



JUNE EVENT

Monthly Meeting: Monday, June 10, 2024

Day Hall, at the Atlanta Botanical Garden

Gather at 6:30 p.m., Tour starts at 7 p.m. sharp

ABG Greenhouses Tour and Ice Cream Social

Members can bring plants to sell

Bring your blooming plants for our monthly ribbon judging

ABG Greenhouses Tour and Ice Cream Social

This month's meeting is the highly anticipated tour of the Atlanta Botanical Garden greenhouses. We will gather in Day Hall at 6:30 p.m., and leave for the greenhouses at 7 p.m. on the dot. (This is half an hour earlier than usual schedule.) The greenhouses do not have artificial lighting, so we have to visit them early enough before sunset to be able to see the plants well. The tour will be guided by Becky Brinkman, the ABG long-time orchid collection manager, and will last about an hour.

After the tour, we will return to Day Hall for our ice cream social. If you are planning to come, please let Fi Alonso (FiAlonso@outlook.com) know, to make sure there will be enough ice cream. **We will have our usual ribbon judging**, so bring your blooming plants!

This meeting will not be broadcast on Zoom, for obvious reasons.

Atlanta Orchid Society Business: Is your Membership Up-To-Date?



Dear AtlOS members,

The enduring impact of the COVID-19 pandemic is still apparent as we continue to address various aspects of the functioning of the Atlanta Orchid Society. One key focus of our work is to update our Membership Roster. You are an **active member** if you have paid your dues for the year. Those who have not fulfilled this requirement are considered **lapsed members**.

If you are currently receiving this newsletter, you are, or have been, an active member. **But have you completed your dues payment for 2024?**

It is essential for our Society's operational coherence that we accurately identify **active members**, as only they possess the privilege to participate in society matters such as voting on crucial decisions, approving the board member slate, electing board representatives, and sanctioning changes to the society's bylaws.

There will be a list of current members at all future meetings, beginning with our June monthly meeting. Please check off your name on this roster so we can keep track of attendance at our monthly meetings. If you attend the meeting and don't see your name on the roster, please **write down your name and email address**, and let us know if you think your membership is current. If it is lapsed, consider renewing and paying your dues to our treasurer, Edison Gu. Thank you!

For online attendees, please sign in to Zoom with your full name to help us track your presence.

N.B. If you hold an Honorary Member status, you hold the same privileges as active members.

President's Message

Whew! I am glad that I can finally take a break from traveling to two Florida shows in the span of two weeks for orchid judging, and, being an orchid aficionado, adding new plants into the collection while having slight buyer's remorse afterwards. I was relatively kind to my bank account this time around, but I can be happy that I crossed off a few orchids from my wish list. Redland is a festival that I would recommend for anyone looking for something different: they

have over 60 international vendors in one place. Imagine the diversity of plants offered for sale! This is a festival I haven't attended since Covid-19 shut down orchid related events such as Tamiami, Pacific Orchid Expo, and many others.

I have been thinking of new solutions for my greenhouse this summer, which involves misting/irrigation systems as well as ventilation recommendations that were made by Manny Aybar last month and were greatly appreciated by

me! I wonder if he inspired a few of you to build a greenhouse or upgrade your current set-up.

After dealing with the heat of my travels, I am excited for the annual ice cream social event at the ABG and getting a look behind the scenes to cool down. I have always appreciated seeing the orchid collections the ABG has that may not be displayed in the public areas of the

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The Atlanta Orchid Society Bulletin

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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](#).

New Members!

The Atlanta Orchid Society is delighted to welcome new members! We look forward to seeing you at the monthly meetings, if possible, in person!

Please welcome Bob Herbert and Paul Roome.

From the South Metro Orchid Society...

Hi,

I just wanted to invite you and your members to the South Metro Orchid Society June Meeting. We are having Nick Rust give a talk on Habenarias and he will bring plants to sell.

The meeting will be Monday, June 24 at the RJ Reynolds Nature Preserve in Morrow. He will speak at 1:00pm. It

is easy to find (right off of the freeway). Please invite your members as all are welcome.

Contact Mary Cawthon (Mmcawthon@bellsouth.net or 404-630-5624) sfor more information.

Mikie Emerson

EVENTS CALENDAR

May

31–2 June – New Orleans Orchid Society Show (Metairie, LA)

June

1–2 – Central Florida Orchid Society Show (Orlando, FL)

8 – AOS monthly judging

10 – Atlanta Orchid Society Monthly Meeting: ABG Orchid Conservatory Tour and Ice Cream Social

24 – South Metro Orchid Society Monthly Meeting: Nick Rust on Habenarias (see above for details)

July

8 – Atlanta Orchid Society Monthly Meeting: Ti Do (Florida Orchid House) on Soft Cane Dendrobium Cultivation

12–14 – Baton Rouge Orchid Society Show (Baton Rouge, LA)

13 – AOS monthly judging

August

10 – AOS monthly judging

12 – Atlanta Orchid Society Monthly Meeting

September

7–8 – Smoky Mountain Orchid Society Show (Knoxville, TN)

9 – Atlanta Orchid Society Monthly Meeting

14 – AOS monthly judging

19–22 – Alabama Orchid Society Show (Birmingham, AL)



Stanhopea Gary Baker (*S. Assidensis* x *S. jenischiana*) (view from under)

Connoisseur’s Corner

Upside Down Orchids: The Shocking Stanhopea

(Pronunciation: stan-HOHP-ee-ah) (Abbreviation: Stan.)

Noteworthy species: *Stanhopea ecomuta*, *Stanhopea grandiflora*, *Stanhopea jenischiana*, *Stanhopea saccata*, *Stanhopea tigrina*, *Stanhopea tigrina v. nigroviolacea*, *Stanhopea wardii*

Stanhopeas always never fail to turn heads at a show or greenhouse with their intriguing blooms. With the warmer months becoming steadfast, this usually coincides with the blooming of the *Stanhopea*, that can bloom from late spring to early fall for most species and hybrids. If you’re looking for a flower that will literally open in front of your eyes, look no further!

Stanhopea create non-resupinate flowers, meaning that they do not turn the flower 180° or do a complete 360° twist during development, thus giving that “upside down” appearance of the flowers. Other orchids that we know like *Phalaenopsis* and *Cattleya* are resupinate, so it looks “upright” as they have the 180° twist during development.

Stanhopea are relatively trouble free when it comes to cultural requirements as long as several things are in place. Good airflow is a must to prevent the thin leaves from burning or gaining unsightly fungal spots on the leaves. The

hotter and brighter a growing area is, the more airflow is needed. They are tolerant of light levels ranging from that appropriate for *Phalaenopsis* to *Cattleya*. Allow them to get more light during the winter time as this will coincide with what they experience in nature as their host trees will lose their leaves. The general practice is to grow *Stanhopea* as bright as they can tolerate as the leaves should not be a deep green or yellowed from excessive shade or sun respectively. Most species are tolerant of temperatures from 40°–95°F. If growing cooler, allow them to approach dryness but not allowed to completely dry ever. If growing hot, ensure they stay consistently moist and have good airflow. They appreciate regular watering (2–3 times a week) and weekly feedings while in active growth. The media must always have some buoyancy, meaning it has good airflow in the media while retaining some moisture. *Stanhopea* don’t experience pest issues readily although their thin leaves can at-

President’s Message

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Conservatory. Having that experience is a good one to share in as Becky Brinkman will guide us through the collections and be happy to share any information you would like to know.

With the humid heat of summer fast approaching, the orchid shows peters out until fall. This usually means less flowers and more growing in our collections. Focus on those new growths by providing proper fertilizer amounts, water, light, and air movement to maximize the potential we can gain when the right time comes for their blooming! I will admit that my plants are doing a few weird things, such as a *Dendrobium farmeri* and a *Dendrobium lindleyi* developing inflorescences this late into the year, while my *Miltonia moreliana* is already spiking three months early! Alas, I will make a better effort this year to fertilize my collection throughout the warmer months.

I also have been going through my collection and found several doubles or even triplets of a plant I had divided. I plan to bring in some in hopes of a trade for something I don’t have or even to share with someone who is unfamiliar with oddballs that are not in our local stores. In addition to multiples of a plant, it does serve as a good insurance policy in the future! Those green back-bulbs that look dead may have some life to grow into another plant if the party is willing to nurse it back into growing.

Happy growing as always and may your orchids prosper!

Bailey Santwire
President
Atlanta Orchid Society



tract some unwanted attention. Spider mites can be problematic if humidity is too low in the growing area and the infestation is not caught early. The leaves, especially the young ones, may be the target of slugs and snails which can devastate the growth’s appearance or even the succulent flowers, so slug bait or a good molluscicide will be your friend in

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Connoisseur's Corner

Continued from page 3

the growing season.

A good practice with *Stanhopea*, especially with seedlings, is to grow them in plastic pots until they reach to a pot size of 4", then transfer to a basket lined with coco fiber or sphagnum moss, wire or plastic as these will allow the inflorescences to emerge—or at least allow you to visualize the emerging inflorescences to ensure they have room to pass without being blocked. While growing from a seedling until they reach near-maturity to bloom, they can be potted in a mix of sphagnum moss and perlite as young plants prefer to stay moist year-round as they build their reserves. *Stanhopea* are known for having inflorescences that bloom from below the plant, so it is crucial that the media is not obstructive to enjoy blooms, as trapped inflorescences will often abort and continue to disappoint the inexperienced grower. A good mix would be medium/large fir bark, coarse perlite and medium charcoal.

Another detail for growing *Stanhopea* successfully is to have some knowledge of where they originate from. *Stanhopea* are native to a range of environments from Mexico and Central America into South America, specifically the upper half of the Andean mountain range, Amazonian basin, as well as the Atlantic side of South America (no south than the northern border of Uruguay). The Central American *Stanhopea* species tend to experience seasonal dryness in the winter time, when they appreciate some drying



Stanhopea Gary Baker (side view)

between waterings (*S. tigrina*, *S. herandezii*, *S. jenischiana*, *S. leitzei*, *S. maculosa*, *S. martiana*) as the dryness is said to stimulate the plants into blooming when the season warms up. But it's important to never let these plants completely dry out, as it can cause bulb shriveling, root

damage as well as leaf drop. The other species prefer year round moisture as they are native to cloud forest or rainforests of south Central America and South America. As expected, hybrid *Stanhopea* are much more forgiving than the species when it comes to care requirements, and bloom much more consistently and generously.

Every seasoned collection deserves to have a *Stanhopea*: their big showy flowers are also compounded by an amazing powerful fragrance that is unforgettable. Alas, the flowers only last for a week at most. If a *Stanhopea* doesn't work for you, try another *Stanhopea*-allied genera such as *Acineta*, *Cirrhaea*, *Coryanthes*, *Embreea*, *Gongora*, *Houlletia*, *Leuddemannia*, *Paphinia*, and *Sievekingia* that have their own unique quirks!



Stanhopea in low spike



Stanhopea in low-mid spike

Happy Growing!

Bailey Santwire

Atlanta Orchid Society Monthly Meeting Ribbon Winners for May, 2024

Notes by Mark Reinke; photos by Danny Lentz and Jon Crate



Rhyncholaeliocattleya Nakornchaisri Delight 'No. 3'

Class 1: Cattleya Alliance

Blue: *Rhyncholaeliocattleya* Nakornchaisri Delight 'No. 3'- Fi Alonso & Jon Crate

Rhyncholaeliocattleya Nakornchaisri Delight was registered by Mr. Siam Nouisuan of Bangkok Thailand in 2009. At least four different plants from the cross were mericloned and released commercially, three with numerical clonal names such as this one, and one called 'Fanta' which has orange as its dominant color. Though of "standard" *Cattleya* breeding, all the available varieties are quite compact growers considering the size of the flowers and their ancestry. They seem to be able to bloom more than once per year, favoring spring and fall. Like any large-flowered *Cattleya* in this color range, there is a great deal of *C. dowiana* *forma aurea* in its ancestry, breaking down to about a 56% share of the genetic "pie" even though 22 other species are involved in its creation. *Cattleya dowiana* *forma aurea* is the only path that can lead to large flowers with vivid yellow, orange or red coloration with a veined throat, but while a beautiful thing in its own right, its flower form that is rather

open and not very flat, so many generations of selective crosses are required to get to the full, round and fairly flat flower we see here. Along the way, this orchid includes many famous ancestors created here in the USA when large "art shade" breeding was popular, such as *C. Amber*



Brassocattleya Tigrinodosa 'JonFi' HCC/AOS

Glow, *Rlc. Fortune*, *Rlc. Toshie Aoki* and many others. Now the vast majority of this type of "Cattleya husbandry" is being done in Thailand. Perfect drainage and bright light are essential for orchids in this group, with a preference not to be exposed to extreme summer heat as many of the ancestor species live a sufficient elevation in tropical South America to experience mild conditions most of the year.

Red: *Brassocattleya* Tigrinodosa 'JonFi' HCC/AOS – Jon Crate & Fi Alonso

White: *Cattleya* *mossiae* *forma semi-alba* – Danny Lentz and Diane Morgan

Class 2: Cymbidium Alliance

No Entries



Cattleya *mossiae* *forma semi-alba*

*Dendrobium tangerinum*

Class 3: Dendrobium Alliance

Blue: *Dendrobium tangerinum* – Edison Gu

This species is native to Papua New Guinea where it grows in the crowns of trees or on rocks from sea level to about 4000 feet above. That range of elevation makes it one of few species in the Spatulata (Antelope) Section that can adapt to cool nights in winter and thus the only species of that type I have had success with in my greenhouse, which regularly falls into the 50's at night in winter. Still, the majority of the awards for plants with hundreds of flowers were granted in warmer places such as Florida or Hawaii where conditions are ideal for it to become a large specimen. This example has especially nice erect and twisted "antelope horn" petals and good bright color. Based on my own plant, the flowers last in good condition for about

two months. *Den. tangerinum* has been an important species in *Dendrobium* breeding programs, with nearly 600 registered hybrids in its family tree. Grow it bright, with excellent drainage allowing the plants to dry between waterings, though not for long periods, especially when in active growth. This species has a reputation for disliking disturbance once established, so take that into consideration when selecting a container and growing medium. If you are obsessed with watering, grow it mounted.

Red: *Dendrobium secundum* – Bailey Santwire

White: *Dendrobium Roy Tokunaga* – Bailey Santwire

*Dendrobium secundum**Dendrobium Roy Tokunaga*



Epidendrum melanoporphyreum

Class 4: Epidendrum Alliance

Blue: *Epidendrum melanoporphyreum* – Edison Gu

I will admit to having killed this intriguing species more than once. The name means “The Black-Purple Epidendrum” and it’s a very apt description for the dark flowers with swept back sepals and wire thin petals, offset by a dark purple lip that fades to white in the center and is held 90 degrees downward on a slender green column. There can be well over 50 flowers on branched panicle emerging from the apex of a leafy cane that can exceed two feet in height. The species is native to Peru in cool and wet montane forests, which probably explains why my plants did not survive. It is accustomed to nights in the 50s F year-round, with days rarely reaching as warm as 80F. While it may be adaptable to somewhat warmer conditions, it is easy to see that here in our climate its

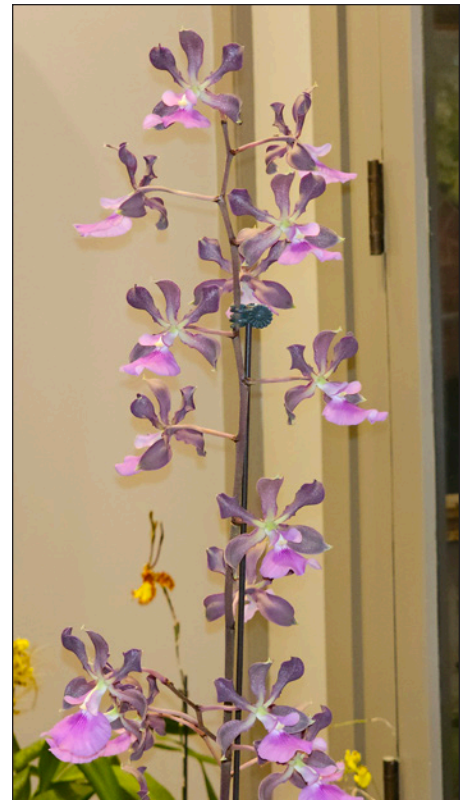
limits will be tested and more than likely exceeded unless given a well-controlled environment. In addition to cool to mild temperatures, *Epi. melanoporphyreum* needs frequent watering combined with excellent drainage with minimal drying in between. There are eight registered hybrids made with this species, but only two of them are worth growing in my opinion. *Epi. Jubilee* (x *Epi. capricornu*) and *Epi. Kelly Forks* (x *Epi. hugomedinae*). Both are showy enough to warrant the required effort. The latter cross was featured in a recent issue of *Orchids* magazine.

Red: *Encyclia Rioclarense* – Edison Gu



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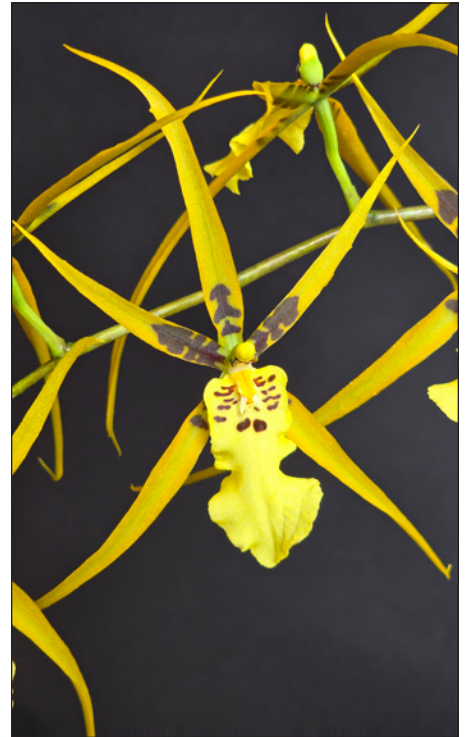
Don't let the name fool you, the Orchid Digest is a non-profit membership-based organization dedicated to orchids. Designed to appeal to the mid-range to advanced grower, nothing beats the Orchid Digest. For just \$39/year you get 4 issues of full-color, in-depth articles about orchids. The magazine is large format and the fourth issue of the year is always an extra-special edition devoted to a single genus. For membership application forms contact David Mellard (404-237-1694) or visit www.orchiddigest.com to join online.



Encyclia Rioclarense



Brassia Spider's Gold 'Prolific'



Class 5: Oncidium Alliance

Species

Blue: *Brassia* Spider's Gold 'Prolific' – Fred Pippin

Entered and judged as *Brassia caudata*, this orchid is actually a complex hybrid involving three different *Brassia* species over four generations, but *Brs. caudata* is not one of them. *Brassia arcuigera* is an immediate parent and provides the yellow color not seen in any of the species with long slender segments. The other parent is 75% *Brs. gireoudiana* and 25% *Brs. verrucosa*. I recognized the cross from the photo because there was a large batch of *Brs. Spider's Gold 'Prolific'* that came out of Hawaii a few years ago and I acquired a couple dozen to resell. Plants can become quite large and spectacular when well grown in warm temperatures with bright filtered light. Water should be liberally offered in summer but accompanied by excellent drainage and plants should dry well between waterings in the winter months.

Red: *Cuitlauzina pendula* – Edison Gu

White: *Gomesa varicosa* – Edison Gu



Cuitlauzina pendula



Gomesa varicosa



Oncidium Space Mine 'Red Rendez-vous'



Psychopsis Mariposa 'Green Valley'

Hybrids

Blue: *Oncidium* Space Mine 'Red Rendez-vous' – Fred Pippin

This plant was entered as *Wilsonara* Space Mine. Many wholesale growers are good at applying currently accepted nomenclature to new introductions but stick with the old names on their tags for pre-2008 registrations such as this one introduced by Okika Orchids in Hawaii in 2000. A *Wilsonara* was a combination of *Oncidium*, *Odontoglossum* and *Cochlioda* but is a defunct nothogenus after *Odont. crispum* became *Onc. alexandrae* and *Cochlioda noezliana* became *Onc. noezlianum* in 2008. The changes were made based on genetic testing which suggested there was no evidence they should be separated from *Oncidium*. The name of this cross is a play on the name of the parents, *Onc. sphacelatum* and *Onc. Carmine*. While the first parent is a warm, high light grower, the second, which has large doses of the two species whose names were changed, has a preference for lower light and cool temperatures. I would probably strive to keep this orchid away from our 90F plus summer days by growing it inside or in a controlled environment. May is the peak flowering month for all three of the species that dominate its background.

Red: *Oncostele* Eye Candy 'Pinkie' – Karl Harden

White: *Psychopsis* Mariposa 'Green Valley' – Fred Pippin



Oncostele Eye Candy 'Pinkie'

*Phragmipedium humboldtii*

Class 6: Slipper Alliance

Species

Blue: *Phragmipedium humboldtii* – Edison Gu

Kudos to Edison Gu for getting this spectacular but difficult to transport plant in flower to the monthly meeting in superb condition! It is amazing that such a compact growing orchid can produce dramatically large flowers, with long petals that continue to grow after the flowers open to a length of up to 30 inches (76 cm) if they don't encounter a hard surface. Equally amazing (maybe also annoying) is all the names that have been applied to this orchid, a list almost as long as the petals themselves! There are at least 24 different synonyms recognized by Kew, including *Phragmipedium caudatum* var. *warszewiczianum*, *Phragmipedium warszewiczianum*, *Phragmipedium popowii*, and *Phragmipedium warszewiczii*.

There are also three other recognized species with very similar looks that require careful inspection of the plant and flowers to distinguish them from each other. I will not try to pretend to be an expert on this group, as it is easy to fall down the rabbit hole of conflicting information about each one and where it grows wild. For example, Baker lists only the wet montane rain forests of Chiapas, Mexico, and neighboring Guatemala as the range of *Phrag. humboldtii*, while *Orchidwiz.com* includes the rest of Central America as well. It presumably would prefer cool growing conditions, but EcuaGenera has a clone known as *Phrag. humboldtii* 'Fortuna' that they are growing in large numbers at their Guayaquil location which is in the warmer low elevations of Ecuador. The plants are growing outside under shade cloth with open sides and look spectacular on a YouTube video on their webpage for this plant. Like Edison, they are using deep clear



plastic pots. Their mix is 80% Monterey Pine bark and 20% large Perlite while Edison seems to be using a mixture of charcoal and sphagnum. The exact mix can be adjusted to your growing conditions and watering schedule but should hold moisture well enough to keep the plants damp while also providing good drainage.

Red: *Paphiopedilum philippinense* – Danny Lentz & Dianne Morgan

*Paphiopedilum philippinense*



Paphiopedilum leucochilum



Paphiopedilum thaianum

White: *Paphiopedilum leucochilum* – Danny Lentz & Dianne Morgan

White: *Paphiopedilum thaianum* – Danny Lentz & Dianne Morgan



Paphiopedilum Gina Short



Paphiopedilum Bel Royal

Hybrids

Blue: *Paphiopedilum Bel Royal* – Fi Alonso & Jon Crate

Paphiopedilum Bel Royal is a primary hybrid between *Paph. kolopakingii* and *Paph. rothschildianum* introduced by the Eric Young Foundation in 1996 and one of the first of a group of crosses made with the former species. At the time, it was only recently described and new to cultivation. This plant has six large flowers, which is just above the average count of 5.4 blossoms on the plants awarded to date. What might hold it back from an award score is the configuration of the dorsal sepal, which arches over the pouch rather than being more erect as seen in most of the awarded plants. That trait is inherited from *Paph. kolopakingii*, a species that can bear eight or more flowers per spike and whose discovery led to high expectations among breeders in the multifloral group. Looking back, however, the results have been mixed and not quite the gold mine some were hoping for. Still, *Paph. Bel Royal* remains both the most awarded and the most used for further hybridization of all first-generation crosses made from *Paph. kolopakingii*. Like most other multifloral Paphs, this one prefers warm temperatures, medium light, and a free draining

mix that should not be allowed to totally dry out between watering.

Red: *Paphiopedilum Gina Short* – Fi Alonso & Jon Crate

White: *Paphiopedilum Julius* – Danny Lentz & Dianne Morgan



Paphiopedilum Julius



Phalaenopsis Taisuco Anna

Class 7: Phalaenopsis

Blue: *Phalaenopsis* Taisuco Anna – Bailey Santwire

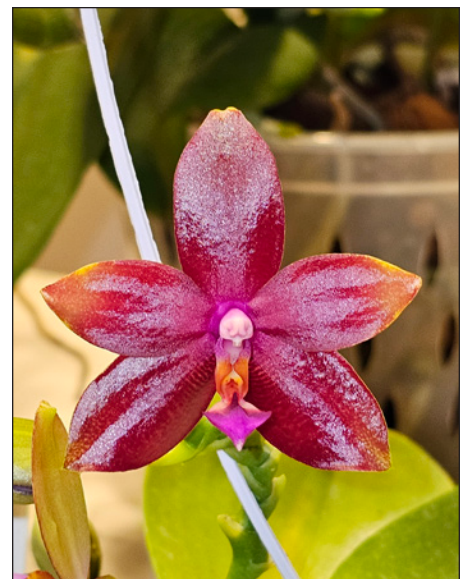
This orchid was introduced by Taisuco Orchid Propagation Center of Tainan, Taiwan in 2000 and is one of more than 450 *Phalaenopsis* hybrids they have registered, all beginning with “Taisuco” as the first part of the name. This one has *Phal.* Hilo Lip as one parent, a cross famous for its reverse color pattern of deep rose-purple segments and a bright white lip. The result here is a similar look but with a softer shade of color that fades to blush towards the edges of the flower, and better overall form. It is possible this is the clone ‘K71303’ which has received three Awards of Merit and two Certificates of Cultural Merit from the AOS when judged at events in Taiwan. It looks exactly like the award descriptions, and I can’t find mention of any other cultivars of this cross. All the US online sellers of this orchid are offering this exact same flower without any clonal designation. This plant should thrive under typical *Phalaenopsis* culture as it is a mix of the basic species in the background of all pink and white standard types.

Red: *Phalaenopsis* Adobe Rose – Fi Alonso & Jon Crate

White: *Phalaenopsis* Krull’s Red Dragon – Fred Pippin



Phalaenopsis Adobe Rose



Phalaenopsis Krull’s Red Dragon



Vanda Twinkle x Ladda Gold



Vanda falcata (red ribbon)

Class 8: Vandaceous Alliance

Blue: *Vanda Twinkle x Ladda Gold* – Loy Xingmen

Just to be certain, I checked the RHS registry to see if this cute miniature grower has been registered, but that has yet to occur. One quarter of the mix would come from *Vanda falcata* and about one third from *Vanda miniata*. Surprisingly, almost another quarter of the ancestry is from *Vanda sanderiana*, which is a (very) large grower. Obviously, its genes are not dominant in this mix, as there is absolutely nothing about the plant or flowers that hint at that species. It is, however, really nice with a great color and good flower density. I can imagine how this plant would look as a mature specimen with multiple spikes of flowers. It would

enjoy bright light but may do well under LED lights as well, with plentiful water in summer and somewhat less in winter. It probably prefers warm temperatures but should tolerate nights in the 50's F in the cooler months.

Red: *Vanda falcata* – Loy Xingmen

White: *Vanda falcata* – Graham Wyatt



Vanda falcata (white ribbon)

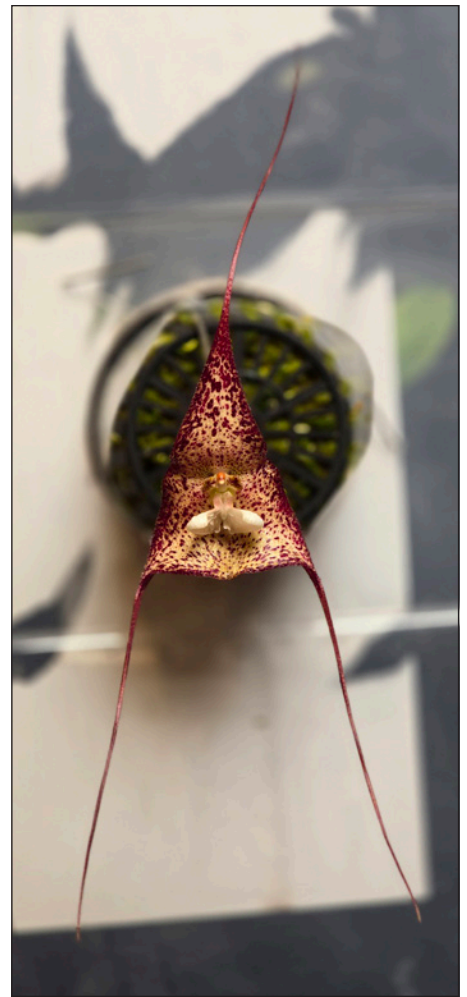
*Dracula bella*

Class 9: Miscellaneous

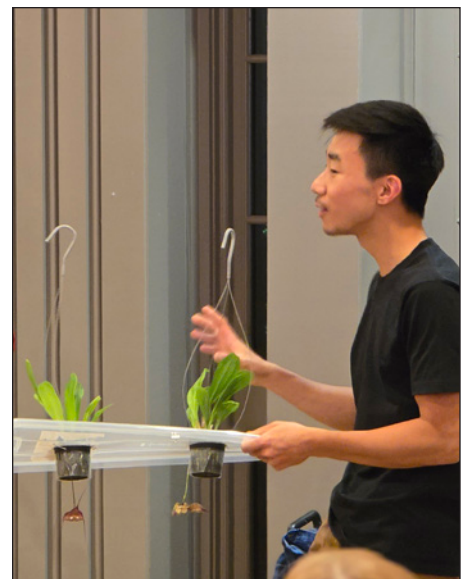
Blue: *Dracula bella* – Edison Gu

Edison Gu went to great effort to transport his *Phragmipedium humboldtii* to the meeting without damage, but with these two *Dracula* species in flower I believe he exceeded anything I have ever seen in 20 years of composing these notes! To keep the flowers from withering in the dry air he brought his own cool mist machine with him! I had to study the photo carefully to figure out just what was going on. *Dracula bella* and *Dracula chimaera* both come from the western cordillera of Colombia where they grow at between 6000 and 8000

feet above sea level with 75 to 80 percent humidity year-round—basically cloud forest conditions. While they can adapt to some degree to warmer temperatures than found in that habitat, the flowers will definitely fail if they try to develop in a lower humidity environment. I attempted to grow plants in front of my evaporative cooler in my greenhouse, but buds would almost always come just as we got bright, low humidity days before spring transitions to summer. The exhaust fans would come on and pull in that dry air right across the buds and they would blast. The plants looked fine, but I rarely got to enjoy flowers. Growing these orchids well is for hobbyists suffi-



ciently obsessed to give them the cool, moist environment they need to thrive, which involves a more elaborate set up than I was willing to create. Thanks to the internet, many people have seen the “monkey faced” orchids and I am frequently queried at shows and markets if I



Edison and his Draculas ready for transport



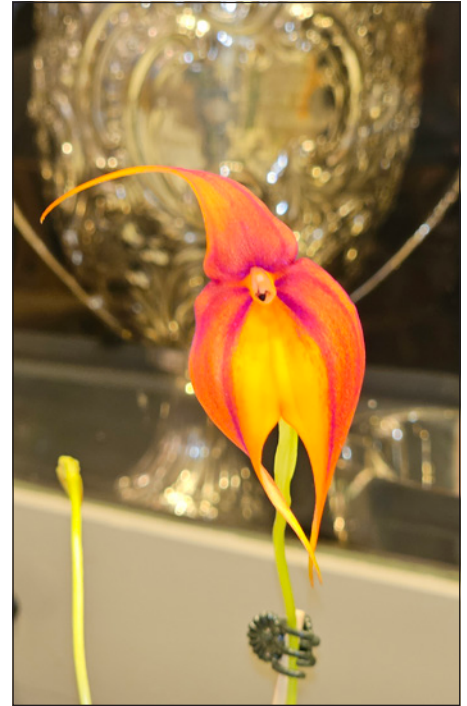
Dracula chimaera

have any to sell. They probably wish they hadn't asked when I go into my speech about where they grow and what is required to keep them happy!

Blue: *Dracula chimaera* - Edison Gu

Red: *Masdevallia veitchiana* - Edison Gu

White: *Maxillaria sanderiana* - Edison Gu



Masdevallia veitchiana



Maxillaria sanderiana