



The Slipper Orchid Alliance Newsletter

Volume 6, Number 2

Summer 2005

New Paphiopedilum Hybrids: A Long Way from Ho Chi Minh

It has been almost seven years since the discovery of two of the most beautiful slipper orchids, *Paphiopedilum hangianum* (1998) and *Paphiopedilum vietnamense* (1999). Neither of these two species was ever legally exported from Vietnam, their country of origin. However, a few years ago Antec laboratory began legally selling flasks seedlings of *Paphiopedilum vietnamense* which were produced using mother plants that had been confiscated upon entry into the U.S. and were grown in a designated rescue center. The first registered hybrid with *Paph. vietnamense* as a parent was *Paph. Ho Chi Minh* (*Paph. delenatii* x *Paph. vietnamense*). Flashed seedlings of this hybrid have also been made available through Antec laboratory. As of yet neither the *Paph. vietnamense* nor the *Paph. Ho Chi Minh* seedlings have reached blooming size, but since *Paph. vietnamense* is a fast growing species we should be seeing both of these at shows and judging centers soon. Now let's look at what we won't be seeing any time soon.

In January of this year Taiwanese President Chen Shui-bian urged all domestic orchid growers to intensify innovation and development to help create in Taiwan a "kingdom of orchids." If there is anything close to orchid royalty this is where you will find it. If you want to get into show business you move to Hollywood; Paph breeders head

to Taiwan.

Picture thousands of *Paphiopedilum vietnamense* and *Paphiopedilum hangianum* sharing greenhouse space with some of the best multiflorals, parvisepalums and brachypetalums, and you are looking at a lifetime of new possibilities and potential. The Taiwanese breeders began selecting only the best clones of these two new Vietnamese species to make their hybrids, and these new crosses are just starting to bloom. By the time you bloom it, your *Paph. Ho Chi Minh* will already be *Paph. Ho Hum*.

One of the first of the new hybrids to bloom using *Paph. vietnamense* was the cross with *Paph. emersonii*. The shape, size and color are about what you would expect except for the spots, since neither parent has spotted petals.

Another hybrid, *Paph. vietnamense* x *Paph. micranthum* is similar to *Paph. Magic Lantern* but is considerably larger. The color seems much less consistent than in *Paph. Magic Lantern*, probably due to the variability of color forms in *Paph. vietnamense*. Some clones of this particular cross have bloomed out a dull purplish-brown color that is not very appealing.

Paphiopedilum hangianum is a slow grower, and so far none of the seed- grown plants of this species have bloomed in cultivation. The hybrids using *Paph. hangianum* are another story. Since most its hybrids were made using species that grow and bloom faster, many of these new crosses have already bloomed and many others are close to blooming.

Paph. wenshanense x *Paph. hangianum* is an attractive hybrid, predominantly light yellow with a reddish brown crisscross pattern at the base of the petals and overall large triangular shape. The short inflorescence should eventually be improved.

Paph. delenatii x *Paph. hangianum* looks somewhat like a big, floppy *Paph. Lynleigh Koopowitz*, keyword being big. *Paph. hangianum* can reach a natural spread of 20 centimeters (8 inches) or more, so future hybrids will be unimaginably huge.

The most beautiful of the *Paph. hangianum* hybrids to bloom recently is the cross with *Paph. niveum*. Consistently large, round and snow white with a pink crisscross pattern on the petals, this hybrid rivals some of the complex whites

SOA Membership

If you receive a membership renewal form with your newsletter, your membership is up for renewal within the next three months. Please fill out the form and mail it to our membership secretary, Jean Metcalf, 2323 Edinboro Rd. GH#6, Erie, PA 16509. The SOA directory will be mailed in August, so please renew your membership promptly so that your information will be included in the directory.

that have taken four or five generations of hybridizing to accomplish.

Other crosses that I saw recently in Taiwan that are near blooming size were Paph. malipoense x Paph. hangianum, Paph. armeniacum x Paph. hangianum, and Paph. moquettianum x Paph. vietnamense. No doubt there are many others as well.

Incorporating Paph. hangianum into complex white breeding will eventually produce flowers that when placed in front of a basketball will render it invisible. You could also use these flowers to hide behind in case the plant police should someday come knocking on your door.

Dennis D'Alessandro



Paph. delenatii x Paph. hangianum



Paph. niveum x Paph. hangianum



Paph. bellatulum x Paph. vietnamense



Paph. wenshanense x Paph. hangianum



Paph. vietnamense x Paph. micranthum

Upcoming Events

AOS Members Meeting
October 12 - 16, 2005
Doubletree Hotel
Rohnert Park, CA
Sponsored by the Sonoma County Orchid Society. SOA will sponsor speakers and have an auction.

8th Slipper Symposium
November 5, 2005
Kissimmee, FL
Ramada Plaza Hotel
See article in this newsletter for more information.



Phrag. Noirmont 'Jennifer Noel'

SOA Trophy Winner

The winner of the Slipper Orchid Alliance trophy at the 2005 Spring Mid-America Show and AOS Meeting in Minneapolis was a magnificent *Phragmipedium Noirmont* 'Jennifer Noel' AM, CCM/AOS. The plant is owned by Rick and Alexa Noel of Cincinnati, Ohio.

The Noels actually have two Noirmonts that are almost identical. Both were purchased in June of 2000, as seedlings from two different sources. Both plants received an Award of Merit in February of 2004. This year, both plants received a Certificate of Cultural Merit award at the Greater Cincinnati Orchid Show in March. The plants were named after the Noel's two daughters, Stacey and Jennifer.

Rick and Alexa grow primarily Paphs and Phrags in their 12x18 foot greenhouse. During the winter months, the Phrags get as much sun as the gray Cincinnati winters allow. Summers are spent outside in dappled sun under trees. Plants are kept very moist year round with rainwater containing low levels (250 ppm) of balanced fertilizer. Besseae hybrids, such as Noirmont, are kept cool to intensify the red color with winter nights held at 58 to 60 F.

The Noels have been serious orchid enthusiasts since the early '80s and are members of the Greater Cincinnati Orchid Society.



Paph. Gerd Rollke HCC/AOS 76 pts.
(Paph. emersonii x Paph. rothschildianum)
Owner: Orchid Inn, Sam Tsui
Awarded at the AOS Members Meeting in
Minneapolis, Minnesota
April 2005

Checklist for the Newer Paphiopedilum Hobbyist

July - September

(Northern Hemisphere)

PLANT GROWTH AND BLOOMING CYCLE: By summertime the main blooming season is over for all but Brachypetalum species and their hybrids. The new growths are reaching mature size, and are actively growing roots. By the end of summer the plants are starting to initiate buds for the next flowering season.

WATERING: Increase the frequency of watering during warm weather, never allowing the mix to dry out. Check young seedlings and plants in small pots often, since they tend to dry faster than mature plants. Always apply water liberally, allowing it to drain freely from the drainage holes. This practice assures that the mix is evenly moistened and aerated. At least once a month water thoroughly to leach the residual salts left by frequent summer watering and fertilizing. This is particularly important if you use untreated hard water (containing more than 300 ppm of dissolved salts). If your water quality is poor, you may treat it by RO (reverse osmosis) or DI (deionization). Water treated by common household softeners should not be used, since it is toxic to plants.

FEEDING: Continue using a balanced, water-soluble formula for orchids, such as 20-10-20 or 20-20-20 (diluted to one-quarter strength of manufacturer's recommendation). Never fertilize dry plants: water first, and apply diluted fertilizer after every watering. Paphs are intolerant of concentrated fertilizers or salts in the mix. Hint: to make the task easier, pre-mix a concentrated solution of fertilizer in a bucket, and use a proportioner/mixer or an inexpensive Syphonex attached between your faucet and the hose to dilute it further.

LIGHT: Watch the light levels in your greenhouse: the warmer the weather, the more critical is proper shading. Paph leaves are soft, and dehydrate easily. Hard-leaved multiflorals tolerate most light, while young seedlings and the soft-leaved paphs benefit from extra shading. If the leaves feel warm to the touch, turn yellow, or show signs of sunburn (large black areas along uppermost surfaces), hang an extra sheet of shade cloth above your Paphs.

TEMPERATURE, AIR MOVEMENT AND HUMIDITY: Paphs perform best in a cool, humid and shady spot in your greenhouse. They benefit from good air movement, but need to be shielded from strong, drying drafts. Most Paphiopedilums need a diurnal range (drop in nighttime temperature) of at least 15 to 20°F (8 to 11°C) to flower properly. Day temperatures of 80°F (27°C), night

temperatures of 60°F (16°C) and daytime humidity of 50% RH to 80% RH are ideal. Cool growing Paphs tolerate brief exposures to higher daytime temperatures, as long as the plants are well watered and the humidity is maintained above 50%. Multiflorals and Brachypetalums prefer slightly warmer temperatures and need high humidity for optimum growth and flowering. To increase the humidity in your growing area, use a humidifier, or mist the ground under the benches and the surrounding area. Monitor the greenhouse temperature and check the cooling system often. In case of daytime power failure or cooler malfunction do anything you can to keep the plants cool: open the greenhouse vents and windows, use temporary heavy shading, and keep the plants well watered.

REPOTTING: Paphiopedilums may be repotted at any season, but the best time is late spring through early summer. Make sure to keep newly potted plants well shaded, cool and moist. Ideally, you should finish repotting by the first part of July, allowing the plants to develop a healthy root system before the onset of cool weather. The frequency of repotting depends on the mix, water quality, and fertilizing schedule. They should be repotted before the mix starts to break down, which usually happens after one to two years. Brachypetalums and Parvisepalums benefit from yearly repotting, because they are particularly sensitive to salt burn and tend to loose roots rapidly as the mix accumulates salt residues and decomposes.

PEST CONTROL: Inspect the plants often for signs of mealy bug and spider mite infestations. During hot, dry weather the insects multiply quickly, and timing the treatment is critical. Use only insecticides recommended for orchids, and follow the directions carefully. To avoid damage, make sure that the plants have been recently watered, and spray when temperature is expected to stay under 80°F (27°C).

HIGHLIGHTS:

Keep your PLANTS WELL WATERED and the growing area COOL AND SHADED during the hot summer weather. If needed, ADD EXTRA SHADING, and CHECK THE COOLING SYSTEM OFTEN.

Helen Congleton

25th Annual Paphiopedilum Forum

The 25th Annual Paphiopedilum Forum was hosted by the National Capital Orchid Society, Saturday, February 19, 2005 at the U.S. National Arboretum Visitors' Center, in Washington, D.C.

Co-Chairmen Gordon Slaymaker and Dr. William Goldner

put together an exceptional program, highlighted by three exciting lectures. Dr. Phillip Cribb, Curator of the Herbarium, Royal Botanic Garden – Kew, in England and a knowledgeable and prolific author of well-researched orchid texts and articles, mesmerized the audience with his presentation “25 Years of Chasing Paphiopedilums and Cypripediums in China.” Dr. Harold Koopowitz, Editor of the *Orchid Digest*, among the world’s most popular and prestigious orchid periodicals, and Professor at the University of California – Irvine, gave an interesting presentation on “Searching for Phragmipediums in Ecuador,” showing the many diverse habitats of the popular New World slipper orchids. Finally, Mr. Robert Wellenstein, co-owner (with wife Lynn) of AnTec Laboratories, Candor, New York, talked in depth about how they grow their award-winning Paphs.

In addition to the lectures, the program included the presentation of the 2004 American Orchid Society award slides for Paphs, Phrags, and Cyps, presented by Certified AOS Judge, Steve Drozda.

Attendees were encouraged to bring their best blooming slipper orchids for the fabulous show table, which had as many as 275 plants! This year the spectacular show table was presented by Steve Shifflett (Floradise Orchids), Harold Koopowitz, Paul Phillips (Ratcliffe Orchids) and Bill Goldner (Woodstream Orchids). Nancy Mountford did an excellent job organizing the judging for this year’s Forum and was assisted by Linda Kennedy. Ribbon and trophy judging was intense, due to the number of high quality entries. Carved crystal trophies were given to: Paph. malipoense – Best Paph Species (Exhibitor: David Smith); Paph. Legacy’s Child ‘Moon dust’ – Best Novelty Paph Hybrid (Exhibitor: Hadley Cash, Marriott Orchids); Paph. Green Glory ‘Primo’ – Best Paph Complex Hybrid (Exhibitor: Hadley Cash); Phrag. richteri ‘Beechview’s Buddy’ AM/AOS – Best Phrag Species (Exhibitor: Brien and Demetria Marsh); and Phrag. Jason Fischer ‘Memoria Mose Samet’ – Best Phrag Hybrid (Exhibitor: Charles Wilkins).

Four American Orchid Society awards were awarded at the 2005 Paph Forum: Phrag. Jason Fischer ‘Memoria Mose Samet,’ grown and exhibited by Charles Wilkins, received an 85 point AM/AOS; Paph. Green Glory ‘Primo’ grown and exhibited by Hadley Cash received an 81 point AM/AOS; Paph. Legacy’s Child ‘Moon dust’ (bellatulum x White Legacy) grown and exhibited by Hadley Cash received an 80 point AM/AOS; and Slc. Crystelle Smith, grown and exhibited by Claire and Roger Cole, received a 79 point HCC/AOS.

The Slipper Orchid Alliance sponsored the SOA Peoples Choice Trophy, given to the plant at the Paph Forum receiving the most votes from the Forum attendees as their favorite. Bill and Lynn Goldner (Woodstream Orchids) won for the third year in a row with their impressive 10-bloom plant of Paph. Invincible ‘Spread Eagle’ (hirsutissimum x

Monsieur de Curte).

Two milestones were reached at the 25th Paph Forum. First, with the passing of Merritt Huntington a few weeks before the Forum, the Forum organizing team created the Merritt Huntington Award for Best Plant In Show to recognize Merritt’s contributions to the orchid world and to the Paph Forum over its first 25 years. The 2005 Merritt Huntington Award went to Paph. Invincible ‘Spread Eagle.’ The huge plant also garnered the Memoria Bud Mellott Trophy for Best Plant Culture!

The Memoria Howard King Trophy for Best Phragmipedium in the show went to Phrag. richteri ‘Beechview’s Buddy’ AM/AOS, exhibited by Brien and Demetria Marsh. The Paph Forum Trophy for Best Paph in Show went to Paph. Green Glory ‘Primo’ AM/AOS, exhibited by Hadley Cash.

The second milestone was the stepping down of Paph Forum Co-Chair, Gordon Slaymaker, after 20 years of service. While Gordon is stepping down, he is certainly not stepping out of the Paph Forum, where he will remain in the background as an advisor. The Paph Forum recognized Gordon with several parting gifts, including a crystal vase and several high quality awarded complex Paph divisions. Gordon is now ready to sit back and enjoy upcoming Paph Forums. Thanks Gordon...you’ve earned it!

The future of the Paph Forum is bright. Lynn Evans-Goldner is succeeding Gordon Slaymaker as Co-Chair of the Paph Forum. The third Saturday of February, 2006 has already been reserved for the 26th Annual Paph Forum. The new Paph Forum team will be meeting soon to plan the continuation of the wonderful Paph Forum tradition!

Bill Goldner

A highlight of the Paph Forum is the SOA auction, the proceeds of which support the speakers we sponsor at various meetings. We are extremely grateful to those who donated plants: Hadley Cash (Marriott Orchids), Bill Goldner (Woodstream Orchids), Ken Meier, Nancy Mountford, Paul Phillips (Ratcliffe Orchids) and Bob Wellenstein (Antec Labs). Many, many thanks to each of them and also to our auctioneer, Omar Bounds.

We also extend our sincere thanks to those who contributed to our auction that we conducted between and following our speakers at the AOS Meeting in Minneapolis: Jerry Fischer, Rod Knowles, Sam Tsui and Russ Tyler.

Barbara Tisherman

A Proposal for Virtual Judging

Is it time for the Slipper Orchid Alliance to consider judging and awarding lady-slippers that are grown by our members? We are a diverse group from all over the world. Bringing plants to far off judging centers is simply impossible for many members, so why not create a virtual judging center?

Here is how it could work:

Protocols would be set up so that computer monitors can be properly calibrated to show accurate colors. There are websites that can lead you through monitor calibration in a simple step by step process. One good web site for this can be found at : <http://epaperpress.com/monitorcal/> .

Protocols can also be set for cameras in terms of distances and standardization of lighting, etc. The judging would be done in a live format and could be done by existing trained judges or by the membership.

A live format would allow people to interact with the judging team and speak directly with them when necessary for measurements or simply turning the flowers for side and back views, etc. There are probably measuring programs out there that would apply a centimeter grid over the flowers so measurements could be accurately and quickly taken.

Judging could take place at any time designated by the judges or judging members. Awards and photos could be immediately posted on the website.

This would be the first virtual orchid judging system in the world, and the categories could be worked out by our members on line through the website.

Think of the synergies a virtual-online judging center could create! Members could visit the Slipper Orchid Alliance site every time judging took place. New categories not in current use could be developed. Members would communicate with each other as they were displaying plants. To keep the judging truly objective we would not know whose plants we were judging; we would be judging the plant on its own merits. If there were a designated team of judges, people who are new to the SOA or to AOS judging could learn from them what makes an awardable lady-slipper flower. If the judges were made up of all or any of the membership on judging day the judging could take place on line by popular vote.

Another way to handle the judging might be that pictures of plants would be submitted through a web page, possibly using thumbnails that could be enlarged of each of the plants so that screening would take place. Judges would then click on a live image or thumbnail to begin the process of judging and go through the plants one by one. There are many possibilities.

Awarded plants would also be written up and pictured in

our printed newsletter.

This is just an idea, but I think the time has come to try it. If you have any comments or ideas that could be useful please let me know. You can e-mail me at orchids@orchidweb.com

Jerry Lee Fischer

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Kissimmee, Florida

8th Slipper Symposium

The 8th Annual Slipper Orchid Symposium under the aegis of the Slipper Orchid Study Group of Florida presents **SLIPPER ORCHIDS - NEW AND HEALTHY**, the latest trends in hybrids, species and disease and pest control, a one-day Symposium November 5th, 2005, at the Ramada Plaza Hotel, Kissimmee, Florida. Speakers for the symposium include:

Harold Koopowitz – Dr. Koopowitz needs no introduction to the slipper community. A retired professor from UCI, he is currently editor of *Orchid Digest* and Director of Conservation for the AOS. He is currently working on a new book for Timber Press, *Tropical Slipper Orchids*.

Olaf Gruss – Has spent more than 15 years as a member of the Editorial Board of the Journal of the German Orchid Society (Deutsche Orchideengesellschaft DOG) *Die Orchidee*. Specialized in Phalaenopsis, Paphiopedilum and Phragmipedium and has written many articles about the species and hybrids of these genera in Germany, Italy and Japan, also a book about the genus Phalaenopsis and a booklet about the genus Phragmipedium and the Albine Forms of the Genus Paphiopedilum. Mr. Gruss lives in southern Germany and is noted for his work with Phragmipediums.

Carol Allen – Carol lives in the DC area and is currently employed by the US Botanic Garden as a supervisory horticulturist where she is responsible for the displays in the conservatory. Carol is interested in plant pests and diseases and is an IPM specialist.

There will also be a Slipper Orchid Culture Roundtable moderated by Doris Dukes. The day will conclude with a champagne BBQ and orchid auction. On Sunday, registrants are invited to Ratcliffe Orchids open house.

Registration is \$100/person with a \$25 discount if you register before October 1. This includes lunch on Saturday but not the champagne BBQ which is an extra \$10. Special rate accommodations have been arranged with the Ramada Plaza Hotel.

For more information please contact Jamie Lawson at 888-619-7687 or by email at jimorchids@aol.com.

Yoshi's Paph. *jackii*

Yoshi is a sansei. His folks had worked long hours after WWII in the California strawberry fields and eventually bought their own land near Watsonville. They had prospered growing strawberries, and Yoshi had grown up to become a botany professor at a prestigious state university. Yoshi grew

up speaking Japanese at home and had visited Japan many times. During one visit, a friend took him to the famed Tokyo Dome Show. Yoshi was hooked. Soon he had built a greenhouse in one of the family's strawberry fields and was spending his weekends caring for his plants. His wife thought he was nuts.

He specialized in parvisepilum Paphs, especially malipoense hybrids crossed with the multi-florals. He learned from his orchid friends in Japan that Paph. *jackii* was available there, but there was no way to get an export permit and the required CITES papers. At a rowdy dinner in the Ginza during one of his frequent trips to Japan, Yoshi and his friends, all at least a little tipsy, schemed about how to get Yoshi the Paph. *jackii* that he coveted.

A few weeks later, Yoshi was surprised when a package arrived from the Ginza restaurant where Yoshi and his friends had spent that pleasant evening, even though he remembered very little of it. Inside were three Paph pods, ready to be flaked. The box contained nothing else. Yoshi's mind wandered to an email that one of his Japanese friends had recently sent him, reminding him of the good times that they had had at that Ginza nightspot and their discussion of breeding Paph. *jackii*. Yoshi quickly connected the email with the box that had arrived that day.

Yoshi re-packed the pods and shipped the new box to the flasking service that he regularly used. Inside was a letter of instructions that identified the pods as malipoense hybrids. Eventually, he received the flasks back and grew them up to be strong, healthy plants. They were still labeled as malipoense crosses.

Another orchid fan, Susan, worked in the university's horticulture department. During a quiet lunch at a nearby restaurant, Yoshi and his orchid buddy figured out how to make the "malipoense crosses" legal. That evening, the friend made room in one of the university's greenhouses for the appropriate number of pots and positioned the "malipoense hybrids" therein. Several months later, a grad student who intended to work in the marketing department of a huge cut-flower importing company, brought one of the "malipoense crosses" to Susan and commented that although the Paph flower was green, it didn't look quite right and it most certainly was not a hybrid. Susan agreed and instructed the grad student to find out what they really were. The following day the grad student reported that they looked like Paph. *jackii*, which is closely related to malipoense. Further, he had looked up the code number on the label and found that there was no entry in the records for those plants. Dismayed by the discovery, Susan and the grad student took the plant to the Ray, the greenhouse manager, and explained the situation. The university's horticultural college was a designated rescue center. How convenient. Ray notified Martin, the local Fish and Wildlife guy who handled illegal plant imports. Martin wrote up the required paperwork assigning the university rescue center as the official

depository for the questionable plants. Many of the plants have been pollinated and pods have been sent. Paph. jackii is on its way to being legal.

(The above is fiction, obviously, and in no way suggests that anybody would actually do such a thing.)

Katie Pleasance

18th World Orchid Conference

Sometimes getting there is not half the fun; sometimes it's no fun at all. Travel between Paris and Dijon was a reminder that we go to orchid meetings to enjoy orchids and orchid people, and to learn more about both.

Our last trip to Paris was over ten years ago. We remembered that the Metro is laid out in such a way that using it can be efficient. We forgot about the many, steep stairways from one level to another – wonderful to navigate with all of our luggage – and we didn't anticipate arriving on the day of one of France's many days of labor shutdown.

The good news (?) was that the RER was running (on a hit-or-miss schedule), and that there was no charge for using it. The not-so-good news was that, with many, many others, we had to climb over, under, and through the gates.

Of course, we got to the Gare du Nord too late to make our connection to Dijon. We did get there on the next train, but arrived too late for our hotel reservation. On the bright side, the staff at our hotel were charming and helpful, and we stayed that night at another, actually nearby hotel just a \$30 taxi ride away. The dollar was really weak against the U.S. dollar. Again, on the bright side, we had a good meal, a good wine, and a good rest.

Interesting. The return trip did not coincide with a national labor action, and it, too, was long and taxing. We're pleased that getting from the Miami Airport to the site of the 19th WOC promises to be an easier task.

Dijon, seat of the Dukes of Burgundy, is a wonderful city. Lots of interesting architecture, and, in the City Center, not a straight street to be seen. Walking, it was fun to see what was around the next turn. The Ducal Palace is a grand piece of architecture, and, in addition to the offices of the City Government, houses a fine art museum. We did miss a few meetings to appreciate that.

The Congress was a great experience. There were excellent presentations from a world-wide array of speakers, and the topics ranged from how to groom blooming plants for sale, through developments in orchids as pot plants, to recent developments in taxonomy. Meetings, too, addressed

a variety of topics, including recent developments in orchid conservation. Papers and meetings fully satisfied our interest in continuing education about orchids. We enjoyed many opportunities to reunite with people we've met at other conferences, and many opportunities to meet with orchid people "new" to us.

The displays were on a grand scale. The number, size, and quality of displays were phenomenal! And the presentation of the displays was outstanding – waterfalls, mists, sound effects, it was a multisensory experience indeed! Crowded? Yes! Attendance was high, and we often were three- and four-deep at the displays. We quickly learned to be there early in the morning or after 6:00 p.m., when there were fewer people there and our access to the displays was relatively unhindered. An added bonus was Florissimo, a huge and extravagant exhibition of tropical plants and flowers, held on the other side of the large convention hall. It is a popular European tradition held periodically in different cities. It provided us with an opportunity to see flowers in addition to orchids, and it brought in thousands more people to the WOC display area.

Orchid vendors were there in great quantity, and the locals did their share of purchasing. We abstained, not wanting to deal with the complications of entering the U.S. with live plants. We heard too many horror stories from vendors who had difficulty bringing plants into the Conference to deal with bringing them out. However, many vendors were successful and the offerings were plentiful.

Wine, beer, and a variety of edibles ranging in price from a few dollars to too many dollars also were available in the convention hall. We did take advantage of them.

Of course, we couldn't be in the heart of Burgundy Wine Country and not do some tasting. The Conference organizers had wine tastings scheduled at the Conference site, and they were well organized and presented, and well attended. The wines sampled were a little pricey, but that was due more to the weakness of the dollar than to anything else.

The "Medieval" concert was a fine experience, due to the music. The selections were Renaissance, not Medieval, and the instruments were modern, not period, but the musicians were skillful, seemed truly to enjoy their music-making, and they gave us a fine performance. (The less said about the pre-concert hors d'oeuvres the better.)

All in all, it was an experience not to be missed. Would we go back to Dijon? Yes! Not for any scheduled event, but a week or two exploring the city and the countryside would be well worth any effort.

Will we attend another WOC? As the native Minnesotans say, "You betcha!"

Russ Tyler and Rod Knowles

REPORT FROM 18TH WORLD ORCHID CONFERENCE

Attending the 18th World Orchid Conference was an exhilarating experience I will never forget, a kaleidoscope of orchids, extravagant exhibits, lectures, food, wine, French culture and friends from around the world. My first official participation started Wednesday evening, March 9, 2005, when all the judges met to receive their assignments and learn about the judging process to be carried out the next day. Early Thursday morning we gathered by teams to face a daunting task - as in most WOCs but quite different from most U.S. shows, there were no entries. In an enormous convention hall we were responsible for finding all the plants that fell into each of our classes. There were approximately 100 exhibits, the smallest ones as large as the largest ones we see in the typical local U.S. show! After awarding ribbons in each class, we reviewed the plants that we had judged and also awarded gold, silver and bronze medals.

That evening the Preview Party for the WOC registrants proved to be the best opportunity to view the show before it was open to the public. We were told that about 100,000 were expected to attend the show and the Florissimo, a huge exhibition of tropical plants in the adjoining hall. What we were not told was that 100,000 were in the convention center at all times. Okay, it only seemed that way.

Lady-slipper lovers found a wealth of material to study. Paphiopedilums are obviously very popular in Europe and were plentiful, appearing in most exhibits. There were also some outstanding Phragmipediums. Both genera included some species but many more hybrids, ranging from old favorites to the newest. There were actually two Paph. hangianum hybrids, but both appeared with incorrect labels, our assumption being that the labels were supposed to prevent officials from confiscating them, since they would be considered illegal according to CITES. There were more complex or standard "bulldog" types than we have seen in U.S. shows in recent years. Several, especially from the Eric Young Foundation, were huge and had excellent form and color. Do they portend the return of their popularity in the U.S.? Confirming the popularity of the slippers and their excellent culture in Europe, the Reserve Grand Champion of the show was Paph. hirsutissimum var. esquerolei exhibited by KJ Orchids of Denmark.

Lectures ran the gamut in three concurrent sessions, featuring 75 speakers from 30 different countries, with subjects appealing to the amateur horticulturist to the very scientific. Each day we faced the quandary of deciding which talks to attend. Conservation and CITES received a great deal of attention. A prevalent opinion on this subject was that CITES is not working as it was intended to and may be counterproductive, as plants in habitats being destroyed cannot be rescued. Furthermore, many newly discovered species have appeared in the black market. It was suggested

that governments would be wiser to protect habitats and allow some regulated propagation, which could produce money for the government rather than the smugglers who strip habitats.

The SOA sponsored two speakers, Norito Hasegawa on Brachypetalums and John Doherty on Cyripediums. One afternoon I was honored to be the introducer of the speakers.

Social events are an important feature of these meetings, as they are opportunities to meet other attendees from all over the world and learn about the culture of the area.

Mark your calendar for the end of February and early March of 2008, when we will have the opportunity to attend the 19th WOC in the Miami area. No worries for us about importing or exporting or permits! Three years later the meeting will be in Singapore, which won the host designation over South Africa and Taiwan.

Barbara Tisherman

Celebrate Orchids!

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Part of the Eric Young Orchid Foundation exhibit

Pictures from WOC

Many thanks to Russ Tyler and Rod Knowles for supplying us with these lovely images from the WOC in Dijon, France. Names of the plants and owners are given when known.





A group of flowers of Paph. Rocco Tower



A Paph. hangianum hybrid, possibly with Paph. concolor



Paph. hirsutissimum
Reserve Grand Champion
KJ Orchids, Denmark



Ducal Palace

Supporting Members

In each issue of our newsletter we like to recognize and thank our supporting members. Each one of these businesses continues to support our efforts to have an outreach program for all slipper growers. If you are interested in becoming a supporting member, please contact Jean Metcalf at orchidiva@yahoo.com. We also hope that each of our members will support these businesses.

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SOA DIRECTORY

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Webmaster: Rod Knowles, Brainerd, MN; (218) 829-4840; rkgems@brainerd.net

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