



Susquehanna Orchid Society

Issue 4, Vol XXIII, April, 2003

NEWSLETTER

MEETING NOTICE

This month's meeting will be held Sunday, April 27 @ 1:30 p.m. at St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Mechanicsburg.

From Cheryl: "Our speaker for this month is Nancy Mountford of Orchids Dominicana, S.A. She will speak on new breeding in Hybrid Phalaenopsis, with an emphasis on the new harlequin Phals. For those of you not familiar with Phalaenopsis, these are the lovely white flowered ones with the bold magenta spotting. Nancy is a AOS judge with the National Capitol Judging Center, and has been

growing orchids for a good number of years. She is also a member of the International Phalaenopsis Alliance. There are some excellent photos of Nancy's plants in the Orchid Digest Oct-Nov-Dec 2002.

Nancy will be bringing some beautiful plants for sale: Phal seedlings, stem propagations and Paph flasks. (As a courtesy to our speaker, members may not sell plants at the meeting). Here's your chance to ask questions to a really great Phalaenopsis grower!"

Winner of the March Spot-Waldo Contest is Gary Hawbaker, who spotted the fact that although the CPOS Show is in April, I lauded driving up in May. Gary's entry was email-postmarked days ahead of the runner-up for this month, Gary Dalton. Your prizes are in the mail, gentlemen. Don't forget, each month is a new contest, and you've gotta play to win!

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Well, we've made it through the busiest time of the year. With four shows gaining the society two third places, one second, and one first place, as well as many individual ribbons, I'd say it was a success! It's good, too, that there are new people helping with set up and tear down, learning from the seasoned pros. Thanks to all who helped, at the shows, by donating your plants, and through coordinating and transporting plants.

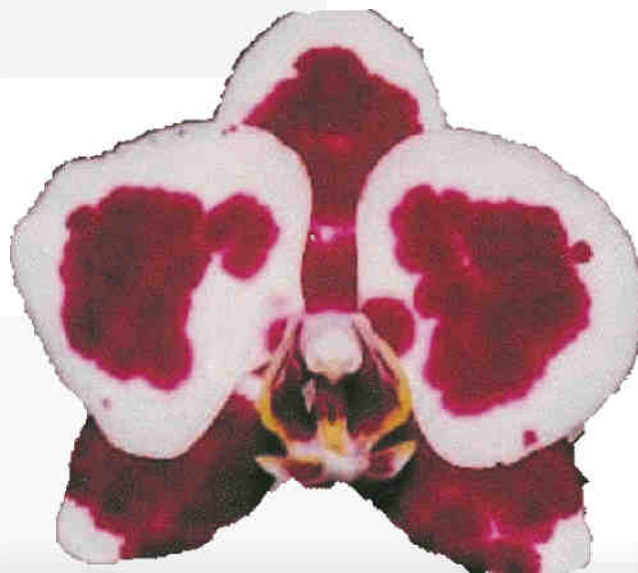
The recent trip to the GNYOS show in New York was as good as ever! Those of you who've never gone may wish to make plans to come along next year. I spent so much time in the sales area that I never got to look at the exhibits! But then, my backpack was filled with 34 new 'babies'. Those who did see the show tell me it was

even better than before, and I hear Steve won a 'best of' category for his *Dendrobium dichaeodes!* (I guess the cost of that division I've been meaning to ask him for just went up again!)

Now I'd like to make another request of the membership. This time I'm not asking anyone to do something, but rather not to do something – I'm hoping that will result in greater participation. Please don't engage in private conversations during the presentation portion of the meetings. Not only does it make it hard for some to hear the narration, but it is also quite disrespectful to the speaker.

I hope you all enjoy the warming weather, and remember not to sunburn your plants.

Phal. Ever Spring Light
Photo: Orchis Floraculture



OFFICERS — 2003

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Treasurer

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Dannette Laucks.....
Cathy Nowakowski.....

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Jerry Florentine ('04)
Anna Hyle ('03)
Stan Laucks ('05)
Steve Male ('05)
Bruce Johnson
Jack Rakocy ('03)
AOS Rep.....

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Cheryl Brooks
Edie Genden
Betty Lou Zimmerman
Mark McMaster
Librarian.....
Programs.....
Raffle.....
Hospitality.....
Editor.....

Society Website:

<http://www.susquehanna-orchid.org>

SAMPLE ISSUE

April							May						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5					1	2	3
6	7	8	9	10	11	12					8	9	10
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	SOS Meet- ing	12	13	14	15	16	17
SOS Meet ing	28	29	30				18	19	20	21	22	23	24
							25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Substandard Disclaimer:

Spring has sprung, the grass needs mowin' and this is still the Official publication of the Susquehanna Orchid Society, an IRS-approved 501c3 charitable/educational organization charged with infecting the lower Susquehanna Valley of Pennsylvania with orchid fever since 1980. Opinions expressed herein are as ephemeral as April sunshine, and not as euphoria-inducing.

Although you have to wonder how they allow it, we are associated with the American Orchid Society and the Orchid Digest Corporation. Articles printed herein may be reprinted by fellow orchid societies with the courtesy to credit the author.

Dues for those willing to risk association with known orchidophiles in the year 2003, are \$15 for individuals, \$20 for families, or \$10 and \$15 for the 21st Century web-membership. That choice will litter your hard drive with a computer-generated copy of this drivel. Otherwise the paper version makes an excellent addition to your compost pile.

MINUTES – MARCH MEETING

March 16, 2003

The meeting was called to order by President Chaz Smith, with 38 members and one guest, Jane, a co-worker of Barry Yinger at *Asiatica*, present.

The treasurer reported a checking account balance of \$7619, which did not include auction money. The profit from the auction will be about \$1212, which is within \$20 of last year's profit. Vendors should see Cathy for their checks. She also has membership cards available.

Chaz thanks everyone who was able to help with the Maryland OS show and with the SOS Auction.

Bruce Johnson reminded members of the availability of seats on

the bus to the New York Orchid Show, April 11 at a cost of \$27.

SOS participation in the Western Pennsylvania OS Show (Pittsburgh) and the Central Pennsylvania OS Show (State College) was discussed. Chaz, Bruce and Anna will help set up in Pittsburgh and Chaz will tear down. Plants to be placed in the State College show will be kept. Plants and help will be needed for both shows; mileage (\$.15 per mile) will be paid to those going to help at Pittsburgh.

The Garden Club Federation of Pennsylvania (GCFP) will hold a conference on Native Orchids on April 28 at the Harrisburg Hilton. The cost is \$43.

Gary Hawbaker is still in need of people to help at Country Market on Saturday, March 22, Sunday,

March 23, and the following weekend.

Cheryl Brooks presented a slide program on orchids native to the northeastern US.

Mark McMaster announced the show table results and John Dunkelberger commented on a number of the plants. Best Species was *Cym lowianum* v. *concolor* and Best Hybrid was *Blc Burdekin Wonder 'Lake Land'* HCC/AOS. Winners, don't forget your articles for the newsletter!

The raffle plant was won by Connie Edleblute.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Danette Laucks

DANETTE LAUCKS
SECRETARY



SOME PHOTOS FROM THE AUCTION



Photos courtesy Bruce Johnson



ORCHIDS ON THE WEB

Bruce's Selection of Succulent Sausages for April:

www.questorchids.com

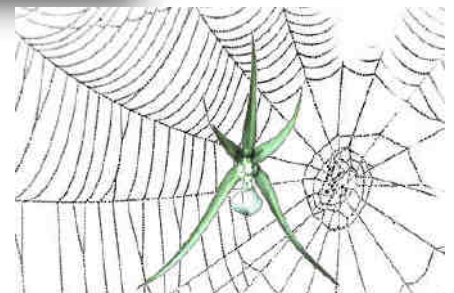
Wide variety and at decent prices.

www.orchidbasket.com

For plastic baskets to replace wooden ones

www.slogardens.com

Lots of different genera, shipping at cost, and 20% discount 'til end of April, but even after that prices seem very good.



PAPHIOPEDILUM DIANTHUM (TANG AND WANG)

History, Description and Culture



Photo:
Bruce Johnson

Paphiopedilum dianthum (Tang and Wang) is a species of multifloral paphiopedilum native to southwestern China and Northern Vietnam. Although this species was first discovered in 1894 in the Yunnan province of China, it remained undescribed until 1940. Even after being described by T. Tang and F. T. Wang in 1940, most botanists and growers considered it a variety of the closely related *Paph. parishii* until fairly recently (as recently as 1987, Cribb still considered it a variety) and the RHS orchid registrar still typically registers its hybrids as such. Today, it is generally accepted that *Paph. dianthum* is a separate species (in section *pardalopetalum* along with *Paph. lowii*, *Paph. parishii* and *Paph. haynaldianum*) and can be distinguished from *Paph. parishii* by its larger flowers, larger lip, less spotted petals, glabrous (smooth) ovary, and its distinct geographical distribution in nature.

Plants of *Paph. dianthum* were not cultivated outside of China until about 1980, and are now available in the US. In nature, plants of this species seldom flower before reaching a fair size, usually 3-5 growths, and while they may bloom smaller in cultivation, they certainly seem to do best when allowed to grow into large plants. This species may bear anywhere from 2-6 flowers per spike, but 2 or 3 are more common in cultivation (the name *dianthum* means "two flowers"). Our plant's most recent flowering had four flowers on one spike. The plant had, at the time of blooming, seven growths of various sizes ranging from mature to fairly new, only one having previously bloomed. The leaf spread of the plant is about two feet, making

it among the larger Paphs, but certainly not the largest. The flowers of *Paph. dianthum* are similar to those of *Paph. parishii*, but are, to my eye, more striking. The following description of the flowers is based on our plant, and is fairly typical of the species (the measurements given are for the current blooming). The dorsal sepal is green and reflexed at the base, but quickly flares out (to 24mm) and is pure white for most of its height (35mm). The lip is light mahogany, wider at the top (27mm) than the bottom, and is similar in length (40mm) to the dorsal sepal. The synsepal is white, striped with green and similar in width to the lip (25mm). The ovary is bright green and shiny. The petals are narrow (12mm) and twisted (110mm long), with several black haired warts on each. They are generally green, but fade to a dark mahogany near the tips. The petals are borne more horizontally than those of *Paph. parishii*, but still sweep downward. The natural spread of the flower is 16cm with an overall height of 10cm. While all flowers are open together, they initially open in turn and each flower takes about a week to fully open. Once open, they typically last 1-2 months. Another unusual observation that we have made about the flowers of this plant is that the midline of the dorsal sepal is angled from the midline of the rest of the flower by about 15 degrees, giving the subtle effect that the whole flower is twisted from top to bottom. This seems unusual, but is consistent among all specimens of the species that we have seen.

In its native habitat, *Paph. dianthum* grows on the north face of steep rock and small cliffs of Karst lime-

stone at elevations between 800-2250m (2600-7400ft), with the majority being between 1000-1230m (3300-4000ft). It grows in deep shade in cracks and pockets on the rocks in debris with a pH of between 7.5 and 7.86, often forming large clumps, and frequently in close association with *Paph. micranthum*. The climate in this native habitat has summer high temperatures in the mid-80's and winter lows in the mid-40's. The area receives moderate rainfall, but typically has a distinct dry period in the late summer into fall, which is when this species typically blooms (although in cultivation it seems that it can bloom most any time of the year).

All that being said, in our growing area, we grow *Paph. dianthum* with our other large solid leafed Paphs such as *Paph. rothschildianum* and *Paph. lowii*. During the winter, they grow under lights, receiving 3000 foot-candles of light (more than this species needs) from a metal halide light, for 12-14 hours a day. The plant is grown in a medium fir bark mix, topdressed with oyster shell, and is fertilized every 3-4 waterings (every 3 weeks or so) with Dyna-grow Liquid Grow fertilizer with Pro-teKt. The temperature in the room varies between the mid 60's and mid 70's, with the humidity averaging only about 50% (we'd like it higher) and constant air movement. During the summer, the plants are grown outside under 60% shade cloth in an area that receives some direct sun early in the morning. They are misted by an automatic misting system 3 times per day to keep them cool and keep the humidity up (WARNING: This does not work well for other groups of paphs, they tend to rot very easily

DAN LAUCKS

LEPTOTES BICOLOR

The genus *Leptotes* is a small genus in the Cattleya alliance containing at least three, possibly more species. It is most closely related to *Sophranitis* and *Loefgrenianthus*. The three recognized species are *Leptotes bicolor*, *Leptotes unicolor*, and *Leptotes tenuis*, all of which are miniature. The plants have stem-like pseudobulbs and terete or semiterete fleshy leaves very reminiscent of a miniature *Brassavola*. Flowers are large relative to the size of the plants, as much as two inches across for *Leptotes bicolor*, the largest flowered species.

The group of plants that were exhibited on the show table are seedlings resulting from a cross of two superior clones and made about ten years ago.

This species grows well epiphytically on locust bark or small tree

fern slabs. It can also be grown in small – two-inch – pots in shredded tree fern with a little charcoal.

Leptotes Menina, a cross of *Leptotes unicolor* and *Leptotes tenuis*, will grow very well on a seashell or on limestone and has better flower color when grown on a calcareous substrate.

The first intergeneric hybrid of *Leptotes* was registered in 1902 by Veitch & Co., – *Leptolaelia Veitchii*, a cross of *Leptotes bicolor* and *Laelia cinnabarina*. Since then crosses have been registered with *Cattleya*, *Epidendrum*, *Barkeria*, and *Brassavola*. In addition I know of a cross with one *Sophranelliocattleya* which is not yet registered.

I plan to cross the awarded clones of *Leptotes bicolor* 'Harbinger' AM/AOS and *Leptotes bicolor* 'Child of

Rue' AM/AOS and perhaps get even more improved types.



Photos courtesy John Dunkelberger

JOHN
DUNKELBERGER

MEMBERS COME THRU AGAIN!!!

Wonderful news! The Susquehanna Orchid Society would like to thank the many members who volunteered their time to talk to people during Country Market's 2003 Expo. Twenty members of the group were able to give of

their time to fill 36 hours of volunteer time at the Mechanicsburg store. AND, the other good news is the fact that these volunteers signed up just shy of 50 persons who are interested in receiving a copy of our newsletter and information about our fall show and

spring auction. To paraphrase another source, "Well done, good and faithful people!" Without you it would not have been possible.

A GREAT BIG "THANK YOU!"
TO VOLUNTEERS FROM GARY
HAWBAKER



AND TO THOSE SUCH
AS JERRY WHO HELPED
AT ASHCOMBE'S

if kept this wet. We learned this the hard way). During summer, the plants are watered according to the rainfall, and fertilized every week with the same fertilizer as above.

Paph. dianthum, while not being one of the more commonly grown *Paph* species, is a very nice plant in that it is fairly tolerant of a variety of conditions, grows well once es-

tablished and puts on a very nice show when in flower. It does not bear as many flowers as some other species of similar size, but its blooms are still quite striking and it is something well worth growing if you have the space and inclination.

References:

Cribb, P. *The Genus Paphiopedilum*. 2nd Edition. 1998. Natural History

Publications(Borneo) & The Royal Botanical Gardens Kew. Pg 189-193.

Braem, G.J., C.O. Baker, and M.L. Baker. *The Genus Paphiopedilum: Natural History and Cultivation*. Volume 1. 1998. Botanical Publishers Inc. Florida. Pg 126-127.

Averyanov, L. The Slipper Orchids of Vietnam. Presentation at 2003 Paph. Forum. February 15, 2003. Notes by Bob & Lynn Wellenstein available at www.ladyslipper.com.

AND AWAY WE GO

If you hadn't noticed, we've been in the midst of show season, with our crews setting up exhibits on behalf of the SOS at Maryland, Pittsburgh & State College in the past few weeks. Much credit to Chaz, Anna (& her sisters), Bruce, the Laucks, Gary Dalton, the Kutz', Dan George, & Bill Anderson, in no particular order, for pitching in with setup or teardown at one or more of those adventures. Thanks too to those of you who contributed plants to help fill the exhibits. Nothing worse than a nice orchid exhibit full of air.

Some results & photos follow. More are on the members' website.

From the Maryland Show:

Gary Dalton

Phrag Grande 1st
Paph liemianum 3rd

Stan & Dan Laucks

Cym goeringii HM

Bill Anderson

Epi nemorale x Rhy digbyana 3rd

Steve Male

Aer. luteo-alba v. rhodosticta 1st Best Vanda
Aeranges citrata 3rd
Ornith. cochleariforma 3rd

Den Golden Aya 2nd
Lyc Alisa 'Origami Dave' AM/AOS 2nd
Stellis allenii 1st
Den. mohlianum 3rd
The exhibit took 1st Place

From the OSWP Show:

Loris Crone

Paph malipoense 1st

Bruce Johnson

Wils. Kendrick Williams 'The Weed' 2nd
Phal Taihort Minhosun x Fantasia de Caso 1st
Phal (Matou Rose x King Shiang's Rose) x Brother Precious Stones 2nd
Ascda. John De Baise 'Angela' 1st

Denise Conklin

Den. Silver Bells 2nd

Anna Hyle

Cym Robert Rowe 'Free' 1st & BO

Gary Dalton

Phal Taisuco Riosan 1st
Paph liemianum 1st
Blc Tsiku Lily 3rd

Chaz Smith

Ascda Princess Mikasa 2nd

Hope Martin

Phal Pink Unknown 2nd

Bill Anderson

Den polysema 3rd
Den Roy Tokunaga x rhodos

tictum 1st
Pleur crocea 1st
Onc Sharry Baby 1st
Phrag caudatum 2nd
The Exhibit took 1st Place

Finally, the results from CPOS:

Bruce Johnson

2nd Ascda. John De Baise 'Angela'

Denise Conklin

2nd Den. Silver Bells

Anna Hyle

1st Cym Robert Rowe 'Free'
3rd Phal Golden Bells

Gary Dalton

1st Phrag Albopurpureum 'Barbara'

Chaz Smith

1st Ascda Princess Mikasa

Hope Martin

2nd Phal Pink Unknown

Bill Anderson

1st Den Roy Tokunaga x rho dostictum
2nd Pleur crocea
3rd Phrag Schroederae 'Longwood'
3rd Den Frosty Dawn

Hilary Nixon

2nd Den Hamburen Gold 'Eve'
The display took 3rd Place.

AOS AWARDS @ CPOS

Cat Orchids

Paphiopedilum (Macabre x Amanda Hill) 'Beltane Fire' HCC/AOS 78 points

Joby Dick

Cymbidium lowianum v. *concolor* 'Jay Dee' HCC/AOS 77 points

James and Peggy Diehl

Epidendrum Pacific Ember (Eagle Valley x Orange Glow)

'Jone's Mountain'

HCC/OAS 79 points

Woodstream Orchids

Paphiopedilum fowlieli alba 'Woodstream's Green Imp' CHM/AOS 81 points

Woodstream Orchids

Phalaenopsis philippinensis 'Happy Valley Snowfall' AM/AOS 80 points

Woodstream Orchids

Erythroides purpurea 'Woodstream' CHM/AOS 83 points

Woodstream Orchids

Paphiopedilum delenatii 'Sinking Creek' HCC/AOS 76 points

MARCH SHOW TABLE RESULTS

SORTA NOT-PRIMARY-LOOKING PAPH HYBRIDS

1. Unbekkant

Mary Chronister

2. Succotash

Cherie Lin

2. Niobe

Hilary Nixon

PHRAGS

1. Sorcerer's Apprentice

The Laucks

2. Mem. Dick Clements (flava)

The Dalton's

OTHER PAPH HYBRIDS

1. St. Albans

The Laucks

2. (Laser x charlesworthii)

Mary Chronister

PAPH SPECIES

1. malipoense

Loris Crone

2. godefroyae v. leucochilum

The Laucks

DENDROBES

1. Silver Bells

Denise Conklin

2. (Mem. Herbert Johnson x Li-lac Time) *sic*

Hilary Nixon

ONCID ALLIANCE

1. Odcn Roger Cole

John Dunkelberger

2. Brsdm Shooting Star 'Mustard'

Loris Crone

STANDARD PHALS

1. (Abendrot x Flor de Mato) = *Hampshire Flor*

Myrl Daniels

2. "Noid" White Phal

Cherie Lin

YELLOW PHALS

1. Baldan's Kaleidoscope

The Dalton's

2. Golden Buddha x (Valley Belle x Welcome Home)

Kathy Doucette

SORTA PURPLE PHALS

1. "Lowe's Special"

Hope Martin

2. (Fortune Buddha x Carmela's Wild Thing)

Bruce Johnson

SMALLER FLOWERED PHALS

1. Taisuco Riosan

The Dalton's

2. Cassandra

Myrl Daniels

MISS CELLANY

1. Leptotes bicolor

John Dunkelberger

2. Vanda "Lost Tag"

Jon Benson

YELLOW & RED CATTS

1. Slc Hazel Boyd 'Mikkabi' AM/AOS

Mary Chronister

2. (Blc Sakurahime x Sc Beaufort) = *Pot Minisun*

Pete Innerst

ORANGE CATTS

1. Slc Hazel Boyd 'Orchid Alley Tangerine' AM/AOS

Pete Innerst

2. (Lc Trick or Treat x Blc Fuch's Orange Nugget) = *Blc Tsiku Lily*

The Dalton's

WHITE CATTS

1. Blc Burdekin Wonder 'Lake Land' HCC/AOS

Mary Chronister

PURPLE CATTS

1. Lc Culminant 'La Tuilerie' HCC/AOS

Mary Chronister

2. (C. Horace x Lc. Mary Dickert)

Pete Innerst

CYMS

1. lowianum v. concolor

John Dunkelberger

2. Hurrah

The Dalton's

BEST SPECIES

Cym lowianum v. concolor

John Dunkelberger

BEST HYBRID

Blc Burdekin Wonder 'Lake Land' HCC/AOS

Mary Chronister

BEST FRAGRANCE (TIE)

Lc. Culminant 'La Tuilerie' HCC/AOS

Mary Chronister

C. Henrietta Japhet

Hilary Nixon

There were 52 plants brought in by 16 growers.

MARK McMASTER
LIKE WHO ELSE
WOULD COME UP
WITH THESE
CLASSES?