



Bulletin

September 2026

SEPTEMBER EVENT

Monthly Meeting: Monday, September 14, 2026

Mershon Hall at the Atlanta Botanical Garden

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

Nick Rust on Terrestrial Orchids

See page 3 for details

Bring your blooming plants for our monthly ribbon judging

Bylaws Revision

At its July 9, 2026, meeting, the Board of Trustees, with a quorum present, unanimously approved the proposed Bylaws revisions for recommendation to the membership by a vote of two Officers and four Trustees.

The Board is proposing **three amendments** intended to clarify existing policies, modernize outdated provisions, and strengthen the Society's governance and election process.

Article III – Members

Article XV – Dues

Article XX – Nominating Committee

Bylaws Revision

Article III – Members

A definition of "member in good standing" has been added.

An active member whose dues remain current shall be considered a member in good standing and shall be entitled to all rights and privileges of membership, including voting, holding office, and serving on committees.

Article XV – Dues

The provision allowing new members joining between July and September to pay one-half of the annual dues has been removed. This provision has not been used in recent years and simplifies the Society's dues structure by applying a single membership rate throughout the year.

Article XX – Nominating Committee

Several revisions are proposed to make the nomination and election process more transparent, consistent, and well-defined.

- **Clarifies the composition, purpose, and responsibilities** of the Nominating Committee, including eligibility requirements for its members.
- **Establishes a formal nomination process**, requiring Committee approval of its recommended slate and written affirmation from all nominees before nomination.
- **Preserves nominations from the floor** at the October regular meeting, including the opportunity to present alternate slates of candidates.
- **Provides clear election procedures**, including at least 14 days' advance notice to the membership and voting procedures for single versus multiple slates.
- **Defines procedures for nominee withdrawals** before the election to ensure vacancies on the slate can be filled in an orderly manner.

President's Message

Dear Atlanta Orchid Society Members and Friends,

As summer begins to wind down, I would like to extend my sincere thanks to everyone who attended our **August 10** monthly meeting. We were treated to a fascinating presentation by **Julian Brantbury**, who guided us through the intriguing world of **Botanical Latin**. Whether you came away with a better understanding of orchid names or simply enjoyed the journey into the language behind our hobby, I hope you found the evening both educational and entertaining. Thank you, Julian, for sharing your knowledge with our society!

A Very Important September Meeting

If at all possible, please join us in person for our **Monday, September 14** meeting. Your attendance is especially important because we will be voting on **three proposed amendments to the Atlanta Orchid Society Bylaws**, as described in a special section of this newsletter (see at left).

Under our current Bylaws, any amendment may be adopted only if it receives a two-thirds (2/3) majority of the votes cast by members present at the meeting, provided a quorum is present. A quorum consists of twenty percent (20%) of the Society's total paid and honorary membership in attendance.

Your attendance truly matters. Every member present helps us establish a quorum so that this important business

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ATLANTA ORCHID SOCIETY

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Monthly Ribbon Judging – [Barbara](#)

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Website – [Danny Lentz](#)

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The Atlanta Orchid Society Bulletin

Volume 67: Number 9 – September 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

Continued from page 1

can be conducted on behalf of our Society. Even if you have not yet decided how you will vote, your presence is essential. I hope you'll make every effort to join us in person for this important meeting.

September Guest Speaker

Our guest speaker will be Nick Rust, Atlanta Orchid Society Board Member and owner of RustyExotics Orchids. Nick's presentation, "Terrestrial Orchids," will introduce us to a fascinating group of orchids that grow in the ground rather than on trees. Yes, there really are terrestrial orchids!

Nick will also bring orchids for sale, so you may find something irresistible to add to your collection. After all, you can never have too many orchids! And since

many of his plants are compact, they won't take up much more space... at least that's what we'll keep telling ourselves!

Ribbon Judging

Don't forget to bring your blooming orchids for Ribbon Judging! Seeing everyone's plants is one of the highlights of each meeting and gives us all an opportunity to learn from one another.

If you're still unfamiliar with the Ribbon Judging rules, please take a few moments to review your Atlanta Orchid Society Member Handbook, which you should have received at your first meeting.

Continued on p. 3

EVENTS CALENDAR

September

12 – AOS monthly judging

10 September – Alabama Orchid Society (Birmingham), Carson Barnes, Show Judging Chair **CANCELLED**

14 – Atlanta Orchid Society Monthly Meeting: Nick Rust on terrestrial orchids

25–27 – Kentucky Orchid Society (Louisville); Show Judging Chair: Tim Brooks

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

9 – Atlanta Orchid Society Monthly Meeting:

14 – AOS monthly judging

December

12 – AOS monthly judging

14 – Atlanta Orchid Society Monthly Meeting: Holiday Party!

President's Message

Continued from page 2

Orchid Growing Tips for September

As temperatures begin to moderate, September is an excellent month to prepare your orchids for the transition into autumn.

- Continue watering and fertilizing while plants remain in active growth, but begin reducing fertilizer as growth slows later in the month.
- Watch for cooler nighttime temperatures. Many orchids, especially *Phalaenopsis*, benefit from a 10–15°F difference between day and night temperatures to initiate flower spikes.
- Inspect plants carefully for insects and snails before bringing any outdoor-grown orchids back indoors later this fall.
- Maintain good air circulation during warm, humid weather.
- This is an excellent time to repot orchids that have finished their summer growth if the potting medium has begun to break down or the roots have outgrown the pot.

We Hope to See You There!

Monday, September 14

Mershon Hall, Atlanta Botanical Garden

Gather at 7:00 PM

Meeting begins at 7:30 PM

I look forward to seeing all of you there—and if at all possible, **please join us in person** for this important meeting.

Happy growing!

You can never have too many orchids!

Firelli “Fi” Alonso
President, Atlanta Orchid Society



September Meeting: Nick Rust on Terrestrial Orchids

Nicholas is an up-and-coming hybridizer in the orchid community. His orchid passion began in 2015 when a mini-*Phalaenopsis* was gifted to him. Like a flame to gasoline, this gift quickly pulled him into the diverse world of orchids. Shortly after his interests were formed, he began exploring the culture of several unique genera of terrestrial orchids. He now specializes in *Habenaria* and other related genera, jewel orchids, Australian terrestrial orchids, and *Bulbophyllum*. In 2019, this obsession bloomed into a small orchid nursery, RustyExotics Orchids, which he uses to share the wonders and beauty of his work.

Through studying biochemistry and molecular biology during college, Nicholas approaches his orchids with the same scientific perspective he uses while working in a research lab. This led to an interest in the entire growth cycle of orchids and the start of his own hybridization program in 2018, which focuses mostly on terrestrial orchids, especially *Habenaria*. His aim is to use rarely cultivated species and distinct variations of species to create truly exceptional shapes and colors that will pave new directions for unique hybrids.

Nick will bring plants to sell...



Judges' Corner: Judging Summary of the Atlanta Judging Center, 11 July 2026

Monthly judging July 11, 2026, for the Atlanta Judging Center presented the opportunity to express our thanks to the Memphis Orchid Society for their thoughtful donation of \$100, to our judges who provided \$375 in bids for our library book auction and a special thank you to the anonymous donor of \$1,000. We sincerely appreciate these donations as they make the operation and services of our center possible and available to all our regional affiliated societies and orchid growers.

At this month's judging there were 11 Accredited judges, 1 Associate judge and 2 students comprising 3 teams to judge all of the 10 orchids entered from multiple growers. Accredited Judges: Firelli Alonso, Carson Barnes, Barbara Barnett, Jon Crate, Aileen Garrison (Emerita), Doug Hartong, Lowell Jacks (Emeritus), David Janvrin, David Mellard, Charles Wilson, Susan Wilson; Scott Elliott, Associate judge; Student Judges: Benjamin Overlie and Samuel Overlie. The below five awards were made (please note awards are not official till processed by AOS):

Catasandra Greendent 'Maneki Hill' AM, 84 pts, grown by Scott Elliott and Susan Hill

Catasetum Memoria Darrel John 'Maneki Hill' AM, 80 pts, grown by Scott Elliott and Susan Hill:



Catasandra Greendent 'Maneki Hill' AM/AOS

Clowesia Spot On 'Maneki Hill II' AM, 84 pts, grown by Scott Elliott and Susan Hill:

Clowesia Spot On 'Maneki Hill III' AM, 82 pts, grown by Scott Elliott and Susan Hill:

Galeandra dives 'Maneki Hill' CCM, 83 pts, grown by Scott Elliott and Susan Hill:

PLEASE JOIN US: Our next regular monthly judging will be 8 August 2026 at Oglethorpe Presbyterian Church (3016 Lanier Dr NE). Judging education program begins at noon (next month will be by HB Blythe-Hart about 'judging look-alike' species). Free and convenient parking. Open to all. Formal judging begins immediately following our education program.

The following shows have been sanctioned by AOS for 2026 for our affiliated societies:

19 Sept 2026 – Alabama Orchid Society (Birmingham); Show Judging Chair: Carson Barnes

25-27 Sept 2026 – Kentucky Orchid Society (Louisville); Show Judging Chair: Tim Brooks

And for 2027:

29-31 Jan 2027 – Gulf Coast Orchid Society (Gautier); Show Judging Chair: Andy Braun



Catasetum Memoria Darrel John 'Maneki Hill' AM/AOS

Best regards,
Charles Wilson, Chair
Atlanta Judging Center



Clowesia Spot On 'Maneki Hill II' AM/AOS



Clowesia Spot On 'Maneki Hill III' AM/AOS



Galeandra dives 'Maneki Hill III' CCM/AOS

Judges' Corner: Judging Summary of the Atlanta Judging Center, 8 August 2026

Monthly judging Aug 8, 2026, for the Atlanta Judging Center presented the opportunity to express our thanks to our judges who provided \$240 in bids this month from our library book auction. We sincerely appreciate these donations as they make the operation and services of our center possible and available to all our regional affiliated societies and orchid growers. August is a notorious month for its paucity in orchid blooming, and this month is no exception.

At this month's judging there were 11 Accredited judges, 1 Associate judge and 2 students comprising 3 teams to judge all of the 3 orchids entered from multiple growers. Accredited Judges: Firelli Alonso, Barbara Barnett, Helen Blythe-Hart, Jon Crate, Aileen Garrison (Emerita), Doug Hartong, Lowell Jacks (Emeritus), David Mellard, Bailey Santwire, Charles Wilson, Susan Wilson; Associate judge: Scott Elliott; Student Judges: Benjamin Overlie and Samuel Overlie. Guests: Sue Hill, Rick Dorer. The below award was made (please note awards are not official till processed by AOS):

Peresteria elata 'Judy's Best' HCC, 77 pts, grown by Rick Dorer of Cataula, GA:

PLEASE JOIN US: Our next regular monthly judging will be 12 Sept 2026 at Oglethorpe Presbyterian Church (3016 Lanier Dr NE). Judging education program begins at noon (Sept will be by Samuel Overlie about 'Judging Ethics from a Student Point of View'). Free and convenient parking. Open to all. Formal judging begins immediately following our education program.

The following show have been sanctioned by AOS for 2026 for our affiliated societies:

19 Sept 2026 – Alabama Orchid Society (Birmingham); CANCELLED

25-27 Sept 2026 – Kentucky Orchid Society (Louisville); Show Judging Chair: Tim Brooks

And for 2027:



Peresteria elata 'Judy's Best' HCC/AOS



29-31 Jan 2027 – Gulf Coast Orchid Society (Gautier); Show Judging Chair: Andy Braun

12-14 Mar 2027 - Atlanta Orchid Society; Show Judging Chair: Bailey Santwire

Best regards,
Charles Wilson, Chair
Atlanta Judging Center

Become an AOS Judge

The American Orchid Society Judging Program

is seeking highly motivated orchid enthusiasts to join the judging ranks

Work with other like-minded people in support of AOS awards programs and educational efforts

For more information contact us at
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Atlanta Orchid Society Monthly Meeting Ribbon Winners for July, 2026

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



Cattleya tigrina

Class 1: Cattleya Alliance

Blue: *Cattleya tigrina* – Vinh Nguyen

In the past, *Cattleya tigrina* was known as *C. guttata* var. *leopoldii* and as *C. leopoldii*. The latter name is still frequently seen in current labeling. It is a robust species with many notable color forms that inhabits low, swampy lowlands in Brazil from about Rio de Janeiro, southward down the coast for several hundred miles. The southernmost part of its range has been lost to habitat destruction. One of the bifoliate species, it can bear a dozen or more strongly fragrant flowers in a spherical cluster, peaking in midsummer in the northern hemisphere. Like other species that come from the same coastal environment, it receives year-round rainfall with only slightly less in the winter months, so should not be given a dry rest period. The habitat averages more than 80 inches of rainfall annually. However, rapid drainage after watering is essential and so shallow pots or open baskets with coarse, long-lasting

medium tend to work best. As the species name implies the typical form, seen here, has flowers that are bronze or reddish bronze overlaid with darker spots and a bright purple spade shaped lip. However, alba, semi-alba and coerulea forms are common in cultivation. *C. tigrina* performs best under high light lev-



Vaughnara Fiftieth Anniversary



Laeliocatathron Winter Fantasy

els and warm temperatures, preferring to stay above 60F at night even in winter. About 3000 registered hybrids include *C. tigrina* in their ancestry.

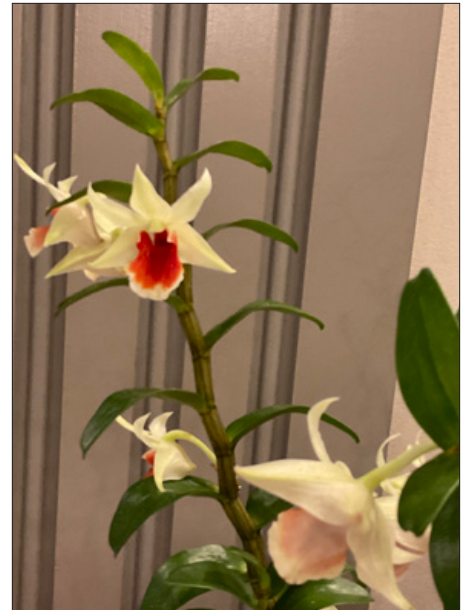
Red: *Vaughnara Fiftieth Anniversary* – Firelli Alonso & Jon Crate

White: *Laeliocatathron Winter Fantasy* – Jaden McElvey



*Dendrobium Pink Lady***Class 2: Cymbidium Alliance****No Entries****Class 3: Dendrobium Alliance****Blue: *Dendrobium Pink Lady* – Vinh Nguyen**

This entry has left me a little puzzled. The flowers exhibited are peloric, meaning the two petals are trying to imitate the lip of the orchid. The original *Den. Pink Lady* was registered in 1955 and was not peloric. However, there is a more recent and unregistered hybrid between it and a peloric variety called *Den. King Dragon* with many photos available on Facebook and Instagram posts, and several examples look nearly identical to this plant, so perhaps it should be labeled *Den. Pink Lady* x *King Dragon*. It could also be simply a peloric mutation of the original *Den. Pink Lady*, but an image search revealed no examples of that possibility. Whichever is the correct identification, the plant would be a mix of species in the *Phalaenanthus* and *Spatulata* sections of the genus and thrive on bright light, warm temperatures, and plenty of water while actively growing with somewhat less if not, especially in winter.

Red: *Dendrobium subclausum* v. *speciosum* – Vinh Nguyen**White: *Dendrobium rosellum* – Larry Mayse****White: *Dendrobium fuscifaucium*– Larry Mayse****White: *Dendrobium QF Makani* – Larry Mayse***Dendrobium subclausum* v. *speciosum**Dendrobium QF Makani**Dendrobium fuscifaucium**Dendrobium rosellum*

*Encyclia unaensis**Encyclia plicata***Class 4: Epidendrum Alliance****Red: *Encyclia plicata* - Larry Mayse****Blue: *Encyclia unaensis* - Larry Mayse**

Based on what I have been able to glean from multiple sources, this orchid is more likely not the Brazilian species *E. unaensis*, but instead a similar looking Bahamian species from Andros Island called *E. androsiana*. The latter has been sold by Ecuagenera as *E. unanensis*. The differences are subtle but the most obvious one, which I can't test from a photo, is that *E. androsiana* is fragrant while *E. unaensis* is not. Both are small growing species bearing small clusters of flowers on wiry upright stems. The most obvious visual difference is that the side lobes of the lip on *E. androsiana* are more open and expose the column whereas in *E. unanensis* they conceal the lower portion of the column. Also, the purple in the lip on the former species extends up under the column, while in the former it is confined to the spot in the center of the lip and the edges of the central lobe tend to reflex. Despite being from two different hemispheres, the climate where each species grows is similar, with year-round warm temperatures, a rainy summer and drier winter. Drainage should always be excellent so that the roots dry quickly after watering.

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*Oncostele Eye Candy*

Class 5: Oncidium Alliance

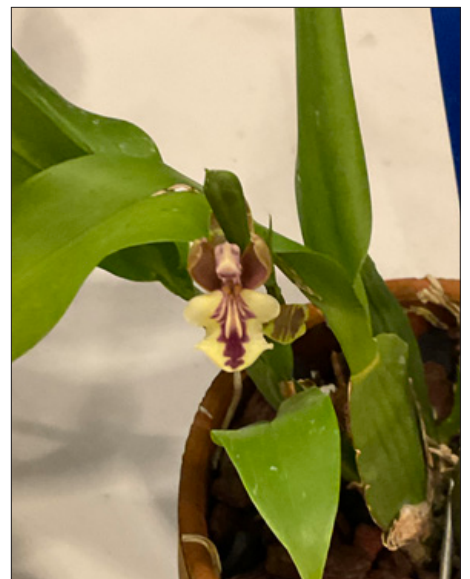
Blue: *Oncostele Eye Candy* – Jackie Chen

I really love this hybrid because it brings the more rounded form and interesting color patterns of the cool growing *Odontoglossum crispum* (now classed as *Oncidium alexandrae*) in a plant that can do well under our growing conditions. To accomplish this, one of those more finicky types was crossed to *Ons.* Catatante, to give more heat tolerance and vigor. Still, it probably wouldn't do particularly well left outside for the summer and given only casual care. But if grown well-watered in moderately light indoors or in a controlled greenhouse, it is very dependable and nicely compact. The bloom spikes are tall enough to appreciate the flowers, but not enough to be a problem for growers with headroom issues. Under LED lights, the color can be quite intense and the plants very floriferous, but the foliage will have yellow tips unless the plants are at least 3 feet below the light source.

Red: *Brassia Spider's Gold 'Prolific'* – Carson Barnes

White: *Aspasia epidendroides* – Larry Mayse

White: *Erycinia pusilla* – Larry Mayse

*Brassia Spider's Gold 'Prolific'**Erycinia pusilla**Aspasia epidendroides*

*Paphiopedilum callosum*

Class 6: Slipper Alliance

Blue: *Paphiopedilum callosum* – Vinh Nguyen

Hailing from Thailand, Laos and Cambodia, *Paph. callosum* grows as a humus epiphyte in the moss and leaf mold of mist-shrouded forests where temperatures are generally cool to warm, but with occasional extremes from around 100°F to near freezing. The showy flowers are a mix of emerald green, purple and white often with darker raised spots along the upper edge of each petal and sometimes at other random locations. There are bloom records for every month of the year and flowers usually last two months or longer. And early cross between this species and *Paph. lawrenceanum* from Borneo created *Paph. Maudiae*, the ancestor of a multitude of popular hybrids with mottled foliage and colorful flowers. More than 7100 registered hybrids include *Paph. callosum* in their

family tree. They are all easily grown in filtered daylight or under LED lights and can form clumps over time with flowers off and on throughout the year. The main requirement is to water often enough so that the media does not dry totally, but not so much that the roots stay wet. I found that medium bark used alone or mixed with chunky Perlite, while requiring at least twice per week watering, keeps the root system healthier than a finer mix resulting in better growth and flowering.



JOIN THE ORCHID DIGEST CORPORATION

Don't let the name fool you, the Orchid Digest is a non-profit membership-based organization dedicated to orchids. Designed to appeal to the mid-range to advanced grower, nothing beats the Orchid Digest. For just \$39/year you get 4 issues of full-color, in-depth articles about orchids. The magazine is large format and the fourth issue of the year is always an extra-special edition devoted to a single genus. For membership application forms contact David Mellard (404-237-1694) or visit www.orchiddigest.com to join online.

*Phalaenopsis* No ID*Phalaenopsis violacea* f. *indigo**Phalaenopsis* Mini Mark

Class 7: *Phalaenopsis*

Blue: *Phalaenopsis* No ID – Kia Pascal

Red: *Phalaenopsis violacea* forma *indigo* – Larry Mayse

Red: *Phalaenopsis* Mini Mark – Jaden McElvey

White: *Phalaenopsis* Mituo Prince – Firelli Alonso & Jon Crate

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

*Phalaenopsis cornu-cervi**Phalaenopsis* Mituo Prince



Vanda No ID



Angraecum distichum

Class 8: Vandaceous Alliance

Blue: *Vanda* No ID – Vinh Nguyen

Red: *Vanda* Suwannaphum Butterfly –
Erick Bergmann

White: *Angraecum distichum* – Larry
Mayse



Vanda Suwannaphum Butterfly

*Sobralia xantholeuca*

of years before settling into its new container. It prefers cool to warm, but not hot temperatures, with plentiful watering and feeding in summer and less in the cool season.

Blue: *Zygopetalum Jumpin' Jack* – Jackie Chen

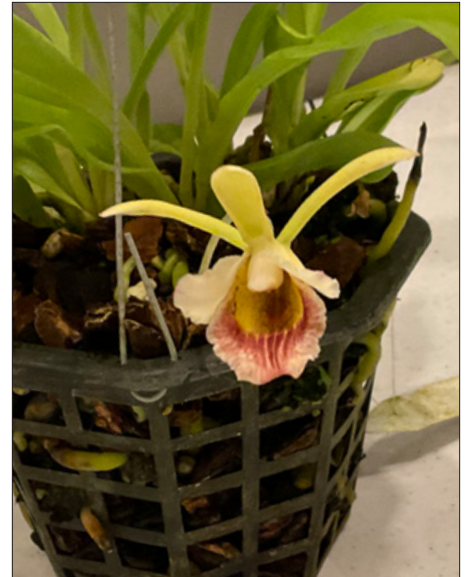
When I first started growing orchids I wasn't drawn to *Zygopetalum*, feeling their color range was limited and on the

Class 9: Miscellaneous

Blue: *Sobralia xantholeuca* – Larry Mayse

There are about 100 different species of *Sobralia* spread across the tropical regions of Mexico, Central and South America. They are found primarily as terrestrials with clumps of reed-like stems that produce several flowers in succession from the terminal bud. While traveling in Costa Rica, we saw immense numbers of a white flowered species that colonized the disturbed ground along the roadsides in the rain forest. Heights vary with some species up to 10 feet or more tall. *Sobralia xantholeuca* can reach up to about 6 feet in height as an older mature specimen. It is native to southern Mexico on both coasts, Honduras, Guatemala and El Salvador, and produces large, showy yellow blooms in summer. Each flower lasts only a few days at most, but 3 to 5 can be produced on each newly mature stem. Baker's notes advise using a free draining mix in a fairly large pot so that the plant does not have to be disturbed for several years. When repotted, it can sulk for a couple

*Zygopetalum Jumpin' Jack*

*Pleurothallis dibolia**Zygonisia Snow Bird**Habenaria medusa*

dark side. However, once I tried a few, I came to appreciate them, despite those traits, because they grow quickly, can bloom several times per year and are easy to keep happy as long as you provide for their need for frequent water. This particular clone of *Zygo*. Jumpin Jack is one of my favorites, though it is marketed without a clonal name. The pattern on the tepals is reminiscent of camouflage with irregular dark purple blotches on a green background and the contrasting white lip is heavily painted in rich violet-purple. Each inflorescence can produce 4 to 7 flowers and each growth on a mature plant can produce two or even three inflorescences. I have some plants that have filled 3.5" square pots currently throwing up 6 and 7 bloom spikes at once. The flowers have peppery scent and sometimes a light perfume and last 6 to 8 weeks.

Zygopetalum are unusual orchids in that their flowers come on newly developing shoots rather than mature growths. Once the bloom cycle is completed, the growth develops a pseudobulb and almost immediately new growth begins again bringing the promise of more flowers. They have large numbers of rather thick fleshy roots that can fill a pot quickly and are one of the orchids that appreciate a deeper container that is not too wide at the top. The wild species are found in rainy parts of South America, sometimes growing on wet slopes and other times on the trunks of tree ferns. Those trunks are technically the

root system of the fern and hold a lot of moisture, so the aggressive thick roots penetrate into its interior where they can drink continually. It is possible but difficult to over water a *Zygopetalum*. Most growers fail to provide enough water, and their plants do not reveal their full potential. If growing in an open bark mix, I allow the pots to sit in trays and when watering, allow a bit of water to collect in the tray. When the tray is dry, I water again. In sphagnum moss, you will have to plan on watering a minimum of twice per week since the roots will dry out the pot quickly, but that medium remains too wet to sit in water constantly. Either works well as long as you follow the right routine for the potting mix. Grow in medium light in a location that does not experience temperatures above 90°F and feed regularly year-round.

Red: *Pleurothallis dibolia* – Larry Mayse

Red: *Zygonisia Snow Bird* – Firelli Alonso & Jon Crate

White: *Chondrorhyncha hitrzii* – Larry Mayse

White: *Habenaria medusa* – Larry Mayse

*Habenaria medusa*

Atlanta Orchid Society Monthly Meeting Ribbon Winners for August, 2026

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



Cattlianthe Newberry Bluebird

Class 1: Cattleya Alliance

Blue: *Cattlianthe* Newberry Bluebird – Jaden McElvey

This cross of *Guraianthe bowringiana* h.f. *coerulea* x *Cattleya* *Loddioglossa* (*coerulea* form) was registered by Carter and Holmes Orchids as of July 13, 2026 with the above name, so Jaden can update his plant tag. The plant he exhibited is flowering for the first time and shows a lot of promise with the two beautiful violet blue flowers with a deeper patch of violet in the center. Given the flowering habits of the parents, he should expect clusters of a dozen or more blooms when the plant is mature, probably limited to blooming once per year in summer to fall but capable of putting on a big show as an adult specimen. At that stage, individual growths may top 24 inches in height, so this orchid is no shrinking violet. It should prefer bright light and a wide range of temperatures from cool to hot, with regular watering and good drying in between. Only repot when new roots are developing on the most recent growth

and choose a container and medium that will limit the need to disturb the plant in the future as much as possible.

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

White: *Brassavola appendiculata* - Bailey Santwire

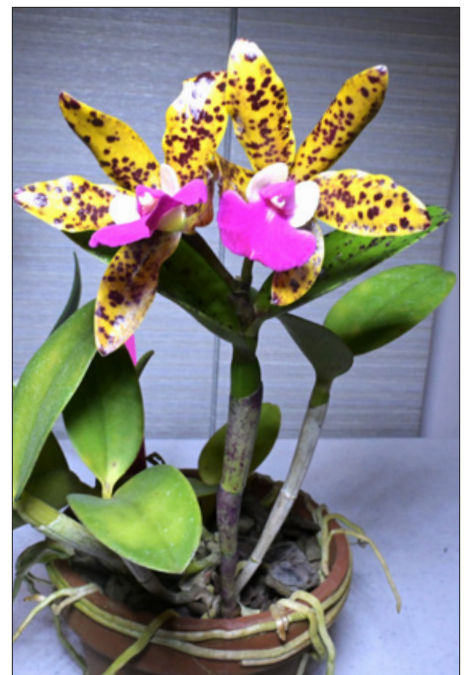
White: *Cattlianthe* Ratsima Spot – Larry Mayse



Brassavola appendiculata



Rhyncattleanthe Exotic Southern Charm



Cattlianthe Ratsima Spot



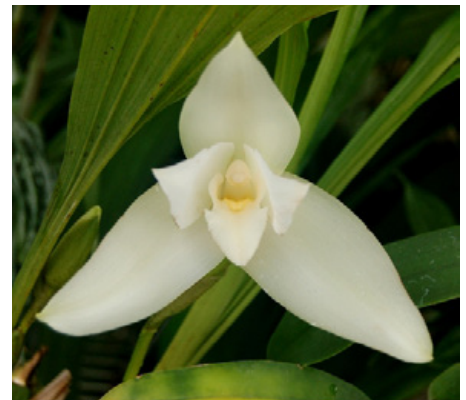
Cymbidium Golden Elf

Class 2: *Cymbidium* Alliance

Blue: *Cymbidium* Golden Elf – Mary Cauthon & Megg Wattley

Cymbidium Golden Elf was a breakthrough hybrid when introduced in 1978 by Rod McLellan Company. By crossing the small and heat tolerant *Cym. ensifolium* with a large yellow-flowered standard type, they created a compact growing, fragrant, bright yellow *Cymbidium* with the ability to flower more than once per year. This opened the door to new directions in breeding and today, there are 113 registered crosses in which it is one parent and 585 registered hybrids in which it is part of the ancestry. Most plants available commercially are the ‘Sundust’ form that was originally awarded an HCC from the AOS in 1983, but many are sold without the clonal name on the tag. There is also a form that has variegated tips to the leaves giving an added measure of interest. If grown well, this orchid can produce a profusion of blooms on its main flowering in summer or fall, followed by occasional flowers at other times. The two most recent cultural awards were for plants with more than one hundred flowers. To grow a plant like this, one

should not skimp on the water and feeding while it is active growth. Choosing a deeper container that allows for all the roots, but one that also restricts the horizontal growth of the plant gives good results because they bloom best when the pot is crowded. Bright light is important for most *Cymbidium* and they can tolerate direct sunlight early or late with good air movement. This one should be able to take chilly to hot temperatures as the seasons change and may bloom better if it receives at least some cooler nights in winter.



Have you ever considered becoming an
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*Dendrobium Sakol Blue*

Class 3: Dendrobium Alliance

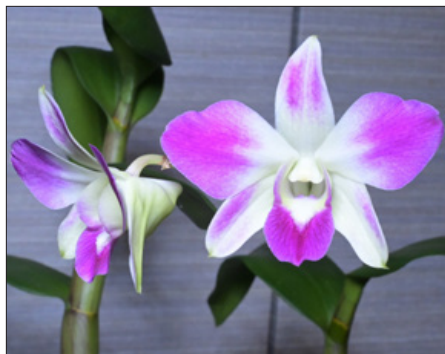
Blue: *Dendrobium Sakol Blue* – Firelli Alonso & Jon Crate

The photos of this blue-ribbon winner show a saturated violet blue flower with a deeper network of veins and a narrow white margin around each segment that really sets each flower off, especially when seen against a darker background. The cross was registered in 2002 originally but perhaps a new batch was created more recently. Another plant of *Den. Sakol Blue* received a concurrent Award of Merit and Certificate of Cultural Merit just a year ago here at the Atlanta Judging Center. Because of the massive production of hard-caned types for hobby and floral sales, it is unusual for a single variety to stick around for more than a couple of years before it is replaced with the newest releases. The majority of the ancestry of this orchid is held by *Dendrobium bigibbum* of the Phalaenanthus section, and the rest spread among 7 species in the Spatulata section. Grow in bright light and warm temperatures in a free draining mix with plenty of water in

summer and less in winter. This is a type of orchid that appreciates being put outside in dappled bright light during our hot and humid summer season.

Red: *Dendrobium antennatum* – Jaden McElvey

White: *Dendrobium No ID* – Dee Hakala

*Dendrobium No ID**Dendrobium antennatum*

*Epidendrum nocturnum***Class 4: Epidendrum Alliance****Red: *Encyclia papillosa* – Larry Mayse****Blue: *Epidendrum nocturnum* – Bailey Santwire**

This species is frequently self-fertile and that trait has served it well as the list of countries in which it occurs requires a large paragraph. In general, it can be found from southern Florida, throughout the West Indies, Mexico, Central and South America and is naturalized in Hawaii. The spidery flowers with a distinctly three-lobed lip are fragrant, especially at night, and occur several at a time from the apex of mature growths which can repeat flower for several years. There are blooms recorded in every month of the year. It grows well in moderately bright light with regular watering and good drainage. A winter rest is not needed though anytime it is cool and damp, watering should be adjusted accordingly. The interesting flower shape has encouraged a dozen or more speculative crosses over the years, but none have been of such a caliber as to make the front page.

*Encyclia papillosa*

*Miltonia moreliana*

Class 5: Oncidium Alliance

Blue: *Miltonia moreliana* – Bailey Santwire

You will sometimes see this orchid listed as *Miltonia spectabilis* var. *moreliana* but more recently Kew has split the darker flowered forms out as a separate species. Both it and the lighter flowered *Milt. spectabilis* are nearly identical in plant habit and flower form and occur near each other in the state of Espírito Santo, Brazil in the vicinity of the town of Cachoeiro de Itapemirim. That location is several hundred miles northeast of Rio de Janeiro. Judging by the high degree of deforestation in that area, it is safe to assume that both are now becoming rare in the wild. The compact plants are at peak flowering from August through October in the northern hemisphere. Bailey's plant is growing in a wide, shallow plastic bowl-like container with a hanger and what looks like a rather fine bark mix. This is one way to accommodate the rather spreading nature of this species. Some people grow this orchid on rafts of tree fern or in shallow baskets, but these methods may require water more than once per day in hot dry weather. In 2023 a plant with more than 120 flowers received a Certificate of Cultural

Excellence and a simultaneous Award of Merit. It is described as overflowing a 10 cm (4 in.) square basket! The award photo is spectacular with flowers so dense they hide most of the foliage. This orchid performs well grown in higher light levels than its rather thin foliage would imply but the brighter the conditions, the greater the need for good air movement.

Red: *Oncidium* No ID – Jackie Chen

White: *Tolumnia* Jairak Rainbow – Bailey Santwire

*Oncidium* No ID*Tolumnia* Jairak Rainbow

*Paphiopedilum Vexillarium*

Class 6: Slipper Alliance

Blue: *Paphiopedilum Vexillarium* – Bailey Santwire

This primary hybrid between *Paph. barbatum* and *Paph. farrieanum* is an heirloom cross first registered by Veitch in 1870. It combines a particular charm along with ease of culture and the tendency to form a clump quickly and therefore remains popular a century and half later. I just recently sold a plant with six flowers blooming in a 4-inch round pot. Despite these positive traits, it has not become the ancestor of a large group of modern hybrids. All but 3 of the first-generation hybrids that are registered were made between 1893 and 1906 and only two of those went on to become parents themselves of new crosses. One recent cross registered in 2024 by a wholesale grower in Hawaii takes *Paph. Vexillarium* back to the *Paph. farrieanum* parent. I think that would enhance the charming look of the flowers with deeper colors and a stronger “swoop” to the petals. Until I started writing this, I had overlooked it on their listing, but now I plan to buy a batch to flower out. The plant in question here is fairly easy to grow with medium to bright filtered light and frequent enough water so that the pot never fully dries. It should easily tolerate a temperature range from 50F to 95F.

Red: *Phragmipedium* Pink Panther – Larry Mayse

*Phragmipedium* Pink Panther



Phalaenopsis Miva Smartissimo 'Firelli' AM/AOS

Class 7: *Phalaenopsis*

Blue: *Phalaenopsis* Miva Smartissimo 'Firelli' AM/AOS – Jon Crate & Firelli Alonso

This orchid was introduced by Michel Vacherot Orchids of Roquebrune-sur-Argens, France, in 1988. That town is in Provence not far from the famous resorts of Cannes and Saint-Tropez. Translated from the French, their "About Us" page reads: "After leaving the company founded in 1886 in Boissy-Saint-Léger by Henri Vacherot, Michel Vacherot and his grandson settled at the foot of the rock of Roquebrune-sur-Argens in 1984. Today run by his daughter Raphaëlle, our orchid garden covers 2,500 m² of heated greenhouses equipped with an in vitro culture laboratory. It is thanks to this laboratory that we produce thousands of plants each year for your enjoyment. A visit to our greenhouses will allow you to discover our orchids at different stages of growth, from the in vitro jar to the flowering plant. Our clientele is very diverse." They have registered over 500 new crosses, including a large number of *Phalaenopsis*, and most of their registered names start with the word "Miva." This particular hybrid has a fairly typical mix of species found in modern crosses. Some of the resulting plants had solid



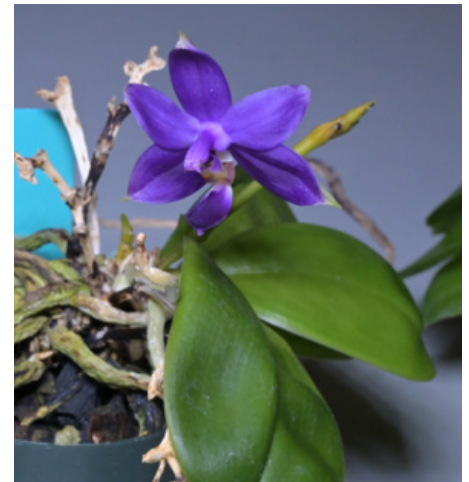
Phalaenopsis Mainshow Blue Tint 'Dark Blue' x Norman's Blue Jennifer 'Special Blue'

pink flowers, while this one, awarded in March 2018 here in Atlanta, has a beautiful stippling of darker rose pink. Looking back over previous mentions of *Phal.* Miva Smartissimo 'Firelli' AM/AOS in our newsletters reveals that it has been well flowered at all seasons of the year giving it high marks for performance.

Red: *Phalaenopsis* Mainshow Blue Tint 'Dark Blue' x Norman's Blue Jennifer 'Special Blue' – Jenny Townes

Red: *Phalaenopsis violacea* – Danny Lentz & Dianne Morgan

White: *Phalaenopsis bellina* – Danny Lentz & Dianne Morgan



Phalaenopsis violacea



Phalaenopsis bellina

*Angraecum calceolus*

Class 8: Vandaceous Alliance

Blue: *Angraecum calceolus* – Larry Mayse

The range of this *Angraecum* species may be the largest of any in the genus, and plants can be found both on Madagascar and smaller islands in the western Indian Ocean but also in Mozambique on the African mainland. That said, it is also demurer and subtler than some of the better-known species. The small monopodial plants can produce offsets when mature, and as Larry's plant illustrates, can produce several branched inflorescences at once with starry green flowers a little over a half inch in spread with a trailing nectar spur of about the same length. There are bloom records for this species ranging from April through to November with the two plants awarded by the AOS so far being on the extremes of that range. Like so many other species, this one prefers plenty of water in summer and lesser amounts during the cooler months, with bright filtered light. It should tolerate cool to warm growing conditions.



*Cynorkis Cornell*

Class 9: Miscellaneous

Blue: *Cynorkis Cornell* – Nick Rust

This orchid is one of Nick Rust's own creations, registered less than a year ago and a cross between *Cynorkis calanthoides* and *Cyn. purpurascens*. Both are tuberous rooted species from Madagascar and nearby islands that produce a single leaf with each growth and an umbel of flowers that usually emerge with or just before the leaf. The former species is described as being either an epiphyte on Pandanus trees or a terrestrial, while the latter is either lithophytic or terrestrial. They both appreciate shady warm and humid conditions with regular watering when growing and reduced amounts when dormant. Since I have no experience growing these orchids I will quote for Orchidwiz, which in turn quotes from Hawkes concerning the best way to grow them. "Hawkes (1965) suggested that 'These orchids are best grown in rather shallow, perfectly-drained pots or pans, filled with a porous compost of shredded osmunda, fibrous loam, gritty sand, and chopped sphagnum moss.' He stated, 'Most of the *Cynorkis* have somewhat tuberous roots, and are at least partially deciduous. Although they require quantities of water while in active growth, when the foliage starts to become yellow and wither, moisture should be virtually

stopped. Care must be taken, however, that the compost never dries out completely, or the tubers may become overly desiccated. When the new shoots again appear at the surface, water should be resumed.' Plants should be repotted immediately if the medium becomes stale or remains soggy after watering as these plants are very intolerant of sour conditions at the roots. With this in mind, it is probably advisable to repot every year while the plant is dormant, particularly if chopped sphagnum moss is included in the potting mix."

Blue: *Pectabinaria Memoria Anna Madrigal* – Nick Rust

Pectabinaria Memoria Anna Madrigal was originally registered by Leon Glicenstein in 2011 as a cross between *Habenaria Conure* and *Pecteilis susannae*. The latter cross is actually a hybrid between what is now recognized as two forms of the species *Habenaria rhodocheila*, so essentially this is a primary hybrid. The flowers in this mix usually come out a soft "dream-sicle" orange with a mildly fringed lip hinting at the extremely dissected lip of the *Pecteilis* parent. The species involved grow as terrestrials in Southeast Asia with a rainy summer and a drier winter and thus hibernate as underground tubers fairly quickly once flowering is complete. Many growers of this type of orchid

*Pectabinaria Memoria Anna Madrigal*



Catasandra Greendent

harvest the tubers once the tops have died back and store them over winter until new shoots emerge when they are repotted and slowly brought back to a normal watering schedule as new shoots develop. Others keep the plants potted but withhold water until new shoots emerge, only repotting as the colony of tubers increases. There is something of an art to developing a technique that works best for your conditions. I have had both successes and failures with both methods and do not claim to be an expert. However, this group of orchids is fascinating, different and beautiful and there are never enough plants available to meet demand. Many of Nick's own seedling batches sell out almost instantly while the plants are still small.

Blue: *Catasandra* Greendent – Nick Rust

This cross between *Catasetum denticulatum* and *Galeandra greenwoodiana* was originated by Fred Clarke of Sunset Valley Orchids and registered about one year ago. The registration was probably tied to the fact that three separate plants of the cross received Awards of Merit from the America Orchid Society within quick succession in June and July of last year. Whereas this example is producing an inflorescence from low on the pseudobulb in the manner of the *Catasetum* parent, the two pictured in the available award photos flowered on a terminal inflorescence in the manner of the *Galeandra* parent. The question is whether this trait is genetically set on each seedling or will



they be able to produce inflorescences in both locations at any given bloom cycle? Also, *Galeandra* inflorescences can produce several successive branches of additional flowers, so if that habit carries through to these plants, it would create added interest in this type of breeding. That species comes from the Pacific slope of Mexico whereas the *Catasetum* parent is from the state of Rondônia in central Brazil, so they would never have the chance to meet up in the wild. What the habitats have in common is a distinct wet/dry climate cycle that causes the plants to go dormant during the low rainfall months of winter. Scott Elliott of Mane-ki Hill Orchids, who specializes in *Catasetinae*, says that in these climate zones, the “dry season” isn't total dryness, but features much less rainfall along with dew at night. He and Sue Hill don't withhold water from their plants completely.

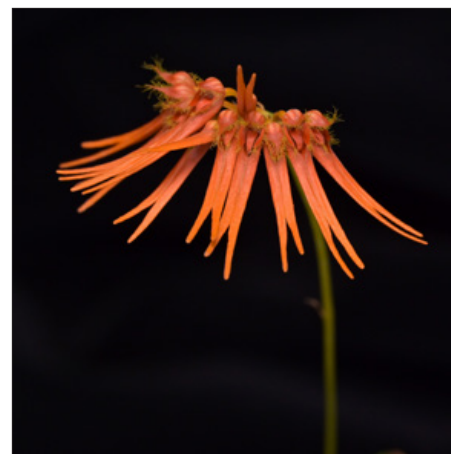
They give them light waterings that wet the surface of the media every couple of weeks in the dormant period. That seems to work well for them as their plants are always in excellent condition.

Blue: *Bulbophyllum hirundinis* var. *calvum* – Larry Mayse

Okay, monthly judges, you are killing me this month with *four* blue ribbon winners in this category! Of course, I am only jesting as it seemed like they had too many good things to choose from. *Bulbophyllum hirundinis* is a miniature epiphytic orchid native to Southeast Asia, Southern China, Taiwan, and Vietnam. It is famous for producing striking, spidery orange and yellow flowers arranged in small umbels (clusters) that resemble tiny fireworks or bird wings. The species name means “swallow” in reference to the flower arrangement that mirrors



Bulbophyllum hirundinis



*Pleurothallis neorinkei*

a swallow's wing feathers. Like many in the genus, it prefers filtered light, warm growing conditions and likes to stay evenly moist with perfect drainage at the roots. This is best accomplished either by mounting the plant on cork or tree fern or growing in a shallow pot or basket with fast draining media. Like much of the genus, it appreciates higher humidity levels than many commonly grown orchids, best if kept in the 60-85% range combined with good air flow. The AOS awarded plants were all in bloom in August when exhibited, so I presume this month is the peak of the bloom season.

Red: *Pleurothallis neorinkei* – Larry Mayse

Red: *Catasetum sanguineum* (female flowers) – Nick Rust

White: *Catasetum sanguineum* (male flowers) – Jon Crate & Firelli Alonso

White: *Catasetum* Diana's Dots – Bailey Santwire

*Catasetum sanguineum* (male flowers)*Catasetum* Diana's Dots