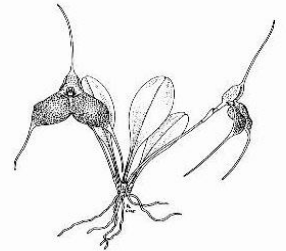




NEXT BOARD MEETING – Wednesday, January 14, 2004 – 7:00 p.m.
Library of the Franklin Park Conservatory. All members are welcome.



NEXT ORCHID SOCIETY MEETING: Thursday, January 15, 2004

Beginners' Corner 7:30 p.m.

Regular Meeting 8:00 p.m. Franklin Park Conservatory



Phragmipedium Cardinale

Leo Schordje of Chicago to speak at January meeting. Lord willin' and the creek don't rise (and the snow don't close 70), Leo will speak to us about the genus *Phragmipedium*, its species, old hybrids, and the revival of interest in hybridizing Phrags since the discovery of *Phragmipedium besseae* 20 or so years ago. Leo made and registered one of the earliest *besseae* hybrids: Andean Fire (*lindleyanum x besseae*). He'll be bringing an assortment of *Phragmipediums* for sale; but visit his website www.schordje.com and if you see anything you can't live without, send him an email to be sure he brings it for you.

INTERESTED IN RECEIVING THE NEWSLETTER BY E-MAIL? This reduces the cost to the society for sending out our newsletter, you will receive the newsletter sooner, and you get to see the photographs in color. The newsletter is sent out as a .pdf file (typically around 750 – 1,000 KB). This enables you to open the file, regardless of your operating system. If you would like to receive this newsletter by e-mail, please contact the newsletter editor: tbellgames@burnip.com.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME !

Please complete the enclosed renewal form and either send this with your check (made payable to "Central Ohio Orchid Society") to our membership chair, Jean King (see address on the form), OR bring this form and your check to the next meeting. Please support the society by renewing as soon as possible.

MORE ON CITES - There has been a flurry of conversation, gossip, and vitriol on the internet lately regarding many aspects of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES). Among all the talk, AnTec Laboratory has been relatively quietly propagating (for sale) one of the relatively newly discovered *Paphiopedilum* species *Paphiopedilum vietnamense*. This has been undertaken under the watchful eye of the US Department of Fish and Wildlife, the branch of the U.S. government responsible for implementing CITES regulations. It should be noted that Vietnam has prohibited the transport of any native *Paphiopedilum* species outside its borders, thus making *Paphiopedilum vietnamense* unavailable to orchid growers throughout the world. The following is a message posted to the Orchid

Guide Digest (OGD) and is reprinted here, by permission, from Bob Wellenstein of AnTec Laboratory. For the sake of completeness, we are including all of Bob's comments, some of which make reference to other comments that appeared on the OGD. This presents very level-headed and thoughtful comments on some CITES related issues:

"I rarely have time these days to comment (I'll explain at the end so those who chose to may skip it), and have no time for those simply being driven by hidden agendas (and I am often convinced that they have even managed to hide them from themselves at times), so I often miss many posts and rarely comment - the inheritance post being the exception, as a very important scientific understanding is falling into place to explain what

experienced, intuitive, artful breeders have known for a long time. However, Dr Braem has asked some very pertinent questions here that I feel I should try to answer, and after a few further comments to clarify the situation, I'll then retire to my laboratory again.

- > flasked seedlings grow up ... what are Bob and Lynn (and others) going to do
- > when the seedlings in their flasks must be taken out ... are they supposed to
- > throw them out ??

The Paph. vietnamense plants (species selfings, sibs and hybrids from excess pollinia), originating from the seven plants legally held by the USBG, are considered legal by the US authorities. The USBG consulted with USF&W Cites authorities before they even approached me to inquire whether AnTec would be interested in working with them on propagation efforts. After the offer, I asked for reconfirmation from USF&W; after further discussions they confirmed. I went back at least two times that I remember as questions cropped up in my mind, such as removing the excess pollinia to make hybrids - answer - legit as long as it is not transported outside the US as pollinia (of course it was only going to Candor, NY). Other questions were addressed to the CITES Management and Scientific authorities. I understand that an ethics person, or panel, may have reviewed the project, and it is my recollection, although again I may be mistaken, that it was also discussed with the Secretariat in Geneva to make sure the U.S. interpretations complied with theirs. In other words, in addition to being legit, we went several extra miles to make sure that their wasn't anything that could even be questioned as improper or unethical.

Since the plants had been offered back to Viet Nam, and declined either outrightly or by nonresponse (I do not know which), they are legal property of the US Government, which placed them according to SOP in an approved rescue center, the USBG. The original material cannot leave the rescue facility. In fact, if they want to take these plants to exhibit them outside the USBG facility, they have to sign affidavits to even temporarily move them to their display location.

New growth from the original plants under their care is considered art prop, and can be propagated and removed. In our case, all that has ever been removed are mature capsules and excess pollinia. So, with that preface, to answer the first question: we are taking plantlets out of flask and growing them up, as are those buying the flasks. So far, we have released various Paph. vietnamense sib crosses, and Paph Ho Chi Minh flasks. I would caution folks that none of these are large enough to be sold as individual seedlings yet. Caveat emptor.

> Of course there are some other problems ... I would purchase a flask of each species from Lynn and Bob ... can they >supply statements from the US government that those are legal

I probably could. Robert Gabel, Chief of the Scientific Authority for CITES, USF&W, has stated on the AOS Forum in answer to this question that these flasks were legal. However, since the rest of the world seemed to have them and not care, we have concentrated in distribution in the US. ... will that statement be accepted by the German Cites authorities ... ??

That's a question I cannot answer. I understand that at the CITES plants committee meeting this summer a subcommittee was formed to make recommendations for solving the problem of the "illegal flasks". It may take another few meetings (I believe the next is in January) for things to be finalized, and I expect it will be discussed that the plants we are selling do meet all criteria, but that may take a while for distribution and acceptance. In the meantime, anyone with them should maintain an Authentic paper trail of their purchases. Eventually I would suspect yes they will accept them.

How can Bob & Lynn send the Flasks to Europe
> ??? How will they arrive ??

We send flasks all over the world, usually Express Post but sometimes by DHL, FedEx etc. They usually arrive very safe and sound, but sometimes they do get jumbled up, but not usually beyond saving. We evaluate each flask being sent out this way, individually picking the ones that appear to have the best chance of staying intact.

> Maybe Bob and Lynn care to comment on this.

And I'll add a few more comments. Although it does not answer the general question, with specific regard to Paph vietnamense, it is my understanding from the botanic garden that the plants there have been sampled and sent to a USF&W contract lab for DNA analysis. Apparently an extensive Paph & Phrag species DNA database is/has been generated. I know this because we were also asked to submit samples from a large number of species but time constraints didn't allow us to do so. Obviously, the seven Paph. vietnamense plants at the USBG are of particular interest since they form the entire base population for what we are releasing. Beyond this, I'm unaware of projected uses of this database; enforcement is not my business, making good plants is. I understand Dr. Koopowitz has made some statements on this DNA profiling, but as I have only heard them second hand, perhaps someone else can fill us in. I provide sales receipts to those who buy from AnTec, and back them up if requested.

With regard to chromosomes counts, if I was more on the ball Dr Rob Griesback would have this already, but I keep forgetting to send him root tips. These guys have very brittle roots and the tips break easily when being replanted, so there is plenty of material.

Much of the discussion I've seen around these issues revolves around 'rights' - I have seen recently on three forums people say that growers and hobbyists 'need' these plants (most recently with regard to *Phrag. kovachii*). The biological reality of what or who more likely needs these plants, IMO, are the other organisms that have evolved with them, not us - we've gotten along very nicely without *Phrag. kovachii* for its entire existence. Bluntly stated, you may 'want' the plants, but you don't 'need' them. People 'need' food and water and shelter, and yet huge numbers of people, even in the richest countries, don't have adequate levels of these to survive. How on earth can we have the audacity to say we need these plants like it is a basic endowed human right?

Furthermore, to compare the willful violating of commerce laws concerning something comparatively trivial as this, to the ground-breaking civil disobedience of Gandhi, or to the U.S. Civil Rights movement, which had a profound affect on the overall quality of millions of peoples lives, doesn't seem to have any intellectual legitimacy, does it?

As to CITES, no matter what you consider its value, that it is an International treaty among concerned nations is a fact of life. That it is an imperfect treaty, as made by imperfect beings, is also a not unreasonable assessment. It may be possible to make improvements over time, if we make thoughtful, realistic suggestions, and have realistic expectations and try to work with those who are in a position to change it. Cooperation is much more likely if we restrain the personal insults, stick with facts, and direct our energies toward more positive endeavors.

However, I have asked how things work as far as changes within CITES in the past and, being an International treaty, change is difficult and slow and subject to the give and take, and trade of international politics, so don't expect rapid change. If you want a faster effect, and are truly more concerned with saving plants rather than just acquiring plants, then

let's explore what we can do to preserve the plants either in range country habitat, or at least as a last ditch by supporting range country legit botanic institutions. These approaches eliminate CITES from the picture. Of course, if our only idea of saving them is getting them in our own hands, then this is not so interesting. That would make a real contribution through this forum, but everyone is going to have to put personal politics aside, a big choice. To those who want to unilaterally abandon CITES, you'd better look what that entails first, that's definitely the "frying pan into the fire" scenario --- I've asked.

As to our involvement in this project, there seems to be a lot of incorrect information out there. It amazes me that people do not realize how fast disinformation circulates, and it and its sources get back to you. Just think about the current *Phrag. kovachii* mess: I've been forwarded more "private" emails written by several different parties involved and not intended for distribution, as I'm sure many, maybe most of you have. Long before the internet Mark Twain said something to the effect that a lie will travel halfway around the world while the truth is still tying its shoe laces. I will when time permits write the entire story in collaboration with the USBG staff involved, but want to clarify a few points. I last week received an email invitation to speak at an orchid society, a very lovely written note, but it included a sentence indicating that while not everyone was entirely happy we were working with USF&W, most were ecstatic that we were legally propagating *Paph. vietnamense*. Well, as I've already stated (see paragraph 3, above) we were approached by the USBG. The USF&W was not involved in the decision to choose us, and the work was done with the USBG. And the only foul thing I've ever encountered at the USBG was their *Amorphallous* titanium in bloom. We consulted with USF&W to guarantee that this would be workable under the law. This only makes sense if you care about your business and your customers. Among reasons "I" believe we were chosen by USBG were that we had a long, proven track record with *Paphiopedilum* species propagation, and we had our own in house laboratory so we could maintain a sort of "chain of evidence", no risk of undocumented leakage. As a result of all this, the USBG staff has been thanked with threatening and nasty phone calls. At one point one supervisor told me that this made the working environment unpleasant and uncomfortable for her, the first time she did not feel completely safe at work, and this coming one full year after 9/11, and over orchids, and not terrorism. Why would anyone be "not appreciative" of these plants being made available? It will do no good to elaborate on any theories I may have. Regarding availability: the average price per seedling in flask for the very first release was about US\$12/seedling, the current ones have more seedlings and so the average price is probably about US\$9. As someone said to me, growing such exclusive flasks in Candor, NY seems to require much lower overhead than in <deleted> or <deleted> or <deleted>! Plants are being grown by us for distribution to other botanical institutions, the one request the USBG made of us in the project. It is my hope that the USBG be recognized with an AOS medal at the least for taking this initiative.

Okay, we are very private people and I feel funny writing this to the world, but just to explain why we rarely make comments (other than staying out of what someone referred to as porcine wrestling on certain topics with certain people). We are very, very busy and both Lynn

and I are operating at physically diminished capacities currently. Surgery will fix my problems, but it is major and I'm a chicken and I'm postponing it as long as possible. Lynn, as many know, has suffered chronic illness that reduces her stamina for many years. She has recently made excellent improvement, so much so that she has actually had enough energy to enjoy working with her horses, which resulted last week in one amputating her left thumb at the first joint. Its back on, and all will eventually will be well, but she will have a while before she has full use of her left hand. I tell this not for sympathy (in fact Lynn says don't send sympathy, give her unfettered use of our credit cards as shopping cheers her up!), but to explain. Combine this with a complicated, busy business, and the unfortunate need to spend needless time now pulling together evidence to collect accounts and "missing" plants because people are not always honest in their dealings, and we have little relaxation time. So please understand I need to limit my online and email correspondence. However - please keep buying plants, flasks compots etc!

That we need and respond to!
Regards, Bob Wellenstein AnTec Laboratory & Ladyslipper Farm <http://ladyslipper.com> ”

Visit the AnTec website to see their current offerings of *Paphiopedilum* and *Phragmipedium* seedlings.

Interested in keeping up with the latest on orchids? Want to communicate directly with a world (literally) of orchid experts, beginners and general personalities? Join the Orchid Guide Digest. This is an online e-mail list service. Join today, post your questions (or not), then sit back and wait. The OGD typically results in an e-mail digest (compilation of a number of e-mail messages) about once every day or so. This is just a wonderful way to learn about what works and what doesn't in orchid culture, not to mention a terrific way to listen in on discussions on topics of current interest and controversy in the world of orchids. To subscribe (free) or for more information about the OGD, including instructions on joining, go to: <http://lists.orchidguide.com/mailman/listinfo/orchids> or via email, send a message with subject or body 'help' to: Orchids-request@orchidguide.com

TIME TO CLEAN UP, AGAIN. Now that we have settled in for cold weather, it is a good idea to walk through our growing areas (whether they be greenhouse, sun room, or window sills) and clean up on a weekly basis. Orchids will periodically drop leaves as they grow. These should be picked up and discarded promptly. Leaves that show indication of bacterial or fungal infection should be cut off and removed from the growing area. Hopefully, you are using fans to help circulate air around your plants. Unfortunately, this beneficial air movement also assists the movement of fungal spores. Keeping infected leaves and debris cleaned up will go a long way in reducing the spread of these infections between plants. When cutting leaves, ALWAYS use sterilized tools in order to avoid spreading virus. The easiest way to do this is to use disposable single-edge razor blades. If you want to save a bit of money, you can make your cut, then put the used razor in a clay pot for temporary holding (never cut more than one plant without thoroughly sterilizing your cutting tool). Once the clay pot is filled with "used" razor blades, they can be sterilized by running them through a cleaning cycle in a self-cleaning oven. Done this way, the razors will last about four or five cycles. Alternatively, you can dip your cutting tool in a 10 percent solution of bleach. It is probably best to soak these over night, though some suggest a shorter time is sufficient – then rinse with clean water prior to re-use. Another method frequently suggested is to pass the cutting tool through an open flame.

DISPOSING OF HAZARDOUS HOUSEHOLD WASTES. What to do with that old bottle of insecticide, fungicide or paint? These things tend to accumulate until they take over half your garage or basement, especially if you went through a phase where you just had to try everything. Well, good news. SWACO is ready to help you with some pre-Spring Cleaning collection days. I took the following information straight from their website. The December date is past, but there are three upcoming chances to clean house and avoid the temptation to throw such items in the trash.

Due to popular demand SWACO has added 4 Winter months Household Hazardous Waste collection drives. All of these events will be staged at the retired Waste-To-Energy-Facility (the old trash plant) 2566 Jackson Pike (Route 104). The one day collections will run from 9am-4pm. Below are the dates.

Saturday, January 10

Saturday, February 21

Saturday, March 27

Disposing of old computer stuff. Landfills are not the place for old Macs. Not even for old Windows machines. But who recycles these things, anyway? More good news. SWACO to the rescue again. (I'll be dropping off a dead monitor there and an antediluvian modem that I hope will be reborn someday as a toaster oven.)

On January 10, 2004, SWACO will stage another one of our computer recycling drives (From 10am-5pm). Our drive, at the Sawmill Plaza Shopping Center on the Northwest side of Columbus, will accept old CPU's printers, fax machines, software, and monitors. You can visit SWACO's website at www.swaco.org --- Tom Franczak

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS ARE DUE NOW! PLEASE SEND MEMBERSHIP DUES (\$15 INDIVIDUAL, \$20 FAMILY) TO OUR MEMBERSHIP CHAIR PERSON:

JEAN KING
484 EAST TORRENCE ROAD
COLUMBUS, OH 43214

Please complete the following information form and send with your check to Jean King or bring this to the January meeting and renew then.

Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

If you prefer to receive the newsletter by e-mail, please give us your e-mail address:

(The e-mail version of the newsletter is sent as a .pdf file. If you do not have Adobe Acrobat "Reader", you will be prompted on how to download this free software when you double click on the newsletter file the first time you attempt to open the file.)

Do you want us to invite a specific speaker to present at one of our meetings? If so, who:

What topics would you like to see for our monthly programs? _____

ARE YOU A MEMBER OF THE AMERICAN ORCHID SOCIETY YET ?

If not, you certainly should be. The AOS is the premier organization in this country dedicated to orchids, their culture, and education regarding these fascinating plants. Membership is only \$40 per year which includes a subscription to the journal of the AOS, "Orchids". Each issue of this wonderful journal includes many wonderful orchid related articles, innumerable photographs, contact information on orchid growers throughout the country, and a terrific amount of information on how to grow these plants to perfection. For example, the most recent issue of Orchids includes the following articles: "Special Report/American Orchid Society Recognizes Conservation Efforts", "Gifts for the Orchid Lover", Questions and Answers, "Potting, Spraying, and More", "Transporting Blooming Orchids", "*Trisetella triglochis*", "Compact and Mini Cattleyas", "Phalaenopsis Primer", "Orchids in Art", "*Laelia tenebrosa*", "Lycaste Hybrids", "Pressed Into Service – 150 Years of the Kew Herbarium and Library", "Vanilla – The Most Versatile Orchid", "New Species – *Cycnoches powellii*", "Fund-Raising for Societies", - wow! Additional benefits include The American Orchid Society Almanac which includes a listing of all of the affiliated societies throughout the world and a directory of commercial growers. Also included is a catalog of the American Orchid Society Bookshop which lists hundreds of current titles, all available at a 10% discount for members of the AOS. Join the AOS today by contacting them at: American Orchid Society, 16700 AOS Lane, Delray Beach, FL 33446-4351.

BOOK REVIEW – ENCYCLOPAEDIA OF CULTIVATED ORCHIDS, AN ILLUSTRATED, DESCRIPTIVE MANUAL OF THE MEMBERS OF THE ORCHIDACEAE CURRENTLY IN CULTIVATION, BY ALEX D. HAWKES. Published in 1965 and somewhat outdated, this is still THE book on orchids, particularly for the more unusual genera. Not as profusely illustrated or as expansive as many monographs currently in print, this is still a very useful book for tracking down some of the more unusual species. Unfortunately, either through errors by Hawkes or with changes in taxonomy over the years, many of these species have been revised since this informative text was published nearly forty years ago. Still, this book has a place in any well stocked orchid library. Because it is out of print, you will have to go to the used book market to track this down – and it will not be cheap. This is often seen on the internet if you search through Alibris or Bibliofind. Each genus is given a fairly lengthy description including cultural tips. This is then followed by a description of each of the major species, known at the time of publication. Also very helpful is an index of multigeneric orchid hybrid groups, invaluable for sorting out the background of some of the complex intergenerics (do you know what a Lyonara is??? How about a Hawaiiara???) Although there are a few color plates, the majority of illustrations are line drawings. If you want to look at this before buying a copy, visit the Central Ohio Orchid Society Library at the beginning of our next meeting and take a look at our society's copy. While you're at it, look at some of the newer acquisitions to our collection. We will try to include reviews of some of these newer books in upcoming newsletters.

THINKING OF REPOTTING ? Be sure your plants are in active growth. Unless it is an emergency, it is generally best to repot only when an orchid is beginning a growth cycle. You can check a plant by taking a look at its roots. If the roots are showing actively growing root tips (they will be green), it is probably safe to repot. The reasoning behind this is that a plant will better re-establish in the new media if the roots are in an active growth mode. If they aren't, it may take many months, sometimes even a year or more, for the plant to adequately adjust to the new media. It is generally best NOT to repot if the plant is in bloom. Unfortunately, some have the bad habit of initiating root growth at the same time they begin blooming. Some orchids, such as *Paphiopedilums*, are usually safe to repot most any time as they seldom go through a dormant cycle. In fact, these typically really benefit from frequent repotting. This is generally true of *Phalaenopsis* as well. You can check the potting medium as a means of determining if the plant is in need of repotting. As the media breaks down, it tends to become more like soil and holds moisture too long, resulting in root rot. When you repot, mark your label with the date. If you use nothing else, you can use the last date of repotting as a guide (most plants should be repotted at least once every year or two).

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UPCOMING MEETINGS: If you know of a good speaker or have an interest in a particular topic for one of our monthly meetings, please forward your suggestions to Tom Franczak at 614.868.5636

NEWSLETTER ARTICLES: Please contact Tom Bell-Games at: [tbellgames@burnip.com](mailto:tbellgames@burnip.com) if you want to contribute an article to the newsletter or have an announcement to be included in the newsletter.

Regional Shows: The following are upcoming orchid shows within a reasonable distance.

**February 13-15**      **Miami Valley Orchid Society Show.** Wegerzyn Horticulture Center, 1301 E. Siebenthaler Ave., Dayton, OH. Contact: Lora Thompson, 1005 Beacon Lane, Englewood, OH 45322; (937) 836-1048; [mthbarco@earthlink.net](mailto:mthbarco@earthlink.net)

THE CENTRAL OHIO ORCHID SOCIETY  
c/o TOM BELL-GAMES  
1615 ANDOVER ROAD  
COLUMBUS, OH 43212

