



AUGUST EVENT

Monthly Meeting: Monday, August 12, 2024

Day Hall, at the Atlanta Botanical Garden
Gather at 7 p.m; Program starts at 7:30 p.m.

Workshop: Repotting and Staking Orchids

see details below

Bring your blooming plants for our monthly ribbon judging

Workshop: Repotting and Staking Orchids

Many members who responded to last year's members' survey requested a practical workshop on repotting and staking orchids.

Repotting is the art of deciding when a plant needs more room or when the medium needs changing, or both.

Staking is not a matter of killing vampire orchids (not even *Dracula*)! It is a way to gently redirect a plant's spikes for

best flower display, especially for ribbon or AOS judging, and definitely for orchid shows. It takes a light hand (you don't want to break the spike) and a good sense of timing (it has to be done early enough in the spike development for the flower orientation to be correct when the spike is in full bloom).

We will have volunteers from our membership show you the ropes.

If you have an orchid that you would like repotted, bring it along with a larger pot. AtIOS will provide the bark / media. **Please soak the pot for at least two days beforehand** to make it easier to remove the old media. For orchids that need staking, please bring a stake, and we will provide the floral wire or clips.

See you there!

President's Message

When I think of a Georgia summer, I always think about the tropical heat and humidity from those passing thunderstorm downpours, cicadas singing and the peaches in season, one of which the orchids love more than I do. Our orchids are growing at full speed, begging for water, fertilizer and possibly access to lights if other things have shaded them out. I have learned to make most of my greenhouse space horizontally and vertically, and utilize temporary spaces outside such as the fence, random bushes and trees, or even on a bench outside. Each growing area can have its own unique challenges. Now, it would be a great time to exercise POO (Powers of Observation) as we maintain our collections by clearing dead plant material, preventatively apply fungicides/insecticides, observe minute changes and pests, and give special attention to each plant's needs, picking up each pot and looking at the media, foliage, and other signs as the time goes on.

I hope everyone was able to receive an email about an online survey for a 2024 project plant candidate as initial at-

tempts in person were unfruitful. Third time's the charm, one can hope!

We will be back in our usual location in Day Hall this month, where we will have a repotting and plant grooming workshop. I think this comes at a perfect time, as we may have some straggler plants in need of late repotting, developing inflorescences that need to be staked and perfect new methods that we may not have known before this event. Whenever I have a plant that is struggling in a pot of media, I tend to throw it onto a mount and let natural selection do its thing, which has worked out quite a bit for me, as they often bounce back from the dead! This is a good way to learn from each other as we may have little tips for revitalizing and blooming our plants. I will try my best to bring a few plants to repot and possibly divide a few specimens to share with others—sharing is caring.

Last month, we had an interesting meeting in the Garden Classroom in the basement. Ti Do from Florida Orchid House talked about soft-cane *Dendrobi-*

Message from the Atlanta Judging Center

Do you have a well bloomed plant? The Atlanta Judging Center wants to see it!

The Atlanta Judging Center would like to invite you to any of their upcoming monthly judging events for a chance to get your spectacular orchid in bloom an award. Your plant needs to have an identity.

Seeing the judging center in action may also entice you to become a student judge and learn what it means to be an American Orchid Society judge.

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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](#).

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**EVENTS CALENDAR****August**

10 – AOS monthly judging

12 – Atlanta Orchid Society Monthly

Meeting: workshop on how to repot and stake orchids

September

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

9 – Atlanta Orchid Society Monthly Meeting: Bill Goldner (Woodstrem Orchids) on *Phragmipedium* breeding

13–15 – Triangle Orchid Society Show (Raleigh, NC)

14 – AOS monthly judging

20–22 – Alabama Orchid Society Show (Birmingham, AL). AtIOS will have an exhibit

27–29 – Kentucky Orchid Society Show (Louisville, KY)

28–29 – Ridge Orchid Society Show (Lakeland, FL)

October

5–6 – Tampa Orchid Club Expo (Tampa, FL)

12 – AOS monthly judging

14 – Atlanta Orchid Society Monthly Meeting: Chaunie Langland on orchid photography

18 – 20 8th Annual Huntington International Orchid Show (San Marino, CA)

19–20 – Gainesville Orchid Society Show (Gainesville, FL)

November

9 – AOS monthly judging

11 – Atlanta Orchid Society Monthly Meeting

Connoisseur's Corner

The Genus *Rossioglossum*: The Ignored Crown

Pronunciation: ross-ee-oh-GLOS-sum

Abbreviation: Ros.

Notable mentions: *Rossioglossum grande*, *Rossioglossum ampliatum*, *Rossioglossum oerstedii*, *Rossioglossum* Bob Hamilton, *Rossioglossum* Rawdon Jester

A genus composed of 12 species which are known for their dark green to blue-green foliage and considerably large, glossy yellow-brown flowers, with a few exceptions such as *Ros. ampliatum*, *Ros. oerstedii* and *Ros. krameri* which deviate from this plan. *Ros. ampliatum* produces numerous bright yellow flowers on a branching inflorescence and was formerly in *Oncidium*, while *Ros. krameri* and *Ros. oerstedii* were formerly part of *Ticoglossum* and had small fragrant *Miltoniopsis*-like flowers on small plants. Those three were moved from their former genus to *Rossioglossum* due to modern DNA analysis. However, this article will focus on the original members of the *Rossioglossum* clade: *Ros. grande*, *Ros. insleayi*, *Ros. schlieperianum*, *Ros. splendens*, and *Ros. williamsianum*, known as the clown orchids to some and tiger orchid to others.

All *Rossioglossum* species range from Mexico to Panama and are native to wet to seasonally dry, low to high elevation montane oak-pine forest and rainforests, with several recently added members extending the range into upper regions of South America. They produce large flow-

ers (around 6"+ wide) and are able to produce 4–12 flowers per inflorescence. These species tend to be marketed as cool growers, which can be further from the truth as most growers ignore their winter requirements which impacts the long term survival of the plant. These plants are surprisingly quite tolerant of extreme temperatures such as high heat (90F) or cold (40F). Most of the *Rossioglossum* species grow in regions where summer temperatures do not exceed 75F or go below 50F during the winter. These plants do tolerate the neglect of maintaining a temperature threshold throughout the year but cooler temperatures are required during the winter time to stimulate blooming and the following season's growth initiation. This cooling requirement can be given by placing the plant in a cool area of the greenhouse or by the windowsill. Hybrids are a lot more forgiving of this requirement than their parent species due to hybrid vigor. Generally speaking, the growing season usually sees a range from 85F high to lows of 55–60F while the winter temperatures are around 50F but can drop slightly be-



Rossioglossum grande 'Juan' AM/AOS
(photo by Juan Carlos Uribe)

low 40F without ill effect while days are usually no warmer than 70F.

These *Oncidium* relatives have relatively thin leaves so it is best not to expose these plants to high light during the summer months; bright shade is preferred or enough light for a *Phalaenopsis* to thrive is sufficient. During the winter months, the need for shade decreases and the plants can be exposed to more light, either from the morning light/east facing window or evening light/west facing window. This replicates what the plants experience in the wild: the thinning of the overhead canopy that also occurs with their dormancy period.

*Rossioglossum*s should be watered regularly during active growth, with a reduction of water once the new growth matures, usually around late September to December depending on species. These plants do not like to completely dry out, despite literature stating a hard dry rest is required for flower production. In their native habitats, they inhabit tree branches covered with a layer of moss. During the dry winter season, they still get moisture in the way of mist, fog and dew. With this in mind, it is best practice to refrain from fully watering



Rossioglossum williamsianum 'Satisfaction' AM/AOS (photo by Sarah Hurdel)



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Connoisseur's Corner

Continued from page 3

the plant but giving mistings or light waterings during the winter on sunny days. This will prevent the bulbs from shriveling and desiccating the roots. Their native habitats experience heavy rainfall from May until September and a definite dry season from October to April with sparse precipitation.

Media should be a fast-draining epiphytic media mix of fine fir bark, perlite, chopped tree-fern, and charcoal (not the Kingsford briquettes! put that away please!). In our humid growing climate, the use of medium sized fir bark, instead of fine fir bark, would provide better airflow to the roots. The tree-fern can be omitted from the mix if one is unable to find a reliable source. Coconut husks as a media choice have yielded good results as long as the husk were soaked and salts properly leached prior to use. Sphagnum moss can be used as a medium as long as it is not compacted and has other additives to better guarantee drainage and freshness (e.g., coarse perlite and horticultural charcoal). Plants do not like to be disturbed so care should be taken to not damage roots of the previous growth and current year's growth. Plants should be repotted when the plant is actively growing to minimize the stress on the plant, and the plastic pot should accommodate for two growing seasons.

Rossioglossum williamsianum and *Ros. schlieperianum* are warmer growing members of the genus and have a lon-



Rossioglossum Rawdon Jester 'Mario Palmieri' FCC/AOS (Photo by Jorge Carlos)

ger growing season and shorter winter rest compared to other members such as *Ros. grande* and *Ros. splendens*, which are cooler growers but can tolerate temperatures down to 40°F with no damage as long as the media is dry. *Ros. grande* is the most widely available species; the other species are harder to locate due to slow growth rate and commercial limitations. One should start with a hybrid. Hybrids are more available than any of the species, which is not surprising due to the vigor these plants have over the species and a wider tolerance for temperature and watering. Give these overlooked crowns of Central America a try as they're one of the memorable Oncidiinae to know and love!

Summary of culture: summers are warm, shady and moist while winters are cool, brighter and drier. Regular watering and moderate light (a hand should cast a dull shadow 18" above the plants) is needed during the growing season supplemented with fertilizer used at 1/4-1/2 strength. The plants should be flushed once a month or every third watering. Dormancy care requires cooler temperatures, brighter conditions, cessation of fertilizer and reduction of water to just enough to prevent pseudobulbs from shriveling. Plants should be flushed several times before dormancy begins as roots can be sensitive to salts when dry.

Happy Growing!

Bailey Santwire

President's Message

Continued from page 1

um cultivation. It was an insightful presentation, and I can only hope my plants provide the same full flushes of flowers that they showed pictures of. The basic gist of care for these soft-cane dendrobiums is to provide a drier cooler winter (not bone dry as most would think), and when they are in active growth, provide copious amounts of water and fertilizers as they are heavy feeders and they do appreciate good amount of light in order to grow and bloom well. They should be

provided with enough water during dormancy that prevents excessive shriveling of the thin pendant canes, and contrary to popular belief, canes do not need to shed all of their leaves to bloom.

With August here, we are fast approaching the last hurdle of fall orchid shows. This being said, please get your plants ready, as the society will put together a society display at the Alabama Orchid Society show on September 20-22. We had a great turn out of plants en-

tered for the Atlanta and Savannah shows back in March, and we would love to see a repeat participation this fall. Closer to the date of the show, I will put out times and dates for plant pick-up and drop-off for everyone's convenience.

Happy growing as always, and may your orchids prosper!

Bailey Santwire
Atlanta Orchid Society President

Atlanta Orchid Society Monthly Meeting Ribbon Winners for July, 2024

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



Cattleya araguaiensis

Class 1: *Cattleya* Alliance

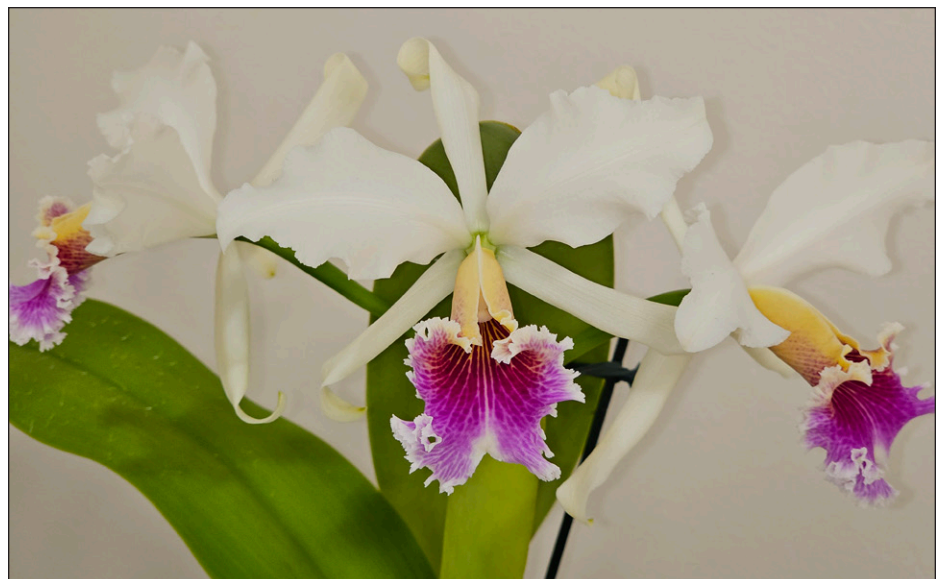
Blue: *Cattleya araguaiensis* – Edison Gu

This unusual looking smaller *Cattleya* species comes from the far interior of Brazil, growing in the shaded forests along the Rio Araguaia, from which it was named. This region includes the capital city, Brasilia and is generally semi-arid and fairly inhospitable for orchid plants, except in microclimates created by the humid tree-filled bottom lands along river courses and other very localized niches of higher moisture. It was first described in 1967, making it a latecomer to the known species in the genus. By the time Carl Withner published his first volume of *The Cattleyas and Their Relatives* in 1988, it was still quite new to cultivation and the first seedlings created from the wild collected plants had yet to flower. There was some speculation that it might be a natural hybrid, but once new plants began to flower, it was clear

the traits were stable, as would be expected with a species. The plants are unifoliate and small in stature, with a rather thin pseudobulb and only a single flower,

about four inches in spread, per inflorescence, blooming in summer as this plant is doing. Even after 30-plus years in cultivation, plants are still rare in collections and the growing tips vary widely from one source to another. Arthur Chadwick recommends using a three-inch pot and straight sphagnum while Charles Baker suggests mounted culture or pots with an open, fast draining medium. I had the species once myself and got flowers once before it eventually died. Were I to obtain another plant, I would likely mount it on cork and water often as I do with *C. luteola* and *C. iricolor*, which come from similar habitats. It likely prefers a warm growing environment with a winter minimum of at least 60F, and bright diffused light. Since Edison Gu is flowering other species that are considered finicky, such as *Cattleya rex* and *Prosthechea mariae* to name a few, I expect he will have success with this first blooming seedling in the future.

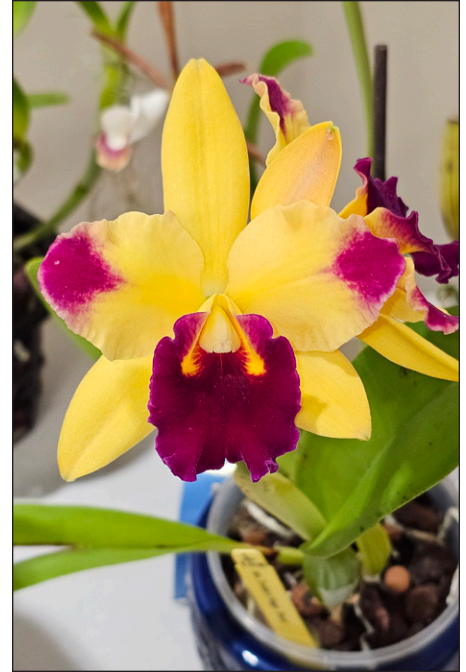
Red: *Cattleya rex* – Edison Gu



Cattleya rex



Brassocattleya Sarah Black



Rhyncholaeliocattleya Toshie's Magic 'Doris'

Red: *Brassocattleya Sarah Black* – Fi Alonso & Jon Crate

Class 2: Cymbidium Alliance

No Entries

White: *Rhyncholaeliocattleya Waianae Leopard 'Ching Hua'* HCC/AOS – Bailey Santwire

White: *Rhyncholaeliocattleya Toshie's Magic 'Doris'* – Janet Sherwood



Rhyncholaeliocattleya Waianae Leopard 'Ching Hua' HCC/AOS



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*Dendrobium parishii*

Class 3: Dendrobium Alliance

Blue: *Dendrobium parishii* – Paul Reavis

At least eight different orchid genera have a species named after Charles Parish, a 19th Century British missionary and plant collector based in Burma. *Den. parishii* belongs to section Dendrobium, the group that is seasonally deciduous and centered primarily in southeast Asia. Of that group, it is one of the latest to flower, peaking in May, but with bloom records continuing even into August. Normally by the time the plants are in flower, the new season's growth is well under-

way. In high light, stems grow upright to arching and top out at about 12 inches in length. Under shadier conditions, they will be longer and more pendulous. Even under the former conditions, the weight of the open flowers which emerge from nodes along the upper half of the stems will pull them over if not staked. This plant was apparently a cross between a petaloid form (which the lip looks more like a normal petal) and an alba form. Both traits are generally recessive and so the result for this plant is a more typical lavender form. It is one of the fragrant species, with a scent often described as



raspberries and the flowers can last up to about a month. There are some very deeply colored examples described as *forma rubra*, and the aforementioned *forma alba*, which is purest white, as well as a semi-alba form with white segments and a deep purple lip. Like other species in the group, *Den. parishii* needs copious watering during the warmer months, followed by much less water and cool night temperatures with mild to warm days the balance of the year to initiate good flowering.

Red: *Dendrobium bigibbum* – Edison Gu

White: *Dendrobium dearei* – Jon Crate & Fi Alsonso

*Dendrobium bigibbum**Dendrobium dearei*

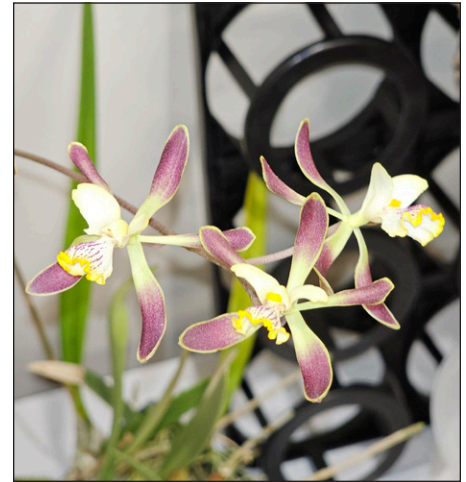
*Prosthechea mariae*

Class 4: Epidendrum Alliance

Blue: *Prosthechea mariae* – Edison Gu

Prosthechea mariae, along with a related Mexican species, *Prosthechea citrina* have a unique look in plant and flower and do not easily fit into any of the genera to which they have been assigned. *Psh. mariae* has been described in the past as *Epidendrum*, *Encyclia*, and *Euchile*, the latter being a unique name created just for the two species. But Kew accepts the name given here with *Encyclia mariae* being allowed as a synonym. It does have rounded pear-shaped pseudobulbs like most *Encyclia* species, but the (normally two) leaves are much softer and covered with a glaucous bloom. The plants are relatively small, but produce two to four large flowers per inflorescence, normally nodding under their weight. The sepals and petals are yellowish to olive green while the large spreading funnel like lip

is white with ruffled edges and green veins in the throat. The natural range is the mountains of four northeastern Mexico states, Tamaulipas, San Luis Potosí, Hidalgo, and Veracruz, usually between about three and four thousand feet in rather dry oak forests. It is considered more challenging than a typical *Encyclia* species to grow, with mounted culture being the preferred method to accommodate its need for extreme drainage. Late spring to early autumn the plants should be watered more often, but still allowed to dry in between. The balance of the year, they should be allowed to stay dry for several days between each water cycle or be given morning mistings on bright days. They also need to experience cool nights for several months in winter, at least into the low 50's, and in the wild withstand brief hard freezes. Because of the large flowers and color combination, *Psh. mariae* has been used extensively in

*Encyclia alata**Encyclia Lorraine Smith*

hybridization, with well over one hundred first generation offspring and more than two hundred total progeny.

Red: *Encyclia alata* – Bailey Santwire

White: *Encyclia Lorraine Smith* – Carson Barnes



Miltonia phymatochila

Class 5: Oncidium Alliance

Species

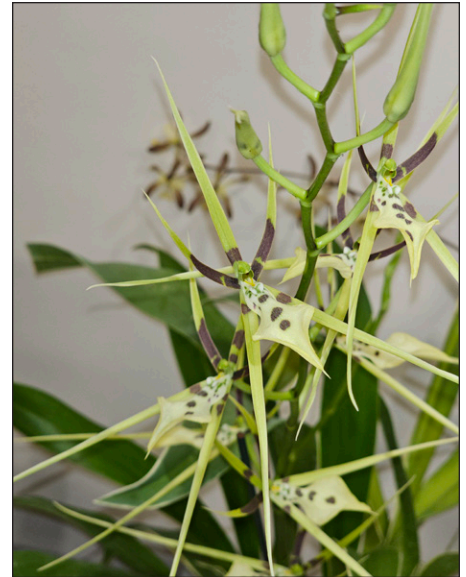
Blue: *Miltonia phymatochila* – Edison Gu

This species was originally described as an *Oncidium phymatochilum* in 1848. Christenson thought it unique enough to deserve its own genus and proposed *Phymatochilum brasiliense* as its name in 2005. But Kew, going with the evidence from DNA research has classed it as *Miltonia phymatochila*, and that is its currently accepted nomenclature. The small but numerous somewhat crinkled flowers resemble miniature versions of some other *Miltonia* species, if you were able to flatten them out, but the growth habit, with brownish purple pseudobulbs and a single leaf suffused purple underneath, is quite different from the dozen or so other members of that genus. There are also no registered crosses listed from it, though you would think the high flower count would invite experimentation with hybridization. This makes me think it probably fits best into its own monotypic genus. One additional usual factor it that it is apparently found both in southeast Brazil and in southernmost Mexico and neighboring Guatemala, two habitats that are thousands of miles apart. Some taxonomists are convinced the two pop-

ulations are different species due to difference in the plant habit. In both ranges the plants grow about 4000 feet above sea level, indicating the plants prefer cool to intermediate conditions and may suffer if subjected to our summer heat, especially during periods when nighttime temperatures remain warm. Typical for species from either habitat, summers are rainy, and plants should be watered often while in active growth, and then allowed to dry somewhat in between in the cooler months when rainfall is low, but dew and mist are still present.

Red: *Brassia gireoudiana* (variegated form) – Edison Gu

White: *Lockhartia amoena* – Bailey Santwire



Brassia gireoudiana



Lockhartia amoena



Oncostele Catatante 'Orange Kiss'

Hybrids

Blue: *Oncostele Catatante* 'Orange Kiss' – Jon Crate & Fi Alonso

For a detailed description of this orchid see the May 2024 newsletter.

Red: *Oncostele Eye Candy* 'Pinkie' AM/AOS – Fi Alonso & Jon Crate

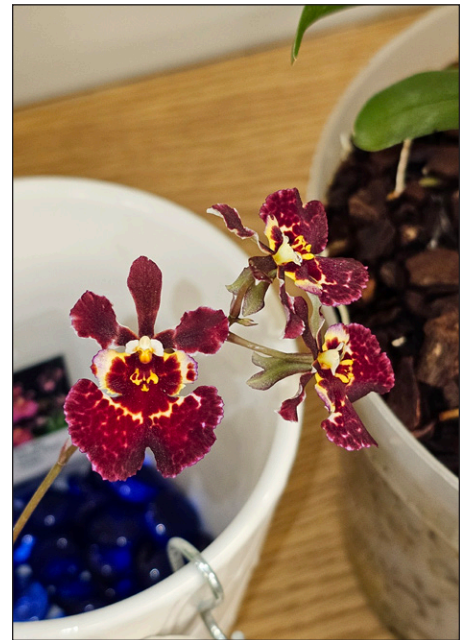
I really love this hybrid because it brings the more rounded form and interesting color patterns of the cool growing *Odontoglossum crispum* (now classed as *Oncidium alexandrae*) in a plant that can do well under our growing conditions. To accomplish this, one of those more finicky types was crossed to the blue-ribbon winner this month *Ons. Catatante*, to give more heat tolerance and vigor. Still, it probably wouldn't do particularly well left outside for the summer and given

only casual care. But if grown well-watered in moderately light indoors or in a controlled greenhouse, it is very dependable and nicely compact. The bloom spikes are tall enough to appreciate the blooms, but not enough to be a problem for growers with head room issues. Under LED lights, the color can be quite intense and the plants very floriferous, but the foliage will have yellow tips unless the plants are at least 3 feet below the light source.

White: *Tolumnia Jairak Flyer* 'Jules' – Janet Sherwood



Oncostele Eye Candy 'Pinkie' AM/AOS



Tolumnia Jairak Flyer 'Jules'



Paphiopedilum John Nicholas

Class 6: Slipper Alliance

Blue: *Paphiopedilum* John Nicholas – Cary Green

This entry was a re-make of a cross originally registered in 1991 by Nick Tanacci of San Jose, California. It is possible the original used the normal forms of the parents. This form uses the alba forms and creates a beautiful pure white flower set off by a yellow callus. The grower should take note of the registered name and correct the plant tag. The plant was entered as *Paph. Wellesleyanum alba x delenatii forma album*, but as I discussed last month, since the first parent is a hybrid between *Paph. concolor* and *Paph. godefroyae*, it can't carry designation like a form of a species might but can be noted to be made using alba parents. I found plants of this cross being sold by Orchid Dynasty of Salt Lake City listed the way the entry was filled out, so that is the way they are being sold commercially. The listing had a good image of the foliage, which I can't see in the photos taken at the meeting, and it is quite beautiful itself with lovely variegation and no sign of purple pigmentation. This one is flowering at the peak bloom season for the *Paph. Wellesleyanum* rather than that for *Paph. delenatii* which would be in March. All three of the species involved prefer copious watering in summer but need to dry somewhat between watering in winter. They prefer warm growing conditions and filtered bright light.

Blue: *Paphiopedilum insigne* - Edison Gu

This species from northeastern India and the hilly part of Bangladesh is beautiful in its own right but equally important as the foundational species for our modern complex "Bulldog" hybrids. There are over twenty thousand registered hybrids that have it as part of their ancestry. Though the petals and dorsal sepal are slim and graceful, they carry some of the main color traits that have been passed on to their big round and flat descendants. This particular plant is blooming quite out of season, which peaks in late fall into early winter. When well grown, *Paph. insigne* can become an impressive specimen with two or three dozen blooms and luxuriant foliage. To accomplish this, plants need to stay constantly moist from about March through October when well over 100 inches of rainfall occurs in its natural habitat, followed by a cool dry rest when water should be reduced to once every two or three weeks with occasional early morn-

ing misting. Too much water in winter can easily result in root rot. Bakers recommends lows of 40-45F for about 6 weeks in winter for best blooms, which



Paphiopedilum insigne



Paphiopedilum QF Sukar Honi

could prove tricky for most growers in our area, but if you have a bright spot in on a sunporch with minimal heating or a garage or basement, you might have the right spot for it.

Red: *Paphiopedilum* QF Sukar Honi – Paul Reavis

Red: *Paphiopedilum* Sandy's Prime Lime – Carson Barnes

Blue: *Paphiopedilum* QF Ka'ehukai – Paul Reavis



Paphiopedilum Sandy's Prime Lime

Class 7: Phalaenopsis

Blue: *Phalaenopsis* Jiaho Blueberry x *violacea* forma *indigo* – Danny Lentz & Dianne Morgan

This cross was registered in 2022 as *Phal.* Hsinying Blueberry by Ching Hua Orchids of Taiwan. The genealogy works out to five eighths *Phal. violacea*, one quarter *Phal. equestris* and one eighth *Phal. bellina*. Perhaps the addition of *Phal. equestris* to the mix will lead to more flowers open at once in the future. The color is very nice, and the form remains flat despite the aforementioned species.



Paphiopedilum QF Ka'ehukai

Warm to even "hot" temperatures would suit this cross, with fairly low light levels, good humidity and only slight drying between watering.



Phalaenopsis Jiaho Blueberry x *violacea* forma *indigo*



Rhynchostylis coelestis 'Laurette' AM/AOS



Diaphananche millari

Class 8: Vandaceous Alliance

Blue: *Rhynchostylis coelestis* 'Laurette' AM/AOS – Carson Barnes

This plant is absolutely stunning, with seven densely packed upright inflorescences that shade from white to intense indigo-violet. I imagine that daytime fragrance is equally inspiring. When originally awarded in Tampa in June of 2017, this clone received both an 86-point Award of Merit and a 90-point Certificate of Cultural Excellence with ten inflorescences and approximately 405 flowers. That puts it in the top group of awards for this species, though the two with the highest flower count had at least 1000 blooms. The species grows wild in Thailand, Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam, chiefly in mountainous areas several thousand feet above sea level. The de-

scription mentions that in the city of Chiang Mai, it grows on teak trees lining the streets. To thrive, *Rhy. coelestis* likes bright but diffused light, moderately high humidity and plentiful water mid-spring to early fall, with less the balance of the year accompanied by cooler night temperatures during its winter rest phase. It resents disturbance of its root system, and plants are usually grown in baskets free of media or mounted which means daily watering during hot weather. It is in the ancestry of nearly 800 registered vandaceous hybrids.

Red: *Diaphananche millari* – Danny Lentz & Dianne Morgan

White: *Schoenorchis fragrans* – Danny Lentz & Dianne Morgan



Schoenorchis fragrans



Aerides houlettiana

White: *Aerides houlettiana* – Carson Barnes



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Zygopetalum Debbie De Mello 'Honolulu Baby' AM/AOS

Class 9: Miscellaneous

Blue: *Zygopetalum* Debbie De Mello 'Honolulu Baby' AM/AOS – Karl Harden

The 'Honolulu Baby' form of this orchid is the only awarded variety out of the cross, and is widely available commercially because it is an easy grower and frequent bloomer. It mixes three different species from Brazil that grow in shady damp locations in the mountains, primarily in the southeast region of that country. Grown as a houseplant or in an environment that doesn't exceed 90F, it can flourish and become a showy specimen in just a couple of years, blooming several times annually. Like similar hybrids, the inflorescences normally emerge on developing new growths and flower before that shoot matures. But Z.

Debbie de Mello 'Honolulu Baby' is the only *Zygopetalum* hybrid I have grown that will also sometimes produce an inflorescence from the crown of a growth after it has fully developed, giving you two chances of blooms with each growth cycle. The dark flowers with a white lip heavily patterned in violet purple are also wonderfully fragrant. Probably the most important factor in keeping "Zygo" hybrids happy is to never let them sit dry for even a couple of days. They have *lots* of thick roots, so even in sphagnum moss they will pull the moisture out quickly and may require several waterings per week in bright weather or lower humidity. When stepping up, choose a deeper pot to accommodate those roots and space around the plant for no more than two years' worth of growth.



Spathoglottis plicata hybrid

Red: *Spathoglottis plicata* hybrid – Bailey Santwire