

September 2018

Next Meeting  
**September 13**

**6:30 PM**

Christ United  
Methodist Church  
6101 Grelot Road  
Room 206



# Mobile Area Orchid Society Newsletter

*Affiliated with the  
American Orchid Society  
since 1950*

"You can get off alcohol, drugs, women, food and cars, but once you're hooked on orchids you're finished. You never get off orchids ... never."

- Joe Kunisch, Commercial Orchid Grower, Rochester, New York

**August Blooms**  
Grown by Joe Paine  
Photos Tink Wilkinson



Cattlianthe Bactia 'Grape Wax',



Brassolaeliocattleya Toshie  
Aoki 'Pizzaz'

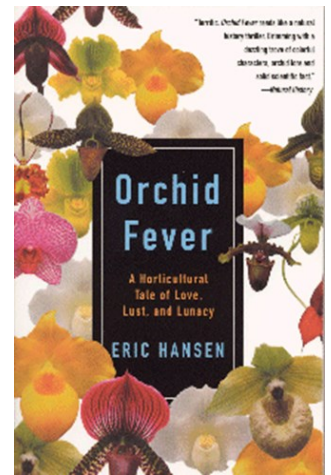


Epicattleya Siam Jade  
'AVO'

In 1993 Eric Hansen led an expedition to the steaming jungles of Borneo to find the world's rarest orchid. Seven years later he was still on the trail of the true story behind one of nature's strangest plants and humanity's greatest obsessions.

*Orchid Fever* is a seductive journey into the mesmerizing world of orchids. From the Orinoco River to the hothouses of Kew, and from the clandestine nurseries of Europe to the peat bogs of northern Minnesota, this is a tale of luscious, sexy flowers, orchid smugglers, fist fighting botanists, moths with twelve inch-long tongues, murder, corruption, and government officials who raid orchid nurseries with attack dogs and automatic weapons. Strange tales of insect pollinator fidelity and the orchid ice cream makers of Eastern Turkey, are blended with haunting stories about a wide range of gentle people whose passion in life is the creation of scented, fragile flowers.

Eric Hansen spent seven years exploring the far corners of the earth - marveling at flowers of uncommon beauty, studying the history of the orchid trade, and grappling with the vicious, bizarre, and petty world of plant



politics that sometimes makes it impossible to protect endangered species of orchids. Hansen brings to life colorful flowers and the even more colorful people who are attracted to them, as he illuminates a funny, wierd, and poignant world of horticultural passion and pathos.

## AOS Events

**Webinar Greenhouse Chat Ron McHatten All**  
Tuesday, September 18th, 2018 8:30 PM - 9:30 PM EDT

**Webinar Judging the Oncidiinae Members Only**  
Tuesday, September 18th, 2018 8:30 PM - 9:30 PM EDT

**Birmingham Orchid Society's Show & Sale**  
September 21-23 Birmingham Botanical Gardens  
2612 Lane Park Road, Birmingham, AL. **No AOS judging.**  
[bvonderpool@yahoo.com](mailto:bvonderpool@yahoo.com)

**Atlanta Judging Center September 8 October 13**  
Atlanta Judging Center will hold monthly judging on the second Saturday of the month at the Atlanta Botanical Gardens, 2:00 PM, 1345 Piedmont St. NE, Atlanta, GA

**Webinar Orchidata Bark Garry Clark All**  
Tuesday, October 9th, 2018 8:30 PM - 9:30 PM EDT  
8:30 PM - 9:30 PM EDT



**September**  
**10<sup>th</sup> Charles & Judy Rush**  
**12<sup>th</sup> Jason Parmer**  
**24<sup>th</sup> Joe Paine**  
**26<sup>th</sup> Grady Holt**

**Program this month—**

Monthly Checklists  
and Air Movement

**A model of  
courage — and  
though I will truly  
miss him, I am so  
thankful he is no  
longer suffering,  
Aileen Garrison, AJC**

more  
**August Blooms**



Laelia anceps 'White  
Magic' x Florence Lin



Potinara Walnita Char  
Plum Red



Laeliocattleya  
Lisyte Sentiasa

**Remembering Dr. Jim Newsome**

October 28, 1955— July 12, 2018

by David Mellard

Atlanta Orchid Society



While many people called him Dr. Newsome, I knew him as Jim, Jimbo, and Bubba, and he knew me as David and Goober. Sometimes for fun, we'd switch our nicknames for each other. We met 20 years ago at an orchid auction in Cullman, Alabama, and became fast friends because of our interest in plants and, in particular, orchids. A few years later, we joined the AOS judging program together in 2002. One of our favorite things was to share a bottle of wine while studying for the judging program. I like looking for those good but cheap (less than \$10 at the time) wines so brought my bottle of Glen Ellen cabernet from Kroger. As you can imagine, it was just so -so. But then Jimbo said, —Wait, I'll be back in a minute. He returned with an \$800 French Bordeaux he had in storage. I thought...this is the start of a beautiful friendship. Jim helped me sometimes with repotting and always left with a tray of orchids made up of cuttings, backbulbs, or pieces that came off the plant. I asked him once if the pieces actually came apart naturally or did he tug on them. He smiled.

You'd think Jim would breeze through the orchid judging program but it actually took him a little bit longer to finish because of his health issues, plus he didn't like writing reports. He became a solid orchid judge, regularly attending monthly judging at the Atlanta Botanical Garden. Even when his MS had progressed to the point where he was wheelchair bound, this didn't stop him. Now that I look back, that was an amazing accomplishment to maintain his independence and to continue to pursue his love of orchids.

Jim will be remembered as a gracious, generous man who was a life-long learner. *Birmingham News*

**September—Transition Time**

We are already seeing a bit of temperature moderation at our house with tropical storm rains and accompanying cloud cover. No doubt the orchids are as grateful as I for the drop! If you see a growth spurt, in your plants, resist the urge to fertilize heavily. Some growers stop fertilizing altogether about this time, others switch to a lighter strength, some add a bloom booster. The shortening days are making spring bloomers ready for their show! The cool nights encourage plants to set spikes (I already have one Phal with a very short spike!)

As September moves into October, watch projected nighttime temps closely to assure that your plants are moved inside before damage occurs. Warm growers don't like temps much lower than 65 at night while others, can tolerate temps near freezing.

If you are a new grower, now is a great time to check the temperature ranges the orchids you are growing prefer so you can make their winter spaces ready in advance.

Before you bring plants inside do your best to find and remove critters hiding deep in your plants. Inevitably I bring in several



bugs similar to this picture that typically make large holes in some of my plants by spring. They are rightly called

Leaf-footed bugs—*Leptoglossus* varieties. They smell like stink bugs and they fly like them but with an even harder shell. Pick and smash are the best controls I know, otherwise they will be quite large by spring as the plant damage will show.