

BPS JOURNAL Summer 2019



International Orchid Show
2019, Malvern

BOS 60th
Anniversary Show

Jerry Fischer on
Phrag & Paph Culture
& Breeding

Spotlight -
Paph.philippinense

CULTURE * REPORTS * EVENTS * REVIEWS

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Front cover - *Cypripedium formosanum*

First Place *Cypripedioideae* at BOS, Highcliffe Castle, 2019

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Editor's Welcome

I expect I am not the only one whose plants have been slightly wrongfooted by the inclement early summer. I grow my orchids as houseplants, but put them outside for the summer (a culture that has pros and cons which I will discuss in the next issue) - but, what summer? The deceptively warm spell at the end of May prompted me to make the switch, only for my plants to then suffer a month of cool days and colder nights with enough rainfall for the tropics! Needless to say, growth ground to a halt in all but the most hardy of individuals, but hopefully warmer days are finally here to stay and they will now get back on track.

At least the Malvern show was a welcome bright spot in the depths of those wet days, and not adversely affected by the frequent downpours. There is a full report from the event in this issue, plus Jerry Fischer's second lecture from the winter meeting - a highly informative discussion of his culture, with many practical tips, which I know many who attended (myself included) have already found beneficial to their own culture regime.

I would be remiss as editor if I did not again stress the importance for you, the members, to contribute anything you may have to the journal. Without your input this publication will inevitably become less varied and informative, and with only a relatively small collection, there is only so much I can contribute personally before the 'road runs out'. Please consider writing something about your own culture, experiences or interests. Even sending a few photos is helpful.

Wishing you all good growing this summer, and hopefully more blooms that I currently have on show!

Chris

email the editor at -
info@paphiopedilum.org.uk

JOURNAL CALENDAR

ISSUE	PUBLISHED	FEATURES	COPY DEADLINE
Spring	March/April	Winter Meeting Awards Winter Meeting Lecture 1 report	End of February
Summer	July/August	Winter Meeting Lecture 2 report Malvern report	End of June
Winter	November/ December	General news Other events reports	End of October



*Paphiopedilum Andronicus
x rothschildianum*

INTERNATIONAL ORCHID SHOW

Malvern, 14th-16th June

Paph. Richardianum by Allan Burdis



This year's International Orchid Show was once more based within the Three Counties Show at Malvern and saw the usual high visitor numbers associated with the event. Frequent heavy downpours over the weekend threatened to turn the site in to a quagmire, but thankfully that never quite materialised and people were not put off attending.

The BPS stand was sited in its usual spot, alongside InCharm, and again benefitted from a number of Hsiao's best plants to help fill out the display. A number of tall, specimen *Phragmipedium* hybrids gave the rear of the stand an imposing, colourful backdrop, which then descended with further *Phrags*, multifloral and sequential *Paphs* in the middle ground (through greens and earth shades on the right and pinks and yellows on the left) to the smaller *Brachy*, *Parvi* and Complex *Paphs* at the front. It made for an attractive exhibit and one

that represented well the diversity of slippers. The BPS stand was awarded a Silver Medal and attracted much interest from members of the public. Chairman, Allan Burdis, and Vice-Chair, Mark Turner, set the stand up and manned it throughout the weekend. They reported having numerous lengthy conversations with prospective new members and handing out much promotional material. Hopefully it will lead to an influx of new members in the coming weeks.

Judging took place over the weekend and BPS members did well, receiving no less than eight Awards of Merit in total from the Malvern judges - one for *Phragmipedium* species, two for *Phragmipedium* hybrids, two for *Paphiopedilum* species and two for *Paphiopedilum* hybrids. Congratulations to all the recipients.



Phrag.pearcei 'Eagle' by Mark Turner



Paph. Fuli Flash by Mark Turner



BPS stand Malvern 2019

BPS Individual Awards - Malvern 2019		
<i>Phrag. Mem.Emma Decker</i>	Mark Turner	AM
<i>Phrag.Umbriel 'Redwing'</i>	Mark Turner	AM
<i>Phrag.pearcei 'Eagle'</i>	Mark Turner	AM
<i>Paph.philippinense</i>	Ian Dorman	AM
<i>Paph.delenatii var.album</i>	Allan Burdis	AM
<i>Paph.Fuli Flash 'Account'</i>	Mark Turner	AM
<i>Paph.(Landmark x armeniacum) x Lippewunder</i>	In Charm	AM

Around the rest of the show, there was a wealth of slipper orchids this year. Asendorfer had their usual large stand with a number of stunning large multiflorals - a massive *lowii* 'Anja' formed the centre-piece, with several excellent Wossner Black Wings, a huge Dollgoldi and Julius, and a very dark and nicely shaped Harold Koopowitz. St.Swithin's seemed to be plentiful this year, with many good examples being shown on Akerne's stand and a fabulous double-spiked example welcoming people in to the marquee on the East Midlands stand. There were some excellent *Phrags* around as well, notably *Phrag. Portelet Volcano* and *Phrag.China Dragon* on the



Asendorfer stand at Malvern 2019



Wessex stand - and if you looked hard several nice *Cypripedium* too.

For those looking to buy, there was no lack of slippers for sale too, with everything from seedling compots up to blooming specimen plants for sale. Perhaps because of anxieties over the future of the British market, prices seemed a little lower than previously too.

It is difficult to say what the next Malvern show will look like, with the interminable Brexit hanging over traders and importers, but hopefully next year's show will be just as impressive, and of course the BPS will be there once more.

*Paph. Harold Koopowitz* by Asendorfer

JERRY FISHER of Orchids Limited

‘REVELATIONS - Culture Techniques For Phrags & The Future of Paph Breeding’

Second lecture report from Solihull 2019 - by Chris Jones



Jerry's second presentation was eagerly anticipated as it was an opportunity for BPS members to gain invaluable insight into the specifics of culture upon which Jerry has built his success.

First up was advice for growing *caudatum* complex *Phragmipediums*. Jerry reminded everyone of the conditions these slippers are typically found in nature - with their roots in deep mosses, receiving moderately bright light (800-1500 foot candles) and cold morning mists that burn off to give hotter conditions in the afternoon. To replicate these conditions, Jerry favours a drier, open potting mix mainly consisting of larger size bark or Orchiata. For other *Phrags* he mainly uses rockwool, but also incorporating some growstones (a US glass-based media), charcoal, bark/Orchiata and a little peat moss for seedlings. Sphagnum moss is also greatly favoured for *Phrags*. Unlike many growers,



A Rands style orchid pot



Homemade pot from a drinks cup

who seem to do anything possible to eradicate it, Jerry actively encourages moss growth on the media surface. He says it fixes nutrients at the roots, retains moisture, and is likely to make your *Phrag* much happier. To this end, he also discourages the use of crushed oyster shell as a top dressing, which he doubts releases the desired calcium in appreciable quantities either.

Choice of pots is also very important to increase air flow to the root zone. A number of options were shown: from air-cone pots like those originally designed by Ray Rands to homemade ones utilising plastic drinks cups with air holes punched in the sides and bottom as desired.

Light levels are generally kept between 300 and 1000 foot candles and for those wishing to use artificial lighting or to supplement their natural light in winter he recommends 5000K full-spectrum LED lights. Further information on this type of culture is available on the Orchids Limited website.

A healthy and happy *Phrag* with surface moss

*A 'teacup' helenae hybrid
flourishing in a plastic cup pot*



Watering is generally done every 5 to 7 days. Plants in Orchidata will stay wet longer than those in bark and those in moss will need less frequent watering. Water pH is advised between 5.5 and 7, except for *Phrag. kovachii*, which prefers more alkaline water at around 7.5 or more. Here, Jerry stressed the importance of testing your water pH correctly, by flushing a pot through with clean water, collecting the run-off and repeating three or more times before testing. This should give a correct indication of the pH existing within the pot.

Repotting should take place of course if there are any indications that the media has begun to break down. This can show as an abundance of blue/green algae, bacteria, fungus or moulds, and sometimes burning at the leaf-tips. A monthly drench of diluted hydrogen peroxide in water (at approx. 300-400ppm strength) will also eradicate fungi and prevent erwinia, thereby helping to prolong the media's lifespan. Annual repotting is recommended for those plants in moss.

Many growers will have encountered problems when repotting certain *Phrags* (most especially *besseae* and its hybrids) that produce new growths from climbing stolons that frequently leave the confines

A Phrag stolon prior to cutting



Root ball removal for Phrags



of their pots. Similarly, many *Phrags* will produce so many dense roots that it seems almost impossible to repot them or know where to start with any root trimming. For both these eventualities, Jerry has a simple answer - merely remove the growth or the entire root ball and repot in moist sphagnum moss until new roots are well established. Having done this myself just recently, I can vouch for the method's success in generating good new root growth in a matter of weeks.

Jerry's fertilising regime was particularly interesting. Fertiliser should always contain calcium and magnesium and he prefers it to be readily available in the fertiliser, rather than in limestone

chips, oyster shell, etc. Root feeding is done at every watering for plants in bark and rockwool, then flushed with clean water once per month. Plants in moss require feeding only once every three waterings. Most informative was Jerry's assertion that foliar feeding is more important and beneficial to the plants than root feeding. He foliar feeds once per week, misting the plants in the early morning at six times the root feed strength. The feed is absorbed directly by the plants though the epidermis and stomata of the leaves and very quickly (within 24 hours) can 'green up' the plant. This is particularly helpful in spring when the strengthening sun and lengthening days can lead to plants becoming yellow as they struggle to 'keep up.' Jerry asserts



Leaf yellowing from a lack of chlorophyll in spring



Healthy Phrags after foliar feeding



that this can be prevented with regular foliar feeding while the reduced need for fertiliser in the pot helps to preserve the media too.

For those wishing to really maximise their plants' potential, Jerry also recommended oxygenating the water using a bubbler, or, best of all, an emitter. Tests have shown this can deliver up to 25-35% increase in leaf and root mass in treated plants whilst also eliminating harmful anaerobic bacteria.

This subject led naturally to discussion of specific care for *Phrag. kovachii*, which grows best with an ebb and flow system of watering that floods the pot for around an hour twice a day. Naturally, Jerry has a system set up to accommodate his large collection, but, as can be seen in the image above, it is possible to set up a simple equivalent using a small section of guttering and a small water pump in a 5 gallon bucket. Light levels are kept lower than for other *Phrags* - 3-500 foot candles for seedlings, 6-750 for adult plants - and the water as clean as possible, with root feeding restricted to once per month or not at all and foliar feeding once per week. Potting in rockwool with some perlite and/or bark is the preferred media, although moss is also successful.

The second part of Jerry's lecture consisted of a series of stunning *Paph* hybrids that illustrate the different directions he is taking in breeding at Orchids Limited.

First up were several complex and so-called 'teacup' hybrids, distinguished by very large blooms on comparatively small plants. Notable among these were *Paph*.Yellowstone, a lovely pure primrose yellow *armeniacum* hybrid, using the complex hybrid Elfstone. There were also a number of highly attractive pink complexes using the classic old complex Winston Churchill as a parent for its superior shape and size,

Jerry has also backcrossed several of its hybrids to further enhance its qualities.

Jerry admitted he is slightly frustrated by the tendency of orchid judges to award round *Paphs* over other, more unusually-shaped,



blooms. To illustrate his point, he showed a number of exciting hybrids, mainly using multifloral parents, that were unusual in both shape and colour. My personal favourite was *Paph. Conkoloco* (*concolor* x *kolpakingii*) with many beautiful ivory, delicately veined flowers produced by a compact, attractively mottled plant. *Paph. Morganiae* x *sanderianum* was also notable for its richly coloured, long-petalled blooms and *Paph. Royal Sapphire* (*Bel Royal* x *micranthum*) was similarly striking. This latter hybrid represents another



important consideration in Jerry's breeding strategy - the selection of parents to improve frequency of flowering. Royal Sapphire is understandably similar in appearance to Gloria Naugle, but the additional influence of *kolopakingii* from Bel Royal improves the chances of flowering and of multiple blooms. In a similar vein, the hybrid *Paph.* Brian Finstad is reminiscent of both Dollgoldi and Harold Koopowitz, but its more complex parentage (Platy Swith x Norito Hasegawa) will almost certainly ensure it is far easier to flower than either of the former primary hybrids.

One glimpse of Jerry's thriving greenhouse and the excellence of the plants that Orchids Limited produce can leave no-one in doubt of the depth of knowledge he has acquired over the years. Certainly everyone present was grateful to him for sharing it and eager to implement some of the many cultural recommendations made.





Paph. Brian Finstad



Paph. Royal Sapphire

BPS events Diary

Sat 18th & Sun 19th January 2020

**BPS Annual Winter Meeting
(including AGM)**

Ramada Jarvis Hotel, The Square, Solihull, W. Midlands, B91 2RF

Main Speaker (TBC) - Hadley Chase (Marriott Orchids, USA)

Sat 30th & Sun 31st May 2020 (set-up Fri 29th)

**Southport International Orchid Show
Incorporating the BOC Congress**

Southport Theatre & Conference Centre, Southport

The BPS will most likely take a stand at this event.

RHS judging on the Saturday.

Fri 12th - Sun 14th June 2020

Malvern International Orchid Show 2019

Three Counties Showground, Malvern, Worcestershire, WR13 6NW

The BPS will have its usual stand alongside InCharm.

There will as usual be an RHS Orchid Committee.

For more information - www.malvern-ios.org or 01642 654748



SPOTLIGHT:

Paphiopedilum philippinense

The flowers of *Paph. philippinense* are unmistakable with their twisting maroon petals, bright yellow pouch and striped dorsal.

It was first described by Reichenbach in 1862 (as *Cypripedium philippinense*, and thought to be endemic to those islands, though it has since been found on several further flung islands and even north-east Borneo. Then, in 1865, James Bateman described *Cyp. laevigatum*, making no reference to *Cyp. philippinense* but giving a description that could equally apply to it. Reichenbach then described a *Cyp. roebelenii* in 1883, describing it as having longer, pendant petals than *philippinense* and originating from the island of Luzon. As early as the 19th Century these latter two names were disputed by authorities as being separate species, synonyms or varieties. To an extent this has

continued even to this day, but the generally accepted view is that they are varieties of *Paph. philippinense*. *Var. laevigatum* is usually distinguished by more compact plants and petals with a more horizontal stance (often somewhat shorter and less tightly twisted), whilst *var. roe-*

Paph. philippinense var. *laevigatum*



belenii has the longest, most twisted petals, held in a pendant position. As might be expected, the 'true' *Paph. philippinense* is something between the two in character, yet it is worth pointing out that this is a highly variable species anyway and I have seen examples labelled as one variety or other that could easily be assigned to another variety based on these descriptions. My own *var.roebelini*, for instance, has petals no longer or more pendant than many other *philippinense* I have seen.

In nature, *Paph. philippinense* is typically found growing on limestone cliffs, outcrops and boulders, though has also been recorded as growing epiphytically on occasion. It is well known that it is amongst the warmest growing and most light-loving of the *Paphs*, sometimes being found in full sun with plants greatly yellowed by the exposure. The leaves have a tougher, more succulent-like quality than many other species, that would suggest adaptation to this end, but in cultivation I have found it to be quite sensitive to changes in light levels, 'whiting out' quicker than many other *Paphs* when daylight strengthens. Just because they can cope with strong sun does



Paph. philippinense



Paph. philippinense var. roebelini

not necessarily mean they will look their best with it, so bright shade is still preferable.

As with most multiflorals, plants prefer an open, free-draining potting mix with a limestone content and/or calcium-rich fertiliser. Their thick leaves make them more tolerant of drier spells than many species and once grown beyond two or three growths, plants readily form multiple growth plants with the potential for stunning displays of many blooms. Typically three or four flowers are carried on a relatively erect stem. Line breeding has led to some clones with higher flower

counts and larger blooms, but *Paph.philippinense* is naturally a fairly dainty flower, with petals averaging 10-15cm long and a dorsal only 2cm wide and 4-5cm tall.

Albino and semi-albino forms are widely available, ranging in colour from pale yellow or tan to green. One such variety, *Paph. philippinense* var. *compactum* fma. *alboviride* was published by Gruss in *Die Orchidee* 2(3) in 2016. BPS member Milan Resl owns a specimen, originally bought as a *Paph. philippinense* Stein x sib ('Light Touch' x 'Yellow Stone') in 2012, from Sam Tsui, Orchid Inn Ltd. As can be seen from the accompanying photos, it is a much smaller plant than the usual *philippinense* with flowers of an intense clean yellow.

Hybrids

Given its colouration and attractive form, it unsurprising that *philippinense* has been heavily used in hybridisation. It currently has over 750 registered descendants. Among the multiflorals, only *Paph.rothschildianum* has been employed more often.

The best known primary hybrids are the timeless St.Swithin (x *rothschildianum*) and Michael Koopwitz (x *sanderianum*). Both are among



Paph.philippinense var. *compactum*



Compactum and standard *philippinense*

the most awarded of all Paph hybrids and their popularity remains undiminished. St.Swithin can be highly variable in petal stance, less so in colour, which is typically a classy combination of creams, yellows and browns overlaid with darker strips. It is so popular that many growers have collected many different clones - creating a collection within their collection! Michael Koopowitz benefits from the double dose of petal length from its parents, but retains the stronger colour of *philippinense* with stunning results. Petals average around 45cm (18inches) in highly awarded clones, with the longest over 70cm (27inches).



Paph. St. Swithin
(*philippinense* x *rothschildianum*)

Other well-known primary hybrids include Berenice (x *lowii*) and Lebaudyanum (x *haynaldianum*), Deena Nicol (x *glanduliferum*), Temptation (x *kolopakingii*) and Addicted Phillip/Yang-Ji Apple (x *adductum/anitum*). Two primary hybrids that are sadly not seen so often in recent years are Mount Toro (x *stonei*) and Umatilla (x *parishii*), which is a shame as both are highly attractive and exhibit some of the best qualities of their parents. There have been many intersectional primary hybrids made too, of course, but as is usual with multiflorals, it tends to be the *Cochlopetalum* hybrids that consistently produce decent



Paph. Mount Toro
(*philippinense* x *stonei*)



Paph. Judge Philip
(*philippinense* x *Pinocchio*)



Paph. Vipanii
(*philippinense* x *niveum*)

form. Among these, *Helvetia* (x *chamberlainianum*) and *Honey* (x *primulinum*) are probably the best known. A few other hybrids have had pleasing results and are commonly seen - *Delphi* (x *delenatii*), *Jennifer Stage* (x *godefroyae*) and *Vipanii* (x *niveum*). In such hybrids as these, it can be seen that *Paph.philippinense* does have the ability to lengthen petals without the complete loss of a pleasing shape that often happens when *sanderianum* is used.

Secondary and complex hybrids involving *philippinense* are numerous, but among the best are: *P.Moustache* (St.Swithin back-crossed), which often resembles a miniature *S.Swithin* with longer, more unruly petals; *Kemp Tower* (x *Prince Edward of York*), like a robust *Michael Koopowitz*; *Land Ahoy* (x *Landmark*, which is *moquettianum* x *sanderianum*) a stunning *Cochlopetalum*-influenced hybrid, *Isabel Booth* (x *Lady Isabel*), effectively a larger *Mount Toro*; and *Green Horizon* (x *Makuli*), which resembles a multifloral *Maudiae*. Browsing the lists of many of the big Taiwanese and US breeders, it is clear from many of the as-yet unregistered hybrids involving *P.philippinense* that its contribution in creating new and interesting hybrids remains appreciated.

If you have knowledge or images of a particular species or group, please contribute to 'spotlight'

info@paphiopedilum.org.uk

MEMBERS GALLERY

SHARE IMAGES OF YOUR LATEST BLOOMS & PLANTS

RIGHT: *Paph. Bidborough* by Chris Jones;
BOTTOM RIGHT: *Paph. malipoense* 'Rothsay' AM/RHS by Allan Burdis;
BOTTOM LEFT: *Paph. kolopakingii*; 'Goodover' by Robert Goodenough;
BELOW:



TOP 5 SLIPPERS



Paph. sanderianum

BPS Vice-Chairman, Mark Turner, chooses his top 5 *Paphiopedilum* species.

5) *sanderianum* - I have never flowered one, and seems to be the nemesis of many growers. I have a couple growing well, but it will be another couple of years at least.

4) *malipoense* - I find the scent of this one to be out of this world - when it is in flower, I will often make excuses to go into the greenhouse and smell the heady raspberry scent in the evening.

3) *tigrinum* - again, a hard one to grow and flower, but the flower is so striking when it appears, it is gorgeous.

2) *wardii* - love this one more due to the intense green foliage, with patterns and swirls, this seems to be attractive all year round if grown in a darker corner.

1) *venustum* - I fell in love with this species as a young boy - the gorgeous colours in the petals and pouch, make this a real reliable stunner for me.



Name your top five slippers!

Just send a few lines explaining why you like them (with any pictures you have) and you may just introduce fellow members to their next 'must have' plant!

BOS 60th ANNIVERSARY,
highcliffe castle, dorset, 30th-31stmarch
report by CHRIS JONES



The picturesque Highcliffe Castle, perched on the Dorset coast, was the venue chosen for the Bournemouth Orchid Society's 60th Anniversary Show. Over 25 exhibitors, including the BPS, took stands that attracted around 3,000 paying adults and over a hundred children. Fine weather undoubtedly helped to tempt people out for the day, and the rooms of the castle were at times inundated with visitors.

The BPS stand, alongside Mark Turner's Elite Orchids, formed an impressive display in a corner of one of the halls that was dedicated to slipper orchids. Five members contributed plants: Allan Burdis, Mark Turner, John Garner, Jenny Thomson and Pat Hollings and several other BPS members had slipper orchids on show around the venue with their respective regional societies. As usual, the society banners, promotional signage and flyers were utilised to attract interest in the society and a number of new members have joined the society as a result.

The plants on display were of good quality, with species particularly well represented. There were three *Paph. malipoense*, two *Paph. micranthum*, a *Paph. delenatii* var. *album* and a *Paph. hangianum*. A big group of specimen sized *Cypripedium formosanum* made up a large proportion of the display, with the remainder an attractive assortment of *Paph* and *Phrag* hybrids. Around the rest of the show there were a number of other notable slippers, including Jimmy Grieves' *Paph. Julius* and Robert Goodenough's *Paph. kolopakingii*. Selecting the award winners must have been a challenge for the judges on the day, borne out by the large number of cultural awards given out.

Class 2 (*Cypripedioideae*) competition results were as follows: First Place - *Cyp. formosanum* by Allan Burdis BPS; Second Place - *Paph. malipoense* 'Rothsay' AM/ RHS by Allan Burdis BPS; Cultural Awards - *Cyp. formosanum* by Allan Burdis BPS, *Paph. kolopakingii* 'Goodover' by Robert Goodenough, Cornwall OS; *Paph. micranthum* by Mark Turner BPS; *Paph. wardii* by Sally Mill OSGB; *Paph. Julius* by Jimmy Grieves, Sheffield OS; *Phrag. Ouaisne* by Pat Hollings BPS; *Paph. Rosy Dawn* by Sally Mill OSGB. See the Members Gallery, P.23, for further images .



BPS ONLINE



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