



**For Immediate Release:** April 14, 2015

**Contact:** Connie George | Director of Marketing and Communications  
412/638-6008 | [cgeorge@phipps.conservatory.org](mailto:cgeorge@phipps.conservatory.org)

**Phipps Display Horticulturist Wins Prestigious American Orchid Society Award**  
*Grower Georgia Wahl earns Certificate of Cultural Merit*

**Pittsburgh, Pa.** — [Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens](#) congratulates Display Horticulturist Georgia Wahl for obtaining a Certificate of Cultural Merit from the [American Orchid Society](#) (AOS) for a *Paphiopedilum gratrixianum* recently displayed at the annual [Orchid Society of Western Pennsylvania](#) (OSWP) Orchid Show at Phipps Garden Center in Pittsburgh in March. This prestigious award is given nationally to exhibitors of well-flowered specimen plants of robust health.

The prize-winning orchid, which features eight white, purple and chartreuse flowers on 47-centimeters-tall inflorescences on a 50-centimeter in diameter plant, is part of Phipps' renowned [Barbara Tisherman Slipper Orchid Collection](#), which Wahl has curated in collaboration with OSWP. One of the most definitive of its kind, the collection is accredited by the North American Plant Consortium.

"While it is common for ribbons to be given out at local shows it is rarer to get a national award from the American Orchid Society," says Wahl, who has been cultivating Phipps' orchids for 25 years. "It is a great honor and I wish to thank both AOS and my colleagues at Phipps and OSWP."

"The Certificate of Cultural Merit was one of six AOS awards given at the OSWP Orchid Show," says Barbara Tisherman, AOS judge and [Slipper Orchid Alliance](#) founder and president. "This award is a testimonial to the excellent culture of orchids at Phipps under Georgia's care."

As one of the few conservatories in the U.S. that still offer themed flower shows, Phipps is internationally known for extravagant floral displays found in nine out of 14 rooms that are transformed each season by resident horticulturists like Wahl. To learn more, visit [phipps.conservatory.org](http://phipps.conservatory.org).

**About Phipps:** Founded in 1893, Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens in Pittsburgh, Pa. is a green leader among public gardens with a mission to inspire and educate all with the beauty and importance of plants; to advance sustainability and promote human and environmental well-being through action and research; and to celebrate its historic glasshouse. Learn more: [phipps.conservatory.org](http://phipps.conservatory.org).

| [Twitter](#) | [Facebook](#) | [YouTube](#) |

###