



The Slipper Orchid Alliance Newsletter

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Summer 2007

Paphiopedilum thaianum

A New Paphiopedilum from Thailand

Rumor has it that back in 1899 a man named Charles H. Duell, who at the time was U.S. Commissioner to Patents stated that, "Everything that can be invented has been invented." This has always been one of my favorite quotes since I had a similar idea many years ago. A much younger man at the time, I had helped collect a number of new species in the Amazon region, and I had the feeling that by the time I had finished collecting orchids, "Every orchid that can be discovered will have been discovered." That was about 30 years ago. Factoring in climate change, habitat destruction and over-collecting, the new and improved 2007 theory has been altered to read "All orchids that can be discovered will be extremely small orchids." After *Phragmipedium kovachii*, whoever is in charge of evolution has decided there isn't enough room left on the planet for any more large orchids.

Witness the sizable number of *Lepanthes* and *Stellis* discovered in the last decade and now, the recently discovered *Paphiopedilum thaianum*, which rivals the diminutive *Paphiopedilum helenae* and *Mexipedium xerophyticum* for the distinction of being the "World's

Smallest Slipper orchid." *Paphiopedilum thaianum*, although rare, had apparently been in cultivation in Thailand for many years disguising itself as a miniature variety of *Paphiopedilum niveum*, until a cultivated blooming plant was brought to the attention of Mr. Prapanth Iamwiriyakul, a slipper orchid enthusiast who described it as a new species. The description was published in the September/October 2006 issue of *The Orchid Review*.

Paphiopedilum thaianum is reported to have been originally found on the Phuket mountain range in southern Thailand, growing on steep eroded limestone covered with humus at an elevation of 350-450 meters. This area receives between 2.5 and 3 meters of rain annually. The plants were growing in partial morning sun with abundant ventilation. Daytime temperatures in southern Thailand average about 26 degrees Celsius (80 degrees Fahrenheit).

Paphiopedilum godefroyae was found growing in close proximity to *Paphiopedilum thaianum*, but no natural hybrids have been found. In all likelihood, *Paphiopedilum thaianum* requires a smaller insect pollinator.

The flowers of *Paphiopedilum thaianum* closely resemble those of *Paphiopedilum niveum* but are much smaller, typically less than 1-inch natural spread, and the interior of the pouch has pink spots. The plant could probably be grown well in a 1-inch pot.

Reportedly there's a joke being circulated around the slipper community that goes something like this, "What do you get when you cross *Paphiopedilum thaianum* with *Paphiopedilum gigantifolium*?" I'm sure some adventurous hybridizer will show us the answer someday .

SOA Membership

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

Paphiopedilum thaianum



Photos courtesy of Dennis D'Allesandro

In Memoriam **Helen Congleton**

Helen Congleton, a paphaholic, after six or seven months of suffering with cancer died this May. As of this writing, a memorial tribute will be held at her residence with a gathering of her friends.

Helen was a class act, sharing her self-taught knowledge on the culture of her favorite orchid group, paphs, with many societies, individuals and with the “pros” as well. She commanded respect in her cultural techniques, often writing for the *Orchid Digest* and Cymbidium Society of America magazine. Most of her Paph. insigne based plants were grown outdoors at her home in Huntington Beach, California, and the tropicals and multiflorals were in a small controlled greenhouse, many grown to perfection in eight to ten inch pots. Within the paph group she seemed to favor the complex whites. She created many hybrids herself, being especially proud of the cross she named after her late husband, David Congleton. In fact, if it were not for David’s encouragement to grow orchids as a challenge, she might still be raising African violets. When they purchased their home, the first priority was to have enough space for a proper greenhouse, but of course much of the space was eventually devoted to outdoor growing paphs, cattleyas, and cymbidiums. She eventually became a very proficient Cymbidium Society of America judge.

Her fame has spread around the world with friends in Europe, Russia, Australia, Japan, Taiwan, and South Africa. She’ll be greatly missed, but her generosity, intelligence and hospitality will not be forgotten.

Arlington, Texas

Trophy Winner

The Spring meeting of the American Orchid Society was approaching. It was time to start looking at the plants in the greenhouse. Resting on the bench alongside the Cattleya plants was this rather large pot of *Paph. philippinens var. miniatum*. I could see developing inflorescences, so I thought this plant would make a nice centerpiece for a tabletop exhibit.

The plant had been purchased over twenty years ago and divided more than once. Two years ago, the decision was made to keep it in a large pot, attempting to grow a specimen plant. The plant already contained several growths. A 10-inch plastic pan pot would allow for a nice size plant, still being small enough to handle. A layer of styrofoam peanuts was placed in the bottom of the pot. Next a handful of oyster shell, then the potting medium of OFE’s Paphiopedilum potting medium was used. The



Paph. philippinense var. miniatum
Photo courtesy of Greg Allikas

Alliance Trophy chose it for the coveted SOA Trophy. Needless to say I was elated to receive this trophy. The plant was considered for an AOS cultural award; however, there were some blemishes on some of the leaves. This plant was perhaps the most discussed plant of the show. It is very satisfying to receive recognition from your peers and be rewarded with this beautiful trophy.

Byron McGraw

greenhouse has very bright light, Cattleya being the major genus grown. In Louisiana we have very hot summers and very high humidity. The greenhouse is cooled by a wet pad with an exhaust fan at the other end. In order to reach all sections of the greenhouse several fans are also used to keep the air moving. A spot on the bench near the wet pad was selected to grow this plant, to allow maximum light and cooling. The plant was watered with plain water approximately once a week (in the warmer weather more often but in the cooler winter weather, less often). On the first watering of each month $\frac{1}{4}$ teaspoon of 20-20-20 Peters fertilizer to each gallon of water was used. The plant seemed to like its environment. Pests were not a problem; mealy bugs could be a problem but this plant seemed to avoid them. I did spray the greenhouse regularly, usually with Orthene, just to control scale and other pests which seemed to like the Cattleya plants.

Shortly before the AOS meeting and show in Arlington, the inflorescences began to develop and it was easy to see that the plant would be very well bloomed. The fourteen inflorescences carried 65 flowers and buds. Being very thankful that the plant bloomed at the proper time with this magnificent show of blossoms, I transported it to Arlington and placed it in the exhibit. *Paph. philippinense var. miniatum* was awarded the Trophy for the Best Grown Plant in the Cypripedium Alliance, and the special team to select the winner of the Slipper Orchid

SOA Meeting

The Slipper Orchid Alliance's Open Board Meeting, held in conjunction with the AOS meeting in Arlington, Texas on May 4, 2007, was attended by a small but supportive group.

Those attending were urged by the President, Barbara Tisherman, to submit articles for publication in our quarterly newsletter and to suggest possible speakers. We will be working on an index for the newsletter, a membership brochure and a speakers list.

There was considerable discussion about offering longer memberships, so that members do not have to write a check every year and our Membership Secretary's job will be much easier. The decision reached was as follows, and the membership applications will be revised accordingly. Individual memberships: one year \$25; two years \$50; three years \$70. Supporting memberships: one year \$50; two years \$100; three years \$140. Because postal rates are rising, it was felt that we cannot afford to give large discounts, but we hope members will take advantage of the convenience to themselves and support greater efficiency for the organization. The possibility of offering Life Memberships will be discussed in the future.

As previously announced, the SOA will be a supporting organization of the World Orchid Conference in Miami, Jan. 22-27, 2008. We do plan to hold a meeting there and will publish details when we know them. We urge our members to attend. A World Orchid Conference is held only once every three years in different parts of the world and probably will not be in the United States again for over twenty years. The following one in 2011 will be in Singapore. For details go to their web-site at www.19WOC.com. There will be an enormous show, three concurrent panels of speakers on several days, a large sales area, various social events, tours and an incomparable opportunity to meet and talk with orchid growers from around the world, many of whose names may be familiar to you. All in all, an event not to be missed!

At this AOS meeting the registrants were treated to an update on complex Paphiopedilum breeding by Hadley Cash of Marriott Orchids. He was sponsored by the Slipper Orchid Alliance. His talk was very comprehensive with many great pictures and was well received.

Before and after Hadley's talk, we held a small auction. I want to thank all our members who donated plants or items that resulted in a profit to our organization of almost \$1000: Hadley Cash (Marriott Orchids), Glen Decker (Piping Rock Orchids), John Doherty (Zephyrus Orchids), Norito Hasegawa (Paphanatics), Rod Knowles (RK Gems), Barbara Noe (Celebrate Orchids), and Sam Tsui (Orchid Inn). Their very generous support of the SOA enables us to continue to sponsor speakers and merits your support of them.

Please put the WOC on your calendar. We hope to see you there!

Barbara Tisherman

Phragmipediums

Part four of a series by Helmut Rohl

HYBRIDS WITH *P. BESSEAE* BUT WITHOUT *P. SCHLIMII*

Images of these hybrids can be found in Koopowitz (2003) and OrchidWiz (2005).

This group contains the most highly decorated phragmipedium hybrids, as well as the ones with the largest number of progeny. Its cultivars are characterized by the

flowers in various shades of red. I list those with at least 10 AOS awards according to their ancestral background and attach in parentheses the number of AOS awards received by them. These grexes are:

among simple primary hybrids

P. Mem. Dick Clements (54), *P. Eric Young* (27), *P. Rosalie Dixler* (19), *P. Andean Fire* (18), *P. Lutz Röllke* (11) and *P. Robert Palm* (10);

among complex primary hybrids

P. Living Fire (12) and *P. China Dragon* (11);

among the descendants of *P. Andean Fire*

P. Inca Embers (15);

among the descendants of *P. Eric Young*

P. Don Wimber (72), *P. Sergeant Eric* (12), *P. Belle Hougue Point* (10);

among descendants of *P. Mem. Dick Clements*

P. Jason Fischer (66), *P. Noirmont* (57).

The most prolific grexes among them are (with number of progeny in parentheses):

P. Eric Young (31), *P. Mem. Dick Clements* (31), *P. Andean Fire* (16), *P. Jason Fischer* (12), *P. Jersey* (11), *P. Don Wimber* (8), *P. Robert Palm* (5), *P. Living Fire* (4).

The simple primary grexes (i. e. species x species) are listed according to their number of offspring in decreasing order. Below each of them appear selected progeny in alphabetic order. Crosses made with *P. dalessandroi* are listed separately since *P. dalessandroi* now is considered by the International Registration Authority of Orchid Hybrids as a species in its own right. After the simple primary grexes appear other crosses.

P. Mem. Dick Clements (*sargentianum* x *besseae*), registered

in 1991 by Edwards (Clements), produces up to 10-flowered inflorescences with medium size flowers. Sepals and petals are carmine red; the pouch is carmine red externally, yellow and densely spotted red internally. It gained 15 HCC/AOS, 34 AM/AOS, 1 FCC/AOS, 1 JC/AOS and 3 CCM/AOS, and bred 31 offspring and 49 progeny.

P. Mem. Dick Clements has hugely outstanding progeny to its credit. Here is a list of the most exciting ones:

P. Beaumont (Mem. Dick Clements x *caudatum*) was registered in 2000 by the Eric Young O. F. Its up to 5-flowered inflorescence bears large flowers. Sepals and petals are red to yellow overlaid with red. The pouch is red to yellow heavily overlaid red with darker venation. The grex has 4 AM/AOS.

The plants of **P. Fliquet** (Grande x Mem. Dick Clements), registered in 1999 by the Eric Young O. F., produce 3-flowered inflorescences with medium size to large flowers. Sepals and petals are chartreuse overlaid deep red. The pouch is creamy yellow to red striped raspberry red. Here we have 2 HCC/AOS and 1 AM/AOS with no offspring.

The superstar of the phragmipedium hybrids is **P. Jason Fischer**

(Mem. Dick Clements x *besseae*). It has up to 9-flowered inflorescences. The medium size flowers are brilliant blood red; the pouch shows darker venation. The cross was registered in 1996 by Orchids Ltd. with 10 HCC/AOS, 40 AM/AOS and 10 FCC/AOS. 12 offspring and 12 progeny.

One of the most recent offspring of **P. Jason Fischer** is **P. Scarlet O'Hara** (*besseae* x Jason Fischer). It was registered in 2000 by Norton; it received 1 AM/AOS but has not sired any offspring so far. The awarded cultivar has four flowers per inflorescence with cherry red dorsal sepal and petals and a butter yellow synsepal. The pouch is yellow overlaid cherry red, and the staminode is butter yellow.

P. Noirmont (Mem. Dick Clements x *longifolium*), registered in 1997 by the Eric Young O. F., produces up to 12-flowered inflorescences with medium size flowers. Sepals and petals are dark chartreuse, overlaid coral. The pouch is dark coral, internally yellow spotted coral. 18 HCC/AOS, 37 AM/AOS, 1 FCC/AOS and 1 CCM/AOS.

The second best of the simple primary hybrids of *P. besseae* is the grex **P. Eric Young** (*besseae* x *longifolium*), registered in 1991 by the Eric Young O. F. The up to 9-flowered inflorescences bear medium size to large flowers. Sepals and petals are red to chartreuse overlaid reddish, the pouch is light red, internally yellow spotted red. It garnered 8 HCC/AOS, 12 AM/AOS, 1 JC/AOS and 6 CCM/AOS, and produced 31 offspring and 49 progeny.

Its illustrious offspring include:

P. Belle Hougue Point (Eric Young x *caudatum*), registered in 1997 by the Eric Young O. F. It produces up to 4-flowered inflorescences with large, creamy yellow flowers overlaid deep rose. The pouch is deep rose externally and creamy yellow spotted red internally. It has 2 HCC/AOS, 7 AM/AOS and 1 CCM/AOS, and 1 offspring.

The cross **P. Bouley Bay** (Eric Young x Grande) has 3-flowered inflorescences with large, buff flowers. Sepals and petals are rose apically. The pouch is rose externally, cream spotted rose internally. It was registered in 1999 by the Eric Young O. F. It has received 3 HCC/AOS and 1 AM/AOS and is the parent of 2 offspring and 2 progeny.

P. Don Wimber (Eric Young x *besseae*), registered in 1995 by the Eric Young O. F., has up to 10-flowered inflorescences with medium size flowers. Sepals and petals are orange-red. The pouch is yellow overlaid orange externally, bright yellow internally.

It garnered 26 HCC/AOS, 42 AM/AOS, 1 FCC/AOS and 1 CCM/AOS. Furthermore, it has 8 offspring and 8 progeny.

The grex **P. Sergeant Eric** (Eric Young x *sargentianum*) makes up to 6-flowered inflorescences bearing medium size to large flowers. Dorsal sepal and synsepal are light green, the dorsal sepal veined red. The petals are yellow green overlaid salmon red. The pouch is yellow overlaid red externally, spotted red internally. The cross was registered in 1998 by Tibbs. There are 6 HCC/AOS and 6 AM/AOS, and 1 offspring.

P. Sunset Glow (Eric Young x Mem. Dick Clements) was registered in 1997 by Orchid Zone (Pendleton). The 3-flowered inflorescences hold medium size flowers with yellow sepals and petals overlaid coral red. The yellow pouch is spotted coral red internally. There are 5 HCC/AOS and 4 AM/AOS, 1 offspring and 1 progeny.

A fairly recent cross is **P. Rachel Kirk** (Don Wimber x *besseae*). It produces up to 6-flowered inflorescences bearing medium size, flat and full flowers with yellow sepals and petals overlaid red. The yellow pouch is striated red externally. It was registered in 2001 by Norton. It has 1 HCC/AOS and 2 AM/AOS to its credit. There are no offspring.

Next in line is **P. Rosalie Dixler** (*besseae* x *kaieteurum*), registered in 1993 by Dixler (Hegedus). The up to 7-flowered inflorescences hold medium size flowers. Dorsal sepal and petals are light crimson to dark red; the synsepal is yellow. The pouch is yellow margined red and veined crimson. It was given 6 HCC/AOS, 9 AM/AOS, 1 AQ/AOS and 3 CCM/AOS. It has 3 offspring and 3 progeny.

From its offspring I cite:

P. Dragon's Year (Rosalie Dixler x *longifolium*) produces up to 7-flowered inflorescences with medium size flowers.

Sepals and petals are golden yellow overlaid red. The pouch is gold heavily overlaid oxblood red. It was registered in 2000 by Fischer (O/U) and has 2 HCC/AOS and 2 AM/AOS.

The floriferous **P. Andean Fire** (*besseae* x *lindleyanum*) makes up to 13-flowered inflorescences with small to medium size flowers. Dorsal sepal and petals are garnet to yellow overlaid garnet. The synsepal is yellow. The pouch is yellow stippled garnet internally. It was registered in 1992 by Schordje (Clements). There are 7 HCC/AOS, 10 AM/AOS and 1 CCM/AOS, and 16 offspring and 17 progeny.

P. Andean Fire has several charming offspring. Here is an incomplete list:

P. Inca Embers (*Andean Fire* x *longifolium*), registered in 1997 by Schordje, makes up to 9-flowered inflorescences bearing medium size flowers with green to yellow sepals and petals suffused red. The pouch is yellow suffused cherry red externally, spotted red internally. 6 HCC/AOS and 9 AM/AOS. 1 offspring.

P. Inca Fire (*Andean Fire* x *besseae*) was registered in 1997 by Schordje. Its up to 4-flowered inflorescences hold small to medium size flowers with yellow sepals and petals overlaid scarlet red. The pouch is yellow, spotted red internally. It was given 2 HCC/AOS and 2 AM/AOS. It has no offspring.

P. Ruby Cascade (*Andean Fire* x *wallisii*) produces up to 5-flowered inflorescences. The medium size flowers have rose dorsal sepals and petals veined darker rose. The synsepal is yellow faintly veined rose. The pouch is yellow overlaid red. It was registered in 2002 by LeDoux. 2 HCC/AOS and 6 AM/AOS.

P. besseae fma. *flavum* is a parent of **P. Lutz Röllke** (*besseae* x *boissierianum*), registered in 1998 by Gruss (O/U). Its up to 3-flowered inflorescences bear small to medium size flowers with yellow sepals and petals and a yellow pouch spotted salmon red internally.

P. Robert Palm (*besseae* x *czerwiakowianum*) was registered in 1998 by Fischer. The cross, made with *P. besseae* fma. *flavum*, produces up to 8-flowered inflorescences with medium size flowers. Sepals and petals are yellow; the pouch is yellow veined pink. It received 5 HCC/AOS and 5 AM/AOS, and has 5 offspring and 5 progeny to its credit.

The floriferous grex **P. Mary Bess** (*besseae* x *caricinum*) makes up to 23-flowered inflorescences with small to medium size flowers. Sepals and petals are yellow overlaid rose. The pouch is bright yellow flushed rose. It was

registered in 1991 by Hegedus (Brunner). Its record shows 2 HCC/AOS, 4 AM/AOS, 1 CCM/AOS and 1 CCE/AOS, and 1 offspring.

Going back to the early days of *P. besseae* breeding we find **P. Ecua-Bess** (*ecuadorensis* x *besseae*), registered in 1991 by Kunisch (Orchid House). It has up to 4-flowered inflorescences with small to medium size flowers. Sepals and petals are salmon red. The pouch is yellow suffused salmon red externally, spotted salmon red internally. The grex has 4 HCC/AOS, 2 AM/AOS and 1 AD/AOS, and 4 offspring and 4 progeny.

P. Barbara LeAnn (*besseae* x *fischeri*) has 2-flowered inflorescences. The small to medium size flowers have medium pink sepals and petals and a dark pink pouch striped paler. It was registered in 1998 by Fischer. Here we have 1 HCC/AOS and 3 AM/AOS, and 9 offspring and 9 progeny.

P. Ruby Slippers (*caudatum* x *besseae*), registered in 1992 by Orchid Zone (Rinaman), produces 2-flowered inflorescences with medium size flowers. The dorsal sepal and petals are light red, the synsepal is creamy green suffused light red, and the pouch is internally ruby, veined darker. The grex was awarded 1 HCC/AOS, and has 6 offspring and 6 progeny to its credit.

The cross **P. Jersey** (*dalessandroi* x *besseae*) was registered in 2004 by the Eric Young O. F. Spike habit and flower color are similar to *P. besseae*. There are no AOS awards, but 11 offspring and 11 progeny.

Other interesting complex primary crosses of *P. besseae* in this group are:

P. Living Fire (*Sorcerer's Apprentice* x *besseae*) produces up to 4-flowered inflorescences bearing medium to large size, apple green to yellow flowers. The synsepal is lined coral. The pouch is flushed and veined coral externally, dotted red internally. It was registered in 1995 by Orchid Zone (Pendleton). 3 HCC/AOS, 8 AM/AOS and 1 FCC/AOS. 4 offspring and 4 progeny.

The grex **P. China Dragon** (*Grande* x *besseae*) was registered in 1996 by Orchid Zone (Pendleton). The stout inflorescences are up to 4-flowered. The large flowers have cream sepals and petals flushed red. The pouch is dark red, creamy yellow spotted red internally. It received 2 HCC/AOS and 9 AM/AOS, and posted 3 offspring and 3 progeny.

P. Flying Fortress (*Calurum* x *besseae*) was registered in 1993 by Fischer. The up to 5-flowered inflorescences bear large flowers with yellow sepals and petals overlaid carmine, and a yellow pouch spotted carmine internally. It is credited

with 2 awards and 1 offspring.

Several other *P. besseae* crosses have been made with *P. besseae* fma. *flavum*. The most significant ones are:

P. Icho Tower (Beauport x *besseae*), registered in 2001 by the Eric Young O. F. No awards, no progeny.

and *P. Saint Ouen* (see below) and *P. Robert Palm* (see above).

Next a discussion of some of the *P. dalessandroi* descendants that produced offspring and progeny. All progeny are of very recent origin as all have been registered after 2004. Here we have:

P. Nicholle Tower (*dalessandroi* x *longifolium*) was registered in 2004 by the Eric Young O. F. Spike habit and flowers are similar to *P. Eric Young*. It produced 9 offspring and 11 progeny.

P. Quetivel Mill (*dalessandroi* x Grande) was registered in 2004 by the Eric Young O. F. Spike habit and flowers are similar to *P. China Dragon*. It is credited with 3 offspring and 3 progeny.

Another simple primary cross of *P. dalessandroi*, the grex *P. Jersey*, has been listed above.

HYBRIDS WITH *P. BESSEAE* AND WITH *P. SCHLIMII*

Images of these hybrids can be seen in Koopowitz (2003) and OrchidWiz (2005).

In the beginning there was the grex ***P. Hanne Popow*** (*besseae* x *schlimii*), registered in 1991 by Doll. It produces small to medium size flowers on up to 5-flowered inflorescences. Sepals and petals are ivory blushed pink. The pouch is deep pink rimmed white. There are 19 HCC/OAS, 23 AM/AOS and 1 FCC/AOS. The grex sired 34 offspring and 68 progeny.

P. Beauport (*sargentianum* x Hanne Popow), registered in 1997 by the Eric Young O. F. with 9 offspring and 10 progeny.

P. Elizabeth Castle (Mem. Dick Clements x Hanne Popow) makes up to 5-flowered inflorescences with medium size flowers.

Dorsal sepal and petals are dark rose, the synsepal is cream. The pouch is dark rose, spotted darker internally. It was registered in 1997 by the Eric Young O. F. and has

received 3 HCC/AOS and 9 AM/AOS. 2 offspring and 2 progeny.

The cross ***P. Grouville*** (Eric Young x Hanne Popow) produces up to 9-flowered, branched inflorescences bearing medium size flowers with dorsal sepal and petals cream flushed pink. The synsepal is apple green, and the pouch is rose-pink. It was registered in 1996 by the Eric Young O. F. with 1 HCC/AOS and 4 AM/AOS. 7 offspring and 7 progeny.

P. Les Landes (Hanne Popow x Grande), registered in 1999 by the Eric Young O. F., has 2-flowered inflorescences with medium size to large flowers. Sepals and petals are rose-pink, and the pouch is darker rose-pink externally, yellow internally.

P. Longueville (Hanne Popow x *longifolium*), registered in 1996 by the Eric Young O. F. 4 offspring and 5 progeny.

The cross ***P. Saint Ouen*** (Hanne Popow x *besseae*) produces up to 5-flowered, branched inflorescences bearing medium size flowers. Dorsal sepal and petals are deep salmon pink. The synsepal is pale ochre, and the pouch is yellow striped salmon. It was registered in 1996 by the Eric Young O. F. The grex was given 11 HCC/AOS and 7 AM/AOS, and has 12 offspring and 13 progeny to its credit.

P. Petit Port (Hanne Popow x *schlimii*) was registered in 1996 by the Eric Young O. F. The up to 4-flowered, branched inflorescences bear small to medium size flowers with pink sepals and petals. The pouch is pink externally, yellow internally. It is credited with 2 HCC/AOS and 1 AM/AOS. 3 offspring and 3 progeny.

The grex ***P. Cape Sunset*** (Eric Young x *schlimii*) was registered in 1999 by Tibbs. It produces up to 5-flowered inflorescences with medium size flowers. Dorsal sepal and petals are white blushed pink. The synsepal is cream. The pouch is white blushed pink, spotted cranberry internally. It was given 3 HCC/AOS and 3 AM/AOS, and has no offspring.

P. April Fool (*Cardinale* x *besseae*) makes 1-flowered inflorescences bearing a small to medium size flower. Dorsal sepal and petals are white, suffused pink. The synsepal is light green, and the pouch is pink suffused rose. It was registered in 1994 by Pulley, and is credited with 1 AM/AOS and 4 offspring.

P. Elizabeth March (*Sedenii* x *besseae*), registered in 1995 by Mochizuki, produces 2-flowered inflorescences with small to medium size flowers. All segments are pale green blushed pink, and the pouch is rose-pink veined darker pink. It received 3 HCC/AOS and 1 AM/AOS.

The cross *P. Flying Fortress* (*Calurum x besseae*) was registered in 1993 by Fischer. The up to 5-flowered inflorescences bear large flowers with yellow sepals and petals overlaid carmine, and a yellow pouch spotted carmine internally. It is credited with 1 HCC/AOS and 1 AM/AOS, and 1 offspring.

Paph Forum 2007

The Paphiopedilum Forum was held on February 17, 2007 at its usual venue, the U.S. National Arboretum in our nation's capital. Some twenty-seven years ago two friends and long-time avid slipper orchid growers in the Washington, D.C. and Baltimore, Maryland area by the names of Tom Dundon and Howard King decided to hold a meeting. Tom was an accredited American Orchid Society judge from Northern Virginia who grew an extensive species Paph collection and had ten AOS awards, including one FCC, to his credit. Howard was one of the best known Paph growers in the area and was the exhibitor who garnered the FCC from the AOS for Paph. *Orchilla* 'Chilton' along with 27 other awards including eleven Awards of Merit and three CCMs. They invited others who were equally enthusiastic and experienced in the horticulture of the genus Paphiopedilum. The purpose of this get-together was to exchange information on current trends in hybridizing, news of species, cultural practices, and to exhibit their best clones. Tom and Howard called their gathering "The Paph Meeting." Mary Lou Dundon and Sissie King, wives of Tom and Howard and experienced orchidists in their own right, assisted in the organization of the meeting and rallied other wives to provide a potluck luncheon for the attendees. Mary Lou was the long-time Secretary and mainstay of the Eastern Orchid Congress, an extremely popular annual orchid symposium held on the east coast. Sissie King was a well respected American Orchid Society Judge in the Mid-Atlantic Judging Region.

The success of that first meeting led to an annual gathering, but Tom and Howard wanted their get-together to remain low key and to limit attendance to only those orchid growers who had substantial orchid growing experience and who were seriously interested in slippers. An invitation to attend the Paph Meeting was rare and came with an admonishment against asking basic questions such as: "How much do I water my Paphs?" A new invitee was branded as a "Paph Nut" in the words of charter Paph Meeting member Merritt Huntington. A

favorite feature of the Paph Meeting was a discussion of the exhibit table plants conducted by Merritt. His insights and knowledge of the history of slipper hybridizing, especially in Great Britain, were always valued. Many a grower suffered his barbed comments if exhibit plants were not grown and displayed properly. Merritt continued as the principal of the exhibit table discussion until his passing in 2005. His participation in the Paph Meeting and later the Paph Forum mirrors his noteworthy contributions to all orchid endeavors. He is fondly remembered and greatly missed.

As the popularity of slippers expanded with the rise of Phragmipediums and new hybridizing directions in Paph. *Maudiae* type flowers, interest in attending the Paph Meeting became overwhelming. Tom and Howard decided it was time to pass the mantle. The National Capital Orchid Society, Tom's home society and for which Mary Lou had served as president, was chosen to carry on the meeting. Yours truly took on the meeting organization for NCOS for two years, and the Paph Meeting became the Paph Forum. Richard Grundy signed on as co-host through the twentieth anniversary in 2000. Upon Richard's retirement and move to the West Coast, Bill Goldner took his place to engage speakers. Bill and his wife, Lynn, proprietors of Woodstream Orchids, took over in 2006. Today, the Paph Forum regularly attracts 150 registrants and boasts an exhibit table of as many as 300 of the finest Paphs and Phrags, with the occasional Cypripedium, in the world. Tom and Howard would probably not be thrilled to see that their simple little meeting among friends now features sales, door prizes, exhibitor's raffles, ribbons and trophies, and American Orchid Society judging. Unfortunately Mary Lou's and Sissie's potluck lunch became unmanageable; however, a very fine box lunch is now provided so attendees need not venture far from the sales and exhibit tables.

The original organizers would be proud of the modern Forum's world-class speakers and hybridizers. This year's program featured two speakers who were new to our roster and an old reliable presenter.

Fred Clarke of Sunset Valley Orchids highlighted recent hybrids of multifloral Paphs in his thorough and insightful presentation. It was no surprise to see that Paphs. *rothschildianum*, *sanderianum*, *philippinense*, and their extended hybrids play a dominant role in today's multifloral strapleaf Paphs. Orchid enthusiasts will recognize Fred as the creator of a fairly new intergeneric hybrid, *Fredclarkeara* After Dark (*Mormodia* Painted Desert x *Catasetum* Donna Wise). The AOS awards to this hybrid are nothing short of phenomenal, leading one judging team to exclaim: "This

is the blackest orchid the team has ever seen.” So we must ask: “Fred, when will you make the black slipper?”

Jason Fischer ably explored the genus *Phragmipedium*. Jason, namesake of *Phragmipedium* Jason Fischer (*Memoria Dick Clements* x *besseae*) surveyed many new red, yellow, and long-petaled hybrids resulting from *Phrag. besseae*, *Phrag. caudatum*, *Phrag. wallisii*, *Phrag. popowii* (a.k.a. *warscewiczianum*) and of course, *Phrag. fischeri*, the delightful diminutive species named for the family surname. *Phrag. fischeri* first appeared in an importation of *Phrag. schlimii* received at Jason’s and his father’s (Jerry) firm, Orchids Limited. (Jerry Fischer was a guest speaker at the 20th anniversary Paph Forum in 2000. His presentation acquainted many in the audience with their first view of *Paph. sanderianum* in situ.) Jason relates that a hybrid of *Phrag. Jason Fischer* and *Phrag. Asuko Fischer* (*Jason Fischer* x *fischeri*) is in the works to celebrate his first child, Emma Michelle, born on May 16.

Hadley Cash, a long time Forum participant, made a return speaking appearance. His previous talk was also at the 20th Anniversary Paph Forum not long after he had decided to devote his career to *Paphiopedilum* hybridizing. Hadley titled this year’s talk: *New Worlds in Complex Hybrid Paphiopedilums*. While Hadley’s firm, Marriott Orchids has successfully specialized in hybrids with *Paph. White Legacy* (*Greyi* x *Silver Anniversary*), Hadley demonstrated that his work covers the whole spectrum of complex hybrid breeding. His hybridizing results have garnered over two hundred AOS awards, eight of which were given at this year’s Paph Forum!

American Orchid Society judging was represented on two fronts. First, Tina Wood, an AOS Student Judge and Professor of Philosophy, presented the traditional survey of the previous year’s AOS awards to slippers. Ms. Wood ably met the challenge of sorting through the myriad awards given last year to acquaint the audience with the best-of-slippers for 2006. While many of the audience were enjoying lunch, AOS judges were busy placing ribbons on the exhibit tables and screening plants for AOS judging. As expected, several awards were given, including two Certificates of Cultural Excellence. While these two and one other award were not for slippers (when AOS judging is offered at any event, any plant brought to the judging table must be considered), seven Awards of Merit and two Highly Commended Certificates went to Paphs. The Paph Forum was once again fortunate to have the services of Photographer Jim Osen, whose work is often featured on the covers of *Orchids* and *AOS Awards Quarterly*.

The Slipper Orchid Alliance, under the auspices of President, Barbara Tisherman, announced the winner of their “Peoples Choice Award” as *Phrag. Tall Tails* and presented their unique, hand-blown glass trophy to its grower, Ralph Habegger. (All registrants had been given a ballot to cast for their favorite plant on the exhibit tables.) In addition, the SOA held a silent auction.

The exhibit benches were again arrayed with the gamut of slipper species and hybrids new and old. Forum Co-host, Bill Goldner, led the show table discussion. Harold Koopowitz, Steve Shifflett, and Gordon Slaymaker joined him for lively banter on the relative merits of the ribbon and AOS award winners as well as many other plants of interest. Harold’s presence, his second year in a row, made for interesting comparisons of East Coast vs. West Coast slippers. While there were many superb individual plants, there were two notable collections. Marriott Orchids exhibited a dazzling array of complex hybrids from which many were selected for award consideration. Woodstream Orchids also presented a fine assortment of plants, many of which had received very recent AOS awards. Both firms featured select and awarded clones from the now defunct Papa Aroha nursery in New Zealand as well as their own hybrids, and their plants garnered numerous ribbons. Floradise Orchids, another mainstay of the Forum, also showed a number of fine species and hybrids and received many ribbons.

The event wound up quickly with raffle drawings, door prizes and kudos to many NCOS members who contributed time and talent to make the day a success. The staff of the U.S. National Arboretum was also thanked for their assistance in making this extraordinary venue possible. Congratulations are due Bill and Lynn Goldner for another superb Paph Forum.

Gordon Slaymaker

Gordon Slaymaker (Gordon is currently the Chairman of the National Capital Judging Center.)

The Slipper Orchid Alliance gratefully thanks the following donors of items for our auction at the Paph Forum: Hadley Cash (Marriott Orchids), Fred Clarke (Sunset Valley Orchids), Jason Fischer (Orchids Limited), Bill Goldner (Woodstream Orchids), Ken Meier (Orchid Enterprise), Barbara Noe (Celebrate Orchids), John Salventi (Parkside Orchids), David and Ruth Shapiro (rePotme), and Steve Shifflett (Floradise Orchids).



SOA Trophy Available

Our gorgeous, unique hand-blown glass trophy is available for purchase by our members or orchid societies for use as a trophy in society shows. At present there are three designs to choose from: the original *Cypripedium*, a *Maudiae* type, or a *sukhakulii* type. The current charge is \$80 to cover our cost of the trophy and shipping and handling.

The Slipper Orchid Alliance donates our trophy directly to shows held as part of American Orchid Society meetings and to the *Paphiopedilum* Forum in Washington, D.C. We feel this is an important service to the orchid community and good public relations for our organization.

If you do use our trophy in a local show, please use it as an opportunity to spread the word about our organization. You may request membership applications by mail or attachment from Barbara Tisherman at btisherman@aol.com.

Orchid Symposium

On August 12, 2007 the Central Pennsylvania Orchid Symposium presents a day of lectures at the West Hanover Recreation Center, Harrisburg, PA.

The presentations will include:

Mario Ferrusi of Marsh Hollow Orchids on cool growing *Odontoglossum* alliance plants

A Hybridizers Forum on the *Oncidium* alliance with AOS judge and hybridizer John Dunkleberger and Mario Ferrusi

Hadley Cash of Marriot Orchids presenting a newly commissioned talk on *Brachypetalum* and *Parvisepalum* crosses with complex *Paphiopedilum* parents

Gordon Slaymaker AOS judge giving his classic standard *Paphiopedilum* lecture

Registration is \$30.00 per person which includes breakfast and a buffet lunch, vendor sales and AOS judging.

Checks should be made out to the Central PA Orchid Symposium and mailed to 316 North Walnut Street, Dallastown, PA 17313.

Orchids in Art

When we hear about orchids and art, one generally thinks about jewelry, paintings, etchings, etc. But urinals??? Art is in the eye of the beholder (or artist) and Clark Sorensen has taken it to a different level. Once you get past the initial shock of an orchid urinal, you can appreciate the beauty of the piece and the patience and skill of the artist. Clark has had two shows in San Francisco where he exhibited his work. The first was called 'Nature's Way' and the second was entitled 'Flush'. He will have another show in California in early 2008 which will feature all orchid urinals. He has also exhibited in Korea.

Here is Clark's artist statement taken from his website www.clarkmade.com.

"As a sculptor working in porcelain I am always looking for new ideas. Tea pots and bowls have been done a million times and leave little room for improvement. One day, while using a urinal for the thousandth time I started thinking about how fun it would be to make some wild sculpture based on an actual urinal. Each subsequent visit brought new ideas but it took a while to convince myself

that it was possible and worth pursuing. It has been probably 5 years since that moment and many failed attempts to arrive at my current collection of unique urinal sculptures.

My first ideas turned out to be much more complicated sculptures than I wanted to first attempt. I decided to start with a flower because of the simple cone shape. As I thought more about flowers I really liked the contradiction of taking a very feminine and delicate shape and turning it into a urinal. I think the combination of beautiful form and unmentionable function makes my pieces successful from an artistic point of view because there is the juxtaposition of what one expects a urinal to be contrasted against the graceful and colorful forms that I have created.

I began my exploration by purchasing and installing a traditional urinal in my studio. I studied how it worked and measured the connections. I started testing different porcelain clays and their shrinkage and workability along with altering the brightly colored high fire glazes I had developed for the porcelain plates I was already making. Finally I started sculpting my first urinal - it was a very awkward calla lily and came out of the final firing riddled with cracks. I have come along way since that first try, and although there are still challenges with working in porcelain, my technique improves with each new piece.

My sculptures are hand-built using more or less a coil building method. Starting from the bottom, I add a little clay each day. It can take several weeks to complete a piece, and depending on my schedule, I work on several pieces at a time. The drying time is the most crucial stage. Because the walls are thick and there are inner chambers and support walls, the pieces must be dried as slowly and evenly as possible. It can take up to 6 months to properly dry the urinals before they can be fired for the first time. The urinals are fired twice, once to 1733 deg. F and the second glaze firing to 2300 deg. F. Both firings need to be very slow to lessen the tensions in the piece as it shrinks. The final piece is made of the same material as a standard toilet and should last a lifetime.

As I observe the world around me I am constantly evaluating a shape's urinal potential, and have begun to branch away from just flowers. I have done a few shell shapes and have a bunch of new shapes that are bouncing around in my head. There is no telling what kind of things will find their way into my next inspirations."

Clark Sorensen



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.

Antec Labs, Bob and Lynn Wellenstein
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