



# The **Slipper Orchid Alliance Newsletter**

Volume 7, Number 2

Summer 2006

## **AOS Members Meeting in Orlando**

An American Orchid Society Members Meeting is always an event to be eagerly anticipated, and the one held in Orlando, Florida April 5-9, 2006, hosted by the Central Florida Orchid Society, more than met our expectations. With 442 registrants it was one of the largest held in recent years, and the luxurious Dolphin Hotel provided an excellent setting.

Forty one exhibits and corresponding sales tables for the 27 plant vendors and 9 non-plant vendors filled a large hall. The most dramatic and the AOS Show Trophy winner was the display of Krull-Smith Orchids, which featured a "tree" covered with plants of *Phalaenopsis Nobby's Amy*, a lovely delicate pink and white multifloral, which created an appearance of cherry blossoms. The exhibit was filled with high quality plants from many genera, beautifully arranged, and we lady-slipper lovers were not disappointed. Of the 39 plants awarded at this show, 27 were in this exhibit and of those 17 were Paphs, including two FCCs! (There were four other Paph awards, two to Ratcliffe Orchids, one to Paphanatics, and one to Carole Pearson.) The Grand Champion and winner of the Slipper Orchid Alliance trophy was also here, an imposing, glorious *Paphiopedilum St. Swithin 'Crystelle'* FCC/AOS (previously awarded) with two inflorescences displaying five flowers and one bud on each. A Paph. *Moustache* also owned by Krull-Smith was awarded the Reserve Champion. Others of particular interest were

groups of *Paphs rothschildianum*, *lowii*, Cesar Delgado and Scott Ware. Frank Smith's amazing culture was obvious and disproved the assumption that slipper orchids cannot be grown well in warm climates such as Florida.

Another noteworthy exhibit, a meadow of ferns filled with slipper orchids, was created by Ratcliffe Orchids. What was most impressive was the variety within the *Paphiopedilums* and *Phragmipediums* that were included, covering the spectrum of species, primary hybrids, "novelty" hybrids and standard complex hybrids, old and new. There were even groups that showed variation within a species or hybrid. Viewing these marvelous examples was an educational experience as well as a treat for the eyes.

The roster of speakers also provided slipper growers with much information and superb pictures.

Norito Hasegawa of Paphanatics detailed "Paph Species, Their Influence on Their Hybrids." Seeing the most important species that have been used in breeding and their progeny is always extremely informative and helpful in knowing what to expect from a cross. Norito emphasized the importance of knowing what characteristics are dominant and recessive in breeding. He also urged everyone to reproduce rare plants and spread them around as the best way to preserve species.

Terry Root of the Orchid Zone spoke on "West Coast *Paphiopedilums*." As he is one of the leading *Paphiopedilum* hybridizers in the world, his remarks and pictures were of great interest. Unfortunately he had missed his original flight, and consequently his lecture was rescheduled to a time that conflicted with our SOA Open Board Meeting. Thus we were not able to hear him.

For those who could tear themselves away from the lectures, meetings and show there was a tour offered to visit Krull-Smith Orchids and another to Ratcliffe Orchids.

The SOA Open Board meeting held on Friday afternoon was attended by more than 30 interested slipper enthusiasts. We heard that the SOA is in a good financial position and has 262 members, of which 41 are Supporting Members. One important item discussed was the new Orchid Conservation Alliance, whose primary objective is to promote the

### **SOA Membership**

If you receive a membership renewal form with your newsletter, your membership is up for renewal within the next three months. Please fill out the form and mail it to our membership secretary, Jean Metcalf, 2323 Edinboro Rd. GH#6, Erie, PA 16509. Questions about your membership? Jean can be contacted at [orchidiva@yahoo.com](mailto:orchidiva@yahoo.com).



**Paph. St. Swithin 'Crystelle' FCC/AOS  
Grand Champion, SOA Trophy  
Owner: Krull-Smith  
Photography by Greg Allikas**

conservation of wild orchid species in their native habitats. To do this the OCA pools resources from orchid societies and organizations, individual growers and others with a desire to help preserve orchid habitats. Because orchids are most efficiently conserved in situ, the OCA uses its funds to purchase directly prime orchid habitats. Currently their goal is to raise \$10,000 to purchase at least 100 hectares of



**Paph. Cesar Delgado 'Krull's Ebony' AM/AOS  
Owner: Krull-Smith  
Photography by Greg Allikas**

undisturbed orchid habitat in the high Andes of Ecuador, identified as the site of many exceptional orchid discoveries. Of special concern to us, *Phrag. pearcei* is abundant in this area. Since one of our major purposes is to encourage orchid conservation in natural habitats, the group was enthusiastic about donating \$500 to this cause. Barbara made a plea for



**Paph. Moustache 'Orlando Magic' CCE/AOS  
Owner: Krull-Smith  
Photography by Greg Allikas**

names of potential authors and articles for our newsletter and the names of possible speakers. Anyone with suggestions should contact her at [btisherman@aol.com](mailto:btisherman@aol.com).

We will not have a meeting this fall, because the AOS will not have a Members Meeting and we have not been able to identify another venue that would be appropriate. The AOS



**Paph. Silent Knight 'Crystelle' AM/AOS  
Owner: Krull-Smith  
Photography by Greg Allikas**

Trustees and committees will be meeting in St. Louis, but there will be no show, lectures or other activities. However, we will participate in the next AOS meeting, which will be

May 2-6, 2007, in Arlington, Texas (between Dallas and Fort Worth), hosted by the Fort Worth and North Texas Orchid Societies. We will sponsor a speaker, donate our trophy and hold an Open Board Meeting.

Another event to put on your calendar is the 19<sup>th</sup> World Orchid Conference to be held late February into early March, 2008, in Miami, Florida, hosted by the South Florida and the Ft. Lauderdale Orchid Societies.

The American Orchid Society will hold its spring meeting in conjunction with this WOC. Since the World Orchid Conferences are held only once every three years in various parts of the world, there will not be another opportunity of this magnitude in the United States for many years. The following venue will be Singapore in the spring of 2011.

Barbara Tisherman



**Paph. lowii 'Orlando Magic' AM/AOS**  
Owner: Krull-Smith  
Photography by Greg Allikas



**Paph. Rory Jones 'Orlando Magie' AM/AOS**  
Owner: Krull-Smith  
Photography by Greg Allikas



**Paph. rothschildianum 'Matt Saftenburg' AM/AOS**  
Owner: Krull-Smith  
Photography by Greg Allikas



**Paph. micranthum 'Jade' AM/AOS**  
Owner: Ratcliffe Orchids  
Photography by Greg Allikas

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## 2006 Paph Forum

The Paphiopedilum Forum, sponsored by the National Capital Orchid Society, is traditionally held on the Saturday following Valentine's Day (February 18 this year) and is an American Orchid Society sanctioned event. This year marked the 26<sup>th</sup> annual meeting, and the usual venue, the U.S. National Arboretum, was filled to capacity with over 140 participants and approximately 250 exhibited slipper orchid plants. The day began with intense activity as attendees arrived and rushed to register their exhibit plants so they could browse in the sales area before the first presentation of the day. The program began at 9:45 with a welcome by Dr. William Goldner who, along with Lynn Evans Goldner, were the co-chairs. Bill reminded attendees that invitations to the Forum were sent out by e-mail and all should update their addresses for future invitations. Without further ado, the program began.

The first speaker of the day was Swiss orchidist Ernst Gunzenhasen, who gave a fascinating and sometimes alarming account of his recent trip to Vietnam to obtain stock for his nursery and to see first hand the natural habitat of now famous Vietnamese slipper orchids. His remarks were accompanied by photographs of unapproachable stone formations and mountainous areas where slippers flourish. Of particular note was the easy availability of rare-to-the-west indigenous slipper plants for sale in local street markets for amazingly low prices. Unfortunately, CITES regulations prohibit the international transport of these native orchids. Ernst visited many local nurseries where the prices, unlike the local street markets, reflected the proprietors' knowledge of outsiders' intense desire to own Vietnamese slippers and other orchid genera. Sadly, some nurserymen showed little regard for their goods, allowing slipper plants to languish and perish due to lack of basic cultural attention. The audience's distress was audible as Ernst reported that the nursery owners' lack of concern was due to easy availability of replacement plants.

Dr. Harold Koopowitz returned to the Paph Forum for the second year in a row with a new topic: miniature and dwarf slipper breeding. This direction in hybridizing slippers, while not new, is enjoying a resurgence led by Koopowitz. Harold reported on past and present hybridizing to produce miniature slipper hybrids possessing the full flat form of modern day complex hybrids. Notable results in previous years include Paph. Ali Taba (Paeony x fairrieanum), Paph. Dalla (Luna x The Gurka) and Paph. Garibaldi (Bronzino x Earl of Tankerville). Recent hybridizing has included Paph species such as henryanum, barbigerum, and charlesworthii. Dr. Koopowitz, who is well known as the editor of *Orchid Digest* has written an in-depth article on miniature Paphiopedilum breeding in the Jan-Feb-Mar, 2006 issue of the magazine.

Paul Phillips of Ratcliffe Orchids, Ltd. was the third

speaker of the day. His remarks featured a view into the greenhouses of the original Ratcliffe Orchids in Hampshire, England, and followed Ronnie Ratcliffe's work in the development of the modern complex Paphiopedilum hybrids. Paul also discussed and screened images of Ratcliffe's recent hybridizing efforts.

A slide presentation of the newest awards to slippers is always a highlight of the Paph Forum. This year, new student judge Tina Wood gave a run-down of awards to Paphiopedilums in 2005 and probationary judge Tom Mirenda presented 2005 awards to Phragmipediums.

Ribbon judging in a broad range of categories was followed by AOS judging, which ran concurrently with the events of the day. It was a very busy judging session, skillfully managed by AOS Head Judge Nancy Mountford, and it resulted in the granting of a Forum record of fourteen AOS awards. Notable award winners were Paph. Leeatum 'E.G. Morris' CCE/AOS exhibited by John Whiting of Somerset, Pennsylvania, and the coveted Award of Quality to a group of Paph. Snow Glory exhibited by Marriott Orchids. Of particular interest was a specimen of Paph. vietnamense 'USBG' CHM/AOS exhibited by the United States Botanic Gardens. This marked the first appearance of Paph. vietnamense as a legally exhibited plant. For an in-depth description with photographs of all of the Forum awards, visit the National Capital Judging Center's website at: [www.geocities.com/nationalcapitaljc](http://www.geocities.com/nationalcapitaljc).

The last feature of the day was a review of the plants on the exhibit tables, with commentary by Hadley Cash, Bill Goldner, Steve Shifflett and myself. As always it was extremely interesting and educational to see the wide variety of plants and the ribbon winners.

A very full and successful Forum ended with a whirlwind of prize drawings, thanks to various NCOS members who assisted, and final plant purchases. Congratulations are due to Bill and Lynn Goldner as this was their first year as co-chairs. Slipper orchid lovers may wish to watch the National Capital Orchid Society website (<http://ncos.us>) for information on the 2007 Paphiopedilum Forum. Reservations well in advance are a must.

*Gordon Slaymaker*

(Gordon is Chairman of the National Capital Judging Center and was a past co-chairman of the Paphiopedilum Forum for many years.)

*The Slipper Orchid Alliance helped to sponsor the speakers and held an auction of donated plants. We thank Hadley Cash (Marriott Orchids), Steve Drozda, Bill Goldner (Woodstream Orchids), Barbara Noe (Celebrate Orchids!), Paul Phillips (Ratcliffe Orchids), Gordon Slaymaker and Tom Larkin (Whipporwill Orchids) for their contributions that made our auction possible and thus support speakers. The People's Choice Award went to Paph. Leeatum 'E.G.*

*Morris' CCE/AOS exhibited by John Whiting of Somerset, Pennsylvania. This magnificent plant won several other awards and was profiled and pictured in the last issue of the SOA Newsletter (Spring 2006).*

## **Deadly Slipper, a Novel of Death in the Dordogne**

Written by Michelle Wan and published in 2005, by Doubleday

This truly is a case in which you can't judge a book by its (dust) cover. The illustration on the dust cover certainly is more dendrobium than slipper, but the novel is a good read nonetheless.

The central character is Mara, searching for her long-missing sister Bedie in the Dordogne. Having found a camera similar to the one she knew that her sister was using on an orchid shoot, Mara also found an image of an orchid, one decidedly a new discovery.

In her search, Mara encounters an expatriate British orchidologist, and Wan does a consistently fine job of character development and description, right down to details of his quarters. She does an equally fine job limning several other characters, some with key roles, and some just adding color and a local touch. Wan's knack for raising suspicions in the reader are remarkable, and a reader can be led down a number of dead ends trying to anticipate the identity of the guilty (yes, more than one).

Readers who enjoy dishes prepared lovingly and with the freshest ingredients, and the product perfectly presented, will salivate over meals prepared by the locals. Imagine...a simple dish of potatoes dressed in parsley and garlic; a chilled Monbazillac (blended from three grape varieties, Sémillon, Sauvignon and Muscadelle, harvested manually over several selective "tries" or passages where only the grapes affected by the famous and miraculous "Noble Rot" are chosen, with a fabulous color which deepens over time and dominant overtones of honey, acacia and peaches and hints of citrus fruits and crystallized "Mirabelle" plums); chabrol (bread-thickened soup heavy with garlic and duck fat); homemade pate spread on slices of grilled bread; crème fraiche over a prune tart....

Wan is equally adept at describing the local countryside, and her "pictures" inspire one to visit. Of particular note is the pigeon tower that appears in Bedie's photograph. The search for that building and increasingly disturbing contacts with its occupants are central to Bedie's disappearance, Mara's dangerous encounter and confinement, and the resolution of the mystery.

Orchids! Yes, in addition to the elusive hunt for the deadly

slipper, Wan shares some shocking things about orchidists. Competitive? Secretive? Myopic? Well, maybe the French are different. In any event, Wan does see to it that we are reminded about orchids at many points in her tale.

*Deadly Slipper.* It's a good read and highly recommended.

Russ Tyler

## **Phragmipedium tetzlaffianum in Art**

Having your special orchid immortalized in art is an experience most orchid growers do not have the opportunity to enjoy. For Allan Tetzlaff, the excitement of being able to name a new *Phragmipedium* species for his father was enhanced by the response of his local art community.

Mr. Tetzlaff is currently a Coordinator in Forensic Psychiatry and an orchid fancier in St. Thomas, Ontario, Canada. He has been especially interested in *Phragmipediums* and obtained a Phrag from a collector in Canada that had been imported to Canada long before Phrags were placed on CITIES 1 and had been named Phrag. klotzscheanum. After nursing it along in his greenhouse he was amazed when it bloomed. It was nothing like what he expected and certainly not the plant species on the label – green with cream and burgundy markings, a large pouch and long, dark red twisted petals. It was stunning, and most surprising, an unrecognized species.

An art dealer who was an orchid lover was so impressed by this flower that he commissioned works from Canadian artists. (The history of commissioning works of art in honor of botanical treasures is a long and rich one. Napoleon's Empress Josephine had her roses immortalized by the painter Pierre-Joseph Redoute.) One painted five watercolors of the flower from different views, while another created a woodblock. A sculptor produced a bronze jardinière with an image of the orchid in high relief in a multiple image around the jardinière, and a potter made vases with the orchid hand-carved in low relief. Tetzlaff said he was overwhelmed by this response. "It's like being a proud parent."

The road to official recognition of Tetzlaff's plant started with computerized feelers to find a taxonomist to examine the flower to determine if it was actually a new species and not a variation of an existing species. Olaf Gruss, a German botany professor, was interested in seeing the flower parts, which Tetzlaff then sent him. Gruss determined that the flower was indeed unique. Gruss worked on the article in Germany, and Tetzlaff provided the information and photographs from Ontario., all the while hoping that no one else would publish an official description before theirs. The race was won with publication in the Italian botanical journal

*Caesiana* 15:37 (2000). Since Tetzlaff breeds Phrags, he was especially pleased that his proposed name honoring his father was accepted. He has since registered one hybrid, Phrag. Quiet Dragon (x *lindleyanum*) in 2005.

(This article is based on information in the Canadian Orchid Congress newsletter, June 2001, and the Toronto Star Syndicate.)



**Phrag. tetzloffianum**



**Gallery Exhibit with the painting of Phrag. tetzloffianum and the plant in front.**

## Yellow Lady-Slippers in North Central Minnesota

Minnesota is the home of approximately 42 orchid species, including six in the genus *Cypripedium* - *acaule*, *arietinum*, *calceolus* var. *parviflorum* (small yellow lady-slipper), *calceolus* var. *pubescens* (large yellow lady-slipper), *candidum*, and *reginae*. Smith, Welby R. 1993, *Orchids of Minnesota*, Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, provides a comprehensive and readable guide to the species and their locations.

Currently, there doesn't seem to be uniformity in the distinction between *Cyp. parviflorum* var. *pubescens* and *Cyp. parviflorum* var. *parviflorum*. Smith and others have differentiated them on the basis of bloom size (var. *parviflorum* being smaller than var. *pubescens*), color (var. *parviflorum* with dark red sepals and petals, and var. *pubescens* with yellowish green sepals and petals), blooming time (var. *parviflorum* blooming about a week earlier), and scent (var. *pubescens* having a relatively noticeable scent). Most accounts of efforts to distinguish between the two varieties seem to hedge bets by pointing out that there is variation within a single colony.

In North Central Minnesota, there is a fairly large Yellow Lady-Slipper colony that we've been observing since the spring of 2003. Nature apparently hasn't kept up with the literature on differentiating between the two varieties, or is hedging its bets. Within this colony, bloom size and coloration vary considerably. There appears to be a mix of var. *parviflorum* and var. *pubescens*, and blooms intermediate to the two. Blooming time seems to be a result of temperature



and moisture conditions, pretty much eliminating that as a differentiating factor. Our best observations of the colony clearly suggest that there are blooms that match the currently accepted description for *Cyp. parviflorum* var. *parviflorum*, some the accepted description of *Cyp. parviflorum* var.

*pubescens*, and some looking like a hybrid of the two. The debate over identification is ongoing.

The colony covers a reasonably wide area, with 1000 or more blooms in 2003. Two years later, the number of blooms observed was impressive, but clearly fewer than 1000. On a



positive note, there was good evidence of fruiting, promising some continuation of the colony.

The setting is dotted with small trees providing a mix of filtered light and shade. Trees tend to be small, with a lot of birch, and there is space between trees sufficient to permit access without risking damage to the plants. Openness is dependent upon hunters doing some clearing, and if the trees aren't thin, the orchids may be at risk.

Presently, an observer still can move through the area avoiding contact with plants and the visibility is good. The openness of the area is a mixed blessing. Although open spacing is good for plant development and for close-up observation, it also provides ready access to the White-Tailed Deer that populate the area. Unfortunately, young plants are high on their spring menu, and in 2005 there was a great deal of evidence of their feeding on the colony. Fortunately, this area is relatively undeveloped, limiting, for now, the risk of human predation.



As of May 19, 2006, only two plants have bloomed, both in the relatively sunny fringe of the area. In the colony core, buds aren't yet visible. This year's project is a detailed photographic documentation of bloom variation and more attention to the total habitat.

A habitat note. This colony is bordered by areas of *Trillium grandiflorum*. Apparently this isn't unusual, as the *Trillium* and Yellow Lady-Slipper grow well under similar conditions. This collocation in fact often serves as a marker – where you find *Trillium* you are likely to find Yellow Lady-Slippers.

*Russ Tyler and Rod Knowles*



**Phrag. Scarlet O'hara**

## **Trophy Winner Phrag. Scarlet O'hara**

Jerry Lee Fischer (Orchids, Ltd.) made *Phragmipedium* Scarlet O'hara (*besseae* x Jason Fischer) a few years ago with tetraploid parents, but he says that most were very slow growing and didn't amount to much except for one plant. At the Minnesota Winter Carnival Show, held January 28-29, 2006, however, his *Phrag. Scarlet O'Hara* that was

one from a remake of across made just a couple of years ago was the SOA Trophy Winner. These were made with a 4n Jason Fischer that was crossed with a wide-petaled *besseae*. They grew well and exhibited typical 3n behavior with thicker, wider, stronger leaves. A few have bloomed, and they have been really good for first bloom seedlings. It is expected that this one will greatly improve on the second and third bloomings, and it is hoped that it will get a high award at that time. It has very deep ruby-red flowers that glisten in the sunlight.

## Parvisepalum Paphs

The subgenus *Parvisepalum* of the genus *Paphiopedilum* was created by Karasawa and Saito as recently as 1982. The seven species in this subgenus usually bear single flowers, large and spectacularly colored, and include *P. delenatii* from Vietnam and four well-known species from China near the Vietnamese border: *P. armeniacum*, *P. malipoense*, *P. micranthum*, and *P. emersonii*. Two little-known and recently discovered “species” are considered by some to be varieties of *P. malipoense*: *P. hiepii* Averyanov and *P. jackii* Hua. The small plants of the species in subgenus *Parvisepalum* are usually characterized by tessellated foliage and stoloniferous offshoots, which emerge from the base of the crown. In nature, plants typically grow on the top or sides of limestone buttresses with rivulets running nearby. The stolons play a part in species distribution by breaking off the mother plant and being carried downstream to new locations. The flowers of these species have wide, rounded petals, incurved pouch edges, granular rather than waxy pollen, and stigmatic surfaces with small recurving projections (like Velcro) to which the pollen can adhere.

One natural hybrid has been found to date, a cross of *P. malipoense* and *P. micranthum*, which Dr. Harold Koopowitz named *P. X fanaticum* due to the fanatical attention these plants have elicited from orchidists.

Two plants of the beautiful, delicate pink *Paph. delenatii* Guill were discovered in northern Vietnam in the early 20th century. One was made into a dried and pressed horticultural specimen; therefore, all the plants of this species which have been available for cultivation and hybridizing until recent years are derived from selfings and

sibling crosses from the second plant. However, a new population of this species has now been discovered in the wild, and a greater variety of genetic material is available. *P. delenatii* differs from the “Chinese Parvis” in that the plant habit of *P. delenatii* is clumping, and it may produce 1-3 flowers per inflorescence. This species can be one of the easier “Parvi Paphs” to grow. It requires moderate light, intermediate to warm temperatures, good air circulation, perfect drainage and even moisture. In the wild *P. delenatii* grows in detritus-filled crevices of limestone outcroppings, so in cultivation it needs calcium in its potting mix. The first hybrids appeared in 1936. Since then, 186 progeny of *P. delenatii* have been registered (through October, 1998). The American Orchid Society has given 55 awards to the species, including four cultural awards for specimen plants. One of the hybrids most often awarded is *P. Armeni White* (*x armeniacum*). This is a cross of pink and a yellow flowers, but the progeny are (you guessed it) white. This is possible because the pink *P. delenatii* suppresses yellow color (except for the staminode color which is inherited separately), and the yellow *P. armeniacum* suppresses pink color. Other frequently-awarded hybrids of *P. delenatii* are *P. Black Diamond* (*x P. fairrieianum*), *P. Delrosi* (*x P. rothschildianum*), *P. Delophyllum* (*x P. glaucophyllum*), *P. Deperle* (*x P. primulinum*), *P. Joyce Hasegawa* (*x P. emersonii*), *P. Magic Lantern* (*x P. micranthum*), and *P. Vanda M. Pearman* (*x P. bellatulum*). *P. Vanda M. Pearman* is the most-awarded of these hybrids, with 65 AOS awards.

*Paph. armeniacum* Chen & Liu was the first of the Chinese *Parvisepalum* Paphs to become available, having been exported from China in 1982. This spectacular chrome yellow species caused a stir in the judging world when the first plant seen by AOS judges was given a First Class Certificate, the highest quality award possible from the AOS. Different cultivars of *P. armeniacum* have received 89 AOS awards to date, including 18 coveted FCC’s. In this short period of time there have been 51 hybrids registered with *P. armeniacum* as one parent, and in addition there are three second-generation hybrids. The most-awarded grexes by the AOS are *P. Armeni White* (*x P. delenatii*) mentioned above, *P. Dollgoldi* (*x P. rothschildianum*) *P. Fumi’s Delight* (*x P. micranthum*), *P. Golddollar* (*x P. primulinum*), *P. Norito Hasegawa* (*x P. malipoense*), *P. Wossner Bellarmi* (*x P. bellatulum*), and *P. Golden Diamond* (*x P. fairrieianum*). The desirable intense yellow color was obtainable in progeny, especially if the other parent was also yellow. Yellow coloration could be passed on by the pollen parent. The most pleasing hybrids to date have been between species in the subgenus *Parvisepalum*, or with a Parvi and a species in section *Brachypetalum* (usually *P. bellatulum*). Hybrids



with a Parvi and a multifloral are being tried, with mixed results. One success is *P. Dollgoldi* (*armeniacum* x *rothschildianum*), which produces large, brilliant yellow flowers with some striping in the petals and a very pleasing triangular shape. The stoloniferous plant habit appears to be a recessive trait.

*Paph. micranthum* Tang & Wang is most memorable for its large bubblegum-pink pouch; however, the flower color may also be white or mauve. In nature this species rests during the winter, its tough leaves withstanding cold dry winds and little moisture until the monsoons come in the spring. There have been 114 AOS awards to this spectacular species, including eight First Class Certificates. *P. micranthum* has 35 registered progeny. Hybrids awarded by the AOS are *P. Fumi's Delight* (x *P. armeniacum*), *P. Gloria Naugle* (x *P. rothschildianum*), *P. Kevin Porter* (x *P. bellatulum*), *P. Magic Lantern* (x *P. delenatii*) and *P. Tanja Pinkepank* (x *P. fairrieianum*). *P. Magic Lantern*, a cross of two pink flowers, has produced even darker pinks, with shapes intermediate between the two parents. *P. delenatii* suppresses all yellow color in the petals, but intensifies the dark petal veins. The staminode retains intense yellow and red colors. *P. Kevin Porter* can be an even more stunning flower, with brilliant dark pink to deep burgundy tones. Shape and pouch size are intermediate between the two parents. Crosses with another "Parvi Paph" or with a section *Brachypetalum* (*P. bellatulum*), and also the use of *P. rothschildianum* and *P. fairrieianum*, appear to produce the most pleasing flowers.

*Paph. malipoense* Chen & Tsi was first drawn and described in 1984 based on a flower collected in 1947 from the Yunnan Province of China and dried by K.M. Feng. The flowers of this species are apple green to avocado green and slightly fragrant of raspberry. Leaves are soft and fleshy. The plant is usually found under bamboo thickets, in deep pits and in the stones along water seepage, protected from dry winter winds. There have been 66 AOS awards to this species, including one First Class Certificate to the cultivar 'Jolly Green Giant.' The name tells its story. There are 33 registered progeny of *P. malipoense*. The hybrids most often awarded by the AOS include *P. Norito Hasegawa* (x *P. armeniacum*) mentioned above, *P. Lynleigh Koopowitz* (x *P. delenatii*), *P. Ma Belle* (x *P. bellatulum*), *P. Mem. Larry Heuer* (x *P. emersonii*), *P. Harold Koopowitz* (x *P. rothschildianum*), and *P. Wossner Jade* (x *P. niveum*). Again, the most pleasing hybrids appear to be between "Parvi Paphs" and between a "Parvi Paph" and a *Paphiopedilum* in section *Brachypetalum* (*P. bellatulum*, *P. niveum*). The only multifloral hybrid awarded is again with *P. rothschildianum*.

*Paph. emersonii* Koopowitz & Cribb has the largest flower of the "Parvi Paphs." Its white color lightly spotted with purple originally held promise for large-flowered pure white Paph hybrids. However, this goal has not been realized, to date. This species has received 16 quality awards from the AOS. There are currently 24 registered progeny of *P. emersonii*. Hybrids most often recognized by the AOS are *P. Joyce Hasegawa* (x *P. delenatii*) and *P. Memoria Larry Heuer* (x *P. malipoense*), both crosses within the subgenus *Parvisepalum*, and two unusual hybrids with a complex *Brachypetalum Paphiopedilum* hybrid as the other parent, *P. Kabuki Moon* (x *P. Virgo*) and *P. Wintermoon* (x *P. Greyi*).

In summary, due to the newness of the *Parvisepalum Paphiopedilum*s in cultivation, hybridization with the species in this subgenus has just begun. The most successful hybrids to date have been within the subgenus or between "Parvi Paphs" and a species in section *Brachypetalum*, usually *P. bellatulum*. Hybrids with *P. rothschildianum* and *P. fairrieianum* have also produced awardable flowers. No second generation hybrids have as of yet been awarded by the AOS.

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## Upcoming Events

SPRING 2007 — May 2-6, 2007

Hosts: Fort Worth and Greater North Texas Orchid Societies

Arlington Convention Center

1200 Ballpark Way, Arlington, TX 76011

817-459-5000

Contacts: Jerry and Ronnie Brandenburg

11045 Swaffar Drive, Dallas, TX 75228

972-279-4075

[jbrb66@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jbrb66@sbcglobal.net)

## Happy Anniversary kovachii!

As I am writing this article on April 8, 2006, it is the one-year anniversary of the trip that Jerry Fischer and I made to Peru, from which we returned carefully hand-carrying the first flasks of *Phragmipedium kovachii* into the United States. The extraordinary efforts put forth by Mr. Manolo Arias at Peruflorea really made this all happen. This endeavor occupied Mr. Arias for many months while he met with INRENA, the Peruvian Wildlife Authority, to ultimately obtain the proper paperwork to make this first exportation possible.

There were also an enormous amount of paper work and hours of preparation on the American end of this transaction, for which I give full credit to Jerry Fischer. His innate ability to sift through the complex plant importation laws made our departure from Lima and our arrival at Miami customs go swiftly and smoothly. With that, we were both able to catch our respective flights and each make our way home with flasks in hand that same night.



After arriving home with our precious flasks of *kovachii* we immediately sent them to our individual labs for some “freshening up.” Basically this was to get the plants into a more secure, less contamination prone vessel and into a fresh batch of fortified agar and medium. Within two weeks the plants showed their affection for the new environment by responding with a burst of growth and vitality. After everything we had gone through, this was a pleasing sight. We really did not know what to expect from this new species.



The newly re-plated *kovachii* flasks spent their next subsequent weeks growing under lights in our flask rooms. Personally, I found myself acting like a mother goose looking after her goslings. I was constantly viewing them and admiring their progress as well as checking for contamination. Yes, some of my re-plated flasks did contaminate, and those plants were immediately de-flasked and planted out to save them. Fortunately, this initial batch of re-plated flasks were test flasks containing only 5-10 plants each, just for that reason.

It wasn't long before some of the plants in the first re-plated flasks were ready to be moved up to compots. I was amazed at their speed of development after the re-plating because these were the plants in April 2005 that we brought from Peru as tiny little half-inch plants. Granted, there were only a handful of plants in each flask, but nevertheless, these are the front runners and these will be the plants to watch from here on out.



Once the seedlings were planted in compots there was a whole new realm of concerns to be conscious of. The possibility of their demise was now even more pronounced once they were out of the flask, especially since we did not know exactly what conditions these plants could endure or would prefer. So my first instinct was to treat these babies as any other *Phragmipedium* I have planted out of the flask and deal with the outcome as it became evident. I wanted to avoid the syndrome of over-care as many of us tend to do with our newly acquired purchases. I dub this “the sanderianum syndrome” where one thinks just because it's expensive and rare it must be terribly difficult to grow. That is certainly not the case here with *kovachii*!



During the winter both Jerry and I witnessed a consistent rate of excellent growth progression in our plants. I was raising mine in a warm seedling house where night temperatures were no less than 65 degrees, and Jerry had his

in a similar situation with added bottom heat and supplemental lighting. Pleasing to us was the fact that we were not experiencing any sort of bacterial or fungal issues or loss from any sort of rotting. Nearly every day we could see growth on these plants, and that was incredibly rewarding for both of us. We would converse at least once a week, comparing leaf sizes and sharing our growing techniques and accomplishments.



We expect to encounter a few more puzzles regarding the culture of this new species: however, for the most part we are very pleased to see our results thus far. As our plants continue their journey to blooming size, both Jerry and I will be updating our progress in future articles. Until then, we will be enjoying watching the progression of growth on these incredible plants.

As the leaf span continued to spread on these front running plants I systematically moved mine up to individual 3-inch pots using my standard *Phragmipedium* mix. This is a mix of fine bark, fine charcoal and perlite. The repotting seemed to give them yet another shot of growth and again that was a satisfying sight to see. One observation made during the transplanting process was that these plants have a shallow root system. Unlike most *Phragmipediums* that send their roots down and around, this species sends them out laterally. This trait was also apparent when I viewed the growing site near Moyobamba, Peru in 2003. Now knowing that this is a common characteristic of this species, it allows us to give the roots room to spread by planting them into a wider container that is more conducive for that type of root development.

It is early spring now. Both Jerry and I concur that there has been a decrease in our *kovachii*'s speed of growth suddenly. This seems to be coinciding with our extended spring day length. This is puzzling to us because most plants tend to show an increase of growth with the added day length. We observed them really taking off and growing fast last fall, but now we see them doing just the opposite this spring. Could this phenomenon possibly have something to do with their origin being from south of the equator? Would it be possible that these plants do not appreciate these longer day lengths? The *kovachii* growing area north of Moyobamba, Peru is a vast equatorial region with a near constant day length of 12 -13 hours year-round.

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