



The **Slipper Orchid Alliance Newsletter**

Volume 9, Number 4

Winter 2008

Dues Structure Changing

It is not news to anyone that the costs for postage and printing have increased significantly. Our dues have remained the same since our inception in 1999, so it should not be a surprise that we have decided that we must raise some dues. The good news is that if you are willing to receive your newsletter electronically, your dues will not change, and we are offering savings if you renew for multiple years. The new rates will go into effect as of January 1, 2009. You may renew at the current rates for one or multiple years before that date; your membership will be extended from your next renewal date. To do that, go to our web site (slipperorchid.org) at Join S.O.A. (to print a current membership form for mailing or to use PayPal), or contact our Membership Secretary, Jean Metcalf, at orchidiva@gmail.com or 2323 Edinboro Road, GH#6, Erie, PA 16509; 814-866-3437.

The new dues structure is as follows:

Members (domestic and international) agreeing to receive electronic newsletters:

1 year - \$25, 2 years - \$48, 3 years - \$70

Members (United States and Canada) wishing to receive hard copies:

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@gmail.com.

Date Change

The date for the Paph Forum in DC as published in the last newsletter is incorrect. The correct date is February 14.

1 year - \$30, 2 years - \$58, 3 years - \$80

International Members wishing to receive hard copies:

1 year - \$35, 2 years - \$65, 3 years - \$95

Supporting Members

1 year - \$50, 2 years - \$95, 3 years - \$140

You may wonder why we cannot reduce the membership fee even more for those who elect to receive the newsletter electronically. The fact is that the initial cost of setting up the newsletter with its color pictures is the same whether we mail 50 or 250 or 500 copies, so that basic cost remains the same as long as we do print hard copies; I am sure we will have many members who desire the hard copies. We have no idea how many will change to electronic. For those members who do so, we will save mainly on postage, but the printing costs do not change dramatically with the number of copies printed. The electronic option will probably appeal to many international members. Furthermore, the newsletter is only part of our expenses, and we have to think about the future financial health of our organization.

We are most appreciative of the strong support from all our members and trust that it will continue.

*Barbara Tisherman
President*

New Officers and Directors

A Nominating Committee composed of Barbara Noe, Chairman, Alice Barrios and Dennis D'Alessandro presents a slate as follows.

President – Barbara Tisherman
 Vice President – Janette Harris
 Secretary – Russ Tyler
 Treasurer – Linda Thorne
 Directors – Lois Dauelsberg
 Karen Muir
 Sam Tsui

According to our By-Laws, “The slate shall be published in the SOA Newsletter. If no new nominations presented in writing by ten members in good standing and accepted in writing by the nominee are received within one month of publication, a single ballot shall be filed and those persons shall be declared elected. If a new nomination is received, the election will be repeated for that office in the next newsletter.”

The above slate will take office as of January 1, 2009, for a term of two years. Our thanks go to out-going Vice President, Steve Drozda, and Director, Tom Larkin, for their dedicated service, and to the new slate for accepting their responsibilities.

Important Website Information

As announced previously, we are very pleased that it is now possible to access new and old newsletters online through our web site – slipperorchid.org. Members who are accessing newsletters online should continue to use the “generic” username and password published in each newsletter. In the future, we may be able to allow you to change your username and password to whatever you want, but for now, usernames and passwords are being generated for new and renewing memberships only. If you have a serious need to have a personalized username and password, we can accommodate special requests for that in a reasonably short period of time. Please address requests for personal usernames and passwords to the SOA webmaster at webmaster@slipperorchid.org. It may take up to a week to make requested changes. Eventually, all members will be migrated over to a personal username

and password to improve security on the web site. We appreciate your patience in making these changes over time.

For new or renewing members who receive personal usernames and passwords, you may still access the newsletters by using the same “generic” username and password that are printed in the newsletter if you choose not to use your personalized username and password. If you cannot get your personal username and password to work, please use the “generic” version, and notify the webmaster or the membership secretary (membershipsecretary@slipperorchid.com or orchidiva@gmail.com) that you were not able to login with the information you received in the email.

SOA Staff

SYPs for the SOA Website

SYPs? Yes, please **Send Your Pictures** – Cyripediums, Paphiopedilums, Phragmipediums, Mexipediums and Selenipediums – to webmaster@slipperorchid.org for posting in the SOA MEMBERS’ PLANTS PHOTO GALLERY. The Photo Galleries may be viewed by anyone who logs on to www.slipperorchid.org, and the images posted there will show your commitment to slipper orchids and may serve as encouragement to others. Some people still need to be convinced that slippers can be grown in the home as well as in the greenhouse.

Please, in your e-mail, include the plant name, your name as grower, and the name of the photographer, with the image included as an attachment. If you did not photograph your plant yourself, your sending of the image must indicate that you do have the permission of the photographer to use the image. Even if the picture shows your plant, the image is the property of the photographer.

Images may be sent in any digital format, but jpg is preferred. It also is preferred that you send high resolution images straight from your digital camera, rather than reducing the resolution or file sizes.

SOA Staff

Access Info for Website Archives

Username remains ‘newsletter’ and the new password will be ‘Cyps’ effective December 15, 2008.

Upcoming Events

Paph Forum --February 14, 2009
National Arboretum, Washington, DC

Mid American Orchid Congress-- March 15 - 46, 2009
Columbus, Ohio

SPRING 2009 — April 22-26, 2009
Host: Houston Orchid Society
Location: Hilton Houston North, 12400 Greenspoint Dr., Houston, TX 77060
Contacts: Melba and Jim Butler
1907 Windy Ridge Drive, Katy, TX 77450
281-492-1437
melbajim@sbcglobal.net
SOA will have an open meeting and sponsor a speaker.

Paphiopedilum wardii Part 2

In 2001 Zhong-Jiang Liu and Sing-Chin Chen published *Paphiopedilum microchilum* (Liu & Chen, 2001). It came from an orchid dealer in Wenchuan, who claimed it would have been collected in the Wenchuan region. I consider this statement as highly dubious. Because there is a vivid exchange of wild collected orchids from all over Yunnan between the dealers, I reckon that the plant most likely originated in West Yunnan, because it is identical in all characters to *Paph. wardii*, as I could confirm by looking at the type specimen, and *Paph. wardii* is not known from Southeast Yunnan! Its true identity is also apparent from the type description, which fits *Paph. wardii* with the exception of the small constricted lip with comparatively wide opening. This character was used by Liu and Chen to define the species. Every experienced cultivator of *Paphiopedilums* will know that such a malformation is not unusual with a stressed or late flowering specimen. In the greenhouse of Hengduan Mountains Biotechnology in Chengdu, Sichuan, a well-established *Paph. wardii* with several shoots showed in early summer 2005 a flower similar to the type drawing of *Paph. microchilum* as published in Liu & Chen (2001). During the regular flowering time in winter 2004/2005 this very same plant had developed completely normal shaped flowers as typical for *Paph. wardii*. *Paph. microchilum* thus cannot

even be ranked down to a form of *Paph. wardii* because it is most likely based on a temporary flower anomaly.

Soon after new plants from Burma and China appeared in cultivation during the late 20th century, the first pale-colored forms with very little brown and finally also true albinos were seen. The albinos were first exhibited in Japan and later formally published by Olaf Gruss and Juergen Roeth as *Paph. wardii* var. *alboviride*, based on a specimen cultivated in the nursery of Franz Glanz (Gruss & Roeth, 1998). For several years, however, mere color variations are no longer recognized as varieties but as forms. In the case of the album form of *Paph. wardii* the recombination was performed by Guido Braem in 1998: *Paph. wardii* forma *alboviride* (Gruss et Roeth) Braem in *Orchidées - Culture et Protection* 36, page 35.



Album clone, *Paph. wardii* forma *alboviride*.

As the closest relatives of *Paph. wardii*, often *Paph. sukhakulii* from North Thailand and *Paph. venustum* from Nepal, Bhutan, Northeast India and Southeast Tibet are mentioned. In fact the flower of *Paph. wardii* shows



Another clone of *Paph. wardii* f. *alboviride*.

similarities to both the other species, and the leaves look rather like those of *Paph. venustum*. Moreover, Guido Braem has since long claimed that *Paph. wardii* would merely be a natural hybrid between *Paph. venustum* and *Paph. sukhakulii* and mentioned that the works of Kohji Karasawa and Kamezo Saito would confirm this. The latter two authors in fact just suggested that *Paph. wardii* could be of hybrid origin, but without giving any details about what species would be the parents (Karasawa &



A *Paph. wardii* similar in habit and coloration to the type specimen

Saito, 1982). And in his dissertation, based on karyomorphological studies of the genus *Paphiopedilum*, Karasawa does not elaborate on *Paph. wardii* (Karasawa, 1979). Juergen Roeth could demonstrate conclusively in 1994 that *Paph. wardii* cannot be the natural hybrid between *Paph. venustum* and *Paph. sukhakulii*, because the flower of the horticultural hybrid of this parentage, *Paph. Double Deception*, does not equate to that of *Paph. wardii* (Roeth, 1994). More so, the subtropical *Paph. venustum* and the tropical *Paph. sukhakulii* were never found within the distribution range of the subtropical *Paph. wardii*. Finally, molecular investigations of the genes of *Paphiopedilum* species showed that the closest relatives of *Paph. wardii* are *Paph. appletonianum*, *Paph. javanicum* and *Paph. purpuratum*. They further showed that *Paph. venustum* and *Paph. sukhakulii* are in fact the closest relatives to each other, but phylogenetically fairly widely separated from *Paph. wardii* (Cox et al., 1997).

After so much digression in the fields of history and science I will finally cater to the most interesting topic orchidists connect with their plants: the care and propagation.

Paphiopedilum wardii is of simple elegance. The flower is usually 8-10 cm (approx. 3-4 inch) wide and thus of medium size for a *Paphiopedilum*. In the coloration green and brown dominate and render the flower somewhat inconspicuous. But the contrasting green and white striped dorsal sepal, the many blackish-red dots on the petals and the usually dusky pink to brownish red petal tips give somewhat more color. The leaves can be quite attractively mottled on the upper surface; not seldom one finds also rather faded patterns, which, however, have no relation to the intensity of the flower's coloration. The lower surface of the leaves is usually dark red spotted at the base, sometimes so to about the middle, rarely even up to the tip. With some selection attractive clones can be produced that grace any orchid collection with their quietly charming flowers in winter and draw attention with their mottled leaves even in summer.

A very good quality of *Paph. wardii* is its easy growing and flowering, if the plant is not significantly maltreated. For the right treatment it has to be kept warm and sufficiently moist in summer, with day temperatures of 25 °C or higher (77 °F or higher) and night temperatures of 18-20 °C (64-68 °F). We actually have temperatures in Chengdu during the monsoon for about three months with day temperatures of 30 °C or higher (86 °F or higher) and night temperatures of 25-30 °C (77-86 °F), and these temperatures are well accepted by *Paph. wardii*. In winter the species wants to grow cool, with day temperatures between 15-20 °C (59-68 °F) and night temperatures if



***Paph. wardii* forms compact plants with several floriferous growths when its basic requirements are met..**

possible not over 10 °C (50 °F); a little warmer temperature will be tolerated and it can also be colder for brief periods, but not below 3-4 °C (37-39 °F). Watering in winter has to be done only sparingly. The intervals between the waterings should be long enough, but care has to be taken not to let the roots dry out. A certain amount of residual dampness has to remain because the species has no fleshy leaves to store water like *Paph. bellatulum* or *Paph. concolor*, which can stand more drought. A clear sign of keeping the plants too dry is the appearance of spider mites! It is important to simulate the native monsoon climate of the plant as much as possible - that means warm and moist in summer and cool and dry in winter. We fertilize every third watering with 0.5 g per liter (about 30 grains per gallon) with a balanced 20-20-20 fertilizer with trace elements, which automatically reduces fertilizing in winter to once a month or less. The light demands of the species are modest, so no bright position as for Cattleyas or species like *Paph. philippinense* or *Paph. glanduliferum*, but slightly shaded conditions as for *Paph. callosum* or *Paph. Maudiae*. Every good orchid substrate that provides excellent drainage with sufficiently



**Type specimen of *Paph. wardii* forma ying-xiangii.
Photo Z.F. Zhao.**

good moisture storage is appropriate if it keeps its properties long enough.

For me as an orchid breeder another quality of *Paph. wardii* is very welcome - seedlings flower early. Additionally it does not demand sophisticated media for growing and reflasking and is thus relatively easily propagated from seed. *Paph. wardii* will keep a favorable place in my memories because it was the first native *Paphiopedilum* species that, grown from seed in our lab, flowered in our greenhouse. Our lab started operations in summer 2003, the first *Paph. wardii* were deflasked in September 2004, and in January 2007 the first seedling opened its flower. Now, with improved techniques in the lab and in the greenhouse we have seedlings that were deflasked in May 2007 and are expected to flower in winter 2008/2009, because they are already much bigger than the seedlings from September 2004. Experienced growers of *Paphiopedilum*s know that it is better to remove the flower buds of such young seedlings to insure a stronger vegetative development. But the first of our *Paph. wardii* seedlings I let flower, just for the fun of it.

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telephoning transcontinental information exchange is a piece of cake these days!

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New Parvisepalum Hybrids

In the Summer 2005 issue of the Slipper Orchid Alliance Newsletter, a few of the new parvisepalum hybrids were pictured in an article I wrote, but as of then they had not been registered with the RHS. Catching up on those that have since been registered, *Paphiopedilum (vietnamense X micranthum)* = *Paphiopedilum* Wossner Vietnam Love; *Paphiopedilum (vietnamense X bellatulum)* =

Paphiopedilum Wossner Vietnam Beauty; *Paphiopedilum (hangianum X niveum)* = *Paphiopedilum* Chou-Yi Yuki; *Paphiopedilum (hangianum X delenatii)* = *Paphiopedilum* In-Charm Handel; *Paphiopedilum (hangianum X wenshanense)* = *Paphiopedilum* Chou-Yi Wench.

If it looks like a duck and quacks like a duck... well, if it's a new parvisepalum hybrid, it may not be a duck. An increasing number of the recently registered *Paphiopedilum* hybrids using *Paphiopedilum hangianum* and *Paphiopedilum vietnamense* as parents are starting to look strikingly similar to hybrids made using *Paphiopedilum delenatii* and *Paphiopedilum emersonii*.

Paphiopedilum Wossner Vietnam Love(*vietnamense X micranthum*) will usually look similar to *Paphiopedilum* Magic Lantern(*delenatii X micranthum*). The flower shape and color of these two hybrids can be identical but in many cases, because of the variability of *Paphiopedilum vietnamense*, *P. Wossner Vietnam Love* will have muddier color.



Paph. Wossner Vietnam Love



Paph. Magic Lantern

Paphiopedilum Wossner Vietnam Beauty (*vietnamense* X *bellatulum*) has an eerie resemblance to *Paphiopedilum* Vanda M Pearman (*delenatii* X *bellatulum*).



Paph. Wossner Vietnam Beauty



Paph. Vanda M. Pearman



Paph. Wossner China Moon



Paph. Franz Glanz

Even *Paphiopedilum* Ho Chi Minh can sometimes look like either a darker *Paph. vietnamense* or a larger *Paph. delenatii*.

Paphiopedilum hangianum produces hybrids that tend to look a lot like hybrids made with *Paphiopedilum emersonii*. *Paphiopedilum* Wossner China Moon (*hangianum* X *armeniacum*) is the illegal alien twin to *Paphiopedilum* Franz Glanz (*emersonii* X *armeniacum*). Knowledgeable breeders would have a hard time distinguishing one from the other. Incidentally, Mr. Franz Glanz from Germany registered *Paphiopedilum* Wossner China Moon.



Paph. Shun-Fa Golden

Paphiopedilum Shun-Fa Golden (*hangianum* X *malipoense*) can sometimes be confused with *Paphiopedilum* Larry Heuer (*emersonii* X *malipoense*), although *Paph.* Shun-Fa Golden is generally larger.



Paph. Larry Heuer

Two of the most interesting new hybrids are *Paphiopedilum* Liberty Taiwan (*hangianum* X *micranthum*) and *Paphiopedilum* Anni Fuchs (*vietnamense* X *hangianum*)



Paph. Liberty Taiwan



Paph. Anni Fuchs

Although many of these hybrids can look almost identical, they can also look strikingly different. Whereas *Paphiopedilum emersonii* and *Paphiopedilum delenatii* show little variation within species groups, *Paphiopedilum hangianum* and *Paphiopedilum vietnamense* are quite variable in shape and color; few look exactly alike. Superior parents produce superior offspring, a principle that can easily be seen in these new hybrids. Growers that were lucky enough to acquire, grow and bloom *Paph. hangianum* and *Paph. vietnamense* were crossing them with whatever compatible species were available, no matter the quality; hence, many of these first hybrids, from a horticultural standpoint, were far from desirable. As better clones of these two species appeared, subsequent remakes of these hybrids showed significant improvement.



Paph. In Charm Handel (*hangianum* X *delenatii*)



Improved Paph. In Charm Handel (*hangianum* X *delenatii*)

To date there are over 60 registered hybrids using either *Paphiopedilum hangianum* or *Paphiopedilum vietnamense* as parents. Until now, *Paphiopedilum* Ho Chi Minh seems to be the only hybrid using *Paphiopedilum vietnamense* that is legally accepted for trade in the United States. I do not believe any of the *Paphiopedilum hangianum* hybrids have been accepted in the U.S., although I'm not one hundred percent sure. All of the registered hybrids can be traded within the European Union, most Asian countries and Australia but cannot be legally exported outside their respective countries of origin.

Because of the similarities in many of the new hybrids with older legally grown hybrids, deliberately mislabeled plants are being grown, exhibited and submitted for judging. Subsequent breeding with these plants will introduce a host of problems, chronic cases of mistaken identity and tremendous headaches at the judging table.

Dennis D'Alessandro

New Speakers List

We are pleased to announce that Steve Helbling has agreed to compile a speakers list and will be joining our SOA Board. This list will be available to societies to help them in approaching knowledgeable speakers for slipper programs.

If any of our members want to be included or have suggestions, please contact Steve at orchiddevil@aol.com.



Paph. Kolosand
Photography by Maureen Pulignano

SOA Trophy Winner

Alabama Orchid Society Show

At the Alabama Orchid Society Show in Birmingham on September 20, 2008, a *Paphiopedilum* Kolosand owned by Ed Merkle of Memphis, Tennessee, won the Slipper Orchid Alliance trophy, which had been donated by Dr. James Newsome. *Paph. Kolosand* is a hybrid of *Paph. kolopakingii* x *Paph. sanderianum*; it had been registered in 1998 by Congleton but originated with Rands.

Mr. Merkle purchased his seedling of the grex from J & M Tropicals of Florida in 2005. He has grown his plant in a plastic pot in a mixture of medium grade coconut husk chips, charcoal, and spongerock. He grows it in fairly bright light of about 2500 footcandles, with a temperature range of 60°F on winter nights to 85°F on summer days, humidity of about 85% and lots of air movement. The plant was a first bloom seedling when it won the trophy!

Our congratulations to Mr. Merkle for growing this spectacular plant.

11th International Slipper Symposium

From the West Coast to the East, North and South and in-between, people from all over the United States and Germany attended the 11th International Slipper Symposium at the Clarion Hotel in Altamonte Springs, Florida, on October 25-26, 2008. Originally started by Ratcliffe Orchids (Paul and Mary Phillips have returned to England), the Symposium has grown due to the efforts of Co-Chairmen, Jamie Lawson of the Slipper Orchid Study Group of Florida and Frank Smith of Krull-Smith. The largest attendance ever – more than eighty people – filled the room to overflowing!

Jamie Lawson and Frank Smith welcomed the attendees, including vendors Orchidview (H.P. Norton); Hillsvlew Gardens (Theresa Hill); Marriott Orchids (Hadley Cash); Orchids Limited (Jason Fischer); Sunset Valley Orchids (Fred Clarke); ORCHIDbabies, LLC (Earl and Phyllis Bailey); Orchid Inn (Sam Tsui); and Raingreen Tropicals (June Hill).

The first presenter of the day was Hadley Cash of Marriott Orchids. He spoke on his breeding of Paphiopedilums for over 25 years, and he is most well known for his white and pink complex and novelty slipper breeding. He acknowledged that his love of making beautiful orchids did not provide him with an income commensurate with the effort. He said, "To make a fortune, you must start with a fortune!"

He also commented that to breed good pinks and whites, you need good greens and reds. Hadley followed Paph. Skip Bartlett 20 years ago and created Paph. White Legacy, which today is in its second generation of breeding.

Hadley has bred from the White Legacy line for some time, utilizing Skip Bartlett and its progeny, alternative breeding lines and novelties. He uses Paph. Silent Knight, developed by Terry Root, which gives bigger and fuller whites. The largest flower on a plant he uses is Paph. Mystic Knight 'Avalanche' (Elfstone x White Knight) with a horizontal spread of six inches. He continues to be excited about the future in Paph breeding.

After a break for attendees to survey the sales tables, Jason Fischer spoke about Phragmipedium breeding at Orchids Limited in Minnesota. Jason is well known nationally for having the Phrag. Jason Fischer named for him. This Phrag has won more awards than any other Phrag known by this writer.

Jason explained that their seed pods are always picked green, as they seem to do better for them; he also suggested that weather is a factor, because heat makes the seedpods mature faster. Orchids Limited starts their seed on petri dishes, but put only a few in each flask. He indicated that seedlings grow a lot faster in a community pot.

One of their favorite breeders is Phrag. sargentianum (it helps to make Phrag. Jason Fischer!). Also they like Phrag. boissierianum, which is a self pollinator, and is great for breeding whites; they use it shortly after the flower opens. Additionally he touted the advantages of several Phrags such as schilimii (producing a smell of roses in hybrids) and fischeri. He concluded his presentation with many examples of the impressive results of their breeding practices at Orchids Limited.

After more orchid sales were concluded, lunch was served and the meeting resumed at 1:00 pm. Frank Smith expressed his appreciation to the many people who helped him with his display at the World Orchid Congress in Miami in January of 2008. He gave out 15 medals and 5 trophies from the WOC to those helpers who were present.

The famed orchidist from Germany, Olaf Gruss, focused his power point presentation on breeding Paphiopedilums in Germany and Europe. Olaf's nursery is located between Munich, Germany and Salzburg, Austria, and is fairly close to Franz Glanz's nursery. He discussed first the Cypripediums in his region, then others like Cyp. acaule from Canada, Cyp. arietinum, macranthos from Russia, reginae, ventriosum and others.

The crosses with Paph. anitum (adductum) that he presented were interesting: anitum x micranthum, godefroyae x anitum, armeniacum x anitum, and anitum x philippinense. Crosses made with the legal Paph. vietnamense and Paph. hangianum in Germany and elsewhere in the European community were exciting for this writer to see.

He discussed some Phragmipedium hybrids, enlightening the audience that Phrag. Eric Young was originally made with Phrag. dalessandroi instead of besseae; at that time many considered the former a variety of the latter. He then talked about more Paphiopedilums, including older species, hybrids and Vietnamese hybrids. Olaf explained that in Europe Paph. vietnamense blooms last at least six weeks, instead of the two to three weeks common in the U.S.

Paph hangianum is legal in Europe, and he was able to

present pictures of many overwhelmingly gorgeous crosses made by him and others using it. Some of the very beautiful crosses he showed were: Karl Ploberger (bellatulum x hangianum), Wossner Favourite (hangianum x godefroyae), hangianum x sukhakulii (especially lovely to this writer), primulinum x hangianum (which flowered for 8 months), delenatii x hangianum, and hangianum x micranthum.

Later a discussion of illegal Paphiopedilums in the U.S. revealed that our CITES regulations inhibit and limit our creativity, and also put us far behind the European and Asian communities in hybridizing with these species. For instance, a Paph such as Sugar Suite (emersonii x niveum) is often not made with emersonii (a more delicate species) but with hangianum, and it is erroneously called Sugar Suite when in fact it should be named something else.

Another lively discussion led by Doris Dukes on plant pests and ways to control them ensued. On the panel were H.P. Norton, Fred Clarke, Olaf Gruss, Jason Fischer, Hadley Cash and Jim Clarkson. It was brought out that there is never any foolproof method to rid one's greenhouse or plants of pests such as mealy bugs and scale forever.

Evening brought on a marvelous tasty champagne barbeque at the Krull-Smith Pavillion, and everyone enjoyed the lively plant auction led by Bill Thoms. The next morning participants were invited to return to the Pavillion, and Frank Smith opened his greenhouses for participants to explore and purchase plants.

Everyone attending this Symposium felt that this was a great gathering of slipper growers, and they already look forward to the 12th Symposium. Hearty thanks by those who attended were given to Jamie Lawson and Frank Smith for all their hard work to make this symposium one of the best.

*Phyllis Bailey, Scribe
ORCHIDbabies, LLC*

MID-AMERICA ORCHID CONGRESS FALL 2008 AND SOA

An "FCC," a First Class Congratulations, to the Miami Valley and Greater Cincinnati Orchid Societies for ORCHIDFEST, the Fall 2008 Mid-America Orchid Congress held on September 5-7, 2008. The Kings Island Resort & Conference Center was a superb setting. Access to and within the Center was convenient and comfortable.

Very much appreciated were the facts that the display and sales area was well lighted and that there was ample room for unimpeded viewing and buying.

As reported in the October 2008 The Mid-American, the Mid-America Orchid Congress Newsletter, ten orchid societies, two amateurs, and 21 vendors provided 33 eye-catching exhibits. Forty-two judges evaluated 614 entries, with 22 plants evaluated for AOS awards. Five AMs, one HCC, one CCM, one CBR, and one CHM were awarded. One of the AMs (85 points) was awarded to Vanda Pachara Delight 'Pachara' (Karulea x Gordon Dillon); not a "slipper," but congratulations to the exhibitor, SOA President Barbara Tisherman.

We held an Open SOA meeting on Friday evening at which Barbara explained our purposes and activities to more than fifty individuals. Then Dennis D'Alessandro presented "Recent Slipper Orchid Discoveries and New Hybrids" with exciting slides. He focused on Paph. thaianum and Phrag. andreettae as well as the most recently registered primary hybrids using Phrag. kovachii. Eric Sauer served as auctioneer, and we thank Dennis, Fred Clarke, Glen Decker, Steve Helbling and Sam Tsui for their generous contributions. Funds raised by our auctions help to cover the costs of color pictures in our newsletter.

The Paphiopedilum Prince Edward of York exhibited by Mark and Terry Walters of Shelbyville, Kentucky, received the Slipper Orchid Alliance Trophy for the plant in the slipper alliance demonstrating the best culture. The plant was judged to be very well grown, with nine blooms attractively arrayed on two spikes. The overall presentation certainly was eye-catching, and the plant received a great deal of favorable attention from attendees and visitors. Although there was some discussion as to whether this plant was correctly named, there was no question in the judges' minds that it deserved the trophy. Attendees were treated to talks on Saturday afternoon, following morning judging, by Fred Clarke, Sunset Valley Orchids ("New Hybrids with Catasetum, Cynoches, and Mormodes"), Ron McHatton, AOS Director of Education and Regional Operations ("Sex in the Greenhouse"), and Henry Oakley, President of the Orchid Society of Great Britain and Research Associate of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew and the Singapore Botanic Gardens ("Orchid Hunting in the Headwaters of the Amazon, Central Cordillera of Peru"). "Sex in the Greenhouse" was an exciting presentation, but not at all naughty – yes, it dealt with the birds and the bees, and butterflies, but the sex was restricted to orchid pollination, including the euglossine bees with their 200 neotropical species in five genera. Talk about being "as busy as a bee...." The next Mid-America Orchid Congress is scheduled to be held in Columbus, Ohio, March 16-17, 2009 – well worth attending.

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@gmail.com. We also hope that each of our members will support these businesses.

Antec Labs, Bob and Lynn Wellenstein
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 Tyler Orchids and Tropicals, Russell M. Tyler, Ph. D.
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 Windy Hill Gardens, Marilyn and Brian LeDoux
 Woodstream Orchids, Bill and Lynn Evans-Goldner
 Zephyrus Orchids, John and Nicole Doherty

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