



## MAY EVENT

**Monthly Meeting:** Monday, May 11, 2026  
Mershon Hall at the Atlanta Botanical Garden  
Gather at 7 p.m; program starts at 7:30 p.m.

**Bailey Santwire on *Miltonia* and its hybrids**

See below for details

*Bring your blooming plants for our monthly ribbon judging*

### Bailey Santwire: *Miltonia* and its hybrids

Bailey Santwire has been passionate about plants since childhood, beginning his gardening journey at just 7 years old and later developing a lasting love for orchids, which he has cultivated for more than 17 years. A graduate of Georgia State University with a B.S. in Biology, Bailey works professionally with behavioral and mental health patients and brings both scientific knowledge and genuine enthusiasm to his orchid interests.

A dedicated member of the Atlanta Orchid Society, Bailey is a past president of the society and remains an active part of its community. He is also an Accredited

Judge with the American Orchid Society through the Atlanta Judging Center. Beyond his judging and society involvement, Bailey operates Deafie Orchids, a small specialty orchid business that reflects both his deaf identity and his particular interest in species orchids and unusual botanical finds.

Outside the orchid world, Bailey is an enthusiastic traveler who has visited 15 countries and counting, bringing curiosity and perspective to everything he does.

Bailey will talk about the genus *Miltonia* and its hybrids. He will also bring some plants to sell.



### Atlanta Orchid Society Exhibit Earns AOS Artistic Certificate!

I am delighted to share that the Atlanta Orchid Society exhibit has officially received an AOS Artistic Certificate (AC). Congratulations to Paul Reavis for his exceptional effort in designing and assembling our society's exhibit—this recognition is richly deserved.

Jon and I prepared the award description, and Jon also photographed the exhibit. Both the description and images will be published in Orchid Pro. The AOS Atlanta Judging Center confirmed the award following clarification of scoring guidance; the certificate will be issued to the Atlanta Orchid Society.

A wonderful honor for AtIOS and our exhibit team!



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## The Atlanta Orchid Society Bulletin

Volume 67: Number 5 – May 2026

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](#).

## President’s Message

Dear Atlanta Orchid Society Members and Friends,

May always feels like the month when orchids—and orchid people—shift into high gear. Longer days, warmer nights, and suddenly everything seems to be pushing new roots, new leaves, and (if we’re lucky) new spikes or inflorescences. It’s a great time to be growing.

Before looking ahead, I want to celebrate something I’ve been especially happy to see lately: a surge in in-person attendance at our monthly meetings—and more blooming plants coming in for Ribbon Judging. At our April 13 meeting, when Eric Sauer spoke on The Genus *Maxillaria*, we counted 42 members attending in person, and our tables were absolutely full of ribbon-judging entries. That’s exactly the kind of energy that

makes our meetings special. **Let’s keep this up!**

I’m especially pleased that our May 11 meeting features another familiar face: our Immediate Past President Bailey Santwire, Accredited AOS Judge, who will speak on *Miltonia and Its Hybrids*. If you’ve ever wondered how to tell the “pansy orchids” apart, what they really want in cultivation, or how their hybrid influence shows up on the judging table, this is the program to catch. As always, we’ll meet at 7 p.m. in Mershon Hall at the Atlanta Botanical Garden—and don’t forget to bring your blooming orchids for Ribbon Judging!

*Continued on p. 3*

## EVENTS CALENDAR

### May

- 9 – AOS monthly judging
- 11 – Atlanta Orchid Society Monthly Meeting: Bailey Santwire on *Miltonia*

### June

- 5 – 7 June – Memphis Orchid Society, Memphis, TN
- 8 – Atlanta Orchid Society Monthly Meeting: ABG greenhouse tour & ice cream social
- 13 – AOS monthly judging

### July

- 11 – AOS monthly judging
- 13 – Atlanta Orchid Society Monthly Meeting: Repotting workshop

### August

- 8 – AOS monthly judging
- 10 – Atlanta Orchid Society Monthly Meeting

### September

- 12 – AOS monthly judging
- 14 – Atlanta Orchid Society Monthly Meeting: Nick Rust on terrestrial orchids

## President's Message

*Continued from page 1*

Looking ahead to **June 8**, mark your calendars for one of our favorite traditions: a **guided tour of the Fuqua Orchid Conservatory** led by Becky Brinkman, Fuqua Orchid Center Manager, who generously gives our society this wonderful behind-the-scenes experience each year. The tour will be followed by our annual **Ice Cream Social**. Our VP, Paul Reavis, will soon be sending out a survey so you can **pre-select your preferred flavor** from Bruster's Ice Cream. And yes—this remains official policy: **no membership renewal, no ice cream**. Consider this your friendly incentive!



If you have not renewed yet, please take a moment to do so.

Thank you for continuing to invest in this wonderful orchid community!

### Orchid Growing Tips for May

May is prime transition season. Here's where to focus your attention:

- Move orchids outdoors (if you haven't already), but do it gradually to prevent sunburn—start in bright shade.
- Increase watering frequency as temperatures rise and growth accelerates.
- Fertilize regularly—"weakly, weekly" is a reliable rule of thumb during active growth.
- Repot sympodials like Cattleyas and Oncidium-alliance plants when new roots are emerging.
- Check early for pests (especially scale and spider mites).

- Boost humidity for thin-leaved orchids like Miltonias and related hybrids.
- Stake spikes early—future you will be grateful.

May rewards attention. A little extra care now often translates into spectacular blooms later in the year.

I look forward to seeing everyone on May 11—with flowers in hand!

Warm regards,

**Firelli "Fi" Alonso**  
President, Atlanta Orchid Society

## Judges' Corner: Judging Summary for Atlanta Judging Center 11 April 2026

Monthly judging April 11, 2026, for the Atlanta Judging Center presented the opportunity to express our thanks to the Gulf Coast Orchid Society and Tish Hall for the donation of \$25 in lieu of her speaking honorarium. We sincerely appreciate these donations as they make the operation and services of our center possible and available to our regional affiliated societies and orchid growers. Thank you!

Eight accredited judges participated in the monthly judging efforts: Carson Barnes, Barbara Barnett, HB Blythe-Hart, Doug Hartong, Lowell Jacks (Emeritus), David Mellard, Bailey Santwire and Charles Wilson, enabling two judging teams along with two student judges: Ben Overlie, Sam Overlie and guest Nadja Gibbs (Columbus, GA).

There were 9 entries (all judged) and one award:

*Cattleya* Bertheauana 'Raspberry Flare NJ' HCC/AOS, 79 pts exhibited by Nadja Gibbs (Columbus, GA)

Please join us (whether or not you bring an orchid for judging) at our next monthly center judging 9 May 2026 at Oglethorpe Presbyterian Church, 3016 Lanier Drive NE, Atlanta. Judging education (open to all) starts at noon (May's program: 'Orchids of Ecuador' by Andy Braun) with judging now starting at 1 p.m. Free and convenient parking.

Best regards,

Charles Wilson, Chair  
Atlanta Judging Center



*Cattleya* Bertheauana 'Raspberry Flare NJ'  
HCC/AOS

## Judges' Corner: Judging Summary of the Atlanta Orchid Society Show, March 14, 2026, and the Atlanta Judging Center Report for March 2026

I want to firstly apologize for the significant delay in getting this report out to you all. Life gets busy for all of us but without further ado, we're here about the orchids and the joy we share. Below is the report for the Atlanta Orchid Society Show held in the Atlanta Botanical Gardens with the Atlanta Judging Center monthly judging taking place afterwards on March 14, 2026.

### Atlanta Orchid Society Show

For the show, we had 16 Accredited judges, 1 Associate judge and 4 students composed of 4 teams to judge the show of 285 entries of which, 240 were individual orchids.

The Accredited judges: Bailey Santwire (show judging chair), Firelli Alonso, Barbara Barnett, Carson Barnes, Helen (HB) Blythe-Hart, Andy Braun, Aileen Garrison (Emerita), Tom Harper (Senior), Doug Hartong, David Janvrin, Randy Johnson, Frank Lewandowski, David Mellard, along with visiting judges Stephen Benjamin (Cincinnati JC), Melissa Garner (Mid-America JC), and Robert Hydzyk (Carolinas JC).

Associate Judge: Jon Crate.

Student judges: Paul Reavis, Benjamin Overlie, Samuel Overlie, and Scott Elliot.

Seventeen plants and two exhibits were nominated to be scored. The below four quality awards and one show trophy were made (please note awards are not official until processed by AOS):

AOS Show Trophy and Silver Certificate, 85 pts, exhibited by Mark Reinke of Marble Branch Farms

*Cattleya* Eva's Spark 'Maneki Hill' HCC/AOS, 78 pts, exhibited by Scott Elliott and Sue Hill of Maneki Hill Orchids

*Paphiopedilum* Jewel Moon 'Oliver' HCC/AOS, 78 pts, exhibited by Sheila Nicholson of Owens Orchids Etc.

*Paphiopedilum* Delrosi 'Jeniffer' HCC/AOS, 76 pts, exhibited by Sheila Nicholson of Owens Orchids Etc.



Marble Branch Farms exhibit, AOS Show Trophy.



*Cattleya* Eva's Spark 'Maneki Hill' HCC/AOS

*Paphiopedilum* Oriental Legacy 'MBF Moonlight' AM/AOS, 83 pts, exhibited by Mark Reinke of Marble Branch Farms.



*Paphiopedilum Delrosi 'Jeniffer'* HCC/AOS



*Paphiopedilum Jewel Moon 'Oliver'* HCC/AOS



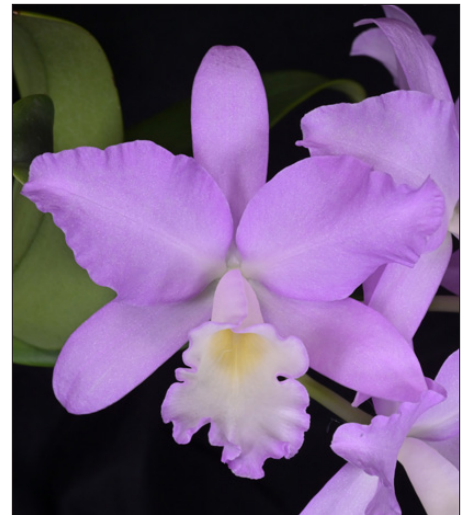
*Paphiopedilum Oriental Legacy 'MBF'*  
AM/AOS

The below two awards were made to two plants (please note that awards are not official until processed by AOS):

*Cattlianthe Ina 'Dewey Skin'* AM/AOS, 81 pts, exhibited by Douglas Mallory from Memphis, TN

Unregistered Hybrid (*Guaricyclia Kyoguchi* x *Guaritonía Why Not*) 'Jeff's Surprise' HCC/AOS. 79 pts, exhibited by Jeff Kappleman of Opelika, AL: 20261123-A.JPG

All photography taken by Jon Crate.



*Cattlianthe Ina 'Dewey Skin'* AM/AOS

### Atlanta Judging Center Report for March 2026

For monthly judging, we had 17 Accredited judges, 1 Associate judge and 4 students composed of 4 teams to judge the 7 plants entered.

The Accredited judges: David Janvrin (Vice Center Chair), Bailey Santwire, Firelli Alonso, Barbara Barnett, Carson Barnes, Helen (HB) Blythe-Hart, Andy Braun, Aileen Garrison (Emerita), Tom Harper, Doug Hartong, Randy Johnson, Frank Lewandoski, David Mellard, Ray Bullard along with visiting judges Melissa Garner (Mid-America JC), and Robert Hydzyk (Carolinas JC).

Associate Judge: Jon Crate

Student judges: Paul Reavis, Benjamin Overlie, Samuel Overlie, and Scott Elliot.

Congratulations to all of the recipients of the awards. Please join us on 11 April 2026 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 "Angraecums" by Ben Overlie. Open to all. Free and convenient parking.

The following show has been approved by AOS for 2026:

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

Respectfully submitted,

Bailey Santwire,  
Atlanta Orchid Society  
Show Judging Chair  
Atlanta Judging Center



(*Guaricyclia Kyoguchi* x *Guaritonía Why Not*) 'Jeff's Surprise' HCC/AOS

# Atlanta Orchid Society Monthly Meeting Ribbon Winners for April, 2026

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



*Leptotes bicolor*

## Class 1: Cattleya Alliance

### Blue: *Leptotes bicolor* – Larry Mayse

This species was also the blue ribbon winner last month so I will repeat what I wrote then:

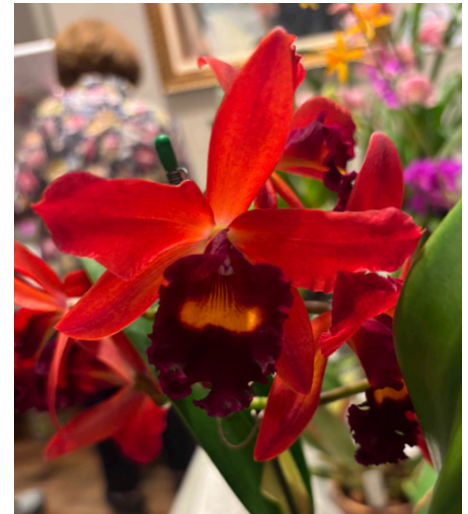
The genus *Leptotes* includes about 10 species native to Brazil, Paraguay, and Argentina. *Leptotes bicolor*, first described by Lindley in 1833 from the Organ Mountains, is now found widely across southeast Brazil's subtropical rainforests up to 2,000 feet. Selective breeding has produced improved forms over time. In the past 25 years, three plants earned the AOS First Class Certificate for flower quality, including a 2023 specimen by Fred Clarke of Sunset Valley Orchids, which scored 95 points for twelve nearly three-inch flowers.

While most people won't own a top-quality example, even common forms are enjoyable to grow and bloom in late winter or spring. The species thrives when mounted on cork or tree fern fiber, though plants may establish slowly.

Small pots or baskets work if filled with shredded tree fern fiber or osmunda. Water year-round but reduce frequency during the darker winter months. Avoid exposing plants to temperatures above 90°F. Hybridizers have crossed this species within the Cattleya Alliance, though results have been interesting rather than remarkable.

### Red: *Rhyncattleanthe Exotic Southern Charm #4* – Jon Crate & Firelli Alonso

### White: *Guaritonias Rosy Jewel 'Ewa'* AM/AOS – Larry Mayse



*Rhyncattleanthe Exotic Southern Charm #4*



*Guaritonias Rosy Jewel 'Ewa'* AM/AOS

*Cattleya bahiensis*

**White: *Cattleya bahiensis* – Barbara Barnett**

*Cymbidium* Dorothy Stockstill 'Forgotten Fruit' AM/AOS

## Class 2: *Cymbidium* Alliance

**Blue: *Cymbidium* Dorothy Stockstill 'Forgotten Fruit' AM/AOS – Vinh Nguyen**

A mature plant of *Cym.* Dorothy Stockstill 'Forgotten Fruit' in flower is a memorable sight, and there are multiple award listings for plants with more than 400 flowers. The inflorescences are pendent with closely set blooms in colors that can indeed give the impression of clusters of ripe fruit left on the vine. The cross was originally made by the late Andy Easton when he was still operating Geyserland Orchids in Rotorua, New Zealand. Later, he moved to the Salinas Valley in California and operated New Horizon Orchids, where he continued cutting edge *Cymbidium* breeding up until his death in 2025. While he was



able to expand the color range in pendent flowered types, it has been hard to match the sheer floriferousness and density of blooms achieved in this 1992 introduction. Genetically, it is almost evenly split between *Cym. floribundum*, *Cym. madidum*, *Cym. devonianum* and the group of species that comprise typical standard *Cymbidium* breeding. The fact that plants can still be found commercially today attests to their high degree of popularity. For best flowering, this orchid should receive copious watering and feeding during the summer months, followed by somewhat less water and cooler nights in the fall and winter. Choose a pot that is deep to allow for the vigorous root system but keeps the "shoulders" of the plant tight and only repot when the plant is overflowing or bursting its container. Bright light is preferred and plants can tolerate direct morning sunshine.

**Red: *Cymbidium* No ID – Bob Darling**

*Cymbidium* No ID



*Dendrobium* Chanthaboon Sunrise

### Class 3: *Dendrobium* Alliance

#### Blue: *Dendrobium* Chanthaboon Sunrise – Vinh Nguyen

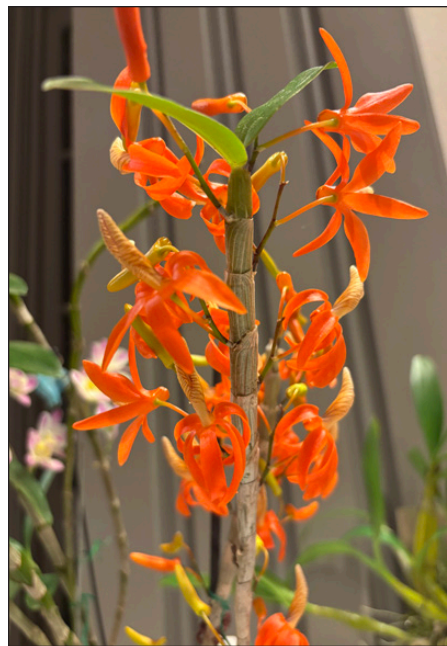
Fittingly, this primary hybrid between two native Thailand species was registered by Chanthaboon Orchids based in Muang, Thailand. It marries the miniature sized *Den. lamyaiiae*, which bears spidery-shaped orange blossoms, with the larger, pendulous *Den. friedricksianum*, which bears yellow flowers, often with a darker throat. The result is a charming plant that can produce loads of yellow-orange starry-shaped flowers, usually with a red throat. The cross also brings together two species that grow in quite different temperature profiles, resulting in a plant that can grow in cool to warm to even hot conditions, flowering well in South Florida and Bangkok, Thailand, without the need for chilly nights to stimulate bud development. Unfortunately for those who admire this beauty, like me, plants are hard to find in the United States. I located a few mounted blooming size plants about the size of the one exhibited with an online bidding site priced according to their rarity. Alternatively, you can try your luck with several growers in Thailand that will ship to the US with the proper permits. One of them is offering a tetraploid (4n) version. All



the sellers note that *Den. Chanthaboon Sunrise* needs very bright light as close to direct sunshine as possible without burning the leaves, plenty of water while actively growing in the summer months, then less water the balance of the year.

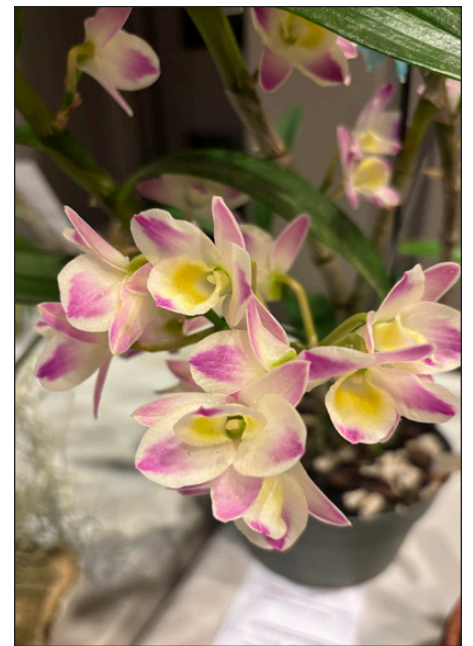
#### Red: *Dendrobium aphyllum* – Véronique Perrot

#### Red: *Dendrobium unicum* – Larry Mayse



*Dendrobium unicum*

#### White: *Dendrobium* China Dream – Vinh Nguyen



*Dendrobium* China Dream



*Epidendrum stamfordianum*

#### **Class 4: Epidendrum Alliance**

##### **Blue: *Epidendrum stamfordianum* – Bailey Santwire**

This species also received a blue ribbon last month so I will repost what I wrote then:

*Epidendrum stamfordianum* stands out among others in the genus with its thick, club-shaped pseudobulbs carrying two to four leathery leaves. Its inflorescences, emerging from the base of the previous season's growth, can display over 50 flowers per stem, sometimes with side branches. Native to seasonally dry forests from southern Mexico to Colombia and Venezuela, it typically grows as an epiphyte but is sometimes lithophytic; pink-flowered forms occur in eastern Colombia.

This orchid prefers warm temperatures, bright filtered light, abundant water and feeding from May to October, and drier conditions without fertilizer the rest of the year. It blooms once annually, though hybrids with cluster-flowering cattleya may bloom twice yearly.

##### **Red: *Encyclia diurna* – Bailey Santwire**

##### **White: *Encyclia bractescens* – Larry Mayse**



*Encyclia diurna*



*Encyclia diurna*



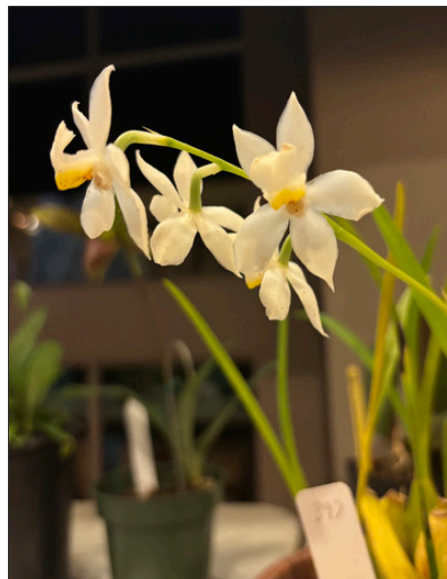
*Psychopsis* Mendenhall 'Hildos' FCC/AOS

## Class 5: Oncidium Alliance

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

Obviously, this particular clone has responded well to tissue culture, as it has been and continues to be widely available through multiple commercial outlets. The cross itself was registered back in 1988 by Carter & Holmes Orchids, located on Mendenhall Road in Newberry, SC. It was made by taking the primary hybrid between *Pyp. sanderae* and *Pyp. papilio*, called *Pyp. Butterfly* back to the *Pyp. papilio* parent. Obviously, superior examples of each parent were used as the cross has at least twenty different clones with flower quality awards, including two with First Class Certificates. Additionally, there are several cultural awards, including a CCM for the 'Hildos' form in 2022 with nineteen flowers and nine buds on 27 individual inflorescences. In case you are new to *Psychopsis*, they are unusual members of the *Oncidium* family that bear persistent inflorescences

which bear one flower at a time over several years. While the award for this one indicates its potential, excellent care is required to produce a bloom that equals the high honor it received in 2004, when



*Cuitlazina pulchella*

an exceptionally flat flower six inches wide and 5.5 inches tall was exhibited. Provide filtered bright light, consistently warm temperatures, year-round watering with slight drying in between, and allow the plant to crowd its container while avoiding root disturbance as much as possible.

**Red:** *Cuitlazina pulchella* – Larry Mayse

**White:** *Miltoniopsis* Bertha Baker 'Florentine' HCC/AOS – Firelli Alonso & Jon Crate



*Miltoniopsis* Bertha Baker "Florentine" HCC/AOS



*Phragmipedium* Noirmont 'Karelux' AM/AOS

## Class 6: Slipper Alliance

### Blue: *Phragmipedium* Noirmont 'Karelux' AM/AOS – Danny Lentz & Dianne Morgan

*Phragmipedium* Noirmont was introduced by the Eric Young Orchid Foundation on the Island of Jersey in 1997 and is one of a number of new crosses they introduced starting in that decade, primarily exploring the possibilities of breeding with the recently discovered brilliant red-orange *Phrag. besseae*. This cross takes their first effort with that species, *Phrag. Memoria Dick Clements (besseae x sargentianum)* and marries it with *Phrag. longofilium*. I'm sure they were thrilled to see that the bright colors continued to be carried through into this next generation. Since then, dozens of individual plants from the cross received flower quality awards from the American Orchid Society. This particular form was awarded right here at the Atlanta Judging Center back in December 2000. Grow this orchid in warm conditions, under bright filtered light in a mix that drains well but retains moisture and do not let the pot fully dry out at any time.

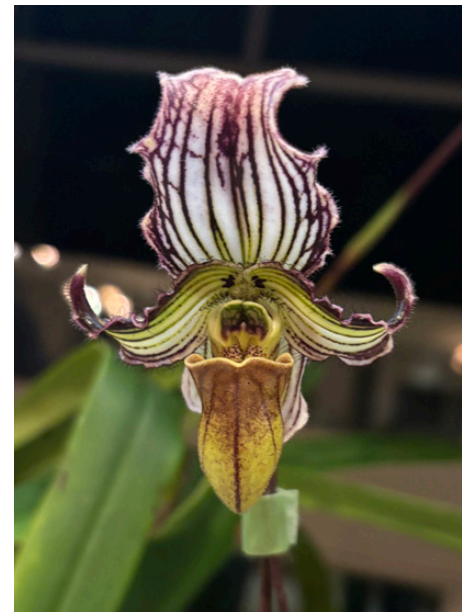
### Blue: *Paphiopedilum* Hiroki Tanaka – Larry Mayse

This is a primary hybrid between two species from Yunnan Province in southwest China. *Paph. armeniacum* comes

from the mountains in the western area of that province near the border with Burma, while *Paph. wenshanense* occurs further east near the area of Wenshan which is just north of the border with Vietnam. Both occur at fairly high elevations and are considered cool growing species. This example mixes the strong yellow color of the former with the pattern of spots of the latter to good effect, on a flower that is large for the plant size. *Paph. armeniacum* produces new

growths on a fairly extended rhizome so one should not be surprised if that habit comes through in *Paph.* Hiroki Tanaka.

### Red: *Paphiopedilum fairrieianum* – Bailey Santwire



*Paphiopedilum fairrieianum*



*Paphiopedilum* Hiroki Tanaka

*Paphiopedilum sukhakulii**Paphiopedilum appletonianum*

**White: *Paphiopedilum sukhakulii* – Vinh Nguyen**

**White: *Paphiopedilum appletonianum* – Vinh Nguyen**

*Phalaenopsis Yen Shuai Sweet Girl*

## Class 7: Phalaenopsis

**Blue: *Phalaenopsis Yen Shuai Sweet Girl* – Larry Mayse**

Sixteen different species make up the genetic background of this orchid, notable for its unusually vivid yellow coloring over a white background, contrasted by a brush of purple in the lip. While no clonal name was given with the list of ribbon winners, it is virtually identical to the 'Shiny Girl' form. The only current source I could find for it requires a minimum purchase of 10 plants which are presumably being imported from Taiwan near the end of May. This could be good news if several people wanted to combine their resources and get several each. Since the importer offers as many as 50 plants at a 30% discount there will likely be other vendors buying quantities to sell individually, so keep an eye out for it this summer. Given the number of species it descends from, typical hybrid Phalaenopsis care should produce good results.

**Red: *Phalaenopsis Taisuco Anna* – Bailey Santwire**

**White: *Phalaenopsis No ID* – Tim Cape**

*Phalaenopsis Taisuco Anna*



*Vanda christensoniana*

**White: *Vanda christensoniana* – Vinh Nguyen**



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*Maxillaria ecuadorensis*

## Class 9: Miscellaneous

### Blue: *Maxillaria ecuadorensis* - Larry Mayse

This species, described in 1921, comes from wet montane forests of Colombia, Ecuador and Peru. It apparently grows in a wide range of elevations from about 1600 to 8800 feet above sea level, indicating it should tolerate cool to warm growing conditions. While Jay Pfahl describes it as summer flowering, bloom records range from March to July. As with most members of the genus, *Max. ecuadorensis* bears a single flower per inflorescence, but can produce many downturned, spidery blooms at once.



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*Stanhopea wardii*

**Blue: *Stanhopea wardii* – Bailey Santwire**

*Stanhopea wardii* has been described as endemic to a large area from Mexico into northern South America. But more recently, the thinking has been that it is only found south of Honduras, with the plants further north being *Stan. graveolans*. While there are records of *Stan. wardii* blooming in every month, the main flowering season is summer into fall. Each inflorescence extends downward from the base of the plant, making an open basket the main practical way of growing it (and all *Stanhopea*). There

can be as many as 10 flowers per spike, opening simultaneously and lasting two or three days. They are strongly fragrant and well grown mature plants may produce several inflorescences during the bloom season. The flowers are variable from plant to plant and range from cream to yellow, with or without a scattering of dark spots. This species, like most, prefers intermediate temperatures year-round, with plenty of water and feeding while in active growth in the summer months, then reduced watering in winter into spring.



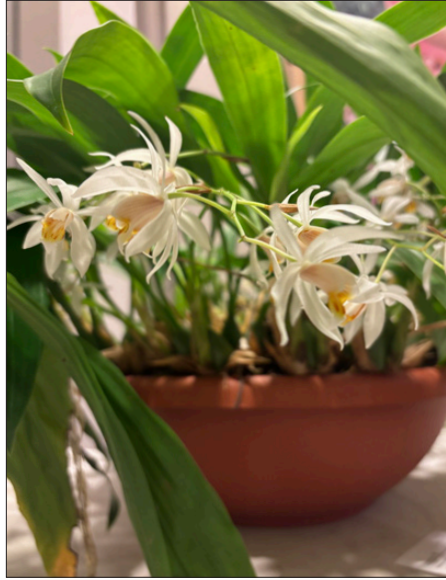
## Become an AOS Judge

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

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



*Chysis Maritza Bielecki*

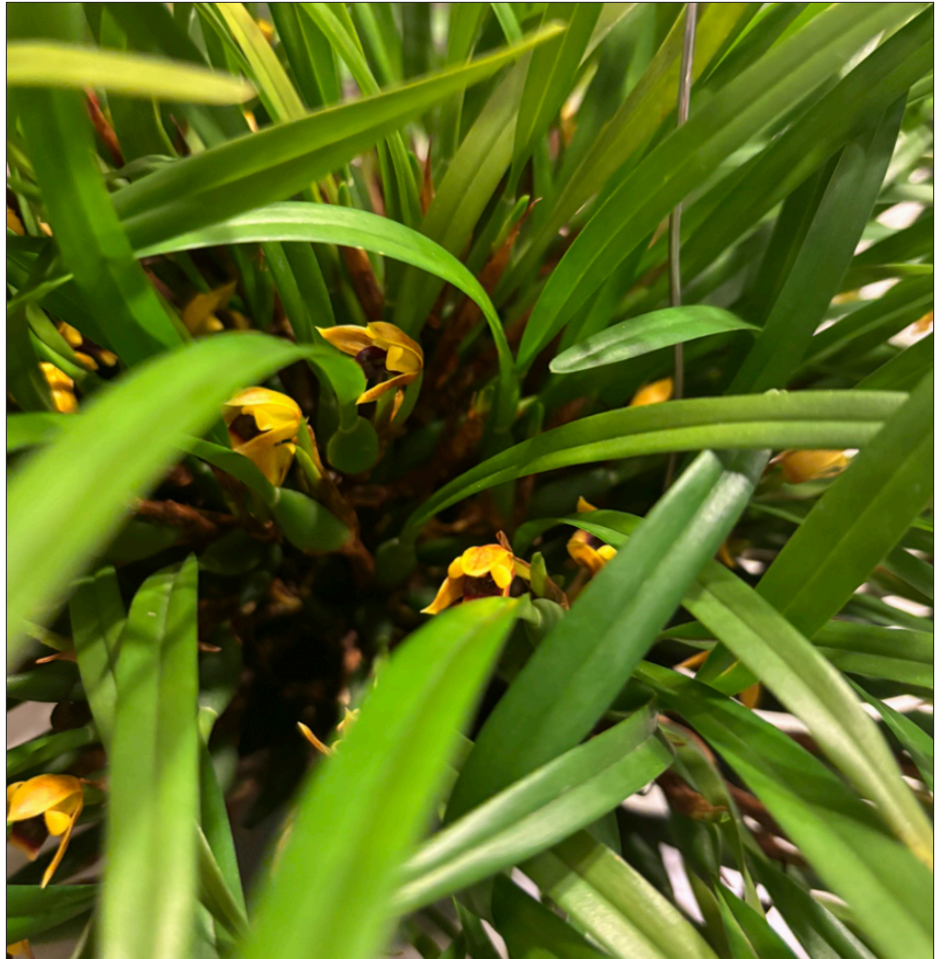


*Coelogyne pulverula*

**Red: *Chysis Maritza Bielecki* - Bailey Santwire**

**White: *Maxillaria variabilis* variety *unipunctata* - Vinh Nguyen**

**White: *Coelogyne pulverula* - Larry Mayse**



*Maxillaria variabilis* variety *unipunctata*