



JULY EVENT

Monthly Meeting: 8 p.m. Monday, August 8, 2022

Day Hall at the ABG: Helen Blythe-Hart (HB) on

Phragmipedium schlimii and its hybrids

Bring your blooming plants for our monthly ribbon judging

***Phragmipedium schlimii* and its hybrids**

Helen Blythe-Hart (HB) has been growing a wide variety of intermediate orchids for over 35 years on her windowsills. As a teenager, she would hunt for wild orchids and rare wildflowers that grew in the Chicago area where she grew up. After finding a broad-leafed heleborine growing in her own back yard, she became enchanted with orchids. A very mind-blowing trip to see the amazing Hausermann's Acres of Orchids show cemented her life-long love affair with orchids. She started out growing Phalaenopsis, then went on to grow over 300 species and hybrid orchids over the years. With over 200 in her collection today, the majority are slipper species of

both Paphiopedilums and Phragmipediums and numerous hybrids.

Currently she is an accredited AOS Judge with several awards given to orchids she has grown and bloomed on her windowsills. As a Master Gardener in Georgia, she has researched native orchids that grow in our area as well as non-native orchids that grow well here. In her professional life, HB is an award winning internationally collected Metalsmithing Artist, educator and Gemologist practicing her artistry from her studio just south of Atlanta.

HB will talk about *Phragmipedium schlimii* and its hybrids



Phragmipedium

Culture Notes for August 2022: Getting Orchids Ready for the October Show

How to

1. Prepare plants
2. Clean plants
3. Stake inflorescence

(We will cover the following in September, closer to show time: Label Plant, ID Pot, Ready to Ride)

1. First things first: is the plant going to bloom for the show? If it is in *bud* now, treat it like it will bloom for the show. You just never can tell! Face the plant toward the light. Keep it facing in the same direction so the spike will not twist. Next you will stake it if it is necessary

2. Clean Your Plant

Be sure your plant is free of ants, scale, mealy bugs and other pests. **Plants will be immediately disqualified if these are found!** (Also, you do not want to contaminate another plant)

Cut off dead foliage and dead inflorescences. If a flower falls off putting a plant

in the exhibit, put it in the pot, so they will know there was another flower.

On Cattleyas, peel off old stuff on pseudobulbs (easy to do after a rain or when wet); on Dendrobiums, do not remove bare canes unless they are hollow.

Please remove excess hardware.

To clean the leaves: now, this maybe hard for some to comprehend, but we clean orchid leaves **with skimmed milk and a cotton ball**. Do NOT clean leaves with a leaf polish. That is a NO! NO!

3. Stake inflorescence

For the stake, you can use:

- * metal stakes; these can be covered in Green floral tape
- * classic green or natural bamboo stakes

The inflorescence may be attached to the stake with:

- * green wire ties
- * green daisy clips! (no dragonflies or butterflies! these are distracting from

your plant and FLOWERS)

The stake should be lower than the flowers.

Types of staking:

Phalaenopsis: Stake from base of Inflorescence, allowing for a gentle arch.

Oncidium and allied: same as above

Paphiopedilum: from the base of plant to near pouch of the flower. Remember to not use tie the inflorescence too tight as these plants are scored on their stems.

Cattleyas: require a shorter stouter stake and a larger clip or wire trimmed well. Only used if needed, so as to hold flowers in place.

A last note today: check your cattleyas to see if they have buds in their sheaths. Watch for spikes on Bulbophyllums, Oncidiums, Dendrobiums as well as Paphiopedilums. This isn't Spring but many things do bloom. Some things do surprise you.

B. Barnett

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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](#).

Supply Stuff

We are getting ready to order supplies for the show in October and will be taking pre-orders on things like bags of bark, bales of NZ Sphagnum, fertilizer (MSU, K-Lite) by the pound, wooden baskets, etc. If there are other items you'd like us to consider ordering please let us know.

We will get approximate prices on the major items by the time of the August meeting, and then will send out an email with a list of supplies that can be ordered for delivery at the show. Fi Alonso (FiAlonso@outlook.com) will coordinate the supply table for the show.

Rick Marshall in the John's Creek area has around 100 of the 4 and 6 inch clay orchid pots looking for a new home, as well as some old AOS Bulletins from the 70's and 80's. If anyone is interested in those items he can be contacted at roderickmarshall@comcast.net.

Note from the Atlanta Orchid Society's Exhibit Committee

Do you enjoy working on the Show Exhibit?

Would you like to learn how to set up the AtIOS display for the show?

We are meeting on Zoom to learn all of the details on how to approach this task.

We would welcome your assistance.

If you are interested, contact Barbara Barnett (barnettbarbara14@gmail.com).

EVENTS CALENDAR

August

8 – Atlanta Orchid Society Monthly Meeting: HB on *Phrag. schlimii* and its hybrids
13 – AOS monthly judging
26–28 – Second Annual Ohio Valley Orchid Fest, Kettering, Ohio

September

10 – AOS monthly judging
12 – Atlanta Orchid Society Monthly Meeting.
17–18 – Birmingham Show (see p. 4)

October

8 – AOS monthly judging
10 – Atlanta Orchid Society Monthly Meeting.
14–16 – Atlanta Orchid Society Show

Atlanta Orchid Society Monthly Meeting Ribbon Winners for July, 2022

Notes by Mark Reinke; photos by Danny Lentz



Dimeranda stenopetala

Cattleya Alliance

Blue – *Dimeranda stenopetala* – Danny Lentz & Dianne Morgan

While this species is allied with the *Cattleya* group, it does not have many close relatives and has not ever produced a hybrid. Some sources say there are seven species in the genus *Dimeranda*, but most if not all of them seem to be synonyms for this one. The genus name refers to the split in the column just below the anther sac and the species name means “slim petaled.” However, you can see from Danny and Dianne’s plant that most of the forms in cultivation have been selected for their full form and flat presentation. Each growth produces an inflorescence at its apex that generates blooms in succession over an extended period of time. Blooms can arise from the same growth for up to several years. But to have many open at once is not very common and Danny and Dianne are doing a great job growing this species under lights. While it occurs across a broad range that includes Mexico, Central America, South America, and Jamaica, not much information is written about *Dim. Stenopetala*. Most references indicate it is warm growing and prefers dappled light levels. I’m guessing this plant



Cattleya C.G. Roebling (1895) ‘Blue Magic’
AM/AOS

was acquired when a batch of them came out of Hawaii a few years ago. I couldn’t find any currently available to purchase.

Red – *Cattleya* C.G. Roebling (1895) ‘Blue Magic,’ AM/AOS – Carson Barnes

White – *Vaughnara* Fiftieth Anniversary ‘Newberry’ – Fi Alonso & Jon Crate

This should have been entered in Class 4 as it is a cross between our native *Epi. magnoliae* and *Bc. Richard Mueller*.



Vaughnara Fiftieth Anniversary ‘Newberry’



Cymbidium finlaysonianum

Cymbidium Alliance

Blue – *Cymbidium finlaysonianum* – David Mellard

One of the truly tropical, warm growing species, *Cym. finlaysonianum* is native to lower elevation forests of Vietnam, Cambodia, Malaysia, Sumatra, and the Philippines. It can grow sizeable with time and is often found as an epiphyte on large trees, as well as exposed cliffs and rockfaces where humus has accumulated. The flowers are variable in color and while not large, can be numerous on long, lax inflorescences that can exceed three feet in length on mature plants. Many

forms look quite similar to *Cym. aloifolium*, which grows generally further west, and has shorter leaves and more tightly spaced flowers. Orchid breeders like Pakkret Floriculture in Bangkok, Thailand, are using selected forms of *Cym. finlaysonianum* to create interesting hybrids that grow well in hot summer climates. R.F. Orchids is currently offering a very select form of this species from Sulawesi with beautifully colored flowers up to three inches in diameter, overgrown in 4-inch baskets for \$89.95.



Dendrobium rhodostele (?)



Dendrobium Alliance

Blue – *Dendrobium rhodostele* (?) – Véronique Perrot

This plant was entered as *Den. reflexitepalum*. While there isn't much information about that species, and though the growth habit matched up, the flower on Véronique's plant does not look like any of the examples I could find. The name means "reflex petaled" and photos I located showed very tiny purple flowers (or pure white in the alba form) with extremely reflexed segments. After searching through over 700 images of *Dendrobium* species, I think I found one that matches this plant in both growth habit and flowers. *Den. rhodostele* means "the pink columned *Dendrobium*" and photos of the flowers and plant of that species are a much better match for this entry. This flower description from Baker's seems to fit Véronique's plant to the tee: "The tiny flowers are 0.2 in. (0.5 cm) across, which is small for the plant size. The blunt, ovate sepals and linear, pointed petals are not recurved. They may be white or yellow and white, and some segments may be flushed with pink or purple. The 3-lobed lip is linear oblong with a deeply notched midlobe. The callus nearly covers the lip."

Red – *Dendrobium Enobi Purple* – Barbara Barnett



Dendrobium Enobi Purple



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*Prosthechea cochleata*

Epidendrum Alliance

Blue – *Prosthechea cochleata* – Carson Barnes

I have written a number of times about this species over the years. It is one of the most widespread members this group, occurring all over Mexico, Central America, the northern part of South America, on several Caribbean Islands including Puerto Rico, and even in the

*Epidendrum ciliare*

Everglades of South Florida. Throughout its range, the flowers vary little in color and form, but do range in size from plant to plant. The largest flowers can be nearly four inches in vertical spread. They are non-resupinate, which means the lip is at the top of the flower rather than the bottom, and they are borne in succession, with inflorescences continuing to grow at their tip to produce more flowers over an extended period. Plants that have some size to them such as this one can be in flower almost continuously, which is reason enough to grow one.

Red – *Epidendrum ciliare* – Bailey Santwire

*Miltonia phymatochila*

Oncidium Alliance

Blue – *Miltonia phymatochila* – Vinh Nguyen

I'm listing this entry as a *Miltonia* only because that is the accepted name by Kew as of 2001. This species was first described as *Oncidium phymatochilum* in 1848, which is the name Vinh used when entering the plant. Not only does it look radically different from the other recognized *Miltonia* species in both growth habit and flowers, but it is also the only one that grows both in Brazil and far away in the state of Chiapas in Mexico. It doesn't really look like an *Oncidium* species either with its single, leathery leaf per growth, but taken as a whole, seems to be in a category of its own. This idea might be borne out in the fact that there are no registered hybrids made with this species as it is hard to believe no one would have ever attempted to use its somewhat weird look to create new things. A well grown plant can be extremely floriferous, and just one year ago an example received a simultaneous Certificate of Cultural Excellence and an Award of Merit with 12 inflorescences carrying 2288 flowers and three buds! I would not have wanted to be the student judge that had to count them for the de-

*Miltoniopsis Quintals La**Tolumnia sylvestris**Phragmipedium Cardinale**Miltoniopsis Eva's Pasaijes Conocidos**Phragmipedium Sedenii*

scription.

Red – *Miltoniopsis Quintals La* – Jon Crate & Fi Alonso

White – *Tolumnia sylvestris* – Vinh Nguyen

White – *Miltoniopsis Eva's Pasaijes Conocidos* – Fi Alonso & Jon Crate

Slipper Alliance

Phragmipedium

Blue – *Phragmipedium Cardinale* – Carson Barnes

Phragmipedium Cardinale was registered by Veitch in 1882 and takes his 1873 introduction, *Phrag. Sedenii* back to the pink flowered *Phrag. schlimii*, the only species known at the time that wasn't primarily green. Both early hybrids have stood the test of time and can still be found in collections about a century and a half later. In fact, both are still being used to make new hybrids to this date, probably because they have a greater degree of vigor than many of the more recent hybrids made with *Phrag. besseae*. Crosses like this one love bright diffused light and lots of water. Many growers keep a saucer under the pot to keep the plant wet between waterings.

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

White – *Phragmipedium longifolium forma gracile* 'Lucky No. 3' – Carson Barnes

*Phragmipedium longifolium forma gracile*



Paphiopedilum lowii

Paphiopedilum Species

Blue – *Paphiopedilum lowii* – Carson Barnes

This showy multifloral species comes from several locations in Indonesia, always in areas with heavy rainfall and often where it receives full sun for part of the day. The thick roots burrow through humus or accumulated moss on trees, boulders, and cliff faces. The wide spreading blooms are fairly large and mature plants can produce at least six per inflorescence, but the plant grows large as well and can dominate the balance of foliage to flowers when achieving specimen size. A sample reporting station on Borneo within the natural range of the species receives over 150 inches of rainfall annually with even the driest month averaging 2 inches more than Atlanta's wettest month, so this is a species that does not want to ever dry out completely. Several hundred registered crosses descend from *Paph. lowii* but only a couple of them have been truly successful in garnering awards and achieving good results as parents in their own right. Granted this is just my opinion based on the data and available images. The general shape and color pattern of this species is surprisingly dominant no matter what the flower of the other parent looks like. This plant is blooming late in the typical flowering season for the species.

Red – *Paphiopedilum sangii* var. *ayubianum* – Danny Lentz & Dianne Morgan



Paphiopedilum Mount Toro

Paphiopedilum Hybrids

Blue – *Paphiopedilum* Mount Toro – Danny Lentz & Dianne Morgan

Paph. Mount Toro is a primary hybrid between *Paph. philippinense* and *Paph. stonei*, and this example with four flowers on a single inflorescence seems to have a look that gets an equal share from each parent. The vivid contrast between the white background and dark stripes on the dorsal sepal is especially nice. The size and spacing on the spike is well balanced. Looking through the scores of awards for this cross, it seems the judges tend to favor the plants that inherit lots of twist in their petals from *Paph. philippinense*. Just a few years ago a plant that was exhibited at the Paphiopedilum Forum in Washington, DC received the highest score yet given with a 95 point First Class Certificate. That plant had two 28-inch-high inflorescences with six flowers each, and while not the largest in size, they were especially well presented according to the description.



Paphiopedilum sangii var. *ayubianum*



Paphiopedilum Clair de Lune 'Edgar Van Belle'



Phalaenopsis Queen Beer 'Red Sky' HCC/AOS



Phalaenopsis Sunset Love



Paphiopedilum Petula's Love Song

Red – *Paphiopedilum Clair de Lune 'Edgar Van Belle,' AM/AOS – Carson Barnes*

White – *Paphiopedilum Petula's Love Song – Danny Lentz & Dianne Morgan*

White – *Paphiopedilum Gina Short – David Mellard*



Paphiopedilum Gina Short

Phalaenopsis

Blue – *Phalaenopsis Queen Beer 'Red Sky,' HCC/AOS – Jon Crate & Fi Alonso*

Red Sky seems a bit of a stretch for the name of this cute magenta flowered orchid that is cross between a large blush pink standard hybrid and the species *Phal. pulcherrima*. It was registered by an amateur Taiwanese grower in 1992 and has a handful of AOS awards, including one as recently as 2018. It does illustrate the value of that rather small flowered species in producing offspring with deep saturated colors.



Phalaenopsis tetraspis

Red – *Phalaenopsis Sunset Love – Liz De La Cruz*

White – *Phalaenopsis tetraspis – Vinh Nguyen*



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Vanda tessellata

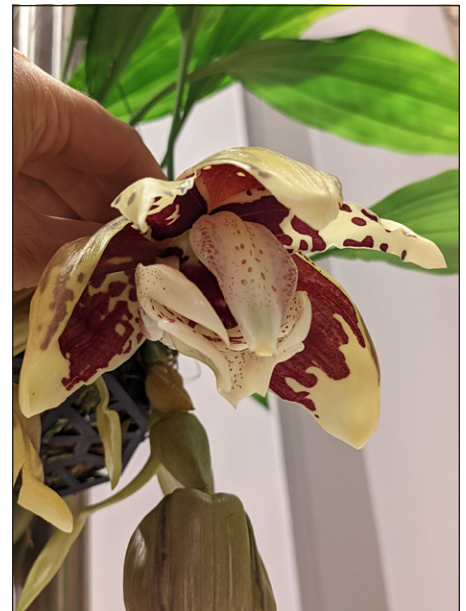
Vandaceous Alliance

Blue – *Vanda tessellata* – Bailey Santwire

This medium sized species grows at the base of the Himalaya Mountains in India, Nepal, Burma as well as out into the plains where rainfall is high enough to support tropical forests. It is also reported from Sri Lanka. The fragrant, long-lasting flowers have a somewhat somber tessellated color pattern in brown and olive green, usually with a hint of violet purple in the lip. Despite this fact, nearly 800 registered hybrids trace their ancestry to it, the largest share of those descending through *Papilionande* Mimi Palmer introduce in 1963 and *Vanda* Amoena, a primary hybrid with *V. coerulea* first registered in 1897. Summer heat is not a problem for this species, with the record highs throughout its range easily topping 100F. Plants should be watered at least once a day in summer, but can stay dry longer in winter, especially when cool.

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Stanhopea tigrina

Miscellaneous

Blue – *Stanhopea tigrina* – Vinh Nguyen

The flowers on the exhibited plant seem to be not quite fully open yet as typically they will spread out a bit more horizontally and reflex at the edges at that stage. Rather large, boldly marked, bizarrely constructed and amazingly fragrant, the blooms sadly only last about two days. Apparently, that is all that is needed to insure pollination in the wild. However, the process of watching the



Bifrenara wittgii

buds develop over a number of weeks is part of the enjoyment of growing this species, and a mature plant can produce several inflorescences, each at a different stage of development, prolonging the show. As typical for the genus, the inflorescences develop off the base of recently matured pseudobulbs and hang straight downward, requiring the plants to be cultivated in open baskets that do not impede their progress. *Stan. tigrina* is native to the eastern slopes of the Mexican Plateau facing the Gulf of Mexico, typically in wet forests several thousand feet above sea level. It needs nearly daily watering through the summer with gradual reduction through the fall. In winter it should only be lightly watered or misted to prevent excessive shriveling of the pseudobulbs. Bright but diffused light is needed for good flowering, but too much can turn the foliage yellow. In my personal experience with this and other members of the genus, the plants grow rather quickly from small seedlings and bloom well for several years once mature. But as they become older, they always decline for me with fewer flowers of lower quality. I don't know whether this is normal for these orchids or just a fault in the way I am caring for them. My acquaintance with *Stanhopea* notwithstanding, they are fascinating and worth growing if you have a set up that will accommodate them.



Blue – *Bifrenara wittgii* – Danny Lentz & Dianne Morgan

There isn't very much information available about this orchid species. The most complete description I found was in Jay Pfal's Internet Orchid Encyclopedia. (What would we do without him?) "Found in Espirito Santo and Rio de Janeiro states of Brazil at elevations of 1000 to 2000 meters as a medium sized, warm to cool growing epiphyte with conic-tetragonic pseudobulbs carrying a single, apical, erect, plicate, elliptical-elongate, acuminate leaf that blooms in the spring and summer on a basal, 3.2" [8 cm] long, few flowered inflorescence and carrying fragrant, showy flowers." There is another species that is very similar, *Bif. tetragona*, that differs mainly in that it lacks the velvety texture of the mid-lobe this one has, which is clearly visible in the photos I received. Danny and Dianne's plant has more numerous flowers than the only one that has ever been awarded by the AOS, receiving an 81 point Award of Merit in September 2016.

Red – *Catesetum Dentigrianum* – Jon Crate & Fi Alonso

White – *Masdevallia Angel Heart* – David Mellard

White – *Pleurothallis tribuloides* – David Mellard



Catesetum Dentigrianum



Masdevallia Angel Heart



Pleurothallis tribuloides