

SILENT AUCTION & HOLIDAY POTLUCK!

Happy New Year! It's hard to believe that we've weathered another year and the New Year is upon us! 2003 was a busy year for CNYOS, complete with fund-raisers, a host of great meeting programs, award winning displays at regional shows, an auction, picnics & parties, and our own successful fall show. Ready to do it all again? OK, perhaps we're getting a bit ahead of ourselves... How about getting a start by bringing in the New Year right with a program a little more laid back than usual for our next meeting—a Silent Auction fund-raiser & a Holiday Pot Luck! Bidding for new orchids or supplies, enjoying some good food, and socializing with friends should make for a great meeting.

We've been advertising the silent auction for the last few months. The silent portion of our auction last May was an overwhelming success. So the club has decided to try an entirely silent auction as a fund-raiser. All resulting proceeds will go toward subsidizing our programs & newsletter—and given that we may not be able to participate in the CNY Home & Garden Show, the funds might be well needed. This is how it will work; members are asked to bring an orchid or a non-trivial orchid-related item to *donate*. Your donation will serve as your entrance fee. We ask that your donation be non-trivial—in other words, we don't want used stakes or all of your back issues of Orchids Magazine! But healthy orchids, growing supplies, books, trinkets, etc., will all gladly be accepted. If you have nothing you wish to donate to the cause, but still hope to participate, you will be asked to pay a \$5 nonrefundable entrance fee. If you have an orchid to donate, please ensure that it is healthy and disease free; anyone donating orchids is requested to provide a *photograph of the plant in flower (if available), and a written description of cultural needs, how often it flowers, etc.* Plan on arriving early so you can get a good look at the plants and other items on the auction block.

And while everyone is monitoring their bids, we can also take some time to enjoy members' donations of another sort—food! Last month the weather foiled our annual holiday party by dumping about 15-20" of snow on Central New York. So in order to make up for our cancelled party, feel free to bring

your favorite dish to share with the club. Be it a desert or casserole (or even chicken wings!), bring it along! And if you're not particularly good in the kitchen, fear not—you're welcome to bring a beverage—there's sure to be enough food. CNYOS will provide disposable plates and flatware. There will be the Show Table and some business as well; officers still need to be installed & upcoming events will need to be discussed. And don't forget to pay your dues for 2004!

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NOVEMBER 2003: GLEN DECKER OF PIPING ROCK ORCHIDS & VISIT TO MARLOW ORCHIDS

CNYOS Members were kept busier than usual this past November, with both our annual meeting on November 2ND, and a trip to our friend Jim Marlow's greenhouses on the 8TH. However, I don't seem to remember anyone complaining...

Our speaker for November was Glen Decker of Piping Rock Orchids, who gave a survey of *Phragmipedium* species and selected hybrids. Freshly back from Peru, Glen included slides of the newly described *Phrag. kovachii* in the wild and described his challenging trek into the Peruvian back-country to the secret site. Sadly the site no longer remains secret, and is said to have been stripped of all *kovachii*. Glen's talk was very enjoyable & informative, and he brought a good selection of slipper orchids for the club to purchase. Piping Rock Orchids, formerly located on Long Island, is now in Galway NY off of the Amsterdam Exit of the NYS Thruway.

Every November CNYOS takes a trip out to visit Marlow Orchids in Scottsville NY. Jim & Mike never fail to treat the club well, by opening their home & greenhouses. And our last visit was no exception. CNYOS Members were greeted by a greenhouse filled with blooming orchids, and a wonderful hot lunch, complete with hors d'oeuvres, some wine, and several types of deserts. And not only were members' appetites full when they left, but their arms were as well—of orchids!



MEETING MINUTES FOR NOVEMBER 2ND, 2003

1. Thanks to Carolyn and Cynthia for this month's refreshments.
2. New members and guests were introduced.
3. Treasurer's report- see printed report.
4. Fall Show- thanks to Gary and Judi for the wonderful display that received the AOS and the Orchid Digest best in Show display.

New Business

1. Next year's show—we need to start working on next year's Show. Deb Coyle has a folder of everything you need to know about how to do a Show. We also have much of this information on computer discs. A sign-up sheet was sent around.
2. Field trip to Jim Marlow Orchids will be held on 11/08/03. Please meet in the parking lot of the St. Augustine's Church at 9:45^{AM}. Let Judi Witkin know by Wednesday if you are planning to attend.
3. Holiday Shoppes: the club will be selling approximately 50 plants, several of which were absolutely unique and stunning.
4. Our next meeting in January (2004) will be a silent auction, bring either an orchid or an orchid related item or you will need to pay to participate.
5. Holiday Party—starting at 5^{PM} at Deb Coyle's house. Please RSVP by 12/1. BYOB, food to be catered by Dinosaur BBQ. [Cancelled due to inclement weather]
6. We need someone to be the Orchid Digest Representative for the Club (Jeff Stuart volunteered).
7. Home and Garden Show: Deb to call to determine if local garden societies will be invited to participate.
8. David Ditz made several comments regarding the recent show—the help from the membership was wonderful, and the display was great. However, identification of orchids in the display was a major problem once orchids were in the display. IN THE FUTURE, PLEASE put the name of the plant on tape on the POT containing the plant. Iris will need help with registration for next year's show.
9. Former Treasurer Eleanor Burton was presented with a cake and a card, including an orchid gift certificate.
10. Our speaker was Glen Decker from Piping Rock Orchids, who gave an excellent presentation on *Phragmipediums*.

Respectfully Submitted,
Barbara Weller, CNYOS Secretary

- January 11** **Silent Auction, Holiday Pot-Luck, Election of new officers.**
- January 18** **Regular meeting of the Southern Tier Orchid Society.**
- February 1** **Regular Meeting: Program TBA**
- March 7** **Regular Meeting: Program TBA**
- March 18-21** **CNY Home & Garden Show at the State Fair Grounds: CNYOS participation tentative.**
- March 25-28** **Genesee Region Orchid Society Show & Sale: Location: RMSC Eisenhart Auditorium, 657 East Avenue, Rochester, NY.**
- April 4** **Annual Mounted Orchid Clinic!**
- April 30-May 2** **Southern Tier Orchid Society Show & Sale: Oakdale Mall, Johnson City, New York**
- May 2** **Annual Orchid Auction**
- June 6** **Annual Summer Picnic**

GROS NEWS: NEWS FROM THE GENESSEE REGION ORCHID SOCIETY

GROS will greet the New Year on January 5TH by welcoming special guest speaker Dr. Eric A. Christenson, who will speak on the Diversity of Oncidiums and its Relatives. Dr. Christenson will give an overview of the phenomenal diversity seen in the genus *Oncidium*. He will also discuss and illustrate many of the changes - both good and bad - that are taking place with the taxonomy of the genus based on recent molecular research undertaken at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, and the University of Florida in Gainesville. Some of the proposed changes are quite startling.

Taken with permission from *The Orchid Collection*, Newsletter of the Genesee Region Orchid Society, Vol. 26, No. 3, Nov. 2003, Phil Matt, Newsletter Editor (716) 288-7025.

OPEN LETTER FROM FORMER CNYOS TREASURER ELINOR BURTON

At our November Meeting, CNYOS thanked our long-time Treasurer Elinor Burton for her many years of service with a cake, card from the club, and a gift certificate to Fender's Orchids in Venice, Florida. Elinor and her husband Jim are in the process of relocating to Florida. Elinor's thank you letter to CNYOS is shown below; we'll definitely miss her!

What a THRILL! to open that lovely card—and to find such a handsome gift from you all!! Thank You—One and ALL!!

I see Susan Fender at every meeting of the Venice Area Orchid Society—she is the current Secretary. And I have bought plants from them from time to time. They participate in the Tropiflora Plant Festival every spring, so I get a chance to wander down the rows of their plants. And buy, of course. Tropiflora is a big house for elegant bromeliads and all sorts of other stuff...and I believe that the Fenders' greenhouses are on that property...hence they have have Open Houses at the same time. It is quite a production.

I have just been through their on-line catalog, and have a nice list made up, already! NOW- to prune it down to manageable size. I am SO happy that you scouted out a local nursery for this...and people I know. Both of the Fenders come to the meetings, and he usually gives a talk every year, using some variation of "Of

COURSE you can grow orchids...but how do you BLOOM them?", which is a general "culture" talk. I learn a lot from it every time. What fun I will be having....mulling over all my choices, and getting to know new plants.

AND—that beautiful cake is just the "icing" on my day—Jim's too! I definitely got a second chance on that.

I am deeply indebted to the Society, for all the happiness that this group has brought to me. What little things I may have done would never repay THAT. It has been a wonderful group—in that everyone shares their knowledge, experience, pleasures, and woes—so freely. It is a most generous group of people, and I honestly think that in some measure, this is unusual.

You have all been SO kind to me and Jim. I will treasure all my friendships here, of course....and I hope to keep in touch. At least, I know I will have the newsletter to keep me informed, even if I can't "do anything about it"...whatever excitement may arise.

Love to you all....Elinor and Jim



**PLEASE NOTE ESPECIALLY ALL NAMES AND ABBREVIATIONS IN
BOLDFACE**

CYPRIPEDIUM ALLIANCE

<i>Paph. barbigerum</i>	Cohen
<i>Paph. spicerianum</i>	"
<i>Paph. Oriental Tapestry (Virgo x fairrieianum)</i>	Ditz
<i>Phrag. Sorcerer's Apprentice (longifolium x sargentianum)</i>	"
<i>Phrag. Sorcerer's Apprentice</i>	Stensland
<i>Phrag. Sedenii (schlimii x longifolium)</i>	Capella

CATTLEYA ALLIANCE

<i>Lc. Mini Purple (C. walkeriana x L. pumila)</i>	Cohen
<i>Lc. Lucky Charms (Jungle Elf x C. Gene May)</i>	"
<i>Pot. Little Toshie (Sc. Beaufort x Blc. Toshie Aoki)</i>	"
<i>Pot. Luna Jaune (Blc. Malworth x Sc. Beaufort)</i>	Bordoni
<i>Lc. Mari's Song (Irene Finney x C. Cherry Chip)</i>	Capella
<i>Bc. Binosa (B. nodosa x C. bicolor)</i>	Pace
<i>Sc. Beaufort* (S. coccinea x C. luteola)</i>	Ditz
<i>Blc. Golden Tang (Waikiki Gold x Bl. Richard Mueller)</i>	Introne
Unknown	Wilson

VANDACEOUS

<i>Phal. equestris forma albescens</i>	Ufford
<i>Phal. pallens</i>	"
<i>Phal. bellina</i>	"
<i>Phal. Unknown</i>	Mandour
<i>Ascda. Suk Sumran Beauty (V. Gordon Dillon x Yip Sum Wah)</i>	Olney
<i>Phal. Tristar Peoker (Golden Peoker x Salu Spot)</i>	Ditz
<i>Haraëlla retrocalla</i>	"
<i>Neost. Lou Sneary (Neof. falcata x Rhy. coelestis)</i>	Coleman

ONCIDIUM ALLIANCE

<i>Hwra. Lava Burst (Mini-Primi x Rdza. lanceolata)</i>	Cohen
<i>Hwra. Leila Groll (Mini-Primi x Onc. ornithorhynchum)</i>	"

<i>Sgm. guatemalensis</i>	"
<i>Onc. ornithorhynchum</i>	Pace
<i>Onc. ornithorhynchum</i>	Stuart
<i>Mtdm. Pupukea Sunset (Onc. cheirophorum x Onc. fuscatum)</i>	Coleman

DENDROBIUM ALLIANCE

<i>Den. Maiden Charlotte (aberrans x rhodostictum)</i>	Coleman
<i>Den. Super Ise (Super Star x Ise)</i>	Cohen
<i>Den. victoria-reginae</i>	Witkin
<i>Den. laevifolium</i>	"
<i>Den. gonzalesii</i>	Busic-Snyder
<i>Den. unknown</i>	Introne

PLEUROTHALLID ALLIANCE

<i>Masd. Ken Dole (coccinea x tonduzii)</i>	Coleman
<i>Masd. Flash Point (sprucei x ignea)</i>	"
<i>Pths. sp.</i>	Witkin
<i>Lpths. manabina</i>	"
<i>Pths. allenii</i>	"
<i>Restrepia brachypus</i>	"
<i>Drac. sodiroi</i>	Rossler
<i>Pths. grobyi</i>	Ditz

MISCELLANEOUS

<i>Bifrenaria aureofulva</i>	Coleman
<i>Angcm. eburneum</i>	Bordoni
<i>Cym. (Sue x Red Beauty) 'Rudolph's Nose'</i>	Olney
<i>Bulb. cucullatum</i>	Stuart
<i>Bulb. dearei</i>	Witkin
<i>Stenoglossum longifolium</i>	Ufford

*To explain a long-standing confusion, *Sophrocattleya* Beaufort is pronounced Bew-fort, after Beaufort, SC. There were two branches of the Beaufort family, with two different pronunciations.

Iris Cohen

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CLUB REMINDERS

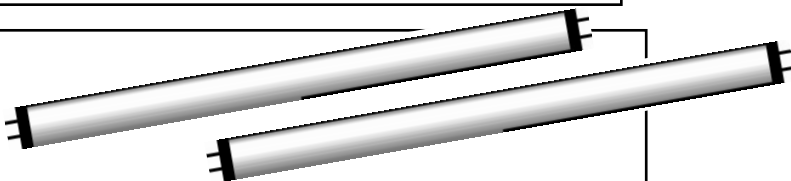
Orchid-Growing Supplies are now available, including fir bark, sphagnum, sponge rock, charcoal, and 40W fluorescent tubes. Call Dianne Bordoni for details on pricing and availability (446-3836).

The **CNYOS Club Library** is now located at St. Augustine's church. Make arrangements with Val Introne (682-8595) if you want to borrow an item from the Library.

DON'T FORGET TO BRING YOUR BLOOMING ORCHIDS FOR THE MONTHLY SHOW TABLE!!!



Phalaenopsis bellina (violacea),
photograph by Vagisha
Sharma, with digital enhance-
ment by J. Stuart.



Fluorescent light bulbs are now available! A new order of Phillips Ultralume fluorescent tubes will be available for purchase at the November meeting. Price is \$7.50 each.

REFRESHMENT SCHEDULE

WINTER-SPRING, 2004

February	Jennifer Wilson & Charles Ufford
March	Valerie Introne & Cliff Rossler
April	Monica Kot & Donna Coleman
May	David Ditz & <i>Need Volunteer!</i>

*NEW OFFICERS TO BE ELECTED AT
JANUARY MEETING*

Our current CNYOS officers are—for the most part—ready to step down after successful two year terms, and a new slate of candidates has been put forward. New officers were originally to be installed at our Holiday Party, which had to be cancelled due to inclement weather. Ready to take CNYOS into the future are Kim Boronczyk for President, Carolyn Pace & Cynthia Busic-Snyder to serve as Co-Vice Presidents and Program Chairs, and Barbara Weller to continue on as club Secretary. As determined at the November Meeting, Carol Haskell has stepped in to replace Elinor Burton as Treasurer, and is already up and running.

The club owes a huge debt of thanks for our officers who are stepping down, including Deb Coyle as President, Dianne Bordoni as Co-President, Judi Witkin as Vice President & Program Chair. Please express your thanks to them all for their dedication and efforts on behalf of the Central NY Orchid Society. *Finally, there is no way to adequately thank Elinor Burton for her years of service as treasurer*, who not only did a wonderful job as treasurer, but also did an incredible amount behind the scenes for our show every year.

COCHLEANTHES AMAZONICA & MARGINATA

Cochleanthes amazonica (Reichenbach f. & Warsc.)

Schultes & Garay: This native to the Amazon Basin, inclusive of Ecuador, Peru, Surinam, & Brazil, is part of the huge and diverse Zygopetalum Alliance.

Similar to others in that tribe, including *Kefersteinia* and *Bollea*, the species of the genus *Cochleanthes* have no pseudobulbs, producing fan-like growths of soft fleshy leaves, 6-8" in height. As such, constant moisture is needed at all times of the year. The large sparkling white flowers—three to four inches in diameter—emerge from the base of each growth and are produced one per stem. Flowers have a unique shape

dominated by a proportionately huge lip, which is veined with bluish-purple that is said to act as a runway for insects. At the center of the flower is a deeply-ridged staminode from which the bluish-purple veins seem to emanate. The ventral sepals are strongly reflexed and reminiscent of the Flying Nun's habit. As just indicated, constant moisture is needed for this species to prosper. In order to avoid leaf crinkling and tip die-back, high humidity is also recommended.

Best growth will occur in relatively low light and at intermediate or intermediate to warm temperatures. Flowers are produced from fall into winter. I grow my plant at the very edge of my fluorescent light stand, in a moisture-retentive mix. Although it grows well, about one-half to one-third of the buds blast each year, which I attribute to a combination of humidity & temperature levels lower than recommended. However, each year in late fall to early winter I am still able to enjoy at least a half dozen glorious flowers.

Cochleanthes marginata (Reichenbach f.) Schultes &

Garay: Although—perhaps—less desirable than *Cochleanthes amazonica*, *marginata* may be of somewhat easier culture. This species floated between various genera since its discovery including,

Warszewiczella, *Warrea*, and *Chondrorhyncha*. In the late 1950's many of the species in the latter genera were moved into *Cochleanthes* by Schultes & Garay. Found at moderate elevations of Colombia, Venezuela, and Panama, *Cochleanthes marginata* produces single flowers from the base of the new growths in summer. The flowers are slightly fragrant and can be up to 3 inches across under optimum culture but are usually less. *Cochleanthes marginata* should be grown in an open potting mix under somewhat shady conditions and intermediate temperatures. The species can be mounted as well, as long as adequate water can be provided.

Ample air movement will discourage rot and leaf spotting. A hybrid between the two species, *Cochleanthes River's Edge*, is perhaps easier to grow, although probably not an improvement over either parent.



Cochleanthes amazonica

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Cochleanthes marginata

©2001 Greg Allikas

Jeff Stuart, Central NY Orchid Society Newsletter Editor

PART I

The Paphiopedilum section of the genus Paphiopedilum contains perhaps the most reliable slipper orchids of the entire genus, many of which go overlooked in favor of the more flashy Maudiae or multifloral types. And this is truly a shame, because the varied species in this section not only have proved to be some of the most reliable in growth and flowering, but have also played a pivotal role in early slipper orchid cultivation and hybridization. In fact, *Paph. insigne* (right), arguably the most recognizable of the section, is the type species for the entire genus! From the hobbyist's standpoint, many of the slippers in this section offer ease of growth, compact size, and colorful, high-gloss, often large flowers.

For those of you who don't remember your high school biology, taxonomy classifies living things according to a hierarchical structure of taxa, from kingdom to species. As orchid growers, we are most often aware of both the genus and species of any given orchid. In Paphiopedilum, the species are divided among sections, including Brachypetalum (*Paphiopedilum bellatulum* and related), Parvisepalum (*Paph. armeniacum* and related), Cochlopetalum (*Paph. glaucophyllum* and related), Paphiopedilum (*Paph. insigne* and related), Corypetalum (*Paph. rothschildianum* and related), Barbata (*Paph. callosum* and related), and Pardalopetalum (*Paph. lowii* and related). These 7 sections comprise all of the genus Paphiopedilum. If we step up above the genus level, we find this genus as part of the SUB-FAMILY Cypripedioideae, standing on par along side the South American Phragmipediums and the widely distributed more temperate growing Cypripediums. Also contained within Cypripedioideae are the far less common Central and South American genera Selenipedium and Mexipedium. But alas, I have gone a bit beyond my intended scope, which is to focus on the section that contains such varied species as *Paph. insigne*, *hirsutissimum*, and *fairrieianum*.

A comprehensive list of section Paphiopedilum, at least from the standpoint of present-day horticulture, contains the following species: *barbigerum*, *charlesworthii*, *druryi*, *exul*, *fairrieianum*, *gratrixianum*, *henryanum*, *hirsutissimum*, *insigne*, *spicerianum*, *tigrinum*, and *villosum*. For many years this list remained unchanged, until several others were recently described, including *chaoi*, *coccinium*, *helenae*, *herrmannii*, and *tranlienianum*. All of those in the initial list are commonly available for cultivation, and will grow well under lights or on the windowsill. The latter five, i.e., *chaoi* through *tranlienianum*, cannot at this time be sold legally in the US due to CITES (the Convention on the International Trade of Endangered Species). We'll follow up with more on those later (in Part II).

With few exceptions, the species in this section have a number of common characteristics. The flowers are generally waxy and of high substance. With the exception of the hairy *hirsutissimum*, the flowers are typically very glossy. Generally



PAPHIOPEDILUM INSIGNE

speaking, they enjoy temperatures on the cooler side of intermediate, although this is not a hard and fast rule. The foliage of all of these species is green and non-mottled, strap-like. Many have some degree of purple spotting at the base of the leaves. For many of the species, growing specimen-sized plants can be done fairly easily, as growth tends to be vigorous, and multiple growths are typically put out simultaneously. All in all, most are excellent choices for the beginner. In fact, in the author's experience, many of these species are, in fact, easier to bloom than the classic Maudiae type hybrids, which are generally more sensitive to their temperature requirements (on the warm side of intermediate). Furthermore, the Maudiae hybrids are far more difficult to grow into specimen plants. When my *villosum* produces fewer than five flowers in a 4" pot, I consider it to be only an average flowering.

Not all of the species in this group are particularly easy to grow, and based on experience I can group them into three levels of difficulty: easy, moderate, and challenging. The easiest and most amenable species include *insigne*, *villosum*, *charlesworthii*, *henryanum*, *spicerianum*, and *gratrixianum*. Next in queue are the those that are moderately more difficult (of intermediate difficulty), including *fairrieianum*, *exul*, the *esquirolei* variety of *hirsutissimum*, and *druryi*. And lastly, the most challenging include *barbigerum*, *hirsutissimum*, and *tigrinum*. Now, a word of explanation about these groupings is in order. They are loosely based upon my experience and the reputations of the individual species as I have discerned through my own reading in books and on the internet. I am sure there are those of you who religiously bloom species that I consider challenging, or vice-versa—it's all a matter of growing conditions. I bloom those I have listed above as the easiest almost every year, without treating them any differently. They grow and multiply, and have



PAPHIOPEDILUM VILLOSUM

proven to be reliable. I have bloomed each of those in the second category, which I consider moderately more difficult, but with less regularity. They grow more slowly (for me) and blooms are not as common. And lastly, despite the fact that I grow each of those I consider more challenging—and have even managed to bloom one of the three (*barbigerum*), they seem to be more particular about their cultural preferences and flowers are more scarce. But again, you may disagree. Longtime CNYOS member Iris Cohen does very well with *barbigerum*, and has even managed to garner an AM/AOS her plant. She clearly has conditions that match that species' preferences better than what is possible in my growing area. The jury is not yet in on my ability to grow *Paph. tigrinum*. I have two large seedlings that have proven to be good growers. It is similar to *hirsutissimum*, in that it sets bud this time of year and waits for spring to bloom. However, it does not seem to be closely allied to *hirsutissimum*—some taxonomists link it to *henryanum*, others to *lowii* and *haynaldianum*. As I look at one of my *tigrinum* seedlings, I see a sheath sitting down in the center of the largest growth—time will tell whether it springs forth in the spring with a flower, or whether sloppy watering will cause the sheath and infant bud beneath to rot (as is so easily done with *hirsutissimum*)...

Now let's look at each of these species a little closer. The descriptions below are not meant to be taxonomically accurate, but little more than simple guides. Where applicable, I'll throw in tidbits of my own experience with growing this great group of species. A term that is frequently used is *diurnal range*, which refers to the difference in temperature between the daytime high and nighttime low—this is a valuable consideration in growing many of the slippers described below. At the end I'll give a little

time and space to some of the newly described species. Given personal bias, I will start with my favorite, *Paph. villosum*.

***Paph. villosum*:** Deep earthen tones and colors on broad glossy floral segments that comprise large flowers are *villosum*'s strongest attributes. The fact that this is one easy plant to grow and bloom is just icing on the cake. As mentioned earlier, *villosum* seems eager to form specimen plants, and throws up multiple flowers in the late fall and early to mid winter. The simple inflorescences hold the buds just above the foliage, and the broad outspread petals just seem to be begging the viewer to look closer. This species grows well in intermediate conditions, under fluorescent lights or on the windowsill—bright, diffused light suits it well. The diurnal range experienced by the plant in nature ranges from 33°F in winter to 15°F in summer, indicating that a cooler-drier rest in the winter is beneficial (rainfall is low from approximately November through March). Despite these cultural recommendations, I find that *villosum* is very flexible & forgiving—a good grower that will thrive with little attention to seasonal changes. And it never fails to disappoint this time of year (late fall early winter).

Paph. insigne is probably the most common from this group, and certainly one of the most easily recognized (see image page 7). Indeed, as mentioned earlier, this is the type species for the entire genus *Paphiopedilum*. Characterized by brighter flowers on taller stems than *villosum*, its dorsal sepal is pale yellow green, haloed in white, and centrally covered with deep purple-brown spots. The petals are once again broad and outspread, although not to the extent seen in *villosum*. *Paph. insigne* is as easy to grow and bloom as *villosum*—perhaps more so—and blooms around the same time of year, with the onset of cooler weather. Bright light and intermediate to cool temperatures are to its taste, with diurnal ranges of 25°F in winter (~67°F daytime high, 42°F nighttime low) and 13°F in summer (~77°F daytime high, 64°F nighttime low). Rainfall is heavy in the summer, and highly reduced in the winter, when light is the brightest. Although *insigne* is not demanding with respect to culture, it will respond well to a cool-bright-dry winter rest where watering is reduced but not eliminated. Perhaps the most famous clone is 'Harefield Hall,' which boasts broader than average floral segments and excellent color.

Paph. gratixianum is a spectacular species that is intermediate between *insigne* and *villosum*, incorporating the best traits of each—however, it is considered to be closer allied to *villosum*. The broad white dorsal is centrally heavily spotted and splotched with purple-

PAPHIOPEDILUM GRATIXIANUM
'CANDOR' AM-CHM/AOS



PAPHIOPEDILUM CHARLESWORTHII

brown (like *insigne*), and the petals are broad and deeply colored with a central mid-line, similar to *villosum*. Some clones will have a degree of lavender coloration flanking the spots on the dorsal sepal. With respect to its ease of growth, *gratrixianum* might be best placed in the moderate category—although most plants tend to be facile growers, more recalcitrant clones are occasionally found. Relatively bright, diffused light is needed, along with intermediate to cool temperatures (80-85°F days in spring & summer, 75-80°F days fall & winter). The native diurnal range of about 24°F winter, and half that in summer, indicates cool winter nights, and slightly warmer summer nights. Rainfall is much lower from November through March, indicating that a cool, dry, winter rest is beneficial. During this time plants should be allowed to dry out between infrequent waterings, while avoiding prolonged periods of complete dryness.

Paphiopedilums charlesworthii, spicerianum, & henryanum are all much smaller-statured plants that boast disproportionately



PAPHIOPEDILUM SPICERIANUM

large flowers, and are relatively easy to grow and bloom. All three are undoubtedly familiar to most “slipper addicts,” and their defining features are spectacular dorsal sepals. All three species enjoy moderately bright diffused light, and good air circulation. The first, **Paph. charlesworthii**, has a relatively huge “white” dorsal heavily net-

ted with deep lavender-pink. The better clones are a sight to behold with deep lavender-pink dorsals mahogany brown petals and pouches. The flower is rounded out by a contrasting yellow green ventral sepal and a stark white staminodal shield. *Paph. charlesworthii* can grow to blooming size in a 2-3” pot, and blooms in early winter. With regards to growing requirements, the conditions that *charlesworthii* experiences in the wild (Myanmar & China) are somewhat atypical: daytime highs average about 75°F from June through February, and in the low to mid 80s from March through May. The diurnal range in summer is 11-12°F, and 29°F in winter. However, rainfall is low from November through April. Therefore, plants should experience a drier winter rest where water is reduced but not eliminated.

Paph. spicerianum has the second largest flower of the three (on average), on a plant that will grow to blooming size in a 2-4” pot. Just about everyone knows “spicer,” whose sail-like dorsal is broad and stark white, with a central deep purple stripe along the vertical mid-vein. The purple is repeated in the convoluted staminodal shield, and the petals and pouch are green or yellowish brown. The petal edges are highly undulate. The most famous clone is undoubtedly ‘St. Albans,’ which is thought by some to be of hybrid origins due to its superior size and form. There are apparently some clones floating around that have some pink in the dorsal (if memory serves, *spicerianum* ‘Pink Cheeks’). Happily grown at intermediate temperatures, *spicerianum* experiences a diurnal range 26°F in winter (70°F days) and 13°F in summer (80°F days), indicating that a winter rest with cooler temperatures and less water is advisable for best bloom.

Finally, **Paph. henryanum** is the most recently discovered of the three, and truly the darling of the group. It has a smaller flower characterized by a round green, heavily spotted dorsal sepal and a lavender pouch. The spots are repeated in the glossy brown petals, which are moderately undulated. The plants seldom achieve more than 6-8” in leaf span, and grow well under lights or on the windowsill, and blooms in late summer to early fall.

Like *gratrixianum*, recalcitrant clones of this species are somewhat common, and for that reason it might be better considered of intermediate difficulty to grow and bloom (albeit not enough to be considered challenging). *Paph. henryanum* grows intermediate to warm in summer (85°F days, diurnal range 14°F) and intermediate to cool in winter (60-65°F days, diurnal range 10°F). Brighter winters with cooler temps and less water are recommended.



PAPHIOPEDILUM HENRYANUM



PAPHIOPEDILUM EXUL

Those that I consider to be of intermediate difficulty include *Paphiopedilums fairrieianum*, *exul*, the *esquirolei* variety of *hirsutissimum*, and *druryi*. Again, this reflects my experience, and I have bloomed all of those in this category, just not as frequently as those detailed above.

Paph. exul is similar in some ways to *insigne*, although the plants I have seen tend to have larger ventral sepals. Indeed, the English botanist Ridley originally considered *exul* as a varietal status. It differs primarily from *insigne* in smaller stature, shorter influences, and smaller flower size. Culturally, *Paph. exul* is an intermediate to cool grower, which experiences seasonal lows of approximately 40°F (night) and 65°F (day) in January, and 64°F (night) and 77°F (day) in July. During the deepest winter months (November through February) plants in the wild experience very little rainfall. Duplicating the combination of a huge temperature diurnal range is difficult indoors; the indoor grower has a greater element of control over watering (or lack thereof), although it does require some diligence in a mixed collection.

Of this moderately challenging group—or perhaps in the entire subsection—*Paph. fairrieianum* is often considered the most beautiful. Gracefully down-swept petals and a gently ruffled dorsal sepal striped with red-maroon lend the impression of a delicate flower. Although the name is not inspired by a fairy-like essence, such a denotation would be apt. In actuality, the plant is named for a Liverpool—England, not New York—orchid grower, Mr. Fairrie, who bloomed it in his collection as



PAPHIOPEDILUM FAIRRIEANUM

early as 1857. However, within 50 years the species was almost lost from horticulture, like many other orchids, a victim of the Victorian-style hot houses popular at that time. The origins of the original collected plants were somewhat obscure and probably lost. However, as of about 1905 the species was rediscovered in Bhutan, India, and ultimately reintroduced to cultivation by Sanders. The history of this species is much more intriguing than alluded to here, and

the interested reader is referred to Braem, Baker & Baker (1999) for a more detailed account. As far as the culture of this beautiful slipper is concerned, it will grow best cool to intermediate with bright light. The year-round diurnal range is less than 15°F, although the plant needs a dry period during the winter, when monthly rainfall amounts are only 1-2 inches. As with the others, good air movement is recommended.

Paphiopedilum esquirolei, or the *esquirolei* variety of *hirsutissimum*, depending upon whom you ask, has flowers similar to *hirsutissimum*. For the sake of convenience, both species will be considered together. The main differences that separate *esquirolei* from *hirsutissimum* seem to be the length of the hairs on the ovary, and the size of the humps on the staminode (yes, you read that correctly!). However, these differences are marginal and despite the fact that I have separated the two with respect to difficulty level, the cultural needs of the two plants are very close. I give the label of “moderately difficult culture” to *esquirolei* solely because I have bloomed it much more regularly than my *hirsutissimum*, which I have never bloomed. The flowers of both species are glorious in a unique, odd, sort of way. The staminodal shield almost has a sinister look to it due to two luminous white “eyes” that stare out ominously! Coupled with the dark colors and the overall hairiness of the flowers, both *esquirolei* and *hirsutissimum* make wonderful additions to any collection—IF you can grow and bloom them... The culture of both species requires pronounced winter diurnal ranges as great as 34°F (15°F in summer), as well as winter rest periods when



PAPHIOPEDILUM ESQUIROLEI 'AMY BOOK' HCCI/AOS

water should be strongly limited. There apparently is a Chinese population that experiences a much smaller seasonal diurnal range of 10-15°F, but no less of a winter rest period is required for successful culture (*hirsutissimum* var. *chiwuanum*). Generally speaking, the moderately bright light is needed, more so in winter.

Paph. druryi, another Indian species, is predominately yellow with bold brown striping in the dorsal sepal and petals, and a bold yellow pouch. Its cupped flowers are 2-3 inches in diameter, and the narrow bright green leathery foliage attains lengths between 5 and 10 inches. The bright yellow and bold striping of its flowers make this species desirable. The primary cultural



PAPH. DRURYI

challenge for *druryi* is providing enough light. Warmer and dryer growing than others in this group, it experiences seasonal diurnal ranges of 20-25°F in winter (December through May) and 16-18°F in summer. Summer daytime highs range from 75 to 85°F; winter daytime highs hover between 70 to 80°F. Cultivated plants need a winter rest and should be

watered every few weeks with occasional misting. The combination of brighter light and a fast-draining media that does not retain water are key cultural considerations when growing *druryi*.

THIS ARTICLE WILL BE CONTINUED NEXT MONTH WITH PART II, INCLUDING A CONTRIBUTION ON THE CULTURE OF PAPH. BARBI-GERUM BY IRIS COHEN.

REFERENCES:

Climate data and cultural requirements were compiled from the following text:

1. Braem, G. J., Baker, C. O., and Baker, M. L., "The Genus Paphiopedilum, Natural History and Cultivation," Volume 2. Botanical Publishers, Inc. 1999.

Photographs of *Paphs. villosum* and *insigne* © Jeff Stuart, 2004.

Photographs of *Paphs. charlesworthii*, *spicerianum*, *henryanum* and *esquirolei* courtesy of, and © Greg Allikas, The Orchid Photo Page (<http://www.orchidworks.com>).

Photographs of *Paphs. gratixianum*, *fairrieianum*, and *exul* courtesy of, and © Bob & Lynn Wellenstein, AnTec Laboratory & Ladyslipper Farm, <http://www.ladyslipper.com/>

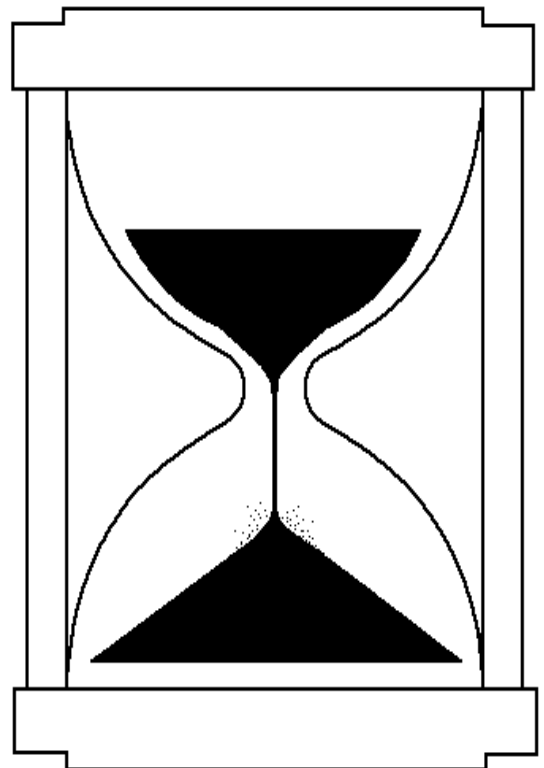
Photograph of *Paph. druryi* © Guido Braem, and reproduced with permission from reference 1 (above), Braem, *et al.* 1999.



IMPORTANT!!! TIME TO PAY DUES!

Over the next month, CNYOS will be looking for your annual membership dues (due each December). Check the label on this newsletter: if it reads "C" you are a Courtesy mailing. If it reads "M03," you are a paid member and owe dues for the new season. "M04" reflects a paid status. "CM" denotes a Commercial Mailing. These labels may not be entirely up to date, so if you've already paid, your status will be updated by the next newsletter. If, however, you are currently receiving this newsletter as a courtesy and haven't joined the club, you will be removed from our mailing list in February. **Likewise, those who have not paid dues by the end of February will also be removed from the mailing list.** A few exceptions will be made, including commercial vendors and representatives of various gardening organizations. Annual club dues are \$15.00 per person or \$17.00 per family, payable to CNYOS. Dues should be mailed to CNYOS Treasurer **Carol Haskell, 102 Wythrop Rd. Solvay, NY 13209.**

Please renew—we would hate to lose you!



This Sunday: Silent Auction and Holiday Pot Luck!



Next Meetings: Sundays, January 11!



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THE ORCHID ENTHUSIAST

The **CNYOS Newsletter**, *The Orchid Enthusiast*, is a publication of the Central New York Orchid Society and is distributed to the Society's members ten times per year, prior to all club meetings, events, or functions.

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