



# The Slipper Orchid Alliance Newsletter

Volume 3, Number 3

Summer 2002

## SOA to Meet with CSA

In the late 1940's, a group of Camellia enthusiasts in the Los Angeles area discovered the beauty of Cymbidiums and decided to form a Cymbidium Society. Their fires of enthusiasm burned at a white heat. Little, if anything, was known about the care of Cymbidiums in those early years of the late 1940's and 1950's. The Cymbidium Society of America literally did more to popularize Cymbidiums and gather information on their culture than any horticultural group perhaps ever has done. A judging system was set up and branches were established throughout Southern California.

In 1976, at the suggestion of Ernest Hetherington, the Board of Directors of the CSA voted to hold an annual Cymbidium Congress. Since that time it has been held each spring, concurrently with the Santa Barbara International Orchid Show. This has permitted the staging of a Congress with the full benefit of a world famous orchid show that attracts people from around the world. The Congress itself provides an opportunity for these persons to get together, listen to lectures on all phases of Cymbidium culture and cool-growing orchids and to renew friendships. In recent years, Paphiopediums have increasingly received attention. Loren Batchman, Editor of the CSA Journal, says that "there is a very dedicated group devoted to Paphs, and many others who grow all types of orchids." Some of the Cymbidium

speakers have been Loren Batchman, Milton Carpenter, Ernest Heatherington, Keith Andrew from England, Sydney Monkhouse from Australia, and Alan Moon from the Eric Young Foundation. Speakers on lady-slipper orchids have included Terry Root of the Orchid Zone, Kevin Porter, Harold Koopowitz, Norito Hasegawa, Fumimasa Sugiyama of Japan, Ian Plested from England, Louis Hegedus, Tom Kalina and Hadley Cash. It is obvious from these names and the speakers listed below that the Cymbidium Congress offers a rare chance to meet speakers of international reputation and stature and is one of the outstanding orchid events in this country.

The Slipper Orchid Alliance is very pleased that the CSA has invited us to meet in conjunction with their next Cymbidium Congress on Saturday, March 29, 2003, during the weekend of the Santa Barbara International Orchid Show.

The Cymbidium Congress will start at 8:00 a.m. with registration and complimentary continental breakfast. There will be three speakers in the morning, followed by a panel discussion and buffet lunch. At the time this article was written those speakers are expected to be Tony Velardi, Susumu Furuya of Japan, and Kenneth Hipkins of Australia. The international flavor continues into the afternoon with Barry Fraser of Papa Aroha Orchids from New Zealand speaking on complex Paphs. Rounding out the afternoon will be two speakers sponsored by SOA and a panel discussion. Interestingly, Mr. Hipkins and Mr. Furuya are Paphiopedium as well as Cymbidium growers. An auction, offering many unusual and very special cultivars, will precede the gala banquet that is also included in the registration fee. Dr. James Folsom, Director of the Huntington Library, Art Collections, and Botanical Gardens will cap the evening by sharing some aspects of orchid history. Traditionally, many Santa Barbara orchid growers who are busy during the day will share the fellowship of the Congress registrants in the evening.

In addition, the Congress registrants are invited to attend the Celebration Party at the Santa Barbara International Orchid Show Friday night at no charge and have unlimited access to the show during the weekend.

Sunday is a day to visit orchid nurseries in the Santa Barbara and Carpinteria area (a map of grower locations is

## Membership Information

Anyone interested in becoming a member of the Slipper Orchid Alliance can mail their annual dues to: Steve Drozda, 661 Harrogate Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15241. Dues are \$25 per year for each household and \$50 per year for commercial supporting members.

given to each registrant) or to visit the show again. However, the SOA Board will have to interrupt all of the fun to have a business meeting Sunday morning.

Special room rates will be available at the site of the Congress, the Holiday Inn in Goleta, for \$100 plus tax.

This entire weekend should be truly exciting with bonuses of the ideal setting of Santa Barbara and the sparkling weather. We hope many of our members will participate to enjoy a fabulous show, beautiful flowers, exceptional lectures, and warm camaraderie. The next issue of the SOA Newsletter will include more details and registration information.

*Our thanks to Ernest Hetherington for the historical information in this article and to Dr. Al Svoboda, SOA secretary, and CSA member.*

## CITES and Slipper Orchids

### *What is CITES?*

The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, also known as CITES or the Washington Convention, is an international treaty dating back to 1973, which is intended to prevent the over-exploitation of wild animals and plants for international trade. The treaty relies on a basic principle of strictly limiting international trade in species in genuine need of protection while allowing controlled trade in species that are capable of sustaining some level of exploitation. One hundred fifty-eight nations are now Parties to CITES, with a few new countries still joining every year. These countries are known collectively as the Conference of the Parties.

CITES establishes a permit system for regulating international trade, including imports, exports, and re-exports, in certain taxa of plants and animals, and parts and products derived from them, whether live or dead. [It is important to understand that, in a CITES context, “trade” comprises any movement of specimens across international borders, for any purpose, whether or not it is commercial.] The taxa covered by the Convention are listed in three appendices, which determine how the Parties apply import and export controls to specimens of the listed species. The level of listing also determines the types of findings that must be made for the issuance of permits. A listing may cover an entire family (e.g., all Orchidaceae) or any lower taxonomic level, down to and including subspecies and varieties. In the following text, “taxon” or “taxa” could refer to any of these, as determined by a specific listing. Following is a

discussion of the requirements and procedures for trade for each of the appendices when the specimens involved do not qualify for any exemptions, which are discussed later.

Currently, all slipper orchids are listed in either Appendix I or Appendix II of CITES.

### *What is Appendix I?*

The most restrictive list is Appendix I, which includes taxa threatened with extinction and for which trade must be subject to particularly strict regulation and only authorized in exceptional circumstances. Commercial trade in Appendix-I taxa is prohibited.

International transactions in Appendix-I taxa require both an import permit and an export permit. The treaty specifies that an import permit should be granted by the importing nation before the export permit is issued. For an import permit to be granted, the importing country must determine that (a) the import is not for primarily commercial purposes, (b) the import will be for purposes that are not detrimental to the survival of the listed taxon, and (c) if the specimens are alive, the recipient is suitably equipped to house and care for them. For the issuance of an export permit, the exporting country must conclude that (a) the specimens were legally acquired, (b) the export will not be detrimental to the species’ survival, and (c) for live specimens, they will not be harmed during shipment. In practice, these provisions mean that legal trade in Appendix-I specimens is very restricted and that an import must be for a non-commercial purpose, such as scientific research, education, or conservation, which could include artificial propagation in limited circumstances, such as to produce plants for reintroduction into the wild. All slipper orchids in the genera *Paphiopedilum* and *Phragmipedium* (including *Mexipedium xerophyticum*) are listed in Appendix I.

### *What is Appendix II?*

Appendix II includes taxa that, although not necessarily now threatened with extinction, may become so unless trade in them is subject to strict regulation to avoid utilization incompatible with their survival. Listing in Appendix II provides a mechanism whereby trade in exploited species can be monitored, thus providing information needed to regulate the trade so that it is sustainable. Each CITES Party has the responsibility to determine whether its traded species are regenerating in nature at a sufficient rate to be self-sustaining.

Appendix II also includes “look-alike” species that must be regulated so that trade in the other listed species may be effectively controlled. Even though look-alike species would not be listed on their own merits, failure to regulate them would provide an opportunity for listed species (i.e., those listed in Appendix I or II because they are impacted by trade)

## Upcoming Events

**October 16 - 20, 2002**

**AOS Members and Trustees Meeting**

**The Houston Orchid Society will sponsor the fall AOS Members meeting which will be held at the Adam's Mark Hotel. Dr. Phillip Cribb, of Kew Gardens, will be the keynote speaker. Dr. Harold Koopowitz will also be one of the speakers.**

**January 18, 2003**

**International Slipper Symposium**

**Ramada Plaza Hotel**

**Kissimmee, FL**

**March 28 - 30, 2003**

**Santa Barbara International Orchid Show**

**The Cymbidium Congress and the Slipper Orchid Alliance will have meetings and sponsor speakers during the show.**

to be represented as non-listed species that are similar in appearance. Some taxa are listed at the family or genus level in Appendix II because individual species within those taxa are difficult to distinguish from each other. This helps enforcement personnel to recognize that any shipment containing these more general groups (e.g., all orchids, cacti, and cycads) requires close scrutiny.

The conditions for trade in specimens of Appendix-II species are less strict than those for Appendix-I species, since no CITES import permit is required (although a country may have other laws requiring that import permits be issued). The exporting country must make the same determinations for export of specimens of an Appendix-II species as for those of an Appendix-I species (i.e., that the specimens in question were legally obtained, and the export will not be detrimental to the survival of that species). The exporting nation must also be satisfied that any living specimen will not be harmed during shipment, and they must monitor trade to ensure that Appendix-II species are maintained at an ecologically functional level throughout their range. Slipper orchids in the genera *Cypripedium* and *Selenipedium* are listed in

Appendix II.

### *What is Appendix III?*

Appendix III is a list that an individual CITES Party may independently use to identify native species that are already protected within its own borders, but which require the cooperation of other Parties to prevent or restrict their exploitation. When a country lists a species in Appendix III, export from that country requires an export permit. The permit may be granted only if the specimen was obtained legally and, if live specimens are involved, the risk of injury or damage in transport has been minimized. If the export is from any other country, a certificate of origin is issued in lieu of an export permit. Import is allowed only upon the presentation of an export permit or a certificate of origin.

No slipper orchids are currently listed in Appendix III, since all are listed in Appendix I or II.

### *How does a species become listed?*

The inclusion of species in Appendix I or II, including transfers from one appendix to another, and removal of species from either appendix, are usually accomplished by agreement of the Conference of the Parties to CITES at its biennial meetings. (The Convention also allows amendments to Appendix I and II by postal procedures.) If not done by consensus, a two-thirds majority vote of the Parties voting is required to adopt amendments to Appendices I and II. Amendments to Appendix III, on the other hand, are made unilaterally by a Party and can be done at any time.

These meetings are attended not only by representatives of the Party governments, but also by representatives of concerned non-Party States and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations. The Conference of the Parties last met in Nairobi, Kenya, in April 2000. The 12<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP12) and will be held in Chile in November 2002.

### *How do CITES Parties resolve differences in interpretation of the treaty?*

The Conference of the Parties has adopted numerous resolutions to guide the Parties in interpretation of the treaty, to ensure consistency in its application, and to resolve ambiguities. The key resolution pertaining to plants (although there are others) is Resolution Conf. 11.11, which establishes the criteria for determining whether a plant is artificially propagated, and it also contains recommendations for treatment of flasks seedlings and hybrids.

Another resolution pertaining to Appendix-I species only is Conf. 9.19, which contains procedures for the registration of nurseries producing Appendix-I species for commercial purposes. Only two nurseries worldwide have been registered

for slipper orchids, one in Colombia and one in Germany (see <http://www.cites.org/eng/resources/registers.shtml>). The United States has not implemented the nursery registration procedures, but does ensure that nurseries producing slipper orchids for export meet the artificial propagation criteria of Resolution Conf. 11.11.

### ***How is trade conducted with non-CITES countries?***

Trade between a Party and a non-Party to the treaty is allowed, as long as the government of the non-CITES country issues a document comparable to the one required by the Convention for trade with a Party. Moreover, the Conference of the Parties has recommended that such “in lieu of” documents from non-Parties should be accepted only if the process of issuing them is similar to that followed by the CITES Parties.

It is worth considering that, if the United States were to withdraw from CITES and become a non-Party (which has been suggested by individuals frustrated with dealing with the permit requirements), we would still be required to issue permits to trade with CITES Parties. Not only does the Conference of the Parties include the vast majority of countries, but it includes all of the countries that are likely to be sources of orchids of interest to U.S. orchid growers or export destinations for orchids from the United States. In other words, we would still be required to comply with the terms of the treaty, but as a non-Party, we would have no voting privileges in the proceedings of the Convention.

### ***What are the special provisions for artificially propagated specimens and hybrids, and other exemptions for orchids?***

According to the criteria established by the CITES Parties, plants are only considered artificially propagated if they are grown from seeds, cuttings, divisions, callus tissues or other plant tissues, spores, or other propagules under controlled conditions. The term “controlled conditions” means in a non-natural environment that is intensively manipulated by human intervention for the purpose of producing selected species or hybrids. The cultivated parental stock used for artificial propagation must be (a) established in accordance with the provisions of CITES and relevant national laws, and in a manner not detrimental to the survival of the species in the wild; and (b) managed in such a way that long-term maintenance of this cultivated stock is guaranteed. All parts and derivatives shall be regarded as being artificially propagated only if they are taken from specimens that have been artificially propagated.

Special provisions exist for trade in specimens of artificially propagated plants. Appendix-I species artificially propagated for commercial purposes are treated as if they are specimens of Appendix-II species (i.e., only an export

permit is required). For species in Appendix II and III, as well as artificially propagated specimens of Appendix-I species not produced for commercial purposes, a certificate of artificial propagation can be accepted to authorize trade instead of any other permit or certificate. This more lenient system is the way CITES recognizes that, in general, artificial propagation of plants should be encouraged as a means of reducing collection pressure on wild populations. However, such plants may not be totally exempted from control because of the possibility that wild-collected plants could be misrepresented as artificially propagated to evade trade controls.

Hybrids are subject to the provisions of the convention if one or both of their parents are taxa included in the appendices, or if a natural hybrid itself is listed. In addition, artificially propagated plant hybrids derived from one or more Appendix-I taxa, unless their listing is specifically annotated to the contrary, are regarded as being included in Appendix II.

Table 1 presents a summary of the exemptions applicable to slipper orchids under CITES. Note that, except for seeds and pollinia of Appendix-II species, which are exempt regardless of source, other exemptions are based on the specimens being artificially propagated.

### ***What are the general exemptions and special provisions of CITES?***

A limited number of additional exemptions and special provisions exist under the Convention:

- Once a specimen has been exported from a country, subsequent re-exports from one country to another can be conducted with a re-export certificate, which can be issued more expeditiously than an export permit, as long as the specimens can be shown to be those that were originally imported with valid permits or re-export certificates.
- The treaty does not require additional permits for specimens transiting a country (i.e., not the country of export or import) if they remain under customs control.
- Specimens that can be documented to show that they were acquired before the Convention applied to the species concerned may be issued a pre-Convention certificate in lieu of any other permit. [**Note:** Newly discovered species included in a genus already listed in the appendices is already included in the genus listing and need not be listed separately.]
- The non-commercial exchange of herbarium specimens between scientific institutions is also exempted from the normal permit requirements,

Table 1.

MATERIAL	Appendix II		Appendix I	
	Exempt	Listed	Exempt	Listed
Seeds or pollen (pollinia)	All	None	Artificially propagated interspecific hybrids	All others
Cut Flowers	Artificially propagated	Wild origin	Artificially propagated interspecific hybrids	All others
Fruit (i.e., seed pods, including parts or derivatives thereof)	None	All	None	All
Seedling or tissue culture in vitro in solid or liquid media transported in sterile containers	All, but presumption that they are artificially propagated	All others	All, but presumption that they are artificially propagated	All others

provided both the sending and receiving institutions have been registered with the CITES Secretariat by the governments of the countries in which they are located (again, see <http://www.cites.org/eng/resources/registers.shtml>).

Once registered, an institution may make multiple shipments under a Certificate of Scientific Exchange according to established procedures.

- Specimens owned by plant exhibitions and other traveling exhibitions, if they are pre-Convention or artificially propagated, can also be exempted from the usual permit requirements. However, the traveling exhibition must be able to satisfy regulatory officials at international borders that the specimens of CITES-listed species were not acquired during its travels. This is accomplished through the issuance of certificates by the Management Authority of the country of origin. Certificates identify the specimens qualifying for the exemption.

- An exemption may be given for trade in personal or household effects (for example, when someone with an orchid collection moves to a different country). However, there are restrictions on this exemption, and it is not universally implemented by all CITES Parties; therefore, a permit or certificate is often needed. It is best to check with the CITES authorities of the importing country as well as the exporting country to see if the personal effects exemption will be recognized for your specimens.

#### *What current CITES issues pertain to orchids?*

A CITES Plants Committee, consisting of representatives from the various regions of the world, addresses technical issues relating to the implementation of the Convention for plants. As part of these responsibilities, the Plants Committee may review proposals to amend the appendices at the request of the proponent country, and in addition, the committee conducts periodic reviews of taxa already included in the appendices to determine if their listing accurately reflects their current biological and trade status. Parties that are not members of the Plants Committee as well as non-government observers attend meetings of the Plants Committee and contribute to its work.

At its ninth meeting (PC9) in Darwin, Australia, in June 1999, the Plants Committee decided to undertake a review of the Orchidaceae to determine whether (a) any taxa currently included in Appendix I should be transferred to Appendix II, (b) any Appendix-II taxa should be transferred to Appendix I, and (c) any Appendix-II taxa should be removed from the appendices, or “delisted.” The results of such a review can lead to the submission of proposals at a subsequent meeting of the Conference of the Parties to change how various orchid taxa are controlled by CITES, including the possible elimination of CITES controls altogether (i.e., delisting) if warranted. At PC10 in Shepherdstown, West Virginia, in December 2000, the Plants Committee further discussed this review, including lead persons for various regions (globally) and a methodology for conducting the review.

At PC11 in Langkawi, Malaysia, in September 2001, the

Committee concluded that, while a considerable number of genera of orchids were not in trade at all, or were traded at low levels, there were still problems with similarity of appearance among genera. The Committee also believed that the delisting of these species would have little practical effect, since retaining them in the list does not create a burden for regulators or the public. However, delisting some genera would require separate listings of all genera remaining in the appendices, which could cause confusion for enforcement personnel by requiring them to know which of the thousands of species were exempt and which were included in the appendices, and also to be able to distinguish them from each other. It was agreed to retain all orchids in the appendices, but to seek other potential avenues to reduce the burden on importers and exporters, especially for specimens that pose little or no conservation risk. The United States has been active in this regard and, with the assistance of the American Orchid Society, we prepared and submitted a proposal to exempt from CITES controls the artificially propagated hybrids of six Appendix-II genera, which will be considered at COP12 in Chile. This proposal is posted on our web site at <http://international.fws.gov/cop12/ussubmission.html>.

*Paphiopedilum* and *Phragmipedium* (which includes *Mexipedium*) were not among those genera considered for delisting, since an earlier review had determined that they should remain in Appendix I. The Plants Committee recognized that these two genera include species that are at significant risk of extinction in the wild, largely due to over-exploitation for trade. The review also concluded that the genus *Cypripedium* should remain in Appendix II as one of the most heavily traded genera of orchids (in the top 33 out of approximately 900 genera). The only slipper orchid genus that may qualify for removal for the appendices, but which remains listed for the reasons given above, is *Selenipedium*.

### ***What is happening with U.S. CITES regulations?***

On May 8, 2000, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service published a proposed rule in the Federal Register, which was intended to update U.S. regulations for the implementation of CITES. Although the United States implements CITES decisions and procedures as they become effective, to comply with our obligations as a signatory to the treaty, the publication of these regulations was intended to more fully inform the public of these procedures. It has been widely misunderstood among orchid growers and others that these regulations represented “new” procedures, whereas the Fish and Wildlife Service was attempting to merely make explicit in these regulations what it had been doing in practice all along. Some procedures elaborated in the proposed rule have been in place for nearly 20 years, although others reflect more recent decisions taken by the Conference of the Parties

(not unilateral decisions of the United States).

The proposed rule was subject to a 90-day comment period, during which the Fish and Wildlife Service received numerous comments from orchid growers as well as organizations like the American Orchid Society. These comments have been analyzed and considered in the preparation of a final rule, which is still pending. Until it is published, Fish and Wildlife Service staff are prohibited from discussing the contents of the final rule, since it is subject to internal review and modification up to the time of publication. However, there are some key points to note about the rule:

- These regulations pertain only to import and export, and do not relate to possession, commerce, or other activities involving orchids, if the activity occurs entirely within the United States.
- The basic requirements for obtaining CITES permits are dictated by the treaty and accompanying resolutions. The treaty has been in effect since 1975 and has never been amended; the requirements relating to trade in orchids have not changed since 1994.

### ***What is the status of newly discovered slipper orchid species?***

All newly discovered orchid species are immediately included in the appendices to CITES and are therefore subject to the permitting requirements and prohibitions of the treaty. All newly discovered *Paphiopedilum* and *Phragmipedium* species are included in Appendix I, and any other newly discovered species is included in Appendix II.

There has been particular interest in the recently discovered *Paphiopedilum* species from Viet Nam and elsewhere, such as *Paph. helenae* and *Paph. vietnamense*. The Fish and Wildlife Service received information from the Government of Viet Nam a couple of years ago indicating that they have not allowed the legal export of any of these species obtained from the wild, nor is there currently any artificial propagation of these species for export. We have received no more recent information to suggest otherwise. We are continuing to obtain additional information on these species and their status in Viet Nam, as well as species from other areas of Southeast Asia.

Meanwhile, we consider that specimens of these species under cultivation outside Viet Nam and other range countries do not qualify as artificially propagated specimens. If Viet Nam has not allowed the export, the parental stock has not been legally acquired, and reports from field botanists also indicate that the collection of parental stock is probably

detrimental to the survival of the species, at least in some cases. Therefore, because they do not meet the artificial propagation criteria, flasks of these species and their hybrids also fail to qualify for the exemption provided in CITES Resolution Conf. 11.11. We have consulted with the CITES Secretariat on this matter and they concur in our interpretation of the flasket seedling exemption.

At the 11<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Plants Committee in Malaysia last year, the United States submitted a document to draw attention to the significant illegal trade in newly discovered *Paphiopedilum* species. In this document, we made a number of recommendations, which were all adopted by the Plants Committee. Among these were recommendations to:

- Identify and encourage legitimate sources of plants, and
- Explore avenues to provide assistance to range countries that might result in these species being made available legally and in a manner not detrimental to wild populations.

The full text of the document (PC11 Doc. 24.4) can be found at <http://www.cites.org/eng/cttee/plants/11/agenda.shtml>, along with a companion document submitted by Switzerland, "Some recently described taxa in the genus *Paphiopedilum*" (PC11 Inf. 8). We will continue to work with the CITES Plants Committee as well as individual Parties on these issues.

In addition to the numerous recent discoveries of *Paphiopedilum* species, we are also following developments with the recent discovery and description of *Phragmipedium kovachii* (=Phrag. peruviana). To our knowledge, this species is not yet available for legal import into the United States, but may be available soon due to propagation efforts in Peru. We are communicating with the Government of Peru to ascertain current and accurate information on this species, including whether any nurseries in that country have been authorized to collect and propagate the species for commercial export.

### ***Are your orchids legal?***

As stated above, assuming you are not an orchid smuggler or dealing with persons who are, whether your orchids are legal or illegal is unlikely to be an issue unless you seek a CITES export permit for them. Although the Fish and Wildlife Service may engage in enforcement activities to address instances of illegal plant trade, this does not mean that we send agents door-to-door to determine the legal status of nursery stock or hobbyist collections on a routine basis, nor do we have any intent of doing so. We occasionally will visit a grower to confirm or clarify information provided in a permit application, and our agents will investigate suspected cases of illegal trade, based on information received from

the public or other intelligence. However, the average orchid grower is unlikely to ever encounter a Fish and Wildlife Service agent if they deal with reputable dealers, avoid plants of suspicious origin and that are known to be illegally collected and traded, and exercise caution in obtaining plants that are rare and difficult to propagate.

### ***What if I don't have documentation on my plants?***

Whether or not you can document the origin of your plants may be irrelevant unless you wish to obtain an export permit, or you have received plants of illegal origin or engaged in smuggling yourself that causes you to be investigated. Remember, CITES does not apply to possession of plants within the United States (although this does not mean you can obtain and possess illegal plants) or to transactions within the United States.

If you need an export permit for plants that you cannot document with permits, invoices, or other records, you should provide a written narrative of when and where you obtained the plants, to the best of your recollection. CITES authorities can then decide on whether or not to issue a permit based on their knowledge of the species, its availability, and other factors. The lack of paper records does not preclude the possibility of obtaining a permit for them, but it may present problems for species that are known to be commonly smuggled, difficult to propagate, or rare in cultivation. The lack of documentation requires a greater degree of judgment by the permit-issuing authorities. It is always best to maintain records of your plant acquisitions, however.

### ***What happens to confiscated plants?***

Plants that are seized or forfeited upon import are placed in the Plant Rescue Center program operated by the Division of Management Authority, Branch of Operations, in the Fish and Wildlife Service. A Plant Rescue Center (PRC) must be a public, non-profit institution, and the plants they receive may not be sold or transferred outside the Plant Rescue Center program. However, a PRC may propagate these plants, and the offspring thereof, including artificially propagated divisions, are the property of the PRC to dispose of as they deem appropriate, within the law. Some PRCs are propagating plants they obtain through the program, and others use them for education and display, including in displays to educate the public about CITES.

### ***Where can you obtain more information?***

For more information on CITES, visit the web site at [www.cites.org](http://www.cites.org). For more information on obtaining permits and CITES-related activities in the United States (including preparations for the upcoming meeting of the Conference of the Parties in Chile),

visit the web site at or call 1-800-358-2104 or 703-358-2104. Permit forms may also be obtained through a fax retrieval system by calling 1-800-770-0150 or 703-358-2348.

*Roddy Gabel*  
*Chief, Division of Scientific Authority*  
*U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service*

## Phragmipedium Kovachii

After a short trip to Peru earlier this year Michael Kovach, of Goldvein, Virginia, brought back an orchid plant which he sent to the Marie Selby Botanical Gardens for identification. Little did he suspect that this action would prove to be the beginning of a bitter controversy involving some of this country's most well respected taxonomists and orchid institutions. The plant Michael submitted turned out to be a new *Phragmipedium* species and the discovery, as he recounted, "has been both a blessing and a curse." How could one of the most beautiful slipper orchids ever discovered bring out the ugliest traits in human nature?

Mr. Kovach was on an adventure trip to Peru in May of 2001 and was having lunch at a typical roadside restaurant when the owner asked him if he would like to see an orchid he had growing out back. The plant looked like a hybrid and the flower was dried beyond recognition, so Michael just assumed the man had probably purchased it at an orchid show in Lima. Shortly afterward Michael returned home and forgot about the incident.

In May of this year Michael returned to Peru and as he passed along the same road he noticed some blooming *Maxillarias* in the restaurant owner's front yard. When he stopped to have another look at the orchid collection the owner's daughter came out from behind the restaurant with a large potted fern. Tucked in among the fronds was a blooming specimen of a large, raspberry-pink *Phragmipedium* that Michael described, "like a *Paphiopedilum micranthum* on steroids." The owner of the restaurant wanted to sell the plant. When Michael returned to the U.S. a few days later he brought the plant with him and sent it for identification to Selby, where it was found to be an unidentified species and was named *Phragmipedium kovachii*.

It should be noted here that taxonomists will sometimes name a new species in honor of its discoverer. The word "discoverer" generally refers to the person who submits the specimen, in this case Michael Kovach. The actual discoverer of any given orchid species is usually a local orchid collector or farmer who frequently passes through tropical forest.

Michael Kovach is considered the discoverer of

*Phragmipedium kovachii*. He was the first person to bring the plant to the attention of a trained taxonomist, and therefore the plant was named in his honor. Michael must have considered that a blessing. Next came the curse.

Soon after Michael returned home he became aware that a few days prior to his visit to the restaurant in Peru the owners of a nearby orchid nursery had also purchased a few blooming plants of the same *Phragmipedium* and were supposedly going through whatever legal channels were necessary to export a specimen to the U.S. for identification by Dr. Eric Christenson. However, Eric, according to an article published in the Miami Herald on August 9, 2002, says that he had not seen the actual plant but that Peruvian friends put photos and measurements on the Internet that he used to describe it.

On June 12th, *Selbyana*, the Journal of the Marie Selby Botanical Gardens, published the new *Phragmipedium* as *Phragmipedium kovachii*. The taxonomic description was written by Stig Dalstrom, John Atwood and Ricardo Fernandez. In the July issue of *Orchids*, the Magazine of the American Orchid Society, the new *Phragmipedium* was named *Phragmipedium peruvianum* by Eric. Since the mailing date of *Selbyana* preceded the mailing date of *Orchids*, the name *Phragmipedium kovachii* will be the correct name and *Phragmipedium peruvianum* will be considered a synonym.

The article in the Miami Herald called this new slipper orchid "the most important discovery of the past 100 years, and it's turning the highly competitive industry into even more of a hothouse." It goes on to say that Peru has asked the U.S. government to seize any of the orchids it finds, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has opened an investigation. The Peruvian Orchid Society is complaining that scientists at Selby gave an illegal plant its endorsement by giving it an official name. The article points out that CITES rules say it's illegal to "possess" a smuggled plant, but Selby scientists said they did not possess the plant. "If we looked at a plant, held it in our hands and sent it back, is that possession?" asked John Beckner, orchid specialist at Selby.

The uproar being made public recently over this controversy will probably continue until the next new *Phragmipedium* is discovered. In a letter from Eric Christenson being circulated on an orchid related web page, Selby and Kovach are accused of smuggling. Selby maintains it receives numerous orchid specimens for identification and does not require documentation for this material. Similarly, the International Code of Botanical Nomenclature does not require that a new species have any specific import or export documentation in order to be described and published.

The curse for all slipper enthusiasts is that *Phragmipedium kovachii*, under present CITES regulations, will not be obtainable legally now or any time in the near future. As

far as I know Peru has never issued export documents for any *Phragmipedium*, and chances are slim that *Phragmipedium kovachii* will be an exception. Of course, if you live in Peru or are planning on moving there, plants are being offered anywhere from ten thousand to one thousand dollars. Supposedly plants are being offered for sale in the United States from one thousand to 250 dollars.

From all reports, the local collectors in Peru have stripped out the original habitat of all remaining plants, the smallest being stuffed in flasks filled with sterile gelatin and passed off as artificially propagated. Why have most of the plants of *Phragmipedium kovachii* been collected out of their habitat if it is illegal to export them? I can think of a number of reasons:

1. The original locality was a confined area and collecting was easy.
2. Local collectors envisioned selling them to foreigners at exorbitant prices.
3. The plants could easily be transported across nearby borders via bus or automobile and sold to orchid enthusiasts in neighboring countries.
4. There are no laboratories in Peru that have had consistent success at propagating *Phragmipedium* species from seed; therefore, local growers do not think in terms of collecting only a few plants or seed pods for propagation. The thinking is, "if I don't take them all someone else will."

The CITES treaty does not deal with conservation of orchid species in their native habitat. Basically, the treaty regulates and documents international trade in endangered species. What can be done about the hundreds, maybe thousands, of *Phragmipedium kovachii* that are now dying in backyard nurseries in Peru? Not much.

The two pictures of *Phrag. kovachii* published in this newsletter were not seen in the *Orchids* article. One shows the surprisingly large size of this species by comparing it to a man's hand. The other is a smaller but spectacular color form. Michael makes the observation that the larger flowers tend to have reflexed petals, whereas the smaller and darker ones are flatter.

Is there hope that we will someday see this extraordinary flower in the United States? Obviously a fresh approach is needed before this will happen. Since CITES is concerned only with international trade and not conservation, a different group or individuals will have to step forward to change the current situation and to protect newly discovered species from becoming extinct in nature.

One possibility would be for the United States, with approval of CITES, to license established orchid seed flasking laboratories to propagate CITES Appendix I material. Another would be for an organization or group of slipper enthusiasts, which could include commercial growers, to provide funding and training to initiate seed

flasking in countries where Appendix I material exists in nature. As of now, we hear that a few Peruvian orchid nurseries are attempting to flask this spectacular plant. Roddy Gabel, of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, says that orchids grown in laboratory flasks could be shipped with permits if the parent was legally obtained without harming the wild population.

As responsible orchid lovers, as much as we would love to see and own this amazing orchid now, selling and buying an illegal plant only makes more destruction of orchids in natural habitats inevitable. In the current situation, many hurdles remain, but with new thinking, work and good will it is possible we all will be able to grow and bloom our own *Phragmipedium kovachii*.

*Dennis D'Alessandro*

## Another View

At the First International Orchid Conservation Congress in Australia last year, I actually had a number of scientists remark that they supported CITES, including Phil Cribb, who is well known in slipper orchid circles. Many of the problems blamed on CITES, they acknowledged, are actually peculiarities of individual countries, their individual laws, and the manner in which they administer the treaty.

No, CITES doesn't address orchid habitat problems, nor can it address problems with illegal collecting in countries where species occur naturally. However, what we have with *Phrag. kovachii* is an international demand among some collectors (not all) that is rapacious and beyond rationality, and this is where CITES has a role. I believe CITES is flexible enough for us to make these species available through legitimate means, and one of these is what Dennis suggests: some technical assistance to nurseries within the countries of origin so that they can produce legitimately propagated specimens for export. I believe the governments of the countries themselves would be supportive of this (although there may always be some who will not want to let anything out) because it allows their country to benefit economically from their resources. However, the unfortunate reality is that a small number of people engage in illegal trafficking of poached plants, and then another subset of the orchid community provides a market for these plants. This is what has led to the demise in the wild of a number of species--possibly *Phrag. kovachii*, if indeed there was only one population, and also possibly *Paph. vietnamense* and others. This is all for the very reason Dennis gives for the collectors in the range countries: there are people who will sacrifice

the species to be the first to have it.

As a slipper orchid aficionado, I'd like to have a *Phrag. kovachii*, *Paph. helenae*, *Paph. vietnamense*, and a number of other species in my personal collection to grow and appreciate, but I will wait until they are available legally and from sources that did not contribute to environmental plunder. Of course, I'm obligated to take this stand because of my job, but I also believe in it personally, and I think anyone who truly appreciates slipper orchids should first and foremost appreciate their place in nature.

*Roddy Gabel*



*Phragmipedium kovachii*



A smaller flower of *Phrag. kovachii*. Notice the petals do not recurve. Photo by Michael Kovach



*Phrag. kovachii* - to show size of flower.  
Photo courtesy of Marie Selby Botanical Gardens.  
Used with permission.



*Phragmipedium longifolium*



*Phragmipedium longifolium* var. *roezelii*

## Phragmipedium longifolium... Culture and Offspring

Of all the *Phragmipedium* species, *longifolium* is the most diverse and variable. *Phragmipedium longifolium* is found over a very widespread area from southern Mexico in Central America south into Peru in South America. Over this vast range, *Phragmipedium longifolium* varies in size from small manageable plants to plants with leaf spans over four feet. With the diversity of the plants, the flower does vary in size, however the form is very similar between all forms. The variety of the plants is recognized with a series of varieties including Gracile, Hartwegii, Roezelii and Hincksianum, or as individual separate species depending on the author, taxonomist or the day of the week. For this article, the types will be referred to as varieties for ease of discussion. I have personally grown all of the varieties, including two that were good enough to receive AOS quality awards. *Phragmipedium longifolium* produces nice graceful clump fans typical of *Phragmipedium*. The inflorescences are produced as the new growths mature, reaching lengths of six feet over time. The flowers are produced successively over very long periods, often overlapping the following years blooming. Inflorescences will last well over a year on mature plants and will on rare occasions branch. Flowers range from about nine centimeters on the Gracile variety to well over 21 centimeters on the larger forms with most ranging in the 15 to 19 centimeter range. Individual flowers last about three to four weeks, falling off the plant in pristine condition, typically on the way to judging.

Despite the differences in size and varieties, I have found that the culture is very similar between all types. In general, *longifolium* likes to be kept evenly moist if not wet, receive moderate light levels and intermediate temperatures. Starting off with watering, as with most *Phragmipediums*, they enjoy wet feet. *Phragmipediums* break the first orchid growing rule of when in doubt about watering an orchid, wait a day or so and then water it. It is impossible to over water a *Phragmipedium*. I recall hearing a story about a grower collecting *Phragmipedium longifolium* many years ago. He talked about how prolific a grower it was and how it seemed to be one of the first plants to populate certain new road cuts, especially in the drainage ditches along the road. Upon finding a suitable site to collect, he stepped off of the road into waist deep water and found a *Phragmipedium* root system too large and entangled to be able to collect plants. In other cases, *longifoliums* have been reported to be found completely submerged in water for parts of the year. These two stories indicate the plant's love of moisture at the roots. Water quantity alone, however is not the only consideration. Water quality is equally important. In the wild, plants are

constantly wet with generally some form of moving water. This water is obviously not being provided to the plant out of the end of a garden hose from some municipal water treatment plant or a iron laden well, but from a natural spring or run off from the plentiful rains of tropical America. The water these plants are growing in is very clean with very low levels of salts and nutrients. Efforts should be made to provide *longifolium*, and in general all *Phragmipediums*, with good clean water. Ideally, rainwater or reverse osmosis water with some nutrients added should be used, however, many growers have good success using un-softened tap water. Watering can be performed in many ways. I use shallow, watertight trays to provide water only from the bottom. I allow the trays to dry and refill them about once a week, depending on light levels, air movements and humidity levels. I have experienced crown rot problems in *Phragmipediums* when too much water is allowed to stand in the crowns of the plants, so I avoid the situation by only watering from below. Other growers are equally successful at growing using traditional watering methods. Along with watering is feeding. As indicated above, nutrient levels are very light. I have found that about any fertilizer is fine in light quantities that are provided on a regular basis. My conductivity levels in my water, including fertilizer, runs in the 150 to 250 PPM range. When levels exceed these ranges for long periods of time, the plants will start producing dried brown tips at the ends of their leaves as a result of salt damage. If a grower is to err in fertilizing, it is far better to err on the light side. I have used many brands and formulations of fertilizer and have not experience significant differences in plant growth. I am currently using the Hilltop Special from Dick Wells at Hilltop Orchids in Cloverdale, Indiana. It is a good fertilizer with good chemistry and micronutrients. As I stated earlier, it is impossible to over water a *Phragmipedium*. This is only true if the growing media is kept fresh and frequent, regular repotting occurs. Ideally, *Phragmipediums* can be repotted twice a year, but I have found that as with most growers, the collection is too large to accommodate this schedule. Annual repotting, however, is highly advisable. As is typical with orchid growers, every media under the sun is used for growing. This is true as well in *Phragmipediums*. I personally have tried many types with varying levels of success. The traditional standby of fine fir bark with charcoal and sponge rock is still a great mix; New Zealand Sphagnum moss and rockwool are other choices. However, fir bark seems to be getting harder to find, more expensive and lower quality. New Zealand Sphagnum Moss would probably be my media of choice except for the cost, the media breaks down rapidly and becomes toxic to the roots after about six months. Twice yearly repotting is absolutely required in this media. Rock Wool is difficult to deal with for most growers with less than perfect water quality and gives little or no buffer to mistakes made with water quality. I have,

therefore, opted for a new mix that is renewable, available from local suppliers and is much more affordable. This media seems to be able to tolerate longer periods of time between re-pottings, however, I still try to repot everything annually. There has been a lot of discussion between growers about the use of coir or coconut fiber. Most supplies have high levels of salt resulting from the soaking of the coconuts in salt water before processing. The media must be washed several times before it can safely be used for potting. I believe I am like most growers in that washing media rates about as low on my list of growing chores as anything. I have found a media produced by the Scotts Company that has been developed for the bedding plant industry. Scotts has modified the old Metro Mix 380 to include about thirty percent coir. Metro Mix 380 with coir is made of about thirty percent each of composted pine bark, coir and sphagnum moss. The mix also contains perlite and a basic starter fertilizer. I make a mix with the Metro Mix 380 with coir and add about ten to fifteen percent each of course sponge rock and charcoal. I repot using the same square plastic deep pots as I have always used and pot using the mix with the light level of moisture found in the bag. After filling the pots with media, I slightly pack the media around the roots to firm the plant in place. I water the media well and replace in the growing area. This mix seems to dry quickly, when not standing in water, and for the occasional plant that gets too dry, the plants re-wet very easily unlike other peat based mixes.

The final parts of culture for *Phragmipedium longifolium* include air movement, humidity, temperature and light. With the plants being kept wet, higher than normal air movement is recommended to prevent rotting and fungal problems. On a recent visit to Ecuador, it always seemed like the wind was moving, providing constant airflow around the plants. A good rule of thumb is to increase airflow as the collection increases. Leaves and inflorescences should be moving lightly at all times. With high levels of moisture and air movement, humidity should be relatively high in the range of sixty to eighty percent. Good levels of humidity seem to be important for the full elongation of the petals. Temperature does not seem to be overly critical, however the extremes will be tolerated. In the Baker's book, *Orchid Species Culture*, the temperature range is listed between 58 and 84 degrees Fahrenheit. I have experienced temperature ranges outside of this range with no bad effects. I would not recommend this on a regular basis. Higher and lower temperatures will result in the plants slowing or stopping the growth process until better conditions are provided. Light levels are also widely tolerated, although good strong bright light is best, nearing low *Cattleya* conditions. Overall, *Phragmipedium longifolium* is a species that is very easy to grow under wide ranges of conditions. The plants are well suited for windowsill, under light or greenhouse culture. The numerous varieties allow for the selection of a plant that is suitable for various amounts of space.

The offspring of *Phragmipedium longifolium* are always good hybrids to look for and grow. The hybrids are quick and easy to bloom and produce consistently good, well presented flowers. Hybrids with *longifolium* have been registered as early as 1873 with the introduction of *Sedenii* (x *schlimii*) with *Grande* (x *caudatum*), *Calurum* (x *Sedenii*) and *Conchiferum* (x *caricinum*) following closely behind. More recent hybrids made crossing *Phragmipedium longifolium* and *besseae* create wonderful hybrids such as *Eric Young* (x *besseae*) and *Socerer's Apprentice* (x *sargentianum*). More complex hybrids such as *Don Wimber* (*Eric Young* x *besseae*) and *Noirmont* (x *Mem. Dick Clements*) have also made consistently great hybrids. Overall, *longifolium* is responsible as a pod or pollen parent in 27 hybrids and has 24 quality awards specifically on *longifolium*. Most hybrids using *longifolium* as a parent produce smaller plants with good size flowers that are well presented. Hybrids range in size and color with most of good quality, with the best being very exceptional. Flowers are held nicely above the plants are in most cases are successive bloomers, typical of the *longifolium* parent. As a testimony to the quality of the *longifolium* hybrids, even the oldest hybrids are still grown and shown today.

*Phragmipedium longifolium* is a wonderful overall plant for both beginners and advanced growers. It produces great hybrids that are fast to flower from seed and a generally good consistent quality. The plants vary in size for the many different growing spaces and are tolerant of a wide range of conditions. *Longifolium* is a must have for any good *Phragmipedium* collection.

**Eric R. Sauer, ASLA**  
**River Valley Orchids**  
**Lebanon, Ohio**



*Phragmipedium longifolium*  
 Photo courtesy of Orchids, Ltd.  
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## SOA Logo Contest

The Slipper Orchid Alliance is looking for that very special logo to represent the organization! To better motivate the flow of creative juices in our members we have decided to hold a competition with prizes.

The winner will receive a plant and a bottle of Lady Slipper Wine (produced by Northern Vineyards in Minnesota, where the Lady Slipper is the state flower). The winner will also have the satisfaction of knowing that their entry was the “**Best of SOA.**”

There are very few rules:

1. Must be a flower in the Lady-slipper group (Cypripedium, Paphiopedilum, Phragmipedium, Selenipedium, Xerophyticum).
2. The original entry can be ... pen & ink sketch; photograph; computer generated graphic; oil or watercolor painting; stained glass; metal art; or other art form.
3. Do Not Send the original entry! You must submit one (1) each 5” x 7” color and one (1) each 5” x 7” black and white Photo for each entry. Quality color & black & white computer generated printouts are also acceptable (*at least 350dpi, higher resolution preferable*).
4. No limit on number of entries. Enter as many as you have the talent and creativity to generate.
5. Entries must be received by Mar 1, 2003 (received by not to be confused with postmarked).
6. Send all entries to **Slipper Orchid Alliance Logo, %Tom Larkin, 9790 Larkin Lane, Rogers, AR 72756** (that’s Arkansas not Arizona).
7. Winner will be chosen by the SOA board at their meeting in Santa Barbara on March 29, 2003.

All entries become the property of SOA to dispose of as the Board decides unless return is requested and accompanied by funds for the return postage.

## SOA DIRECTORY

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## Paph History

### Cypripedium Godefroyae var. Leucochilum

#### Mrs. Godefroy's Cypripedium, White Lipped Variety

*Cypripedium godefroyae* is a species at once very interesting and very beautiful, belonging to a small section which is very distinct in habit and colouring, and comprises also *C. bellatulum*, *C. concolor* and *C. niveum*.

It was discovered about the year 1876 by an Englishman named Murton, who sold to Mr. Godefroy, a nurseryman of Argenteuil, the plants which he had collected, but Mr. Murton died before the plants were sent home, and they were left to the care of another Englishman named Alabaster, who sent the first introductions of this species to Mr. Godefroy and to the Royal Gardens, Kew. The first flower was produced at the end of 1884, in the collections of Baron de Rothschild, at Ferrieres and Mr. Lee, of Leatherhead.

*C. godefroyae* was originally found on a little rocky island, situated near the island of Champon, in the northern part of the Malayan gulf. It appears, according to the *Garden*, that it grows only on the western part of the island, that is the one facing the Malay peninsula, and never towards the east. Some of the plants were collected at only about 15 feet above the sea level, whence it ranged up to about 80 feet altitude. In this situation the plants are in the shade up to about 10 o'clock in the morning, and afterwards exposed to the direct rays of the tropical sun during the rest of the day.

*C. godefroyae* is rather variable, and in this respect establishes a certain transition towards other species of the group to which it belongs. Some of its varieties approach rather near to *C. bellatulum*, still they generally differ in the shape of the floral segments, especially of the petals, which have the margins undulate, and the apex emarginate. In the foliage, moreover, it is clearly distinguished from this species. In habit it is nearly identical with *C. niveum*, in fact it is difficult to distinguish between the two plants though the two flowers are very different.

*C. godefroyae* is in colour very analogous with *C. bellatulum*, with the sepals and petals of a cream white, covered with large purple-brown spots, more numerous towards the base, and disposed more or less in lines parallel with the median nerve.

The variety *leucochilum*, which is figured in the annexed plate, made its appearance in the month of June, in the

collection of R. I. Measures, Esq., of Camberwell, and is very distinct and remarkable. Mr. Measures' flower, of which *The Gardeners' Chronicle* published, in its number of June 30 last, a beautiful woodcut, bears a general resemblance to *C. bellatulum*, and demonstrates, as *The Gardeners' Chronicle* remarks, that the line of demarcation which separates certain extreme forms of the two species is very fine. The present one, however, possesses the peculiarity, which has given the name to the variety, of having the front of the lip entirely cream white, without any spots except on the inside of the lip and the staminode, which bear a large number of minute purple spots.

Mr. Measures' flower presents also another peculiarity which is not present in our example, in having the apex of the lip prolonged into a little point. The peculiarity is pretty constant in this plant, it appears, but others of the same importation have not produced it.

The plant which served for our model flowered recently in the collection of Mr. Houzeau de Lehaie, of Mons, a member of the Belgian Chamber of Representatives. It was exhibited at the Horticultural Exhibition at Mons, where it excited great interest.

**Lindenia**, pp. 366-67.

## Culture Notes

There has been a lot of discussion about Nutricote, a time release fertilizer developed in Japan. Unlike some of the other time release fertilizers currently on the market, the coating on Nutricote is resin based and not affected by heat. A commercial grower in the southeast has done some experiments where Nutricote was used in half of the plants and the other half received no Nutricote. Each group of the trial plants contained the same plants and the plants were as nearly the same size as was possible. There was a noticeable increase in the growth of the plants using the Nutricote after a period of six months. Many of the cymbidium growers on the west coast have begun using Nutricote and have experienced similar results.

Do you like to use fish emulsion on your plants but can't stand the smell? Try using seaweed extract instead. It is a low level nitrogen source and should be used at the rate of one tablespoon per gallon with a surfactant added to the mix. Spray the foliage and water the plants. Use once a month. Your plants will love it.

## Growing Paphs in Windowsills: A Full Circle but with New Perspective

As of this writing, I can hear the rain beating against the skylights as it glazes our country roads with ice; weather which forecasters predict will turn to snow for the next three days--not a landscape most 24-year veterans to sunny Florida would look forward to. Returning to Vermont presents new challenges, not to mention relearning how to negotiate snow and ice. Still, the winter wonderland is apparent everywhere, and some days are even sunny! In this setting, orchidists really appreciate growing orchids! We are growing just three paphiopedilums as house plants. How do paphs respond to home conditions?

The three paphs we have to start with are: *Paphiopedilum Maudiae* 'The Queen', *P. venustum*, and *P. St. Swithin*. I have seen *Paphiopedilum Maudiae* grown under normal fluorescent lights in Michigan with some success, therefore this hybrid seems a good choice. *Paphiopedilum venustum* forms a full circle for me having been my first orchid acquired in 1959 (different clone). The most interesting plant for this modest experiment is *Paphiopedilum St. Swithin*. Although a hybrid, both parents (*P. rothschildianum* and *P. philippinense*) thrive in the wild in bright and sometimes full sun. Can a coryopedilum paph thrive as a house plant?

Potting materials for the *P. Maudiae* and *P. venustum* consist of locally collected live sphagnum, but I used limestone chat with about 5% compost for the *P. St. Swithin*. One of the notable differences I note in all three plants compared with growing in Florida is the turgidity of the leaves, which I attribute to water quality. Bending a leaf, especially of *P. Maudiae*, can easily result in breakage. I could never acquire such turgid leaves in Sarasota. All three plants are in active growth producing broader leaves. Specific results follow.

*Paphiopedilum Maudiae* has a flower spanning a full 13.5 cm vertically supported on a scape 42 cm long including the ovary which I failed to stake. The plant has four new growths, and a fifth has appeared from the old rhizome.

*Paphiopedilum venustum* responded to the heat of Sarasota with weak growths sporting dull leaves, but the recent growth is more robust with pronounced patterning on its waxy leaves. It has a single flower on a short scape. It has six new shoots developing, and time will determine if our growing conditions will repeat the success of years ago.

The biggest surprise is the vigor of *P. St. Swithin* now sporting four buds. I would have expected at most two buds at this latitude. Is this light-lover producing one last gasp before expiring? The new growth with broadened leaves suggests a plant in perfect health. Perhaps there is basis for optimism from the habitats. In the wild both parents of *P. St. Swithin* are usually exposed to bright light during midday unlike their mottled leaved forest floor relatives. Is it possible that the drier home atmosphere is close to nature? What about light? Many of our days are overcast, yet windows are quite sunny on bright days, and there is supplemental light during the evening from an adjacent lamp. Maybe different aspects of our growing conditions mimic the natural habitat. The sun of a southerly window comes in at a low angle making rooms bright during midday. The maximum angle of the sun with the earth at our latitude is 23 degrees on December 21 compared with 40 degrees in Sarasota, Florida. Although the days are short, the sun hits the same window at sun-up as well as sundown. There may be another clue from the habitat. *Paphiopedilum rothschildianum* and *P. philippinense* usually grow on the sides of cliffs receiving light from an oblique angle, suggesting that the south window in our latitude may be optimal for these orchids. The only negative aspect of these plants as house plants is their sheer size, but perhaps a more compact clone of *Paphiopedilum philippinense* could be used as a parent. Orchid growing has come a long way since Veitch proclaimed, "Cypripedium philippinense has its home in one of the hottest regions of the world, growing in the blaze of a tropical sun and exposed to the force of the monsoon storms, climatic conditions that are simply impossible in the glass structures of Europe" (Manual of Orchidaceous Plants, part 4, 1889.) What would Veitch think of growing its hybrid in a sunny window?

Most orchidists would have difficulty restricting themselves to three plants, yet a limited and carefully selected collection allows for more detailed observation. If vigorous growth over the next year confirms my surprise with *P. St. Swithin*, I will encourage growing coryopedilum paphs as house plants!

*John T. Atwood, Orchid Curator  
A Selby Vignette  
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Marie Selby Botanical Gardens*

## With Special Thanks to our 2002 Supporting (Commercial) Members

(see bold type entries in the alphabetical directory for contact information)

Chuck Acker, Flasks by Chuck Acker  
 Bill and Paula Bannon, Doe Creek Nursery  
 Leon Blumreich, Pine Crest Orchids  
 Dennis D'Alessandro, Gypsy Glen Orchids  
 Glen Decker, Piping Rock Orchids  
 James Fang, Hilo Orchid Farm Hawaii, Inc.  
 Jerry and Yoko Fischer, Orchids Limited  
 Bill and Linda Evans- Goldner, Woodstream Orchids  
 Norito Hasegawa, Paphanatics, unLTD.  
 Merritt Huntington, Kensington Orchids Associates  
 Tom and Pat Kalina, Fox Valley Orchids, Ltd.  
 Tom and Barbara Larkin, Whippoorwill Orchids  
 Brian and Marilyn LeDoux, Windy Hill Gardens  
 Glenn Lehr, New World Orchids  
 Paul and Mary Phillips, Ratcliffe Orchids LLC  
 Kevin Porter, Curved Air Orchids  
 Mark Srull, Orchidaceae  
 Russell Tyler, Tyler & Associates Orchids & Tropicals  
 Sam Tsui, Orchid Inn

### Etceteras

One correction to our last newsletter. Parkside Nursery was a vendor at the Paph Forum and their name was left out of the article.

We hope that each of you have received your SOA Directory. There are a couple of corrections for the directory. Barbara Tisherman's correct zip code is 15217.

Our apologies to Paul and Mary Phillips of Ratcliffe Orchids. Their correct web address is: [www.ratcliffe.uk.com](http://www.ratcliffe.uk.com). Please make these corrections in your directory.

A big thank you to Barbara Noe for all of the time and

effort she put into the SOA Directory. It was a very time-consuming task and sometimes all we hear about are the errors and we forget to say "thank you."

### Please make the following additions to your directory:

Gordon M. Slaymaker  
 7605 Long Pine Drive  
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