

SLIPPER ORCHIDS

The Slipper Orchid Alliance Journal



Paphiopedilum thaianum - Painting by Ole Hamilton

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PAPHIOPEDILUM THAIANUM AND ITS FIRST HYBRIDS

by Olaf Gruss

Geographical distribution

South Thailand, Phang Nga, in wet tropical rain forest at the south end of the Phuket mountain range.

Habitat

The plants grow in primary wet tropical rain forest on very steep slopes and cliffs composed of highly eroded limestone at elevations of 1148-1476 feet (350-450 m). The plants can be found in 3/4 inch (2 cm) thick layers of humus on top of limestone on northeast- or northwest-facing slopes. Their site is very wet, but the drainage is very good. Between shrubs on the northeast-facing side, they are exposed to partial sunlight in the morning.

Climate

Summer rain; annual rainfall 102-118 inches (2600-3000

mm). Mean annual relative humidity 80%, often up to 98%. Mean annual maximum temperature 87°F (30.6°C); mean annual minimum temperature 71°F (21.6°C). The wind blows all day and night, giving very good air movement. Typically the weather is cloudy with showers several times a day.

May - August: Southwest monsoon with tropical rainfall

August - November: less rainfall

December: cooler and dryer air from Northeast

January - April: higher temperatures but low rainfall

Temperature

Summer: during the day 89.6°F (32°C); during the night around 68°F (20°C)

Winter: during the day 78.8°F (26°C); during the night around 64.4°F (18°C)



Paphiopedilum thaianum

History

In 2005, Prapanth Iawiriyakul found a pretty little *Paphiopedilum* during the hottest time of the year in Thailand. At first its pouch made him think that it might belong in *Paphiopedilum* subg. *Parvisepalum* Karasawa & Saito. But when he considered all parts of the flower and leaves, he decided that it belonged in the subgenus *Brachypetalum* (Hallier) Pfitzer, resembling a dwarf form of *Paph. niveum* (Rchb.f.) Stein. When he compared these two closely related species, he found that they differed by

numerous characteristics: the size of leaves and flowers, especially the width of the passage between the pouch and column which indicates pollinator selection; the pattern of spots both on the sepals and petals and especially on the inner side of the pouch; the staminode, which was green in the center and very broadly or transversely obovate; and the inflated, more or less spherical, thin textured pouch.



Paphiopedilum thaianum
A newly collected plant



Paphiopedilum thaianum Close-up of buds



Paphiopedilum thaianum in the jungle habitat of Phang-Nga
Photo: Udom Rawiwan

Iawiryakul thought that the plants would be more difficult to cultivate than *Paph. niveum*.

Before and sometime later some of these plants came into the trade and appeared in Europe, USA, Taiwan and Japan under the name “dwarf” *Paph. niveum*.

Description

In 2006, Prapanth Iawiriyakul published a description in the *Orchid Review* 114: 278; 2006, and named the new species *Paphiopedilum thaianum*. The following gives a good picture of this smallest *Paphiopedilum* and is based on his description:

Lithophytic or terrestrial plant with 3-5 distichous leaves. **Leaves:** narrowly elliptic to strap-shaped, rounded and minutely tridentate at apex, 3.5-9.5 cm long, 1-2.4 cm wide, the upper surface with contrasting tessellation of very dark and pale green, the lower heavily spotted with purple, the basal margin ciliate. **Inflorescence:** one or rarely two flowers, 6-17 cm long (23 cm when there are two flowers); **peduncle:** 4-15 cm long, 1.5-1.8 mm in diameter, purple, with short and dense white pubescence; **bract:** conduplicate, ovate, obtuse, 6.9-8 mm long, 3.5-3.9 mm wide, pale green, spotted purple. **Flowers:** 3.3-4.2 cm in diameter, pubescent on outside and at base of petals; white, sparsely dotted with purple toward base of segments and on the front of the pouch, with purple spots 1 mm in diameter at the rear of the inner side of pouch; **staminode:** a green to yellowish-green center. **Ovary:** 3.5-5.6 cm long, green flushed with dark purple, dense and short pubescence. **Dorsal sepal:** very broadly ovate to round, obtuse, 17-21 x 18-22 mm. **Synsepal:** concave, ovate, obtuse, 13-18 x 8-16 mm. **Petals:** elliptic, rounded, 22-26 x 14-15 mm, short cilia on margins. **Pouch:** ovoid with incurved margins and auricle-like side lobes, inflated, membranous, 20-21 x 10-14 mm. **Staminode:** very broadly or transversely obovate, 1- or 3-toothed at apex, 5.5-7.7 x 7.2-8.3 mm; width of the passages between the pouch and column 1.5-1.6 mm. **Pollen masses:** viscid.

In discussing the habitat, the author said that on the southeast-facing side not farther than 10 meters (32.8 feet) from the cliff with *Paph. thaianum* he saw *Paph. exul* (Ridl.) Rolfe in bud growing along with *Paph. godefroyae* var. *leucochilum* (Rolfe)

Hallier f. in flower. There is no report of any natural hybrids among these three species, a fact that demonstrates mechanisms of isolation or speciation. *Paph. thaianum* may use both ethological isolation by the color and pattern of spots to attract a specific pollinator, and mechanical isolation by selecting a smaller pollinator because of the width of the exit from the pouch. If *Paph. thaianum* grew alongside *Paph. niveum*, the smaller pollinator exit might prevent it from hybridizing with *Paph. niveum*. However, these two are also separated by geographical isolation.

A short time after the description was published, plants were exported by the name *Paph. niveum* var. *thaianum*. The author



Two clones of *Paphiopedilum thaianum* (below)
Paphiopedilum niveum (for comparison - above)



Albino form of *Paphiopedilum thaianum*

Different forms of the staminode are known.



Paphiopedilum thaianum 'Wössen'



Paphiopedilum thaianum 'Alex'



Paphiopedilum thaianum 'Fallerleben'



Paphiopedilum thaianum 'Fallerleben'
Close-up of the staminode



Paphiopedilum thaianum 'Achentel'



Paphiopedilum thaianum 'Achentel'
Close-up of the staminode

Different forms of the staminode are known.



Paphiopedilum thaianum 'Franz'



Paphiopedilum thaianum 'Franz'
Close-up of the staminode

wrote that *Paph. thaianum* "is certainly threatened in the wild, possibly on the brink of extinction if there is no conservation effort." A short time after the discovery artificial propagation was initiated by nurseries in Thailand and Europe. It is hoped that the production of seedlings can stop the plundering of the habitat and that it will be possible to find this extraordinary species in the wild.

Etymology

thaianum = from Thailand

Variability

The species varies in the shape and the dimensions of the flowers.

Possibilities of misidentification

It differs clearly from the closely related *Paph. niveum* by the smaller size of plant and flower; by the very broadly or transversely obovate staminode with a green center; and the inflated, globose, thin-textured pouch with 1mm in diameter purple spots at the rear of the interior.



Paphiopedilum thaianum 'Maria'
A plant without any red spots was found.

Special culture

The plants are more difficult in culture than *Paph. niveum*. They need a lot of fresh moving air.

Flowering period

April - May, depending upon the culture; earlier may be possible.

Hybridization

Breeding experiments with this attractive dwarf species hold exciting prospects for growers, with the aim of producing small plants with attractive flowers that will be appropriate for windowsill culture. The first hybrid partners were mostly representatives of the Section *Brachypetalum* and their hybrids, because by their close relationship they promised viable seeds and vigorous seedlings. The breeders also expect good results of hybrids using representatives of the sections *Parvisepalum*, such as *emersonii*, as well as the small-growing relatives of *Paph. barbigerum*.

The first crosses to bloom were with representatives of section *Brachypetalum*. They were produced in Taiwan, and flasks and seedlings were exported to Singapore. On February 16, 2012, N. Lai from Singapore registered the first such hybrids: the cross with *Paph. godefroyae* was registered as *Paph. Nathaniel's Spectra* and with *Paph. niveum* as *Paph. Nathaniel's Clarity*. The former cross



Paphiopedilum Nathaniel's Spectra
(*godefroyae* x *thaianum* 'Nathaniel's')
Photo: Don N. Lai



Paphiopedilum Nathaniel's Clarity
(*niveum* x *thaianum* 'Fatmama')
Photo: Don N. Lai

clearly showed the flower shape of the partner but with reduction in the blossom size. The latter was similar in form to the recently discovered natural species; however, the size of the flower was between the two parents.

On April 19, 2012, Hung Sheng Orchids in Taiwan registered the cross with *Paph. bellatulum* as *Paph. Hung Sheng Thaianum*. The first plant to bloom showed a very appealing flower with dots, which remind us of the other parent used in the cross. The size of the flower was between the two parents.



Paphiopedilum Hung Sheng Thaianum
(*bellatulum* x *thaianum*)
Photo: Hung Sheng Orchids, 2012

On May 31, 2012, Don N. Lai registered the first cross with a hybrid. The cross with *Paph. Lalita* (*godefroyae* x *Greyi*) was registered as *Paph. Nathaniel's White Knight*. The same breeder in Singapore registered a cross with *Paph. hangianum* as *Paph. Nathaniel's Madame Bella*.



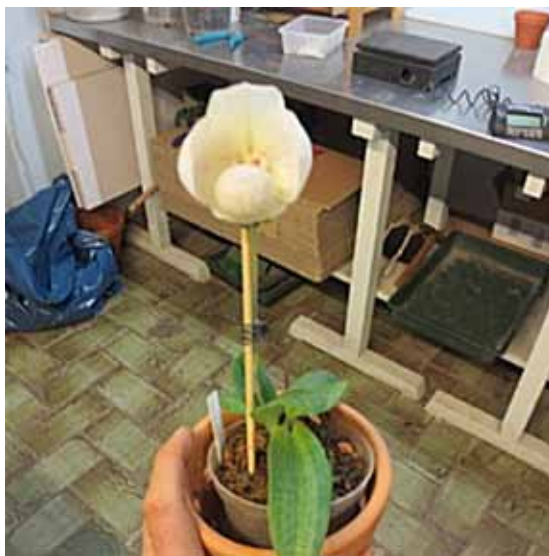
Paphiopedilum Nathaniel's White Knight
(*Lalita* x *thaianum* 'Fatmama')
Photo: Don N. Lai



Paphiopedilum Nathaniel's Madame Bella
(*thaianum* x *hangianum*)
Photo: Don N. Lai



Paphiopedilum n.r. (Pinocchio x *thaianum*)



Paphiopedilum n.r. (*emersonii* x *thaianum*)
Photo: Alexej Popov

Although a cross with *Paph.* Pinocchio flourished in the greenhouse of Giselher Creamer in Berchtesgaden, Germany in 2014, so far he has not registered the hybrid. The first plant of a cross with *Paph. emersonii* blossomed, but unfortunately the flower opened incomplete. It is to be seen how flowers of other plants of this cross will develop. In 2013, a plant appeared in trade in Thailand that might be a natural hybrid of *Paph. thaianum* with *Paph. godefroyae* forma *leucochilum*. If it is really a cross created in nature, investigations on other plants in the future will be appropriate.



Paphiopedilum n.r.
(*godefroyae* f. *leucochilum* x *thaianum*)
Photo: Alexej Popov

In October 2014, the cross with *Paph. fairrieianum* was bloomed by Alexej Popov in Wolfsburg-Fallersleben in Germany. He named it after his girlfriend as *Paph. Tawan*. The cross is desirable because of its compact growth and a respectable flower in white base color with red markings; it is a really optimal plant in its size for windowsill culture. In November 2014, when a cross with *Paph. malipoense* created by Franz Glanz in Unterwössen, Bavaria bloomed, it was very similar in its appearance to the corresponding cross with *Paph. niveum*, namely *Paph. Wössner Jade* registered in 1991 by the same breeder. In honor of this cross he named this new hybrid *Paph. Wössner Zwerg-Jade*. It will be interesting when the first crosses with the species of the section *Parvisepalum* come into bloom, because hybrids with *Paph. delenatii*, *Paph. micranthum* and *Paph. armeniacum* hold great potential.



Paphiopedilum Tawan
(*thaianum* x *fairrieatum*)
Photo: Alexej Popow



Paphiopedilum Wössner Zwerg-Jade
(*malipoense* x *thaianum*)

Acknowledgement

I would like to thank Judith Rapacz-Hasler for the German to English translation.

Biography

Olaf Gruss is internationally recognized for his work with *Paphiopedilums*, *Phragmipediums* and *Phalaenopsis*. He has written books about the genus *Phalaenopsis* and the albino forms of the genus *Paphiopedilum*, as well as a booklet about the genus *Phragmipedium*. Only a few months ago, his latest book on Latin-American Lady-Slippers appeared, with an extensive picture collection. He has been a member of the editorial board of the Journal of the German Orchid Society, *Die Orchidee*. Gruss resides in Germany and lectures throughout Europe, Japan, Taiwan, China and the U.S.

Olaf Gruss
In der Au 48
D-83224 Grassau, Germany
E-mail: a-o.gruss@t-online.de

All photos are by Olaf Gruss, except where noted.



Paphiopedilum Wössner Zwerg-Jade
(*malipoense* x *thaianum*)

WHAT DOES THAT ORCHID LOOK LIKE?

by Jean Allen-Ikeson

I like tools if they make my life easier. In the age of techno tools, Bob Betts of Blenheim, Ontario, Canada has been working on improving a great orchid tool for serious growers and beginners alike for over twenty years. You may have used it without really knowing who was behind it.

The Images button on *OrchidWiz* takes you to Bob's database of published orchid images that now numbers in excess of 290,000 references from over 5700 sources. He has indexed color photos, black-and-white photos and drawings. *OrchidWiz* provides a streamlined version that allows you to search for species, registered hybrids and their clones using the orchid name.

The full database is free on the London (Ontario, Canada) Orchid Society (LOS) site at <http://los.lon.imag.net/picref.asp>. You can search by plant name or part of the name or by publication or even what has been recently added. Each search has its merits. The LOS site is updated more frequently while *OrchidWiz* updates yearly.

Now why would you want to bother? Part of the answer is how Bob got started in the first place. His wife, Judi asked him what a particular flower looked like and why was there not a way to find a picture of it. Bob's logical programmer mind went to work designing a database to do just that: allow anyone to locate pictures of something they might be able to purchase and grow. Because Bob is a generous guy, he also thought the London Orchid Society might benefit as well. In the end, this ultimate volunteer's dedication has benefited all of us in the orchid world.

His original source material was his own library and the LOS library. A few people have contributed references to enrich the database including, early on, such people as Jose Izquierdo. More recently, Ed Cott, a probationary judge in the Great Lakes Judging Center, and I have hauled my relatively large library of books and journals back and forth a carload at a time to Bob to add more depth to the database. There are still a few recent books and a couple of boxes of catalogues to take to him.

Peggy Alrich has also shared her database with Bob, and he is still working on incorporating thousands of additional references from it. Peggy and Bob have like minds: she has written an *Orchids on Stamps Checklist* and co-authored *The Illustrated Dictionary of Orchid Genera* with Wesley Higgins at Selby Botanical Gardens.



Bob Betts at his computer

So what can you do with the database? If you want to buy a particular plant and want to know what it looks like, it is a great place to start. Bob also includes unregistered crosses on the LOS website along with varieties, forms and clonal names. If you want to know if he has indexed a particular publication such as a journal, there is a way of doing that as well by looking at the Sources List on the website.

While the list of journals is extensive, how about helping him out by filling in some of the missing issues. Besides the *AOS Bulletin*, *Orchids*, and *Orchid Digest*, *The Orchid Review*, the Cymbidium Society of America journals with various names that changed over the years and the *Australian Orchid Review* have fairly deep representation, at least for the last twenty-five or thirty years. Many issues back to the 1950s and 1960s have been indexed.

If you are interested in research, a student or probationary judge writing papers or a vendor putting together a PowerPoint presentation, there is a shortcut to finding articles on your subject. Use the "picture search by book name" menu. Type in *Orchid Digest* or any other publication and it will give you a list of all orchids represented in the issues that have been indexed. They appear alphabetically so it is not that difficult to scroll down to *Paphiopedium sukhakulii* to find references. Yes, these are just pictures, *but* if you find a number of references to various clones in the same issue, there is a good chance that there is an article in that particular issue. Doing a title search using the *Orchid Digest* website gives you only an alphabetical listing of titles. If the title does not contain the species or hybrid name for which you are searching in the first words, you are out of

luck. There is no subject index. Alas! It would be wonderful if a Bob Betts, Bob Hamilton (*When Does it Bloom, The Orchid Doctor*), Peggy Webster (*The Orchid Genus Book*) or Jay Pfahl (orchidspecies.com) clone would create such an index.

Bob's Orchid Picture Query gives us another tool to enrich our search efforts for a range of clones, unregistered hybrids when you want to know how a particular species or hybrid breeds (not all hybrids are registered by any means) or at least a more complete range of hybridizing or color variety results.

Bob is an unpaid volunteer. Like any good volunteer, he has never attached a price to his work. But the rest of us value it like a bench of highly awarded orchids. Thank you Bob and Judi and all the other volunteers that make our hobby so rich.



Bob and Judi Betts in their lovely garden in Blenheim, Ontario, Canada

Biography

Jean Allen-Ikeson lives in Dundas, Ontario, Canada and grows orchids in a greenhouse. She is an accredited American Orchid Society judge and the author of a number of orchid-related articles, including the 2011 special issue of *Orchids* on *Sarcochilus*.

E-mail: Jean Allen-Ikeson; jean.ikeson@gmail.com

E-mail: Bob Betts; rbetts@ca.inter.net

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username = Newsletter
password = paphs

INTERNATIONAL SLIPPER SYMPOSIUM, OCTOBER 31, 2015 ORLANDO, FLORIDA

The 17th International Slipper Orchid Symposium will return with its traditional format Saturday, October 31, 2015 (Halloween) at the Sheraton Orlando North, 600 N. Lake Destiny Rd., Maitland, FL 32751. This new venue just outside Orlando proved very popular in 2014 when a larger facility was required to accommodate the combined International Slipper Symposium and American Orchid Society Fall Members' Meetings. Based on that experience, the Sheraton Orlando North has been adopted as the new home of the International Slipper Orchid Symposium, much to the delight of many perennial attendees. Room rates and booking information will be available on the website.

The \$85 full registration grants access to all lectures, vendor sales and lunch during the day on Saturday. Speakers and vendors include Olaf Gruss, Franz Glanz of Wössner Orchideen and Alexej Popow of Popow Orchids. See website for topics and speaker background information. Additional vendors have yet to be announced. Also included with registration are a BBQ dinner and plant auction at Krull-Smith on Saturday evening. Symposium attendees are invited to an Open House at Krull-Smith the following morning – Sunday, November 1 – for light refreshments and one last chance to acquire more orchids before departing. For registration and accommodation information, please visit <http://www.slippersymposium.com>. There is also a Facebook page accessible from that site.

60th PAPHIOPEDILUM GUILD MEETING

The 60th Paphiopedilum Guild Meeting will be held on January 16-17, 2016 at the Hyatt Santa Barbara Hotel, 1111 E. Cabrillo Blvd., Santa Barbara, California. It will feature Paphs and Phrags on display, orchid sales, dinner and auction. Speakers will be Olaf Gruss (Germany), Richard Henson (Seattle), Harold Koopowitz (California), John Chant (Orchid Zone) and Mary Garritson (California). Karen Muir will report on the latest Paph and Phrag AOS awards. Show and sales setup starts at 8:00 am Saturday, and lectures begin at 9:00 am. There will be awards for best species and best hybrid.

Tickets are \$95 and may be ordered online at www.orchid-digest.org with the Orchid Digest shopping cart, or you may download the registration form and send it to Orchid Digest, POB 6966, Laguna Niguel, CA 92677. Please see the website for hotel suggestions and agenda. There will be a Friday night "Meet and Greet" with details and price to be determined.

A LIVING MUSEUM OF SLIPPER ORCHIDS IN PITTSBURGH, PA

by Norma Raiff and Demetria Marsh¹

As a slipper lover, have you ever wanted to see or hybridize with such famous *Paphiopedilum* “stars” as *Paph.* F. C. Puddle ‘Bodnant’ AM/AOS, *P.* Orchilla ‘Chilton’ FCC/AOS, or *P.* Winston Churchill ‘Redoubtable’ FCC/AOS . . . the genetic building blocks and classic beauties that are the basis of current slipper breeding? Have you wondered, do these plants still exist . . . and just where could you see them?

Several years ago the Orchid Society of Western Pennsylvania (OSWP) and the renowned Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens in Pittsburgh created an innovative and exciting joint venture named Phipps-Orchid Society Initiative (P-OSI) that was intended to support Phipps’ mission of conservation, research and public enjoyment. P-OSI’s unique contribution would be to systematically identify and subsequently help Phipps to acquire historically significant slipper orchid hybrids and species that were not in the existing collection. A second objective was to develop an OSWP working corps of volunteers that would provide Phipps with regularly scheduled hands-on effort and access to OSWP’s knowledge and networking resources. The benefits went both ways: besides helping to maintain an important and exquisite orchid collection, P-OSI energized many OSWP members with a renewed sense of purpose and excitement.

Phipps (founded 1893) and the OSWP (founded 1954) have often worked together informally since the society’s beginning. In 2011, a surge of interest within both organizations led to a series of meetings during which both leaderships came to the conclusion that the cooperation should be formalized through a joint memorandum of understanding and formal organizational approvals.

P-OSI was officially launched in spring, 2011. Because the main thrust was to systematically develop and to upgrade Phipps’ entire orchid collection, P-OSI teams spent that summer completing an inventory and tagging plants. This was a seriously needed initial step and helped to identify gaps and to evaluate unnecessary redundancies in the existing collection.

A project milestone occurred in 2012 when the Conservatory graciously acknowledged OSWP’s dedicated service by granting the society the honor of naming the Phipps’ Slipper Orchid Collection. Now known as the Barbara Tisherman Slipper Orchid Collection at Phipps Conservatory and

Botanical Gardens (BTSOC), the name was selected by the OSWP to honor its long-standing member and past president Barbara Tisherman for her years of local, national, and international service with the OSWP, American Orchid Society and Slipper Orchid Alliance, of which she is the founder and president.

Beyond OSWP’s hands-on work to tag, bag and inventory the collection, a second, and more focused P-OSI purpose emerged - systematic collection upgrade. Based on members’ personal interests, we asked: “Which of the myriads of paphiopedilums *should* Phipps try to acquire?” This formidable task was strategically approached through the development of an international survey that asked paph experts to rate the top historical paph hybrids, decade by decade, from 1869-2000. Sixteen experts contributed to the initial list. (See *Slipper Orchids* Volume Fourteen, Number 2, Summer 2013, “SELECTING SLIPPERS: Results of the P-OSI Historic Paphiopedilum Hybrids Survey” and “HISTORIC PAPHIOPEDILUM HYBRIDS SURVEY SUMMARY,” and also Top Picks Summary at www.oswp.org.)

To honor Barbara Tisherman and to raise funds and project awareness, the OSWP and Phipps hosted the Super Slipper Celebration in October, 2013. This well-attended and exciting event included expert speakers, slipper sales, Phipps tours and a gala. A carry-over session on the following day continued to thank OSWP members for their service and included great lessons from the panel of expert speakers. The Celebration profits enabled the OSWP to donate a substantial sum to the BTSOC for the purpose of beginning to acquire the Top Picks historical paphs and significant species. Besides helping to build a necessary inventory, these funds were meant to encourage other potential monetary and/or plant donations.

During the same period, Phipps’ reputation as “the place of the slippers” began to be more widely recognized in the conservatory community. One milestone achievement was that the North American Plant Collections Consortium accredited Phipps as a Slipper Orchid Repository, following an onsite visit and rigorous application process. This honor also helps to build the case for the value of selecting Phipps over competing candidate beneficiaries. And we have also learned that assurances of OSWP’s continuing involvement with P-OSI as a guarantor of on-going care and effort have played a role in both the Consortium’s accreditation and decisions by other slipper collectors to donate noteworthy plants.

In 2014, OSWP members began to contact known paph growers in search of the specific species, hybrids, and

¹An earlier version of this paper appeared in the *Orchid Digest*, Vol. 79-3, 2015.

clones to acquire through donation or purchase. Ongoing outreach has taken many tactics: repeated dissemination of the updated Paph Wish List, continuing word-of-mouth and written appeals, and systematic networking within the slipper world's specialty sites such as the Paphiopedilum Forum (an annual meeting in Washington, D.C.), and publicity through the Slipper Orchid Alliance.

So has P-OSI made a difference? An easy benchmark is that *Paph. F. C. Puddle* 'Bodnant,' *P. Orchilla* 'Chilton' FCC/AOS, *P. Winston Churchill* 'Redoubtable' FCC/AOS (mentioned in this article's introductory question) and many other "stars" are now in Phipps' collection.

The Conservatory has also acquired 35% of the designated *Paphiopedilum* species and historical hybrids, and the collection continues to expand. (See Paph Wish List at www.oswp.org.) A few highlights showing how generously slipper enthusiasts have helped demonstrate the BTSOC's growing reputation as a world-class slipper repository. Several months ago the BTSOC received two highly-awarded paphs – *Paph. Sierra Sunset* 'Woodstream' FCC/AOS from Bill Goldner (Woodstream Orchids) and *Paph. Ron Sims* 'Ursa Major' FCC/AOS from Ryan Kowalczyk: remarkably, these hybrids were too new to be included in the survey and represent welcome additions above and beyond our original wish list. Tim Culbertson and Charlie Wilkins were also extremely magnanimous in donating a large number of fantastic slippers from their extensive and valuable collections. The most recent outstanding paph contributions were many plants from the Pat Rowland collection and from John Chant (Orchid Zone). Many of our contacts and donors are also promoting the cause to others, expanding our initial outreach by functioning as P-OSI ambassadors.

Looking forward: P-OSI's continuing efforts to enhance the *Paphiopedilum* collection will be joined in the near future by parallel attempts to grow the *Phragmipedium* collection. Scheduled to begin in fall, 2015, P-OSI will develop a second-stage phrag-focused outreach that will continue our original strategy: researching, writing and distributing a questionnaire to phrag experts, asking them to identify the "most important" historical phrag hybrids; and then working to acquire these recommended plants and species. Finally, when the paph and phrag collections have been substantially expanded, P-OSI will turn to building Phipps' *Cypripedium* collection through the same successful process.

At a future date a *Mexipedium xerophyticum* will be added to the collection. Members of the fifth genus in the slipper orchid alliance, *Selenipedium*, however, have had less success in cultivation, and a venture into that area will be further into the future.

The OSWP members, led by Georgia Wahl, Phipps display horticulturist who cares for the orchids, and Ben Dunigan, Phipps curator of horticulture, are working diligently to ensure that the slipper collection is maintained and given the best culture possible. As evidence of achievement, Phipps can point to the many ribbons won at OSWP shows, a trophy for best culture of a paphiopedilum at a Paphiopedilum Forum, and two awarded paphs: *Paph. Golden Crest* 'Phipps Finest' HCC/AOS, March 2012 and *Paph. gratrixianum* 'Phipps Best' CCM/AOS, March 2015.

Please help to build the Living Museum of Slipper Orchids at Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens. If you own a slipper orchid or orchids that you are interested in donating or selling to the BTSOC, or if you would like to contribute to the BTSOC endowment at Phipps, please contact Ben Dunigan, curator of horticulture, at 412-622-6915, ext. 6622 or bdunigan@phipps.conservatory.org. All contributions are tax deductible.

For more information:

Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens

www.phipps.conservatory.org

Orchid Society of Western Pennsylvania

www.oswp.org

North American Plant Collections Consortium

www.publicgardens.org/napcc



Paphiopedilum gratrixianum 'Phipps Best' CCM/AOS
Owner: Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens
Photo: James Yamber

NEWS FROM THE SPRING AOS MEMBERS' MEETING IN PORTLAND, OREGON

by Lois Dauelsberg

This spring's American Orchid Society Members' Meeting and Show, ably hosted by the Portland Orchid Society and the Cherry City Orchid Society, was held April 29 – May 3 in Portland, Oregon, the "City of Roses." The mayor enabled this floral transition by proclaiming April 29 – May 3, 2015 to be "Orchid Week" in Portland, and "encouraging all residents to join in the observance." The meeting venue, the Lloyd Center DoubleTree hotel, is adjacent to public transportation, allowing residents and registrants easy access to the show.

The show was housed in an exhibition building adjacent to the hotel, where a group of exhibits was clustered in one area, with vendors on the periphery. During the Thursday judging, *Phragmipedium wallisii*, exhibited by Joanne Gerow, won both the Slipper Orchid Alliance Trophy and the Best *Phragmipedium* Trophy.

On Friday and Saturday, ten orchid experts from across the country shared their knowledge on topics ranging from pest management and flower-boosting fertilizers to growing various types of orchids. Miniature cymbidiums, disas, phalaenopsis species, Japanese orchids, and cool growers were discussed, as well as slipper orchids.

Sponsored by the Slipper Orchid Alliance, the presentation by Graham Wood (Lehua Orchids), "Celebrating 50 Years of *sukhakulii*," covered *Paphiopedilum sukhakulii* hybridization. From primaries through complex hybrids,

Graham displayed the most-awarded crosses. For instance, plants in Terry Root's "Raisin" series have received 100 total awards (62 from AOS). *Paph. Raisin Pie* (*sukhakulii* x *Clarissa*) alone has 44 total awards, with 30 AOS awards. Graham has remade some of these crosses. Another of Terry Root's crosses, *Paph. Macabre* (*sukhakulii* x *Voodoo Magic*) was even more successful, with 194 total awards. Its 129 AOS awards include two Awards of Quality.



Phragmipedium wallisii
Plant Owner: Joanne Gerow
Upper photo: Lois Dauelsberg
Lower photo: Joyce Medcalf



Phragmipedium wallisii
SOA Trophy Winner at the Portland, Oregon AOS Meeting
(Note SOA Trophy at right)
Plant Owner: Joanne Gerow; Photo: Joyce Medcalf



The future holds improvements in form: fuller dorsal sepals, wider synsepals, improved pinks and whites, and dramatic near-black flowers.

The SOA auction that followed Graham's talk was very successful, thanks to the enthusiasm of the bidders and the generosity of our donors: Theresa Hill (Hillsview Gardens), Norman Fang (Norman's Orchids), John Chant (Orchid Zone) and especially Graham Wood (Lehua Orchids), who also "revved up" the crowd.

Following the SOA meeting, Hadley Cash spoke on "Orchid Rainbows: An Overview of Current Paphiopedilum Breeding by Marriott Orchids." During Saturday's AOS Town Hall Meeting, Hadley Cash and three others were presented the AOS Award for Excellence in Hybridizing. Hadley's family accompanied him to Portland for the occasion. Congratulations, Hadley!

Biography

Lois Dauelsberg is an Accredited AOS Judge and Vice President of the SOA.

UPCOMING EVENTS

FALL MID-AMERICA ORCHID CONGRESS

September 25-27, 2015

In conjunction with the Chicagoland Orchid Fest
www.midamericanorchids.org/meetings/

INTERNATIONAL SLIPPER SYMPOSIUM

October 31, 2015

Sheraton Orlando North, Maitland, FL
Speakers: Olaf Gruss, Franz Glanz, Alexej Popow
Full Registration: \$85 (Includes Speakers, Vendors,
Lunch, BBQ Dinner & Auction)
Website: <http://www.slippersymposium.com>

FALL AOS MEMBERS' MEETING

November 11-15, 2015

Atlantis Casino Resort Spa, Reno, Nevada
Hosted by the Northern Nevada Orchid Society
Theresa Hill, the SOA speaker, will discuss
"Paphiopedilum fairrieatum - a Retrospective"
aos2015@nnvos.org or
www.nnvos.org
Contact: Joanne Gerow; Phone: 775-337-9162

ORCHIDS 2015 - CALI, COLOMBIA

November 19-21, 2015

Fifth Scientific Conference on Andean Orchids
Pontificia Universidad Javeriana, Cali
www.andeanorchidconference.org

60th PAPHIOPEDILUM GUILD MEETING

Saturday & Sunday, January 16-17, 2016

Hyatt Santa Barbara Hotel, 1111 E. Cabrillo Blvd.
Santa Barbara, California

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For more information see page 11
Expert Lectures - Paph/Phrag Displays – Orchid Sales
or check the website: www.orchiddigest.org

SPRING MID-AMERICA ORCHID CONGRESS

March 19-20, 2016

Historic Netherland Hilton Hotel, Cincinnati, OH
Hosted by The Greater Cincinnati Orchid Society
& Miami Valley Orchid Society

"An Orchid Affair.....in the Queen City"

<http://cincinnatiorchids.org>

www.midamericanorchids.org/meetings/

12th ASIA PACIFIC ORCHID CONFERENCE

March 19-27, 2016

Bangkok, Thailand

www.apoc12.com or apoc2016@yahoo.com

AOS SPRING MEMBERS MEETING

April 13-17, 2016

Asheville, North Carolina

Western North Carolina Orchid Society

The Hilton Hotel Biltmore Park

Show at North Carolina Arboretum

22nd WORLD ORCHID CONFERENCE

November 8-12, 2017

Ecuador - Land of Orchids
Guayaquil Convention Center
www.woc22.com

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In each issue of our newsletter we recognize and thank our Supporting Members (individuals and businesses) whose additional dues make it possible for us to carry out our mission of preservation and education about all lady-slipper orchids. If you are interested in becoming a Supporting Member, please contact Arlene Ricker at aricker@verizon.net. We encourage our members to support these businesses. From our web site you may contact them directly.

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SOA Directory

President: Barbara Tisherman, Pittsburgh, PA;
 (412) 683-0207; tishermanb@gmail.com
 Vice President: Lois Dauelsberg, Woodland Park, CO;
 (719) 687-2528, loisdauels@aol.com
 Secretary: Alexa Noel, Cincinnati, OH
 (513) 469-8767; ahn6175@yahoo.com
 Treasurer: Doug Martin, Shawnee, KS
 (913) 248-8669; bethdoug@kc.rr.com
 Director: Fred Clarke, Vista, CA
 (760) 639-6255; fred.clarke@att.net
 Director: Steve Helbling, Cincinnati, OH
 (513) 321-3702; orchiddevil@aol.com
 Director: Scott Ware, Shoreline, WA
 (206) 362-7171; orchids@comcast.net
 Webmaster and Photo Editor: Rod Knowles, Brainerd, MN;
 (218) 829-4840; rkgems@brainerd.net
 Journal Editor: Judith Rapacz-Hasler, Fort Myers, FL;
 (239) 223-6350; jrapacz@wisc.edu
 Membership Secretary: Arlene Ricker, Canonsburg, PA;
 (724) 873-1904; aricker@verizon.net

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