



The Atlanta Orchid Society Bulletin

The Atlanta Orchid Society is affiliated with the American Orchid Society, the Orchid Digest Corporation and the Mid-America Orchid Congress.



Newsletter Editor: **Danny Lentz**

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SEPTEMBER EVENTS

The Monthly Meeting:

Topic: Steve Burger will speak on KeikiPro

8:00pm Monday, September 10

at the Atlanta Botanical Garden, Day Hall

Steve Burger of Gands Greenhouse, Manchester TN, current president of the OSMT will present "Say Hello to KeikiPro". KeikiPro is an exciting new phytohormone concentrate first introduced to the orchid market in January 2007. This unique new formulation can be utilized by all growers, large and small, to enhance orchid growth of all genera. This PowerPoint presentation will explain how, why and when it works, and will include many example photos. KeikiPro will be available for purchase, and Steve, along with new member Greg Smith will be available to answer all your questions.

Steve and Greg will have plants for sale. Members may also bring plants to sell this month.

Please remember to have your entries for ribbon judging in place by 7:50.

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Join the Atlanta Orchid Society

Membership in the Atlanta Orchid Society is \$30 for individuals or \$45 for households. Yearly membership runs January 1-December 31. Anyone joining in the third quarter will get a 50% discount on the current year's membership. Anyone joining in the fourth quarter will purchase a membership for the following year. You can join at one of our monthly meetings, or contact the society's Treasurer (see page 2) for a membership application.

For directions to the Atlanta Botanical Garden, please visit their web site at www.atlantabotanicalgarden.org or contact one of our society's officers listed on page 2.

Newsletter Submissions

To submit material for the newsletter, or to sign up for the email version of the newsletter, please contact Danny Lentz. The deadline for submissions is the 20th of the previous month.

MAIL TO: Danny Lentz
1045 Wordsworth Dr.
Roswell, GA 30075

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Advertising

Advertising is now being accepted for our newsletter. The size and number of ads may be limited at the discretion of the editor. Advertising Rates per issue are: ¼ page \$10, ½ page \$20, 1/8 page text only \$5.



Dendrochilum filiforme

Member Announcements

If you have any news you would like to share with the society please send me a short announcement. -danny

Events Out and About

September

Saturday, 9/8 American Orchid Society monthly judging, Atlanta Judging Center, 2 pm, ABG basement workshop.

Monday, 9/10 Atlanta Orchid Society monthly meeting, ABG, Day Hall, 8 p.m.

Steve Burger and Greg Smith will give a presentation on KeikiPro, a new phytohormone concentrate.

October

Monday, 8/8 Atlanta Orchid Society monthly meeting, ABG, Day Hall, 8 p.m.

Saturday, 8/13 American Orchid Society monthly judging, Atlanta Judging Center, 2 pm, ABG basement workshop.

November 9-11 AtIOS Fall Show

January 23-27 19th WOC – Miami
<http://www.19woc.com>

Welcome to our new members:

Maegan Taylor Brass -- Newnan, GA

Orchid lover downsizing

14x22 foot greenhouse full of orchids (in spike - Paphs, Phrags, warmer Miltonias, Brassidium); large part of collection is Paphs. Long list of books, Fitch Orchid Album original botanical orchid lithographs; old hummingbird with botanical orchid prints. Slatted wood baskets 2/\$5; treefern logs or pots, \$1; fluorescent light fixtures \$5; new fluor. bulbs \$1; flasking bottles with rubber stoppers \$1; Paph-Pots 25 cents; used plastic pots free.

Linda Wish 404-252-5872
orchidwish@comcast.net

Minutes of the August 13th Meeting

The Atlanta Orchid Society Meeting was brought to order by President Mark Reinke. Visitors were welcomed and introduced.

- o The minutes from the last meeting were approved as printed in the newsletter.
- o Roy Harrow was thanked for hosting the July orchid auction, especially in light of the fact that his mother passed away on that day. Roy announced that the auction made \$280 for the society. He also displayed some items that were left for people to claim.
- o Reba Herzfeld gave the treasurer's report. Current society bank balance is \$10,622.50.
- o Members were reminded to park in the parking lot, not in the lane, when attending meetings.
- o Members were reminded that upcoming construction at the Atlanta Botanical Society may cause some disruptions in normal procedures, especially regarding the November show.
- o President Mark Reinke briefly explained some taxonomy changes recently approved by the Royal Horticultural Society in the cattleya alliance.
- o Our thanks to the orchid judges: Jeff Potter, David Mellard, Richard Hallberg, John O'Connor, James Van Horne, Liz Wyman, and Linda Miller.
- o The monthly speaker was Dr. Martin Motes, who gave an informative presentation on vandas.
- o Our thanks to those who donated plants to the raffle table: Gary Collier and Mark Reinke, Mikie Emerson, Peach State Orchids, Anne O'Connell, Paul Eaton, and others. Also, thanks to Peach State Orchids for donating plants to the silent auction.
- o Our thanks to those who provided refreshments: Gary Collier, Terry Glover & Bob Grzesik, Cathy Caine, Alice Smith, Marianne Gilmore, and others.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
 Carl Quattlebaum

Parking at the Atlanta Botanical Garden

Construction will begin on the new parking deck for the garden and Piedmont Park in October. Once construction begins, the road leading back behind the exhibit hall will be closed, which will reduce the already limited amount of parking available at the garden. That means once the parking lot fills up, people will need to park offsite. Hopefully this won't be a big issue on Monday nights when we have our meetings, but please be aware of the situation whenever you are visiting the garden.

AUGUST 2007 EXHIBITION TABLE AWARDS with notes by Mark Reinke

Class I – Cattleya Alliance

Blue- Bishopara (Laeliocatonia) Party Time – Ramborger : I am fairly certain that I have correctly identified this plant as Bishopara Party Time, which is *Sophrocattleya* (Lc.) Mari's Song x *Cattleytonia* Capri. The seven awarded clones of this hybrid inherit more dramatic internal flaring on the petals from Sc. Mari's Song, but also a less broad and slightly cupped petals compared to the excellent round profile of the exhibited plant. It is a shame this hybrid is not readily commercially available since it brings so many good qualities to the table: nice flat and round form, rich color, strong spike, large flower size for the parentage, good presentation and a reasonably compact plant.



Bishopara Party Time

Red – Rhyncosophrocattleya (Brassolaeliocattleya) Color Magic 'Mendenhall' AM/AOS – Collier/Reinke

White – Sophranthe (Laeliocattleya) Trick or Treat – Lentz/Morgan

Class II – Cymbidium Alliance : No Entries

Class III – Dendrobium Alliance

Blue – *Dendrobium formosum* var. *giganteum* - Hartong

Class IV - Epidendrum Alliance

Blue - *Panarica* (syn. *Prosthechea*) *prismatocarpa* – Collier/Reinke : This same plant was exhibited and received a blue ribbon in July 2006. Please see the notes in the August 2006 newsletter for more information about this showy species. One additional comment is that the species name means 'prism-like seed pod.' We have made crosses using this species and the resulting pod is a perfect equilateral triangle in cross section.



Den. formosanum var. *giganteum*

Red - *Encyclia phoenicea* – David Johnston : We are lucky that the wonderful 'chocolate orchid' was already in collections outside of its native Cuba before the 1960 revolution, as many other desirable Cuban species are rarely if ever available to collectors in the United States! Still, you will have to search hard to find a current source as their slow growth as seedlings makes them less commercially viable than other orchids. In warm and humid daylight, the common name is quite evident in the delicious fragrance that emanates from the showy flowers, which, in the best clones, exhibit a particularly nice and wide-flaring lip. *E. phoenicea* is one of the most extensively used members of its genus in hybridization, with 63 first generation offspring and 134 total progeny registered with the RHS. The most awarded of these is *Encyclia* Orchid Jungle (x *E. alata*) originated by Tom Fennell and recipient of 22 AOS awards to date. Some truly spectacular clones combine the best color and form of both parents with the tall, branched, many-flowered spikes of *E. alata*. *Encyclia* species from Cuba and the Bahamas generally grow in xeric habitats, surviving on dew and humidity more than rainfall, and prefer to be mounted or grown in a basket in a bright warm location. The exhibited plant was grown in a clay pot, but with only coarse charcoal as a media, effectively creating this same type of environment.



Panarica prismatocarpa

White – *Encyclia megalantha* – David Johnston

Class V – Oncidium Alliance

Blue – *Miltonia x cogniauxiae* – Mellard/Marino : *Miltonia x cogniauxiae* is a natural hybrid between *Milt. spectabilis* and *Milt. regnellii*, two species native to SE Brazil. The names of natural hybrids are often written like species, but with addition of the 'x' to indicate a cross that has occurred in the wild. Many were originally mistaken as species when first discovered and only after further observation did their hybrid nature become evident. It would also be correct to use, *Miltonia Cogniauxiae*, as you would with any man-made grex. It prefers humid, semi-shaded conditions with ample watering during the growing and flowering season, with somewhat less water in winter. This showy orchid is adaptable from cool to warm conditions and can even be grown outside in frost free Southern California.

Red – *Miltonia Mom's Choice 'Her Flower'* - Glass

White – *Oncidium* (syn. *Psychopsis*) *Kalihi* – Geni Smith



Miltonia x cogniauxiae

Class VI – Cypripedium Alliance

Blue – *Phragmipedium Penns Creek Cascade* – Kessler : This is a rather recent hybrid, registered in 2001, that shows the strong influence of both *Phrag. caudatum* and *Phrag. wallisii*. The most outstanding feature is the long twisted petals, that in the two awarded clones to date, are up to 16 inches long. With the parentage given, this slipper orchid should prefer moist, moderately bright conditions in the intermediate temperature range. So far, no additional hybrids have been registered using it, but it would be great to see one of the *Phrag. besseae* hybrids made using the long petal species crossed to it in hopes of achieving the combination of bright color and long twisting petals.

Red – *Paphiopedilum Henrietta Fujiwara* – Geni Smith

White – *Paphiopedilum Lynleigh Koopowitz* – Mellard/Marino



Phrag. Penns Creek Cascade

Class VII – Phalaenopsis Alliance

Blue – *Phalaenopsis Helen Ng 'Megan Anne'* CCM/AOS – Kessler : This very beautifully grown *Phalaenopsis* is largely *Phal. violacea*, with the addition of some *Phal. lueddemanniana* and a smaller amount of *Phal. amboinensis*. It received its Certificate of Cultural Merit at the Atlanta Judging Center on August 11, 2007. As I have mentioned before, such awards are considered provisional until they are officially published in Awards Quarterly. Before then, some research will take place just to make sure everything checks out as it should in order to prevent any misinformation from being officially published. The last thing the AOS wants to do is add to its list of embarrassing mistakes that have occurred in the past when an awarded plant was misidentified. We discovered a classic example when exhibiting a well flowered clone of *Brassonia* Golden Glory (Bl. Richard Mueller x *L. tenebrosa*) for judging with a fair bit of confidence that the quality of the flowers would stand up to some award. But the judges found the size and form lacking when compared to the FCC clone 'Featherstone'. Curious to see a photo of that high scoring flower, I pulled out my back issues of AQ. Shock of shocks, the subject of my interest was clearly a mislabeled plant of *Rolfeara* (Blc.) Keowee, with absolutely no possibility that the 3 species that make up Bnts. Golden Glory could have created such a telltale widespread mottled lip! So far, I am not aware of the AOS taking away an award because it was a 'mistake!'

Red – *Phalaenopsis Cassandra 'Marketplace'* – Lentz/Morgan

White – *Phalaenopsis Bellina* - Grzesik



Plectrelminthus caudatus

Class VIII – Vanda Alliance

Blue – *Plectrelminthus caudatus* – Hartong : The same plant of this very showy and interesting African species won a blue ribbon in December of 2006. Please see the notes in our January 2007 newsletter for more information on it.

Red – *Rhyncocentrum Lilac Blossom* - Ramborger

White – *Gastrochilus japonicus* – Ramborger : This unusually hardy member of the vandaceous orchids is native to the mountains of southern Japan and Taiwan. In Japan, its common name is 'Kashinoki-ran' or Yellow Pine Orchid. It is found both on pines and broadleaf trees in semi-shade at between 1500 and 6500 feet above sea level and is said to prefer cool to cold temperatures and plenty of water. However, several sources that sell it say 'Phalaenopsis' culture produces fine results, and obviously this little gem was handling a hot Atlanta summer just fine!

Class IX – Miscellaneous

Blue – *Dendrochilum magnum* – Ramborger : The dendrochilums are interesting plants that may seem 'un-orchidlike' to some. They hail from SE Asia and its islands, and many grow into luxuriant specimens like this impressive ribbon winner. Their unique inflorescences are typically made up of two rows of many tiny flowers, dangling down at the end of stiffly erect stems. The species name of this plant alludes to its large size (in case you didn't notice, it was brought into the meeting in a wheelchair!). In order to be considered for a cultural award, expect to grow a plant with better than 2,000 open flowers on it, or about a minimum of 30 inflorescences, as well as near perfect foliage! Dendrochilums are warm to intermediate growers that prefer to be potbound, and need minimal disturbance when repotting is necessary. They like plenty of water while new growths are developing and somewhat less once they are mature.



Dendrochilum magnum

Red – *Stanhopea wardii* 'Edwin Boyette' – Mellard/Marino

Red – *Masdevallia peristeria* – Mellard/Marino

White – *Cycnoches Jean E. Monnier* – Collier/Reinke

The Story of Phal. Helen Ng 'Megan Anne' CCM/AOS by David Kessler

Some purchase an orchid for the beauty of its flower. Others choose based on the potential of a high quality flower. When I purchased Phalaenopsis Helen Ng it was for neither of those reasons. I chose it for its scent. I bought it as a seedling that had a few open flowers on one inflorescence...but the smell, oh that smell. It has a fragrance that can only be described as both fruity and spicy. I liken it to the aroma that emanates from a box of newly opened Fruit Loops® cereal.

I was helping break down the Central New York Orchid Society's exhibit at my first orchid show when I walked past a vendor's table as he was preparing to leave. I saw two attractive Phalaenopsis seedlings for sale. They were both of a grex I was unfamiliar with, Phal. Helen Ng (Coral Isles x violacea) was hand written on weathered white labels. They were in 3" pots growing in a bark mix.



They had a good root system and clean leaves. I chose the smaller of the two because it had one more flower. I brought it home after the show and repotted it.

The potting style I use for Phalaenopsis is one I learned from Howard Ginsberg of Bedford Orchids. I clean the root system of any old medium and then find an appropriate plastic pot that fits the root system. Then I fill in around the root system about half way up with Styrofoam peanuts. I am careful not to use water soluble Styrofoam. That is a mistake you won't make twice. The peanuts provide drainage, and plenty of air for the root system. Then I gently place high grade sphagnum moss around the top half of the pot and root system. This should be placed and not stuffed as cramming the moss in will cause it to hold more water than is advantageous. The moss should be replaced every year for larger plants, and every 6 months for seedlings.

The plant was then placed in with my collection growing under 4 - 40 watt florescent tubes 6" above the plant. The plant seemed to acclimate to its new home quickly and continued to flower for a few months, producing one new flower as the oldest one would senescence. The plant continued to grow and produce more inflorescences as it matured. On this hybrid old inflorescences continue to produces flowers so they should never be cut. Soon it had several spikes of flowers and each leaf grew larger and larger. The older spikes started to branch and new spikes continued to form.

I would water about twice a week and fertilize twice a month at a rate of about 275 parts per million using either MSU formulation or Grow More (urea free). I also regularly applied Super Thrive, & a potassium silicate. Every 3 months I treat my orchids with the systemic insecticide Orthene©, which has the active ingredient Acephate. Prevention of an insect infestation is easier than treating one.

I continued to grow the plant under a fluorescent light for two years. The plant was beginning to flower more often and for longer periods of time. On a particularly good flowering about a year ago I brought the plant in to the Atlanta judging center for evaluation. After being examined the consensus was that it had not picked up the heavy saturation of color from the Coral Isles parent and did not warrant a flower quality award. I was told that it was a "very clean plant," but I needed to grow the plant in a way that would make the presentation of the flowers more pleasing aesthetically. At this point it had 6 branched flowers spikes that were somewhat entwined, with flowers facing all directions.

I went home and considered what the judges said. I decided to put the plant in a hanging basket which would allow me to grow the plant at an angle with the leaves hanging down and the inflorescences growing straight toward the light to improve the presentation. I removed the plant from the pot and cleaned the roots (an easy task because of the Styrofoam). I lined the bottom of the basket with a layer of sphagnum moss and, careful not to damage the root system, placed the plant into the basket. I wanted to make some air space for the root system so I placed a handful of Styrofoam peanuts into the center of the root system. Then I placed sphagnum moss in and around the root ball. I wanted to make sure that it would not dry out too quickly going from a 6 inch plastic pot to a hanging teak wood basket, so I compressed the moss around the sides of the basket more than I had done when growing in the plastic pot.

I hung the basket about 4 feet from my 430 watt high pressure sodium light. Within a month I saw new roots clinging to the sides and bottom of the basket. I was watering the basket every 3 days at this point because the moss was drying out fairly quickly. At this point the plant was in bloom for the majority of the year, but more floriferous in summer. During the August orchid judging I brought in the plant. It had 8 branched spikes with 26 flowers and 12 buds. The judges again discussed the plant's attributes and agreed it did not warrant a flower quality award. However, they did think it deserved an award for culture. The plant and I were awarded a Certificate of Cultural Merit scoring 86 points. The clonal name is named after my sister; Phalaenopsis Helen Ng 'Megan Anne' CCM/AOS.

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 \$32/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 issue devoted to a single genus. For membership application forms contact Fred Missbach (404-237-1694)

Please visit our web site at

<http://www.atlantaorchidsociety.org>

The Atlanta Orchid Society web site contains recent newsletters and articles, cultural information for growing orchids in Atlanta, as well as a calendar of events and information about our annual shows.

Collector's Corner
Gastrorchis francoisii
 by David Mellard

For many years, *Gastrorchis francoisii* Schlechter was more commonly known as *Phaius francoisii* (Schltr) Summerhayes. Currently, the Kew World Monocot list (<http://www.kew.org/wcsp/home.do>) accepts Schlechter's taxonomic classification of this and similar terrestrial species from Madagascar; therefore, Summerhayes' 1964 attempt at putting them into *Phaius* is relegated to synonymy.

Rudolf Schlechter, a German, classified many orchids from Madagascar in the 1920s. The taxonomic description for *Gastrorchis francoisii* appeared in *Die Orchidee, Beihefte zum Botanisches Centralblatt Fedd's Repertorium* in 1924 along with *Gs. humblottii*, *Gs. simulans*, and *Gs. tuberculosa*. Other species in the genus include *Gs. geffrayii*, *Gs. schlechterii*, *Gs. lutea*, *Gs. peyrotii*, and *Gs. pulcra*.

Gs. francoisii has small, round, closely spaced pseudobulbs that rest partially buried at the surface. Leaves are typically 12 to 16 inches and 1 to 2 inches wide. The erect inflorescence emerges from the pseudobulb and reaches 14 to 18 inches tall. Each spike produces 7 to 12 richly colored flowers about 1 ½ inches wide. The flowers open sequentially so an inflorescence usually has some combination of open flowers and buds.

Like *Phaius*, *Gastrorchis* grows in a terrestrial mix. The plant shown here is grown in a mix with approximately 40% sponge rock (large perlite), 40% washed coconut husk chips, and 20% Fafard3B or Sunshine mix. This evergreen species is watered throughout the year, although watering is reduced in winter. The plant is fertilized regularly (almost every watering) with the MSU RO fertilizer at 150 ppm nitrogen. More information about the MSU RO fertilizer can be found on the society's website:

<http://www.atlantaorchidsociety.org/resources.html>, parts 1-3, David Mellard).

Andy's Orchids (<http://www.andysorchids.com/>) offers *Gs. lutea* and *Gs. pulcher* and is where *Gs. francoisii* was obtained several years ago.



Gastrorchis francoisii



Gastrorchis lutea



Gastrorchis lutea lip



Gastrorchis lutea buds

RECENT ACTIVITIES OF THE ATLANTA JUDGING CENTER

The following awards were granted at recent sessions of the AOS Atlanta Judging Center. They are provisional awards pending official publication in the *Awards Quarterly*. Certificates of Horticultural Merit and Certificates of Botanical Recognition are also provisional pending identification by an AOS certified taxonomist prior to publication of the award.



Brassolaeliocattleya Ann Cleo 'Laina'

AM/AOS 84 pts. (Lc. Wayndora x Blc. Toshie Aoki)

Natural Spread: 12.8-cm H x 15.0-cm V

Three flowers well-presented on one erect inflorescence; flowers white; sepals and petals ruby red on outer third, petals frilled with prominent midrib; lip deep ruby red, faint yellow flush on side lobes, heavily frilled; column white; substance very firm; texture matte; lip presents a beautiful contrast to rest of flower.

Exhibitor: Fred Missbach

JOIN THE AMERICAN ORCHID SOCIETY

For \$60.00/year, you reap the following benefits:

- 12 issues of *Orchids*, the Society's monthly full color magazine chock full of insightful articles and tempting ads for plants and supplies.
- 10% off on purchases from the Society's Bookstore and Orchid Emporium. Reduced or free admission to participating botanical gardens.

For a limited time, if you join for two years (\$108) you will also get a \$30 gift certificate (good on an order of \$100 or more) at any one of 13 commercial growers who advertise in *Orchids*. **JOIN TODAY.** For information, contact Evan Dessasau (404-241-4819)



Brassolaeliocattleya Champagne Ball 'Cyclops'

AM/AOS 83 pts. (Lc. Amber Glow x Blc. Peggy O'Neill)

Natural Spread: 13.5-cm H x 13.0-cm V

Three flowers on one inflorescence; sepals and petals rose-pink, petals deeper rose; lip indigo, rich golden yellow centrally, margins heavily ruffled; column white; substance firm; texture crystalline.

Exhibitor: Fred Missbach



Phalaenopsis Helen Ng 'Megan Ann'

CCM/AOS 86 pts. (Coral Isles x violacea)

Natural Spread: 5.0-cm H x 5.4-cm V

Twenty-six flowers and 12 buds on eight arched inflorescences; plant grown under lights in an 8-inch moss filled wood basket, leaves exceptionally clean; flowers chartreuse heavily overlaid and barred amaranth; lip fuchsia; column white suffused fuchsia basally; substance firm; texture waxy.

Exhibitor: David Kessler

Recent Blooms at the Atlanta Botanical Garden, August 2007



Esmeralda clarkei
photo by John OConnell



Habenaria repens
photo by Mike Wenzel



Restrepia sp.
photo by John OConnell



Maxillaria splendens

Photo © Eric Hunt, www.orchidphotos.org