



JULY EVENT

Monthly Meeting: Monday, July 13, 2026
Mershon Hall at the Atlanta Botanical Garden
Gather at 7 p.m; program starts at 7:30 p.m.

Orchid Culture Panel Discussion

See page 3 for details

Bring your blooming plants for our monthly ribbon judging

AUGUST EVENT

Monthly Meeting: Monday, August 10, 2026
Gardenhouse Workshop at the Atlanta Botanical Garden
Gather at 7 p.m; program starts at 7:30 p.m.

Julian Banbury on Orchid Latin

See page 3 for details

Bring your blooming plants for our monthly ribbon judging

President's Message

Dear Atlanta Orchid Society Members and Friends,

First, I hope everyone had a wonderful celebration of America's 250th birthday on the Fourth of July! What an extraordinary milestone in our nation's history! We had the pleasure of celebrating at Truist Park, where the Atlanta Braves capped off a spectacular evening with a 14-3 victory over the New York Mets, followed by an unforgettable fireworks display. As we commemorate this historic anniversary, I am reminded of the importance of community, tradition, and shared experiences — values that also make our Atlanta Orchid Society such a special organization.

As we enter the heart of summer, I would like to extend my sincere thanks to everyone who joined us for our annual **Atlanta Botanical Garden Orchid Conservatory Tour and Ice Cream Social** on June 8. Once again, this special event proved to be one of the highlights of our Society year!

A very special thank you goes to **Becky Brinkman**, Manager of the Fuqua Orchid Center, for leading us on an informative and engaging tour of one of the finest public orchid collections in the world. We are also incredibly grateful for the generous gift of *Paphiopedilum* species seedlings that each attendee received to take home. Thank you, Becky, for your continued support of the Atlanta Orchid Society and for making this year's event such a memorable success!

Now we turn our attention to one of our most anticipated meetings of the year: our annual **Orchid Culture Panel Discussion** on **Monday, July 13**. Have a question about orchids? Bring it! Wondering why your *Cattleya* refuses to bloom, your *Phalaenopsis* won't spike, your *Dendrobium* dropped its leaves, or your *Paphiopedilum* is giving you the silent treatment? Ask away! As always, there are no bad questions, and we en-

courage everyone to participate. This is your opportunity to ask "anything you want to know about orchids" — and don't be afraid to ask!

We strongly encourage everyone to attend **in person** at the Atlanta Botanical Garden's **Mershon Hall** on Monday, July 13. We'll **gather at 7 PM**, with the **discussion beginning promptly at 7:30 PM**. While we prefer members to attend in person to enjoy the full experience and fellowship of our Society, **Zoom access will also be available**, and the meeting link will be distributed via email on the morning of July 13.

And, as always, please remember to bring your blooming orchids for **Ribbon Judging!**

While summer may seem long, one of our Society's most important annual events will be here before we know

Continued on p. 3

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The Atlanta Orchid Society Bulletin

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Newsletter Editors: [Véronique Perrot](#) & [Mark Reinke](#)

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EVENTS CALENDAR

July

- 11 – AOS monthly judging
- 13 – Atlanta Orchid Society Monthly Meeting: Panel discussion on orchid culture (see page 3 to submit your questions to the panel)

August

- 8 – AOS monthly judging
- 10 – Atlanta Orchid Society Monthly Meeting: Julian Banbury on botanical latin, at the Gardenhouse Workshop

September

- 12 – AOS monthly judging
- 14 – Atlanta Orchid Society Monthly Meeting: Nick Rust on terrestrial orchids
- 10 September – Alabama Orchid Society (Birmingham), Carson Barnes, Show Judging Chair

October

- 10 – AOS monthly judging
- 12 – Atlanta Orchid Society Monthly Meeting: Dr. Rob Griesbach on orchid genetics

November

- 7 – AtIOS yearly auction; Mark Reinke, auctioneer

July Meeting: Panel Discussion on Orchid Culture

Join us for an evening with our panel of experienced growers as we tackle your most pressing orchid questions! Do you have questions about Orchid Culture, Repotting, Media, Water, Nutrition, Pests, Diseases — or anything else orchid-related? This is your chance to ask our panel directly!

Monday, July 13, 2026

Mershon Hall, Atlanta Botanical Garden

Gather at 7:00 PM

Discussion begins at 7:30 PM

Don't forget to bring your blooming orchids for Ribbon Judging!

Click on this link (forms.gle/XuriKCecAZZoMb1u7) or use the QR code below to access the form to submit as many questions as you like. We'll do our best to field them all during the meeting.



President's Message

Continued from page 1

it—our **Annual Orchid Auction**, taking place on Saturday, November 7, 2026, at 1:00 PM, at Oglethorpe Presbyterian Church, 3016 Lanier Drive NE, Brookhaven, GA 30319.

We are delighted that our esteemed auctioneer, **Mark Reinke** of Marble Branch Farms, will once again be leading the festivities. Start saving your orchid funds now—there will undoubtedly be many irresistible orchids looking for new homes! After all, you can never have too many orchids!

Finally, a few reminders for orchid care during the hottest month of the year:

- Water early in the morning whenever possible to allow foliage to dry before evening.
- Increase air movement to help orchids cope with high temperatures and humidity.
- Watch for heat stress and sunburn, especially on Cattleyas, Oncidiums, and other high-light orchids.
- Monitor closely for pests, particularly spider mites and thrips, which thrive during hot weather.
- Maintain your fertilizing routine, but avoid over-fertilizing plants that are stressed by excessive heat.

Take time to enjoy your orchids! Summer growth means that many plants are actively producing new roots, leaves, and pseudobulbs—the foundation for spectacular blooms in the months ahead.

I look forward to seeing everyone on July 13 for an evening of learning, discussion, and fellowship.

Happy growing!

Firelli "Fi" Alonso
President, Atlanta Orchid Society

August Meeting: Julian Banbury Botanical Latin: History of and Strategies for Deciphering Latin Names of Orchids



Julian is an orchid enthusiast who has been growing on a small scale since 2019. He primarily grows bulbophyllums, both for their variety and their unusual aromas. Originally from Germany, Julian moved to the PNW when young and grew up in Seattle, WA. A native German speaker, he has long been interested in etymology and the history of language,

and particularly in the Latin roots of words. Julian is a freelance photographer with interests in landscape, portrait, and, in particular, orchid photography. He is also passionate about film photography and maintains a small darkroom where he develops film and enlarges his negatives. He enjoys spending time with his wife and two small children.

It is the first time that Julian will speak at the Atlanta Orchid Society. He will present the talk "Botanical Latin: History of and Strategies for Deciphering Latin Names of Orchids." He will discuss the history of botanical Latin and its importance to orchid growers. He will identify key historical figures that contributed to the development of botanical Latin and provide vocabulary and resources for translating the Latin names of orchids.

Please note: the August meeting will take place in the Gardenhouse Workshop, which is located behind Day Hall. We will NOT meet in our usual spot, Mershon Hall.

2024 Orchid Seedling Challenge Update!



We have our first winner!

Marion Lee Finley notified us on **Thursday, June 11, 2026**, that her orchid from the **2024 Orchid Seedling Challenge** had bloomed. She also shared several photos of her beautiful plant, **Seedling #13**.

For those who may need a reminder, the challenge was officially announced in the **October 2024 edition of the Atlanta Orchid Society Newsletter** (see pages 5 and 6 of the current issue). The challenge was simple: grow a young seedling to blooming size and compete for prizes and bragging rights.

The cross, created by Fred Clarke of Sunset Valley Orchids in Southern California, was:

SVO-10886: Rhyncattleanthe Martha's Exotic Magic 'Spring Beauty' × Cattleya Circle of Life 'Mesmerize' AM/AOS

Since Marion was the first member to officially report a bloom, she is awarded **First Place** and the **\$20 prize**, along with well-deserved bragging rights! Congratulations, Marion!

Now the question is...

Has anyone else bloomed their orchid from the 2024 Seedling Challenge?

If your plant has flowered, please send photos and let us know. We'd love to see how these seedlings have developed and determine who will claim the remaining prizes, **Second Place** — \$10, and **Third Place** — \$5

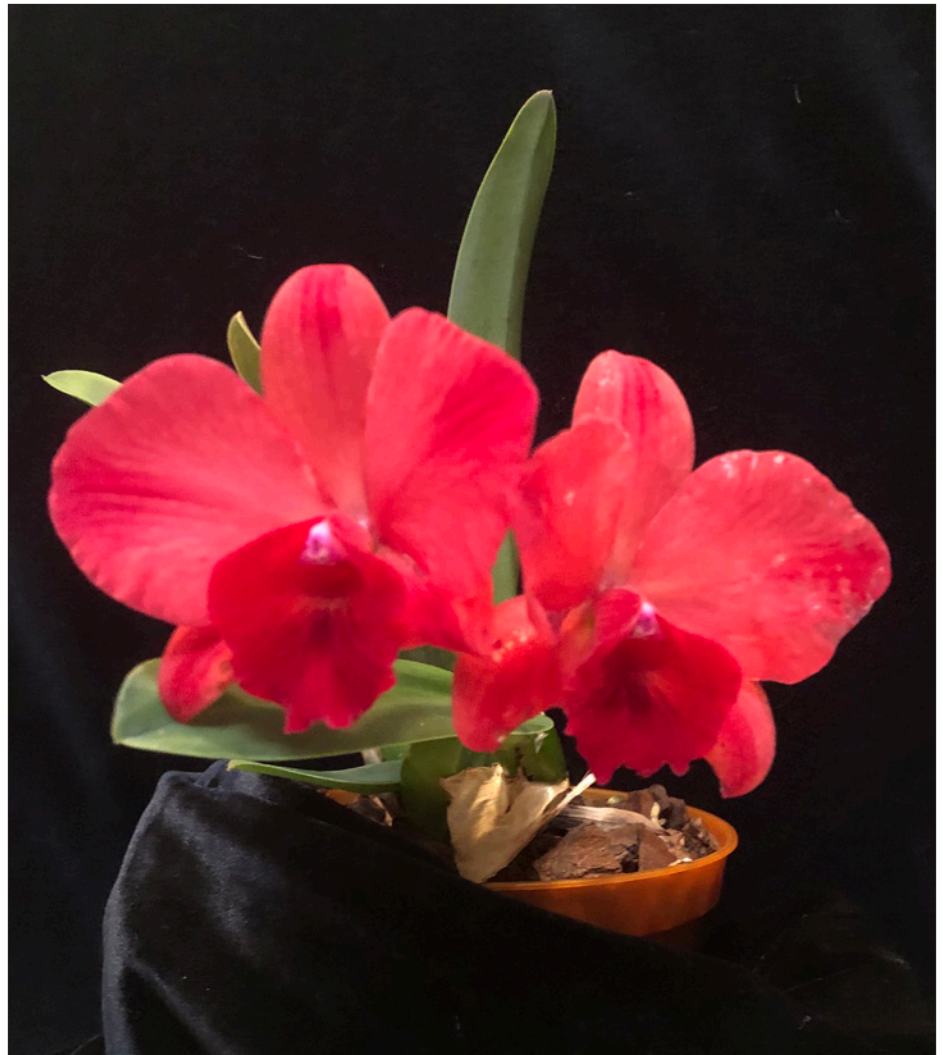
Even if your plant has **not yet bloomed**, we'd still love to hear how it's growing and see photos of its progress. It's always exciting to watch these seedlings mature and compare everyone's results!

Whether your plant has one flower or a spectacular display, we want to celebrate your success and share it with our membership.

Please send us photos of your bloom—or your plant's progress—or post them on our social media pages. Let's see how our 2024 Seedling Challenge participants are doing!

Happy growing, and good luck to everyone still waiting for that first bloom!

Jon Crate



2024 Orchid Seedling Challenge—Project 01-SVO-10886

Get ready for the First Orchid Seedling Challenge of 2024!

What is the challenge?

We're inviting all active members to join in the fun. The challenge is simple: grow a new plant from seedling to blooming size and compete for first, second, or third place prizes (\$20, \$10, \$5) along with bragging rights.

The seedlings

This cross is going to produce some amazing medium-sized *Cattleya* alliance beauties. The cross was made by Fred Clarke of Sunset Valley Orchids in Southern California. It was named SVO-10886 (*Rhyncattleanthe* Martha's Exotic Magic 'Spring Beauty' x *Cattleya* Circle of Life 'Mesmerize' AM/AOS). This is one of three different *Cattleya* cross flasks I bought when I visited SVO in April 2023.

There is no published photograph of the pollen parent, *Rhyncattleanthe* Martha's Exotic Magic 'Spring Beauty.' Not even Fred Clarke could supply one. It was registered by Fred in March 2021. *Rth.* Martha's Exotic Magic's pollen parent is *Rth.* Martha Clarke and the pod parent is *Cattleya* Tokyo Magic.

The pod parent for SVO-10886 is one of the most popular medium-sized *Cattleya* hybrids, *Cattleya* Circle of Life 'Mesmerize' AM/AOS. There are lots of photos of *C.* Circle of Life, and especially the awarded 'Mesmerize'.

How to get a seedling

I have 38 seedlings available, so the first 38 ACTIVE (paid or lifetime honorary) members who send me an e-mail at jon@fai.us reserving one seedling (per household) will get one. Don't snooze, or you may lose!

The cost is only \$5 per seedling. You can pay Edison or myself, but only if you appear on the list of first 38 who reserve a plant. Again, only one seedling per household.

The seedlings were all repotted in 2x2" pots in Kiwi Bark about 6 weeks ago. (See pictures of the seedlings at deflasking and repotting on the following page.)

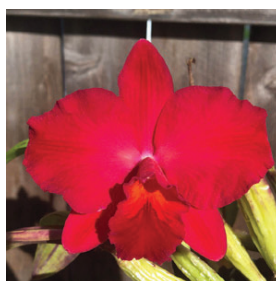
I will bring the seedlings to this month's meeting, October 14, starting at



Various individual plants of the pollen parent of the pollen parent, *Rhyncattleanthe* Martha Clarke. Which one actually served as the grandparent of our seedlings is unknown.



Pod parent of the pollen parent, *Cattleya* Tokyo Magic.



Pod parent, *Cattleya* Circle of Life.

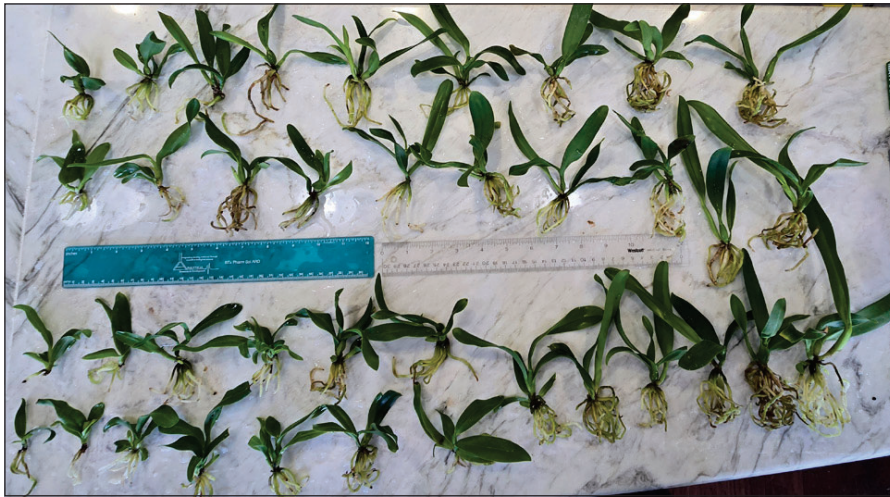
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October 2024



Seedlings at deflasking, April 2023



Seedlings at repotting, August 2024



Seedlings in their current digs

7:30 p.m. This month's meeting will be in the Gardenhouse Workshop, which is in the basement of the Gardenhouse, behind Day Hall (where we usually meet).

Some plants are bigger than others. To help newer growers, as bigger plants are easier to keep alive and growing, the newest members will pick first and the longest-term members pick last.

If you want to participate but you can't make this month's meeting, don't worry! Simply ask someone you trust to pick a plant for you. If you can't make other arrangements, I can pick yours out (I am not competing) and tag it. This is important because we expect the largest ones to go first, smaller later. Plant size may matter, but may not! The variance is shown in the seedling photographs below.

We hope this challenge will be a fun and affordable experience for everyone in our orchid society. Thanks for joining in!

Jon Crate

Atlanta Orchid Society Monthly Meeting Ribbon Winners for June, 2026

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



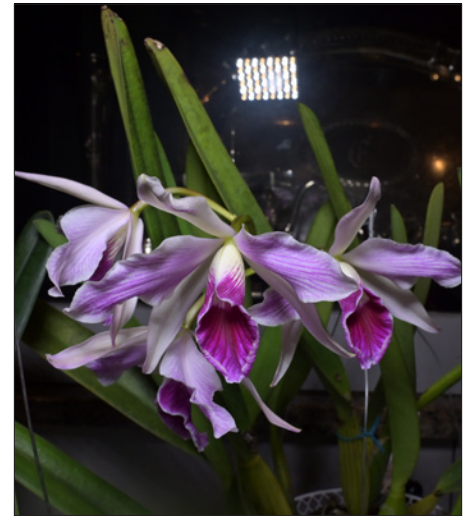
Cattleya tenebrosa

Class 1: Cattleya Alliance

Blue: *Cattleya tenebrosa* – Bailey Santwire

The exhibited plant is a nice typical example of this showy species, originally from southern Bahia and northern Espírito Santo, states in Brazil along the Atlantic coast north of Rio de Janeiro. It is now thought to be extinct in the wild, or at least, so scarce that it is impossible to find. Plants were originally found on large trees in dense forest, but that habitat has been virtually destroyed. The large flowers can measure about seven inches across, with two to three per inflorescence, peaking in the month of June, but lasting only about two weeks. Today it survives in cultivation and there are several color variations and improved forms available. The segments are typically coppery or bronze with reflexed edges as seen in this blue ribbon winner, while the trumpet-shaped lip is deep violet-purple in the throat, transitioning to a lighter shade around the outer rim. Some examples have ochre-yl-

low segments, and a few rare plants have a pure white lip. Since the majority of large-flowered *Cattleya* species feature shades of lavender, *C. tenebrosa* had been instrumental in developing various “art shades” and is an ancestor in more than 20,000 registered hybrids. To grow this species well, drainage must be perfect, and plants tend to perform better over



Cattleya purpurata forma rubra x forma sanguinea

time in baskets with a coarse medium, or on large mounts. Watering should continue year-round without a dry winter rest, though administered with caution in damp, dreary or cool weather.

Red: *Brassocattleya* Renee Gerber ‘Christina’ HCC/AOS – Firelli Alonso & Jon Crate

Red: *Cattleya purpurata forma rubra x forma sanguinea* – Vinh Nguyen



Brassocattleya Renee Gerber ‘Christina’ HCC/AOS



Brassavola nodosa 'Susan Fuchs' FCC/AOS



Cattleya Tropical Pointer

White: *Brassavola nodosa* 'Susan Fuchs'
FCC/AOS – Carson Barnes

White: *Cattleya* Tropical Pointer – Bailey
Santwire

Class 2: Cymbidium Alliance

No Entries

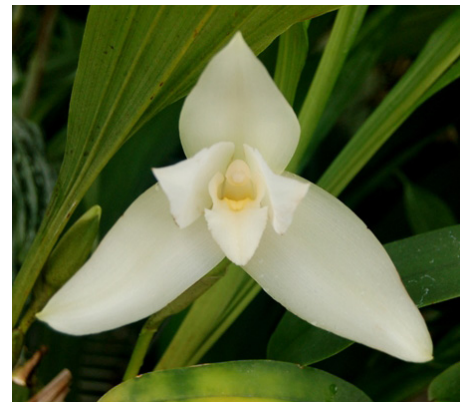


Dendrobium finisterrae

Class 3: Dendrobium Alliance

Blue: *Dendrobium finisterrae* – Larry
Mayse

Dendrobium finisterrae is a member of the Latouria Section, found in the highlands of the Finisterre Mountains of Papua New Guinea. That name is meant to imply “the end of the world” and reflects the remote nature of the habitat. Plants are found on moss covered trees in mist forest. Despite having been described in 1912, not much detailed information is available on this species. It is considered a cool grower and would likely not do well in our area outside a controlled environment. The flowers do not open fully but have an interesting “mossy” covering of hairs on their back side and subtly colored segments with a cream or greenish background with random dark purple spots on the petals and dark markings on the lip. The most recent AOS award came in June of 2009 for a plant with more than 100 flowers. It received a simultaneous Award of Merit and Certificate of Cultura Merit. In addition to mild temperatures, plants like good humidity and year-round watering with a bit less in winter without drying out completely.



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come learn with us

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Dendrobium devonianum

Blue: *Dendrobium devonianum* – Vinh Nguyen

This showy species was covered in last month's newsletter.

Red: *Dendrobium stratiotes* – Larry Mayse

Red: *Dendrobium parishii* – Vinh Nguyen

White: *Dendrobium finisterrae* – Bailey Santwire

White: *Dendrobium Sakol Blue 'Elizabeth'* HCC/AOS – Carson Barnes



Dendrobium parishii



Dendrobium stratiotes



Dendrobium Sakol Blue 'Elizabeth' HCC/AOS



Epidendrum jasminosum

Class 4: Epidendrum Alliance

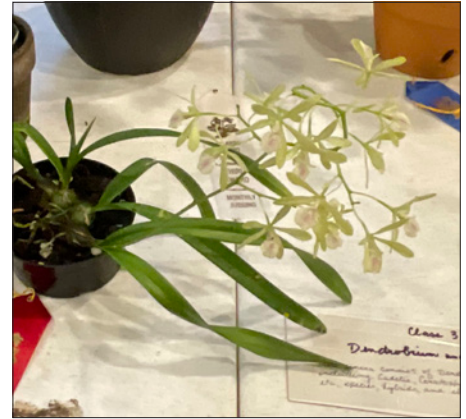
Blue: *Epidendrum jasminosum* - Bailey Santwire

I got a start of this species from Ecuador and Peru at our society auction a couple of years ago and it is also in bloom right now. Perhaps it is a division from Bailey's plant. Despite the name and the claim that it has a strong jasmine scent, I can detect no fragrance at all at any time of day or in the evening. Perhaps it comes out only in the wee hours of the night when I am asleep? However, the delicate look of the near white flowers is very appealing. Based on the description available, our two examples of this species are not yet even close to mature size. It is described as a large-sized epiphyte from the eastern slope of the Andes that can bear many flowers. The two awarded examples average over 300 blooms per inflorescence. I hope I can grow it to such magnificence. The natural habitat must be in a very remote location, since despite its size, *Epi. jasminosum* was only described in 2001. It prefers dappled light and warm to hot growing conditions.

Red: *Encyclia* Moonlight Fireflies x Roughly Profuse – Bailey Santwire

Red: *Epidendrum* sp. (Ecuador) – Bailey Santwire

White: *Prosthechea chacoensis* – Larry Mayse



Encyclia Moonlight Fireflies x Roughly Profuse



Epidendrum sp. (Ecuador)



Epidendrum sp. (Ecuador)

*Miltonopsis Rene Komoda*

Class 5: Oncidium Alliance

Blue: *Gomesa Jiaho Queen 'Jiaho' GM/ TOGA, FCC/AOS – Firelli Alonso & Jon Crate*

This striking orchid makes a powerful impression to everyone who sees it in person. As you can surmise by the full name, the Taiwan Orchid Growers Association gave it a Gold Medal and the AOS awarded it an FCC in May of 2023. That latter awarded plant had 37 flowers on two inflorescences. I can't get an accurate count from the photos, but the exhibited plant appears to have nearly that many on a single inflorescence. Kudos to Fi and Jon for doing such a wonderful job on an orchid everyone wants, but many fail to grow well. *Gomesa* was split off from *Oncidium* in this century to distinguish the Brazilian species from other members of the genus. Four of those species are in the family tree of *Gom. Jiaho Queen*, with the largest contribution coming from *Gom. varicosa* followed by *Gom. insignis*. These two species grow in cool to warm, but not hot mountain forests in southeastern Brazil, so this orchid would need a controlled environment to do well though our hot summers. Rather frequent water, espe-

cially in summer, is preferred, but the roots should dry quickly to stay healthy. One way to accomplish this would be to mount the plant on cork or tree fern, but that would mean almost daily watering spring through fall. A fairly shallow pot with an open and long-lasting mix would be the next best thing.

*Psychopsis Butterfly*

Red: *Psychopsis Butterfly* – Firelli Alonso & Jon Crate

White: *Brassia Rex* – Margaret Cekis

*Brassia Rex*



Phragmipedium Nutmeg

Class 6: Slipper Alliance

Blue: *Phragmipedium* Nutmeg – Carson Barnes

Phragmipedium Nutmeg was registered in 2022 by Marilyn LeDoux of Windy Hill Orchids in Labadee, MO. It takes the cross between *Phrag. caudatum* and *Phrag. humboldtii* (*Phrag.* Majestic Tresses) to *Phrag. caricinum*, creating a slightly more compact plant with long twisting petals, which continue to elongate after the flower opens to reach lengths of ten inches or more. At least four flowers are possible on each inflorescence of a fully mature plant. All the species involved prefer medium light and mild to warm, but not hot temperatures. Grow in a plastic pot with a fine, but well-draining mix and do not allow the plant to go completely dry at any time.



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Paphiopedilum Lynleigh Koopowitz

Blue: *Paphiopedilum* Lynleigh Koopowitz – Paul Reavis

Paphiopedilum Lynleigh Koopowitz is a primary hybrid between *Paph. delenatii* and *Paph. malpoense*. The exhibited flower has more pink shading than most examples of the cross, possibly because one of the darker-flowered forms of *Paph. delenatii* was used. It was registered in 1991 by Paphanatics and has received dozens of AOS awards including two First Class Certificates and one Certificate of Cultural Excellence for a plant with six open flowers and two buds exhibited in 2009. Both parents are among the small number of *Paphiopedilum* species that are fragrant, so undoubtedly their hybrid is as well. It should inherit tolerance for cool to warm or possibly hot conditions, with medium light levels and a preference to never dry out completely.

Red: *Paphiopedilum* Deperle – Firelli Alonso & Jon Crate

Red: *Paphiopedilum* No ID – Kia Pascal



Paphiopedilum No ID



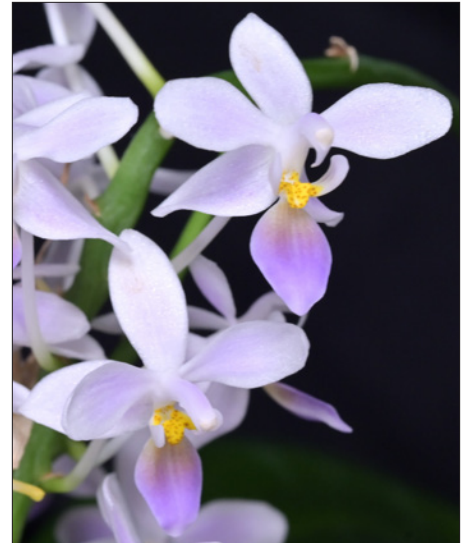
Paphiopedilum thaianum



Paphiopedilum Deperle



Phalaenopsis equestris h. f. coerulea



Class 7: Phalaenopsis

Blue: *Phalaenopsis equestris h. f. coerulea* – Firelli Alonso & Jon Crate

This species from hot and humid locations on Luzon Island in the Philippines is known for its ability to make a profusion of small flowers over many months. Fully mature plants can have a half dozen or more persistent inflorescences which can generate over 100 flowers at once during the long bloom season. Additionally, there are several notable color forms including the exhibited plant with

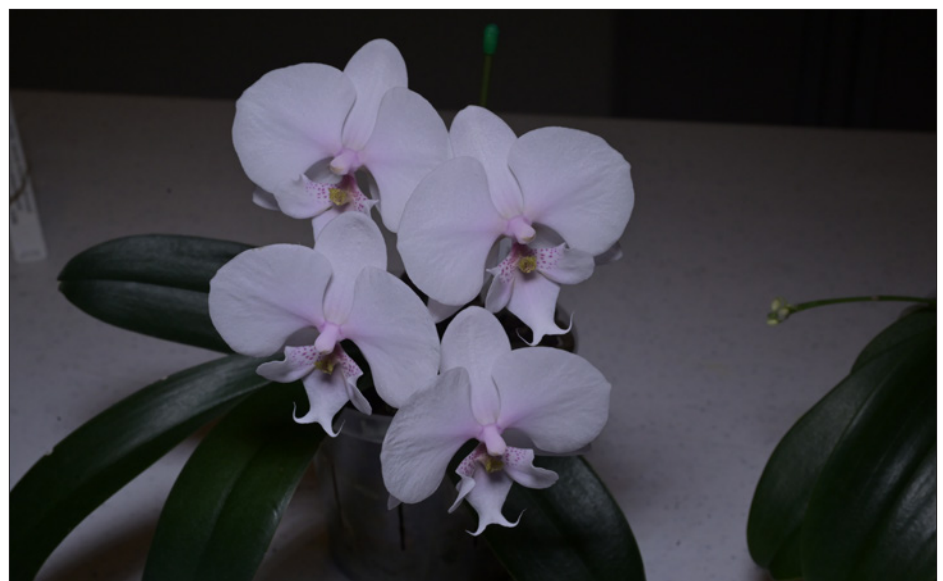
pale violet segments and a deeper lip and yellow central callus. All these attributes are a hybridizer's dream, and the result is more than 25,000 registered crosses that descend from it. It grows best with filtered light levels, warm temperatures and plentiful water during summer with somewhat less in winter.

Red: *Phalaenopsis lueddemanniana* – Bailey Santwire

White: *Phalaenopsis Tying Shin Eastern Star* – Firelli Alonso & Jon Crate



Phalaenopsis lueddemanniana



Phalaenopsis Tying Shin Eastern Star



Vanda Tony Viggiani

Class 8: Vandaceous Alliance

Blue: *Vanda* Tony Viggiani – Carson Barnes

This large-flowered hybrid with good round form and strong colors was registered by R.F. Orchids in 2010 and mixes *V. sanderiana* and *V. coerulea* over many generations with a touch of *V. curvifolia* (formerly *Ascocentrum curvifolium*) that likely helps reduce the plant size a bit and brighten the tones in the flowers. The cross received three Awards of Merit shortly after being introduced and was used in one additional hybrid registered in 2017. Like other *Vanda* along the same breeding lines, this one prefers basket culture with exposed roots, high light levels, warm to hot temperatures, good humidity, regular feeding and daily watering.



Vanda Penang Sunset



Vanda Memoria Tim Carroll

Red: *Vanda* Penang Sunset – Larry Mayse

White: *Vanda* Memoria Tim Carroll – Carson Barnes



Clowesetum Joe Roman

Class 9: Miscellaneous

Blue: *Clowesetum Joe Roman* – Jon Crate & Firelli Alonso

Registered in 2024 by Fred Clarke, this attractive primary hybrid between *Clowesia dodsoniana* and *Catasetum tigrinum* does a great job of bringing together the best of each parent. The pure white segments are peppered with dark purple markings, and the cream-colored lip is strongly fimbriated along both sides. About 20 flowers are well presented on one pendent inflorescence. The former species is from the state of Michoacan in Mexico while the latter comes from the lowlands of Amazonas, Pará, Rodônia, and Mato Grosso Brazil. So, while they would never meet in the wild, both locations experience warm to hot temperatures year-round, with plentiful rainfall in summer and less, but not total dryness in winter.



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*Paphinia Majestic*

Blue: *Paphinia Majestic* – Firelli Alonso & Jon Crate

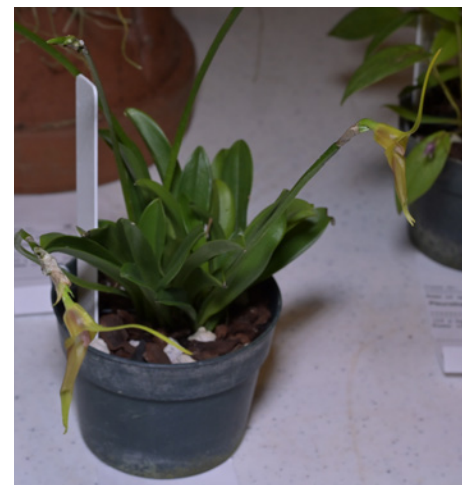
Paphinia Majestic is a primary hybrid between *Pna. cristata* and *Pna. herrerae* that was introduced by H&R Nurseries in 1997. It beautifully combines the best attributes of each parent is the recipient

of at least 15 AOS awards. The downward facing flowers can be about six inches in spread with a pattern of red strips and tigering over a white background, accented by a strong yellow column and a fimbriated lip. Four or more can be produced on each inflorescence and mature

plants can produce several staggered over an extended bloom season running from summer into fall. Unfortunately, it can be difficult to find a plant available for sale these days. It deserves to be remade so that a new batch can make its way into the collections of lovers of the unusual. It does best in a shallow basket or mounted with filtered light, warm temperatures and regular watering only slightly reduced in winter.

Blue: *Masdevallia curtipes* – Larry Mayse

Based on the photo provided and all the references I could find, I'm not sure this plant is correctly identified. *Masdevallia curtipes* should have flowers on very short stems that peek out from the foliage around the base of the plant. They should have a strong yellow upper sepal transitioning to a purple overlay on the two lower sepals, all of which are subtended by fairly long and narrow tails. This plant more closely resembles *Masd. ametroglossa* which has greenish yellow flowers on stems several inches tall, with the lower sepals partially fused and bearing short tails. The lip of that species is more tongue-like and larger than most other species.

*Masdevallia curtipes*



Catasetum atratum 'Jiffy OK'



Pleurothallis praecipua



Lepanthes rutrum



Bulbophyllum cruentum 'Krull-Smith'



Lepanthes calodictyon



Bulbophyllum bicolor



Catasetum hybrid No ID



Calopogon tuberosus h. v. *albus*

Red: *Catasetum atratum* 'Jiffy OK'
AM/AOS – Carson Barnes

Red: *Lepanthes rutrum* – Bailey Santwire

Red: *Lepanthes gargoyle* – Bailey Santwire

Red: *Lepanthes calodictyon* – Bailey Santwire

Red: *Pleurothallis praecipua* – Larry Mayse

White: *Bulbophyllum cruentum* 'Krull-Smith' – Larry Mayse

White: *Calopogon tuberosus* h.v. *albus* – Bailey Santwire

White: *Catasetum* hyb. No ID – Danny Lentz & Dianne Morgan