.

Avoid watering late in the day—wet crowns + cool nights = rot risk.

If you use heat indoors, compensate for lower humidity with a tray of pebbles or a humidifier.

Temperature

Many orchids, especially **Cattleyas, Oncidiums, and Dendrobiums**, appreciate a slight drop in night temperature—

but protect them from drafts or sudden cold blasts.

Keep *Phalaenopsis* above 60–62°F at night for best health.

Fertilizer

Reduce feeding to ¼–½ strength and apply less frequently.

Exceptions: winter growers like **Australian Dendrobiums** and some **Paphiopedilums**, which still appreciate steady nutrition.

Seasonal Blooms

December is peak bloom season for **Phalaenopsis, Cymbidiums, Cattleyas, and Zygopetalums**.

Stake spikes early, rotate pots for even growth, and clean blooms gently before bringing them to Ribbon Judging.

Pests

Dry air encourages spider mites—inspect undersides of leaves regularly.

Quarantine any "White Elephant Gift Exchange orchids" or any new plant purchases, before adding them to your grow space.



Judges' Corner: Monthly Judging at the Atlanta Judging Center, November 8, 2025

Monthly judging for the Atlanta Judging Center had 14 Accredited judges, 1 Associate judge and 4 students, comprising 4 teams to judge the 20 orchids entered.

Accredited Judges: Firelli Alonso, Carson Barnes, Barbara Barnett, H.B. Blythe-Hart, Aileen Garrison (Emerita), Doug Hartong, Lowell Jacks (Emeritus), David Janvrin, Butch Lewandowski, David Mellard, Bailey Santwire, Cynthia Van Der Wiele, Charles Wilson, Susan Wilson;

Associate Judge: Jon Crate;

Student Judges: Scott Elliott, Benjamin Overlie, Samuel Overlie, Paul Reavis.

The following three awards were announced:

Cycnoides Spotted Hornet 'Maneki Hill' AM, 84 pts, exhibited by Scott Elliott and Sue Hill

Galeandra dives 'Maneki Hill' AM, 81 pts, exhibited by Scott Elliott and Sue Hill

Mormodes Danielle Anastasha Gallagher 'Maneki Hill' AM, 83 pts, exhibited by Scott Elliott and Sue Hill

Please join us 13 Dec 2025 for our next monthly judging at 1 p.m. at Oglethorpe Presbyterian Church, 3016 Lanier Drive NE, Brookhaven, GA. Education begins at noon and our program will be 'Judging *Vanda falcata* and its Hybrids' by Jon Crate. Open to all. Free and convenient parking.

The semi-annual business meeting for our center will immediately follow the conclusion of judging.

The following shows have been approved by AOS for 2026:

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

7 March – Greater Mobile Area Orchid Society Show (Mobile, AL), Andy Braun, Show Judging Chair



Cycnoides Spotted Hornet 'Maneki Hill' AM/AOS



Galeandra dives 'Maneki Hill' AM/AOS

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

6 June 2026 - Memphis Orchid Soci-
ety, Carson Barnes, Show Judging Chair

Best regards,

Charles Wilson
Chair, Atlanta Judging Center



Mormodes Danielle Anastasha Gallagher 'Maneki Hill' AM/AOS

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

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



SCAN ME

-  Be part of **an active orchid-loving community**
-  Access to monthly meetings, lectures & resources
-  Participate in *Ribbon Judging* and AOS awards

Let your **Passion** for orchids bloom —
RENEW TODAY
and grow with us!

Atlanta Orchid Society Monthly Meeting Ribbon Winners for November, 2025

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



Laelia aurea

the genus *Laelia*, the slender inflorescence emerges concurrently with developing pseudobulbs and requires several months to mature. In autumn, it produces a terminal cluster of vibrant yellow flowers, notable for their distinctive dark purple throats that may appear nearly black. When used in hybridization, this pronounced throat often imparts striking contrast to the coloration of progeny. Exemplary specimens of *L. aurea* have been cultivated mounted on durable substrates such as cork or driftwood. The species thrives outdoors during summer months when provided with regular watering from June through September.

Blue: *Brassocattleya Hippodamia* – Firelli Alonso & Jon Crate

Brassocattleya Hippodamia is a hybrid of *B. nodosa* and *C. aclandiae*, with variable traits depending on the parent plants. This example features apple green segments flecked with dark purple and a white, purple-dotted lip. While *C. aclandiae* normally blooms in spring, this

Class 1: Cattleya Alliance

Blue: *Laelia aurea* – Bailey Santwire

Laelia aurea is a species that has entered cultivation relatively recently, first described in 1990. It is occasionally referred to as *Laelia rubescens* variety *aurea*, reflecting its close resemblance to *L. rubescens*, with the primary distinction being the flower color. Whereas *L. rubescens* is distributed widely from Mexico southward to Costa Rica, *L. aurea* is restricted to the Pacific slope of northwest Mexico, typically occurring below 1000 feet in seasonally dry forests from Nayarit to Sinaloa, and possibly within some deep canyons of Chihuahua. Its native habitat experiences hot summers with substantial rainfall, followed by drier conditions for the remainder of the year; temperature fluctuations and humidity contribute to nightly dew formation.

The species displays compact growth, characterized by resilient, flattened pseudobulbs and rigid, leathery foliage. Similar to other Mexican members of



Brassocattleya Hippodamia



Brassocattleya Gulfshore's Beauty 'Green Dean' HCC/AOS

cross can flower multiple times annually. Like most *C. aelandiae* hybrids, it has thick roots best suited for baskets with good drainage and quick drying. It thrives in bright light and tolerates direct morning sun when gradually acclimated.

Red: *Brassocattleya* Gulfshore's Beauty 'Green Dean' HCC/AOS – Paul Reavis

White: *Rhyncholaeliocattleya* Amazing Thailand – Vinh Nguyen



Rhyncholaeliocattleya Amazing Thailand



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*Cymbidium sinense*

Class 2: Cymbidium Alliance

Blue: *Cymbidium sinense* – Vinh Nguyen

This medium-sized species, native to eastern China and Taiwan's mountains, typically flowers in winter with very fragrant blooms on upright inflorescences above arching leaves. *Cym. sinense* tolerates a wide range of temperatures, thriving both in hot regions like Florida and in more temperate areas where it can withstand light frosts. Its compact size and resilience have led to over 125 first-generation hybrids. Unlike other *Cymbidium*, it grows and flowers well in lower light but needs ample water and fertilizer during warm months, with reduced amounts the rest of the year.

Have you ever considered becoming an
American Orchid Society Judge?

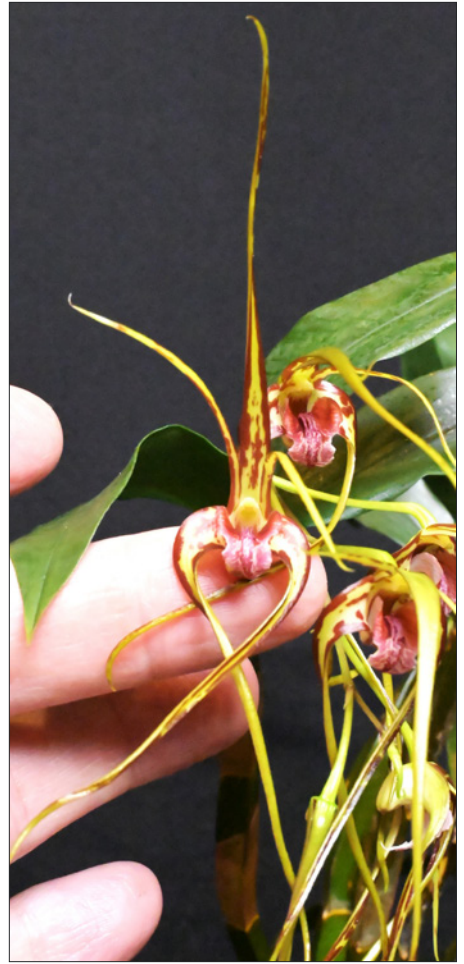
We invite you to
come learn with us

judges@aos.org





Dendrobium tetragonum ('Hot Lips' x 'Dark Form')



Class 3: Dendrobium Alliance

Blue: *Dendrobium tetragonum* ('Hot Lips' x 'Dark Form') – Jon Crate & Firelli Alonso

This species, native to the southeastern coast of Australia, is distinguished by its angular pseudobulbs, which are topped with several slender yet robust leaves. Larger specimens may become pendulous due to their own weight. In its natural habitat, *Den. tetragonum* typically occurs in shaded environments within moist ravines, gullies, or streamsides, where humidity levels are elevated. The distinctive spidery flowers usually appear in clusters and can reach several inches across when fully open. Notably, they often display prominent purple and yellow markings, which contribute vibrant coloration when hybridized with the predominantly white or cream *Dendrobium speciosum*. This cross forms the basis of the breeding group commonly known as "Aussie Dens." Remarkably, the specimen described here is flowering earlier than the usual winter to early spring blooming period. Cultivation recommendations for this species vary; however, it generally thrives with reduced watering and cooler nighttime temperatures during winter. Many growers prefer to mount their plants on cork for optimal results.





Dendrobium glomeratum

**Blue: *Dendrobium glomeratum* –
Véronique Perrot**

**White: *Dendrobium laevifolium* – Steve
Schwab**



Dendrobium laevifolium

*Epidendrum magnoliae*

Class 4: Epidendrum Alliance

Blue: *Epidendrum magnoliae* – Bailey Santwire

This plant, notably robust for its species, is found from Florida to Southeast North Carolina and west along the Gulf Coast near Texas, with another population in northeast Mexico. It typically forms colonies on horizontal Live Oak limbs, often with Resurrection Fern (*Polypodium polypodioides*), making it hard to spot even when flowering. Occasional sightings occur on Cypress and *Magnolia grandiflora*. Its greenish-bronze flowers bloom mainly in fall but can occasionally appear at other times. The plant can be cultivated in small pots with well-draining media or mounted on cork or cypress wood. Though briefly tolerant of very low temperatures, it is not recommended for Atlanta winters. Some notable hybrids have been developed, though none have inherited its cold tolerance.

*Oncostele Eye Candy*

Class 5: Oncidium Alliance

Blue: *Oncostele Eye Candy* – Firelli Alonso & Jon Crate

This hybrid combines the rounded shape and vivid colors of *Odontoglossum crispum* (*Oncidium alexandrae*) with better heat tolerance and vigor from *Ons. Catantante*. While not ideal for outdoor



summer growth or casual care, it thrives indoors or in a greenhouse with regular watering and moderate light. The plant is compact and reliably blooms on tall spikes without crowding growers' space. Under LED lights, flowers are vibrant and plentiful, though leaves may yellow unless positioned at least 3 feet below the lights.



Psychopsis Mendenhall 'Hildos' FCC/AOS

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

White: *Oncidium* Sharry Baby 'Sweet
Fragrance' – Karl Harden



Phragmipedium Mini Grande



Paphiopedilum Lady Henrietta

Class 6: Slipper Alliance

Blue: *Paphiopedilum* Lady Henrietta –
Firelli Alonso & Jon Crate

This new hybrid combines multifloral, Parvisepalum, and sequential species into one plant. Its subdued colors come from *Paph. delenatii*, whose pale hues often dominate hybrids, even with strongly colored parents. The likely aim was to create nearly white multifloral flowers. A similar plant received an Award of Merit from the American Orchid Society in March 2024. Now, the next step is to breed for more flowers and novel colors in this line.

Red: *Phragmipedium* Mini Grande – Bailey
Santwire





Paphiopedilum Spots Galore x Paradiva Spots



Paphiopedilum Madame Suzanne Déloy

White: *Paphiopedilum Spots Galore x Paradiva Spots* – Steve Schwab

White: *Paphiopedilum Madame Suzanne Déloy* – Steve Schwab



Phalaenopsis cornu-cervi

Class 7: Phalaenopsis

Blue: *Phalaenopsis cornu-cervi* – Karl Harden

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

*Perreiraara Rapeepath*

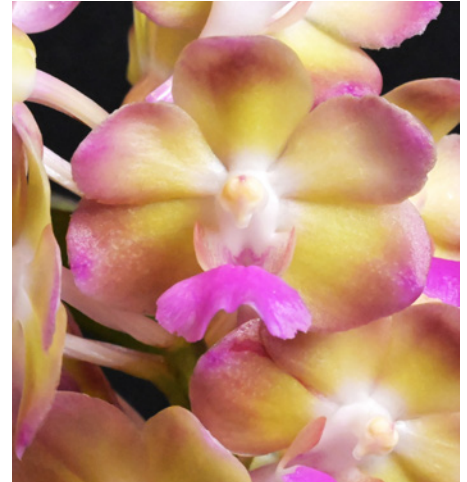
Class 8: Vandaceous Alliance

Blue: *Perreiraara Rapeepath* – *Lacretia Rocker*

Perreiraara Rapeepath is an intergeneric orchid hybrid registered by W. Kee-

sanga in 2015. It is a cross between *Perreiraara Bangkok Sunset* (seed parent) and *Vandachostylis Pine Rivers* (pollent parent).

The nothogenus *Perreiraara* (abbrev. *Prara.*) is by definition a hybrid deriving



from the genera *Aerides*, *Rhynchostylis* and *Vanda*. It thrives under bright, warm conditions with high humidity and excellent airflow, and does best in a very open pot or mounted to maximise its exposed root system. With proper care it rewards with abundant and colorful waxy flowers.

Red: *Vanda Meda Arnold* x *Fuchs Delight* – Karl Harden

White: *Perreiraara Bangkok Sunset* – Firelli Alonso & Jon Crate

*Vanda Meda Arnold* x *Fuchs Delight**Perreiraara Bangkok Sunset*



Tsubotaara Melinda Marie 'Blue Sapphire' HCC/AOS

Class 9: Miscellaneous

Blue: *Tsubotaara* Melinda Marie 'Blue Sapphire' HCC/AOS – Firelli Alonso & Jon Crate

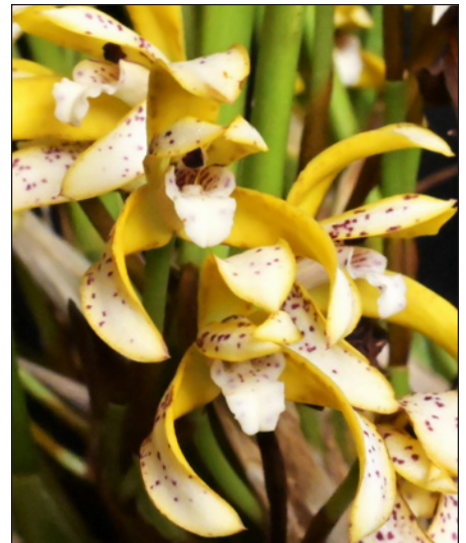
A *Tsubotaara* is a hybrid of *Aganisia*, *Pabstia*, and *Zygopetalum*. The Melinda Marie 'Blue Sapphire' variety features improved color and form, with flat, regularly shaped flowers neatly painted with violet-blue. Blooms emerge with new growth and fade before growth matures, but can last about eight weeks with good care. These plants prefer medium light, frequent watering with slight drying, and should not be exposed to high temperatures, despite some heat tolerance from *Agn. cyanea*.

Blue: *Maxillaria picta* – Bailey Santwire

Maxillaria picta is a charming and distinctive species from southeastern Brazil, found primarily in the cool to intermediate elevations of the Atlantic Forest. It is known for its compact growth habit, forming dense clumps of short pseudobulbs each topped with a single, narrow, arching leaf. Blooms are waxy, rounded, and often cupped, typically yellow to cream with prominent burgundy or maroon spotting—hence the epithet *picta* ("painted"). Inflorescences are short and emerge from the base of mature pseudobulbs, usually producing one flower per spike, but a well-grown plant can bloom prolifically.



Maxillaria picta





Propetalum La Jolla Delight 'HOF' AM/AOS

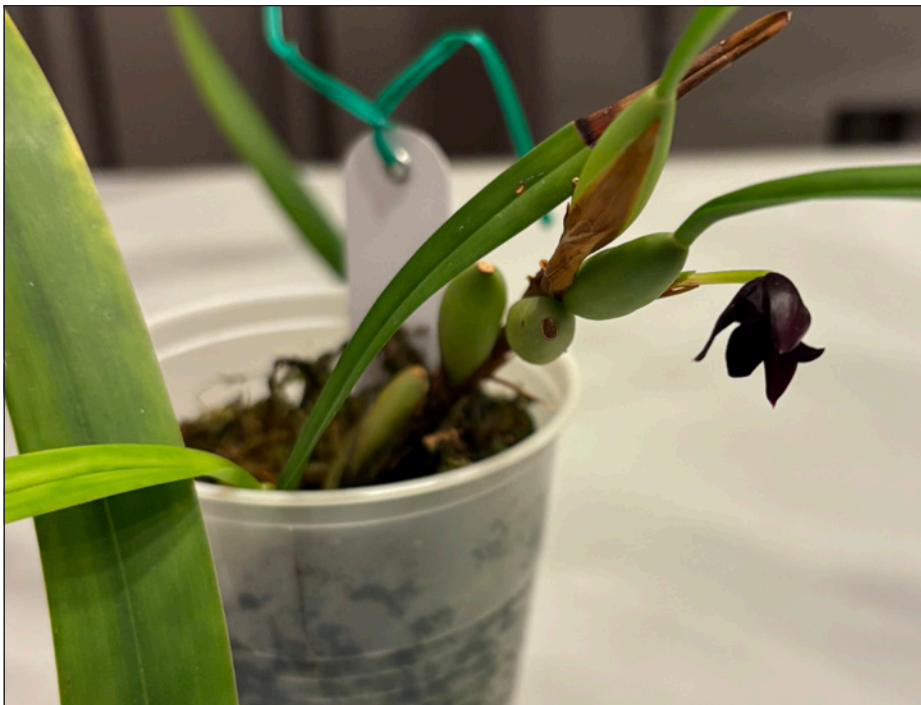
**Red: *Propetalum La Hoya Delight 'HOF'*
AM/AOS – Paul Reavis**

**White: *Galeandra greenwoodiana* – Bailey
Santwire**

**White: *Maxillaria variabilis* 'Black Eyed
Susan' AM/AOS – Lacreteria Rocker**



Galeandra greenwoodiana



Maxillaria variabilis 'Black Eyed Susan' AM/AOS