

OCTOBER EVENT

Monthly Meeting: Monday, October 12, 2026

Mershon Hall at the Atlanta Botanical Garden

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

Rob Griesbach on Orchid Genetics

See below for details

Bring your blooming plants for our monthly ribbon judging



Annual
ORCHID AUCTION

BID ON BEAUTY. TAKE HOME A TREASURE.

SATURDAY
NOVEMBER 7, 2026
1:00 PM – 4:00 PM

OGLETHORPE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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Orchids for Every Collection!
A stunning selection of orchids from top growers and members.



Our esteemed auctioneer,
Mark Reinke
of Marble Branch Farms
WILL BE BACK!

SUPPORT OUR SOCIETY • GROW YOUR COLLECTION • CELEBRATE OUR LOVE OF ORCHIDS

Rob Griesbach on Orchid Genetics

Dr. Rob Griesbach earned a Ph.D. in genetics from Michigan State University in 1980. The following year, he joined USDA's Agricultural Research Service (USDA-ARS) and retired in 2020. For his first 25 years, Rob conducted a broad-based research program in ornamental plant genetics. For the last 15 years, he served as the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Technology Transfer where he provided leadership for the management of the USDA-ARS's intellectual property. He authored 151 scientific papers, as well

as presented over 500 scientific seminars and popular talks. In 2006, the American Society for Horticultural Science elected Rob a Fellow for his research contributions to horticulture. In 2010, he received the American Horticulture Society's H. Marc Cathey Award for his scientific contributions to gardening and horticulture. In 2012, he received the Secretary of Agriculture's Honor Award for Excellence. Rob is a Past President of the American Orchid Society. He is currently an accredited AOS judge, chair of the AOS Research



Committee, and member of the RHS Orchid Hybrid Registration Advisory Group.

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The Atlanta Orchid Society Bulletin

Volume 67: Number 10 – October 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](#).

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 judges@aos.org



EVENTS CALENDAR

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: Scott Elliott of Maneki Hill Orchids on *Catasitenae*

14 – AOS monthly judging

December

12 – AOS monthly judging

14 – Atlanta Orchid Society Monthly Meeting: Holiday Party! at Oglethorpe Presbyterian Church's Fellowship Hall

January 2027

9 – AOS monthly judging

11 – Atlanta Orchid Society Monthly Meeting: Larry Mayse on miniature orchids

February

8 – Atlanta Orchid Society Monthly Meeting: Carson Barnes on AOS awards

13 – AOS monthly judging

President's Message

Dear Atlanta Orchid Society Members and Friends,
Happy October!

First, a big **thank you** to everyone who attended our September 14 monthly meeting. Your participation was especially important because we voted on three proposed amendments to the Atlanta Orchid Society Bylaws. **All three amendments were approved**, and I appreciate everyone who took part in this important Society business.

We also had the pleasure of welcoming **Nick Rust of RustyExotics**, who gave us a fascinating presentation on **Terrestrial Orchids**. And, of course, many of us couldn't resist buying a few plants from Nick to add to our ever-growing orchid collections! That's one of the hazards—and joys—of belonging to an orchid society.

Looking Ahead to Our October Meeting

Please join us for our next monthly meeting on **Monday, October 12**, when our guest speaker, **Dr. Rob Griesbach**, will present "Orchid Genetics." This promises to be a particularly interesting program as we learn more about the genetics behind the extraordinary diversity, colors, forms, and characteristics of the orchids we grow and admire.

We will also hear from **Jody Gomez, Chair of the 2026 Nominating Committee**, who will present the Committee's **recommended slate of officers and trustees for the 2027 AtLOS Board**. The slate will be presented to the membership in October, and we will **vote at our November monthly meeting**. I encourage everyone to participate in this important part of our Society's governance.

And don't forget your blooming orchids! Please bring them for **Ribbon Judging**. Whether you're an experienced grower or have just coaxed an orchid into reblooming, we want to see what's flowering in your collection.

Save the Date — Our Annual Orchid Auction!

Our Annual Orchid Auction, the Society's second-largest fundraising event of the year, is coming up:

Saturday, November 7, 2026
Auction begins at 1:00 PM
Oglethorpe Presbyterian Church's Fellowship Hall

This is always one of our most enjoyable events of the year and a wonderful opportunity to add some terrific orchids to your collection while supporting AtLOS. Mark your calendars, invite your orchid-loving friends, and come prepared to bid!

But we need your help to make it happen!

We are asking members to volunteer to help us **set up the auction beginning at 10 AM on Saturday morning**. There will be plenty to do, and many hands make light work. Please come early, lend a hand, and be part of making this important AtLOS fundraiser a success.

It's also a great opportunity to spend time with your fellow orchid enthusiasts—and **lunch will be provided for our volunteers!**

So come help us set up, stay for the auction, and enjoy a fun day of orchids, bidding, and friendship. **We need you!**

October Orchid-Growing Tips

October is a month of transition for orchid growers in Atlanta. The days are getting shorter, nighttime temperatures are beginning to drop, and our orchids are responding to the seasonal change.

Watch those nighttime temperatures. If your orchids have spent the summer outdoors, keep a close eye on the forecast. Warm-growing orchids such as *Phalaenopsis* should be brought inside before nights become too cool. Many *Cattleyas*, *Dendrobiums*, and other intermediate growers can tolerate cooler nights, but know the needs of your particular plants.

Adjust your watering. With shorter days and cooler temperatures, plants generally dry more slowly. Check the potting medium before watering rather than continuing your summer watering schedule. Cool, wet roots can quickly lead to rot.

Give them light. As the autumn sun becomes less intense, many orchids can benefit from increased light. Good fall light is particularly important for *Cattleyas* that are developing and maturing new growths.

Ease up on fertilizer as growth slows. Orchids that are no longer actively producing new roots and leaves generally need less fertilizer. Let your plants—and

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President's Message

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their growth—tell you what they need.

Inspect before bringing plants indoors. Check leaves, pots, and especially the undersides of leaves for scale, mealybugs, mites, snails, and other unwanted hitchhikers. It's much easier to deal with pests before the plants rejoin the rest of your indoor collection.

Most of all, enjoy your orchids! Fall brings a new season of blooms, spikes, buds, and anticipation—and reminds us that there is always something interesting happening in an orchid collection.

I look forward to seeing everyone on **October 12**. Bring your blooming orchids for Ribbon Judging, come hear Dr. Griesbach, and find out who has been nominated to lead AtLOS in 2027.

And don't forget—**November 7: Auction Day!** Come early at 10 AM and help us set up. We'll provide the lunch; you provide the helping hands!

Happy growing!

You can never have too many orchids!

Firelli "Fi" Alonso

President, Atlanta Orchid Society

Judges' Corner:

Judging Summary of the

Atlanta Judging Center, 12 September 2026

At the monthly judging Sept 12, 2026, for the Atlanta Judging Center judging there were 12 Accredited judges and 3 students comprising 3 teams who judged all of the 13 orchids entered from 6 growers. Accredited Judges: Firelli Alonso, Helen Blythe-Hart, Andy Braun, Jon Crate, Doug Hartong, Lowell Jacks (Emeritus), David Janvrin, Butch Lewandowski, David Mellard, Bailey Santwire, Charles Wilson, Susan Wilson; Student Judges: Benjamin Overlie, Samuel Overlie and Paul Reavis; Guest: Fred Missbach.

No awards were made.

PLEASE JOIN US: Our next regular monthly judging will be Saturday, 10 Oct 2026, at Oglethorpe Presbyterian Church (3016 Lanier Dr NE). Our Judging education program will be presented by Paul Reavis on 'Judging *Paphiopedilum fairrieianum*'. The program begins at noon. Free and convenient parking. Open to all. Formal judging begins immediately following our education program.

The following shows have been approved by AOS for 2027:

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

Please note there are a number of societies in our region who are preparing applications for their 2027 shows. Their dates will be included in this monthly report when they receive final AOS approval.

Best regards,

Charles Wilson, Chair
Atlanta Judging Center

I had a little extra extra space in this newsletter, so I looked through my camera roll and went for weird.

On the left, Larry Mayse's *Epidendrum melanoporphyreum* (at the February meeting), for a game of "find the floral parts." On the right, Nick Rust's *Bulbophyllum dayanum* (at the May meeting), as a good candidate for casting in *The Little Shop of Horrors*. V.



Atlanta Orchid Society Monthly Meeting Ribbon Winners for September, 2026

Notes by Mark Reinke; photos by Jon Crate, Jennifer Schwab and Véronique Perrot



Cattleya Luciana C



Rhyncholaeliocattleya Hans Kunning

Class 1: Cattleya Alliance

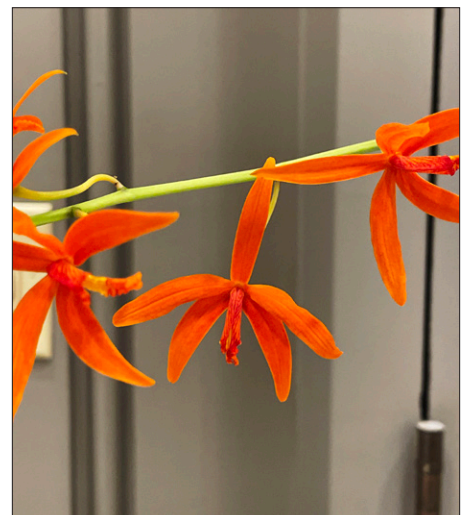
Blue: *Cattleya Luciana C* – Larry Mayse

I was excited to see the photo of this cross between *C. luteola* and *C. warscewiczii* because I have one that I got bare root from Ecuagenera at our show this past March that is doing very well but hasn't yet flowered. Larry's plant is exceptionally charming and shows off Ecuagenera's trend of creating new primary hybrids that carry that graceful shape often lost in the modern complex crosses. This new effort was registered in February of last year. The first parent is a near miniature yellow species from the warm Amazon basin, while the latter is a magnificent large-flowered species with a compact growth habit from the mountains of Colombia. In the case of Larry's plant, it is likely that the semi-alba form of *C. warscewiczii* was employed as it tends to dominate the result when used as a parent. Both species can produce four to seven blooms per inflorescence when mature, so we can expect that this

plant is only going to look better in the upcoming years. In a controlled environment, the two species involved do especially well mounted on cork slabs where the roots can dry rapidly between each watering. If grown in a pot, the container should only accommodate about two years growth the media needs to be open and quick draining. My plant is on cork and has produced copious new roots and at least four leads. It is now fully established after only six months, but flowers may still be a year away.

Red: *Rhyncholaeliocattleya* Hans Kunning – Firelli Alonso & Jon Crate

White: *Cattleya cinnabarina* – Edison Gu



Cattleya cinnabarina

*Brassavola appendiculata*

White: *Brassavola appendiculata* – Larry Mayse

Class 2: Cymbidium Alliance

No Entries

*Dendrobium tetragonum*

Class 3: Dendrobium Alliance

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

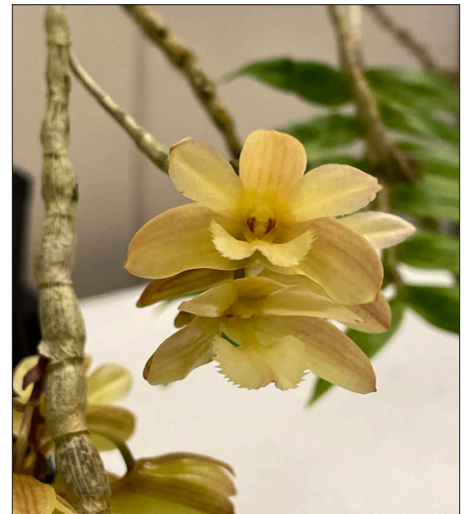
This species, native to the southeastern coast of Australia, is distinguished by its angular pseudobulbs, which are topped with several slender yet robust leaves. Larger specimens may become pendulous due to their own weight. In its natural habitat, *Den. tetragonum* typically occurs in shaded environments within moist ravines, gullies, or streamsides, where humidity levels are elevated. The distinctive spidery flowers usually appear in clusters and can reach several inches across when fully open. Notably, they often display prominent purple and yellow markings, which contribute vibrant coloration when hybridized with the predominantly white or cream *Dendrobium speciosum*. The resulting cross forms the basis of the breeding group commonly known as “Aussie Dens.” Interestingly, September is one of only three months in the year for which Orchidwiz does not have a bloom record for this species. Usually, peak flowering is winter into early spring, but buds can continue to form over several months. Cultivation recommendations for this species vary; however, it generally thrives with

reduced watering and cooler nighttime temperatures during winter. Many growers prefer to mount their plants on cork for optimal results

Red: *Dendrobium serratilabium* – Larry Mayse

Class 4: Epidendrum Alliance

No Entries

*Dendrobium serratilabium*



Miltonia regnellii forma alba 'Santwire's Diamond' CHM/AOS

Class 5: Oncidium Alliance

Blue: *Miltonia regnellii* forma alba 'Santwire's Diamond' CHM/AOS – Bailey Santwire

Bailey's plant is a lovely example of the uncommon pure white form of this Brazilian species. It grows in wet forests on the mountain slopes in southeastern Brazil, especially in the state of Santa Catarina at about 27 degrees south latitude, about the same distance below the equator as Sarasota, FL, is above it. The habitat averages about 75 or more inches of rain per year, is very humid, generally warm but not hot, and can occasionally be chilly. In cultivation, this species should never be allowed to dry out completely, but be watered less in cool damp weather, especially in the short-day winter season. Bailey is growing his plant in an octagonal plastic basket with a medium bark/Perlite mix, and obviously providing the adequate moisture as it is flourishing. When awarded in September 2021 the plant had twelve flowers on four inflorescences, now it has many spikes



and at least 75 flowers just on the part of the plant visible in the photo, with more out of view on the back side. The typical form of *Milt. regnellii* features white to yellow segments with an amethyst purple lip. It exists in the ancestry of just shy of 450 registered hybrids as of today.



Gombrassiltonia Hilo Ablaze

Red: *Gombrassiltonia Hilo Ablaze* – Firelli Alonso & Jon Crate

White: *Oncostele Catatante x Kilauea Karma* – Jackie Chen



Paphiopedilum Maejo

Class 6: Slipper Alliance

Blue: *Paphiopedilum Maejo* – Firelli Alonso & Jon Crate

This characterful flower is the result of the primary hybrid between *Paph. spicerianum* and *Paph. rungsuriyanum*. The latter species is an almost bizarre looking plant from northern Laos that has a few strongly tessellated, ground



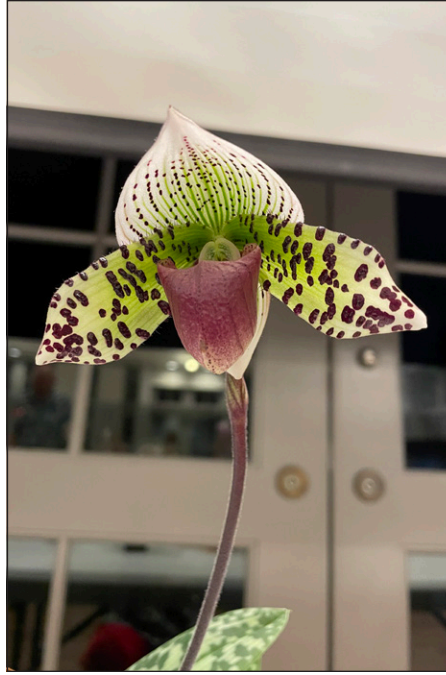
hugging leaves which produce a uniquely shaped flower in purple and green that can be as large as the plant supporting it. It is considered extremely rare and only botanically described in 2014. Its traits are highly dominant in this cross and only a few small details in the flower give hints of the influence of the former species. Those I observe include the petals being narrower with undulated margins, the hints of white and green in the dorsal sepal with a more pronounced purple midvein, and that the pouch lip is less elongated and more outward spreading at the rim. While the cross was introduced in 2020, I couldn't find any current sources for it, so its availability must be limited. No awards have yet been granted for it, assuming it has been presented to judging panel at this point. Perhaps they didn't know what to make of this strange flower. Based on its parents it should grow cool to warm, but not be exposed to hot conditions, with regular and even frequent water during the warmer months and only slightly less in winter.

Blue: *Paphiopedilum parishii* – Bailey Santwire

Paphiopedilum parishii is one of a very few multifloral species that is native to the Asian mainland, occurring in the Shan Plateau of Myanmar and the mountains of western and northern Thailand. The fairly large plants can produce up to eight flowers per inflorescence when mature, whose color combination and glossy texture create a rather brooding



Paphiopedilum parishii

*Paphiopedilum Vexillarium**Paphiopedilum Delightfully Fred*

and artificial appearance. Unlike many other species, *Paphiopedilum parishii* is most commonly found growing epiphytically in the shaded middle and lower branches of trees but can also be found on moss covered boulders and fern roots. To flower well, plants need a drier and cooler winter rest of a couple of months' duration when only occasional waterings and early morning misting are called for. In the natural habitat, winter nights average in the 40s F and occasionally can approach the freezing point, but temperatures below 60 F seem sufficient to produce good results in cultivation.

Red: *Phragmipedium Vexillarium* – Bailey Santwire

White: *Paphiopedilum Delightfully Fred* – Jackson Smith



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*Phalaenopsis Sogo Vivien*

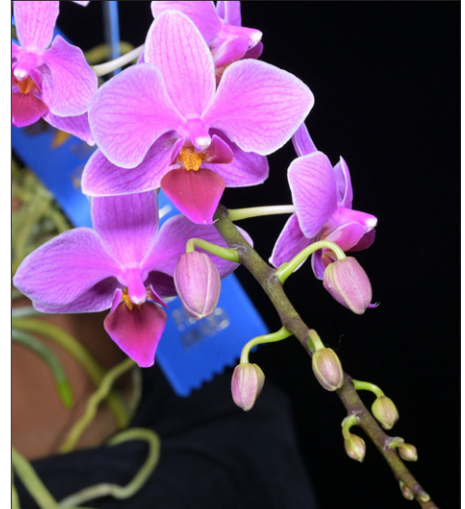
Class 7: Phalaenopsis

Blue: *Phalaenopsis Sogo Vivien* – Larry Mayse

The compact flowering hybrid is about 60% *Phal. equestris* and that is apparent in the closely spaced flowers, their size and their overall shape. The goal of this cross was to produce profusely blooming smaller plants with darker veining over a lighter background creating a “candy stripe” effect. That is evident in the vast majority of the available images of *Phal. Sogo Vivien* and in the award descriptions, but not so strongly expressed in this example. There is also a form that is variegated with a bold white edge to each leaf, adding to the drama. If you are seeking it, that variety is ‘SOGO F858’ or simply listed as ‘variegata’ and can be purchased online. Typical hybrid *Phalaenopsis* care for this plant would produce satisfying results.

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

Red: *Phalaenopsis* No ID – Steve Schwab

*Phalaenopsis* No ID



Phalaenopsis deliciosa ssp. deliciosa

White: *Phalaenopsis deliciosa ssp. deliciosa* – Larry Mayse



Vanda Motes Quantum

Class 8: Vandaceous Alliance

Blue: *Vanda Motes Quantum* – Jenny Townes

When registered in 2018 this smaller growing hybrid was classed as *Vandachostylis* because one-eighth of the ancestry comes from *Rhynchostylis coelestis*. As of 2021 Kew has merged that genus into *Vanda* just as they had done about a decade earlier with *Ascocentrum*, *Neofinetia*, and the monotypic *Christensonia* creating a vastly simplified naming system within the breeding group. Various examples of this cross have either green, olive or yellow segments, but the lip is rather consistent with a white base color overlaid purple. All the main ancestors of this orchid prefer bright light and high humidity and range from cool to hot growers, which should give *V. Motes Quantum* good adaptability to a range of temperatures. Water should be frequent during summer, even twice daily in very hot weather, but reduced somewhat in winter taking care not to let the plants remain dry for extended periods.

Red: *Vanda Korean Rainbow 'Yellow Manjushage'* – Jon Crate & Firelli Alonso



Vanda Korean Rainbow 'Yellow Manjushage'



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.



Habaneria rhodocheila

Class 9: Miscellaneous

Blue: *Habenaria rhodocheila* (entered as *Hab. xanthocheila*) – Firelli Alonso & Jon Crate

Kew no longer considers *Habenaria xanthocheila* a separate species from *Hab. rhodocheila*. This has also been the case with *Hab. erichmichaelii* and *Hab. roebelenii*. All are now just considered color forms of the same species with flowers ranging from pale to deep pink, pale to brilliant orange-red and several shades of yellow. In nature plants are almost always found on moss covered boulders in warm, seasonal forests of southeast Asia where about 50 inches of rain falls per year on average, but almost all of that total occurring May through October with only scant amounts the balance of the year. There is still some dew and mist during the dry season, but the shallow soil layer the plants are growing in dries out significantly. After flowering, plants rather quickly hibernate with underground tubers that wait for the onset

of wetter weather in spring. As I stated last month, many growers of this type of orchid 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 except for occasional misting until the 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. Those that have good success can grow their plants into spectacular specimens in a few years' time.

*Coelogyne magna*

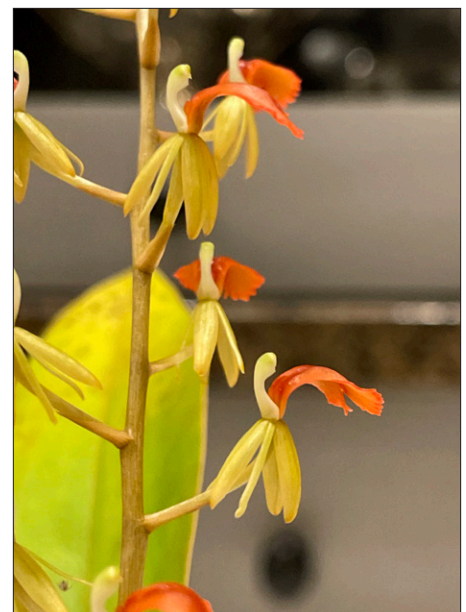
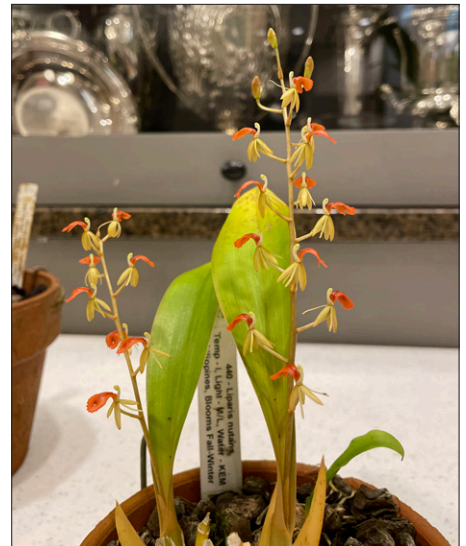
Blue: *Coelogyne magna* (formerly *Dendrochilum magnum*) – Larry Mayse

Here is another large group of orchids whose previous genetic classification has been merged with another. I'm assuming this is the result of DNA testing. As of 2021, Kew has moved all former *Dendrochilum* species into *Coelogyne*. I'm sure they have legitimate reasons, but it can be hard to wrap my head around the change as the flowers do not remind me at all of the species that were already in that genus. *Coelogyne magna* is native to the Philippines and the name implies, as the name implies, is one of the larger growers in the former *Dendrochilum* genus, with leaves up to about 16 inches long. The arching, many flowered inflorescences are produced in developing new growths from about Au-

gust to November, which is a trait shared with the traditional *Coelogyne* species. They carry a spicy wheat-like scent that is not pleasant to all noses. The plant can grow into a large and impressive specimen, with highly awarded examples bearing as many as 100 inflorescences containing thousands of individual flowers. It prefers bright filtered light, intermediate temperatures and to be underpotted in an open, well-draining medium that is kept evenly moist in active growth.

Red: *Liparis nutans* – Larry Mayse

White: *Maxillaria sophronitis* – Bailey Santwire

*Liparis nutans*