



JANUARY EVENT

Monthly Meeting: 8 p.m. Monday, January 10, 2022

From the comfort of your living room via Zoom!

Fred Clarke: Becoming as 80th Percentile Grower

*Details of the Zoom meeting will be emailed a few days before the meeting
Send pictures of your blooming plants to Danny for show & tell after Fred's talk*

Becoming an 80th Percentile Grower

Ever wonder what the most important requirements are for growing the best orchids?

Learn about the underlying reasons of how and why orchids grow as they do. Then explore the fundamentals and advanced growing techniques to best grow them. Orchid plant culture is explained as you have never heard it before. Learn how to become an 80 percentile grower,

expect to be wowed by this talk!

The presenter will be Fred Clarke of Sunset Valley Orchids. Fred has been growing orchids for 42 years and has been hybridizing for 38 of those years. With over 34 years as a professional grower and manager in the horticultural industry, Fred applies these skills at his orchid nursery, Sunset Valley Orchids, located in San Diego, California.

He is a passionate orchid grower whose curiosity in orchids is broad and varied. Although developing Cattleya hybrids has been his sustaining interest, he is also actively creating new Paphiopedilum and Aussie Dendrobium hybrids plus some others to be named if they work out!

His pioneering work in Catasetum intergeneric hybrids led to the development of several notable hybrids, most recently the grex *Fredclarkeara* After Dark, which produced “the blackest flower ever witnessed”. This grex has received over 100 awards worldwide with nine FCCs and thirty AMs from the AOS judges!

Fred is an Accredited Judge in the Pacific South Judging Region. His plants have received hundreds of quality awards from the American Orchid Society.



One of the *C. Tropical Song* challenge plants that Danny finally bloomed.

AOS Judging

As of now, AOS judging is scheduled for Saturday, January 8, with education starting at 12 noon. All judges have been vaccinated and boosted; however, masks will be in order. If the situation gets worse, Doug Hartong will make an announcement by midweek.

Dues Are Dues!

Happy New Year!

This means that it is time to renew your membership with the Atlanta Orchid Society! Go to the [AtOS web site](#) and click on the Join/Renew button on the front page. (This does not apply to members who joined at the show last November: your membership is valid until the end of 2022.)

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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](#).

Novice Growers for January 2022

Welcome to the new growers that joined the Atlanta Orchid Society at the November Show. I noticed that at least 50% of our newest growers have been growing for less than 3 years. I do remember being in your position minus covid. I had so many questions. My best guess is that you do, too.

I usually touch base with all the new members to be sure you know where to direct your questions and get reliable answers. I am sorry that hasn't been the case since the show.

The purpose of this note is to fill in that gap. I have a small team of members that have offered to help with those questions. Send me your questions at my email, barnettbarbara14@gmail.com. I will forward some of those to other members of the team.

In addition to that, we all need resources at our fingertips. A book, *The American Orchid Society Guide to Orchids and their Culture*, is available at the American Orchid Society Gift Shop. The web site is aos.org. It is full of answers to culture questions and terms.

There are webinars on the AOS web site for growing and other information. How to grow different orchids and all kinds of information for questions you haven't thought of yet and for the AOS members there is The Orchids magazine.

Last but not least, there are the Society's monthly programs. Mark your calendar! The second Monday of the month

In 2022, depending upon the pandemic, we'll have either face-to-face meetings at the Botanical Garden or Zoom meetings. We'll let you know via email what to expect.

Happy New Year and Happy Growing!

B. Barnett



Become an AOS Judge

The American Orchid Society Judging Program is seeking highly motivated orchid enthusiasts to join the judging ranks

Contact us at judges@aos.org

EVENTS CALENDAR

January 2022

8 – AOS monthly judging

10 – Atlanta Orchid Society Monthly Meeting: Fred Clarke (Zoom meeting)

February

12 – AOS monthly judging

14 – Atlanta Orchid Society Monthly Meeting



AOS Show Trophy: Marble Branch Farms



Paph. Fred's Triumph 'MBF' AM/AOS

Judges' Corner

The Atlanta Orchid Society had its first show in almost 2 years, on November 19–21, 2021. The show, which consisted of 141 total entries of which 119 were orchids, was by all indications a success! It was held in Day Hall of the Atlanta Botanical Gardens. On Saturday the 20th, AOS judging was held and a total of 15 plants were pulled for potential awards, 6 were granted. They were:

AOS Show Trophy, 83 points. Exhibitor: Marble Branch Farms

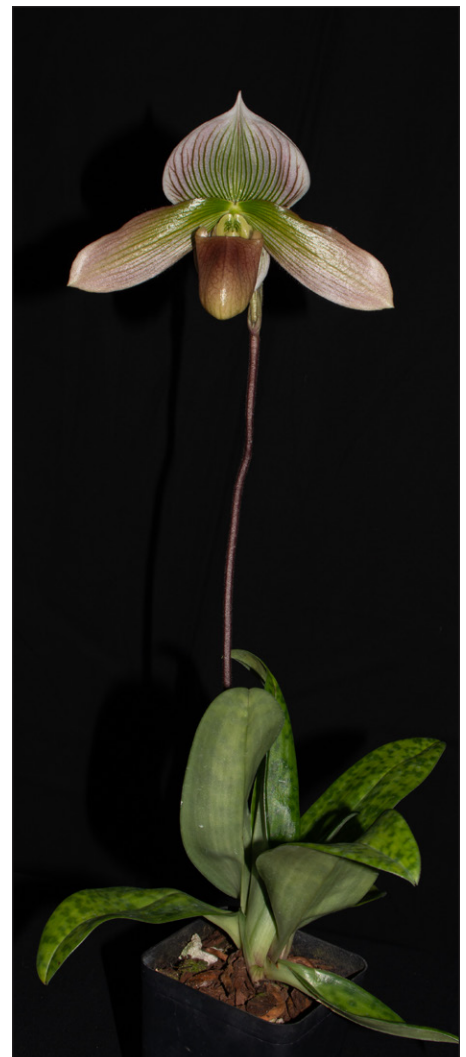
Zygolum Louisendorf grex 'Isabel' (*Zspm. labiosum* x *Zspm. Artur Elle*), AM 87 points. Exhibitors: Firelli Alonso and Jon Crate

Paphiopedilum Fred's Triumph 'MBF' (*Paph. Magically Wood* x *Paph. Magic Fred*), AM 82 points. Exhibitor: Marble Branch Farms

Paphiopedilum Presidential Double 'Pisgah Spirit' (*Paph. Presidential Pops* x *Paph. Presidential Moon*), HCC 77 points. Exhibitor: Owens Orchids



Zygolum Louisendorf grex 'Isabel' AM/AOS



Paph. Presidential Double 'Pisgah Spirit' AM/AOS



Cym. cyperifolium ssp. Indochinense
'Mello Spirit' CHM/AOS



C. walkeriana f. coerulea 'Missy's Blue Poodle' AM/AOS



Nottara Lucy's Sassafras 'Marian Jane' FCC/AOS (Photograph by Charles Wilson)

Cymbidium cyperifolium ssp. Indochinense 'Mello Spirit,' CHM 83 points, a Provisional Award awaiting clearance by SITF. Exhibitor: David Mellard.

Cattleya walkeriana f. coerulea 'Missy's Blue Poodle,' AM 83 points. Exhibitor: Carson Barnes

Pterostylis obtusa 'Tuscarosa Spirit,' CCE 93 points (this plant had previously received a CCM). Exhibitor David Mellard

The Atlanta Judging Center met again on December 11, 2021. Sixteen plants were submitted for judging, and one plant received an award.

Firelli Alonso and Jon Crate received their first FCC for an exceptional specimen of *Nottara Lucy's Sassafras* 'Marian Jane,' which received 91 points! This is the first FCC granted to this hybrid. A complex cross of *Galabstia* Green Tyger x *Zygogardmannia* Dynamite Peru.

We all know how an FCC award is coveted by all exhibitors and how rarely it is granted, at least at our Judging Center. Congratulations to Firelli and Jon.

The Atlanta Judging Center appreciates all monetary donations from its umbrella societies which we provide with judging, both ribbon and AOS. These donations are used for continued operation of the center and pay other expenses during each year. Thank you!

Doug Hartong
Chair, Atlanta Judging Center

(All photography by Jason Mills unless noted otherwise.)



Pterostylis obtusa 'Tuscarosa Spirit' CCE/AOS

Atlanta Orchid Society Monthly Meeting Ribbon Winners for December, 2021

Notes by Mark Reinke; photos by various members of the AtIOS



Brassanthe Maikai 'Spotted Star'

Cattleya Alliance

Blue – *Brassanthe Maikai* 'Spotted Star' – Jon Crate & Fi Alonso

This cross between *Brassavola nodosa* and *Guarianthe bowringiana* was originally registered in 1944, but various named varieties of it have been popular throughout the decades since. The marriage of these two species created an orchid of cast iron constitution that will grow and bloom well even with less-than-ideal care, but will reward extra attention by becoming a spectacular specimen plant in fairly short order. The 'Mayumi,' HCC/AOS form was widely available about 20 years ago. It had a rather small stature and great vigor, and many cultural awards were given to plants bearing hundreds of flowers at once. However, it did have a fault in that the long-lasting blooms faded with age. The 'Louise,' AM/AOS form was also widely available for a while, with wonderful scent, larger growth habits, more intense color with less fading. The 'Spotted Star' form, exhibited by Jon and Fi, is a more recent introduction and it has even bolder markings than the previously mentioned one. I can imagine that once specimen sized, it would likely be considered for an award. This orchid does especially well with basket culture. Quite a few new hybrids have been created using *Bsn.* Maikai, and some of



Leptotes harryphillipsii 'Harry's Mello Spirit' CBR/AOS

them deserve to be remade for their free blooming habits and ease of culture. The most awarded, and most used for additional hybrids, was the cross between it and *C. walkeriana*. This is the infamous *Bct.* Little Mermaid that I wrote about in last month's newsletter because it had been widely circulated for years with tags that carried a typo in the name.

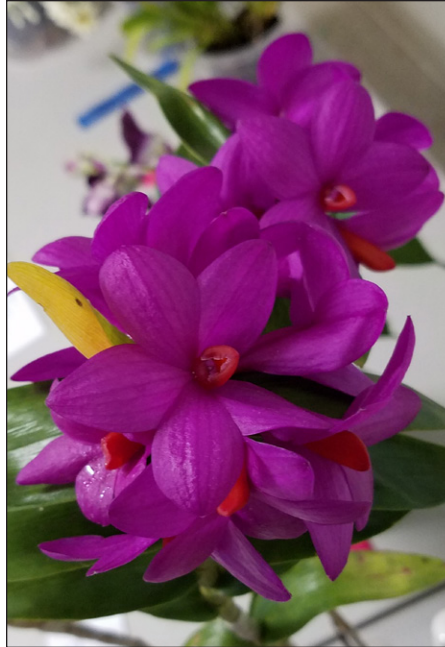
Blue – *Leptotes harryphillipsii* 'Harry's Mello Spirit,' CBR/AOS – David Mellard

According to Orchidwiz, the genus *Leptotes* should be pronounced "Lee-TOH-teez" and that name refers to the slender leaves of the now nine recognized species that occur in Brazil, with two also occurring in neighboring Paraguay. Most of them were overlooked by collectors until recently. This one, named for Harry Phillips of Andy's Orchids was officially described in 2004. It is tiny, but also charmingly beautiful with each inflorescence carrying a single fairly full flower in pale lavender pink with slightly deeper

stripes, and a contrasting fimbriated lip that is white washed with pale yellow in the center. Virtually nothing is written about its specific range except that it is from the southeast part of Brazil. Like other members of the genus, it is best grown mounted, with regular watering, and despite the terete appearance of the foliage, prefers medium or filtered light levels. David mentioned that he has had this plant for at least a decade.

Red – *Rhyncovola David Sander* – Danny Lentz & Dianne Morgan

White – *Cattlianthe Fairyland* – Maria Beug-Deeb

*Rynchovola* David Sander*Callianthe* Fairyland*Dendrobium glomeratum*

Dendrobium Alliance

Blue - *Dendrobium glomeratum* - Véronique Perrot

This beautiful species comes from low elevations in western New Guinea and the Molucca Islands to the west of there. This region is close to the equator, clothed in lush tropical forest and receives 80 to 150 inches of annual rainfall. Rainfall is lower in the winter months, but there is no actual dry season, and the humidity remains high throughout the year. It is sometimes sold as *Den. sulawesienne*. Young plants will produce leafy canes that are upright, but as the plants mature, the weight of the longer canes pulls them down in all directions. If you have limited space, you can stake the stems and they will still flower normally, but some plants will produce stems that exceed three feet in length so headroom will be needed. *Den. glomeratum* is gradually deciduous and only flowers on mature canes that are completely bare. These stems can flower several times a year at random nodes almost anywhere along their length with tight clusters of long-lasting flowers in shades of rose-pink offset by a small orange lip. A good plant such as this one can have color that is truly intense and flowers up to 2 inches across. A well grown older plant can be a truly spectacular sight in flower, but patience will be required as it will take several years of good care to bring a plant

*Dendrobium* Blue Violette x Red Maroon

to this state. Diffused light is best, along with frequent watering and excellent drainage. The roots should never fully dry out between watering, so this orchid is not a good choice for those who want to stick to a once a week schedule. This species, along with others with similar growth and flowering habits such as *Den. goldschmidtianum* and *Den. lawesii*, can be very difficult to re-establish in a new pot, so choose a method and media that will serve the needs of the plant for the long term. Mounting on cork is a great choice if you don't mind watering on every sunny day.

Red - *Dendrobium* Blue Violette x Red Maroon - Fi Alonso & Jon Crate

Epidendrum Alliance

No Entries

*Miltoniopsis Quintals La**Oncidium Irish Mist 'Wintergreen'**Trichocentrum Kuquat 'Horent'*

Oncidium Alliance

Blue – *Miltoniopsis Quintals La* – John Crate & Fi Alonso

This beautiful yellow *Miltoniopsis* with a purple “splat” in its center is a new cross from Quintal Farms on the Big Island of Hawaii. This wholesale orchid nursery is one of the few doing a significant amount of breeding in this group, rather than relying on tissue cultured varieties that have been most common in commerce for the last couple of decades. Instead, this plant is a seedling out of a cross that has produced fairly consistent results among the siblings. Genetically, it is nearly 3/4ths *Mps. roezlii* var. *xanthina*, the yellow variant of the warmest growing of the five recognized *Miltoniopsis* species. The flower form is closer to the wild species than the more refined hybrids we often see. Besides making Pansy Orchids that are somewhat easier to cultivate in our hot summer climate, *Mps. roezlii* also flowers well off and on throughout the year, making for more frequent blooming. It also tends to pass on wonderful fragrance. The lowland rainforests it is native to in Colombia and Panamá are wet year-round and while warm, the high humidity keeps high temperatures mostly in the 80's. So, if growing your plants outside during our summers you may still have to give this one extra attention during heat waves. While many growers use sphagnum moss to produce flowering plants quickly under controlled conditions, I have found a bark mix that is

medium sized and drains more freely will be a better choice in the long run, even if it means watering every couple of days in dry weather. Bright, but diffused light is ideal but easiest to maintain if growing under lights or in a greenhouse.

Red – *Oncidium Irish Mist 'Wintergreen'* – Jon Crate & Fi Alonso

White – *Trichocentrum Kuquat 'Horent'* – Jon Crate & Fi Alonso



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Paph. Oto

Slipper Alliance

Blue – *Paphiopedilum* Oto – Danny Lentz & Dianne Morgan

This slipper orchid is a cross between *Paph.* Winston Churchill, a classic “Bulldog” type that dates to 1951 and the species, *Paph. fairrieianum*. Typically, when that species is used in such pairings, the intention is to imbue some of its charming and quirky character into the results. But in this case, *Paph.* Winston Churchill is so round and full formed that the other parent doesn’t make a lot of headway in influencing the look. Still, Danny & Dianne’s plant gets more of the intended result than almost any other example image I could find for this cross. The spots on the dorsal sepal are more uniform and gathered into parallel lines, and the edges of the two petals more undulating, both traits that come from *Paph. fairrieianum*. The shade of purple, as well, is more indicative of that species. *Paphiopedilum* crosses like this one do very well in intermediate to warm conditions, with diffused light. Modern LED lights are very beneficial in providing bright enough light for improved growth and flowering without adversely affecting the foliage. A mix that has good drainage but doesn’t dry quickly is excellent, such as a mix of medium and small Orchiatra, with or without the addition of some chunky Perlite. Repot into fresh mix before the current media begins to break down, and you can keep a plant like this one growing and blooming for decades.



Paph. spicerianum

Red – *Paphiopedilum* spicerianum – HB

White – *Paphiopedilum* In-Charm Topaz – HB



Paph. In-Charm Topaz

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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.

*Phal. zebrina*

Phalaenopsis Alliance

Blue – *Phalaenopsis zebrina* – Danny Lentz & Dianne Morgan

Danny & Dianne showed this plant back in June of this year and once again it has two beautifully marked flowers. Kew officially recognizes this orchid as *Phal. sumatrana*. It was described under both names in 1860, with *Phal. zebrina* applied to examples with bold markings such as this one. The close-up photo clearly shows the fuzzy, brush like tip of the lip. The range extends from Sumatra, Java and Borneo to the Philippines and to parts of mainland Southeast Asia. It prefers filtered light and warm temperatures year-round. More than 5500 registered hybrids descend from this beauty.

Red – *Phalaenopsis* No ID – Faye Banks

Vandaceous Alliance

No Entries

*Phal.* No ID

Miscellaneous

Blue – *Calanthe Rose Georgene 'Electric Pink,'* HCC/AOS – Jon Crate & Fi Alonso

Apparently, there was some discussion about whether this plant was correctly labeled based on some differences in the shape of the lip compared to the award photo from 2007. But this plant, which I put in our auction a couple of years ago came directly to me from Marilyn LeDoux of Windy Hill Orchids, the person who received the AOS award, as a division of the original plant. The portion of the plant that I kept is blooming with flowers that look more like that award photo. If you look at the genetics of this cross, it is basically half *Cal. rosea*, a species from Burma and Thailand that has a lip that doesn't usually show notches on the sides of the central lobe, and half *Cal. vestita*, a species with a wider range that includes many parts of Indonesia which has a lip divided into distinct lobes. For whatever reason a hint of that lobing is coming through in this flowering of the plant. I have observed that environmental conditions can drastically affect the form and even the color of the blossoms on different flowerings of the same plant, so I don't find this situation puzzling. I will never forget my disappointment when I flowered a young mericlone plant of the celebrated *Rlc. Goldenzelle 'Lemon Chiffon,'* AM/AOS for the first time. The form was quite poor and looked nothing like the glorious full, flat flowers in the award photos. Since then, the same plant has gone on to produce blooms that lived up to the quality expected of

*Calanthe* Rose Georgene 'Electric Pink'
HCC/AOS

this variety, but even as a fully mature plant, in some years the flowers fall short with petals that reflex along their midline, spoiling the look. Why? I can only chalk it up to environmental conditions and the quirks of genetics. I could give numerous other examples including a seedling of *Rlc. Carolina Splendor* that is flowering for me right now. In this case, the first flowering last year showed impressive ruby red blooms of perfect exhibition form, whereas the blooms on the same plant right now are all flouncy and poorly shaped. And so, I am sure that type of phenomenon accounts for the differences here. This plant is one of the deciduous *Calanthe* that should be only sparingly watered after flowering until new growth is underway. It would appreciate a richer mix as appropriate for a terrestrial orchid, with medium light levels and warm conditions year-round.