



JANUARY EVENT

Monthly Meeting: 8 p.m. Monday, January 9, 2020

Atlanta Botanical Garden, Day Hall

Orchid Chat

see below for details

Orchid Chat

Bring your biggest triumphs or worst tragedies and get gracious kudos or helpful advice from our fellow members in this lively “Orchid Chat” evening. Discuss your orchid questions or concerns with experienced members who have found ways to solve orchid issues like persistent pests, annoying funguses, fertilizers, watering or cultural challenges around windowsill growing, semi-hydroponic growing, or even artificial light systems.

Bring your questions about whether your conditions will support growing that rare species or if that overseas online orchid supplier is reliable. Chances are, one of our members has been there and done that!

Issues with repotting? Don't know what to do with that overgrown orchid or creeping cattleya? Bring it in! We'll do some live potting demos and show some options for orchid growing media like Orchiatea vs. bark vs. sphagnum or cypress mulch. Debating the pros and cons of plastic vs. clay pots vs. Kool Logs? Ever wonder about orchid judging? Bring it on!! Let our expert orchid growers shed light on the subject.

Peruse selections from our collection of helpful orchid books in the Society's free lending library. Learn the ways a membership in the American Orchid Society can benefit you. This is a great opportunity to start the New Year by connecting with other orchid lovers and to share the wealth of information so we can continue to cultivate both our Orchid loving community as well as our beautiful orchid flowers.

Happy New Year!

May the orchid gods smile on you,

May your plants flower and never die,

**And may all bugs and nasties stay away
from your growing area!**



Lycaste bradeorum at the ABG (photo by Danny Lentz)

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The Atlanta Orchid Society Bulletin

Volume 60: Number 12 – December 2019

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](#).

Minutes of December 9th, 2019, Meeting of the Atlanta Orchid Society

The December 9, 2019, meeting of the Atlanta Orchid Society was called to order by David Mellard, President, at 8 p.m. There were no guests to introduce at this meeting. The meeting minutes for October and November 2019 were approved by the members present.

Dan Williamson gave a brief treasurer's report and stated that the auction made \$2,727 in profits.

AJC Monthly Judging will be held on Dec 14 in the Georgia Pacific classroom at ABG, which is near the orchid greenhouses. Judges training will start at noon and AOS judging will start at 1 p.m.

Several additional announcements of upcoming events were provided by David, including: regular society meeting (Jan 11), AOS monthly judging (Jan 14), the Gautier Orchid Show (Jan 25-26), and the Mobile Orchid Show (Jan 29-30). See the events calendar for more details.

The next monthly meeting of the Atlanta Orchid Society will be on Monday evening, January 13 in Day Hall at the ABG.

David Mellard asked that if any member is not receiving the monthly newsletter to let him know so he can investigate.

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Lycaste sp. (above) and *Pleurothallis amphigya* (at right) at the ABG (photos by Danny Lentz)

The outgoing officers were thanked for their service:

David Mellard (president)

HB Blythe-Hart (vice-president)

Dan Williamson (treasurer)

Darrell Demerritt (secretary)

Jody Gomez (trustee)

Doug Hartong (trustee)

Jason Mills-Shoulta (past-president)

The following incoming officers and trustees were sworn in for:

HB Blythe-Hart (president)

Danny Lentz (vice-president)

Jon Crate (treasurer)

Jody Gomez (secretary)

Larry Kikkert (trustee)

Véronique Perrot (trustee)

They will join the remaining trustees Trac Nguyen, Maegan Brass, Atsushi (Mat) Matsumoto, and Carl Quattlebaum.

David welcomed the in-coming officers and thanked the members of the nominating committee: Véronique Perrot, HB Blythe-Hart, Danny Lentz, Larry Kikkert, and Bob Grzesik.

After a brief to enjoy the holiday buffet, the society held the gift exchange and Mark Reinke discussed the ribbon recipients.

With no further business or announcements, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:30 p.m.

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EVENTS CALENDAR

January

11 – American Orchid Society monthly judging, training at noon, AOS judging starts 1 pm, the Atlanta Botanical Garden – Magnolia Room (behind Day Hall)

13 – Atlanta Orchid Society Monthly Meeting, 8 p.m., at the Atlanta Botanical Garden, Day Hall: Orchid Chat

17-19 – Tamiami Orchid Festival, Miami, FL, tamiamiorchidfestival.com

25-26 – Gulf Coast Orchid Society Show, Gautier Convention Center, 2012 Library Lane, Gautier, MS 39553

February

1 - April 12 – Orchid Daze at the Atlanta Botanical Gardens

8 – American Orchid Society monthly judging, training at noon, AOS judging starts 1 pm, the Atlanta Botanical Garden – Magnolia Room (behind Day Hall)

10 – Atlanta Orchid Society Monthly Meeting

20-30 – Mobile Orchid Show, Bellingrath Gardens (bellingrath.org), 12401 Bellingrath Gardens Rd, Theodore, AL. Contact Joe Paine joe6w@aol.com

Future Events

March 2020 – [World Orchid Conference](#) in Taichung, Taiwan

2019 Ribbon Judging Results

One of the best features of our society is our monthly show tables where we can see a wide variety of blooming orchids grown by our fellow members.

Each year we award prizes for the members with the most points from ribbon judging for each quarter (\$25) and for the entire year (\$50). We had thirty-three different households win ribbons at the show tables in 2019. Our commercial growers are ineligible to win the prizes, so that eliminates Carson Barnes and the duo of Mark Reinke and Gary Collier from the awards, even though they each had enough points to win a quarter. A member can only win one of the four quarterly awards, which typically makes the fourth quarter results very interesting.

This year’s winners are:

- Q1: Danny Lentz & Dianne Morgan (77 pts.)
- Q2: Vinh Nguyen (26 pts.)
- Q3: Dan Williamson (25 pts.)
- Q4: David Mellard (33 pts.)
- Year: Danny Lentz & Dianne Morgan (207 pts.)

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Orchid Market Weekends at the ABG

In connection with the Orchid Daze exhibit (Feb. 1 – April 12), the Atlanta Botanical Gardens organizes an orchid marketplace, where there will be plants for sale, as well as a wide variety of potting supplies. I do not know for sure where the market will take place, but it has been in the main entrance lobby in the past.

The market will be held on the first weekends of February (Feb. 1 – 2), March (Mar. 7 – 8), and April (Apr. 4 – 5).

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	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Year
Lentz / Morgan	77	39	35	56	207
David Mellard	53	21	10	33	117
Carson Barnes	36	62	12	7	117
Jon Crate	9	20	18	17	64
Reinke / Collier	0	0	14	40	54
Larry Kikkert	1	8	12	24	45
Dan Williamson	10	4	25	4	43
Vinh Nguyen	0	26	1	9	36
Darrell Demerritt	7	8	14	6	35
Véronique Perrot	2	13	8	0	23
Maegan Brass	5	13	3	0	21
Nicholas Rust	0	0	11	8	19
Drewke / Christiansen	9	4	3	0	16
Bailey Santwire	0	3	11	0	14
Doug Hartong	0	10	3	0	13
Helen Blythe-Hart	0	0	13	0	13
Bob Grzesik	3	3	3	1	10
George Guenther	0	0	8	0	8
Jeremie Carroll	7	0	0	0	7
Karl Harden	0	1	0	5	6
Rob Rothschild	5	0	0	0	5
Maria Beug-Deeb	0	5	0	0	5
Annelies Carl	0	0	5	0	5
James Roberts	4	0	0	0	4
Geni Smith	3	0	0	0	3
Rick Martinez	0	3	0	0	3
Magg & Daryl Wattley	1	0	1	0	2
David & Janice Lankford	0	1	0	0	1
Clark Weisner	0	1	0	0	1
Barbara Barnett	0	1	0	0	1
Jason Chen	0	1	0	0	1
Andrew Dott	0	0	1	0	1
Kitty Thompson	0	0	1	0	1

Atlanta Orchid Society Monthly Ribbon Winners December 2019

Notes by Mark Reinke; Photos by Danny Lentz

Class I – Cattleya Group



Blue – *Cattleya walkeriana* – Mark Reinke & Gary Collier

This Brazilian species is a very important player in modern *Cattleya* hybridization and to date more than 2700 registered crosses descend from it. When you see a good example, such as this one, the reasons are obvious. Compact plants produce comparatively large, flat flowers, that are fairly long lasting, fragrant, and can come during an extended bloom season that runs from early fall to late spring. This particular plant was a seedling from two awarded parents that came in a batch of different sibling crosses and color forms from a wholesale supplier in Hawaii. The plant was destined to go to a show for sale last year, but the buds were damaged. This time around, the flowers are so full and flat, that I have decided to hang on to it and likely use it in future crosses.

To see the locations in Brazil where this species grows is to be amazed that any orchid could survive under such seemingly desolate conditions. The habitat is spread across a broad region well into the interior of central and southeast parts of the country, in rugged terrain where rainfall is almost absent for five to six months of the year. The tough plants, with large fleshy roots cling to rock ledges or rough barked trees in ravines and other locations where a localized microclimate permits higher humidity

levels. Each night during the dry season, the plants receive enough condensation from the temperature drop to sustain them.

In cultivation, *C. walkeriana* is generally happier and better suited for basket culture or mounting, rather than a pot. The roots need to dry between watering and do best when mostly exposed. The plant habit is to ramble around, and the best blooming comes from mature specimens, so I would discourage frequent dividing. I have also found that divisions can be slow to re-establish.

When this species flowers in fall and winter, the blooms generally come from a shoot that produces no pseudobulb or leaf, leaving behind a stub along the rhizome after flowering. But late blooms that come in Spring often will have a leaf and pseudobulb attached, though usually not of full size. On some plants, non-blooming growths will occasionally produce two leaves.

There are numerous color variations and forms of this species and good examples of them can be expensive and highly prized, bringing a couple of thousand dollars for a front lead division.

Red – *Cattleya* Purple Cascade ‘Fragrant Beauty’ – Mark Reinke & Gary Collier

Red – *Rhyncolaeliocattleya* Newberry Delight ‘Mary Ellen’ – Mark Reinke & Gary Collier

White – *Brassavola subulifolia* ‘Sevier’ – Dan Williamson

Class II – Cymbidium Group



Blue – *Cymbidium* Devon Odyssey – Mark Reinke & Gary Collier

This is a primary hybrid between *Cym. devonianum* and *Cym. erythrostylum*, two compact growing species whose flowering habits are near opposites. The former produces numerous small bronze to brownish colored flowers in pendant



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spikes, while the latter produces fewer, but larger white flowers with an orange lip on arching to upright spikes. Its two petals arch forward like a “roof” over the lip. The resulting hybrid splits the difference in the two looks to a graceful and charming effect. The dusty pink flowers with very dark purple lips are carried on arching spikes like a flock of birds in flight. This example is a first blooming seedling, but when mature, there can be many inflorescences at once.

This plant is a good example of a hybrid that should, based on the natural habitats of its parents, require cool conditions year round to flourish. The extreme record highs in their native ranges fall well below a typical August day for this region. But if kept constantly moist, and grown in filtered bright light, it seems to do just fine here.

The flower form has been dominant in crosses in which *Cym.* Devon Odyssey has been used in combination with more typical standard Cymbidiums. The resulting flowers, while still maintaining that irregular ‘bird-like’ form, have still managed to rack up a few awards from official judging entities in Japan and Australia.

Class III – Dendrobium Group



Blue – *Dendrobium Samarai* – Jon Crate

This primary hybrid combines two of the most iconic “antelope flowered” species, *Den. antennatum* and *Den. stratiotes*. The overall look of plant and flower is very similar between the two, with the exception of scale. *Den. antennatum* is a

more delicate plant with smaller flowers, though it still can become a bushy specimen with time. *Den. stratiotes* is a large plant, typically over 3 feet in height at maturity, with impressively large flowers to match. Both produce flowers that are long lasting, and in fact, the example that is our red ribbon winner has been in bloom since September and traveled to two shows and back and still looks perfect!

These first flowering seedlings have nice, distinct colors and especially strong, vivid purple veining in the lip, making them above average examples. If well grown, they can become specimens with hundreds of flowers open at once. Flowering, though heaviest in spring and summer, can occur in any month.

Bright filtered light and warm temperatures are preferred, though this orchid seems to have adapted well to the nights in the 50’s in our greenhouse in winter. Do not give *Den. Samarai* any rest as both parents come from New Guinea where year-round rainfall is plentiful. However, the media should be open and free draining so that drying is possible in between each watering.

Red – *Dendrobium Samarai* - Mark Reinke & Gary Collier

Class IV – Epidendrum Group



Blue – *Dineclia Chien Ya Smile ‘KS’* – Danny Lentz & Dianne Morgan

Danny and Dianne are the only people I know who have been able to keep this intriguing cross between *Dinema polybulbon* and *Encyclia cordigera* alive and blooming. The cross was made by an amateur breeding in Taiwan and is the only successful hybrid ever registered using *Din. polybulbon*, a miniature creeping, mat forming species that is related to *Encyclia*, but currently given its own monotypic genus. It is possible that the ‘KS’ clone was the only viable plant out of the pod. It received a Best New Breeding award from the Taiwan Orchid Growers Association in December of 2010 and was subsequently cloned and distributed through commerce in the US via the wholesale growers in Hawaii.

It produces absolutely enchanting flowers on plants with a rather odd, tufted growth habit, with small pseudobulbs and somewhat pleated, upright leaves with a thin texture. Under lights in Danny and Dianne’s growing area the leaf tips suffer from a bit of overexposure, but this may be the only way to successfully grow and flower this plant. When plug size mericlones were available I purchased quantities of them because I was totally intrigued by this cross. I tried them all sorts of ways in my greenhouse environment but absolutely none of them ever survived to flowering. I would imagine this plant is one of the very few plants in cultivation in the US still alive! An image search found only a handful of photos of *Dii. Chien Ya Smile ‘KS’* in flower, and all of them were plants growing in Taiwan, possibly all images of the original plant.



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Class V – Oncidium Group



Blue – *Miltoniopsis roezlii* variety *xanthina* – Mark Reinke & Gary Collier

There is a great article about *Miltoniopsis* in the October 2019 of *Orchids* magazine, including a good write up on this species, which comes from western Colombia and Panama. As the article notes, it is the lowest growing species, sometimes found as low as 1000 feet above sea level in humid, rainy forests, and is one of the two most important species in hybrid breeding within the genus.

This is the rare pure yellow variant of the species, which compared to the hybrids, is more delicate in size with fewer flowers to the stem. The fragrance, at the right time of day, is almost overwhelming, full of spice and perfume.

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Although this is the warmest growing species in the wild, that doesn't mean that it does well with excessive heat. A day of 90°F or above is likely to be extremely rare in its native range, but chilly nights would also be uncommon. This probably makes it a good candidate to grow indoors under lights in the where the temperature range is warm and fairly even. Frequent water with excellent drainage and no true drying in between are also recommended.

We acquired plants of this rare color form of *Mps. roezlii* earlier this year and they were quick sellers at various shows. I held on to a few to see how they would do in our greenhouse. So far, they seem to be pretty happy and have flowered several times already. This particular plant has displayed the largest and fullest flowers, and also has produced four to the stem, which is above average for the species.

Class VI – Slipper Alliance

Paphiopedilum Species



Blue – *Paphiopedilum villosum* – Mark Reinke & Gary Collier

Paphiopedilum villosum is native to Burma (Myanmar) where it is said to grow in wet locations on dolomite cliffs in bright light. It is a major player in complex, or “Bulldog” breeding and currently over 19,000 registered hybrids descend from it, which is quite remarkable. The plants have plain green leaves and form clumps more readily than most *Paphiopedilum* species.

This particular plant is flowering for the first time and was a huge surprise when these blooms opened. It was purchased with a group of seedlings from a wholesale breeder in Hawaii a couple of years ago, and the parents listed were both high quality normal colored forms of the species. The bright yellow color seen in these flowers is normally overlaid

with other pigments, creating orange and brown tones that are appealing, but not as startling as the glistening blooms seen here. There are other examples of this color variant shown in the listing for the species in Orchidwiz, but they are all from either Australia or Germany, not the USA. Flowers are normally long lasting and the peak bloom season is February and March in the northern hemisphere.

This is not a difficult species to grow and flower given bright, filtered light, regular watering with somewhat less in winter, and possible cooler nights in winter to aid in flowering.

Red – *Paphiopedilum delenatii* – Danny Lentz & Dianne Morgan

White – *Paphiopedilum venustum* – Danny Lentz & Dianne Morgan

Paphiopedilum Hybrids



Blue – *Paphiopedilum* Forestville x Sorcerer's Stone – Mark Reinke & Gary Collier

This is a nice example of modern “complex” *Paphiopedilum* breeding. The quest to create bright yellows is one of the few goals that has continued more or less uninterrupted since this type of breeding started in the late 19th Century, even when in the 1980's and 1990's the greater interest in these “Bulldog” types was in decline.

Even though there are tiny contributions from five additional species along the way, the vast majority of the family tree involves just three species, *Paph. insigne*, *Paph. spicerianum*, and *Paph. villosum*. Their genes have been selected

and recombined over 11 generations to achieve this result, with size, form and clear color that are not possessed by plants in the wild.

Paphiopedilum breeding of this type tends to prefer somewhat brighter, but still diffused light when compared to the mottled leafed species. The plants can also take cooler temperatures and a bit less watering in winter, though they seem to do well under lights even without the cooler nights. The flowering period usually favors late fall into winter in this group and blooms usually last two to three months.

Red – *Paphiopedilum* Double Wood - Mark Reinke & Gary Collier

Red – *Paphiopedilum* Kay Rinaman – Danny Lentz & Dianne Morgan

White – *Paphiopedilum* Deperle – Danny Lentz & Dianne Morgan

Phragmipedium



Blue – *Phragmipedium* Eumelia Arias – Danny Lentz & Dianne Morgan

Phragmipedium kovachii was discovered in Peru in 2002 and has added a whole new dimension to breeding within the genus, both in color and flower size. The species itself can have huge flowers, with the awarded examples averaging almost 6.5 inches in spread. The color is usually described as white, heavily overlaid magenta, with a deeper tone in the pouch lip. The main drawbacks are that the plants tend to prefer cool conditions and the flowers open flat, but become floppy as they age.

Nonetheless hybridizers have been

keen to make use of this species and there are more than 154 registered crosses that descend from it already. *Phrag. Eumelia Arias* was registered by Peruflora in 2007 and combines *Phrag. kovachii* with the diminutive *Phrag. schlimii*. That latter species could almost be considered a miniaturized version of *Phrag. kovachii* with more of the white background showing through and less tendency to become floppy with age. There are at least nine AOS awards for the cross with the highest score so far being 86 points awarded to a plant shown in Hawaii in 2015. A number of photos of *Phrag. Eumelia Arias* show that most are nearly identical in color to *Phrag. kovachii* and some also get floppy petals with age, so one that stays flat is a good plant to hold on to.

Phragmipedium plants need to have constant moisture at their roots, with a media that is not too dense and drains fairly well. They seem to do best in deeper pots. Bright, but filtered light is good, and most prefer to stay out of extreme heat, so they do better cultivated indoors, especially under lights, or in a greenhouse with an evaporative cooling system.

Red – *Phragmipedium* dalessandroi – Danny Lentz & Dianne Morgan

Class VII - Phalaenopsis Group

White – *Phalaenopsis* No ID – Jon Crate

Class VIII - Vandaceous Group



Blue – *Tubecentron* Hsinying Girl – Danny Lentz & Dianne Morgan

Here is yet another hybrid that Danny and Dianne have succeeded in growing well indoors under lights but I have failed under greenhouse conditions. Once again, my nemesis may be the temperature profile in winter as both species involved in this charming miniature are classed as warm to hot growers.

While just two species are involved in the making of *Tct. Hsinying Girl*, it is not a primary hybrid, but instead takes the primary hybrid of *Tuberolabium kotoense* x *Ceratocentron fessellii*, known as *Tubecentron Niu Girl* back to the latter species, which provides the saturated orange-red color to the flowers. That species is also monotypic, meaning it is the only member of the genus *Ceratocentron*. It comes from a small area in the mountains on Luzon Island while *Tblm. kotoense* occurs only on Lanyu Island (on Google maps marked as Orchid Island) just off the southeast coast of Taiwan.

Red – *Vanda* Green Light x *coerulescens* – Dan Williamson

Class IX – Miscellaneous



Blue – *Pleurothallis* rowleei – David Mellard

This attractive plant was replete with inflorescences when shown, but most of the flowers were not yet fully open, so I'm sure it was even more impressive a week or so after the meeting. The somewhat odd spelling of the species results from it being named after Rowlee, who is an English botanist who discovered it in the early 20th Century. *Plths. rowleei*

comes from the region where Central and South America join, and has been found in Costa Rica, Panama, Colombia and Ecuador, in tropical rainforest at a variety of elevations from about 1000 feet to nearly 6000 feet above sea level.

The genus *Pleurothallis* has nearly 1200 described species, grouped into numerous subgenera and sections, and coming from diverse habitats in the tropical Americas. There is vast diversity in plant size, habit and flower form. Yet there are less than a dozen registered hybrids in the group to date. Most species come from fairly shaded environments that have constant moisture available from rainfall and humidity. While there are few examples with large flowers or bright colors, the endless variation and unusual forms mean that every collection should feature at least a couple.

Red – *Calanthe* Rose Georgene ‘Electric Pink,’
HCC/AOS – **Mark Reinke & Gary Collier**

Red – *Bulbophyllum ambrosia* – **David Mellard**

White – *Rudolfiella floribunda* – **Danny Lentz & Dianne Morgan**