

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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www.AtlantaOrchidSociety.org

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NOVEMBER EVENTS

Atlanta and South Metro Orchid Societies Fall Show and Sale at the Atlanta Botanical Garden November 10-12

It's time for our annual show! We need everyone to help out and to spread the word about our event. For more details on the show schedule, list of vendors, and how you can help please look at the information on pages 4 and 5.

© John Erickson



Onc. cheirophorum

X



Onc. ornithorhynchum

=



Onc. Twinkle 'Fragrance Fantasy'

?

The Monthly Meeting: 8:00 Monday, November 13 at the Atlanta Botanical Garden

Ron McHatton will give his presentation on color inheritance in orchids: You can't get there from here, or "Holy Smokes! How did this come out white!"

Our speaker this month will be former AtIOS president Ron McHatton. A chemist by training and a horticulturist by avocation, Ron has been growing orchids for over 40 years and is a self-admitted orchidoholic. He is the immediate past-President of the Orchid Digest and has been an AOS volunteer for over 25 years. He is an accredited judge; currently the Chair of the AOS Education Committee and will be elected one of the AOS's three Vice-Presidents at the Saint Louis Members meeting this month.

One of Ron's developing interests over the last several years is the way in which color patterns are inherited in orchids. We all tend to think of color inheritance in a sort of sweet-pea way, i.e., white x red = pink. This virtually never happens in orchids. In fact, white x red might well be purple or even yellow depending on the parents! You can relax, Ron promises his presentation is not a lesson in genetics but rather a thought-provoking survey of some of the more striking color results in orchid hybridizing.

During the business meeting we will hold our elections for 2007 officers and directors.

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Member Spotlight

Jeffrey Wolf



*This picture of Jeffrey with a nice specimen of *Oerstedella verrucosa* was taken during his visit to Vivero Verapaz nursery in Coban, Guatemala.*

Paphiopedilums, but my interests grew a lot, quickly, the more I read about the Orchid family.

I joined the AtIOS in 2004 and would have to say I was pretty intimidated by many of the growers and the wonderful specimens that were on the show table. I have learned a lot about different genera from attending the monthly meetings, thanks to speakers, members and the show table. I like Slipper Orchids, *Dendrobiums*, *Lycastes*, *Cattleyas*, *Phalaenopsis*, *Oncidium* alliance, (shall I go on?) but I do get the most pleasure out of growing more obscure botanicals and my "mixed" collection is about 95% species. *Pleurothallids* intrigue me, *Bulbophyllums* are tons of fun and with both there are so many of them that everyone can find some ideal for their own growing conditions. *Stanhopeas* are great. I generally focus on plants that can be grown intermediate with semi-shade, but grow some warmer growers too. I also grow some plants that really do like it a little cooler than I give them, but balance this with keeping those wetter during warm weather and keeping the temperature below 85F MAX in a 16x16 greenhouse. I've had the opportunity to see epiphytic orchids growing wild in Belize lowland rainforest, dry scrub and seasonal bog, in Guatemalan cloud forest and mangroves swamps and in E. Puerto Rican rainforest, which turns into cloud forest at higher elevations. I think that helped to demystify many of the cultural requirements along with talking to experienced growers who love to share their knowledge and own experiences. Seeing *Lepanthes* in the wild really was amazing and while hiking in the tropics I was always looking into the mosses on trees for them! I still take a lot of pictures and I am currently an undergraduate student in the Plant Biology Department at the University of Georgia.

I was born in Cleveland, Ohio while my parents were in residency at the Cleveland Clinic. My parents moved to Georgia when I was two years old and I have lived here ever since. I have two younger brothers and one younger sister. I went to Paideia School from 1st -12th grade, during high school I spent a lot of time in the photography lab, mostly printing black and white pictures I took with a 35mm Canon. I considered pursuing a degree in photography or graphic design and attended the Maryland Institute College of Art for a semester after high school. I soon transferred back to Georgia State, taking core classes there and at Georgia Perimeter College. After taking an introductory Cell Biology and Genetics course at GPC I decided I wanted to pursue a degree in the biological sciences. After taking all my core classes I transferred to UGA, partly due to the suggestions of a Professor at GPC that was a co-leader of the math team.

I have always been particularly interested / fascinated with plants ever since I was a young child. I remember collecting leaves off a *Ginkgo biloba* tree in 1st grade for a class project and being told which trees were which by my mom. After my grandparents retired they moved out to Maui and started farming avocados and oranges (the best I've ever had) and I remember being present when they had their land blessed by a local Hawaiian priest. My interest in horticulture started during a trip to visit my aunt Louise in Ontario who grew a fantastic variety of vegetables in her garden. I started to grow some vegetables in Atlanta and my horticultural interest in plants grew from there.

My first orchids were *Dendrobium* hybrids and

Events Out and About

November

11/10-11/12 Atlanta and South Metro Orchid Societies Fall Show and Sale

Saturday, 11/11 American Orchid Society monthly judging, Atlanta Judging Center, 2 pm, ABG basement workshop. If entering plants, please arrive before 1:30 pm to allow time for research and paperwork.

Monday, 11/13 Atlanta Orchid Society monthly meeting, ABG, Day Hall, 8 p.m. Ron McHatton will speak on color inheritance in orchids.

December

Saturday, 12/9 American Orchid Society monthly judging, Atlanta Judging Center, 2 pm, ABG basement workshop.

Monday, 12/11 Atlanta Orchid Society monthly meeting, ABG, Day Hall, 8 p.m. Our annual holiday party.

Nominations for 2007 Officers and Directors

The nominating committee has proposed the following slate of candidates for 2007. These candidates will be voted on at the November meeting:

- President – Mark Reinke
- Vice President – Jeff Whitfield
- Treasurer – Reba Herzfeld
- Secretary – Carl Quattlebaum
- Director – Bob Grzesik
- Director – Jeffrey Wolf

The members of the nominating committee are: Dianne Morgan (chair), Elaine Jacobson, David Mellard, Linda Miller, Eldon Park.

Minutes of the October 9th Meeting

- The Atlanta Orchid Society Meeting was brought to order by Vice-President Mark Reinke. The minutes from the last meeting were approved as written. The Treasurer reported a balance of \$6418.56 as of September 29, 2006. The books of the Atlanta Orchid Society are open. Please see Reba to see the books.
- Two visitors were welcomed. Welcome back to former member Liz Wyman.
- Dianne Morgan, chair of the Nominating Committee, presented its slate of officers for 2007 as follows: President: Mark Reinke, Vice President: Jeff Whitfield, Treasurer: Reba Herzfeld, Secretary: Carl Quattlebaum, Director: Bob Grzesik, Director: Jeffrey Wolf. At the November meeting the society membership will vote on these positions.
- David Mellard spoke about the upcoming Atlanta Orchid Show on November 10-12 at the Atlanta Botanical Gardens, Day Hall. Sign up sheets are available at the back of the room. We have volunteer openings in many areas but we already have sufficient clerks for the judging. Reba needs volunteers for hospitality and serving at the luncheon for the judges and please sign up to bring food. Please volunteer to support the society and the show. Flyers advertising the show are available from David Mellard. Please take and distribute to garden centers and anyplace you feel will attract the public to the show.
- Margie Kersey will be replacing Rob Rinn, who is moving to Florida, as Publicity Chair for the Atlanta Orchid Society. If you have any media contacts; such as, radio, newspaper, etc., please let Margie know.
- Our thanks to our speaker: Fred Clarke of Sunset Valley Orchids, Vista, Ca. www.sunsetvalleyorchids.com. He offered an excellent presentation on the culture of Cynoches, Mormodes, Catasetums and Fredclarkeara.
- Our thanks to the orchid judges: David Kessler, Carl Quattlebaum, Rob Rinn, Julie Walkosky, Jeff Whitfield and Jeff Wolf. Our thanks to those who donated plants to the raffle table: Mary Booth Cabot (2), Rob Rinn (20), Roy Harrow and others. Our thanks to those who provided refreshments: Barbara Dampog, Carolyn and Michael Dufano, Mikie Emerson, Marianne Gilmore, Terry Glover and Bob Grzesik, Rita Goldstein, Reba Herzfeld, Elaine Jacobson, Sandy Phillips, Jeffrey Wolf and others.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted, Sandy Phillips

Welcome to our New Member:

Cora Ramborger - Cumming, GA

Member Announcements

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

Show Vendors**Andy's Orchids**

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www.andysorchids.com

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www.natureglass.com

Orchid Inn, Ltd.

Sam Tsui
Downs, IL
309-378-2531

www.orchidinnusa.com

Atlanta and South Metro Orchid Societies Fall Show Nov. 10-12, 2006 (Friday – Sunday) Atlanta Botanical Garden, Day Hall Schedule of Events

Wednesday -- November 8

Room Preparation – hang banners	Noon
Room Preparation – setup tables and skirting	3 p.m.

Thursday -- November 9

Setup for exhibits and vendors	9 a.m. - 10 p.m.
Hospitality room open	Noon - 7 p.m.
Orchid registration	2 p.m. - 9 p.m.

Friday -- November 10

Sales area in Day Hall open to public	9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Orchid exhibits open to public	Noon - 5 p.m.
Hospitality room open for vendors and show workers	8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Judges' briefing and clerk assignments	8:30 a.m.
Ribbon judging in Exhibition Hall	9 a.m. - Noon
Luncheon setup (ABG, basement workshop)	10 a.m. - Noon
Judges'/clerks' luncheon (ABG, basement workshop)	Noon - 1 p.m.
AOS judging (ABG, basement workshop)	1:00 p.m.

Saturday -- November 11

Show and sales open to public	9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Hospitality room open for vendors and show workers	9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Monthly AOS judging (ABG, basement classroom)	1 p.m. - 5 p.m.
<i>(Note: Plants entered in the show are not eligible for Saturday's AOS judging unless they were marked "Not for AOS judging" during ribbon judging on Friday.)</i>	

Sunday -- November 12

Show and sales open to public	9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Hospitality room open for vendors and show workers	9 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Judges' training (ABG, basement workshop)	8 a.m. - Noon
Show Breakdown	4 p.m.

Paphanatics, Unlimited

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Anaheim, CA
770-571-8770

Norito1@hotmail.com

Peach State Orchids

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678-575-1178 (cell)

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OCTOBER 2006 EXHIBITION TABLE AWARDS with notes by Mark Reinke

Class I – Cattleya Alliance

(Species) **Blue- *Guarianthe bowringiana* forma *albescens* ‘Tower Grove’ AM/AOS – Collier/Reinke** : Thanks to studies using DNA sequence data, *Guarianthe* is now the accepted genus for this species and the other known bi-foliates from Central America: *Guar. aurantiaca*, *Guar. patinii* (*deckeri*), and *Guar. skinneri*. But since these easily grown orchids have always been a fundamental part of cattleya collections, it will probably take a while before hobbyists feel comfortable with these new names. *Guarianthe bowringiana* occurs most often as a lithophyte where it forms dense mats with its tough roots and the characteristic swollen bases of its pseudobulbs. At this vulnerable level in the forest, the tender new shoots are regularly grazed by wild animals, yet the plants still flourish. Such a tough constitution means that even an abused plant will still offer a few autumn blooms, while well grown examples can be truly magnificent. This species has also been an important parent and is present in the background of over 1700 registered hybrids. The ‘Tower Grove’ clone has good size and excellent form for the species, and appears as pure white until close inspection reveals a hint of lavender in the throat. The term “albescens” is used to designate a color form that appears nearly white, but still carries a small amount of purple pigment, either as a light wash of color over the entire bloom, or as small patch on the lip as in this example. Recently, a pure white clone of *Guar. bowringiana* was discovered and is being employed in the production of a whole new group of pure white hybrids by Hamlyn Orchids, Ltd. of Kingston, Jamaica. You may own a division of this rare plant yourself for a mere \$10,000, plus shipping!

Red – *Schomburgkia* (syn. *Laelia*) *splendida* var. *cauca* – Collier/Reinke

White – *Cattleya bicolor* ‘Lines’ AM/AOS – Mellard/Marino

(Hybrids) **Blue – C. Miss Kemp – Collier/Reinke** : This entry beautifully illustrates the value of *Guarianthe* (syn. *Cattleya*) *bowringiana* as a parent of great cluster-flowered hybrids. The other parent in this cross, done nearly 80 years ago, was *C. Fabia* (*labiata* x *dowiana*), a large flowered hybrid that would have carried only a few blooms per spike. But the flower count *Guar. bowringiana* dominates in this and many other hybrids, such as *C. Portia* (x *C. labiata*) and the homophonous *C. Porcia* (x *C. Armstrongiae*), which were both exceedingly popular in the early and mid part of the Twentieth Century for their magnificent fall display. However, they are large plants, and as energy costs increased, they gradually disappeared from collections. More recently, hybrids with miniature species have offered promise in carrying on their free flowering traits on a smaller scale.

Red – Pot. Little Toshie ‘H&R’ AM/AOS – Grzesik

White – C. Valentine x C. Sir Jeremiah Coleman - Rinn

Class II – Cymbidium Alliance : No entries

Class III – Dendrobium Alliance

Blue – Den. “Pathum Red” – Lentz/Morgan : As with so many dendrobiums of this type imported from ‘production nurseries’ in Southeast Asia, this plant bears a name which is not registered with the Royal Horticultural Society.

Red – Den. Burana WH-Eima - Phillips : This entry also bears an unregistered name.

Class IV - Epidendrum Alliance

Blue - *Encyclia dichroma* – Collier/Reinke : One of the most brightly colored of the genus, *Encyclia dichroma* hails from the Brazilian state of Bahia where it is often found growing in large colonies on rock outcrops under rather dry conditions. The plants are small and compact, while the inflorescence arches up and out like a long wire to bear from a few to as many as a dozen flat, rose pink flowers with a darker lip. Though these qualities make it attractive to the hobby grower, it does need bright, warm conditions to flourish, and is thus a difficult subject in this climate without a greenhouse. Just over a dozen hybrids have been registered using this species, and more should be attempted to exploit its desirable traits.



Cattleya Miss Kemp



Guarianthe bowringiana fma. albescens
‘Tower Grove’



Dendrobium “Pathum Red”

*Encyclia dichroma**Rossioglossum insleayi*

Odcdm. Lorraine's Fourteenth WOC

Class V – Oncidium Alliance

Blue – Odontocidium Lorraine's Fourteenth WOC – Rinn : This orchid's registered name is so long that a portion of it is often missing from tags due to space limitations. The correct name is as shown, and is in honor of the Fourteenth World Orchid Conference held in Glasgow, Scotland in 1993.

Blue – Rossioglossum insleayi – Doucette : This is a beautifully grown and flowered example of *Rossioglossum insleayi*! There are currently six species recognized in this genus, split out from *Odontoglossum* because of distinct characteristics of the lip and column. Despite coming from fairly high elevations in Mexico and Central America, they adapt well to intermediate culture, preferring moderate light during their growing season and somewhat brighter in winter to correspond to the deciduous nature of the forests in which they grow. They are nicely compact plants with comparatively large flowers. Hobbyists in coastal southern California are lucky enough to be able to grow these orchids out of doors year round.

Blue – Trichocentrum (syn. Oncidium) lanceanum – Rinn : This is one of the "mule ear" oncidiums, so named for the appearance of the large tough leaves. The current accepted genus for hybrid registration of this plant is *Trichocentrum*, but most taxonomists are now accepting the genus name *Lophiaris* for the "mule ear" species. In the case of this orchid, the species name would have to then be modified to create agreement, and thus it would be *Lophiaris lanceana*. In all of the mule ear species the pseudobulb is very small to absent and the task of water storage is handled by the thick fleshy leaves instead. They prefer bright light and good humidity with intermediate to warm temperatures to flourish.

Red – Oncidium ornithorhynchum – Lentz/Morgan

Red – Vuylstekeara Melissa Brianne 'Shady Lady' HCC/AOS – Lentz/Morgan

White – Cischweinfia pusilla – Lentz/Morgan

White – Psychopsis Memoria Bill Carter – Collier/Reinke

*Oncidium lanceanum**Paph. Yukie Kawahara*

Class VI – Cypripedium Alliance

*Phrag. Elizabeth Castle 'Wedding Bells' AM/AOS*

Paphiopedilums :

Blue – Paph. Yukie Kawahara – Whitfield :

This attractive plant, entered under the parent names of *Paph. (moquetteanum x parishii)* was just registered in 2005. It appears to follow the sequential blooming habits of *Paph. moquetteanum*, with one or two blooms open at any given time, and new buds continuing to develop for several months.

Red – Paph. Raisin Jack x (Makuli x Magic Flame) – Lentz/Morgan

White – Paphiopedilum spicerianum – Lentz/Morgan

Phragmipediums

Blue – Phrag. Elizabeth Castle 'Wedding Bells' AM/AOS – Kessler : The Eric Young Foundation has honored Elizabeth Castle, a local landmark on the Isle of Jersey, by naming an orchid hybrid after it in 14 different genetic alliances. When it came to phragmipediums, they chose a cross that brings in the brilliant

Phrag. besseae genes with both parents, giving us this well shaped flower of saturated red, layered over yellow, for a spectacular natural glow. This hybrid is already being used as a parent to try and perfect the form even further. [David got this awarded at the AOS judging session in October.]

Red – Phrag. Wössner Supergrande – Whitfield : This hybrid between *Phrag. longifolium* and *Phrag. warszewiczianum* was registered in 1998.

White – Phrag. Sorcerer’s Apprentice - Whitfield

Class VII – Phalaenopsis Alliance

Blue – Phalaenopsis bellina – Lentz/Morgan : This is a very good example of the typical color form of *Phal. bellina*, which was also a blue ribbon winner last month in its alba form! See the notes in our October 2006 newsletter for more details about this species.

Red – Phal. Zuma’s Pixie – Gilmore : Note the correct spelling of this entry. It is a great example how the compact size and floriferousness of *Phal. equestris* has been used to create a scaled down version of a modern phalaenopsis hybrid. This new look has pleased the AOS judges, who have bestowed 22 awards on this cross since 1993. Hybridizers like it too and *Phal. Zuma’s Pixie* already figures into the background of 172 new registered crosses.



Phalaenopsis bellina

Class VIII – Vanda Alliance

Blue – Cyrtorchis chailluana – Mellard/Marino : *Cyrtorchis* is an African genus related to *Angraecum* and *Aerangis*. *Cyrtorchis chailluana* was named after a French orchid collector, Mr. Chaillu, and thus should be pronounced “Shy-you-a’-na.” It occurs in Central to West Africa in warm tropical forests with a cooler and drier winter, and should be given the same culture as most forms of *angraecum*: good light, plenty of water during the growing season, and high humidity at all times. Like so many African species, it bears white, fragrant flowers subtended by long nectary spurs.

The light colored flowers attract moths at night who seek out the nectar deep in the long spur with their proboscis, unwittingly performing the task of cross pollination of the species.

**Red – Neostylis Lou Sneary ‘Pinky’
AMA/AOS - Gilmore**

White – V. Robert’s Delight ‘Crownfox Big Red’ FCC/AOS – Jacobson : This excellent cross, registered by R.F. Orchids in 1984 has received two FCC’s, including the clone shown, five AM’s and one HCC, averaging 9 flowers, approximately five inches across, per spike!



Cyrtorchis chailluana



Masdevallia impostor

Class IX – Miscellaneous

Blue – Masdevallia impostor – Mellard/Marino : See the notes in the June 2006 newsletter about this plant, which also won a blue ribbon in May!

Red – Pleurothallis allenii – Van Horne

White – Galeandra batemanii – Collier/Reinke

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)

Congratulations to Alfonso Doucette

In a recent Pleurothallid Alliance contest Alfonso was the only one to correctly guess 11 species of *Draculas* from photos of their lips. That’s an impressive feat. Considering the expertise of many members in that group, it’s remarkable for one of our youngest members to show the depth of knowledge to win such a contest.

Remember the AOS/Amazon connection? A good way to shop for anything from Amazon while supporting the AOS!

The staff and volunteers of the AOS have received a lot of questions since our recent partnership announcement tied to the shift in our books operation. I thought that a bit of clarification might be in order. The good news is that the unquestioned best place to purchase orchid (and horticultural) books is still through www.aos.org. Let me explain why. The site is safe, reliable and no one pays a penny more by starting with the AOS shopping cart to purchase books from our terrific new partners, Amazon and OrchidsBooks. We're out of the hands-on mail-order business, but have turned that aspect of our service to the orchid community over to two well-known businesses. In exchange, the AOS receives a very small portion of the proceeds from all sales placed through our Web site. By ordering your books and calendars through the link www.aos.org/aos/shop/orchidbooks.aspx members and visitors to the AOS shopping cart are actively supporting our nonprofit organization while at the same time securing outstanding pricing and customer service. Importantly, if individuals go directly to Amazon or OrchidsBooks, the AOS receives no benefit whatsoever. And here's another important bonus for the AOS -- **if you are searching for anything** (trips, other fiction or nonfiction titles, clothing, jewelry, computers, electronics, tools, fitness equipment - - you name it!) **from Amazon, the AOS will receive a small percentage of your ultimate purchase, but only if you start your Amazon search through the AOS Web site's shopping cart.** Simply enter the Amazon portal through www.aos.org/aos/shop/orchidbooks.aspx and then proceed to explore the rest of Amazon's amazing selection of offerings. If you are an on-line shopper, you can literally help support the AOS in this very simple manner -- at zero extra cost to you. You can do your holiday shopping on Amazon (and "get there" through the AOS), and actively help our nonprofit organization with every purchase made.

We will continue to strive to bring our members and customers access to the largest number of orchid books in order to be your one-stop shop for orchid information. As new titles become available, they will be added to the AOS Web site. Since the Society is now partnering with Amazon and OrchidsBooks and offering orchid and gardening books at lower prices and with improved delivery service, only a few items will be sold directly through the AOS: back issues of Orchids/AOS Bulletin, Lindleyana and Awards Quarterly, and the new e-AOS Awards CD (see link off AOS homepage). The AOS will also continue to offer wholesale specials to affiliated societies and retailers through our Orchid Emporium. Call me at 561-404-2061 or email me at kresetar@aos.org to get a copy of the latest wholesale price list. Be sure to check out, now, the wholesale prices for the always-popular AOS calendar -- the gorgeous 2007 version is hot off the presses!

Please remember and please spread the word -- when looking for an orchid or horticultural book, please go through the Society's Web site (www.aos.org and then click Shop at the top of the page) to guarantee a portion of the proceeds of your purchase will go to the AOS and help our many efforts to support the orchid community -- including this discussion board and Orchids magazine.

We really appreciate your support!
Kelli Resetar, Director of AOS Retail Operations

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

EMAIL: DBLGONGORA@BELLSOUTH.NET

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.

Collector's Item : *Horichia dressleri* Jenny

TRIBE: Maxillarieae

SUBTRIBE: Stanhopeinae

ETYMOLOGY: The genus name honors Clarence Horich, a collector and orchid connoisseur from Costa Rica who has contributed to the study of the Gongorinae. The specific name honors Robert Dressler, an orchid researcher who has done extensive work with the orchids of Central America and authored several books.

Horichia is a monotypic genus related to *Gongora* and *Polycycnis*.

The species may have been known as far back as the 1950's but it was not formally described until Rudolf Jenny published an article in 1981 based on plants that he collected during a trip to Costa Rica and Panama in 1979. The plants were collected in the province of Bocas on the Atlantic coast of Panama, in the coastal hills at an elevation around 200 meters (650 feet) where they grew at the edge of disturbed rainforest areas that let in some light. They were in shady spots on the lower branches of trees growing in a thin sheet of moss along with plants of *Pleurothallis* and *Maxillaria*. The area is warm and humid with temperatures up to 35°C (95°F) and no defined drought season. The plants were not in flower when collected and Jenny thought they might be a type of *Polycycnis*. When the first plant flowered a few months later he saw that it was something different and decided to place the species in a new genus.

Horichia dressleri has an erect inflorescence with well spaced resupinate flowers arising from the base of the pseudobulb. The lip has three deeply divided lobes of approximately equal length, with the side lobes being recurved and the midlobe straight. The lip does not have any hairs, which helps set it apart from most of the *Polycycnis* species. There are two pollinia on a very thin and long stalk. The plant habit is similar to *Polycycnis* with a single lanceolate leaf on each ovoid pseudobulb.

-Danny Lentz, with much help from Ron Determann



Horichia dressleri

Plant grown by the Atlanta Botanical Garden. Photographs © Danny Lentz



RECENT ACTIVITIES OF THE ATLANTA JUDGING CENTER

The following awards were granted at the September session 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.

***Sobralia decora* 'Mello Spirit'**

CCM/AOS 88 pts.

Natural Spread: 9.5-cm H x 5.0-cm V

Thirty-three flowers borne terminally on 22 reed-like stems, 11 double-flowered, to 100-cm tall; ovate leaves to 20-cm long; sepals and petals white suffused lavender centrally; lip rose-purple, throat old gold, white apically; texture firm; substance matte.

Exhibitor: David Mellard & Sal Marino



***Stanhopea wardii* 'Gold Nugget'**

AM/AOS 85 pts.

Natural Spread: 9.0-cm H x 11.0-cm V

Eight flowers and seven buds on two inflorescences; flowers clear, vivid yellow; sepals and petals moderately spotted dark red; eye spots on lip almost black, very distinctly outlined; column white lightly spotted dark red; substance firm; texture waxy; flowers very fragrant.

Exhibitor: Fred Missbach

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<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.

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Recent Blooms at the Atlanta Botanical Garden, October 2006



Do you have any ideas for newsletter articles? Any questions you would like answered? Information you'd like to share with the rest of our members? Suggestions for the Collector's Item column? Let me know. I always need ideas and content for the newsletter. -danny

Photos © Danny Lentz

(top left) *Coelogyne sulphurea*
 (top right) *Cochlioda noeziiana*
 (bottom left) *Dendrobium alexandrae*
 (bottom right) *Eria velutina*

Notes from Fred Clarke's Presentation

Here are some notes from Fred Clarke's presentation on the *Catasetinae* at our October meeting.

- There are two groups of *Cycnoches*, one where the male and female forms are similar (*Eu-cycnoches*) and the other where the male and female forms are very different (*heteranthae*). The *Eu-cycnoches* group tends to dominate the form in hybrids.
- *Cycnoches barthiorum* male flowers have a weakly attached lip so that when its bee pollinator lands on the lip it will fold back against the column. This trait comes through in the *Cycnoches Jean E. Monnier* hybrid and causes the poor presentation of the lip in that grex.
- Two of the more commonly confused species are *Cyc. warscewiczii* and *C. chlorochilon*. *C. warscewiczii* has horizontally held petals and a round form. *C. chlorochilon* has upswept petals and a more rectangular overall shape. The hybrid between these two, *C. Mass Confusion*, has been sold and awarded as *C. chlorochilon*.
- *Mormodes* species grow very warm, and are more challenging to grow than many of the other *Catasetinae*. They are rarely sold. If you're looking for them you should try some of the Brazilian vendors. Although they have poor form, they have good flower count and great color that comes through in many of their intergeneric hybrids.
- *Cycnodes* hybrids (*Cycnoches* x *Mormodes*) get good flower size and shape from their *Cycnoches* parents, and good color and flower count from their *Mormodes* parents. They are much easier to grow than the *Mormodes* species. These crosses are consistently good and are often awarded.
- *Fredclarkeara* (*Mormodes* x *Catasetum* x *Clowesia*) hybrids have long lasting (up to 7-8 weeks) perfect flowers and are vigorous growers.



Cycnoches Jean. E. Monnier



Cycnodes Jumbo Phoenix 'Jumbo'



Fred Clarke (right) giving his presentation

Culture: These plants have a dormant period. When they are coming out of dormancy and starting new growth, don't start watering yet. You may want to water once lightly when root growth has started, but hold off on normal watering until the new roots have grown a few inches and penetrated into the potting medium (this may take several weeks). When Fred saw these plants in situ they seemed to start growing their roots before the rainy season started and had a good root mass ready to go when the rains came. Watering early will retard the growth of the new roots. When they are in active growth they should get water and fertilizer regularly. When the leaves turn yellow reduce watering, and when the leaves have dropped stop watering.

Pot them in an open, well-drained media such as 50/50 diatomite and coconut husk chips (Fred said the diatomite helps wick water out of the CHC so that the media acts quite different from straight CHC) or a bark and perlite mix. The best time to repot and divide the plants is when the new growth starts developing. They take *Cattleya* type conditions with summer temperatures in the 65-85°F range and winter temperatures in the 50-70°F range. Light should be around 2000-4000 foot-candles.

A very common pest of the *Catasetinae* plants is spider mites. You need to keep a close eye on the plants and catch the mites early before they have too much time to multiply and spread. The feeding stings from the mites will cause a silvery stippling or bronzing on the underside of leaves, and if the population gets really large you will begin to see webs. If you catch them early you will probably be able to control the mites with insecticidal soap (make sure to coat all surfaces of the plant) which has low toxicity to mammals. You can also try some of the rose products that control spider mites. Many insecticides will not work well on mites, so check the label. There are some heavy duty miticides on the market but they are very expensive. Whatever you choose to use, you will probably need to make at least a couple applications 7-10 days apart on a light infestation or several applications about 5 days apart for a heavy infestation (check the label on the product you are using).

-Danny Lentz

Pyrorchis nigricans, the Red Beaks orchid

Pyrorchis is a genus endemic to Australia with two species that were separated out from *Lyperanthus*. The name presumably refers to the fact that these species flower after there has been a bushfire during the preceding summer.

Pyrorchis nigricans, also called “Red Beaks” or sometimes “Elephant Ears” because of the shape of the leaf, occurs all the way from New South Wales in the east to Western Australia in the west. The specific name is in reference to the black color of the flowers as they dry. The plants grow in a variety of habitats and are most common in open woodlands and heathlands. They form sometimes extensive colonies of plants. The fragrant flowers contain a small amount of nectar and are pollinated by native bees. The plants flower in spring if there has been a fire the previous summer. Lacking fire they will usually just grow leaves. They are difficult to cultivate and even more difficult to flower in cultivation.

The plants have 1-3 heart-shaped or oval, leathery leaves up to 3-4 inches across that hug the ground. The inflorescence grows up to 8 inches high and have two or three loose sheathing bracts. There can be up to 8 red and white flowers that are each about 1-1.5 inches across. The dorsal sepal projects forward close to the column. The side lobes of the red and white striped lip project upward to enclose the column, the midlobe is recurved at the end with a fringe around the edge, and there is a raised central lamina.
-Danny Lentz

References:

Native Orchids of Australia by David L. Jones, 1988

Orchids of South-West Australia (Second Edition) by Noel Hoffman and Andrew Brown, 1998

Posts on the alt.binaries.pictures.orchids USENET Newsgroup and personal communications by:

Reiner Richter, Victoria
(<http://orchids.rnr.id.au>)

Peter Maxwell, Melbourne



These plants were photographed by Peter Maxwell in Grampians National Park, West of Melbourne.



© Reiner Richter

These plants were photographed by Reiner Richter in the Wonthaggi Heathland SE of Melbourne.



Thelymitra megcalyptra growing in situ at Grampians National Park in Australia. This photo was taken by Malcolm Thomas, who is from suburban Melbourne. We'll see more of this genus in next month's newsletter.



Maxillaria aff. rufescens
Photo © Eric Hunt