

## Featured Orchid

**Paphiopedilum Frank Smith  
(Norito Hasegawa x rothschildianum)**



### **My First Bloom**

I purchased Paphiopedilum Frank Smith from Max and Bryon at the Southwestern College Greenhouse in April of 2012. It was a small plant at the time, but I remember Bryon saying that this cross is very rare and should make a beautiful flower. He was right.

I grew this Paph in my basement under a 200 watt high pressure sodium light fixture. It just wouldn't grow at first and then I discovered that my 200 watt bulb was several years old. Even though it looked bright, it was not giving off the amount of light that I needed. After changing the bulb, the Paph began growing quite well. As it became bigger, I moved it to the fringe of my 400 watt high pressure sodium light fixture. It seem to like it there and then one day in mid-December I saw a blossom forming. I was excited, but also fearful that something would happen to the blossom before it opened, such as accidentally getting water on the bud or not keeping the humidity high enough so the blossom wouldn't blight or afraid some other catastrophe might happen. I am really enjoying the blossom, especially the chocolate stripes of the petals along with the yellow coloring of the pouch.

I am looking forward to the next blooms and perhaps there will be more than one flower.

**Kathy Ethridge**