

# SLIPPER ORCHIDS

The Slipper Orchid Alliance Journal



*Paphiopedilum charlesworthii* 'Miao Hua Star' FCC/AOS  
Photographer: Jea Shang

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## PAPHIOPEDILUM CHARLESWORTHII

### Part I. The Species and an Overview of AOS Awards

by Gail Schwarz

(A series of four articles on *Paphiopedilum charlesworthii* was published in *ORCHIDS*, Vol. 81, No. 10, 11, 12, 2012 and Vol. 82, No. 1, 2013. This article and two to follow in *Slipper Orchids* are reprinted with permission and include updates.)

The elegant *Paphiopedilum charlesworthii* cannot be confused with any other *Paphiopedilum*. The wonderful large, round pink dorsal sepal can be almost as wide as the natural spread of the flower. The dorsal sepal and the contrasting bright-white staminode are the unique features of this species. *Paphiopedilum charlesworthii* has been used extensively in hybridizing to produce hybrids with large dorsal sepals. A new direction in miniature or “teacup” paphiopedilums often features *Paph. charlesworthii* in their pedigrees. There are currently 237 first-generation (F1) hybrids and 2456 progeny to this species.

**THE SPECIES** *Paphiopedilum charlesworthii* is found in the Shan States in eastern Myanmar (Burma), a small area of Thailand, and possibly in southwest China (Yunnan Province) on limestone cliffs at elevations of 3,940–5,250 feet (1,200–1,600 m). It was discovered in 1893 by a British collector named R. Moore, who was working in Myanmar at the time (Cribb 1998).

Cribb reports that, “Moore recorded (in *The Orchid Review*



Joseph Charlesworth for whom  
*Paphiopedilum charlesworthii* was named  
Photograph from *The Orchid Review* 28:137 (1920)  
Courtesy: Johann Hermans

3:170, 1895) the discovery of *Paph. charlesworthii* some 25 miles (40 km) southwest of Lake Inle (Myanmar) growing high up on a limestone hill fully 5,000 feet (c. 1,600 m) above sea level. Later he also collected it 40 miles northeast of the lake. He described its habitat as ‘isolated peaks, high and precipitous’ where it was growing high up on the west and northwest facing slopes, the roots clinging to the rocks with extraordinary tenacity. The plants were usually found growing in the shade but he also saw plants growing in the crevices of bare rock . . . The climate where it grows is, according to Moore, temperate with the temperature rising to 27°C (80°F) in the summer and a few degrees below freezing in the winter” (Cribb 1998). The amount of rainfall is higher between May and September, when it can receive 8–13 inches (19.8–33 cm) per month. Between November and April, it typically receives fewer than 2 inches (5 cm) per month.

The British orchid nursery Charlesworth, Shuttleworth and Co. apparently received plants from Moore. In 1893, it was first described by R.A. Rolfe as *Cypripedium charlesworthii*. Rolfe changed it to *Paphiopedilum charlesworthii* in 1894 (Cribb 1998). The species is named after Mr. R. Charlesworth.

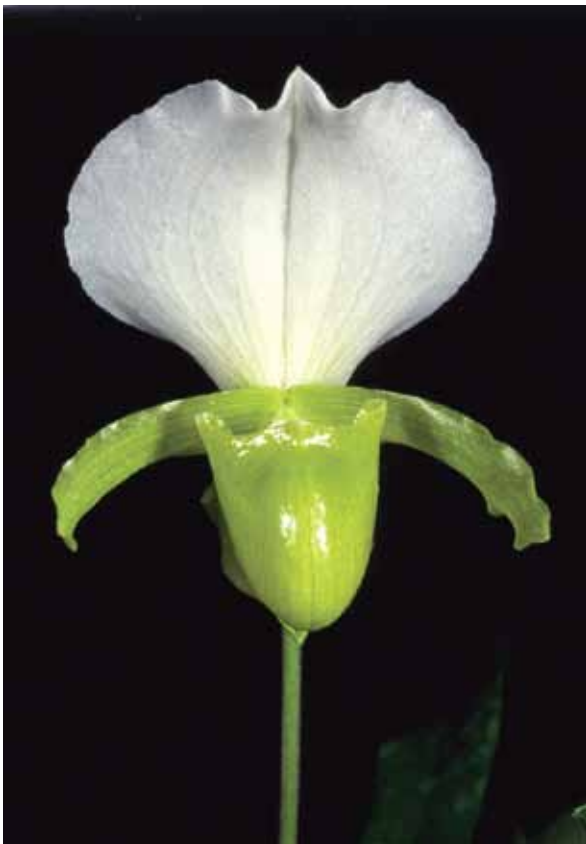


*Paphiopedilum charlesworthii* ‘Sam’s Choice’ FCC/AOS  
Grower: Orchid Inn; Photo: Lynn O’Shaughnessy

*Paphiopedilum charlesworthii* is in the *Paph. insigne* alliance in section *Paphiopedilum*. It is related to *Paph. spicerianum* and *Paph. druryi* as well as *Paph. insigne* and *Paph. villosum* (Cribb 1998).

It is a relatively small plant that forms clumps with usually one flower per inflorescence. The leaves are green and spotted maroon proximally on the underside. Some clones have purple blotches on the top of the leaves near the center (Birk 2004).

The large dorsal sepal is pink with darker pink veins. In some clones, the pink is described as magenta with darker magenta veins. The pink is often darker at the base. The green or yellow-green synsepal sometimes has light brown veins. The petals are yellow-green to chestnut brown, veined and reticulated darker brown. The pouch is chestnut to mahogany and the species has the whitest staminode in the genus (H. Koopowitz, pers. comm.). The texture is usually described as glossy or lacquered. One clone, 'Shoko,' received a JC/AOS in Japan for its unusual pale color form. The description states the dorsal sepal was white, blushed pink on the edges, the synsepal and pouch were lime green, and the petals were green with a brown blush radiating from the base.



*Paphiopedilum charlesworthii* 'Pride of Tokyo' AM/AOS  
Grower: Paphanatics, unLtd.

An albino form exists called *Paph. charlesworthii* f. *sandowiae*. It has a pure white dorsal sepal and bright green petals and pouch. In the 1900s, it was known as *Paph. charlesworthii* var. *bromilowianum* (P. Phillips, pers. comm.) and, previous to that, *Paph. charlesworthii* var. *crawshawiae* (Gruss 2008). Most albino clones seen currently are derived from the clone 'Pride of Tokyo' AM/AOS (N. Hasegawa, pers. comm.). Albino forms tend to lack the vigor of the regular form. There are currently albino clones that are derived by backcrossing albinos onto genetically half-albino strains that are much stronger and more vigorous (N. Hasegawa, pers. comm.). The clone 'Sam's Choice,' awarded an FCC/AOS in 2012, is a wonderful example of a second-generation half-albino strain bred and grown by Sam Tsui (Orchid Inn), Bloomington, Illinois.

The form of *Paph. charlesworthii* varies considerably. Some of the poorer clones have small, reflexed dorsal sepals. The pink color is not solid and the petals can be long and narrow. Only good clones should be used for hybridizing; otherwise hybrids may inherit these negative traits (Koopowitz 2008). Most of the better clones seen today have the clone 'Clyde' AM/AOS, originally shown by Frank Hughes, in their background (N. Hasegawa, pers. comm.). The clones 'Val' CCM/AOS (6 flowers, 1973) and 'Ruth' CCM/AOS (18 flowers and 2 buds, 1976) are examples of the typical form of the species.

**OVERVIEW OF AOS AWARDS** Line breeding has increased the flower size, improved the color and produced large, flat dorsal sepals and wider, flatter petals. Newer clones have darker pink dorsal sepals and even a little pink



*Paphiopedilum charlesworthii* 'First Class' AM/AOS  
Grower: Orchid Inn; Photo: Craig Plahn

on the distal part of the petals and the pouch. Clones with completely pink petals are now seen (N. Hasegawa, pers. comm.). Some breeders speculate that it may be possible to produce a totally pink *Paph. charlesworthii* (Koopowitz 2008).

There are 53 AOS awards to this species. The natural spread of the flowers depends a great deal on the stance of the petals. The sizes have varied. Some early awards have large natural spreads, but the petals are often narrow, or the form or color is not as good as the line-bred clones. Some of the

later-awarded clones have a smaller natural spread but have superior color and form.

The average natural spread is 3 inches (7.4 cm). The widest is 9 cm for both 'Rona's Pride' AM/AOS (81 points), in 1991, and 'Miao Hua Star' FCC/AOS (90 points), in 2012, and the smallest is 5.3 cm to 'Glacial Spring' HCC/AOS (75 points), an albino form, in 1993. The average dorsal sepal width is 6.7 cm, with the widest at 8.1 cm to 'Laura' HCC/AOS (75 points), in 1992, and the smallest is 5.4 cm, also to 'Glacial Spring' HCC/AOS. The average petal width is 1.8



*Paphiopedilum charlesworthii* 'Jamboree' AM/AOS  
Grower: Paphanatics, unLtd.



*Paphiopedilum charlesworthii* 'Clyde' AM/AOS  
Grower: Harold R. Ripley; Photo: Beauford Fisher



*Paphiopedilum charlesworthii* 'Ruth' CCM/AOS  
Grower: G.A. Wright

cm. The widest is 2.5 cm to 'Hooded' AM/AOS (86 points), in 2004, and the smallest is again 'Glacial Spring' HCC/AOS, at 1.0 cm. All the albinistic awarded clones have narrow petals.

Since the 1970s, the color and form of awarded clones have improved with line breeding. The clone 'Dark Mountain' was awarded an HCC/AOS (78 points) in 1987. The color

on all segments is pale and the form is poor, but the natural spread was quite large at 8.0 cm. The dorsal sepal is not wide and flat, the petals are narrow, and the pouch is small. The clone 'Candor Double Blush' was given an HCC/AOS (76 points) in 1996. The edges of the dorsal sepal are quite ruffled and the color fades in the center. The clone 'Big Top' was awarded an AM/AOS (80 points) in 1998. It appears to have a rich dark color but the dorsal sepal is pinched and the petals are narrow.

There are two FCC/AOSs given to the colored form of this species. The first was in 1991 when 'Gladys D' scored 91 points. It apparently had two flowers on one inflorescence, which is unusual for the species. The size was quite large at 8 cm, and the color of the dorsal sepal is described as dark-rose pink, but the striking feature of this flower was the reflexing of the dorsal sepal. The second was to 'Miao Hua Star,' which scored 90 points in 2012. It had wonderful color and form, and it had the largest natural spread, along with 'Rona's Pride,' at 9 cm.

The clones 'Watermelon' and 'Hot Fire' are other examples of line-bred clones with better color and form. 'Watermelon' received an AM/AOS (80 points) in 1991, and 'Hot Fire' was awarded an AM/AOS (80 points) in 1997.

The clone 'Beaujolais' received an HCC/AOS (75 points) in 2008. It was a smaller flower with a 6.6-cm natural



*Paphiopedilum charlesworthii* 'Val' CCM/AOS  
Grower: Val and Jack Tonkin



*Paphiopedilum charlesworthii* 'Hooded' AM/AOS  
Grower: Krull-Smith; Photo: Ernest Walters



*Paphiopedilum charlesworthii* 'Dark Mountain' HCC/AOS  
Grower: John Dunkelberger; Photo: Adrian R. Teaf

spread. The color of the dorsal sepal, though, is described as a dark rose-pink, veined darker rose-pink, and the petals and pouch are chartreuse, overlaid mahogany.

The darkest clone with the richest color appears to be 'The King,' which received an AM/AOS (82 points) in 2007. The dorsal sepal is described as deep rich magenta. The petals and pouch are a rich dark brown. Although smaller than many of the awarded clones at 6.0 cm, it had above-average petal width at 2 cm. With full petals and a dorsal sepal that fully frames the petal length, the perimeter of 'The King' forms an almost perfect circle.

## Biography

*Gail Schwarz is a retired nurse living in Nova Scotia, Canada. She caught the "orchid bug" about 25 years ago when her husband, Bob, bought her an orchid. She joined the Orchid Society of Nova Scotia, the American Orchid Society, and, more recently, the Southern Ontario Orchid Society. She is an AOS accredited judge in the Toronto Judging Center. This article was her probationary paper for the Judging Center. She was invited to give a presentation based on the paper at the Cymbidium Society of America in Santa Barbara in March 2012 and the International Slipper Orchid*



*Paphiopedilum charlesworthii* 'Candor Double Blush'  
HCC/AOS; Grower: Bob and Lynn Wellenstein  
Photo: John Nelson



*Paphiopedilum charlesworthii* 'Watermelon' AM/AOS  
Grower: Paphanatics, unLtd.; Photo: Richard Clark



*Paphiopedilum charlesworthii* 'Big Top' AM/AOS  
Grower: Taylor Orchids; Photo: Paul Zimmerman



*Paphiopedilum charlesworthii* 'Hot Fire' AM/AOS  
Grower: Paphanatics, unLtd.; Photo: Richard Clark

*Symposium in Orlando in November, 2012.*

(email [rschwarz@hfx.eastlink.ca](mailto:rschwarz@hfx.eastlink.ca))

### Judging *Paphiopedilum charlesworthii*

There are currently 53 AOS awards to this species: three FCCs, 22 AMs, 23 HCCs, four CCMs, and one JC. *Paphiopedilum charlesworthii* has been line bred for many generations so we should see an improvement over the older awards. These are some of the features to look for when judging this species (Hasegawa, pers. comm.; Koopowitz, pers. comm.; Phillips, pers. comm.).



*Paphiopedilum charlesworthii* 'Beaujolais' HCC/AOS  
Grower: Dave Sorokowsky; Photo: Ramon de los Santos



*Paphiopedilum charlesworthii* 'The King' AM/AOS  
Grower: Harold Koopowitz; Photo: Loren Batchman

- ◆ The dorsal sepal should be full and relatively flat.
- ◆ The dorsal sepal should be a smooth rose to dark pink.
- ◆ In some clones, the center of the dorsal sepal is lighter than the edges. Points should be taken off for this.
- ◆ Points should be taken off for hooding or reflexing of the dorsal sepal, which can be a fatal flaw.
- ◆ Any waviness or ruffling along the edges of the dorsal sepal should be symmetrical.
- ◆ The petals and pouch should be very dark brown.
- ◆ The petals should be quite wide, relatively flat and horizontal. Slight cupping is acceptable as long as the petals are not too cupped.
- ◆ Petals should be wide enough so that there is no gap between the dorsal sepal, the synsepal and the petals.
- ◆ The stems should be long enough to hold the flowers above the leaves.
- ◆ Mature plants can have two to four single flowers, but one good flower is acceptable.

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### TOUR TO SEE CHINESE PAPHIOPEDILUMS IN THEIR HABITAT, MAY 4-14, 2016

Wenqing and Holger Perner (Huanglong National Park, Sichuan, China and Hengduan Mts. Biotechnology, Ltd., Chengdu, China) announce that they will be leading a pre-conference tour before the 6<sup>th</sup> Orchid Conservation Conference in Hong Kong, May 16-20, 2016. The 11-day tour will go to Northwest Guangxi and Southeast Yunnan to see native paphiopedilums and many other orchids in their natural habitats.

With 32 paphiopedilum species, China is the richest country in the world for this genus. Due to habitat destruction and unsustainable commercial collection for illegal international trade of wild-collected specimens, natural populations have disappeared at an alarming rate. Because seeing paphiopedilums in the wild in China has become increasingly difficult, this tour is a rare opportunity.

For more information, please contact Wenqing Perner at [info@hengduanbiotech.com](mailto:info@hengduanbiotech.com).

## INTERNATIONAL SLIPPER ORCHID SYMPOSIUM, ORLANDO, OCT. 31, 2015

by Scott Ware and Judith Rapacz-Hasler

The 17<sup>th</sup> International Slipper Orchid Symposium, sponsored by Krull-Smith, was held Saturday, October 31, 2015, at the Sheraton Orlando North in Maitland, FL. This is only the second time the Symposium has taken place at this venue. In 2014, when the Symposium was held in conjunction with the AOS Fall 2014 Members' Meeting at this location, the overwhelming consensus among those in attendance indicated that it is a far superior and much preferred choice for future meetings compared to previous venues. Speaker presentations, orchid sales by top-quality vendors, hot buffet lunch, evening BBQ dinner and plant auction, and Sunday morning open house at Krull-Smith were again on the agenda – all included with full registration for only \$85! The doors and sales area opened at 8:30am and presentations began at 9:00am.

Vendors present included Ching Hua Orchids, Hillview Gardens, Hill's Raingreen Tropicals, Mainshow Orchids, The Orchid Zone, and Popow-Orchids. There were plenty of opportunities to browse and purchase plants as the sales area was open during all breaks, but secured during the speaker presentations – a very popular policy with the vendors because this allowed them to enjoy and learn from the experts along with symposium registrants.

Event sponsor and American Orchid Society President, Frank Smith, welcomed the group and opened the meeting with a question: "How many are here for the first time?" Around the room of approximately 85 attendees, 14 first-timers raised their hands to the applause of everyone else in the room - certainly a positive and welcome indicator of the growth of and the enthusiasm for this popular annual event.

Dr. Harold Koopowitz, Professor Emeritus, University of California Irvine, began the day's speaker presentations with: "Sex and the Slipper Orchid: Up Close and Personal." Harold's popular remark was that "Pollination is not orchid sex; it is only foreplay!" With the aid of very detailed electron microscopy photography, he explained the very elaborate process of pollination, showing the antipodal cells, pollen tubes, nuclei and eggs and described the steps that occur from the point when the pollen is placed on the stigmatic surface to the time when the actual signal is received for the pod parent to make eggs for eventual fertilization - a process that takes 30-45 days (see photo to the right by Scott Ware).

Right: Dr. Harold Koopowitz; Photo: Scott Ware

Olaf Gruss presented "New and Forgotten in the Genera *Paphiopedilum* and *Phragmipedium*." A retired teacher, a very popular sought-after speaker and prolific writer on phalaenopsis, paphiopedilums and phragmipediums, he has written many articles about the species and hybrids of these genera. He showed more than 200 slides of paphs and phrags that are not commonly seen, such as: *Phragmipedium anguloi*, *Paphiopedilum rungsuriyanum*, *Paphiopedilum nataschae*, *Paphiopedilum robinsonianum* and *Paphiopedilum inamorii*. The presentation included many examples of species in their natural habitats, including *Paphiopedilum vejvarutianum*, *Paphiopedilum herrmannii*, *Paphiopedilum canhii* and *Paphiopedilum anitum*, using pictures he received from orchid friends in Vietnam, the Philippines and Thailand. A highlight of Olaf's presentation featured pictures of *Paph. josiana*, a supposedly new species, which Olaf explains is nothing more than a synonym for *Paphiopedilum concolor* var. *longipetalum*.

Olaf also shared with the group his vision that all these new species should be artificially propagated in their countries of origin sooner rather than later, in order to make them not



*Paphiopedilum rungsuriyanum* in situ

Photo: Achima Rung







*Paphiopedilum rungsuriyanum*  
Photo: Achima Rung



*Paphiopedilum nataschae*  
Photo: Alexej Popow



*Paphiopedilum hermannii* in situ  
Photo: C.X. Canh



*Paphiopedilum hangianum* 'Giant Fallersleben'

only readily accessible to orchid amateurs, but to reduce the pressure placed on these sites by collectors. This would help to preserve the actual habitat and provide future generations the opportunity to admire these gems in their natural habitat.

Franz Glanz talked about "35 Years of Slipper Orchid Breeding." He has created over 300 new orchid hybrids that include more than 220 slipper orchid hybrids. His home village of Unterwössen has a more familiar name to most slipper orchid enthusiasts; "Wössner" is the prefix given by Glanz to most of his hybrids when registering their names. Soft-spoken and humble in nature, this was the first presentation he had ever made to a group of orchid enthusiasts in the United States as he, with the help of his friend Olaf Gruss, mesmerized the group with a visual feast of photos showing hybrids whose names many had never heard and most had never seen. He is recognized as the best orchid grower in the German Orchid Society for the past 30 years, and has received many medals and trophies for his outstanding plants and spectacular exhibits at many shows



Left: Franz Glanz; right: Olaf Gruss  
Photo: Scott Ware

all over the world. Starting in 1991 with 4 new hybrids, he has to date registered 185 new hybrids of the genus *Paphiopedilum*, including 89 primary hybrids. No other breeder has created more primaries of this genus; Sanders registered 56, Veitch 48+.

In his honor, one natural hybrid, *Paphiopedilum* × *glanzii* (*emersonii* × *micranthum*), and one variety, *Paphiopedilum micranthum* f. *glanzeanum*, have been described. Some of his hybrids include: *Paphiopedilum* Franz Glanz (*armeniicum* × *emersonii*), *Paphiopedilum* Franz (Prince Edward of York × *gigantifolium*) and *Phragmipedium* Franz Glanz (*richteri* × *besseae*).



Franz Glanz pollinating a paphiopedilum



*Phragmipedium* Wössner LeGrande  
(*Lemoinierianum* × *Maria Glanz*)



*Paphiopedilum* Wössner Leguan 'Franziska'  
(Annette × Anja)



*Paphiopedilum* Franz Glanz 'Planegg'  
(*armeniicum* × *emersonii*)  
(Awarded Silver Medals for quality and culture by the German Orchid Society)



*Paphiopedilum* Wössner Vietnam Star  
(*rothschildianum* × *vietnamense* 'Erste')

Alexej Popow of Popow-Orchids in Wolfsburg, Germany, spoke about “My Favorite Paphiopedilums.” Alexej, new to the U.S. speakers’ circuit, described some of his orchid trips to various habitats with anecdotes and photos, including that of *Paphiopedilum bellatulum* in Myanmar, as well as various other species in their habitats in Thailand, Vietnam, China and the Philippines. As a vendor, Alexej brought many wonderful and difficult-to-find species from his nursery in Germany that were very well received by those

in attendance. Some of his favorite paphs are shown here.

Laura Newton, American Orchid Society Awards Registrar, gave an overview with pictorial highlights of paphiopedilum and phragmipedium awards given by the American Orchid Society in the first ten months of 2015. The number of slipper awards in 2015, with two months left to go, amounted to 397 (328 paphiopedilums and 69 phragmipediums) compared with 423 for all of 2014, which included 342 paphiopedilums and 81 phragmipediums.



*Paphiopedilum leucochilum* ‘Red-Devil’  
Photo: Alexej Popow



*Paphiopedilum thaianum* ‘Select’  
Photo: Alexej Popow



*Paphiopedilum helenae* forma *aureum*  
Photo: Alexej Popow

The all-day slipper extravaganza culminated that evening with the group relocating to the pavilion at Krull-Smith for a delicious BBQ dinner and live auction. The lively auction was called by the very spirited and enthusiastic Bill Thoms, who kept the group alert and entertained through the entire evening. Bidders competed for some of the finest orchids to be had that day, all generously donated by this year’s vendors and the event sponsor. Winning bids ranged from as little as \$10 to as much as \$200 for some very special and uncommon orchid treasures. Auction proceeds in excess of expenses not covered by registration fees are donated to deserving orchid-related non-profits which, in past years, have included the American Orchid Society and the Orchid Digest.

The final opportunity of the weekend to enjoy the company of fellow slipper orchid enthusiasts and to pick up just one more plant for the journey home presented itself for those who remained until Sunday morning with the traditional breakfast and Open House at Krull-Smith.

The International Slipper Orchid Symposium traditionally takes place the first Saturday of every November. This year’s event was forced to move ahead one week due to scheduling conflicts with the host hotel. The organizers have already taken steps to ensure the return of the traditional weekend for the 18<sup>th</sup> International Slipper Orchid Symposium in 2016. Check [www.slippersymposium.com](http://www.slippersymposium.com) as details for next year’s event develop.



Left: Alexej Popow; Right:  
Frank Smith, event sponsor  
and AOS President

Photo: Judith Rapacz-Hasler

All photos are by Olaf Gruss,  
except where noted.

## AOS MEMBERS' MEETING IN RENO, NEVADA, OCTOBER 11-15, 2015

By Lois Dauelsberg

The Fall American Orchid Society Members' Meeting and Show, held November 11-15, 2015, was hosted by the Northern Nevada Orchid Society, which produced "The Biggest Little Orchid Party in the Biggest Little City in the World."

The meeting venue was the Atlantis Casino Resort, a busy casino providing ample space for the exhibits, meetings and vendors. In keeping with the venue, the show theme was "Winning with Orchids." In addition to the AOS, members of the International Phalaenopsis Alliance, the Orchid Conservation Alliance, the Orchid Digest, the Pleurothallid Alliance, as well as the Slipper Orchid Alliance were present.



*Paphiopedilum* Jennifer Reinoso 'Anniversary' HCC/AOS, exhibited by Theresa Hill, won the Best Paphiopedilum Trophy. Photo: Ramon de los Santos

During the Thursday judging, *Paphiopedilum* Hop Butterscotch 'Leprechaun' HCC/AOS, exhibited by Ramon de los Santos, won the Slipper Orchid Alliance Trophy, and *Paphiopedilum* Jennifer Reinoso 'Anniversary' HCC/AOS, exhibited by Theresa Hill, the Best Paphiopedilum Trophy.

Friday through Sunday, orchid experts from the United States, Canada and Australia shared their knowledge on various topics. Three of the lectures were on slipper orchid topics. Theresa Hill, of Hillview Gardens (Mulino, OR), whose presentation was sponsored by the Slipper Orchid Alliance, covered "*Paphiopedilum fairrieianum*: A Retrospective." Theresa elaborated on the early history of *Paphiopedilum fairrieianum* (originally *Cypripedium fairrieianum*), which first appeared in cultivation in 1857. Theresa presented pictures of many color forms. *Paph. fairrieianum* was mainly used as a pollen parent, and although many hybrids were reluctant breeders, she showed pictures of hybrids that had been fertile enough to produce offspring. She concluded with photos of more *Paph. fairrieianum* cultivars.

Speaking on "Maudiae Paphs: Past, Present and Future," Dave Sorokowsky of Paph Paradise (Lockeford, CA) traced 115 years of *Paph. Maudiae* breeding by various hybridizers and companies, including Stewarts, Paphanatics, Antec, Krull-Smith, Orchid Zone and Lehua. He showed important past hybrids, as well as recently awarded plants. Working toward the future, hybridizers hope for ghostly white flowers; better albas; black contrasts; additional colors, such as yellow; and Maudiaes with wider petals, like complex paphs.



*Paphiopedilum* Hop Butterscotch 'Leprechaun' HCC/AOS, exhibited by Ramon de los Santos, won the Slipper Orchid Alliance Trophy. Photo: Ramon de los Santos

John Chant of Orchid Zone (Castroville, CA) acquainted us with “Breeding Trends in Paphs and Phrags at the Orchid Zone.” Using legally sourced newer generation and newly registered cultivars of *Phrag. kovachii*, they have produced a generation of Fritz Schomburgs whose flowers are quite consistent from plant to plant. *Phrag. April Fool* is a remake of a 1984 hybrid, using a newer generation *bessae* on *Phrag. Cardinale*. For paph species, their results include nearly black *Paph. leucochilums* and *Paph. rothschildianums* with improved form and color. Working with complex paphs in various colors and patterns, Orchid Zone has developed new and improved hybrids. *Paph. Martian Emperor*, a newly registered cross between Martian Man and Pacific Shamrock, is a rich green. *Paph. Millenium* (Newtown x Spotted World) is a remake of a boldly spotted hybrid. Photos of a wide variety of Orchid Zone plants can be seen on eBay.

The Slipper Orchid Alliance meeting, led by Lois Dauelsberg, Vice-President, began with an introduction to the history, purpose and current activities of the SOA. A spirited auction followed, with SOA Editor Judith Rapacz-Hasler and Theresa Kennedy actively assisting. Plants were donated by the following vendors: John Chant (Orchid Zone, Castroville, CA), Chen-Chung Chen (Mainshow Orchids, Taiwan), Theresa Hill (Hillsview Orchids, Mulino, OR), Andy Phillips (Andy’s Orchids, Encinitas, CA), David Sorokowsky (Paradise Orchids, Lockeford, CA) and Graham



*Phrag. April Fool 'Surprise'* (Cardinale x *bessae*)  
This is an improved Cardinale cross.  
Photo: John Chant (Orchid Zone).

Wood (Lehua Orchids, Mountain View, HI); and by Judith Rapacz-Hasler. We are extremely grateful to all of them for their strong support that produced one of our best auctions ever. We welcome the eight new members who joined in Reno.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### 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/](http://www.midamericanorchids.org/meetings/)

### 12th ASIA PACIFIC ORCHID CONFERENCE

March 19-27, 2016  
Bangkok, Thailand  
[www.apoc12.com](http://www.apoc12.com) or [apoc2016@yahoo.com](mailto: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  
SOA Speaker Chen-Chung Chen will present  
“Taiwan Orchids”  
<http://wncos.org/>

### 22nd WORLD ORCHID CONFERENCE

November 8-12, 2017  
Ecuador - Land of Orchids  
Guayaquil Convention Center,  
[www.woc22.com](http://www.woc22.com)

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## 60<sup>th</sup> PAPH GUILD MEETING IN SANTA BARBARA, CA, JANUARY 16-17, 2016

Judith Rapacz-Hasler and Scott Ware

The 60<sup>th</sup> Paphiopedilum Guild Meeting, sponsored by Orchid Digest, was held Saturday and Sunday, Jan. 16-17, 2016 at the Hyatt Santa Barbara Hotel in Santa Barbara, CA. This new venue is a very good fit for the Paphiopedilum Guild, with its ample meeting space and hotel facilities that make it ideal for this and future meetings.

The weekend began Friday night when about 24 meeting attendees took advantage of an opportunity to meet the speakers at a wonderful “Meet-and-Greet” buffet dinner at Harry’s Plaza Café.

Saturday morning began in the Gazebo Room, as it was converted to a slipper lover’s paradise with outstanding plant offerings from six very well-stocked vendors. Meeting registrants were treated to coffee and a delicious assortment of pastries before seizing the opportunity to purchase the latest and greatest from John Chant (Orchid Zone, Castroville, CA), Dave Sorokowsky (Paph Paradise, Lockeford, CA), Theresa Hill (Hillsview Gardens, Mulino, OR), Janyaporn Thawornsatitsakul (Phrao Orchid Nursery, Thailand), Bryce Augustine (Monsoon Orchids, Santa Barbara, CA) and Norito Hasegawa (Paphanatics, Orange, CA). Displays and individual plants were exhibited by attendees around the perimeter of the El Cabrillo room, in which the conference was held.

Karen Muir welcomed the sixty slipper orchid enthusiasts before handing over the speaker introductions to Orchid Digest Editor in Chief and former AOS president, Sandra Svoboda.

Harold Koopowitz, Professor Emeritus, University of California Irvine, began the speaker presentations with “Evolution of the Slipper Orchids.” Slipper ancestors evolved about 77 million years ago before the Cretaceous–Tertiary extinction event when dinosaurs died out. The ancestral slipper had valvate sepals, papillate stigmas, triocular ovary, friable pollen and plicate leaves. It evolved in the neotropics. The last common ancestor was about 31 million years ago. Cyps separated first, followed soon by selenipediums and Mexican cyps. Paphs and phrags are very closely related, and the last common ancestor was about 22 million years ago. In paphs, parvisepalums evolved first, followed by brachypetalums and then other groups; barbatums and insigne-section are sister groups. Cochlopetalums may have a hybrid origin between multiflorals and insigne sections. Many questions remain about their distribution.

John Chant presented “Breeding Trends at The Orchid

Zone” with striking photos portraying the results of his efforts to breed both superior paphiopedilum and phragmipedium species, as well as leading-edge complex hybrids. A particularly memorable highlight of John’s presentation involved the comparison of a variety of cultivars of individual species such as *Phrag. besseae* and *Phrag. kovachii*, as well as some outstanding *Paphiopedilum fairrieianum* cultivars, produced by his progressive breeding program.

Breaks between each lecture afforded those in attendance the opportunity to shop. Fueled by the enthusiasm generated by each presentation, many confessed that the only real limitation to their acquisitions spree was how to take everything safely on the flight home.

After lunch, Theresa Hill presented “*Paph. fairrieianum* and its Hybrids.” In providing some early history on *Paphiopedilum fairrieianum* (originally known as *Cypripedium fairrieianum*), Theresa described its first public appearance at a horticultural society show in October of 1857 where a plant exhibited by M. Faire of Liverpool caught the attention of Dr. John Lindley, who eventually described and named the species after its owner. Faire had acquired the plant earlier that year at an auction advertised March 21, 1857 in *The Gardener’s Chronicle*, featuring assorted “new cypripedium” plants from Java and India. Lost to cultivation less than 50 years later, *Paph. fairrieianum* was rediscovered in Bhutan in 1905 and reintroduced to cultivation after Frederick Sander offered a £1,000 reward to the first person who could provide a living plant and information concerning its location. Theresa presented photos and illustrations of many color forms of *Paph. fairrieianum*, and after emphasizing that it was almost always used as a pollen parent and the progeny were often reluctant to breed, showed images of several early *Paph. fairrieianum* hybrids, with emphasis on those fertile enough to produce offspring and progeny.



Theresa Hill, Hillsview Gardens

Karen Muir concluded the afternoon's talks with a Power Point presentation of some of the 2015 AOS awards (237 paphs and 52 phrags).

Registrants were invited to vote during the day for their favorite paphiopedilum and favorite phragmipedium from the plants on the display tables. Saturday's meeting adjourned at 3:00pm, allowing plenty of time to visit the outstanding local orchid nurseries in order to see and perhaps purchase additional genera not available at the Paph Guild sales tables.

Saturday evening the group reconvened for a lively orchid auction featuring plants donated from as far away as Hawaii to Florida, as well as outstanding plants donated by this year's Paph Guild vendors. At the conclusion of the auction, Karen presented a \$100 award to the winner of each category as determined by the registrants' votes. These awards



*Paphiopedilum fairrieianum* exhibited by Dave Sorokowsky



*Phragmipedium Living Fire* exhibited by Richard Hess

went to Dave Sorokowsky of Paph Paradise for his *Paph. fairrieianum* and to Richard Hess for *Phrag. Living Fire*.

The doors were locked and everyone proceeded to the downstairs restaurant, La Cantina, where a delicious banquet dinner was served, concluding with a luscious chocolate cake.

Olaf Gruss began the Sunday morning session with "*Paph. insigne* and its Related Species." *Paph. insigne* was discovered in 1819 in Sylhet (Silhat), currently Bangladesh, by the head of the Botanical Garden of Calcutta, Dr. Nathaniel Wallich. The first plant came to Europe and flourished in 1820 at the Botanical Garden of Liverpool. J.Lindley described this plant in 1821 in the "Collect Ania Botanica" as *Cypripedium insigne*. The best known variety is *Paph. insigne* var. *sanderiae* (Rchb.f.) Pfitzer. A closely related species is *Paph. areeanum*, which was originally described as a natural hybrid between *Paph. barbigerum* and *Paph. villosum* in 2001. The same species was described a year later as *Paph. rhizomatosum*. The large distribution of *Paph. barbigerum* from China through Thailand to Vietnam has led to a large variability in this species. Several of these varieties were originally described as independent species, such as *Paph. vejvarutianum* and *Paph. coccineum*. The dark colored variety *Paph. sulivongii* from Laos was first described in 2009. Olaf presented the species status of *Paph. herrmanniii*, *Paph. henryanum*, *Paph. helenae* and *Paph. tranlienianum* from Vietnam with lovely pictures. After an overview of the variability of *Paph. villosum* and *Paph. gratrixianum*, Olaf concluded his program with an overview of the *Paph. insigne* complex.

The final talk was by Richard Hanson on "Growing Cypripediums in Pots." He has been growing cyps in Seattle since 1996, after he visited a nursery near his parents' home in northern Minnesota, where *Cyp. reginae* is the state flower. Hanson purchased that plant and the only other species offered - *Cyp. parviflorum* var. *pubescens*. He decided to use pots rather than planting in the ground because his garden space was not appropriate. Now his collection includes additional species and hybrids. He shared photos of his growing area where he had set up pots on the wall of his garage beneath a roof ledge extended with transparent twin-wall lexan, so he could control the amount of water reaching the pots while still allowing ample light. To prevent plants from freezing during the winter, he moves them into his garage during periods of extreme cold. He detailed his successful growing methods.

Before closing the meeting, Sandy thanked the speakers and audience for attending the 60<sup>th</sup> Paphiopedilum Guild and suggested that, based on the positive response from her earlier inquiry, the next Paph Guild meeting would also be held at the Hyatt Santa Barbara Hotel in 2017.

## Supporting Members

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](mailto:aricker@verizon.net). We encourage our members to support these businesses. From our web site you may contact them directly.

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