



The **Slipper Orchid Alliance Newsletter**

Volume 5, Number 4

Winter 2004

25th Annual Paphiopedilum Forum

The 25th anniversary edition of the Paphiopedilum Forum will be held Saturday, February 19, 2005 at the National Arboretum Visitor's Center in Washington, D.C., hosted by the National Capital Orchid Society and sponsored in part by the Slipper Orchid Alliance (SOA). The upcoming Paph Forum will be a special event, as it celebrates a rich 25-year history of world-class speakers, spectacular show plants, and unique orchid personalities. Forum Co-Chairs Bill Goldner and Gordon Slaymaker have put together an exciting slate of speakers, including: Dr. Phillip Cribb, distinguished researcher, author and orchid expert from the Royal Botanic Garden - Kew in England; Dr. Harold Koopowitz, editor of the outstanding orchid magazine, the *Orchid Digest*, taxonomic authority, and Professor at the University of California - Riverside; and Mr. Robert Wellenstein, co-owner of AnTec Orchids in Candor, New York. Bob and Lynn Wellenstein are among the finest growers of Paphiopedilums in the United States, winning many awards, and are well-known for sharing their knowledge of advanced orchid culture.

The 25th Anniversary Paph Forum will be special for another reason. Gordon Slaymaker is stepping down as Forum Co-Chair, following 25 years of leadership that have brought the Paph Forum into national and international

prominence as one of the premiere annual events for slipper orchid enthusiasts. Gordon is the current Chairman of the National Capital Judging Center and is an excellent grower of Paphiopedilums, having received numerous awards.

In addition to these outstanding speakers, there will be presentations on the Paphiopedilums, Phragmipediums and Cypripediums that received awards from the American Orchid Society (AOS) since the last Paph Forum; a high quality box lunch; a show table of approximately 300 blooming Paphs and Phrags grown by the region's finest growers (these alone would be worth coming to see); ribbon and trophy judging; and AOS award judging (led by Vice-Chairman of the National Capital Judging Center, Nancy Mountford). There will also be presentation of the SOA People's Choice Trophy, selected by the attendees. It was won the past two years by Phrag Noirmont 'Woodstream's Red Raja' AM/AOS, grown by Woodstream Orchids, but Bill and Lynn have promised not to bring this plant to the forum in 2005.

If all this were not enough, outstanding vendors will be selling high quality seedlings, flasks, divisions and blooming plants. A portion of the sales benefit the National Capital Orchid Society and the National Arboretum.

Pre-registration is required. There will be a modest increase in the registration fee for 2005. To pre-register, visit the National Capital Orchid Society web-site: www.ncos.us <<http://www.ncos.us/>> and click on Paphiopedilum Forum for information.

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.

Importers of Smuggled Orchids Sentenced

Two recent cases of illegal smuggling of endangered species, specifically Phragmipediums, played out with widely differing sentences recently, but both carried a powerful message that the United States, through the Fish and Wildlife Service and the Department of Justice, will prosecute alleged smuggling in violation of the Convention on International

Trade in Endangered Species, commonly known as C.I.T.E.S.

The more widely known situation concerned *Phrag. kovachii*, the spectacular new species, which was taken to Marie Selby Botanical Gardens in Sarasota, Florida, in June, 2002, by Michael Kovach of Goldvein, Virginia. Despite his assertion that he took it there, after buying it in Peru, only for the purpose of identification, he was indicted on a felony charge of bringing an endangered species into the U. S. without the proper permits. For sixteen months his life was in limbo, his orchid business in shambles, with the possibility of a six-year prison sentence and a \$350,000 fine hanging over his head. On June 11, 2004, he pleaded guilty to a count of illegal possession of an endangered species and a count of illegal trade, both misdemeanors.

The *St. Petersburg Times* reported that at his sentencing in Tampa, Florida on November 1, 2004, he apologized to a federal judge and said that he had not intended to violate any laws. After more than three hours of legal arguments, he was sentenced to two years' probation and a \$1000 fine. The judge told him that he resolved some doubts in his favor owing to his status as a first offender, but also warned him that he narrowly escaped prison.

Selby Gardens was also tarnished in this case. As detailed in the Spring 2004 issue of the SOA Newsletter, Selby pleaded guilty to a misdemeanor charge of accepting and handling the flower and agreed in January, 2004, to pay a \$5000 fine and submit to three years' probation. It also had to place a full-page ad in the A.O.S. *Orchids* magazine to apologize and request that the flower's name be rescinded. Selby horticulturist Wesley Higgins agreed to a plea agreement for house detention for six months, probation for a year and a \$2000 fine.

Another recent case had a more devastating conclusion. According to the Associated Press, George Norris of Spring, Texas, was sentenced on October 6, 2004, to seventeen months in prison and to two years' probation. Norris instructed Manuel G. Arias de Silva, a prominent grower in Peru, to ship him *Phragmipediums* through the Miami International Airport because he thought the federal inspectors there were more lax than their counterparts in Houston, according to papers and e-mails seized in the investigation. Norris and Arias used invalid permits for the shipments and falsely labeled many of the plants to cover up the lack of a valid permit, prosecutors said, although Peruvian authorities had confirmed the identifications as correct. The investigation was based on a tip about Norris offering endangered species for sale on the internet.

Co-defendant Arias pleaded guilty in June to a conspiracy to smuggle protected Peruvian *Phragmipedium* species into the U.S. and was sentenced in July to a year and nine months in prison. However, he posted bail and has since disappeared, presumably having returned to Peru.

SOA Meeting in Denver

The Denver Orchid Society members were extremely welcoming and hospitable to the approximately 250 attendees at the AOS Members Meeting, October 6-10. The show was lovely and the sales room very busy. The Slipper Orchid Alliance sponsored Glen Decker to speak on "Phragmipedium Breeding," a talk that was very well received.

Donations of plants and flasks for our auction, held before and after Glen's talk on Saturday morning, came from Norito Hasegawa, Marilyn Levy, Tom Larkin, Rod Knowles, Hadley Cash, Al May and Glen Decker. We are extremely grateful for their support, as the \$647 raised enable us to sponsor speakers and to increase the number of color pictures in our newsletters.

On Friday afternoon we held an Open Board meeting, attended by thirteen. In addition to telling our members (and prospective members) what we are doing, it was a marvelous opportunity to exchange ideas and suggestions. Even more important, as in Wichita, this format encouraged participation and volunteers for specific tasks. Barbara Tisherman passed out a suggested slipper alliance show schedule, which is now available to serve as a guideline for societies (see article in this newsletter). There is always a need for articles for our newsletter, and the Board has approved giving each author a one-year membership. Al May has offered to work on compiling an index of the newsletters, and Fran May is going to work on a logo.

It was suggested that the SOA prepare a speakers list. We could certainly start with orchid growers who have spoken at our meetings, but we want to include others also. Please send your suggestions to Barbara Tisherman, 5145 Beeler Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15217 or btisherman@aol.com.

The t-shirts designed by Marian Sheehan featuring a group of pink *Cypripediums* are still available from Tom Larkin for \$20, including mailing. Contact him at 479-925-2228 or wiplark@cs.com.

At the Open Board meeting there were two suggestions made that will have to be referred to the Board for consideration. Al May discussed preparing a questionnaire to go to all members. Another idea was to ask the commercial firms that are members to give a discount to new members.

The Slipper Orchid Alliance trophy was awarded to Paph. Henrietta Fugiwara, exhibited by Fantasy Orchids of Louisville, Colorado.

Next year our meetings will be held in conjunction with American Orchid Society meetings. The spring meeting will be held in Minneapolis, Minnesota, April 20-24, 2005. The SOA will sponsor two speakers there, Karen Muir on *Brachypetalums* and Jerry Fischer on *Phragmipediums*. In the fall the Sonoma area of California will host the meeting

Upcoming Events

Paph Guild
January 15-16, 2005
The Inn at Morno Bay, Los Osos, CA
Contact Patti James for info. 805-528-1417

25th Paph Forum
National Arboretum, Washington, DC
February 19, 2005
See article on page 1.

AOS Members Meeting
April 20-25, 2005
Radisson Hotel South
Bloomington, MN
Sponsored by the Orchid Society of Minnesota.
Contact Kent Peterson, 1070 Bucher Ave.,
Shoreview, MN 55126, 651-483-3935.

October 12-16, and Nick Tannaci will talk about *Parvisepalum*s. In addition, we will have a strong presence at the World Orchid Conference, where we will be represented by speakers Norito Hasegawa and John Doherty.

The results of the AOS election are always announced at the fall meeting. Anyone aware of the controversy and alternate slate in this election will be interested to know that there were 1419 proxies submitted voting for the official slate, but there were 526 independent proxies presented voting "no" and 174 "withheld" votes. In other words, there were about 50% as many votes against the proposed slate as were for it. Members genuinely worried about the future of the AOS expressed concerns about perceived poor policies and mismanagement. Art Moore, the newly elected President, talked about openness and healing, and he appointed Howard Bronstein, Ron McHatton and Norman Fang to fill empty Trustee positions. He announced that the AOS Forum will be limited to orchid related talk. The Trustees voted to amend the Bylaws to improve future elections, but we will have to wait until they are announced to see the exact wording.

A national meeting is always a wonderful opportunity to see gorgeous orchids, hear educational and interesting lectures and visit with orchid lovers from all over the world. Do try to join us sometime.

Barbara Tisherman

Suggested Show Schedule

Every society creates its own schedule for plant entries in its local show, based on its history, expectations, or regional association guidelines. However, the Slipper Orchid Alliance was asked to prepare a suggested schedule for the *Cypripediae* group that would be made available to societies, and Barbara Tisherman, after consulting with growers in various parts of the country, has done so. There are two versions, one very extensive (for a large show) and the other relatively short, either of which is intended to be adapted to a society's particular needs. Anyone interested may request a copy to be sent by e-mail attachment or regular mail by contacting her at btisherman@aol.com; 5145 Beeler Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15217; or 412-683-0207.

SOA Trophy Winners

Shreveport

The Barnwell Center, on the Red River in Shreveport, Louisiana was the venue for the SWROGA Fall Meeting and Show on October 22-24. This was the 87th meeting of the SWROGA, which is made up of 34 societies from 7 southwestern states.

It was a most splendid event featuring many fine displays and nearly 40 trophies. One of these trophies was the coveted Slipper Orchid Alliance "glass slipper," which Barb and I were fortunate enough to win.

The plant garnering the SOA Trophy was Phrag. Don Wimber 'Barbara Ann' AM/AOS and CCM/AOS, with the CCM being granted at this Shreveport show; the A.M. had been granted in 2001 in St. Louis, Missouri at the Mid-America Judging Center. The plant displayed 8 flowers and 12 buds on 2 branched mature inflorescences. There was also one emerging inflorescence. While the flowers were not as large (10.9 x 7.7) as the A.M. granted in 2001 (11.5 x 8.1), there were 6 flowers and 8 buds on the largest inflorescence. In addition, our phrag received the Peg O'Neill Trophy for best Slipper (SOA Trophy given for this class) and the Loran Maples Memorial Trophy for the best grown Slipper.

This plant was from the original Eric Young Orchid Foundation cross and came from a two-flask purchase made by Barb and me and Marilyn LeDoux. The flasks came to the U.S. in the fall of 1994 and were distributed by Norris Powell (The Orchid House). We picked our two flasks up at the Paph Guild Meeting in January of 1995.

While most seedlings were sold by both Windy Hill and

Whippoorwill, Marilyn and Barb and I did manage to garner a few awards from the group. Sister seedlings 'War Eagle' AM/AOS, 'Windy Hill' AM/AOS and 'Daddy Mac' AM/AOS were among others awarded from these two flasks. As most of you Phrag growers know, this original cross was most spectacular, resulting in numerous awards.

The 'Barbara Ann' clone was divided a couple of years ago and a large division sold, or it might have been a yet larger specimen.

*Tom Larkin
Whippoorwill Orchids*



Phrag. Don Wimber 'Barbara Ann' AM/CCM/AOS

Photo courtesy of Tom Larkin

Denver

We at Fantasy Orchids were very honored and pleasantly surprised to receive the Slipper Orchid Alliance Trophy for our plant of Paphiopedilum Henrietta Fujiwara (Paph. primulinum x Paph. haynaldianum), which was made with albino parents. The flowers of this particular grex show

virtually no characteristics of the Paph. primulinum parent; rather, the flowers look like a very good Paph. haynaldianum.

Fantasy Orchids has been in existence since 1989 and moved to our current 10,000 square-foot greenhouse in 1996. We do not specialize in any one genus, as we grow a wide variety of intermediate to warm genera. Located in sunny dry Colorado, we often hear people ask "What made you think of growing these tropical plants in Colorado of all places?" The answer is simple: we have over 300 days a year of intense sunshine here at about 5500 feet above sea level, our water quality is outstanding and we live here. We are located in a large metropolitan area convenient to Denver and Boulder and have a large retail and mail-order customer base; in addition, we also do a lot of wholesale business regionally and nationally.

We always have a fairly large number of Paphiopedilums available in our greenhouse, and they are very popular with our customers. We think they do so well for our customers because they are relatively compact, the flowers are very exotic and tropical looking, and they seem to like our very pure water. We like to pot them in a fine to medium mix, depending on how much Coryopetalum or Pardalopetalum section genetics is in the parentage. Those with parents in those two sections are potted in a mostly medium grade mix; additionally, these are given a pinch of powdered dolomitic lime per pot every 6 or 7 months. We repot them every year, and they really seem invigorated by being repotted. We water as often as every other day or two in the hottest months to once every 4 to 6 days in the coldest, darkest time of the year. The Paphiopedilums are never allowed to completely dry out at the roots, especially the Maudiae type hybrids. We grow everything on the bright side, and our slippers get the same light as our Phragmipediums, about 2000 to 2500 footcandles at the brightest time of day in summer. Though we get bright and warm, we do have a lot of air movement, and we run a lot of evaporative coolers to keep the temperatures below 90 degrees in the summer. One nice cultural perk to growing in Colorado is the nice dramatic drop in nighttime temperatures, especially spring through fall.

If you are ever in the Denver area, please visit our nursery in Louisville Colorado. We love it when orchid enthusiasts come by from around the country.

*Paul Lembeck, Greenhouse Manager
Fantasy Orchids, Inc.
www.fantasyorchids.com*



Paph. Henrietta Fujiwara
Photo courtesy of William Bannon

Paphiopedilum barbatum **A Closer Look at its Habitat on Penang Hill, Malaysia**

Michael Ooi, Harold Koopowitz and Yves Aubry ventured into the jungles of Malaysia to observe the populations of *Paph. barbatum*. Salim, who worked for Michael, lead the way, cutting all of the lianas and branches in order to reopen an old trail. *Paph. barbatum* was found growing on granite boulders covered with moss. The population in this area numbered less than a hundred plants with a few adults carrying seed pods.

Introduced : *Paph. barbatum* was discovered in 1838 by Hugh Cuming, who was collecting for Messrs Loddiges from England who imported it for sale in 1840.

Range : Mountainous localities of Western Malaysian Peninsula, from Johor State south, to Penang Island to the North.

General Habitat : *Paph. barbatum* inhabits dark, damp, mossy forest, at 650m -1300m elevation. It generally grows lithophytically on mossy granite boulders but sometimes can be found growing on moss-covered tree roots.

Penang Hill Habitat : Lying on the western side of the main mountain massives in the Malay Peninsula and in the gateway to the Strait of Malacca, it is protected from the northeast monsoon during winter months but is prone to the southwest summer monsoonal season with rains born in the Indian Ocean. Southern localities are likely to be dryer than the Penang Hill site, being protected from summer monsoons by adjacent Sumatra.

Penang Hill is a very steeply weathered, solid granite hill with semivertical slopes. A beautiful, tropical evergreen forest covers most of the westward-facing moist slopes where *Paph. barbatum* occurs. This species is found from 485m to 670m on moss-covered granite boulders that have fallen in deep gulches, weathered by streams. These boulders are up to 15m in diameter and lie irregularly jumbled together in the deepest portions of the gulches.

A tall overstory of forest with a canopy reaching more than 35m - 50m protects *Paph. barbatum* from direct rain, bright light and drying winds. It grows in shaded spots on boulders facing due west and in many cases on very steep surfaces. Its roots, penetrating the dense moss, are attached to the granite below. Near the summit of Penang Hill, it grows in the perennial spring-like climate where an updraft brings coolness during the day, and a downdraft, moisture by night, keeping a high humidity in its habitat.

Flowering Season : *Paph. barbatum* flowers during the driest months. Intense sunny days and cool nights with lower humidity in December and January provide rest, when maximal flowering occurs. A second flowering peak occurs when the rainfall diminishes slightly in June and July.

Status : On Penang Hill extensive and recurrent collecting has decimated the most accessible local populations. At the moment, its most important protection comes from the fact that it is not a sought-after species by hobbyists, and it probably does not attract high prices on the black market.

Cultural Guidelines :

- Intermediate temperature range, cooler at night.
- Reduced watering in December, January, June and July.
- Good drainage and air movement.
- Moderate light, but tolerates low light.
- High ambient humidity.

References: Personal Observation; Fowlie (1974, *Orchid Digest*: 90-94); Birk (1983, *The Paphiopedilum Grower's Manual*).

Yves Aubry
(Yves Aubry lives in Quebec City, Canada, where he is a wildlife ecologist specializing in birds. He is also an accredited judge in the Northeast Region.)

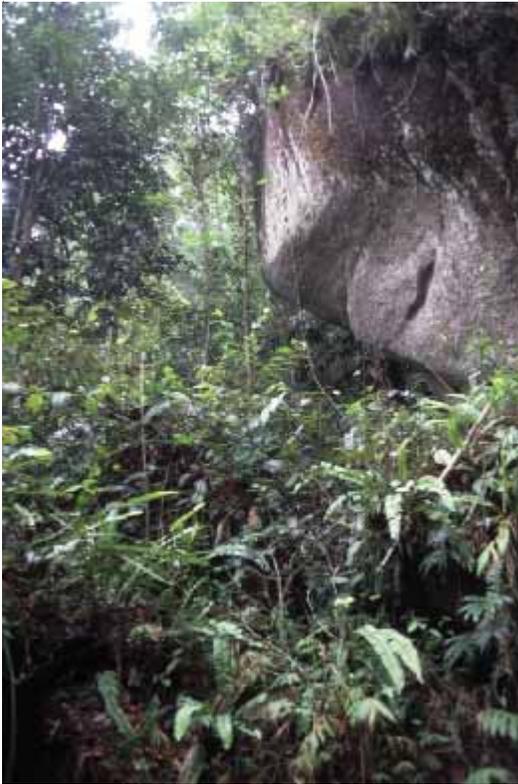
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The jungle "trail"



Several Paph. barbatums growing on a rock outcropping

All photographs by Yves Aubry



A mature Paph. barbatum

New Webmaster

The SOA owes a debt of gratitude to Richard Grundy for establishing and maintaining our website. It currently includes hundreds of pictures, and it is obvious that he has put in countless hours during the last several years to make it a resource for slipper lovers. He deserves our thanks for a monumental task.

Now Rod Knowles is taking on this responsibility. He can be reached at 723 South 5th Street, Brainerd, MN 56401; 218-829-4840; toll free at 877-815-3556 or rkgems@brainerd.net. If you have suggestions or pictures that you think are worth posting, please contact him.

What Improvements Can We Expect in Complex Paphiopedilums?

Complex Paphs are making a comeback. The in-vogue Paphs for the last 20 years have been the multiflorals, parvisepalums, and the Maudiae-types with a sprinkling of brachypetalums and novelties of complex crossed with species or primary-types. As many of you have probably noted, many groups of orchids are bred from species, and with many generations of inbreeding or line breeding the resultant hybrids become monstrous to the point that they no longer resemble their ancestors. Examples are the Cattleya hybrids with overlapped petals and the same with Phals. The complex Paphs, Cattleyas and Phals as they reach “perfection” become monotonous, and therefore we have reversions back to species and species-types (novelties) quite often with open and pointed forms. Of course the latter in turn start to become monotonous, and we revert to complexes.

Those collectors and hobbyists who have come into the orchid world in the past 10-15 years (and probably they are the most numerous of current orchid growers) have come in when “novelty” Paphs, miniature Cattleyas and “novelty” Phals were in vogue. Many of the judges today, I dare say, fall into the 15 to 20 years of being into the hobby or commercial end and have not experienced judging plants of the styles of 20-30 years ago. (I date back to 30 years!) Back to the subject of complex Paphs: as stated they are making a comeback, and so are the Phals (2 FCCs to complex whites in the past 3 years). The white Catts have not, although the art shades, lavenders and yellows are still rebounding, thanks to Carter & Holmes of South Carolina and Krull-Smith of Florida.

Due to the closing of Stewarts (at least in California), Hanes Orchids of Distinction, W.W. Wilson, Armacost & Royston, Rod McLellan, and Mt. Madonna (Bob Jones), there’s only one real complex hybridizer left - Orchid Zone; while Kevin Porter, Marriott Orchids, and Paphanatics have yet to prove themselves as highly consistent hybridizers in the “complex” arena at this point. Most of the other well-known Paph hybridizers are still deeply into species, novelties, and multiflorals with just a sprinkling of complexes. Ratcliffe Orchids, the European mainstay of the complex, upon opening in Florida is gradually drifting to warmer-growing primaries and novelties and also starting a program of pot plant complexes. Japan, Australia and New Zealand have strong contingents of complex hybridizers. Especially strong is Japan. American and British hybrids, however, are the dominant parents used in nearly all countries. Rarely do foreign-bred (except English) hybrids or bloodlines enter the U.S., although they are becoming more frequent. The Japanese-bred hybrids are probably the

most often used foreign parental stock in the U.S., even if they had their origins in the U.S. or England. Papa Aroha of New Zealand and Ezi-Gro Orchids are significant players from Down Under. There is a rumor that the former is no longer in business.

Remember that as the trend goes to the complex hybrids (including Cattleyas and Phals) the “improvements” come in only small increments: 1 mm to 1 cm larger in natural spread, slightly flatter petals, slightly darker segments, four or five more spots on the dorsal sepals of Paphs, longer stem, etc. In the complex Paphs the only areas where we have seen the greatest improvements are the whites and some greens, although they have some drawbacks which will be explained later.



Paph. Orchilla ‘Chilton’ FCC/AOS

Photo courtesy Marriott Orchids

Probably the least changed are the red complex types. Paphiopedilum Orchilla ‘Chilton’ FCC/AOS and Paph. Amanda ‘Joyance’ HCC/AOS are still hard to beat when flowered to their potential. The pouch on Paph. Orchilla ‘Chilton’ could have a redder color on the distal portion (if one gets picky), and Paph. Amanda could be of a more saturated color. Some Paph. Amanda crosses are exceeding Paph. Amanda itself. The cross of Paph. Alakazam (Paph. Amanda x Paph. Algonquin) has been reported with petals approaching 8 cm. The vinicolor genes from Paph. callosum ‘Sparkling Burgundy’ FCC/AOS have been bred into the Paph. Amanda and Paph. Orchilla hybrids to intensify the reds. An example of the latter is Paph. Flashdance (Paph. Orchilla x Paph. Flasher). Then Paph. Flashdance has been bred to Paph. Amanda to create some standard complex hybrids which show very little of the Paph. callosum ancestry for form yet with intense vinicolor pigmentation. Another fine example of the vini-complex type is Orchid Zone’s Paph.

(Jim Iverson x New Direction).

Spottedds are essentially the same, still displaying the dominance of Paph. Sparsholt 'Jaguar' and the two Paph. Winston Churchill cultivars, 'Indomitable' FCC/AOS and 'Redoubtable' FCC/AOS. Some significant hybrids with intensified petal/pouch colors and spots themselves have been accomplished with the usage of Paph. Thunderbay 'Flash' AM/AOS, such as in Paph. Gridlock. Hybridizing with Paph. Pacific Ocean produces large flowers such as in Paph. Great Pacific (x Paph. Winston Churchill). Paphiopedilum Simba (Winston Churchill x Eagle Lake) is one of the largest in size, approaching 18 cm with 7 cm petals.



Paph. Winston Churchill 'Indomitable' FCC/AOS

Photo courtesy Marriott Orchids

A separate movement for creating spotted petals along with a spotted dorsal sepal has been underway in Japan with the leadership of the late Dr. Motoo Kimura. Parents for creating spotted petals have been Paph. Geraldine, Paph. Sparsholt, Paph. Greenstede, Paph. Mayfair and Paph. Candelo. Motoo Kimura's cross of Paph. Jacques Ruffie is an example. The spotted petals/spotted dorsal sepal types tend to have smaller flowers, since many of them have Paph. bellatulum in their backgrounds. By inbreeding the totally spotted types, we are re-selecting for Paph. bellatulum's smallness, roundness and quite often shorter, although sturdier inflorescences. The objective would then be to get them larger!

The green complexes have seen quite an improvement in size, especially in the usage of the Paph. Yerba Buena 'White Cap' HCC/AOS line of breeding. The most prominent have been the use of Paph. Via Muchos Ninos, Paph. Kay Rinaman, Paph. Todd Clark, Paph. Palos Verdes and Paph. Green Mystery. The hybrid of Paph. Elfstone (Paph. Green Mystery x Paph. Palos Verdes) has "maxed" out at about 18



Paph. Elfstone 'Moongold'

Photo courtesy Marriott Orchids

cm natural spread, with 8 cm petal width. One drawback is that they are somewhat soft with a waffled texture. This in turn has been bred with a heavier substantanced Paph. Autumn Gold to create a hybrid called Paph. Stone Lovely; and lovely it is, creating a heavier substantanced flower with a more lacquered finish, with some potential FCCs in the making.

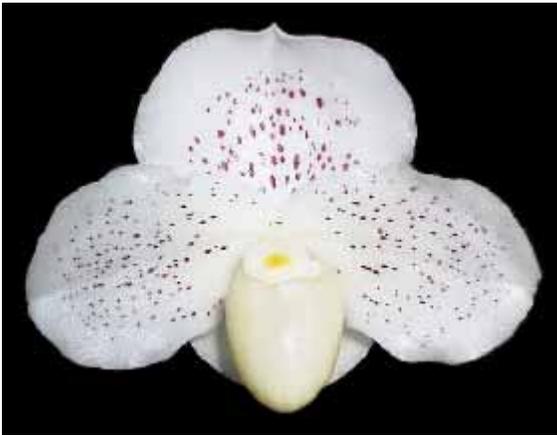
The Japanese have created their share of greens along two lines. Their use of the Paph. Bit-O'-Sunshine line has created the so-called "Winter Series," such as Paph. Winter Dream and Paph. Winter Sunshine. The "Winter Series" then combined with Paph. Emerald Crown have created some extremely large flowers, waxy with large white rims.



Paph. Via Virgenes 'Moondust' HCC/AOS

Photo courtesy Marriott Orchids

Another line creating some exceptional hybrids in the U.S. as well as Japan has been the series of hybrids bred from the Paph. Wallur line, such as Paph. San Francisco, Paph. Via Virgenes, Paph. Greenvale, and Paph. Vashon Sundance, and in turn producing secondary hybrids such as the currently used Paph. Memoria Toshio Miyata, Paph. Emerald Sea, and Paph. Jolly Green Gem. Japan has produced Paph. Tosa Aphrodite (Paph. Greenvale x Paph. Hamana Summit) from this line of breeding, with one clone receiving the coveted Gold Medal that Japan so seldom gives.



Paph. Skip Bartlett 'Marriott Quintessence'

Photo courtesy Marriott Orchids

Whites have probably improved the most in the past twenty years in the size department. An increase of 2 to 3 cm overall horizontal width from twenty years ago is incredible, along with the proportionate increase of the dorsal sepal size over the previous Paph. Freckles and Paph. Jack Tonkin. The Paph. Skip Bartlett (Paph. F.C. Puddle x Paph. godefroyae) line of breeding has created some phenomenal pinks and whites. The current crops of Paph. White Knight (Paph. Skip Bartlett x Paph. Green Mystery) hybrids are much more fertile than that of the British Paph. Miller's Daughter line. The current Paph. White Knight crosses quite often exceed 12 cm with some exceeding 15 cm, such as Paph. Silver Knight (x Paph. Tara Marie), Paph. Mystic Knight (x Paph. Elfstone) and the pink Paph. Carmen Coll (x Paph. Amandahill). Some of the Paph. Mystic Knights and Paph. Silver Knights exhibit no spots. Two more recent hybrids from Paph. White Knight are Paph. Tokyo Knight Dream (x Paph. Jolly Green Gem) and Paph. Silent Knight (x Paph. Greenvale).

The improvement we are waiting for in pinks, which are usually a by-product of white breeding, is to get the pink color into the dorsal. At the moment, usually we get pink

petals and pouches with white dorsal sepals that are dusted or spotted pink or burgundy.

So as the pendulum swings back to the complex, we actually have a nice balance of interest within the hobby, where the interest is not totally overtaken by the species, novelty and the multifloral factions. It's a nicely balanced period for the hobbyists.

*Norito Hasegawa
Paphanatics unlimited*

(This article appeared in the CSA Journal and with minor additions is reprinted with permission.)

Seventh International Slipper Symposium

On Nov 6, 2004, the 7th International Slipper Symposium was held in Kissimmee, Florida. The organizers, Jamie Lawson and Paul and Mary Phillips, were in attendance along with 70 registrants. The first speaker was Andy Phillips from England, substituting for Ian Plested who had a medical problem and could not travel. Ian did send his slide program on his trip to Malaysia and the habitat of Paph. callosum subs. sublaeve, and Andy did a fine job of narrating the program.

After a coffee break and time to shop with the six Paph/Phrag vendors, the next speaker was Ernst Gunzenhauser from Switzerland. Ernst is a Paph grower/hybridizer. His program was about his recent three-week trip to Vietnam. He had excellent slides of habitat and especially beautiful ones of all of the new exciting Paph species from Vietnam that Averyanov lists in his new book.

Plant vendors were H. P. Norton (Orchidview), Ratcliffe Orchids, Hills Raingreen Tropicals, Orchids Unlimited, Orchid Inn, and Halls Orchid Classics. All had great offerings.

Following lunch, we were treated to a very informative slide session and growing/culture talk by H. P. Norton, of Orchidview Nursery in Moncks Corner, South Carolina. His presentation included many award slides of his Phrags and slides on seed sowing/flasking of Phrags. He is concentrating his breeding program toward red/yellow besseae hybrids. H. P. is a relative newcomer in the Phrag arena, having already established a fine reputation with his Phalaenopsis. However, he has received one FCC, 21 AM's, 6 HCC's, and one CCM from the AOS so far; and he's just beginning. Not bad for a "Country Boy." H. P. had his wife, Katherine, and his daughter, Carol, assisting in his sales booth.

Another beverage/cookie break and time for more plant shopping before the final Panel discussion on Paph/Phrag questions from the floor to the panel: Frank Smith,

moderator, along with H. P. Norton, Andy Phillips and Doris Dukes. They fielded many questions with their satisfying answers on culture, fertilizing tips, potting media, etc.

A barbecue and plant auction followed later that evening, and everyone had a great time.

Next year's Slipper Symposium is already set for November 5, 2005, so mark your calendar. You can get more information by e-mailing - jimorchids@aol.com

What? Go to Judging?

You have a beautiful Paphiopedilum Joe that you purchased as a seedling over five years ago and this year, when it bloomed, you took it to the Orchid Society show table. Everyone commented on how nice it was, and then someone suggested that you take it to judging. Judging? Why, you have never taken anything to judging! But it got you to thinking. Maybe you do have an award winner here but you will never know unless you attend one of the AOS judging sessions. So what do you do now?

Actually there are several things that you can do to make an intelligent decision about whether or not you have an award winner. The first and foremost thing: do your research! Wildcatt Database is a good place to start. There you can find out if the plant has ever been awarded and read the award description. The next step may be a little more complicated but well worth the effort. Get a copy of the American Orchid Society Awards Combined Index, commonly called "Fisher-Bishop," which lists all awards given by the AOS, when and where they were awarded, and the Awards Quarterly volume number which has the description and possibly a picture. All judges will have this information, and many orchid societies have Fisher-Bishop and the Awards Quarterly in their library. Read up on the awards, paying particular attention to the most recent awards, the highest awards, and awards with pictures. Compare your flower to these descriptions. Look at the measurements for the awarded flowers and compare your flowers to these. Remember these awards have set the standards by which your flowers will be judged.

It becomes a little more difficult if Paph. Joe has never received an award. Then you have to look up the awards to its parents, read those descriptions and determine if Paph. Joe has some outstanding attributes that make it better than its parents.

The next thing that you can do is take a critical look at your plant and flower. Draw an imaginary line which bisects the dorsal sepal and pouch. Are the two halves mirror images of each other? Or is one petal larger or lower than the other? Are the edges of the sepals and petals smooth? Does the base of the dorsal sepal reflex, leaving a gap between the dorsal sepal and petals? Is the pouch off center? Look at the

color of the flower. Is there any color break? Are the colors or markings consistent? Are the markings (lines, spots, warts, etc.) well defined? Now turn the flower to the side and look at it. Are the petals and sepals in a flat plane or do the petals cup forward? How about the pouch? It should also be in the flat plane. The exception would be some of the multiflorals whose pouches normally jut forward. Think of a symmetrical and well-balanced flower in which the parts fit together well. Now turn the flower around to the back and notice the alignment of the sepals and petals. Sometimes it is easier to see if the petals are/are not aligned properly by looking at the back of the flower.

If this is a multifloral Paph there are other considerations. How many flowers does Paph. Joe have? Is this number more, less or about the same as some of the awarded plants? You want the plant to have the same number of flowers or more than previously awarded plants. How about arrangement of the flowers on the inflorescence? Is each flower well presented or are they too crowded? Did you stake the inflorescence properly? Plants like Paph. rothschildianum and its hybrids need to be staked going straight up the stake, while Paph. lowii should be staked right below the first flower so that the inflorescence can arch gracefully for the best presentation of the flowers. Every plant is different, and you can look at pictures of plants or ask some knowledgeable Paph growers to find out how to stake your plant.

You've been through all of the above suggestions, and you definitely feel that Paph. Joe deserves to go to judging. Is there anything else that you need to do? Yes! Make sure that the plant is in pristine condition. The judges will not be judging the plant (unless they are considering a cultural award), but when the plant is brought to the judging table, the first thing that the judges will see is the PLANT. (Remember what your mother told you about first impressions?) Have all of the old flower stems been trimmed down close to the fan? Remember that scale outbreak you had last year? You finally managed to get rid of all of the varmints but make sure there are no dead bodies remaining on the backs of the leaves or down in the fans. If the pot really looks ratty, clean it up or sit it inside another pot.

Are there some things that you shouldn't do? Yes, definitely! Do not approach an AOS judge and ask him/her to take a look at your plant or to give you an opinion of whether or not it is awardable. This is a "no-win" situation. If the flower is really bad and I tell you that, you are going to be peeved at me. If it is really bad but I tell you it is good, you take it to judging and the judges don't give it a second glance or even a minor consideration, you are going to be angry at me for lying to you. If, however, the flower is outstanding and you have me look at it, you tell me all about how long you have had Paph. Joe, what great care you have given Paph. Joe and how proud you are of the plant, then you have eliminated me from being able to judge your plant.

And if your plant gets a high AM or (Good Heavens!) an FCC, then I am going to be mad at you for eliminating me from the judging team.

Remember all of the criteria in the first paragraphs about the research and critical assessment of your plant? That is exactly what the judges will do when you take it in for judging. It may seem like a lot of work just to determine if a plant is awardable, but if you have some outstanding Paphs or Phrags in your collection, go through this exercise with some of them. After a while it becomes easier, and you will be able to make better decisions about flower quality on your own plants and plants which you may want to purchase. In the long run you will end up with higher quality plants in your collection and you might even want to consider becoming a judge!

*Janette Harris
Probationary Judge
Carolinas Judging Center*

12th Annual Summer Seminar

On August 15, 2004, Bill Werntz hosted an annual summer seminar, this one featuring Phragmipediums, in Williamsport, Pennsylvania. This was the twelfth seminar in a series he has sponsored, the second time in Williamsport. The previous venue was Springfield, Vermont. Previous topics have included Phalaenopsis species, Masdevallias, Phragmipedium species, Paphiopedilum species and primary hybrids, miniature Vandaceous plants suitable for windowsills, Sophronitis, the Zygopetalum Alliance, and Labiata Cattleya species. At two of the seminars Darrin Norton of Mountain Orchids was co-presenter, speaking on greenhouse design, cold-growing orchids for the greenhouse, and Pleurothallids.

At this year's session Valerie Lowe, an AOS accredited judge in the National Capital Judging Center, spoke about AOS Awards to Phragmipediums in 2002 and 2003. She provided personal commentary with rationale about the awards, which was extremely enlightening.

H. P. Norton, of Orchidview Orchids in Moncks Corner, South Carolina, talked about greenhouse culture of Phragmipediums in South Carolina. One of his secrets to phenomenal success at flowering intensely dark besseae hybrids is temperature. He air conditions his greenhouse and maintains 50 degree water temperature in the flow tank that is used to provide water to the Phrags. He also shared an interesting tip that he harvests and sets seed before flower buds open.

A perennial favorite, Bob Wellenstein, of Antec Orchids in Candor, New York, spoke about greenhouse culture in New York. Bob's emphasis is on nutrition and water quality. He also maintains a flow tank. His reservoirs are aluminum

trash cans sunk in the ground, naturally cooled by the ground temperature.

The final lecture was an illustrated history of the awards to Phrag. Jason Fischer presented by Bill Wentz.

This was the first year the seminar included AOS judging. The judges gave AOS awards to four of the six entries, an unusually high percentage. The only slipper award went to Phragmipedium Bel Royal 'Dark Knight,' owned by H. P. Norton, which received an HCC.

Sales were brisk, and one of the vendors actually sold out. That was a happy ending to a rewarding day for all.

Reward to Authors

If you are reading this, you already know how important the SOA Newsletter is to our members. What makes it so valuable is a wide variety of articles about lady-slipper orchids. As an incentive to encourage more growers to write for us, the SOA Board approved giving any member who contributes an article that is printed a free one-year membership. If you have an idea for a topic, please contact Barbara Tisherman (btisherman@aol.com; 5145 Beeler Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15217; or 412-683-0207) or the Editor, Janette Harris (jaharris@surry.net; 1947 Jackson Road, Westfield, NC 27053; or 336-351-3945). Barbara can also give you suggestions for articles.

This is your opportunity to share – growing tips, general culture, growing under difficult conditions or in unusual ways, collecting adventures, visits to specific growers or nurseries in the United States or other countries, history, information about a favorite species or hybrid or group of plants, a new species or hybrid, hybridizing trends, judging, upcoming events, meetings attended, a personal profile of a well-known grower, humorous experiences, and on and on. And of course we want to include pictures whenever possible. If you read an article in another publication that would be appropriate for us, let us know, and we will request permission to reprint it. You may know someone who is not currently a member who could contribute; current membership is not required, and that person will receive a free one-year membership. Many judges, especially students, produce papers or give talks that are suitable for publication (and most likely they will not be published anywhere else, so their hard work will be recognized here).

You don't have to be an accomplished writer, as articles will be checked for grammar, punctuation, spelling, etc. (At least we try!)

Obviously this request for articles reflects an ongoing need. If you have an idea months from now, that will be great. Please join us in keeping our Newsletter informative and interesting.

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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