



# The **Slipper Orchid Alliance Newsletter**

Volume 3, Number 2

Spring 2002

## Chicago SOA Meeting

Our participation with the A.O.S. Members Meeting in Chicago was a tremendous success in every way. Our three speakers were very well received. In this issue John Doherty has written an article on Cyps, but in his talk he was able to discuss more of the fifty known species, of which twelve to fourteen appear in North America. In addition to showing various habitats, he discussed their fascinating pollination systems. He had marvelous photos and lots of practical cultural information, and he was able to answer many questions from attendees who were obviously enamored of this challenging genus.

Sam Tsui spoke on "Recent Trends in Paphiopedilum Hybridizing." In species the emphasis is on line breeding for stronger colors and larger size, although there is also considerable interest in album forms. Goals for the Brachys and Parvis are larger, darker and rounder flowers and better substance. An additional aim for multi-florals is more flowers. The objectives for the complex hybrids are similar – rounder and larger flowers with better spotting and substance. Because of the broader possibilities for hybridizing today, by incorporating the Brachy and Parvis into existing lines we will continue to see new and unique forms.

### Dues Notice

Please renew your membership to the Slipper Orchid Alliance by filling out the enclosed membership form and mailing to Steve Drozda by June 30, 2002. Membership for one year is US\$25 for members and US\$50 for commercial supporting members.

Glen Decker showed and described many of the Phrag. species and discussed their contributions to hybridizing. He had wonderful pictures of many of the newer hybrids, with an emphasis on the besseae influence. He then devoted a great deal of time to culture and answering questions. Lots of good water is most important. A basic mix is medium and fine bark, charcoal, sponge rock and oyster shell. Sphagnum moss works well in pots up to 4" but not larger. When unflasking he likes to rinse off the agar and keep the plants as a clump. He fertilizes mature plants with a balanced fertilizer heavily like Cattleyas and grows them in similar light. He prefers deeper pots, rather than wider.

The auction, conducted between lectures by our Fund-Raising Chairman, Glenn Lehr, added excitement and \$1200 to our treasury! Our special thanks go to the following donors: Glen Decker, Jerry Fischer, Norito Hasegawa, Tom Kalina, Glenn Lehr, Barbara Noe, Barbara Tisherman, and Sam Tsui.

Eighteen new members signed up that morning, and many more membership applications were taken. Before the meeting our membership was approximately 240. Barbara announced that Marilyn Levy will be the Membership Chairman, responsible for setting up a committee to represent us at as many orchid meetings and functions as possible to let people know what we are doing and to acquire new members. If you are interested in helping us (by putting out membership applications, for instance), please contact Marilyn at levycmmj@aol.com.

At the Board meeting Friday afternoon several important decisions were made. Barbara Tisherman will pursue the objectives of incorporation in Pennsylvania and 501(C)(3) status with the Internal Revenue Service, which would make donations tax-deductible.

Do you have an idea for a logo for the Slipper Orchid Alliance? The Board is announcing a contest for a flower to represent us. The winner will be chosen by the Board at its next meeting, March 29, 2003, and will receive a plant and a bottle of Ladyslipper Wine (produced by Northern Vineyards in Minnesota, where the ladyslipper is the state flower). Entries may be sent to Tom Larkin. More details will appear

in the next newsletter.

As one of our goals is to meet in different parts of the country, the Board voted to hold our next Speakers Forum and official meeting, including Board meeting, in conjunction with the Cymbidium Society's Congress during the Santa Barbara Orchid Show on March 29, 2003. Yes, you read that correctly – the Cymbidium Society traditionally holds a full day of lectures split half and half between Cymbidiums and slipper orchids. Barry Fraser of Papa Aroha Orchids in New Zealand has already been invited to speak on his breeding program featuring complex Paphs, and the SOA will sponsor two more speakers. More information about the meeting and its history will appear in the next newsletter.

It was decided that new members will receive all issues of the newsletter published in the year in which they join. If they wish to obtain previous issues, they may do so for \$12 a year or \$3 for a single issue.

Are you willing to write an article or speak at a meeting? Or can you recommend someone? If so, please contact Jerry Fischer, Chairman of the Resource Committee. The more articles we get the more we will publish. Thanks to our growing membership we plan to produce more color photos. Are there certain subjects you want to know more about? Let us know.

All in all, our participation in the A.O.S. meeting was extremely successful and enjoyable. We hope to see many members in Santa Barbara next March 29.

*Barbara Tisherman*

## North American *Cypripedium* Species

The genus *Cypripedium* represents one of the most showy, and certainly most popular, genera of terrestrial orchids native to North America. Distributed circumglobally in the temperate regions of the northern hemisphere (with a few exceptions of course), this genus is enjoying a steady increase in horticultural popularity, due exclusively to advances made in propagative technology, making more and more species and even hybrids available to the curious and enthused horticultural community. This article will provide some information on most of the North American species, with a dual botanical and horticultural persuasion.

### Taxonomic Breakdown of the Genus within North America

The most recent treatment of this genus is by Cribb (1997), who provides a detailed and thorough infrastructure into which he has neatly fit the species. His outline shall be followed here. Species listed are those for which there has been some sort of first hand experience, preferably repeated and consistent observation in the wild. The type of

information to be gained from direct habitat observation cannot be surpassed by any number of books.

### General Notes on Culture

Successful culture of *Cypripediums* can be enjoyed by most, provided a few key requirements are met. In general, Cyps are moisture loving. Unlike many tropical orchids, Cyps do not like to dry out between waterings, preferring to stay consistently and evenly moist. The higher quality the water the better. Fertilizing can be done every watering at strengths of 500 – 1500 microSiemens when leaves have fully unfolded in the spring, up until winter dormancy sets in and leaves begin to yellow.

Light requirements vary with the species. If growing in pots, location can be easily adjusted to suit the plants' needs. Excessive light (as well as nearly any other environmental stress) is quickly exhibited as blackening of the leaf tips. Again, unlike their tropical cousins, Cyps respond very quickly if unhappy, as their death can be very rapid.

The most important aspect of pot culture is the inclusion of native (or not) grasses into the potting medium. This serves to shield the soil surface from warming rays of the sun, as well as help maintain a healthy, biotically active root zone. It should be noted that if growing in pots, they should not be allowed to sit out above ground over winter, as the solid freezing experienced would likely kill the plants. Pots must be sunken into the ground, with the surface flush with the adjacent ground.

### Breakdown by Species

*Cypripedium arietinum* – This species has been the source of some taxonomic controversy as it was once thought to differ significantly enough from other species to warrant its own genus, proposed to be *Criosanthes*. Reasons for this exclusion include entirely unfused sepals, a spurred lip and antherlike staminode. These factors alone do not warrant a separate distinction; however, it is suggested that its ephemeral bloom of only one or two days represents a significant evolutionary step in pollination biology and therefore taxonomic distinction. Unfortunately, the bloom is not at all ephemeral. Under cultivation, flowers remain open for up to a week under average to above average temperatures, even longer if kept cool.

This species has a limited range, centered about the Great Lakes Region. It occupies two distinct habitats, the first being cool cedar swamps, often floored with sphagnum moss. Here it is usually found singly and infrequently; however, the plants can become extremely large for the species. The second habitat can either be sandy dunes or limestone barrens near shorelines, where offshore breezes provide necessary cooling. It is in this habitat that *Cyp. arietinum* will develop huge colonies, with individual, smaller statured and

## Upcoming Events

**October 16 - 20, 2002**  
**AOS Members Meeting**  
**Adam's Mark Hotel**  
**Houston, TX**  
**Sponsored by the Houston Orchid Society**

infrequently clumped plants numbering well into the hundreds.

**Culture:** I have had the most success with transplants originating from cool, shoreline, limestone barrens, as opposed to the sand dune or cool swamp-type habitats. There the plants grow singly with roots in a thin layer of black, sandy, organic soil that is somewhat moist, on top of solid limestone. The stems grow through a very thick layer of very dry mosses, likely absorbing much overhead moisture, as well as insulating the root zone from warming sunlight. Plants are therefore grown in a mix of black topsoil and coarse grade surface (unpolished, unrounded, clay granules) with grass immediately sown into the medium surface. Grass should be allowed to grow no higher than the plant. Light is medium to low to keep plants cool. An annual sprinkling of lime is a must.

*Cypripedium candidum* – This species is native to Northeastern North America and probably most commonly distributed in Michigan. Its reputation for sunny habitats is well deserved as it is never found in much shade, unless it is at the border of a mucky meadow that is gradually being overgrown, where it will not be for much longer. Easily the most sun loving of all of our native species, *Cyp. candidum* consequently has a high moisture content. Water can often be found in a small hole dug adjacent to healthy plants. Black, mucky soil seems to be preferred; nevertheless, it has also been found in heavy clay substrates. Native to prairie-type environments, this species can thrive under controlled burn techniques used in management of prairie conservation areas. If allowed to grow continually, prairie plants can choke out thousands of plants to a handful in a matter of one season. Carefully timed burns can astonishingly replenish such populations in as fast a time.

As with other species in this genus, plant stature and floral pigments vary according to levels of sunlight. The shortest plants are always found in the fullest sun, whereas taller plants are found in shadier transition zones. This is not, as one might expect, genetically fixed. Plant height is an extremely variable characteristic highly dependent on a number of environmental variables, sunlight being one of them. This principle is not at all unique to this particular species, but rather a characteristic that can be generalized to most of the genus. This factor certainly confounds taxonomic treatises that attempt to use plant stature as a distinguishing characteristic, with particular reference to the *Cyp. parviflorum* complex. There are, of course, limits to a plant's potential height response, not entirely discounting this line of reasoning.

**Culture:** Because this species is found in open, moist, and sunny conditions, it should be given light for a good portion of the day. Prairie shade is essential for this species survival, as its tolerance for sun diminishes as the season progresses. Grasses should definitely be included in its pot and slowly allowed to overgrow the plant. Substrate should be black, mucky, and kept very moist; pH should be maintained near 7.0.

*Cypripedium x andrewsii* is a natural hybrid that occurs in the previously described situation where there is habitat overlap between *Cyp. candidum* and *Cyp. parviflorum* and all of its variants. The net result is a blend of both parents that can sometimes result in striking combinations, the most notable being white lipped double flowers, held above the foliage with dark chocolate-brown petals. There are, however, all types of intermediates with pouch colors ranging from pure white to pale yellow, and petals from green to chocolate-brown. Plant structure and floral stance are comparably variable.

**Culture:** Cultural requirements for this species are very similar to those for *Cyp. candidum*. Plants are usually larger statured than *Cyp. candidum*, with broader leaves. This would point to less intense light; however, such is not always the case as hybrids can be found adjacent to the species.

*Cyp. kentuckiense* – This is a southern species, with its range dipping down into Texas, with Kentucky actually representing the northern limit of its distribution. It is a warm, long season grower, always the first up and the last down. It can be found in shady locations, often near a running water source, and is apparently often inundated with water.

Plants are always large statured. Flowers are always large, the smallest being as large as, if not larger than, the biggest of the parviflorum complex. The pouch is on average the size of a chicken egg, ranging in color from butter yellow to pure white. There are never two flowers on a stem, and the hanging floral stance is characteristic. Stems often give the

impression they are bowing to support the flowers. The dorsal sepal is rarely vertical, usually drooping far over the pouch. Petals can become quite long, thin, and corkscrewed.

**Culture:** This is likely the easiest to grow of all *Cyp* species, surpassing even *Cyp. parviflorum* in its amenability to cultivation. Light should be low to moderate, but higher levels will encourage faster growth. Substrate can be completely inorganic, composed entirely of well-drained sand and gravel, provided suitable fertilizer is applied. It is said that this species enjoys seasonal inundation with water, as well as frequent repotting.

The *Cypripedium parviflorum* complex has attracted the greatest amount of taxonomic attention of any within the entire genus. This is due in large part to its huge North American distribution and consequent variability. It is likely, however, that the astounding ability of plants to change morphologically depending on environmental conditions is the single most confounding factor. Sheviak (1994, 1995) appears to be the first to document this principle with cultivated plants. His treatment of the complex is outlined here.

*Cyp. parviflorum var. parviflorum* – Restricted in range to the eastern United States, this variety is found in the driest habitat of the three. Flowers are medium sized and characterized by dark brown petals, holding their color along the entire length.

*Cyp. parviflorum var. makasin* – This is the northern, smaller flowered variety that prefers wetter sites, often in black mucky soil. Again, the petals tend to be dark brown, perhaps breaking into blotches towards the middle of the flower, revealing the greenish yellow basal color.

*Cyp. parviflorum var. pubescens* – This is the most variable of the varieties. Petals can be brown, although not usually as dark as the other two varieties; however, more typically they are yellow to yellow-green to brown. Flowers tend to be significantly larger. Plant stature has the greatest potential here to be large, but diminutive plants can also be found.

**Culture:** With such a hugely variable complex, it is difficult to give specific cultural recommendations, as the variety of habitats occupied is vast. Plants can be found on dry limestone barrens, or in black, mucky, acidic bogs, thereby requiring different cultural practices. Because artificially propagated seedlings or divisions of this species are so readily available, specific habitat information is not always accessible (a fortunate problem in a roundabout way). The following general recommendations should be followed: substrate can consist of black garden soil (or peat or clay) amended with perlite, gravel, etc., for aeration and drainage. Humus can be incorporated, especially for woodland plants, but is not always necessary. Annual sprinkling of lime is a good idea; however, it may not be appreciated by certain strains. Grasses planted into pots are very effective. As this

complex is so highly adaptable, it can thrive under new conditions that may be very different from initial habitat, greatly reducing the need for precise habitat duplication under cultivation.

*Cyp. montanum* – This is a mountainous species as its name implies, inhabiting the Rocky Mountain range from California to Alaska. Plants are frequently double flowered, with a white pouch and petals of a softer brownish green than that seen in the *parviflorum* or *candidum* complex.

**Culture:** This species can be found in forest clearings and edges, however not in direct sun (much like *Cyp. reginae*). Substrate for this selective species should be a silty soil, with gravel, lots of perlite, and conifer needles. A top dressing of lime is recommended. Unlike most other species in the genus, this one does not enjoy continual moisture and appreciates drying out, especially in the winter. Excellent drainage is essential.

*Cyp. fasciculatum* – This native of the northwestern United States can be found at high elevations in coniferous forests and shrubby thickets. Its two to four flowers are small, greenish brown, and according to Fred Case, look like peeled grapes. They tend to droop, pointing towards the ground, making observation difficult, likely in an effort to attract specific pollinators. Successful pollination results in substantial straightening and lengthening of the stem, thereby enhancing seed dispersal.

**Culture:** As this species is seen so rarely in cultivation, specific recommendations cannot be given.

*Cyp. acaule* – Likely the most acid loving of all our native species, *Cyp. acaule* has a wide distribution from northeastern Alberta, into the Northwest Territories of Canada, over to the east coast, and as far south as Georgia. There are two general and very different trends with respect to habitat. The first is high and dry woods, which are often sandy. The second habitat is somewhat boggy, usually with some type of sphagnum nearby. These two apparently divergent habitats maintain an acid medium as their common denominator.

Albino forms of this species exist and are most prevalent in the northeast.

**Culture:** Without a doubt, this species has proven to be the most difficult under pot cultivation. Numerous plants have been victim to overwatering and unexplained decline over the years. An acid substrate is essential, as well as the excellent drainage and aeration that a pine needle mulch provides. Although a number of growers have enjoyed cultural success in beds, cultivation principles do not seem to carry over. This is likely due to the heavy dependence of this species on its mycorrhizal associations.

*Cyp. guttatum* – Existing in a limited range within North America, *Cyp. guttatum* is restricted to the Yukon and Alaska. It is most widespread in Asia, and prefers sunny meadows and grasslands. Flowers are held singly, or very rarely doubly, above two or three opposite leaves. The underground rhizome can be quite extensive and wandering, producing a large number of stems or individual leaves over a large area. Flowers are irregularly spotted with brown or maroon. The front margins of the lip are polished and everted, very reminiscent of *Paphiopedilum* spp.

*Cypripedium guttatum* var. *yatabeanum* is primarily an Asian species, but can be found in parts of Alaska. Flower color tends to be green to greenish brown. The most significant character, however, distinguishing this from *Cyp. guttatum* is plant stature. It is much larger in every respect. As with the *Cyp. parviflorum* complex, there are many intermediate forms in size, shape and color, often making firm delineation difficult.

**Culture:** Under cultivation, *Cyp. guttatum* var. *yatabeanum* appears to be more vigorous, and not ideally suited to pot culture because of its wandering, stoloniferous rhizome. Substrate should be stony or sandy with a high humus content, particularly for var. *yatabeanum*, as it is more of a woodland species. Because light levels can vary among strains, some experimentation is required. Fertilizer should never be given to this group as it is very sensitive and will burn easily.

*Cyp. californicum* – the most stunning feature of this unique species is its production of small yellow and white flowers along the length of its stem at leaf bracts. It has a very small range in northern California and southern Oregon, and is found in open woods, usually in or near streams, often in the company of *Darlingtonia californica*. Plants tend to form large clumps, and exhibit very little floral variation.

**Culture:** An open, sandy mixture is indicated for this species, with lots of water, ideally under some sort of hydroponic/recirculating type regime.

*Cyp. passerinum* – This is a northerly species, found from Alaska eastward to Quebec, remaining in the northern regions of the Canadian provinces along the way, with the exception of Alberta and British Columbia, where the cooler temperatures afforded by the increased elevations of the Rockies permit its occurrence at lower latitudes. It can be found in bright, open woods with heavy clay soils, usually with some water source nearby, or in gravelly outwash plains. Flowers are small and self-pollinating, the only species in the genus with such a reproductive strategy. Consequently, there is very little variation within the species. Shoots are produced along a rhizome with a strong tendency to branch and sprout from dormant eyes.

**Culture:** Under cool, northern temperatures, this species

enjoys a period of full sun in early morning or late day; however, under warmer conditions, it must be kept in deeper shade to stay cool. The potting medium can be mulched with moss to keep cool, or sown with grass seed. Substrate should be clay based, with lots of sand, or a similarly draining material.

*Cyp. reginae* – This moisture loving native of the northeast is often prevalent in the Great Lakes region. It can be found in boggy, open forest edges in neutral to alkaline, black mucky soils. Sun is a critical factor in the population ecology of this species. It seems to require direct sun for only a portion of the day, as it is never found in constant sun nor full shade. It prefers intermediate areas, such as boggy forest borders or clearings. It is this type of environment that *Cyp. reginae* will quickly colonize, forming very large groups of stunning plants. There is a direct correlation between the amount of sun received and population size. As soon as its clearing or edge begins to grow in, the plants get taller from season to season, until individuals begin to disappear completely. Copious moisture is an additional requirement of this species, as it is often found growing adjacent to Tamarack. This is the largest and showiest of the North American species, with long and broad leaves, resulting in a relatively high rate of transpiration. This physiological luxury, likely resulting in its increased overall stature, is afforded by its wet habitats. It is likely that the exceptionally hirsute leaves are designed to be so in an effort to combat excessive transpirational water loss.

One or two flowers are produced, of which albinistic variants are known. It should be noted, however, that lip coloration is dependent on temperature at anthesis. Extremely high temperatures can result in little or no pigment production, giving the mistaken impression of albinism.

**Culture:** Full sun is appreciated by this stately species for a few morning hours. Plants like to be very moist but not sopping. Pots can be kept in trays of water to ensure plants stay continually moist. Black, mucky soil can be used, with sand or perlite to loosen, and pH can be adjusted to 6.5-7.0. Grass planted into the pot is usually not necessary, as leaves tend to block out the majority of sun before hitting the pot surface, thereby eliminating the need for the cooling effect of the grass.

## References and Recommended Reading

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Sheviak, C.J. 1994. *Cypripedium parviflorum* Salisb. 1: The Small-flowered Varieties. American Orchid Society, 63:664-669.

Sheviak, C.J. 1995. *Cypripedium parviflorum* Salisb. II: The Larger-flowered Plants and Patterns of Variation. American Orchid Society Bulletin. 64:606-612.

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*John Doherty*  
*Zephyrus Orchids*

## Cypripedium Pictures

The lovely *Cypripedium* pictures featured below belong to Paul Perakos. When asked to tell us something about himself, this is what Paul wrote: "I have been growing yellow lady's slippers with my family since 1971 when I was 11 years old and we rescued some plants. I live in the central part of Connecticut. More recently, I have been growing other varieties of cyps such as *Reginae*, *Kentuckiense*, *Candidum* and new hybrids available from Europe such as "Gisela" and "Hank Small." Also experimenting with some Asian species that do well here."



**Cypripedium parviflorum**



**Cypripedium candidum**



**Cypripedium Gisela**  
(*Cyp. parviflorum* x *Cyp. macranthos*)

## Selenipediums

Photos below are compliments of Rob Zuiderwijk of the Phrag Web ([www.phragweb.com/selenipedium/](http://www.phragweb.com/selenipedium/)) and Mr. Roberto Takase of Brazil who made the photographs. The species pictured below is *Selenipedium palmifolium*.



**Cypripedium reginae**



### **Paph Forum SOA 'People's Choice' Winner**

Phrag. Jason Fischer 'Crimson King' FCC/AOS, owned by Hadley Cash of Marriott Orchids, was the big winner at this year's Paph Forum. It is from a single flask of seedlings which were colchicine treated to induce tetraploidy. Out of that flask, seven were given AOS quality awards. These included one HCC, four AM's, and two FCC's.



## Selenipediums

Have you seen a Selenipedium? Would you know one if you did see one? Did you know that this genus is a part of the lady-slipper group (correctly known as the subfamily *Cypripedioideae*)?

We are most fortunate and grateful that Roberto Takase of Sao Paulo, Brazil, has sent us pictures and information about this relatively unknown genus. So far only six species have been described, and all can be found only in Central and South America. All of them are quite large plants with relatively small flowers and are rarely found in cultivation.

Their presence in Brazil, specifically in the Amazon Basin, is known from the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Botanically this genus has been poorly studied. Commercially they had only some past importance because of the aromatic seed capsules that resembled the flavor of "vanilla," but nowadays with the artificial flavors made by man it has become useless.

The Botanist of the Museu Emilio Goeldi in Belem do Para, Mr. Joao Batista Fernandes da Silva and his wife Mrs. Manoela, are together with several other people (including Mr. Takase) involved in serious botanical research of the genus Selenipedium. Botanically this genus is important for understanding the evolutionary steps reached by the other slipper orchids (*Paphiopedilum*, *Phragmipedium* and *Cypripedium*) as they are the most primitive of them. Research is also necessary because their existence is threatened due to habitat loss. It is hoped that better understanding of them will save them from extinction.

The species that have been described are *Selenipedium aequinoctiale* Garay, *S. chica* Rchb. f., *S. isabelianum* Barb. Rodr., *S. palmifolium* (Lindl.) Rchb. f., *S. steyermarkii* Foldats, and *S. vanillocarpum* Barb. Rodr. The last four can be found in Brazil.

The above information and photos were made available to us from the web-site "Selenipediums do Brasil" made by Rob Zuiderwijk from the Netherlands. You may access the web-site at <http://www.phragweb.com/selenipedium/>. In addition, our web-site ([www.slipperorchid.org](http://www.slipperorchid.org)) will display the pictures that Mr. Takase has sent us.

We thank Mr. Takase and Mr. Zuiderwijk for sharing their knowledge and pictures of Selenipediums and enabling us to broaden our understanding of the lady-slipper group of orchids that we love.

## Website Update

If you have looked at our web-site lately, I hope you are pleased with our new look. A hearty thank-you goes to Dr. Arthur Katz for his help in making it more attractive and including a wide variety of pictures on the lead pages.

The calendar is an important service to our members and the wider orchid community. If you know of any events that you think slipper lovers would like to be aware of, please let us know. We will be glad to post them here and to include them in our newsletter.

Richard Grundy, our web-master, has posted a comprehensive list of Paph. species, Phrag. species and hybrids, and Cyp. species and hybrids, along with many pictures. If you have pictures that will fill in the gaps, please notify him.

(Paph. hybrids are so numerous that there is no way we can show them all, but the newly appointed website committee will be discussing this issue.)

An exciting development is being able to display information about and photos of Selenipediums. (See article in this issue.)

Members now have the opportunity to send in their own pictures. Check with Richard Grundy to get the details.

## The 2002 Cymbidium Congress

The Santa Barbara International Orchid Show, March 8 – 10, was generally rated outstanding and the best in several years. Both displays and flowers were consistently excellent with a return to previous decades when *Cymbidiums* dominated the show. Only now the *Cymbidiums* are miniature, novelty, and pendant in a rainbow of colors.

Consistent with this were AOS awards, four going to *Cymbidiums* and only one to a *Paphiopedilum* Pinocchio (*glaucophyllum* X *primulinum*), an HCC of 77 points. The CSA also awarded four *Cymbidiums*, and one Bronze to *Phragmipedium* Don Wimber 'Tiera's Star' (Eric Young x *besseae*), and one bronze to Novelty *Paphiopedilum* unregistered 'Baywood' (Mt. Toro x *glanduliferum*).

On Saturday, March 9, 2002, the 27<sup>th</sup> annual Cymbidium Congress presented a full day of lectures, panel discussions, evening auction and banquet. The morning session was devoted to *Cymbidiums* and *Zygopetalums*. The speakers

pointed out that using parent selection, genetic engineering and starting with improved species, impressive results in color, size, and shape could be accomplished in only three generations. The evening speaker, Andy Easton, discussed the future of specialty societies with wit and insight.

The afternoon was devoted to slipper orchids. Tom Kalina of Fox Valley Orchids discussed new directions in hybridizing focusing on parvisepalums, *Paph. sanderianum* and *Phragmipediums* illustrated with many of his outstanding awarded flowers.

J. Hadley Cash of Marriott Orchids talked about white and pink *Paphiopedilums*. Understandably, he emphasized the whites starting with F. C. Puddle and its hybrids such as Cinderella, Freckles, Jack Tonkin, Snow Bird, and Blanche Sawyer and then moving to the Skip Bartlett generation with White King, White Queen, White Knight, White Castle, Silver Knight, Silver Chalice, Knight's Chalice, etc. There have been wonderful improvements in the size, shape, and purity of color. Using Hellas for pinks has given some success, as has Amanda Hill with Carmen Coll when crossed with White Knight. The new *Paph. delenatii*, the pink form of *Paph. vietnamense*, and *Paph. micranthum/brachypetalum* crosses give hope for smooth, pure, pink hybrids.

Norito Hasegawa of Paphanatics talked about the pendulum swing back to complex standard *Paphiopedilums* but approached his subject from the new colors and improved shapes resulting from developing hybrids with vinicolors, parvisepalums, and brachypetalums in their background and reintroducing these into Winston Churchill, Amanda, Paeony types.

It was a chance for old friendships to be rekindled and new friendships made. The relatively small size, communal meals, and breaks allowed ample time for informal discussions.

Among the slipper orchid contributions to the Cymbidium Congress Auction were select species:

*Paph. wardii* album (O.V. Orchids)

*Paph. venustum* album (Helen Congleton)

*Paph. fairieanum* (George Hatfield)

*Paph. primulinum* var. *purpurescens* – sumatra (Andy's Orchids)

*Paph. lowii* 'Von Weltz', HCC/AOS X self (Robert Weltz)

*Paph. lowii* (Helen Congleton)

*Paph. sukhakulii* (cross of 2 AM/AOS parents) (Helen Congleton)

*Paph. delenatii* (George Hatfield)

*Paph. philippinense* var. *aureum* X self (Helen Congleton)

*Paph. besseae* var. *flavum* x sib (Helen Congleton)

*Paph. philippinense* X sib (Paphanatics)

And the highlight of the evening, *Phrag. besseae* 'Fox Croft' (Tom Kalina, Fox Valley Orchids)

In addition there were hybrids, both primary and complex, including:

*Paph. Dollgoldi* (rothschildianum X armeniacum) (Helen Congleton)

*Paph. Freckles* 'Chalcedony Pink' (J. Hadley Cash, Marriott Orchids)

*Paph. Ruby Mist* X *Macabre*

*Paph. Diversion* 'New Orleans' (J. Hadley Cash, Marriot Orchids)

*Paph. Tanja Pinkepank* (micranthum X fairieanum) (The Orchid House)

*Paph. Battle Weltz* (conco-bellatulum X kolopakingii 'Jon Weltz' AM/AOS) (Robert Weltz)

*Paph.* (Landmark #1 X lowii 'Exotic Dancer' FCC/AOS (Paphanatics)

Flask of *Paph. Ambersham* 'Christine' X Heart of Palenque (Alsan's Orchids)

The profits from the auction allow us to seek the best speakers and continue our educational programs.

The 2003 Santa Barbara International Orchid Show will take place on March 28, 29, and 30. The Cymbidium Congress will be held in conjunction with the show on Saturday, March 29<sup>th</sup> with expectations for new speakers, novel subjects, and warm hospitality.

*Al Svoboda*

### ***The Greatest Orchid Show on Earth***

## **Japan Grand Prix International Orchid Festival**

I have had the pleasure of attending the last five Grand Prix shows. There is no way I can convey the magnitude of this show with mere words. The show celebrated its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year with close to 500,000 people attending!

The show is held at the Tokyo Dome, an enclosed baseball stadium also known as the Big Egg. The show lasts 10 days, and is staffed by many volunteers and university students. There are over 80,000 orchids and flowers in the more than 250 displays. Displays also include floral design, special exhibits by schools of design, artistic handicrafts, photographs, and many works of art. There are over 150 exhibitors from 26 countries, including professional orchid growers, orchid lovers, orchid societies, gardening related

businesses and Ikebana schools. There are many orchid-related activities during the show including cultivation, photography clinics, a fashion show, and lectures about orchids.

The judging competition involves over 1500 plants and displays, with around 200 judges including 30 from foreign countries. There are six divisions of competition:

1. Individual Plants
2. Fragrance
3. Displays
4. Floral Design
5. Arts & Crafts
6. Miniature Orchids & Container Gardens

There are 119 categories with ribbons, trophies, medals, CCM's, and cash prizes totaling millions of yen (thousands of US dollars). The Grand Prize winner receives \$18,000 and a brand new Mercedes Benz. Entry fees are \$8 to \$10 per plant, and you also pay for the medal if you are fortunate enough to win. Gold medals are \$80, Silver \$40, Bronze \$25 and CCM's \$40.

Of course there are also thousands of plants available for sale. A sales booth costs \$5000 for a one hundred square-foot space. If you put in a display, your booth costs are lowered to \$2500, and they pay \$600 for the display. Additional fees for a program advertisement, Grand Prix bags, tables, chairs, electricity and cleaning service can add up to over \$800.

There are many wonderful slipper-orchid breeders and growers in Japan and Asia. They are well represented at the show with display plants and plants for sale. Slipper dealers from other countries included L&R Orchids and Papa Aroha from New Zealand, The Orchid Inn, Paphanatics and New World Orchids from the US.

The invitation-only opening night party is one of the highlights of the show. It is attended by 20,000 guests and the Royal Princess who is an avid orchid grower. It is an orchid buying frenzy! The government supports the show by issuing beautiful orchid stamps commemorating the event.

If you plan to go, there are some other costs of attending the Grand Prix. Airfare will range from \$500 to \$1000, and there are always good deals. There is a beautiful new high-rise hotel next door to the Tokyo Dome which runs \$115 per night for a double room. Food will cost \$20 to \$100 per day, depending on where you go to eat. Train rides cost \$1. There are many wonderful trips and tours available at reasonable prices. The dollar is very strong now, so it's a bargain to go to Japan.

I encourage everyone to consider a "Once in a Lifetime" adventure to the Greatest Orchid Show on Earth.

*Dr. Glenn C. Lehr*  
*New World Orchids*

## The 2002 Paphiopedilum Forum

The 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Paphiopedilum Forum, sponsored by the National Capital Orchid Society, was held at the United States National Arboretum, February 16, 2002. Over the past decade, the Paph Forum has grown to be the premiere gathering of slipper orchid enthusiasts held on the east coast. There were 150 registrants, and a standing-room-only crowd at the 2002 Paph Forum. The sensational show table exhibited over 250 beautifully grown and flowered Paphiopedilums, Phragmipediums, and Cypripediums from both local and visiting growers. Co-chairmen, Gordon Slaymaker and Bill Goldner continued the tradition by putting together an informative and entertaining program.

The keynote presentation was delivered by Mr. Barry Fraser, Owner of Papa Aroha Orchids, Cormandel, New Zealand. Barry has been growing and breeding Paphiopedilums for 20 years. Over the past 10 years Papa Aroha Orchids has become recognized as a leading breeder and producer of complex standard and novelty Paphiopedilum hybrids. Since Papa Aroha's main market is Japan, it was exciting to view examples of magnificent Paph hybrids, while Barry provided insight into their history, current successes, and future potential. It was evident from the results of the sales area that Papa Aroha's orchids will be in demand in the United States as Barry Fraser's acclaim grows.

Keeping with the morning's Paphiopedilum hybrid theme, Karen Muir, Chair of the Pacific South AOS Judging Region gave a detailed and enchanting presentation on the history and current progress in the hybridization of Paphiopedilums in the brachypetalum group. Karen's use of montage slides was unique and allowed the viewer to see the results of a series of hybrids using a single base parent (e.g. *sukhakulii*) with different brachy species (e.g. *concolor*, *bellatulum*, etc.).

Ribbon judging and AOS screening occurred during the catered box lunch. Judging fostered considerable excitement, as it was noted that the "Best of Class" plants would all receive beautiful etched glass trophies, featuring Paphiopedilum *glanduliferum*, procured for the Forum by Lynn Evans-Goldner.

Sam Tsui, proprietor of the Orchid Inn, then took the podium and delivered an illuminating talk featuring Paphiopedilums from the parvisepalum and multiflora groups. Each species was presented, along with many of its hybrids, and an analysis of the important characteristics transmitted and faults to watch for. Sam also introduced the audience to a number of newly discovered species and horticultural varieties, which could impact Paphiopedilum breeding in years to come. Sam finished his presentation by

detailing his growing conditions, both under lights in his basement and in a small greenhouse attached to his house.

Linda Kennedy, Probationary AOS judge in the National Capital Judging Center, presented "The AOS Awards of 2001." Linda's excellent presentation was informative and appealing, revealing the state-of-the-art in both Phragmipediums and Paphiopedilums presented to AOS judging regions throughout the country during the second year of the new millennium.

Nancy Mountford, Accredited AOS judge in the National Capital Judging Center, chaired the Show Table Ribbon and AOS Judging. Participating AOS judges included: John Dunkelberger, Merritt Huntington, Karen Muir, Taylor Slaughter, Frank Slaughter, Janette Harris, Linda Thorne, Bill Goldner, Linda Kennedy, Nancy Meares, Barbara Tisherman, Steve Shifflett, Les Werner, Paula Bannon and Ken Meier. Yassir Islam served as a ribbon judge and Tim Culbertson, Bill Bannon and Karen Fonteneau served as clerks.

AOS flower quality awards were granted to: Paphiopedilum gratixianum 'Violet Mist' AM/AOS (81 points, exhibited by Woodstream Orchids, MD); Paphiopedilum Magic Lantern 'Fishing Creek' HCC/AOS (79 points, exhibited by Steve Male, PA); and Paphiopedilum Inca Treasure 'Pastel Snow' HCC/AOS (76 points, exhibited by Marriott Orchids, NC). Bl. Wanda's Fire 'Seagrove Orchids' (despite the lack of a pouch) received an AM/AOS (80 points, exhibited by Linda Thorne, NC).

The 2002 Paph Forum concluded with the presentation of the Show Table. Merritt Huntington and Bill Goldner ably shared this daunting task. As can be seen from the Show Table Trophy results below, Hadley Cash of Marriott Orchids was the big winner, taking home four trophies!!

Vendors present at the forum included AnTec Labs, Dragon Argo, Floradise, Marriott Orchids, Orchid Alley, Orchid Inn, Papa Aroha, Pinecrest, RKS Orchids, Rattcliffe Orchids and Woodstream Orchids.

By all accounts the presentations, plant exhibit and plant sales at the 2002 Paphiopedilum Forum were a huge success, continuing the trend established over the past several years.

## 2002 PAPH FORUM SHOW TABLE RESULTS

### **Trophy - Best Paphiopedilum Species:**

Paph. gratixianum 'Violet Mist' AM/AOS (Woodstream Orchids, MD)

### **Trophy - Best Paphiopedilum Novelty/Primary Hybrid:**

Paph. Magic Lantern 'Fishing Creek' HCC/AOS (Steve Male, PA)

### **Trophy - Best Paphiopedilum Complex Hybrid:**

Paph. bellatulum x White Legacy (Marriott Orchids, NC)

### **Trophy - Best Phragmipedium Species:**

Phrag. richteri 'Floradise' (Floradise Orchids, VA)

### **Trophy - Best Phragmipedium Hybrid:**

Phrag. Jason Fischer 'Marriott's Titian' FCC/AOS (Marriott Orchids, NC)

## SPECIAL AWARDS

### **Trophy - Mem. Bud Mellott Award for Best Culture:**

Paph. villosum (Kirk King, MD)

### **Trophy - Mem. Howard King Award for Best Plant in Show:**

Phrag. Jason Fischer 'Marriott's Titian' FCC/AOS (Marriott Orchids, NC)

### **Trophy - Slipper Orchid Alliance 'People's Choice' Award:**

Phrag. Jason Fischer 'Marriott's Titian' FCC/AOS (Marriott Orchids, NC)

*Bill Goldner  
Woodstream Orchids*

## Pictures Requested

The SOA website is seeking from its members pictures of new orchid species and hybrids for inclusion in a special SOA webpage being added to the website. Pictures will be featured each month and included in the SOA's permanent gallery.

Pictures should be sent as email attachments to [webmaster@slipperorchid.org](mailto:webmaster@slipperorchid.org) or [richardgrundy@slipperorchid.org](mailto:richardgrundy@slipperorchid.org). The email should contain the name of the species or hybrid, the plant owner and the photographer. Pictures should be in JEP format, if feasible. Text articles are welcome, as well. Thank you for your contributions.

## SOA TROPHY AT ILLINOIS ORCHID SHOW

A huge plant of Phrag. Andean Fire 'Michelle Lee' AM/AOS won the best slipper orchid specimen plant award at the April IOS show in conjunction with the A.O.S. Members Meeting. (Because the Illinois Orchid Society show has an annual award for the best slipper orchid, the SOA Board opted to present a trophy for the best slipper specimen plant in this show.) Kathleen and Terry Partin of Glendale Heights, Illinois, are the proud growers.

The plant when presented at the show had four inflorescences with nine flowers open, three buds, and another inflorescence starting. The Partins acquired the plant seven years ago from Leo Schordje, who did the breeding and got it awarded. The piece they acquired had one mature growth with one new start, and now it is in a 12" pot and has 18 growths. Obviously it has grown well since then. It grows in the Partins' greenhouse with their other Phrags in a mix of fine fir bark, fine charcoal, perlite, and a small amount of peat moss. They usually water one time per week and fertilize very weakly, every watering.

They have been involved in raising orchids for twenty years, and discovered their first lady-slipper a couple years after that. Being hooked, they soon had several hundred plants, all lady-slippers. Their first love was Phragmipediums, which they specialized in for six or seven years. After that they met another avid collector who specialized in Paphiopedilums, and the Orchid Trading Company was then formed. Ultimately the partnership dissolved, and the Partins had as many Paphs as Phrags.

They currently have over 5000 mature, blooming size lady-slippers and an unknown number of seedlings. Their primary interest is in species, but they maintain many hybrids as well. Their breeding program in Phrags is concentrated on the long petaled ones - caudatum, wallisii, warscewiczianum, lindenii - and on a search for pure whites and yellows. In Paphs, they specialize in species, especially sanderianum and its hybrids.

Unfortunately by the time we made a picture of this plant, it had done what phrags do best - drop perfectly beautiful blooms. One of the few drawbacks to growing this genus. We apologize to the Partins and to our readers for not having a picture to include in this issue.

## SOA Membership Status

Support for the Slipper Orchid Alliance continues to grow. When the Alliance completed its 2000 inaugural year, founding member support exceeded 170 members from seven countries: Australia, Canada, Dominican Republic, England, Japan, Jersey of the Channel Islands, and the United States. At the Alliance's May 19<sup>th</sup> Speakers Forum, membership exceeded 200.

Supporting membership also grew in 2001 to include seventeen commercial members: Antec Laboratory, Candor, New York; Bloomfield Orchids, Pittsford, New York; Castle Rock Orchids, Ltd., Maple Plain, Minnesota; Curved Air Orchids, Santa Maria, California; Ellenberger's Orchid Eden, Victor, New York; Fox Valley Orchids, Villa Park, Illinois; Gypsy Glen Orchids, Beaver, Pennsylvania; Orchidaceae, Seattle, Washington; Orchid Inn, Downs, Illinois; Orchids Limited, Plymouth, Minnesota; Paphanatics, Ltd., Anaheim, California; Ratcliffe Orchids, LLC, Kissimmee, Florida; The Orchid House, Los Osos, California; The Paph House "Orchids", San Leandro, California; Whippoorwill Orchids, Rogers, Arkansas; Windy Hill Gardens, Labadie, Missouri; and Woodstream Orchids, Huntingtown, Maryland.