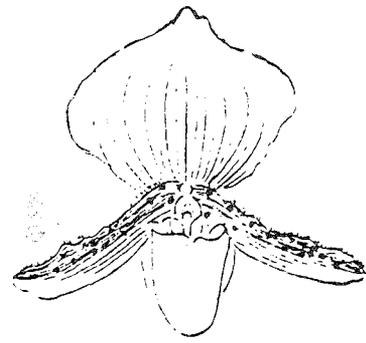




ILLINOIS ORCHID SOCIETY

FOUNDED IN 1952



JULY 1995 Volume 7

Editor: Jim Spatzek, 2137 Center Avenue Northbrook, IL 60062

JULY MEETING:

**Chicago Botanic Garden
Glencoe, IL**

**Sunday, July 16, 1995
12:30 PM**

Our featured speaker for July will be Mr. **Will Rhodehamel, Hoosier Orchid Company, Indianapolis, Indiana**, which specializes in species. A quick glance at the **Hoosier** catalog shows a plethora of pleurothallids and masses of masdevallias. Will's topic - "**My Favorite Masdevallia Species**"!!!

Mr. Rhodehamel is not just another pretty face but a recognized expert with article published in the **AOS Bulletin** among his accomplishments. Among his responsibilities, Will is editor of the quarterly publication of **The Pleurothallid Alliance**, and is the author of **Masdevallias: A Culture Guide**, which was recently revised and republished. Hoosier Orchids was also the winner of the 1994 Joseph Koss Memorial Award for their plant, *Masdevallia ophioglossa* 'Megan' CCM/AOS.

If you've seen Masdevallias in bloom you understand the attraction to them and the warmth-tolerant hybrids are easy to grow. Will will have plants available for sale. Join us for this spectacular program.

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NEXT BOARD MEETING:

The next Board of Directors meeting will be held at the home of **Jim Pupelis**, on **July 10, at 7:30 PM**. All members of the Board are expected to attend. If you cannot attend, please call **Leo Schordje**(708-746-9355) and let him know.

President's Message:

This is the start of a new role for me. I hope I can do justice to the task ahead of me. I want to say thank you to **Sherry Maloney**. You leave me a high standard to reach for. Thank you for the time, effort, worry and concern you put into making things happen for the **IOS** for the last two years. I know I will be bending your ear often until I get the hang of this new duty.

I also want to thank **Heddi Schellbach** who handled the newsletter for the last 5 years. It's a thankless job, and you did it tirelessly. Now **Jim Spatzek** will be making those phone calls trying to get everyone to get their articles written in time to get the newsletter to the printers. And thanks to **Margie Casserly** for being our second vice president and show chairman for the last two years. **Linda Schubert** has her work cut out for her but will no doubt do an excellent job! The new team is together and I know(hope) we will be able to keep up the high standards set by our predecessors. Thank you all!

The June brunch at Villa Olivia was a success. Good conversation, a laugh or two, and good food, too. (Yes, I admit to making more than one trip through the buffet line.) Thank you to **Suki Kroeber** for representing the judging center and doing the talk.

See you all on Sunday!

Leo

REPORTS OF THE AWARDS COMMITTEE

Tom Franczak, Chairman, 708/398-5093

Here it is, the final report of the 1994-95 competition year. All about the contest and the winners elsewhere in this issue. The point totals include the May meeting, The May AOS Judging results, and the Traverse City show. Any points from June 1st on belong to the 1995-96 competition year. Even professional basketball teams take a week or two off between the end of one season and the start of the next but not orchid growers. From the May judging at the CBG:

Klehm Growers..Chondrorhyncha andreaeae
'Cali Lady' CBR/AOS

Klehm Growers..Dtps. Talitha Klehm
'Magenta Passion' AM/AOS

We brought 186 plants to the May meeting-- 105 lightstand and 81 greenhouse. It is not true that Willy Losert brought all but 3 of them! Mel Schmidt won **Plant of the Month** honors in the lightstand league for his **Chilochista usneoides** and Jay Mullen did likewise in the greenhouse division with his **Maxillaria tenuifolia**. Good work!!

You know, I report to you about the plants of the month and the plants that won blues. But that's just a fraction of the material we put on display every month for our mutual benefit. (Ed.Note: Wouldn't it be nice if half these plants showed up for out away show exhibits). I've told you over and again that in the course of a year, our display tables are a tour de force of the orchid family.

From the May meeting: two *Cypripediums*-- *acaule* & *candidum*. Did you know that the latter, the small-flowered white *candidum* grew by the thousands along Lake-Cook Road just a few miles west of the Garden? As recently as three years or so ago, there was a large tract of them about a mile east of Rte. 83. There's a subdivision with manicured lawns there now because we needed more of those. But once this rare orchid flourished in our backyard. Cathy Bloome, our conservation committee chairwoman, was one of the volunteers that worked on relocating these

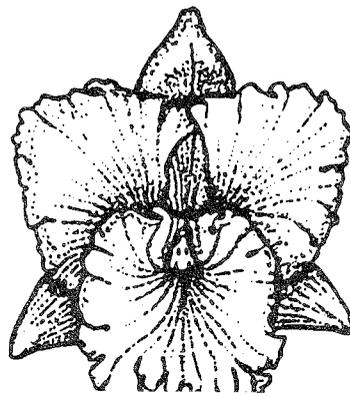
plants. As you might guess, the attrition was terrible but not complete. A tiny population survived the trauma of relocation and is now attempting to reestablish. Until we just have some developer's nex ambition, they have permission to exist and a chance to survive. We should all be grateful for people like Cathy, without whom this and other native orchids would be that much closer to extinction. Talk to her if you'd like to work on some of the projects she's involved with.

Also from the May meeting: a *Disa*. *Disa's* were invented to teach orchid grower's humility. They are very rare in cultivation.... extremely sensitive to mineral content of the water is what Jodi Hirt told me. But all that flower surface area with such bright colors! And did you take a close look at that *Phrag. Nitidissimum*? To the point, did you notice that it was potted in charcoal? Mel told me he's had it in charcoal for two years. Except for the ones that lied, none of the *Phrag* Wavers said they'd ever heard of growing *Phrags* in charcoal.

Now I know that your blood sugar is running on empty by the time the lecture is over and we need to make a beeline for the coffee pot(those were my elbows, sorry), and the pastries. And then we want to socialize and maybe browse the sales tables. But it still behooves us to spend some time at the display tables. To what you learn in the workshop and at the lecture, add a little more knowledge by talking with their owners about some of the plants on the display tables.

OK, now go turn to the point totals to find out who won.

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And the May Blue Ribbon winners are.....

Greenhouse:

John Coutts

Beallara Tahoma Glacier x Odm. Baranof Island

Ed Gamson

Carpenterara Sydney Smith 'Bryna' HCC/AOS

Sue Golan

Dend. vexillaria var retroflexum

Paph. Clinkaberryanum

Onc. morenoi

Coelogyne ochracea

Neodryas herzogii

Odt. Moliere 'Dionysos' AM/AOS

Jodi Hirt

Disa Riette

Mtdm. Pupukea Sunset

Coelogyne confusa

Adenoccos vesiculosa

Cirrhopetalum makoyanum

Bulbophyllum species

Maxillaria variabilis

Aeranthes caudata

Jay Mullen

Maxillaria tenuifolia

Rhonda Peters

Neofinetia falcata

Onc. henekenii

Laima Sahagian

Masd. wendlandiana

Notylia barkeri

Capanemia superflua

Neofinetia falcata x Asctm Sargarik Gold

Dend. lawesii

Cischweinfia rostrata

Dend. pentapterum

Bob Wolf

Phrag. ecuadorensis

Masd. datura x coccinea var. alba

Restrepia striata

Lightstand:

Dipen Chamburkar

Onc. Golden Sunset 'Taka'

Joe Dixler

Onc. Papilio

Lycaste aromatica

Acanthephippium mantinianum

Epid. Costa Rica

Enc. cochleata

Kevin & Irma Dixler

Enc. cochleata x Laelia flava

Joel Edwards

Cypripedium acaule

Ron & Joan Hale

Onc. Sharry Baby 'Sweet Fragrance' AM/AOS

Charles High

Ascofinetia Petit Bouquet

Cattleytonia Keith Roth

Pat Kralik

Phal. Winter Star x Dtps. Orglade's Puff

Wilf Losert

Phal. Scott Eugene

Phal. Golden Poeker

Phal. David Lim

Phal. Unforgettable Fire

Phal. gersenii

Phal. Serenade Delight x Hausermann's Candy

Phal. Hausermann's Dolan x Imp. Moonbeam

Phal. Nancy Reagen x Z. Urchin

Asctm. ampullaceum

Sherry Maloney

Yamadara Green Wave

Armon McPherson

Paph. philippinense

Mel Schmidt

Chilochista usneoides 'Golden Delicious'

Phrag. Nitidissimum

Ken Vrabel

Paph. Grangiallo x primulinum

THEN, AGAIN.... Maybe not. In the November 1992 issue I reported to you that several years after acquiring it, Jim Pupelis had bloomed a *Paphiopedilum praestans* that obviously wasn't. He had bought the plant from Rands (ed. R.J. Rands, California) and Ray had said it had been collected on Jobi Island. There was a lot of excitement as preliminary evaluations pointed in the direction of a new species. Dissections were performed, photographs with film taken from a refrigerator were made, maps consulted for Jobi Island (off the west New Guinea coast), flowers properly preserved for deposit at an herbarium, and the dust blown off the Latin dictionaries. We could barely wait for the announcement to appear in Orchid Digest or similar journal. I myself began practicing drinking champagne so I'd be in good form for the Paph Rat parties that were sure to be held at Jim and Jackie's. I think all the preliminaries were performed with commendable skill and attention to detail (*Hic*).

Then things started to drag. Dr. Jim Asher had some reservations about the plant. Publication was not going to take place in the face of those doubts. Then Jim showed slides to **Guido Braem**. Braem was initially quite interested and things seemed back on course. But, like mealy bugs, the doubts kept coming back. Sure the staminode was unlike anything known. But plants from section *coryopedilum* are not supposed to have petals with a horizontal line differentiating upper and lower halves, unless it inherited that trait from a parent in the section *paphiopedilum*. And Braem also felt queasy about its origin. He wanted to know whether Ray had imported the plant from a particular exporter. If he had... well, that's another story.

The plant was in flower on the occasion of the gathering of the paph convention in Minnesota this year. Jim and Jackie, Sam Tsui and his wife, and Jerry Bienenfeld piled into a van with the mystery plant and headed north. (Later, Jackie told me it was too far to drive just to do some shopping!) **Harold Koopowitz** was there, along with Guido Braem and a small galaxy of other paph experts from around the country and the world. (Isn't it amazing how seriously grown men take these things?) Towards the end of the convention, Jim's plant got its very own session where it was the only topic of discussion. The results are all but conclusive and effectively shut the door on the idea that it is a species heretofore undiscovered. *Praestans* (syn. *glanduliferum*) by *insigne* (probably), made most of the heads nod in agreement, according to Jim.

I had a look at the plant in flower (first time since August of 1992) shortly before the paph convention took place. Understand that my credentials are simply non-existent

compared to the experts like Asher, Braem and Koopowitz. But I let myself wonder what other parent I would need to impute in order to satisfactorily explain the dotted stripes in the dorsal, the green line in the staminode, and the undulate petals in its pedigree and that somewhere in heaven there was a *Paphiopedilum exul* grinning smugly.

Natural hybrid??? Well, not really! Not without the same long-distance bee presumed to be responsible for *Paphiopedilum Ang Thong*. "Several hundred kilometers" with pollen on your back for *Ang Thong Praestans* by *exul* would be western Thailand to New Guinea while *praestans* by *insigne* would be the Himalayas to New Guinea. Busy Bee!!!

The Paph Rats feel badly for Jim. It's tough to shrug off a near miss like this one. But, we can still have that party, can't we, Jim?

TOM FRANCAK

OUR CONTEST--1994-95

The results are in. Let's celebrate our top growers!

Lightstand

1st	Willy Losert	1038
2nd	Joe Dixler	997
3rd	Jim Pupelis	747
4th	Cathy Bloome	554
5th	Joel Edwards	274

Greenhouse

1st	Sue Golan	1741
2nd	Laima Sahagian	1376
3rd	Jodi Hirt	1276
4th	Bob Wolf	552
5th	Carole Thompson	517

And our newcomers:

Lightstand....	Armon McPherson	255
Greenhouse....	Bill Welter	42

Most of the participants show plants for the sake of showing plants. That's no secret. But some compete with blood in their eyes, and some do both! I start out competing and then get a dose of reality when the show results start arriving in the fall. Then I mellow out as the better part of valor until next year!

But I think I know something about the effort it takes and the results you might shoot for if you participate to actually compete. By your second or third try, you should set as a goal the accumulation of at least 100 points. You can't achieve this without earning a few blue ribbons along the way. Around the 100 point level, I think you've demonstrated that you're a competent orchid grower deserving of some respect. Double that to a 200 point threshold and I think you are to be much admired for your skill. Then we get into the stratosphere. I know that I have a lot to learn from anyone who can amass 500 points in a year. The levels beyond that get very difficult to rationalize and even to characterize (and I'm not very often at a loss for words).

At one time or another I've visited most of the growers named above and seen how and what they grow. Let me tell you that their collections are not infinite and their growing areas are not unbounded. Well, maybe Jim's! Still, you cannot explain the point totals just by the sizes of the collections. Nor is it a matter of

AOS Awards. Discard them all and I don't think there would be one place change in the order of finish. The answer, as I see it, is as Hermann Pigors often remarks, "growing the plant to perfection," plus a willingness to share the flowers with the rest of us at meetings and shows--in large doses! I'm simply amazed by our top growers and will continue to flatter them by trying to imitate them.

Congratulations to everyone who participated, from 1 point's worth to 1741 points' worth. From 1990 to 1994, participation by general members has been 57, 56, 64, 65, and 76. I thought last year's spike was a record that would stand for years. Well, this year there were 90 of us. In only two months last year were there fewer than 100 plants on the display tables at our meetings. Four judging teams are now necessary to reward our growing skills each month (and finish up before the lecture starts).

In the past, the contenders would flood the Milwaukee show at the end of the competition year. Now Milwaukee has switched their late spring show to a fall one. That leaves the unlikely Traverse City show as the last chance show. Lois Cinert always attends this one and takes an exhibit along. She'll certainly need a caravan next year if Traverse City inherits Milwaukee's allegiance. Folks up there will be shrugging and wondering about the crazy IOS group that send a thousand plants to their show. But we'll know why!

Lois sent me ribbon results with this note: "You missed trillium in bloom, roads walled with blossoming fruit trees, sailboats on the bay, gentle hills. Good old friends, nice-to-know new ones. Good food. Peace and quiet. Waves on the shore. Local wine. Fresh white-fish." Oh all right, Lois. If you really need set-up help badly next year. Well, I suppose!

Tom Franczak

Ed.Note: Complete 1994-95 Contest results will be printed next month so everyone will receive their recognition!!!!!!!!!!!!!!