

sarasota orchid view society

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

- June 6—**
Phillip Hamilton,
Broughtonias
- July—**No Meeting
- August 1—**
Alan Koch,
Gold Coast Orchids—
Miniature Cattleyas
for the Home Grower
in a Warm Climate
- September 5—**
Annual Picnic
- October 3—**
Linda Wilhelm,
Woodland Orchids,
topic TBD

Meetings are on the 1st Monday of each month. Doors open at 6:15 pm. Cultural Study Group starts promptly at 6:30 pm. Regular meeting starts at 7:30 pm.

Marie Selby Botanical Gardens, 801 South Palm Avenue, Sarasota, Florida
www.sarasotaorchidsociety.org

Growing Paphs in a Warm Climate

By Ernie Barham and Larry Cox

1. The Species

Looking at *Paph parishii*, *Paph bellatulum*, *Paph Transvaal* and a vinicolor *Paph Maudiae* in bloom in August as we began this article, we wondered why the orchid genus *Paph* has not held a more prominent place in the hearts of South Florida hobbyists and growers in other similar warm climates. The primary reason for avoiding these plants seems to be the myth that paphs will not grow and bloom successfully under such warm temperatures, a myth perpetuated by the complex *Paph* hybrids many growers have bought in bloom at shows or through



The variety of colors, patterns and forms found in the flowers of *Paphiopedilum* species makes them among the most interesting of orchids. And despite myths to the contrary, many of them can adapt to warm climates when their cultural needs are understood. Shown above is *Paphiopedilum lowii* 'Jennifer', HCCIAOS (78 pts.).

orchid catalogs and have never seen in bloom again.

This myth has been compounded by two other circumstances. First, much of the orchid literature is written for cooler climates and generally indicates that *Paphs* for the most part

grow at temperatures much lower than those of South Florida or similar warm areas, where summer lows are in the upper 70s F. Second, paphs require somewhat different culture from that needed for the popular cat-

See "Paphiopedilum" on page 5

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The Sarasota Orchid Society Inc.

(SOS) meets on the first Monday of each month at Selby Botanical Gardens, 800 South Palm Ave., Sarasota, FL. The SOS Inc., an affiliate of the American Orchid Society, is a nonprofit association with the aims of promoting the development, improvement and preservation of orchids through the dissemination of information concerning the culture, hybridization or development of orchids; and generally to extend the knowledge of orchids.

Annual dues are \$20; \$25 for family. Deadline for the newsletter is the 15th of the previous month.

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If you are not a member of the American Orchid Society, let me briefly tell you about the premier organization devoted to our hobby. The AOS is the world's largest specialty horticulture group and offers information not available elsewhere. The monthly magazine, *Orchids*, is the most highly-regarded orchid periodical in the world. The photography and articles are outstanding. Membership entitles you to a 10% discount on publications and your dues support conservation and educational programs. As a new member you will receive a copy of *Your First Orchid*, a book chock full of advice and an *Almanac* listing all affiliate organizations (Florida has the most with 58), growers, special interest groups, descriptions of awards, and many more resources. Membership forms are available at the sign-in table for anyone who needs one.

The AOS also publishes the *Awards Quarterly (Now on CD AQ Plus)*, with detailed descriptions of 200-300 awarded orchids with color photographs. I eagerly await mine every three months.

Dues are U.S. single membership \$60.00; for a 2 year membership \$108.00. American Orchid Society, 16700 AOS Lane, Delray Beach, Fl. 33446

Monroe



Cyca. Jem's Golden Dragon
Photo by Monroe Kokin

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UPCOMING SHOWS

May 6-8—Tampa Bay Orchid Society Show, Egypt Shrine Center, 4050 Dana Shores Dr., Tampa, FL. Contact: Patty Cartwright; pcartwright@earthlink.net.

7-8—Volusia County Orchid Society Show, Volusia County Fairgrounds, Hester Building, 3150 E. New York Ave., Deland, FL. Contact: Jennifer Reinoso; 58 Fernwood Tr., Deland, FL

13-15—Redland International Orchid Festival, Redland Fruit & Spice Park, Homestead, FL. Contact: Bill Peters, PO Box 924243,

Homestead, FL 33092; (305) 242-1333; whimsy@bellsouth.net

27-28—Greater Orlando Orchid Society Show, Orlando garden Club, 710 Roll-

ins St., Orlando, FL. Contact: Joy Prince, dp691955@aol.

October 1-2—Florida West Coast Orchid Society Show, Minnreg Hall, 6340 126th Ave. N. Largo, FL. Contact: Brent Finke, 2961 La Concha Dr., Clearwater, FL 33762; (727) 460-4606; brent@irbhardware.com.

15-16—Gainesville Orchid Society Show, Kanapaha Botanical Gardens, Gainesville, FL. Contact: Candace Hollinger; drahcir7@bellsouth.net.

21-23—*Orchtoberfest, Power Plant/EPG Orchids, 4265 Marsh Rd., Deland, FL. Contact: George Hasuermann; (386) 738-8600; powergrown@aol.com.

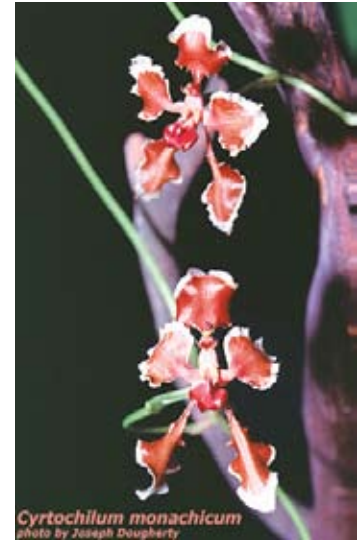
28-30—Delray Beach Orchid Society Show, Old School Square, 51 N. Swinton Ave., Delray Beach, FL. Contact: Annette Jackson, 7283 Via Genova, Delray Beach, FL 33446; (561) 638-9014; aojax@comcast.net.

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Cyrtorchilus monachicum
photo by Joseph Dougherty



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“Paphiopedilum” from page 1

tleyas, dendrobiums, vandas and phalaenopsis and perhaps many growers either have not taken the different requirements seriously or have gone too far to the opposite culture extreme.

Whatever the reasons for the unpopularity of the genus in warm climates, we observe two reasons why paphs need not be avoided.



Many species of Paphiopedilum section Brachypetalum can thrive in warm lowland areas, but they require a quick-draining growing medium. Shown here is *Paph. concolor* ‘Chouyi #2’.

First, hobbyists in warm climates easily can grow and bloom species and primary or near-primary hybrids. Bloom success with complex hybrids is spotty. Second, many of the paphs that hobbyists have been growing in South Florida, for example, are designated “cool growers” by much of the literature. *Paphs spicerianum*, *fairrieianum*, *venustum* and *bellatulum* are supposedly cool growers. But they produce healthy plants and bloom regularly in many South Florida collections of mixed orchids. This observation leads to the conclusion that paphs are adaptable plants.

We have had some paphs in our orchid collec-

tions for more than 15 years and have concentrated our attention on these exotic orchids for the past five years. These years of observation, experimentation and ingenuity have established a thoroughly successful culture program for what we believe is the largest Paph collection in South Florida. In this article and the one that follows next month, we will explain our general growing techniques and give our observations for the successful culture of many *Paph* species and primary or near primary hybrids.

We grow our paphs outdoors, giving them protection only from intense sunlight and an occasional winter cold snap when the temperature drops to the low 40s or into the 30s. The growing area is open on the sides but the top is covered with doubled 60% shade cloth. At one time, all the plants grew under fiberglass covered with a single layer of the shade cloth but overcrowding forced many plants from under the shelter and we have discovered that the plants grow better with the summer rains. We still maintain the covered section for plants in bloom, for newly potted plants and for seedlings. Ceiling fans mounted above the plants under the fiberglass keep the air moving and the temperature from going too high. Actually, we have put newly potted plants outside and they fared better when exposed to the rain and a little extra shade. Rather than flat benches, most of the plants grow on tiered wire benches,

which we have learned to utilize for maximum space efficiency. In addition to the five or six tiers on the benches, we constructed a shelf underneath for more plants. Because the backs of the benches are open, air circulation remains good for the plants underneath. We use this space for plants requiring the least amount of light. We hang the sun lovers above the benches.

This growing system permits us to create three different light levels within the Paph growing area. During the winter, the growing area is covered with plastic that is rolled up on the sides to be let down when needed. Holes are drilled into the plastic before it is unrolled so that rainwater can pass through the top. Because the plastic cuts out some sunlight and because the winter sun is less intense, we remove one layer of the shade cloth when the plastic goes up. We have considered omitting the plastic from the area because its primary need was for vandas and phalaenopsis originally, when these plants and cattleyas were the bulk of our orchid collection. We do not believe that occasional cold temperatures would significantly affect our paphs. Our paphs are planted exclusively in plastic pots. Our outdoor conditions are too variable to trust to the possible excessive drying of clay pots. We favor the clear plastic pots with the air cone drainage system, both for good drainage and for ease of monitoring root growth. For any plastic pot,

it is necessary to make sure the drainage holes are completely opened. The holes should be expanded or such drainage aids as styrofoam nuggets should be used if necessary.

The potting medium is designed with both the rainy season and the winter-spring months of near-drought conditions in mind. The base of the potting mix is fir bark. Although other Paph growers we know use such other materials as tree fern, leaf mold, etc., we have had consistently good results in a bark mix and have stuck with it. For pots to 3” or 4”, depending on the plant, we use seedling-grade bark in a ratio of 5 parts to



Paph. villosum comes from fairly high altitudes in India, Myanmar and Thailand, where it grows epiphytically in areas of abundant rainfall. It prefers good light. The cultivar shown is ‘Wakana’.

1 part finely shredded New Zealand sphagnum moss, 1 part aliflor and 1/2 part charcoal. The sphagnum and aliflor have opposite effects. The moss retains moisture and the aliflor keeps the mix from compacting. For larger pots, we use mediumgrade bark and whole strands of the New Zealand moss with the other ingredients in the ratios above. The bark is moistened and excess water is allowed to run off before the other ingredients are

added. We sometimes use a third mix consisting of red lava rock and whole strands of New Zealand sphagnum moss in a ratio of about 5 to 1. This mix has proven quite successful for plants in large pots, such as the hard green-leaved species, and particularly for holding moisture in hanging pots, which naturally dry more quickly because of more exposure to the air.

Because South Florida is warm most of the year, potting time does not seem crucial. We have repotted during every month of the year as necessary. But most often



Paph. niveum comes from northern Malaysia and southern Thailand, where it occurs at very low altitudes, often growing on limestone near the sea. The specimen shown here is 'Marriott Quintessence'

we repot in spring, when new growths and roots are beginning. In only a few months, new roots crisscross the sides of the clear plastic pots. Often, a plant that is not growing or that looks sickly will respond to fresh medium if the roots are not totally gone. If the roots are gone, only much patience with a barely damp mixture and very high humidity will save a plant — if it can be saved. Newly potted plants are watered well and are not watered again until the mix has almost dried out. For the next three to four weeks or until evidence of new



Paph. stonei grows at relatively low altitudes on limestone cliffs and hills of western Sarawak on the island of Borneo. Illustrated here is 'Elk Creek', AM/AOS

root action is detected, these plants are watered half as often as established plants.

Watering paphs is no exact science and each grower must develop a feel for the water needs of his plants in his growing environment. Generally, when rain is not a factor, we water every other day during summer and twice a week during winter. Sometimes, dry winter winds force the humidity down and the plants have to be given extra moisture. At no time do we allow a plant to dry out completely. Also, unless pressed for time, we flood the pots twice at a watering. This technique helps wash out accumulated fertilizer and municipal water salts.

Although fertilizing is a contested subject among growers, we believe that extra nutrients *do* benefit most plants. The ratio is kept low—no more than one teaspoon per gallon of water. We alternate 20-20-20 and 30-10-10 analysis fertilizers and provide an occasional feeding of 10-30-20 blossom booster in the autumn. The plants are fed about every



Paph. stonei is related to *Paph. philippinense* which comes from the islands of the Philippines, as its name implies and is related to *Paph. stonei*. It is the most variable and widespread of the species of section *Coryopedilum*. This is the cultivar 'Monsoon Matador'

two weeks during the summer and once a month by midwinter. To prevent any shock to the roots, plants are always watered shortly before being fertilized.

Pests and diseases, we believe, give us no more problems than they do orchidists who grow in closed greenhouses. Only one problem occasionally demands our attention. That is a soft brown rot, usually at the base of the lower leaves of a growth. In most cases, these can be pulled away and the plant sprayed with a good fungicide and kept drier. Actually, one of the best cures for rot is air conditioning. We usually set a problem plant in the kitchen window during the hot months and the rot quickly dries up. Of course, care must be given to see that the growing medium does not become excessively dry.

The most serious problems with rot occur during the summer months. Therefore, we try to give a pre-



Paphiopedilum fairrieanum occurs at relatively high altitudes in northeastern India and the Himalayas. It is one of the most distinctive and morphologically uniform members of the genus. In addition to this color form, the species exists in lighter forms and those that are white with green markings. This is 'Pankot', AM/AOS

ventative spraying of a good broad spectrum fungicide on a monthly basis. Initially, this treatment is given on three consecutive weeks to build up the plants' disease resistance.

Leaf-tip dieback, particularly in *Paphs philippinense*, *praestans* and *stonei* and related species and their hybrids, although apparently harmless to the plants, is unsightly. The problem seems to be related to water quality because we use municipal water. We certainly see much less of this problem during periods of heavy rain.

Our observations have shown that almost all *Paph* rot problems result from poor root conditions—too much moisture after potting, inadequate drainage because of closed holes, or salt buildup. Plants with strong root systems and good drainage can take a lot of water.



Paph. spicerianum is also relatively distinctive. It comes from northeastern India and northwestern Burma and occurs over a wide range of altitudes. This is 'Harford'

Only two pests regularly keep us vigilant—red spider mites and snails. Particularly during the drier months, the telltale red pepper-like patches of spider mite damage must be dealt with. Insecticides are practically useless and it's imperative to use products formulated especially for mite. A number of products are available, unfortunately none really inexpensive. Avid, Hexagon, Pylon and Floramite are several choices. The insecticidal soaps seem to halt the advance of an infestation but they must be used repeatedly. South Florida garden snails the size of a quarter can mow down a collection in a short time if not eradicated. Snail pellets sprinkled on the ground or around the pots help. But a good spraying with Slugit is the best solution. Even then, an occasional grazer must be removed. Once in a while, mealy bugs or scale appear on flower stems or buds. These are easily killed with insecticidal soap or some other mild insecticide.

Flower initiation in most paphs, according to



Paph. urbanianum, a species from low elevations on the Philippine island of Mindoro is illustrated here by 'Rick's Choice', HCC/AOS

some literature, occurs when temperatures drop into the 50s at night and with a rest period with decreased water and perhaps additional light. For most species, this rest period occurs during the winter months. South Florida easily meets these conditions for bud initiation. Winters are drier and in January and February, low temperatures are usually in the 50s.

Sometimes, we have problems with plants, particularly *Paph sukhakulii* and its hybrids, that begin bud growth in the late spring or summer. By then, night temperatures are into the 70s and the buds fail to develop to maturity. Using a heavier medium to hold more moisture and placing a plant near the ground, where it is cooler, often will prevent bud blast. At any rate, buds rotting before they emerge from the leaf axils is not a result of water in the crown as is often reported. If anything, it is a result of inadequate moisture to nourish the developing bud. Evidence that the problem is not a result of fungus is that the bud decay can occur when the flower stem is several inches tall and cannot be staying wet.



Described in 1820, *Paph. venustum* was the first member of the genus to be introduced into cultivation in the west. It occurs at a wide range of altitudes in northeastern India and the Himalayan states. The cultivar here is 'Master', HCC/AOS

Although the confusion in *Paph* taxonomy makes our task difficult, one of our goals is to acquire plants of every *Paph* species possible to test the suitability of each for South Florida. At present, there are approximately 80 taxa in the collection, including many varieties and subspecies. Many of these are recent imports or immature plants and may require a couple of years of growth and adjustment before we can determine suitability. We do not consider that we have achieved success in blooming a plant unless it has been with us at least a year, adequate time for the plant to have initiated its blooming cycle under our conditions.

Plants of section *Brachypetalum* — *niveum*, *godefroyae* (including the synonyms *leucochilum* and *angthong*) and *concolor*—thrive in the South Florida heat. If anything, *Paph niveum* must be protected from cold snaps. *Paph belatulum*, although it prefers cooler temperatures, blooms regularly after a drier, sunny

rest in late winter. This species blooms spring, summer and fall but the summer-fall flowers are smaller. The only problem with *brachypetalums* is that they require a quick-draining medium. We use the larger-chunk bark mix for them no matter what the pot size. *Paph godefroyae*, particularly, will rot quickly with wet roots. Consequently, we limit the moss in its mix.

The medium light on the tier benches suits this group of plants well.

Paph delenatii, once considered a member of section *Brachypetalum* and now switched to section *Parvisepalum* along with *armeniicum*, *micranthum* and *malipoense*, was truly a troublesome plant until we changed it to a mix of smallchunk lava rock and wholestrand New Zealand sphagnum moss in approximately a 1-to-1 ratio and allowed the plants to receive copious rainwater and strong light. Now they are growing well. We have bloomed *Paph delenatii*



Paphiopedilum primulinum grows at altitudes of 1,300 to 1,650 feet on northern Sumatra.

Paphiopedilum section *Cochlopetalum* is a distinctive group of closely related species from the islands of the Indonesian Archipelago. *Paphiopedilum glaucophyllum* 'Pride of Carlisle' occurs on eastern Java at altitudes of 650 to 2,300 feet.

after an early winter rest in strong light and a barely moist growing medium.

The hard green-leaved species—*Paphs philippinense*, *stonei*, *praestans*, etc.—form another group that thrives for us. Once the plants mature, they multiply rapidly when grown under bright light near the top of the Paph. house. These are the plants we hang. Some, such as *philippinense* and its varieties plus *rothschildianum* and *stonei*, we hang with *cattleyas* except during the summer. Also, they receive the higher concentration of fertilizer of the *cattleyas*.

Paph parishii is a major exception for the requirements of this group. Because it is an epiphyte in nature, we do not like to put it in a shadier spot under the benches. But because of its lower light requirement, we grow it outside the Paph house, where it is well shaded by trees. We grow it

in small pots in a lava rock mix for good drainage.

Despite the ease of culture for mature plants of this group, seedlings under approximately 8" leafspan are very slow growing. Then, suddenly, they spurt into growth and continue regular development. One plant of *Paph* Saint Swithin, (*philippinense* x *rothschildianum*) remained a 6" seedling for three years. Then it doubled its size in a single summer.

There seemed to be problem with blooming these plants, although they may skip several years between bloomings while growths mature. A plant with many growths, particularly *Paph philippinense*, will bloom every year because a few growths mature each blooming season. Also, species in this group usually need several growths to start blooming. Many an orchid grower has given up on plants of this type because they did not bloom on one-

or two-growth plants, as some other paphs do.

Paphiopediliim lowii and *haynaldianum* produce their multi-flowered inflorescences with clockwork regularity. *Paph lowii*, an epiphyte in nature, grows in small pots hanging in a sunny location. *Paph haynaldianum* grows on the benches and is given more moisture.

Plants of the *chamberlainianum* group—including *Paph glaucophyllum* and its variety *moquetteanum*, *liemianum* and *primulinum*—adjust well to almost any light but we give them the medium light on the tier benches. Although we have not bloomed a plant of *Paph victoria-mariae*, probably because we have not had it long enough, we find that this species prefers more shade and water.

Therefore, we use a biggerchunk mix to facilitate drainage. We are particularly fond of this group because of their successive blooming habit, with inflorescences lasting more than six months. Species of this

group are easy to grow and are relatively trouble-free.

The species from the foothills regions of northern India, Myanmar and the Himalayan states, although from an unquestionably cooler climate, make a remarkable adjustment to warmer climates. *Paphs fairieanum* and *spicerianum*, despite a stressed appearance sometimes in sunny periods of summer, never fail to bloom. As a matter of fact, their buds begin to emerge before the end of September. At first, we grew these plants in heavy shade in summer but have recently discovered that they fare better and the leaves are stronger in our medium Paph light, where they can benefit from the rains.

Paphs villosum and *gratrixianum* also prefer good light. These plants do not bloom as dependably as the two above, often skipping a year. However, we have not been able to determine that the severity of the winter cold (or lack thereof) has affected the blooming.

Paph charlesworthii



In addition to their beautifully colored flowers one of the most prized features of section *Cochlopetalum* is that these species produce successively flowered inflorescences which can bear flowers for six months or more. An example is *Paph. victoria-reginae*, represented here by *Paph. victoria-reginae* 'Adrienne', HCC/AOS awarded under its synonym *Paph. chamberlainianum*.

is a welcome newcomer to our success story. For two successive years, our one plant has bloomed and we have since acquired others. Also, *Paph insigne* var. *sanderae*, our trial plant of *Paph insigne*, has bloomed every year since we obtained it four years ago. Unfortunately, we cannot say the same for *Paph hirsutissimum*. Strong light, drought, even an attempt at chilling a few plants in styrofoam ice chests have not produced blooms. But we must be doing something wrong because we know a few South Florida growers have bloomed it, although it is possible that these were plants that had initiated buds before they were obtained.

Paph venustum grows and blooms with more shade than the others of this group.

The *Spathopetalum* section (section *Barbata*, according to Dr. Phillip J. Cribb in *The Genus Paph*, 1987) has been an enigma. Unlike other groups, as shown earlier, in which most plants require similar



The striking *Paphiopedilum sukhakulii* was not described until 1965. Since then, over collecting and habitat destruction have endangered this species in its limited native habitat in northeastern Thailand, where it occurs at elevations of approximately 3,200 feet. Shown here is the cultivar 'Bold Statement', AM/AOS

conditions, each species in this section seems to have unique demands. The only constant is a need for shade. Thus, they are placed under the tiered benches. Most need quick-draining large-chunk medium, with the exception of *Paph volonteantum*, which definitely likes a heavier mixture.

Paph volonteantum has been a very pleasant surprise for us. Originally, we thought just because it is rare, it would be a difficult plant to grow. To the contrary, it is a true warmth-loving *Paph*, growing well and producing what we consider among the most beautiful flowers of the *Paph* species.

Paph linii likes a close, still position underneath the center of a bench. *Paph celebesense* likes good air movement and quick drainage and *Paph amabile*, although not quite as demanding, receives the same care. *Paph appletonianum* seem more adjustable and we grow them in a small-grain mix under shade, although they

fare well in other mixes and in more light. The recently discovered Chinese form, which we flowered last year, grows well in a heavier mixture and when placed under the benches.

The majority of our plants are the soft mottled-leaved species. From Thailand and Malaysia, we have *Paphs callosum*, *sublaeve*, *sukhakulii* and *barbatum*. From the Philippines, we have *Paphs argus*, *lawrenceanum*, *acmodontum*, *hennisianum*, *ciliolare* and *urbanianum*. And from Indonesia we have *Paphs superbiens*, *curtisii*, *javanicum* and *tonsum*. This group of plants is generally less demanding than most others and they are dependable regular bloomers. We grow them in a shady position under the benches or on top of the benches with no problems. All are potted in heavier mix because they like much moisture. These are the plants we do not mind moving around as needed to accommodate



Paphiopedilum volonteantum is now considered to be a varietal-form of *Paph. hookerae*. It is endemic (found only in) Sabah on the island of Borneo, where it grows at altitudes from 200 to 6,900 feet. This is 'Russ Jameson', AM/AOS

those species that are more temperamental about their growing locations.

The only two of these species that cause any problems for us are *Paphs sukhakulii* and *acmodontum*. *Paph sukhakulii*, as discussed earlier, sometimes aborts its buds when they develop during the summer and *acmodontum* sometimes aborts its buds in the winter. The latter problem, we feel, might be due to temperatures sometimes becoming too chilly for the species. This year, we may bring the plants indoors for the colder months to grow them under lights. Another problem with *acmodontum* is the soft brown rot that develops on lower leaves. This year, we have tried growing some plants of this species in the larger-chunk mix with a little extra long-strand moss and these plants seem more robust and have not developed the rot. Again, experimentation may have solved a problem.

Another group of plants from warm habitats of New Guinea and surrounding islands includes *Paphs mastersianum*, *violascens*,

bougainvilleanum, *papuanum* and *zieckianum*. From all reports, these plants are nearly always wet, coming from areas of high rainfall and growing in thick mats of mosses and forest debris. Consequently, the large-chunk mix and almost daily watering seem to suit them well. They also are kept in the shadiest positions under the benches. Because of the rarity of these plants — and the resulting high prices — we try to water them with collected rainwater as much as possible.

The last species that we will discuss are those recently discovered in China (*Paphs armeniacum*, *micranthum*, *emersonii*, etc.). Even though we have plants of nearly all of these, we have not grown most of them long enough to determine their suitability for warm climates such as ours. All are growing well.

However, because they come from higher altitudes, South Florida's winter low temperatures may not be severe enough for long enough to initiate buds. Of course, we are experimenting by placing plants of a species in different areas of the Paph house and subjecting them to various light intensities. We hope that they will bloom this year.

To the *Paph* enthusiast reading this article who does not see a reference to his favorite *Paph* or to the one on which he needs cultural advice, we apologize. But with the many problems of *Paph* classification and maybe even as an oversight, we have not discussed every species in our collection. We have certainly attempted to mention all plants with special needs and can only advise a hobbyist to grow a problem plant as he would others from the same habitat



Paphiopedilum mastersianum is currently known only from the islands of Ambon and Boeroe in the Moluccas, where it grows on steep slopes in shaded montane forests at altitudes ranging from 2,900 to 6,500 feet. The habitat indicates a need for moist, shady growing conditions—but with good drainage. Illustrated here is 'Harford', AM/AOS

or in the same taxonomic section.

Surely, any orchid grower can see how much we are fascinated with *Paphs*. The variety of plant forms and flowers in this genus seems greater than in any other.

But perhaps the challenge of blooming a delicate plant from a 6,000-foot elevation at sea level in muggy Miami is the greatest enticement of all.



Monthly Winners



C. (formerly *Lc.*) *Canhamiana*--Members & Speakers Choice—Owner:

Left: *Den. lindleyi* (syn. *aggregatum*)--Species of the month—Owner: Jo Davis



Phal. Hybrid--Novice of the month—Owner: Carol Drost

May 2011 minutes of SOS

President Kokin called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM. Carolyn Langdon introduced our guests Renate Kester, Lauie Occhino, Elizabeth Lucchesi, Charlotte Dart, Carol Beasley, and Susana Pouso. Elizabeth and Charlotte joined our Society after the meeting. We had 65 people in attendance. Minutes of the April 2011 meeting found in the newsletter were approved on a motion by Jack Knuese and seconded by Dennis Pavlock. All were in favor, none opposed. The treasurer's report was posted on a cover letter for members receiving their newsletter by email and an insert for those members receiving it by mail. A motion was made by Jack Kneuse and seconded by Dennis Pavlock. All in favor, none opposed. Jo Davis announced the name of the 2012 Orchid Show was voted on by the members. "Orchids by the Sea" won by a wide margin.

One of our members, Pat Boyd passed away on April 21st. Pat was a great supporter of our Society and she certainly loved her Cattleyas. She is survived by her husband, Sam, who is a Past-President of our Society. Sam can no longer care for their orchids, therefore they were for sale at the

back of the room and Sam is donating 50% of the profit to our Society. There will be a service held for Pat the 3rd week in May at Toale Brothers Funeral Home.

An announcement was made about the Venice Area Orchid Society having their annual Redland Show bus trip on May 14. Interested members were asked to call Barbara Wagner at 923-7706, cost is \$38.00 which includes admission. The Venice Orchid Society is also having a members greenhouse visit on Saturday, and Monroe is one on the list.

Byrd's Orchids is having their annual sale on June 4, 2011. All of the information will be in the June newsletter. The Library is open during the meeting for members. See Patti Quinnelly to sign out books. Leroy and Mecky sold raffle tickets in the back of the room. This is a great way to increase your orchid collec-

tion inexpensively.

Jo Davis thanked those who brought in refreshments and helped so much to clean up after the meeting. She also asked for someone to take over as the Refreshment Committee Chairman, as she is already the Recording Secretary and the Show Co-chairman. Judy Robertson volunteered to do this. Many thanks to Judy.

After the refreshment break, Jim Roberts of Florida Sun Coast Orchids had planned to present a program on 'Summertime and growing is easy', but due to technical difficulties, he was not able to. He and Roy Kruger did a great critique on each of the orchids on our magnificent Show & Tell Table. Mecky, Al, and Leroy announced the raffle table numbers and winners.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00.

*Respectfully submitted,
Jo Davis, Recording Secretary*



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Look for them at membership tables at selected orchid events around the country or email Barbara Noe, Chair of the Membership Committee at celebrateorchids@aol.com for more information.

Byrd's Orchids Annual Spring Sale

We are having our annual sale on June 4, 2011 and our guest vendors this year are B&D orchids and Featherstone orchids. We will also have the Ridge Orchid Society present with hot dogs and hamburgers. The Lakeland African Violet Society will be here with African Violets for sale. A local artist will be present and has some beautiful orchid paintings for sale. It is always a great fun-filled day.

*Bill and Wanda Byrd
Byrd's Orchids*



root later, as this type tends to be seasonal in its rooting behavior. Stake the lead growth to avoid breakage. May can still present some changing light conditions that can lead to burning of



the foliage if the plants have not been properly acclimated. Allow them to build up their tolerance to higher light gradually. Changing light and temperatures can also be the source of some frustration when trying to determine when plants need watering. While cattleyas will be entering into a period of rapid growth starting this month, they have still not built up sufficient momentum to be significantly slowed by your missing a day or two of watering owing to dark weather. As always, it is safer to err on the dry side than on the wet. It is important, though, especially to the summer bloomers. Too much shade will cause rapidly developing inflorescences to droop unattractively.

Monthly Checklist for May and June

Cattleya

The last of the spring-flowering types -- those that flower from a ripened hard pseudobulb -- will be finishing, while the first summer-blooming types will be showing buds on

their rapidly growing, soft pseudobulbs. Both may need potting, as signaled by deteriorating mix, this month. The spring bloomers present no problems, as you will be dealing with fully ripe, well-hardened pseudobulbs.

They will be ready to root on the mature front pseudobulb and will establish quickly. The summer bloomers, will be brittle and may be in bud. Nonetheless, experienced growers know that unless potted now, they may not



Paphiopedilum

The Paphiopedilum Mau-diae types will be well into their season now, so a careful eye should be used toward staking. Do not be too anxious to stake, however. Many of this type, if staked too soon, will develop nodding flowers that do not face the observer. It is better to allow the flowers to ripen naturally, then support the spike right below the ovary for best display. This is especially common in Paphiopedilum fairrieantum-derived hybrids. If you have to do something when you first see the emerging spikes, just put the stake in the pot next to the spiking growth. Not only will this help you, but you will be able to see where the spikes are, so you can continue to pay attention to their development. The multifloral types will be entering their most active growth phase, so lots of light, water and fertilizer are called for to mature their large growths.

Many will be spiking in the next couple of months, so be on the lookout for the emerging inflorescences. These may benefit from earlier staking than most, as the inflorescences grow so quickly in some cases that they can be quite soft. Again, best support is right below the ovary of the first flower. This will allow the most natural presentation of the blooms.

Phalaenopsis

Except for the latest-spiking plants, all phalaenopsis should be ready for potting or already potted. Because phalaenopsis are tropical plants, they tend to be seasonal in their rooting behavior. The critical point for potting is when new roots emerge from the base of the plant. This is absolutely the best time to repot a phalaenopsis. The summer-flowering types, based on Doritis background, have ideally already been potted and are becoming freshly

regular watering and fertilizing to make maximum use of the major growing season. Do not get over-exuberant with your watering, though, allowing water to splash between plants. This can be a source of infection for both water-borne pathogens and viral contamination. Phalaenopsis are much more susceptible to virus than was previously thought. Take extra care to keep your collection free of bacterial and viral problems, which you can accomplish by maintaining a clean growing area.

established, ready to support their soon-to-emerge spikes for the summer season. Phalaenopsis potted at the right point in their growth cycle will reestablish almost immediately, with fresh roots growing into the new medium nearly uninterrupted. As soon as the flush of new root growth is seen, begin

Thanks to the AOS and Ned Nash for this essay.

JOHNSON, BROWNING & CLAYTON

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our monthly meetings:**

**Cheese, Crackers, Fruit
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**Any additions to the table
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Susanne Gerhardt ... 922-8359
Linda Peel 323-2075
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