

NEWSLETTER



SOS Executive

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Editor's Note: The newsletter will be distributed electronically to all members for whom we have an email address. If you wish to switch from paper to electronic delivery, please notify me at robert.lucas@usask.ca.

Future Meeting Dates:

October 28, 2012	November 25, 2012	January 27, 2013
February 17, 2013	March 17, 2013	April 28, 2013

September Meeting

The September general meeting of the Society will be held on **Sept. 23, 2012** at John Dolan School, commencing at 1:30 p.m. Gordon Heaps from Edmonton will give a presentation on mini catts. He will also bring plants from Ecuagenera for sale.



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Somebody turned off the heat and there is a distinct chill in the air. That means two things: Autumn is here; and another excellent year of meetings and activities are about to begin. I hope that your orchid collections survived and thrived through the summer. Many of you were able to get your plants outside to enjoy fresh air and natural sunlight. This was my second summer with a greenhouse and I'm still learning that conventional wisdom for growing orchids is loose guidance at best. I have numerous cool growing plants that spiked and bloomed in temperatures that routinely hit 113 F (45 C).

The members of the Executive are planning out the activities and speakers for the upcoming year. Our challenge is to provide top quality speakers and programming that will keep you informed and entertained. We have a very strong society that thrives because of your interest and support. I thank all of you for attending meetings, bringing in treats, helping out during meetings and at Gardenscape, buying raffle tickets and sharing your love of orchids. This is your Society and I appreciate and encourage your feedback and ideas.

Last year was a successful year. We welcomed many new members and enjoyed an excellent speaker program organized by Don Keith. There were a lot of opportunities to add to our collections thanks to numerous plant orders arranged by Heather and Cheryl, as well as plant sales by visiting speakers and our own members. Our first auction was a success. There was some spirited bidding that raised over \$700 for the Society. Let's plan on doing this again in April 2013.

Good health and good growing, I look forward to seeing you on the 23rd! Cal Carter

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Sept. meeting will feature a visit by Gordon Heaps from Edmonton. Some of you may remember Gordon's very informative presentation the last time he visited the Society. He will talk on mini catts and he will bring plants from Ecuagenera for sale. **In accordance with Society policy, we ask that you do not bring your own plants for sale at the September meeting.**

If you did not partake of the incentive to renew your membership for 2012-13 in the Spring, you should do so at the Sept. meeting.

The Sept. meeting will have a raffle of plants donated by Safeway. Be sure to purchase your tickets from Tracey or Jan at the Library table, \$1 for one, \$2 for three.

An orchid order will be placed with H&R in Hawaii. Submit your

order to Cheryl orchidcrazy.cheryl@gmail.com or Heather heather.jane.anderson@gmail.com by Sept. 28th. The Society order must be at least \$500. There will be a small charge per plant for inspection (phytosanitary), packing, handling and shipping. The Fall H&R price list will be posted on their website www.hrnurseries.com/ on Sept. 16th. More details will be provided at the Sept. meeting.

If you borrowed items from the Library for use over the summer, please please return them at the September meeting in order for others to have an opportunity to access them.

Meeting Agenda

- Announcements
- Problem Corner
- Show and Tell

- Coffee/Supplies
- Gordon Heap Presentation
- Plant Raffle
- Plant Sale
- Adjournment



Phal Bedford Golden Victory

MAY 27 MINUTES

Announcements

Cal welcomed everyone to the meeting.

There will be a silent auction today open to all in attendance.

The raffle plants have been donated by Safeway at Circle Park Mall.

Show and Tell

Plants were shown by Al Hartridge, Gwen Erickson, Heather Anderson, Lori Pozniak, Don Keith, Ellen Ross, Pat Randall, and Bob Lucas.

Show and Tell Draw

Sherida Gregoire was drawn as this year's winner for Show and Tell

participants. Her prize was a Phrag. Andean Fire in bloom.

Wilma Nikiforuk Award

The colleagues of Wilma at RCA have provided for five annual awards in her memory. The awards are given to the plant judged the best of the Show and Tell plants at the May meeting. The judges are Sarah Nikiforuk and Cal Carter. This year's recipient of the Wilma Nikiforuk Award is Pat Randall for her Iwanagara Apple Blossom. A

blooming Lc Tahoe Rose was given to Pat.

The remainder of the meeting consisted of a silent auction of orchids and orchid-related items, as well as a raffle for Cymbidiums and Phalaenopsis plants donated by Safeway. Items up for silent auction included orchid plants, pots, orchid books and greeting cards and a Paph in stained glass. The majority of items were sold.

The meeting adjourned at 3:10 p.m.

SOS MAY SHOW AND TELL TABLE



Onc. speculatum Exhibitor: Al Hartridge



Iwan. Appleblossom Exhibitor: Pat Randall



Ctyl. Netrasiri Fine-Green Exhibitor: Heather Anderson



Encyclia cochleata Exhibitor: Lori Posniak



Haradia retrocalea Exhibitor: Don Keith



Paph Druid Spring Exhibitor: Lynn Campbell

PHRAGMIPEDIUM KOVACHII HYBRIDS PART I BY GLEN DECKER, 2009

Editor's Note: Reprinted by permission from the Oct/Nov/Dec 2009 issue of Orchid Digest.

Here we are in the 21st century, with technology developing faster than we can keep up with, yet one of the most exciting orchids to be discovered was a mere eight years ago. During my years of growing phragmipediums, I would have never dreamed of such a thing, nor did I ever expect to be involved with the propagation of this species and producing some of the first hybrids available.

Fortunately, the hybrids were definitely easier to grow than the species itself. Even though the species has a bad reputation for being difficult to grow this does not seem to be an issue with the hybrids. The first of the hybrids bloomed only 13 to 14 months from flask, not that uncommon, since hybrids like *Phragmipedium Don Wimber* were being flowered as quickly as 12 months. The hardest, most exciting part of breeding with a newly discovered species is that no one knows what it will do. Will it impart only bad traits or only good ones or a little of both; one could only speculate what you might achieve. Usually we expect to see a little of both, but how much bad or good will have a lot to do with what

you have bred it with.

Since this was a plant strictly under the control and supervision of the Peruvian government, the first round of hybrids were done in Peru. At the time, two Peruvian orchid nurseries were given the permits to collect, grow, hybridize and distribute kovachii and its hybrids. The first was Alfredo Manrique of Centro de Jardinera Manrique and the other Manolo Arias of Perufflora. I had the distinct pleasure of being able to work with Manrique on many of these first hybrids. The biggest problem we faced was simply that we were limited to what was available in Peru to breed with, which was a handful of species and a few *besseae* hybrids.

Looking at kovachii, the most important trait we wanted to see in our hybrids was size, although we were also interested in seeing some of the color come through as well. I was concerned that the color could dominate. Some of the other traits to consider were plant and spike habit, flower shape, and longevity. The majority of the traits are positive ones with the exception of the shape. Unfortunately, kovachii has a very large flower which, as it matures,

has a tendency to reflex. After considering all of this, it was my belief that the only way to help flatten out the petals of its hybrids was the use of *Phragmipedium besseae* or many of the *besseae* hybrids, and from what I have seen so far, that still stands true.

Size and Shape

Flowers can range in size from 4" (10.2 cm) to 7-7/8" (20 cm) natural spread. However, this is based on plants that are still relatively immature and one could expect to see even larger flowers on more mature and stronger plants. If you use *Phragmipedium besseae* or a *besseae* hybrid as the other parent, it can definitely help flatten out those petals. Otherwise, in most hybrids without the influence of *besseae*, you would expect less shapely flowers, but that does not mean that they will be any less beautiful – just not as flat. However, even with the *besseae* influence, it does not guarantee that they will be flat. Although *kovachii* only produces one or two flowers, with an occasional three, some of the hybrids, on their first blooming, have produced up to five flowers and I would expect the number to increase as plants become more mature. Finally, *kovachii* seems to add longevity to its blooms, lasting upwards of three to four weeks per flowering on stronger first blooming plants.

Color

Even though *kovachii* exhibits very strong color, *Phragmipedium besseae* and *schlimii* as well as their hybrids will still dominate with their own color. I consider this, for the most part, a good trait since I was worried about the color of *kovachii* might dominate its hybrids. Unfortunately, the downside is

that I have yet to see any of the hybrids come through with that intense coloration of the pouch that makes *kovachii* so beautiful. In many cases, I look at the hybrids and if I didn't know any better, I would have assumed that they were *besseae* hybrids. However, the difference (this is something you can't tell by looking at a photo) is the larger size, giving you what looks like a *besseae* hybrid on steroids.

Plant and Inflorescence

My initial impression of *kovachii* in its habitat was that this was going to be a large plant. I think our excitement was like talking about the fish that got away. In retrospect, the plant is really no larger than some of the other species we grow and, in some cases, even smaller growing than many plants of *Phragmipedium longifolium* or *P. sargentianum*. The best trait of all is that unlike *besseae*, *kovachii* has a clumping habit with a shorter, more rigid inflorescence, which for the most part is passed on to its hybrids from what we have seen so far. This is really important since this gives us the opportunity to create hybrids that produce larger flowers on shorter stems that are more proportional to the plant.

Presently, we are looking at 16 registered hybrids from 3/7/2007 through 2/27/2009, with plenty more hybrids waiting to bloom and to be registered. I have seen many examples of at least five of the following hybrids, and will be able to offer you a good idea of what to expect from those. The balance of the hybrids, I can only offer an opinion on what I have either seen in person, in a photograph or have been given information about.

Phragmipedium Haley Decker (*kovachii* x Saint Ouen)
3/7/2007 - Piping Rock Orchids/Alfredo Manrique



Phragmipedium
Haley Decker 'Pink Panther'
AM/AOS

Phragmipedium Haley Decker is the first of what I'm sure will be a long list of *kovachii* hybrids. Excited as I was to see the first of our efforts, I think I was even more excited to be able to register it after my daughter. *Phragmipedium* Saint Ouen is a second generation *besseae* hybrid (Hanne Popow x *besseae*), giving us *besseae* influence on both sides. I don't think I could have asked for much more. This is a relatively small, compact grower with flowers ranging in size from 4" (10.2 cm) to 5-1/4" (13.3 cm) in natural spread with a rosy-pink



Phragmipedium
Haley Decker
'Piping Rock'

©Glen F. Decker



Phragmipedium
Haley Decker

color. The color is relatively consistent for the hybrid although some exhibit richer tones. What does vary quite a bit is the shape and form. The shape of the smaller sized flowers is reminiscent in shape to what you would expect from *P. Hanne Popow* or *P. Saint Ouen*, but when we see larger flowers they seem to almost look like a smaller version of *kovachii*. Variation is good; it makes every plant exciting to watch bloom. Unfortunately, even though we have seen some really nice blooms, some can have extremely reflexing, rolled or ruffled petals, even with the influence of *besseae* in its background.

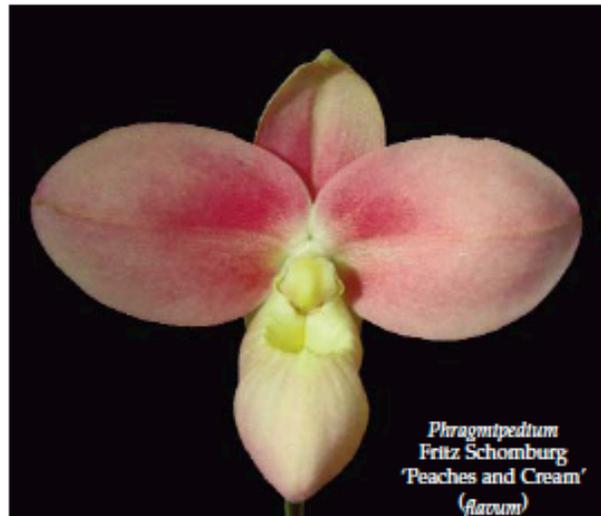
Phragmipedium Fritz Schomburg (*kovachii* x *besseae*)
 3/7/2007 - Piping Rock Orchids / Alfredo Manrique

Almost to the day that Haley flowered, *Phragmipedium* Fritz Schomburg was the next hybrid to bloom. Unfortunately, we only had one plant that flowered and was not a very good example. However, H.P. Norton of South Carolina, with his exceptional skills in growing *phragmipediums*, was very fortunate to have flowered several very good examples from flasks he obtained from Peruflora and has been kind enough to share with us. Here we see several examples of this hybrid made with the type form of *besseae* as well as the *flavum* form. At first glance, you would almost think you were looking at photos of *P. Hanne Popow*, however, when you see it in person, it's far from it. The size of the flowers for the type form breeding ranges from 3-1/2" (8.9 cm) to 4-3/4" (12.1 cm) natural spread. The color can be very variable, ranging from orange to red for the type, and pastel colors for the *flavum*. H.P. tells me that the darker the flower, the smaller the size. He also says that with the *flavum* type breeding, the size is about the same, but not as full shaped. The best qualities of the flower are the substance and velvet-like texture.



Phragmipedium
 Fritz Schomburg
 'Dark Knight'

©H.P. Norton



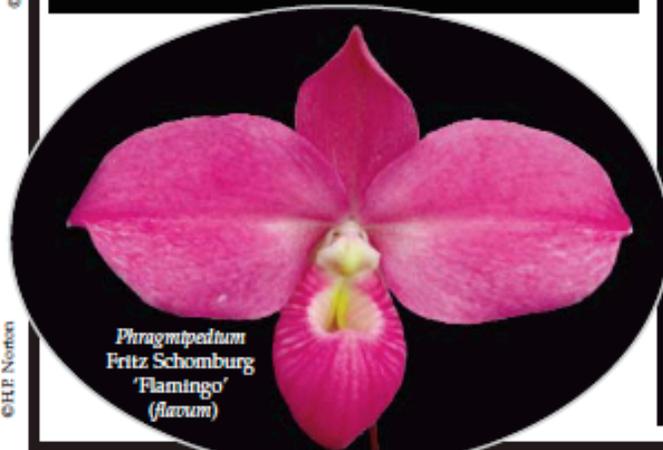
Phragmipedium
 Fritz Schomburg
 'Peaches and Cream'
 (*flavum*)

©H.P. Norton



Phragmipedium
 Fritz Schomburg

©Peruflora



Phragmipedium
 Fritz Schomburg
 'Flamingo'
 (*flavum*)

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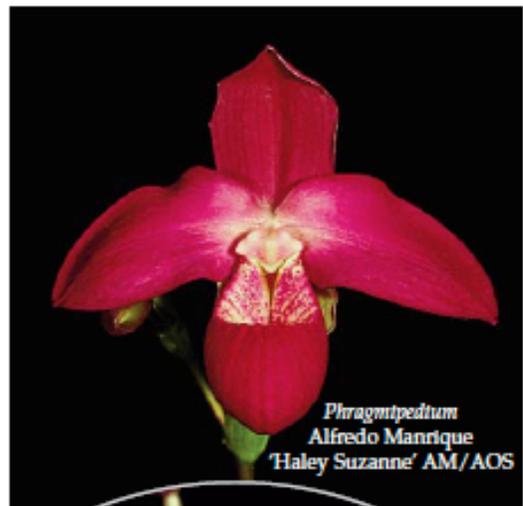
Phragmipedium
 Fritz Schomburg
 'New Year'

©H.P. Norton

Phragmipedium Alfredo Manrique
(*kovachii* x Walter Schomburg)

6/7/2007 - Piping Rock Orchids / Alfredo Manrique

Primary hybrids aside, to me *Phragmipedium* Alfredo Manrique is the most successful of the *kovachii* hybrids to date and I decided that this should be named after my partner. The flowers have a natural spread of 4-1/2" (11.4 cm) to 5-1/2" (14 cm), with a deep, crimson-red color. *P. Walter Schomburg* is a second generation *besseae* hybrid (Eric Young x Andean Fire). I think the combination of *kovachii* for size, *besseae* to flatten and broaden the petals and *lindleyanum* for deepening the color is a perfect combination for success giving us flowers that exhibit good color, shape, form and substance. We also have the influence of *P. longifolium* in the background of this hybrid which usually adds easy and vigorous growth to the plants. Unfortunately, not many of those traits have come through, and of all the hybrids I have grown, this one seems to be a bit slower grower similar to *P. Jason Fischer*.



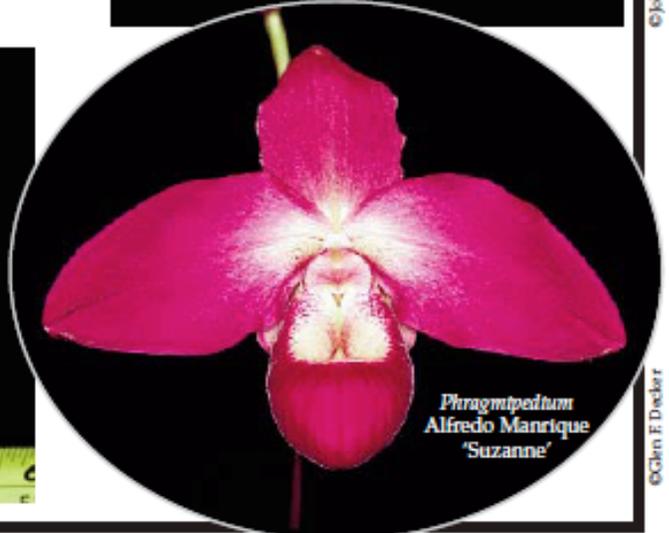
Phragmipedium
Alfredo Manrique
'Haley Suzanne' AM/AOS

©John Fortson



Phragmipedium
Alfredo
Manrique
'Piping Rock'
AM/AOS

©Glen F. Decker



Phragmipedium
Alfredo Manrique
'Suzanne'

©Glen F. Decker



Phragmipedium
Memoria Mariza Rolando

©Alfredo Manrique

Phragmipedium Memoria Mariza Rolando
(*kovachii* x Hanne Popow)

6/7/2007 - Piping Rock Orchids / Alfredo Manrique

Phragmipedium Memoria Mariza Rolando was named after the late wife of Dr. Isaias Rolando of Peru, who was responsible for giving me, Harold Koopowitz and the rest of our group the opportunity to visit the *kovachii*'s habitat. On a personal note, unfortunately Isaias is also no longer with us and will be missed by all in the orchid community. There is not much I can tell you about this hybrid. I have only seen two plants flower to date and both were very similar to that of *P. Haley Decker*. *Phragmipedium* Hanne Popow is a first generation *besseae* hybrid (*schlimii* x *besseae*). Expect to see pink flowers ranging in size from 3-1/2" (8.9 cm) to 4-3/4" (12.1 cm) in natural spread on relatively compact growing plants.