

Orchid

Society of Great Britain

Journal



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The Orchid Society of Great Britain

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Editor's notes



Many thanks and congratulations to Nicola Wakley and Sue Lane of the Devon Orchid Society for a very successful orchid weekend at Dawlish Warren last October. The RHS Orchid Committee's session

on how and why they award plants was particularly interesting for all those who attended.

The 20th World Orchid Conference in Singapore last November was well attended by orchid enthusiasts from around the world and offered truly wonderful exhibits to marvel at. See Letter from the President for some of the highlights. Also in this issue are articles by our previous Editor, Dr Eileen Watson, and OSGB Committee Member, Francis Quesada-Pallares.

More than 90 OSGB members attended the December meeting and enjoyed a Christmas lunch organised by Betty Barber, Roy White and the Committee; the photographic and art competition; and a quiz devised by Derek Belcher. Many thanks to all involved for a most successful meeting (see centre pages).

Our new website was launched in January 2012 and can be found at www.osgb.org.uk

The Society is grateful for the colour fund donations made along with membership renewals this year, which help with the costs of producing our full-colour *Journal*.

Please note the change of date for the July meeting at Napier Hall which will be on the 2nd Saturday in the month, **Saturday 14 July**, because of the Peterborough Show on the first weekend in July.

Best wishes to all our members for successful orchid growing in 2012.

The copy deadline for the next issue is **10 March 2012**.

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Photos by Henry Oakeley unless otherwise stated

Front Cover: *Coelogyne speciosa* subsp. *incarnata*, a species from Sumatra to Java, shown by Colin Carter at Napier Hall in October 2011

Back Cover: A colourful exhibit by Orchidwoods Nursery of Sarawak at the Singapore WOC in November 2011



Bulbophyllum nocturnum (Photo by Andre Schuiteman)

Night-flowering orchid discovered

An orchid that blooms exclusively at night has been discovered on New Britain, an island near Papua New Guinea.

Bulbophyllum nocturnum was discovered by Ed de Vogel, a Dutch botanist during a field trip into lowland forest. The findings have recently been published in the *Botanical Journal of the Linnean Society* by him and his co-author, Andre Schuiteman, an orchid expert at RBG Kew.

The flowers of *Bulbophyllum nocturnum* open after dusk and wither before sunrise but this was only discovered once the plant was being studied in the Netherlands. *Bulbophyllum* is the largest genus in the orchid family with over 1,800 extraordinary species distributed throughout a wide range

of habitats around the tropical and subtropical world.

Correction to *Journal* Volume 60 No 4

My sincere apologies for an error which possibly only added to the confusion over the new nomenclature. I hope all will now become crystal clear!

Page 265, column 2, paragraph 1, lines 2-6. This should have read '... the plant previously known as *Vuykstekeara Cambria* would now be written in the *Journal* as ***Oncidopsis*** (previously *Vuykstekeara*) *Cambria*.' (Not ***Miltoniopsis*** as printed).

New judging schedule for 2012

A new judging schedule will be used for all future monthly Table Shows, Spring and Autumn Shows. See page 64 for details.

New OSGB Website – www.osgb.org.uk

Our new website was launched in January 2012 and has been designed by Marcel Kral of Smallfish Designs who has been designing the *Journal* for many years. The website was previously created and managed on a voluntary basis by Ian Parsons, who was recently elected Chairman of the British Orchid Council. The Society is extremely grateful to Ian for all his diligence in checking and maintaining the site since 2006 and is delighted to offer him life membership in thanks for all his work over the years.

It is hoped that the new website can be run in conjunction with the *Journal* and provide a

useful tool for members to find up to date information about news and events. Features include: a Forthcoming Events page listing news and information about upcoming events and an online calendar listing all the dates from the *Journal's* Show Diary; a News page which will be updated with stories from the world of orchids; and a changing selection of Henry Oakeley's beautiful orchid photographs.

Please note the new website address. I shall be managing the website in future and would appreciate hearing your thoughts about it. All comments to Sam Hurley, tel: 07900 250247, e-mail: sam@ballyhurley.com

OSGB trips to Budapest and Northern Cyprus

Sadly, the proposed trips to Budapest and Northern Cyprus (advertised in the last issue of the *Journal*) are unable to proceed due to a lack of interested members. Both trips have been cancelled but the Society hopes to arrange other trips in the future.

25th British Orchid Congress at Writhlington School

Registration for the 25th BOC at Writhlington School in Somerset, 26–28 October, is now open. Events will include a two-day orchid show; preview evening and registrants' buffet; programme of lectures; one-day scientific symposium; tours of the school orchid houses; workshops on orchid micropropagation; trade sales and society displays.

Early registration (before 30 May): £25.00 (single) and £35.00 (joint) – includes entrance to all events except the congress dinner.
Congress dinner: £25.00 per person
Science symposium and Saturday show only: £10.00
One day show entry (Saturday or Sunday): £5.00
Preview evening (Friday 6–10pm): £12.00

For more information and to register online please visit: www.wsbeorchids.org.uk/boc
Postal enquiries to: Simon Pugh-Jones, BOC 25, Writhlington School, Radstock, BA3 3NQ.

New books for the OSGB Library

A number of new books have been added to the OSGB Library. Please see page 65 for details of the new titles available, or look at the full Library list online.



Writhlington School's exhibit at the London Orchid Show 2011

Letter from the President

Henry Oakeley

Japanese orchid growing tips

Readers of this column will remember the champion orchids of Dr Masahiro Saitoh, President of the All Japan Orchid Society, who has won the Tokyo Dome Show Grand Champion plant on more than one occasion – a *Eulophiella roempleriana* nearly three metres tall (2008) and a *Cattleya trianae* 'Ocado' with 250 flowers (reserve Grand Champion 2008) followed by a *Lycaste* Shoalhaven with ten flowers 13cm across (2009).

I called in to see him to find out how he does it. His greenhouse is not huge and it is not overcrowded, but his plants look wonderful – and many are huge. Having a limited collection – so one has time to look after all

of them seems one secret. The other is the time spent. He spends an hour or so in the greenhouse before he goes to work in the morning at a medical clinic, comes back for a couple of hours work at lunchtime and after the afternoon clinic spends another four hours with the orchids before going home (half an hour away) to supper at 10pm at night. That is secret number two. The final secret is that he really does look at his orchids.

Example one: Cattleyas enjoy sunlight and as the sun in Japan is low in the sky through the autumn to the spring (just like here – same latitude) he hangs them so the pot is tilted and all the long pseudobulbs face the direction of the sun. All the leaves then get maximum and equal light.



Mariko Sakashita with Dr Saitoh's giant *Cattleya*



Cattleya grown to face the sun



Vanda Miss Joaquim has flowers only at its top



Vanda Miss Joaquim growing in the Singapore Botanic Gardens



Papilionanthe (previously *Vanda*) *teres* showing new vertical growth from node on horizontal stem



Dr Masahiro Saitoh with his *Papilionanthe* (previously *Vanda*) *teres* wound round a framework

Example two: *Vanda* Miss Joaquim and other sun-loving orchids in this genus are tall plants with narrow, stick-like (terete) leaves. The plants grow vertically for two metres with roots and leaves coming off all the way up the stem and then produce flowers on the top. Not an easy plant to show at its best.

Dr Saitoh noticed that if he laid the stems of *Papilionanthe* (previously *Vanda*) *teres* flat on the bench, then the nodes along the stem produced branches which grew upwards and flowered – so he had several flower spikes from what was originally one stem. He wound the long stems horizontally around a spherical framework and then, as the branches appeared growing vertically, he wound these horizontally around the framework and ended up with a sphere completely covered in *Papilionanthe* (previously *Vanda*) *teres* stems and a mass of flowers.



Papilionanthe (previously *Vanda*) *teres* forma *alba* 'Oyamazaki' with flowers all around the framework (Photo by Masahiro Saitoh)

Example three: He became disenchanted with the hugely long, single stems of *Laelia anceps* so pinched out the top when the flower spike first appeared, much as one does when one is growing garden bedding annuals, like *Cosmos* – result, the plant then produced three shorter flower spikes per bulb.



Dark purple *Dendrobium victoriae-reginae*

Example four: He is aiming to grow another champion *Lycaste*. *Lycaste skinneri* hybrids like to grow cool. Japan in the summer can be 45°C in the day and 35°C at night for weeks on end so Dr Saitoh has built an air-conditioned bubble-plastic 'box' which keeps this plant at 22°C in the day and 18°C at night. At the end of the summer when I saw it, it had a lead pseudobulb the size of an apple, and I see no reason why it will not have flowers to match next February – for the Tokyo Dome Show.

He is not afraid of sun, and many of his orchids were still out of doors without shade in October and the leaves of his purple-flowered *Dendrobium victoriae-reginae* were heavily, and attractively, pigmented with red as a result.

Memo: Spend lots of time with your orchids.... learn how to grow them from experts.

Earthquakes

I visited Tsukuba Botanic Garden with its mammoth greenhouses and huge *Dendrobium* species collection curated by Dr Yukawa. This had been hit by the earthquake that triggered the tsunami in March 2011. The steel girders had buckled and were being replaced, curiously most of the glass was intact. The plants were fine, if a bit shaken but lots of labels landed on the floor. In the Great Kanto Earthquake of 1923, which killed 100,000 people around Tokyo, Commander Prince Tadashige Shimadzu, a member of the RHS Orchid Committee, was reported killed. However, on reading about his death he wrote to *The Orchid Review* noting 'Mercifully I did not suffer. All my orchids are safe except just two or three. The orchid houses are far stronger than an ordinary house. But ... almost all of the labels have jumped out of



Heavily pigmented leaves of *Dendrobium victoriae-reginae* grown in full sun

the pots by the shock, and I cannot make out which were their original positions' (*The Orchid Review* (1923) 31(321): 353). Memo to Japanese orchid growers: fix labels in pot, securely.

My main aim in visiting Japan was to meet with the *Lycaste* club – a hospitable group to whom I gave a lecture in English and then listened to two hours of lectures in Japanese. We were at a holiday centre with wooden chalets around a lake, and a central facilities area. I experienced my first visit to a Japanese bath house – one sits on a wooden stool and soaps and showers and then leaps into a shallow, hot, pool for a soak (along with all the other naked men and children); bit of a cultural shock for this shy European.

Lycastes are out of season but Abou Orchids with their huge fans and cool (higher altitude) conditions grow nothing else – mostly for the pot plant market.



Tens of thousands of *Lycaste skinneri* hybrids being grown as pot plants at Abou Orchids



Scaffolding in the Tsukuba Botanic Garden greenhouse while repairing earthquake damage



Dr Yukawa in the Tsukuba Botanic Garden greenhouse damaged by the March 2011 earthquake



The greenhouses, Gardens by the Bay



Inside the smaller greenhouse, Gardens by the Bay

The World Orchid Conference

There will be few World Orchid Conferences to rival the 2011 WOC in Singapore. In particular, the organisation and the hospitality shown to the registrants excelled anything previously experienced. There was a magnificent show, dominated by orchids from the region; a conference to suit every level of interest, and the registrants had complimentary breakfasts, lunches and continuous refreshments as well as the Gala dinner and preview. The new Gardens by the Bay, including a 0.8 hectare cool greenhouse, were opened just for the week, seven months ahead of schedule, and one saw the stunning vision of the 'green' Singapore being built to make a truly futuristic future. I am sure they will be a tourist magnet, greater than the Singapore Botanic Gardens. One of the Seven Wonders of the new world, they are being built at a cost of £500 million



Exotic display inside the smaller greenhouse, Gardens by the Bay



Orchid display within the Gardens by the Bay



Exhibit by Thailand featuring an elegant mannequin



Exhibit by Papua New Guinea

pounds sterling on land recovered from the sea. In years to come I predict that, just as height has come to be measured in double-decker buses, and area by football fields, costs will be measured in 'Gardens by the Bay' units.

The show was in a huge conference hall in the Marina Bay Expo and Convention Centre. The Eric Young Orchid Foundation (EYOF) from Jersey and McBean's Orchids from Sussex were there, the latter with giant tree trunks provided by the Singapore Botanic Gardens, with plants from their collection.

They were a credit to the UK (why no North American exhibits, one wonders). (*Ed: Both were successful in the trophy stakes, the EYOF winning five and McBean's winning two.*)

There were other excellent 'props' and Papua New Guinea's masks decorated with orchids helped gain them the 'runner-up' position, and the elegant shop-window mannequin from Thailand.

Dendrobium and *Vanda*, along with *Mokara*, *Ascocenda*, and *Renanthera*, were much in evidence as one would expect.



McBean's Orchids display



The Eric Young Orchid Foundation display



Exhibits at the World Orchid Conference



Exhibits at the World Orchid Conference



Malaysian species display



Small wild cat in among the Malaysian species

But there was one fascinating display in a naturalistic setting, with species and stuffed animals from Malaysia's diminishing forests (and fauna).

As always, there were some jewels to be seen in the individual plants and the pink and yellow forms of *Habenaria rhodocheila* attracted me, as did three colour forms of the internationally invasive *Arundina graminifolia*.

There was even a plant of *Ascocenda* Henry Oakeley, whose dull brown flower looks rather better in a photograph than in life (see page 21).

More details can still be seen on the WOC website: www.zowoc.com.sg/



Two colour forms of *Habenaria rhodocheila*



Three colour forms of *Arundina graminifolia*



The long spur of *Angraecum sesquipedale*



The saprophytic *Neottia nidus-avis* which thrives without chlorophyll, in dark forest floors

How orchids evolve

A student in Madrid asked me about orchid evolution, in particular about why *Angraecum sesquipedale* developed a nectar-containing spur 35–40cm long, and how the Bird's-nest Orchid, *Neottia nidus-avis*, became a saprophyte (*Ed*: deriving nourishment from dead or decaying matter). The belief regarding the former is that originally moths had moderately long proboscises so were able to hover and suck out the nectar without touching the pollinia. Plants which developed longer spurs had a better chance of being pollinated as the moth then had to press up against the flower (and therefore the pollinia) in order for its proboscis to reach the bottom of the spur. Moths which developed a longer proboscis were better able to reach the nectar, and the evolutionary pressure on both moth and orchid made for an

increasingly long proboscis. This led to *Xanthopan morgani*, the West African hawk moth with a 35cm proboscis whose existence as the pollinator had been predicted by Darwin 41 years before it was found. Incidentally, *sesquipedale* is Latin for 'one and a half feet' (18 inches), the imperial equivalent to 45 cm, although the spur is never that long.

All orchids have a saprophytic stage in which they have no chlorophyll so need a fungal mycorrhiza to digest organic matter and convert it into sugars for the plant to use. Normally this is only necessary in the germinating seedling, and adult orchids can usually manage without this symbiosis because they develop cells, containing chlorophyll, which use light energy to make sugars. Plants that continued in a saprophytic stage, dependant on mycorrhiza, were able to grow and thrive in the absence

of much light on dark forest floors where there was little plant competition. *Neottia nidus-avis* has gone down this evolutionary route, while the twayblade, *Neottia (Listera) ovata*, in the same genus, has remained on the forest margins as a green-leaved plant producing chlorophyll. There are genera which contain predominantly photosynthesizing orchids with a few saprophytic ones (eg *Neottia*, *Cephalanthera*, *Cymbidium*, *Eulophia*) and some photosynthesizing orchids have a prolonged, chlorophyll-free, saprophytic stage (eg *Eulophia*, *Govenia*, *Oeceoclades* and *Catasetum*) before sending up shoots, leaves and flowers. Growing in the dark means fewer pollinators and *Neottia nidus-avis* has become self-pollinating and, without the need to attract pollinators, has dull uncomplicated flowers.

Chelsea Flower Show 2012

At the end of May 2012, the OSGB is setting up its 53rd exhibit at the Chelsea Flower Show, so if you have design skills, are good at manual labour especially carpentry and electrics, and can come to Chelsea on the build-up days May 17–20 to help, please get in touch with me. If you would like to help collect plants from other members during the build-up or help look after the stand during the show, please contact Val Pugh. Above all, please get your plants ready for display – if every member produced one show-ready plant we would be in orchid heaven (so let Val Pugh know what you can offer during May).

The exhibit this year will include orchids from all the major continents, exhibited in a naturalistic setting of mountain, woodland and meadow, displaying orchids which grow on trees, on rocks and on the ground. Visitors

can expect to see *Cypripedium* from North America and China; *Anguloa*, *Cattleya*, *Epidendrum*, *Phragmipedium* and *Oncidium* from South America; *Phalaenopsis* from tropical Asia; *Cymbidium*, *Dendrobium* and *Paphiopedilum* from northern India and temperate Asia; *Disa* and *Angraecum* from Africa; and terrestrial orchids from Europe and Australia as well as many lesser known orchids.

Man-made hybrids and natural species will be shown to illustrate the diversity of orchids which can be grown in greenhouses, windowsills and gardens.

2012 – Happy New Year

At the risk of tempting fate, half way through January, I note that the weather has been warm, the greenhouse bills not as horrendous as for the winter of 2010–2011, and we have had sunshine. With all best wishes to everyone for a very Happy New Year; may all your orchids flourish.



Ascocenda Henry Oakeley appears better in a photograph

20th World Orchid Conference stamp issue

Chris Barker



Renanthera 20th WOC Singapore 2011

Singapore Post has released a new set of beautifully illustrated orchid stamps to commemorate the World Orchid Conference (WOC) in Singapore. There are five individual stamps plus a sixth stamp contained in a collectors' sheet.

The orchids illustrated on the stamps are –

***Renanthera* 20th WOC Singapore 2011:** This was the official flower of the WOC and has been described as free-flowering, with long-lasting blooms, compact in size and easy to grow. The red flowers are associated with prosperity, wealth and success.

Grammatophyllum speciosum: This is the world's largest orchid species and is often referred to as the Tiger Orchid because the markings on the flower resemble the stripes on a tiger.

Dendrobium World Peace: This hybrid commemorates the 50th anniversary of the United Nations. The flowers are about 7cm across with white or cream petals and sepals that have light purple veins.

***Cyrtocidium Goldiana* (formerly *Oncidium Goldiana*):** The flower spikes of this oncidium are very popular as cut flowers and it is often referred to as 'Dancing Ladies'. I suspect that the taxonomists have overtaken the release of this stamp and it can now be found as *Oncidesa Goldiana* (*Gomesa flexuosa* x *Oncidium sphacelatum*) on the RHS International Orchid Hybrid Register.

Vanda Miss Joaquim: This *Vanda* was named after Agnes Joaquim in 1893 and was the first *Vanda* hybrid to be registered. In 1981 *Vanda Miss Joaquim* was selected to be the national flower of Singapore.

The sixth stamp in the collection is found in the centre of the collectors' sheet which depicts a basket full of the five orchids listed above.

The stamps make a delightful souvenir of the 20th WOC in Singapore and can be purchased online at <http://shop.vpost.com.sg>. Stamps do not require any watering or feeding and you will find them very difficult to kill.



Grammatophyllum speciosum



Dendrobium World Peace



Cyrtocidium Goldiana



Vanda Miss Joaquim



Elusive wild orchids in Vietnam

Francis J Quesada-Pallares (Photos by Francis J Quesada-Pallares)

I was absolutely delighted with the idea of spending the last two weeks of August 2011 in North Vietnam, with two of my friends, travelling and getting to know such a beautiful country.

Vietnam is extremely rich in orchids, with new species being discovered and described on a regular basis. I was excited to have a three-day trek through the mountains of the Sapa region included in my visit, spending two nights in small villages, living with the locals, enjoying their wonderful food and the magnificent views of endless rice paddies in the small forest clearings.

Unfortunately, I did not spot a single orchid growing in the wild, despite the route taking our small party along roads and paths that were completely surrounded by heavy woodland and bamboo forests. I was a little disheartened by the fact that even my local guide did not seem to know what I was talking about when I asked him about orchids.

We arrived at the little village where we were to spend our first night, absolutely drenched by heavy rain. As we walked along the one and only road that crossed the village, I spotted a colourful flower growing in the front garden of one of the houses. I took a closer look and it was without a doubt an orchid, yet one unknown to me. Growing terrestrially, with an elongated pseudobulb and a flower spike growing from a leaf node halfway up, it was unlike any orchid I had seen before. (*Ed.* Identified by RBG Kew as *Phaius wenshanensis*, previously known only from Yunnan province, China.) It was then that our guide, Hoan, exclaimed 'Ah, Hoa

Lan!' – Vietnamese for orchid. 'Yes, tomorrow we can visit a garden full of Hoa Lan.'

The following day, as we walked back to Sapa, we saw a few houses with many orchids hanging in their gardens, and Hoan asked the home owners if they would allow us to have a look at their orchids, which they all agreed to quite happily.

Amongst the orchids I saw in flower were some excellent specimens of *Dendrobium devonianum*, *Ornithochilus difformis* var. *difformis*, *Coelogyne nitida* (previously *Coelogyne ochracea*), *Paphiopedilum gratixianum*, *Cleisostoma* species and a most weird and wonderful *Epigeneium clemensiae*.



Phaius wenshanensis growing in a small garden in a village in the Sapa region of Vietnam



Dendrobium devonianum



Ornithochilus difformis var. *difformis*



Epigeneium clemensiae



Coelogyne nitida (previously *Coelogyne ochracea*)



Paphiopedilum gratrixianum

All of these plants had been wild collected, and then grown in the hope of selling them to local hotels, who would then mount them onto trees outside their main doors. I saw this in many of the hotels and found beautiful examples of *Dendrobium brymerianum* and *Coelogyne schultesii*.

Although not exactly growing in the wild, I was absolutely delighted to be able to see some of the native orchids in flower, and the country's friendly people, beautiful landscapes and amazing flora and fauna made for a very enjoyable break from the hustle and bustle of London.

I would like to thank Andre Schuiteman of RBG Kew for identifying *Phaius wenshanensis*, and Kenneth Bruyninckx and Geoff Hands for their invaluable help in identifying some of the other orchid species, as well as the pictures by Jay Pfahl on his website www.orchidspecies.com



Dendrobium brymerianum used to decorate the entrance of a local hotel in Vietnam

Orchids are taken from the wild and nurtured in village gardens in the hope of selling them to local hotels



British native orchids

Sam Hurley

During May and June 2011 I joined several visits to nature reserves to see British native orchids. These were organised by various people, including Iona Macphie, former OSGB Programme Secretary; Jean Stowe, News Editor of *The Orchid Review*; and Malcolm Brownsword, Field Trip Co-ordinator of the Hardy Orchid Society (HOS).

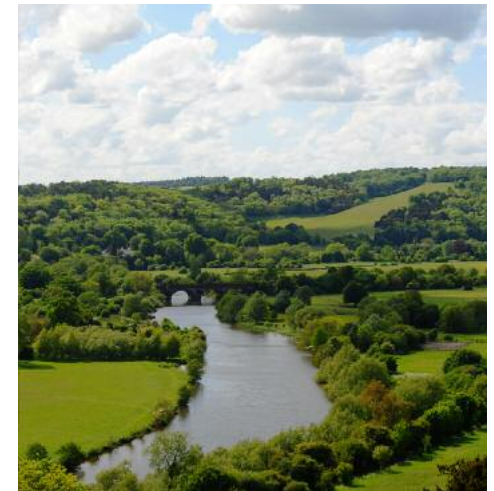
Whilst foreign travel to exotic events and locations, such as the WOC in Singapore last November, is a wonderful thing, most of us don't need to travel very far to experience the joy of seeing orchids in our beautiful countryside. I greatly enjoyed seeing many British orchids for the first time, understanding more about the intricacies of each reserve's ecology, and sharing my day with fellow enthusiasts from whom I learned a great deal.

Malcolm Brownsword led a visit to two reserves in the Chilterns. We visited woods that were home to *Cephalanthera damasonium* (White Helleborine) and *Neottia nidus-avis* (Bird's-nest Orchid), and fields where we found *Orchis militaris* (Military Orchid) and *Ophrys insectifera* (Fly Orchid). Overlooking the meandering River Thames, we climbed hills covered with *Orchis (simia x purpurea)* fondly called the 'Lonkey Orchid', a natural hybrid of *Orchis simia* (Monkey Orchid) and *Orchis purpurea* (Lady Orchid). Also nearby were small numbers of *Neottia* (previously *Listera*) *ovata* (Common Twayblade).

Nigel Johnson, also of the Hardy Orchid Society, escorted a group to two sites in Hampshire where we found large colonies of both *C. longifolia* (Sword-leaved Helleborine) and *N. nidus-avis* in the beech woods. After



Orchis militaris being visited by an ichneumon wasp (Photo by Malcolm Brownsword)



A view of the River Thames from the Hartslock Nature Reserve (Photo by Sam Hurley)

enjoying our picnic lunches at his house, he kindly showed us the native orchids growing in his garden.

Iona Macphie arranged a visit to Dawcombe Reserve led by Simon Humphries of Surrey Wildlife trust. On an increasingly wet day we were able to see, but struggled to photograph, *Dactylorhiza fuchsii* (Common Spotted Orchid), *Gymnadenia conopsea*

Ophrys insectifera (Fly Orchid) giving a perfect imitation of its namesake (Photo by Malcolm Brownsword)



Neottia nidus-avis amongst beech woods in Hampshire
(Photo by Sam Hurley)

(Fragrant Orchid), *Ophrys apifera* (Bee Orchid) and more *N. ovata*. See page 54 for Robert Simmons's winning entries in the photographic competition, both photographed at Dawcombe Reserve.

Jean Stowe conducted a tour of two sites in Cambridgeshire during the Peterborough Show weekend. We saw large numbers of *Anacamptis pyramidalis* (Pyramidal Orchid) and *Ophrys apifera* swaying wildly in a windswept field at the first site (another photographic challenge) and at the second, vast numbers of *Dactylorhiza fuchsii*, along with a few *Dactylorhiza incarnata* (Early Marsh Orchid). I felt like a child at Christmas, spoilt for choice, hopping from one plant to another not knowing which to photograph next.



A lone *Dactylorhiza fuchsii* amongst a group of *Gymnadenia conopsea* at Dawcombe Reserve, Surrey (Photo by Robert Simmons)

The HOS will be arranging more visits this year although these are only for paid-up members of their society – consider joining if you have an interest in seeing native British orchids in the wild. A new society, the Coastal Gardening Society, is arranging a visit to Samphire Hoe (made from the material dug out to create the Channel Tunnel), near Dover, on Saturday 5 May. Visitors should be able to see large numbers of *Ophrys sphegodes* (Early Spider Orchid), *Dactylorhiza* and *Anacamptis*. *Dactylorhiza praetermissa* (Southern Marsh Orchid) have also been recorded at the site by rangers of The White Cliffs Countryside Partnership.

Contact one of our Affiliated Societies around the country, or your local orchid society, to see if they are arranging native orchid walks near you. The cost of the visits is

usually just a modest donation to the reserve. I would encourage members to take advantage of such organised visits in the coming months when there is much to see and learn on our doorstep.

The Hardy Orchid Society, Single annual subscription £12.00 (+ enrolment fee £2.50), website: www.hardyorchidsociety.org.uk

Coastal Gardening Society, contact: Fay Hanrahan Russell, e-mail: enquiries@coastalgardeningsociety.org.uk website: www.coastalgardeningsociety.org.uk (site under development).

For details of OSGB Affiliated Societies, see page 32 of the *Annual Supplement* or visit the website: www.osgb.org.uk



Anacamptis pyramidalis and *Ophrys apifera* at Swaddwell Pitt, Cambridgeshire (Photo by Sam Hurley)



Ophrys sphegodes growing at Samphire Hoe near Dover (Photo by Paul Holt/WCCP)

Phalaenopsis for a windowsill: choosing it and caring for it

Eileen Watson

The most popular pot plant is now the *Phalaenopsis*. One sees it for sale in garden centres, florists, supermarkets and local table sales for charities. Most of these plants may only be labelled 'Orchid' or at best 'Phalaenopsis Orchid' (to purchase a good, named variety of *Phalaenopsis* the customer needs to buy from a dedicated orchid nursery). However, many people are being introduced to orchid growing on their windowsill by buying one of the anonymous, mass-produced *Phalaenopsis* hybrids. I have lost count of the times I have been consulted by neighbours

and friends about how to grow these plants. The conversation usually starts 'I've got this orchid, what do I do with it?', so the following is an attempt to list advice which may be given to the novice *Phalaenopsis* grower.

How to select the plant

The conditions under which it is displayed should be noted. The plant will be affected if it is kept too cold (market stall in winter), or too hot (supermarket), or is standing by opening doors in a draught of cold air. Avoid plants which have been stored at the shop for days if



Julie Henson's 10 year old *Phalaenopsis* flowering well (Photo by Julie Henson)



Petrol station *Phalaenopsis* (bottom row) for sale in temperatures around 2°C – not a good investment (Photo by Sam Hurley)

possible. The plant should be inspected closely noting the following points.

The roots

As *Phalaenopsis* grow naturally on trees with their roots stretched out in the moss along the branches or dangling in warm, moist air, so 'in captivity' the roots need to have moist air circulating around them. Being planted in a pot is totally artificial but we must do our best to imitate the natural conditions. The plant should be planted in special orchid compost which is usually either *Sphagnum* moss or a bark mixture - both with some perlite added to keep the air spaces open. It is not advisable to choose an orchid planted in sand in a fancy glass vase. It may look lovely for a while, but air will not circulate and water cannot drain away and the roots will quickly go rotten.

Although not essential, it may be preferable to select a plant which is in a transparent plastic



Clear pots allow the roots to be seen – these healthy, green roots are growing in a mixture of bark and *Sphagnum* moss (Photo by Sam Hurley)

pot. At least one can see if the plant has got roots! Good, growing roots will have green absorbent tips, not yet covered by the grey velamen surrounding the upper, older part of the root. One or two roots may even be outside of the pot. This is not detrimental to the growth of the plant, in fact some of my windowsill *Phalaenopsis* grow and flower well with nearly all their roots outside the pot - but this is not liked by judges. Dead roots appear thread-like, brown and squasy.

The leaves

Firstly: note whether the plant has leaves. I have seen a plant for sale in a garden centre which had a lovely flower spike – but no leaves. Leaves will drop off if the plant is allowed to remain in a cold environment (down to say 5°C) for too long. With a great deal of loving care, the leaves may eventually grow again, but is it worth this effort?

Secondly: note the appearance of the leaves. Are they blotchy with different shades of green? This means the plant has been standing in uneven light, causing the chlorophyll to develop unevenly.

Thirdly: are the leaves a good bright-green colour and turgid – or are they floppy? Water is stored in the leaves of *Phalaenopsis*, and floppy leaves indicate that there has been a problem with water absorption due to inactive roots, or maybe no roots at all. Very dull leaves mean that the plant has been stored in a dark area. Conversely yellow to red leaves mean too much light – and there may even be scorch marks on the leaves from excess sunshine.

Lastly: are the leaves sticky, particularly underneath at the tip? This indicates an infection by insects – maybe scale insects (look for tiny scales like miniature molluscs), or the furry blobs of mealy bug, or the movement of tiny red spider mites. Either way do not

purchase from that source as other plants are likely to be infected. If the plant has already been purchased, these insects can be removed by wiping the leaves with cotton wool dampened with 50% methylated spirits/50% water, but further outbreaks may occur. Insecticides such as Provado can be tried (see *OSGBJ* (2011) 60(3): 222–224 where the problem of eradicating pests is discussed in detail).

The flowers

Phalaenopsis flower sequentially up the stem, thus if all the flowers are open it is an old spike and the flowers will soon start fading from the bottom of the stem. The early flowers may even have dropped off as can be seen by a notch remaining where the flower was attached to the stem.

Check: have the buds at the top of the spike dried out or dropped off? This would indicate that the plant has been stored in too dry an atmosphere or a draught.



Bright-green, shiny leaves are a sign that this *Phalaenopsis* is growing well – each new leaf should grow longer than the previous one



New flower buds develop at the top of the spike and flower sequentially along the stem (Photo by Eileen Watson)

Check: do the flowers show insect infestation as discussed for the leaves. Do not purchase.

The plant

If it is a first attempt to grow an orchid, do not be tempted to purchase one from the 'reduced plants' section in a nursery. The plant has been discarded for a very good reason and the purchaser may be very disappointed if the plant only struggles along, and may be disillusioned and discouraged from further attempts at growing orchids.

So, having purchased a plant with healthy roots, a nice well-supported, long flower spike (or two) with only half the (large) flowers open, and clean turgid leaves, how should it be looked after?

Cultivation

Most descriptions of *Phalaenopsis* cultivation refer to greenhouse conditions (see Henry Oakeley's article in *OSGBJ* (2011) 60(4): 261).

Few people nowadays can afford to maintain their greenhouses at 26–28°C and even in centrally heated houses there have to be compromises. Nevertheless, modern *Phalaenopsis* hybrids which are bred specifically to be grown in the house will tolerate lower temperatures (but *Phalaenopsis* species, which may only be purchased from specialist orchid nurseries, need to be pampered and grown in a warm greenhouse).

I have grown *Phalaenopsis* hybrids quite successfully on windowsills for several years. These I have bought at local charity table sales. They are donated by a local commercial nursery growing (on) thousands of pot-plant *Phalaenopsis*. My plants are grown away from draughts on the sill of a south-facing double-glazed window, but on sunny days I pull the blind down to shield them from fierce sun rays. The central heating is switched off at night, but when I am expecting a very cold night, I lower the blind to shield the plants



Healthy buds at the end of the flower spike are a promise flowers yet to bloom



Brian Bett's *Phalaenopsis* thrive in their bright position (Photo by Brian Betts)

from the cool down-draught from the window. It may also be desirable to move the plants more into the room but not near a radiator. The temperature that my plants grow at is usually 15–22°C.

The plant pots are inserted into larger (more decorative) pots and are stood on pebbles so that water can be added to the larger pot to provide some local humidity without saturating the compost. I water with rain water every week and add fertiliser at 800µS (microsiemens) every 3–4 waterings. Most roots hang outside the pots and show green, active tips without me having to spray them. The spikes need support but the plants are rarely repotted. However, they continue to flower regularly – in fact are rarely without flowers. The joy of these plants is that the flowers last for weeks, so that with six plants there is always a display on view. I have often had 30–40 flowers on one plant.

When the flowers on a spike have all died, I inspect the spike. There might be small buds on the very end of the spike which will further develop into flowers – otherwise the spike can be cut off at a point just below the lowest flower notch and above the topmost node on the stem. This will encourage a further spike to grow out of the original one. These flowers may not be as large as the first ones on that spike but will certainly give pleasure. When the spike is exhausted and cut off, another one will soon grow. This happens without any effort on my part.

Occasionally a flower bud may gradually turn into a small plant – a keiki. Roots and leaves will develop until eventually it can be removed and planted to become an independent plant.

I do hope these notes will be helpful to new growers and as a result we will see many windowsill-grown *Phalaenopsis* at our future table shows.



A new spike will often form if the original spike is cut back just above the topmost node after flowering (Photo by Eileen Watson)

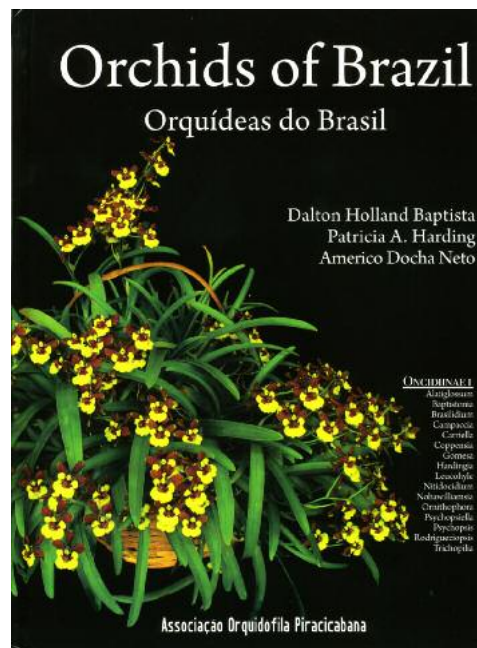


A new flower spike growing from the base – it will need staking as it grows



A keiki (baby plant) has formed on this *Phalaenopsis* Gold Tris – it can be removed and planted on its own

Book Reviews



Orchids of Brazil, Oncidiinae – part 1

by Dalton Holland Baptista, Patricia A. Harding & Americo Docha Neto

Hardback, 224pp, 28 x 21.5cm, English and Portuguese, many colour photographs, 2 maps, ISBN: 978-0-9836747-0-2. From www.orchidstudium.com/orchidsofbrazil.html \$40.00 (around £26.00 + postage).

This is the first volume of a series that is planned to describe and illustrate all of Brazil's orchids – a mammoth but very worthwhile task. This volume covers 16 genera in subtribe *Oncidiinae* – the *Trichopilia* group with four genera and the *Gomesa* group with 12. To many readers, most of the generic names will be unfamiliar. Only four are accepted in the Kew Monocot

checklist – *Psychopsis* and *Trichopilia* in the first group and *Gomesa* and *Nohawilliamsia* in the second.

Oncidium and its relatives are plants that have divided taxonomists and growers for quite some time. Until relatively recently, plant classification was based on morphology, in other words, the appearance of plants. Now it is largely based on phylogeny (plants' evolutionary relationships) and DNA work has shown that many relationships are not as previously supposed; sometimes plants that look very different are closely related while others that appear similar are not; the resemblance may simply reflect a similar pollination syndrome.

In volume 5 of *Genera Orchidacearum*, the authors hold a broad concept of *Gomesa*, giving a genus of about 125 species centred in Brazil – this is the classification that is accepted by the RHS and the AOS. The authors of *Orchids of Brazil*, while using the same data, have interpreted it differently and have divided *Oncidiinae* into many smaller genera, several monospecific. Regardless of what labels are in the pots, I suspect that many growers will look at these yellow and brown flowers and think '*Oncidium*!' These disagreements are at generic level, and as synonyms are given both in the text and in a comprehensive index, it is not difficult to find a particular plant under any of its names.

In the introduction, the authors explain the aims of the proposed series and give their reasons for their generic decisions. Following this, there is a map showing the six major biomes found in Brazil, with a discussion of each. Another map shows the 26 states into which this large country is divided.

Keys are given to the genera in each of the two groups, and there are keys to the species in each genus. For each of the 68 species treated in this volume, there is a concise description and several photographs showing different colour forms where appropriate and often the whole plant. The descriptions give measurements of the plant, in which of the Brazilian states it occurs and its distribution outside Brazil, and a brief note on the habitat and altitudes at which it grows.

The book is well produced and informative, and looks and feels good, but it is a pity that the proof-reading is so sketchy – words are often spelt differently, sometimes on the same page. For example, in the key differentiating the *Gomesa* group from the *Trichopilia* group, there is 'leave structure' on one line and 'leaf structure' on the next.

Many people will want to collect the series and make a start by buying this first volume – 68 species down, only another 2,000 or so to go!

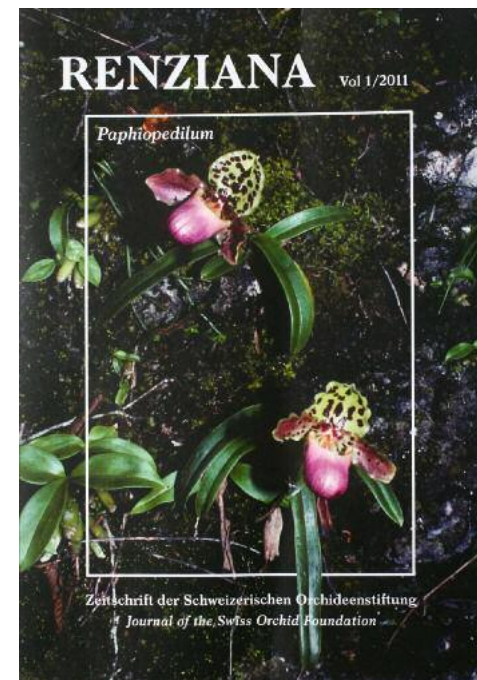
Isobyl la Croix

Renziana vol 1/2011, *Paphiopedilum*

Journal of the Swiss Orchid Foundation

Paperback, 98 pages, A4, ISSN: 2235-0799. Available from Reinhardt Media Service: +41 (0) 61 264 64 50 or media@reinhardt.ch €12.00 per issue (around £8.50 + postage).

This first issue of what is planned as an annual publication will be 'a hard act to follow', containing as it does a very elegant review of the genus *Paphiopedilum*, with articles by distinguished experts. Phillip



Cribb writes on classification, with 87 photographs of species, and on geographical distribution, ecology, morphology and conservation – some extracted directly from his book, *The Genus Paphiopedilum*, updated and sometimes condensed. Hans Bänziger writes on pollination mechanisms; Ehrenfried Lucke on seed development and dispersal; Hannes Gamper on their relationship with mycorrhizal fungi; Holger Perner on seedling development in the wild and conservation; Hilmar Bauch on the problems of raising them from seed in the laboratory; Oliver Dürbusch on propagating complex paphs; Olaf Gruss on the aims and history of breeding; and Franz Glanz and Olaf Gruss on cultivation. Samuel Springer writes on the usefulness of herbarium specimens. There are a lot of interesting pictures, in particular those illustrating how one uses a

bow and arrow to get a line up a giant tree to study epiphytes, and the giant clumps of wild plants.

The paper is a heavy-weight one with a matt/silk finish and the font somewhat heavy in the leading, but the overall impression is favourable. The text is in both English and German; cleverly done (the top of the page is German, the lower half in English, so the two languages do not get muddled up as one turns a page). The translation into English is well done, and I only found one incomprehensible phrase.

This journal is published by the Swiss Orchid Foundation, a charity based at the Institute of Botany, University of Basel. This organisation was started on the base

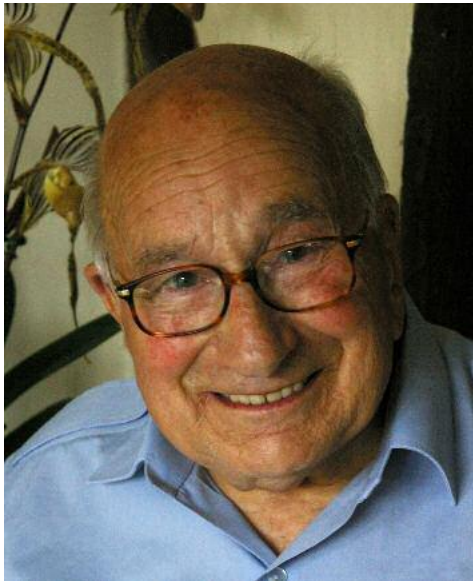
provided by the library and herbarium of Dr Jany Renz and aims to provide 'quality information on orchids to growers, conservationists and scientists through the internet'. The collection of pictures and herbarium specimens on its website www.orchid.unibas.ch should be your first port of call when trying to identify an orchid flower – a task that is now impossible using the Google images search engine which will produce everything from steam trains to people, among a host of irrelevant plants if one tries to find an orchid by name.

This copy is well worth purchasing as an introduction to the many aspects of *Paphiopedilum*.

Henry Oakeley

John Blower's book – Orchids

Sam Hurley



John Blowers (1920-2009), founder of the OSGB

At last year's OSGB auction I bought a book by the late John Blowers, founder of the OSGB, having been reminded by one of our auctioneers that expert advice never loses its efficacy. It was published in 1962 and is full of wise counsel for those suffering from what the author calls 'orchiditis'. At nearly 50 years old it is a little piece of orchid-growing history.

Much of the book is as relevant today as it was in 1962. Good culture is explained, stressing the consideration of each orchid's individual requirements with regard to temperature, light and humidity. Explanations are offered to dispel the myths surrounding orchid growing and much encouragement is given to alleviate the beginner's anxiety, just as we might find in a

contemporary book. There are excellent and accurate tips on repotting although all the photographs show clay pots rather than plastic. Some things are refreshingly familiar; orchid houses' habit of becoming too small, the orchidist's enthusiasm being dampened by the high cost of heating and a plant with no name being worth little more than the pot it is in.

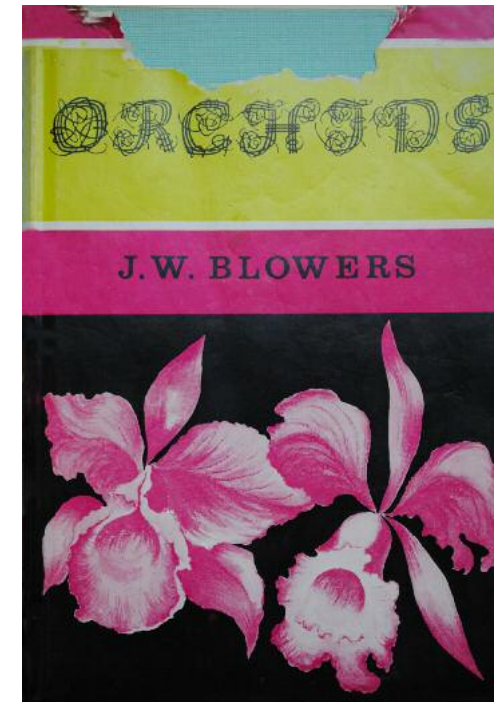
Other parts of the book remind us that orchid-growing habits have changed. Only four genera are highlighted; cymbidiums as 'the most popular orchid today', cattleyas as 'among the easiest to grow', odontoglossums which will soon 'be competing with cymbidiums for popularity' and cyripediums (meaning all slipper orchids including 'phragmopedilums' – fortunately this genus name never caught on) as the 'aristocrats' of the orchid world. Some passages may prompt nostalgic memories: chopping *Osmunda* fibre (£13/100lb bale), gathering bracken for compost from local commons and forests, or the orchid corsage, the gift of which 'will not fail to thrill the recipient'. Other passages produce a wry smile; the recommendation of spraying 'once every two months with DDT to control pests', the use of 'asbestos sheeting to line the greenhouse' or double glazing for greenhouses being at 'an experimental stage'.

Just occasionally a passage demonstrates how much has changed since 1962. The author's statement that 'few terrestrial orchids interest the orchid grower', shows just how widely our taste in orchids has expanded over the years and his comment that 'species are generally available direct from the natural habitats', offers a glimpse of a pre-CITES world before conservation

became such a prominent issue.

Sadly, of the 14 orchid nurseries listed only three are still in existence and there are only eight local orchid societies mentioned although there is the assurance that 'experienced growers are most willing to give advice'. Interestingly, the word *Phalaenopsis* appears only once in the entire book and can be explained by the belief that 'monopodial orchids do not claim much attention in this country'.

So keep an eye out for such gems at orchid events and in second-hand book shops; my purchase cost the grand sum of £2.00 but has provided a wealth of knowledge and interest. My love of books got the better of me again at this year's plant auction and despite the wonderful bargains on offer I came away with another book.





Ottawa Orchid Society news

Rick Sobkowicz

I am the editor of the Ottawa Orchid Society's newsletter, *Spike*, which is issued 10 months of the year. Our Society (*Ed*: which is now affiliated to the OSGB) is comprised of approximately 125 members and we hold monthly meetings from September to May inclusive every third Sunday of the month at the Tom Brown Arena, 141 Bayview, Ottawa, Ontario in Canada. We usually have an elaborate show table comprised of members' plants for folks to see and admire. We also have a very user-friendly website containing details on the Society and our activities, including many pictures of our annual shows. Our newsletter is also posted on the

website and access is unrestricted.

I thought I would send you a picture of the orchid that won the Best in Show at the 30th annual Ottawa Orchid Society Show in April 2011. The plant is *Rhyncholaeliocattleya* Ports of Paradise (*Rhyncholaeliocattleya* Fortune x *Rhyncholaelia* digbyana) and was grown by Wilson Ng of Scarborough, Ontario.

Wilson Ng writes: *I am really excited that my Cattleya has won the Best in Show for the first time in the Ottawa Orchid Show. I started my orchid growing hobby 20 years ago before I moved to Canada in 1991. At the beginning, Phalaenopsis and Cattleya were*



Rhyncholaeliocattleya Ports of Paradise, with nine flowers, Best in Show at the Ottawa Orchid Society show in April 2011 (Photo by Rick Sobkowicz)

my favourite orchids but I still grow a bit of some other genera. My emphasis has shifted a bit more to cattleyas in the last five years because I feel that cattleyas are really showy and elegant. This plant, Rhyncholaeliocattleya Ports of Paradise, is a pretty old hybrid, first registered in 1970. It has a nice, bright green color and a very pleasant fragrance. One of its clones has received a FCC from the American Orchid Society. I grow my Cattleya with coconut chips mixed with a bit of moss. All my cattleyas stay outdoors from around May to late October and then they are moved indoors for the rest of the year. I fertilize them heavily in the summer. I have built a wooden structure on the flower bed in my backyard and all my cattleyas are hanging except the really big and heavy ones which sit close to ground level. I grow my cattleyas with about 30% shade in the summer to prevent sunburn.

Two weeks before the show, my Rhyncholaeliocattleya Ports of Paradise only had about five flowers open and I knew it wouldn't have all the flower buds open unless we had some warm days. Unfortunately, the temperatures were around 10°C during the day which would not be enough to facilitate the flowers to open within the next two weeks. I decided to turn my heat on to around



Wilson Ng of the Ottawa Orchid Society (Photo with kind permission of Wilson Ng)

25°C during day time, and the night time temperature dropped down to around 20°C. Within two weeks, four more flowers opened to produce the fantastic array of flowers I have now. Since the flower spikes were all more or less at the same height, the orchid was staked so the blooms form a circle. The finished look is really fresh and elegant and I am very happy with it. I think the culture of an orchid is an important element to having a nice plant in the show. However, the timing and presentation of the plant is also an important factor to make your plant look its best.

Ottawa Orchid Society, website:
www.ottawaorchidsociety.com

Lecture – Orchids: the Epitome of the Exotic

Christopher Bailes, curator of the Chelsea Physic Garden, will be giving a lecture titled 'Orchids: the Epitome of the Exotic' on Wednesday 29 February at 18:30, at The Gallery, 70 Crowcross Street, London, EC1M 6EJ, organised by The Garden History Society.

The lecture will review the history of orchid cultivation through the centuries to the present day, where orchids are now a staple supermarket flower.

Tickets cost £10.00 (to include one glass of wine) for non-GHS members and can be purchased at the door or in advance online at www.gardenhistorysociety.org

RHS London Orchid Show and OSGB Spring Show 2012

Valerie Pugh



Valerie Pugh, OSGB Displays Manager

RHS London Orchid Show

I hope you have all noted the change in the days of the week for the LOS (not Sunday). The main show days will be Friday and Saturday 16–17 March, 10:00–17:00, with the preview evening on Thursday 15 March, 18:30–20:30. Preview tickets cost £12.00 to include return entry on Friday or Saturday; day tickets cost £5.00 for RHS members and £8.00 for non-members. RHS judging will take place at 07:00 on Friday and a BOC judge training symposium will be held during the show.

André Roux has very kindly offered to design our stand again and the theme will be Treasure Island. André writes: *We hope the display will once again capture the imagination and interest of fellow exhibitors and the general public alike. Orchids are Nature's floral treasures and our aim is to showcase the beauty and variety of plants grown by our members in an island paradise setting. The principal feature will encompass a high cliff-face on the surf's edge and the orchids will contribute their unique literal and metaphorical qualities.*

Of interest to members is news that the RHS is introducing a new award at this year's show for the best amateur specimen plant, complete with a cash prize. Please come along, enjoy the show and support your Society.

Exhibitors this year will include:

Akerne Orchids, Alphabet Orchids, Burnham Nurseries, Chantelle Orchids, Ecuagenera, EPRIC, Equatorial Plants, EYOF, Heritage

Orchids, Joseph Wu Orchids, K J Orchids, Laneside Hardy Orchid Nursery, Laurence Hobbs, Lea Valley Orchid Society, McBean's Orchids, Helen Millner, Haruhiko Nagata, Orchideen Kopf, Orchideen Tonn, Orchis Floriculturing, Orquídeas del Valle, Pazuzu Extreme Flora, Peter Sander, Polina Plotnikova, Ratcliffe Orchids, RHS Enterprises, Röllke Orchideen, Mike Park Books, *The Orchid Review*, Touchwood, Writhlington School and the OSGB.

Wisley Orchid Event

The RHS Garden Wisley Orchid Event will run from Saturday 17 March until Sunday 15 April 2012.

OSGB Spring Show

The Society's Spring Show will be held again at RHS Garden Wisley, in the Glasshouse Gallery on Saturday 28 April.

We have booked our Affiliated Society annual free RHS garden visit to coincide with this, which gives us 55 free tickets for members of the Society who are not members of the RHS, or not visiting the show as an RHS member's guest. The OSGB has been asked to man a desk at the entrance to give out these tickets; it will be manned from 09:00–12:00 and the tickets will be given out on a first-come first-served basis. Please note the orchid show is open from 10:30–16:00.

Displays may be set up, and plants for judging brought to the Glasshouse Gallery between 07:30 and 8:45. **Wisley has informed us that all plants will be inspected to check they are healthy and clear of pests; suspect plants may be denied entry. Please ensure you allow enough time for this.** Judging will start at 09:00 and must be

completed by 10:30 when the show opens to the public. The trophies will be presented at 14:30, and the show will close at 16:00. A revised judging schedule will be used at the Spring Show, to accommodate the many recent reclassifications of orchid genera. The new judging schedule can be found on page 64. Directions for delivering plants to the back of the Glasshouse Gallery can be found on page 20 of the *Annual Supplement*.

Members wishing to enter their plants should send a list of plants and the classes they wish to enter to Dusha Hayes, Chair of the Judging Sub-committee, by post or e-mail a few days before the show. This will help with the advance preparation of show tables. Alterations and new entries will still be accepted on the day.

Jo Kelleher has agreed to put on a non-competitive display, and Bournemouth Orchid Society will enter a competitive display. Chantelle Orchids will provide trade support. There will be two potting demonstrations during the show at 11:00 and 13:30.

Please contact me with any questions or if you require help in arranging transport for your plants to the show, my details can be found inside the front cover of the *Journal*.



The Glasshouse at RHS Garden Wisley, venue for the OSGB Spring Show 2012 (Photo by Sam Hurley)

OSGB Autumn Show 2011

Sally Mill (Photos by Sam Hurley)



Stuart Meeson, a new member of the OSGB, winner of the Ernie Self Trophy for Best Novice

Once again, the OSGB Autumn Show was held in conjunction with the BOGA Autumn Fayre at Wraysbury Village Hall. Although the weather was rather cool and cloudy, I think all those who attended enjoyed the day. As well as the OSGB show tables, there were three lovely society and individual displays; these were from the Chiltern and Thames Valley Orchid Societies, and Jo Kelleher.

There were several orchid trade stands and sundries to entice both beginners and more experienced orchid growers. These were Orchids by Peter White, Plested Orchids, Burnham Nurseries, Laneside Hardy Orchids, Just In Glass and EarthenWear. Special mention must be made of Arthur from

Burnham's who managed to arrive on time despite having to travel cross-country in the fog due to a bad accident completely closing the M5. Evidently the sight of pigs grazing around Stonehenge in the dawn fog was something to behold!

The three long OSGB show tables were sufficiently filled with entries although the number of plants was down compared to 2010, mainly due to cymbidiums refusing to be in flower. Orchids were entered in 24 of the 45 classes available, and seven of the possible 15 trophies were awarded, including the Ernie Self Trophy for Best Novice. This was awarded to Stuart Meeson for *Phalaenopsis* Taida Salu; a well-grown and well-flowered plant that carried deep purple 'netted' flowers. Some of the other winners are highlighted below.

Class 1 – 1 Laeliinae species. Sally Mill's *Prosthechea grammatoglossa* 'Estrela' BC/RHS. This interesting small species from Ecuador had seven spikes, all of which were covered with green, star-like flowers each about 1cm in diameter. Sally was also awarded the Fernhill Trophy (1 *Cattleya* or allied genera) for this pretty plant. (Ed: The plant was awarded a Botanical Certificate by the RHS Orchid Committee in October, see pages 71 and 72.)

Class 9 – 1 *Odontoglossum* (now *Oncidium*) hybrid. Valerie Pugh's *Oncidium* (previously *Odontioda*) Haute Tombette. Although this was the only entry in its class, it fully deserved its first place. The plant carried a spike of pretty white flowers with purple splotches, and gained Valerie the Hubbard Bowl (Best *Odontoglossum*).

Class 12 – 1 *Paphiopedilum* species. Sally Mill's *Paphiopedilum wardii*. This large plant had four spikes, three of which carried two flowers. All seven flowers were open and were of good size, colour and substance; all of which led to this orchid gaining Sally the Len Page Trophy for Best in Show.

Class 14 – 1 *Phragmipedium*. Penny Hayes's *Phragmipedium* Eric Young. Penny has many phragmipediums, and this well-grown plant carried three large, peachy flowers plus several buds.

Class 15 – 1 *Phalaenopsis* species. Christine Carter's *Phalaenopsis lowii*. Christine specialises in growing *Phalaenopsis* – species and hybrids. This rare and beautiful plant was a large specimen for its type, carrying six open flowers of a lovely pink with a purple lip.

Class 17 – 1 Pleurothallidinae species. Stuart Meeson's *Lepanthopsis astrophora*. This tiny orchid bearing several spikes of pink flowers was beautifully displayed in a miniature hanging terrarium; an ideal way to ensure the required humidity.

Class 18 – 1 Pleurothallidinae hybrid. Mike Buckingham's unnamed *Masdevallia* hybrid. Mike's masdevallias always enthral us; this one, carrying many yellow flowers, was good enough to be awarded although it had no name. It gained the Jo Kelleher Painting (Best Pleurothallidinae). Mike was also awarded the Dusha Hayes Trophy (3 Pleurothallidinae species and/or hybrids) for a nice group of species and hybrid masdevallias.

Class 20 – 1 Terrestrial. Mike Penney's *Pecteilis hawkesiana* (previously *sagarikii*). This unusual little orchid carried two creamy-white, pointed flowers with a bright yellow lip; very attractive and definitely one to look out for.



Sally Mill's *Paphiopedilum wardii*, winner of Best in Show



Stuart Meeson's *Lepanthopsis astrophora* enjoys suitable humidity in its miniature terrarium



Penny Hayes's *Phragmipedium* Eric Young



Christine Carter's *Phalaenopsis lowii*, a large specimen of this rare species

Class 35 – 3 species of the same genus. Colin Carter's three *Coelogyne* species. Not to be outdone by his wife, Colin's group included two unusual and rarely seen species, *C. assamica* and *C. fuscescens*.

OSGB Autumn Show 2012

The Autumn Show at Wraysbury makes a good outing, and we have booked our place there again this year. However, the hall is not available on the first Saturday so the Autumn Show in 2012, at Wraysbury Village Hall, will be on **Sunday 4th November**. Let's hope that the change of day encourages more members and visitors to spend a very enjoyable day in the company of orchids (and their growers).



Pecteilis hawkesiana (previously *sagarikii*)



Coelogyne assamica



Coelogyne fuscescens

Two unusual and rarely seen *Coelogyne* species, shown by Colin Carter

Psychopsis papilio

Judith Hoggarth (Photos by Judith Hoggarth)



I purchased this orchid in bud and was fascinated to watch it come into flower. I photographed it at approximately two day intervals as the single blooms appeared in succession along the stem to replace the ones that had faded.

Cultural note from Sally Mill: Psychopsis papilio is found from Panama to tropical South America. They like intermediate temperatures with a winter night-time low of 14°C and a summer daytime high of 30°C. They require good air movement, high humidity (>70%) and high light levels so are grown towards the top of the greenhouse. A compost mix of 2 parts medium bark, 1 part giant perlite and 1 part chopped cork, suits them well. Psychopsis must not be over-watered; the compost should be allowed to dry between waterings.



Psychopsis papilio photographed at two day intervals as the flower bud opened

Photographic and art competition 2011

Mary-Jane Hawkins



Colmanara 'Masai Red' (Photo by Diane Moosai)

The annual photographic and art competition took place at the meeting in December. This was particularly well supported with a total of 120 entries, much higher than the previous year when many members were unable to attend due to the snow. What a contrast with the unseasonably warm temperatures we are experiencing this year!

The meeting began with a Christmas lunch during which members voted for their favourite photographs and paintings. Lunch was followed by the annual quiz, devised this year by Derek Belcher, which covered topics ranging from orchids, geography and sport

to a very entertaining section on pre-decimalization currency, and was won by Jo Kelleher. After the quiz, the results of the competition were announced and there were clear winners in each class with each winner getting significantly more votes than those in second and third place. The winners of each class are listed below.

Class 1 (for a small orchid photograph) was won by Diane Moosai's photograph of *Colmanara 'Masai Red'*. It was taken in her garden in bright, natural light and set against the backdrop of her magnolia tree which provided a marvellous contrast to the striking red flowers.



Ophrys apifera (Photo by Robert Simmons)



Dactylorhiza fuchsii (Photo by Robert Simmons)

Robert Simmons was the successful winner of both Class 3 and Class 4 (small and large photograph of an orchid taken in the wild) with photographs of *Dactylorhiza fuchsii* and *Ophrys apifera*. These photographs were both taken on a very wet and windy day on the OSGB trip last June to Dawcombe Reserve in Surrey (tiny droplets of water can be seen on the stem of the *Ophrys*). The photograph of the *Ophrys* was cropped at the sides to accentuate the tall, slim shape of the plant. Both of Robert's photographs were taken with an Olympus E-30 DSLR; manual focus and a tripod; ISO 100; aperture priority set at f5.6 (1/45s for *Ophrys* and 1/125s for *Dactylorhiza*).

Miltoniopsis hybrid, winner of the 2011 Photographic Trophy (Photo by Judith Hoggarth)





Joyce Cavanagh's *Miltoniopsis* watercolour painting

Joyce Cavanagh won Class 5a (orchid painting) with a watercolour painting of a *Miltoniopsis* which had attractive pink, red and white colouring.

Class 5b (any other non-photographic orchid-related art) had a great variety of entries including a needlework cushion and a piece of jewellery but was won by Sue Oakham's incredible *Phalaenopsis* 3D textile. The petals and leaves were free machined on polyester paper using metallic threads and then individually wired around the edges before some of the fabric was burnt away with a heat gun; crystals were then machined on.

Sue's entry gained the highest number of votes and points in the competition and was a welcome return following a similar entry two years ago.

Henry Oakeley was the successful winner of Class 6 (orchid-related photograph/painting/art by a member who has previously sold some of their work). His large photograph of *Cattleya dowiana* var. *aurea* had the most incredible colours, as suggested by its name, *aurea* meaning 'golden yellow'. The image was produced from a scan of a 35mm positive colour slide, Fuji Provia, 100 ISO, and taken using a ring flash.

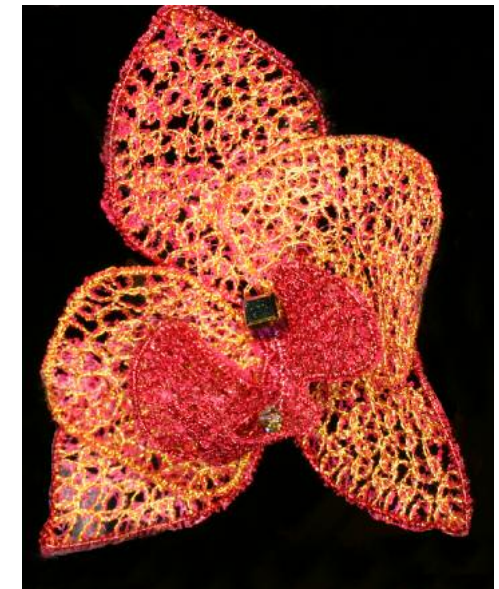


Henry Oakeley's *Cattleya dowiana* var. *aurea*

All five winning photographic entries were submitted as the OSGB's entries to the British Orchid Council's annual online photographic competition and can be viewed on the BOC website: www.iantparsons.creators.co.uk/Database/ViewGallery.php. The winner will be announced after 28 February 2012.

The OSGB Photographic Trophy for the best photograph was won by Judith Hoggarth's lovely photograph of a *Miltoniopsis* hybrid.

Ed: A new class will be added to the 2012 competition for photographs of an orchid display or exhibit. See the May 2012 *Annual Supplement* for details.



Sue Oakham's 3D *Phalaenopsis* textile

Napier Hall Meetings

October 2011

Malcolm Moodie – Orchid nutrition: considerations for success

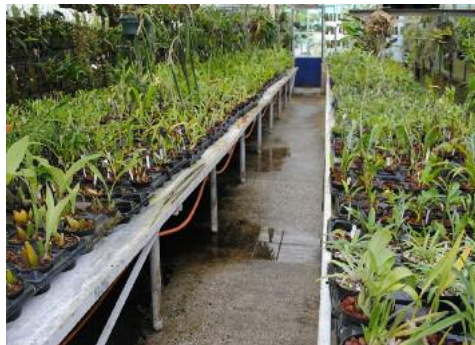
Mary-Jane Hawkins (Photos by Sam Hurley)

Members were treated to an unusual talk in October by Malcolm Moodie, recently retired from MAM Horticulture, which involved a quiz and discussion rather than a visual presentation.

Malcolm highlighted the key factors for successful orchid growing, which he considers equally important: light; day/night temperature differential; water quality; humidity; pH; growing medium; pests and diseases; air movement; nutrition.

These days Malcolm uses aluminium-covered nylon shading with the aluminium covered side facing outwards and the white side facing inwards with an air gap between the shading and the glass. This helps to increase light levels but decrease temperature. A cooler temperature at night (temperature differential) is important for most orchids and some, like cane-type *Dendrobium* require a cool, dry rest period after growth has finished.

For watering, rainwater is best, and a conductivity meter is useful for measuring the



Dampening down the greenhouse floor can help to increase humidity

concentration of dissolved salts. Take care where you collect the rain water from. Malcolm had a customer with two water butts; the salt content in the one collecting from the greenhouse measured 40µS (microsiemens) but the one collecting from the garage roof measured 500µS as the concrete roof tiles had leached salts into the water. Humidity is important for most orchids and can be achieved by damping down the greenhouse floor.

An ideal pH range for most orchids is 5–6.5, although limestone loving paphiopedilums, such as *Paphiopedilum bellatulum*, need a pH of 7 or above. It is essential that the growing medium balances drainage/air pockets with water retentiveness, and it is important to remember that as compost degrades the acidity will increase, especially with *Sphagnum* moss. Another critical factor is the control of pests and diseases; like so many of us, Malcolm has yet to eradicate the dreaded mealy bug. Air movement in the greenhouse is essential and can be created by using fixed or oscillating fans.

Malcolm then moved on to orchid nutrition and fertilizers. The main elements in fertilizers are nitrogen (N), phosphorus (P) and potassium (K), known by their chemical symbols as NPK. Nitrogen is required for green growth (leaf and stem), phosphorus promotes flower and root growth, and potassium helps stem rigidity and the formation of fruiting bodies. The proportions are given on the label using a series of numbers, each number referring to the percentage of NPK in the diluted product (see labels opposite).

Fertilizers come in crystal or liquid form and generally, liquid fertilizers are more expensive. Many commercial orchid nurseries use slow-

| Compound fluid fertiliser containing magnesium, sulphur and trace elements | |
|--|-----------|
| 2.2 : 1.3 : 2.1 | |
| Analysis | % w/v |
| Nitrogen (N) | 2.2 |
| Nitrate nitrogen | 2.2 |
| Ammoniacal nitrogen | - |
| Phosphorus pentoxide (P ₂ O ₅) water soluble (P) | 1.3 (0.6) |
| Potassium oxide (K ₂ O) (K) | 2.1 (1.8) |
| Calcium oxide (CaO) (Ca) | 2.5 (1.8) |
| Boron (B) | 0.01 |
| Cobalt (Co) | 0.0006 |
| Copper (Cu) chelated by EDTA | 0.002 |
| Iron (Fe) chelated by DTPA | 0.04 |
| Manganese (Mn) chelated by EDTA | 0.013 |
| Molybdenum (Mo) | 0.001 |
| Zinc (Zn) chelated by EDTA | 0.002 |

Also contains: magnesium, sulphur, nickel, humic acid and fulvic acid.

A higher nitrogen feed for active growth in spring/summer

| Compound fluid fertiliser containing magnesium, sulphur and trace elements | |
|--|-----------|
| 1.9 : 2.5 : 2.6 | |
| Analysis | % w/v |
| Nitrogen (N) | 1.9 |
| Nitrate nitrogen | 1.9 |
| Ammoniacal nitrogen | - |
| Phosphorus pentoxide (P ₂ O ₅) water soluble (P) | 2.5 (1.1) |
| Potassium oxide (K ₂ O) (K) | 2.6 (2.2) |
| Calcium oxide (CaO) (Ca) | 2.0 (1.4) |
| Boron (B) | 0.01 |
| Cobalt (Co) | 0.0006 |
| Copper (Cu) chelated by EDTA | 0.002 |
| Iron (Fe) chelated by DTPA | 0.04 |
| Manganese (Mn) chelated by EDTA | 0.013 |
| Molybdenum (Mo) | 0.001 |
| Zinc (Zn) chelated by EDTA | 0.002 |

Also contains: magnesium, sulphur, nickel, humic acid and fulvic acid.

A higher phosphorus feed for autumn/winter as plants prepare to flower

Fertilizer labels show the ratio of NPK that they contain (and everything else)

release fertilizers but a general rule is always to feed at a quarter of the recommended strength. It is beneficial to use a slightly higher nitrogen feed in summer when the plants are growing and a higher phosphorus/lower nitrogen feed when they have finished growing and are preparing to flower.

Nitrogen is available to plants in three different ways (ammonia, nitrate and urea), and the balance between nitrate and ammonia forms of nitrogen in fertilizers is important. Urea is not normally used on orchids because it is a complex molecule and does not break down readily to make the nitrogen available to the plant.

The three other macronutrients, apart from NPK, are magnesium, calcium and sulphur. Calcium is necessary for cell growth and division, and the uptake of nitrates; magnesium aids the creation of chlorophyll and flowers; and sulphur has similar functions in plant growth and nutrition to nitrogen. It is important to make all micronutrients available to plants – if they don't need a specific one they won't take it up, although the micronutrients will come from the organic constituents of the compost (unless growing in rockwood or other synthetic media). Micronutrients include boron, cobalt, copper, iron, manganese, molybdenum, zinc, nickel, chlorine and sodium. A liquid seaweed

fertilizer twice a year may provide these but usually there is enough in organic composts.

The quiz was won, not surprisingly but reassuringly, by OSGB Chairman, Roy White. This was Malcolm's first visit to Napier Hall, despite being a member 10 years, and his quiz was a success. One thing which came through very clearly again is the importance of understanding the growing conditions of your plants, a good reason for going on trips to see them in their natural habitat.

Table Show report

André Roux

September 2011

Every once in a while the display table welcomes an orchid that leaves you scratching for words... and so it was our privilege at the September meeting to gaze in awe at Jo Kelleher's *Gongora scaphephorus*. Not only are the flowers weird and wonderful – even the name *Gongora* invites connotations of medieval mythological monsters. The genus was erected in 1794 by the inimitable botanists Ruiz and Pavón and honours Don Antonio Caballero y Góngora, a Spanish Catholic archbishop who held the post of Viceroy of New Granada (Colombia and Ecuador) between 1782 and 1789. In 1783 he sponsored the Royal Botanical Expedition of the New Kingdom of Granada and was an enthusiastic patron of that expedition's leader, the scientist José Celestino Mutis. This taxonomically complex genus numbers approximately 65 species native to tropical America, ranging from Mexico, Central America and the West Indies south to Brazil, with a centre of distribution in Colombia. Gongoras are epiphytes in wet, montane forests up to about 1,000m in elevation.

Gongora scaphephorus is found in Ecuador,

Peru and Colombia. It bears characteristic square-shaped, deeply grooved pseudobulbs topped with a pair of plicate leaves; out-of-bloom, these features distinguish gongoras from their ally, the stanhopeas, whose leaves are larger, less plicate and darker green in colour. The inflorescences, however, are instantly recognisable, arching gracefully away from the pseudobulbs and cascading below the plant. The magnificent specimen on display presented five 60cm-long inflorescences, each carrying an average of 33 extraordinary flowers. Some describe the blooms as birds in flight, others as a string of grasshoppers – whatever your take on it, the flowers have historically caused more challenges than just the descriptive. Frequently within species they show great variation in colour, and the intricacy of the fleshy lips has proven difficult to describe accurately. The flowers are often strongly fragrant – *Gga. scaphephorus*, though I struggled to detect it, is reminiscent of floor polish or camphorous, medicinal notes, depending on your nose. The scent is apparent almost throughout the day.

With numerous flowers and lengthy periods of fragrance to support, it is not surprising that gongoras enjoy copious amounts of water during active growth. Intermediate temperatures and bright light, good humidity and air movement, and an acidic medium with frequent feeding will result in robust, healthy plants. The resting period should be carefully observed during which time much less water is needed. A hanging basket or pot is more or less essential for successful blooming; the long, pendulous inflorescences are slow-growing, remaining in bud for seemingly ages before suddenly bursting into flower. I admire and applaud not only Jo's skill but her selfless interest and dedication in sharing with us a



The extraordinary flowers and spectacle of Jo Kelleher's *Gongora scaphephorus*

plant that required immeasurable care and effort to transport to Napier Hall.

A surely challenging task was handed to hybrids in the face of such magnificence and *Cattlianthe* (previously *Laeliocattleya*) Sagarik Wax 'African Beauty' offered a striking rejoinder. This combination of *Cattleya* Summerland Girl and the renowned *Ctt.* (previously *C.*) Chocolate Drop produced radiant, deep burnt-red flowers, enhanced by a lacquered texture surpassing even its famous parent. The heritage behind these sensational hues reveals the influence of no less than eight different species in what amounts to a fourth generation hybrid: *C. guttata* and *Guarianthe aurantiaca* from *Ctt.* Chocolate Drop; and *C. tigrina*, *C. warneri*, *C.* (previously *Laelia*) *purpurata*, *C. dowiana*, *C. mendelii* and *C. trianae*. Even though it was registered in 1979,



Ctt. Sagarik Wax clearly remains a sought-after hybrid 30 years on.

October 2011

Trends and cycles of interest are part and parcel of our everyday lives, and orchids are no exception. These fashions can be triggered by the discovery of a new species in an already popular genus, or the introduction by a commercial grower of an uncommon plant that has proven particularly amenable to amateur cultivation. Over the last several months, *Liparis* have been popping up at meetings and shows on a frequent basis. They are one of the few global genera, extensively located in the tropics yet also prevalent in temperate regions. *Liparis* are predominantly terrestrial, although some species grow on rocks and others epiphytically. The generic name is derived from the Greek *liparos*,



Sally Mill's *Cattlianthe Sagarik Wax 'African Beauty'* is a fourth generation hybrid with eight different species behind its breeding

meaning 'shiny' or 'greasy', an apt choice as the leaves of many members have a glossy patina. Flowers, however, tend to be insignificant or dull.

That trait cannot be levelled at the free-flowering *Lip. crenulata* with its insect-like, colourful pale to dark orange-red blooms. This species is native to Sumatra and Java, variously growing at warmer altitudes right up to higher elevations of 2,000m where the environment is much cooler. *Liparis* are generally suited to culture in shallow pans under moist, shady conditions for the duration of their growing period. When growth is complete, a somewhat drier regime is beneficial. Repotting twice yearly helps to minimise the risk of root-rot.

In contrast to the 250-odd species of *Liparis*, the Taiwanese genus *Haraella* comprises only

two and *Hal. retrocalla*, a very fine example of which was exhibited by Kim Solomon, remains a popular orchid. That mature plants can be in more-or-less constant bloom is quite possibly the reason. This miniature species grows best on a mount to accommodate its slightly rambling, monopodial growths. The plants do not like to dry out and a moist, humid environment partnered with intermediate temperatures should be maintained, especially when the roots are actively growing. Attractive, citrus-scented flowers are produced sequentially. *Haraella retrocalla's* pollinator is a male beetle that is lured by both the fragrance, reminiscent of a mate, and her 'presence' on the flower courtesy of the deep maroon patterns on the lip.

Paphiopedilum species are perennial favourites and Brenda Penney is a fan, although *Paph. charlesworthii* is one that, surprisingly, is not



Mike Penney's *Liparis crenulata*, a species from Sumatra and Java

seen too often. This dwarf species, with its distinct rose and carmine-striped dorsal sepal, uses its unique colouration to attract pollinators, mimicking the colour of nectar-giving flowers such as *Clerodendrum urticifolium* which grow in the surrounding area. After pollinating these flowers, bees have been observed to repeatedly visit (but not settle on) *Paph. charlesworthii*. This lovely species was described in 1893 and is found in east Burma, the Assam region of India, northern Thailand and the extreme southwest of China, though it is now scarce. Plants grow at altitudes averaging 1,400m in the crevices of steep, isolated limestone peaks to which they cling with tenacious roots. Temperatures range from 12°C to 22°C and while the summer months are wet, autumn and winter are relatively dry.



The beetle-deceiving flowers of Kim Solomon's *Haraella retrocalla*



Brenda Penney's *Paphiopedilum charlesworthii*, a beautiful yet seldom grown species

New judging schedule 2012

Dusha Hayes

This revised judging schedule will be used from February 2012 for all OSGB monthly Table Shows, Spring and Autumn Shows.

Only members of the OSGB are eligible to compete in monthly Table Shows but the Spring and Autumn Shows are open to non-members.

At the monthly, Spring and Autumn Shows, prize cards, bronze, silver, gold and cultural certificates will be awarded. At the Spring and Autumn Shows, rosettes will be awarded for first, second and third places in each class.

OSGB trophies will be awarded to current members of the OSGB only. If a winner is not an OSGB member a certificate will be awarded in its place.

Any plant entered in classes 1 to 48 must have been in the entrants' possession for at least 12 months.

Section A

Classes to be judged at all shows including monthly Table Shows. Plants in Classes 1–24 may be judged within Class 50 on request to the judges.

- 1 Laeliinae species e.g. *Barkeria*, *Brassavola*, *Cattleya*, *Encyclia*, *Epidendrum*, *Guarianthe*, *Mexican Laelia*, etc.
- 2 1 Laeliinae hybrid, including intergenerics.
- 3 1 *Cymbidium* species.
- 4 1 *Cymbidium* hybrid.
- 5 1 *Dendrobium* species.
- 6 1 *Dendrobium* hybrid.
- 7 1 Oncidiinae species e.g. *Ada*, *Brassia*, *Miltonia*, *Oncidium*, etc.
- 8 1 Oncidiinae hybrid, including intergenerics.
- 9 1 *Paphiopedilum* species.
- 10 1 *Paphiopedilum* hybrid.
- 11 1 *Phragmipedium* species.

- 12 1 *Phragmipedium* hybrid.
- 13 1 *Phalaenopsis* species, including plants previously known as *Doritis*.
- 14 1 *Phalaenopsis* hybrid, including intergenerics.
- 15 1 Vandaeae species, including Sarcanthinae, Angraecinae, Aerangidinae but excluding *Phalaenopsis*.
- 16 1 Vandaeae hybrid, including intergenerics but not those with *Phalaenopsis*.
- 17 1 Pleurothallidinae species.
- 18 1 Pleurothallidinae hybrid, including intergenerics.
- 19 1 Maxillarieae species.
- 20 1 Maxillarieae hybrid, including intergenerics.
- 21 1 terrestrial species or hybrid (those orchids that have underground rhizomes or tubers and seasonally have no parts above ground) e.g. *Cynorkis*, *Cypripedium*, *Dactylorhiza*, some *Calanthe*, *Disa*, *Habenaria*, *Ophrys*, etc.
- 22 1 species not listed above e.g. *Catasetum*, *Gongora*, *Coelogyne*, *Stanhopea*, etc.
- 23 1 hybrid not listed above e.g. *Catasetum*, *Gongora*, *Coelogyne*, *Stanhopea*, etc.
- 24 1 species or hybrid to be judged for its decorative foliage only.
- 25 3 Laeliinae species.
- 26 3 Laeliinae hybrids, including intergenerics.
- 27 3 *Cymbidium* species.
- 28 3 *Cymbidium* hybrids.
- 29 3 Oncidiinae species.
- 30 3 Oncidiinae hybrids, including intergenerics.
- 31 3 *Paphiopedilum* species and/or hybrids.
- 32 3 *Phragmipedium* species and/or hybrids.
- 33 3 *Phalaenopsis* species.
- 34 3 *Phalaenopsis* hybrids, including intergenerics.
- 35 3 terrestrial species and/or hybrids.
- 36 3 Pleurothallidinae species and/or hybrids.

- 37 3 *Dendrobium* species and/or hybrids.
- 38 3 species of one genus, not listed in classes 25 to 37 e.g. *Maxillaria*, *Lycaste*, *Coelogyne*, *Catasetum*, *Gongora*, *Stanhopea*, etc.
- 39 3 hybrids of one genus, from the genera in class 38, including intergenerics containing that genus.
- 40 3 orchid plants from any of the genera in Class 38, including intergenerics.
- 41 4 orchid species from the same or different genera.
- 42 4 orchid plants from different genera, including intergenerics.
- 43 6 orchid species from the same or different genera.
- 44 6 orchid species and hybrids from the same or different genera, including intergenerics.
- 45 6 orchid plants of any one genus, including intergenerics containing that genus; no foliage plants to be included.

- 46 A group of orchids and ornamental plants space up to one square metre. Ornamental plants must not exceed 50% of the exhibit.
- 47 1 species or hybrid, for an OSGB member who has not previously gained a first prize in the Society's Spring or Autumn Shows.
- 48 1 orchid species or hybrid for an OSGB member aged 21 and under.
- 49 1 corsage or buttonhole (flower need not have been grown by the exhibitor).

Section B

Open class for all societies, individuals and professional growers at the Spring and Autumn Shows, including non-members of the OSGB and its Affiliated Societies.

- 50 A display of orchids and ornamental plants, larger than one square metre, ornamental plants must not exceed 50% of the exhibit.

New books for the OSGB Library

The following books have been added to the OSGB Library. Please contact the Librarian, Derek Belcher, if you would like to borrow any of them.

Section 1: General Orchid Books and Cultivation

Heitz, *Success with Orchids*
Tibbs, *A Practical Guide to Care and Cultivation of Orchids*

Section 3: European Orchids

Lang, *British Orchids*
Tahourdin, *Native Orchids of Britain*

Section 4: Floras

Hermjakob, *Orchids of Greece and Cyprus*
Lothian, *Australian Orchids*
Millar, *Orchids of Papua New Guinea*

Miller, Warren, Miller, Seehawer, *The Organ Mountain Range, Its History and Its Orchids*
O'Byrne, *A to Z of South East Asian Orchid Species*

Pearce & Cribb, *The Orchids of Bhutan*
Stewart, Linder, Schelpe, Hall, *Wild Orchids of Southern Africa*
Stewart, *Orchids of Kenya*
Teoh, *Orchids of Asia*

Section 6: Monographs

Frauenschuh, *Cypripedium calceolus*
Motes, *Vandas*

Section 12: Catalogues

Exmoor Orchids 1987

Section 13: Magazines

Gardenwise Singapore Botanic Gardens
Vol 36 Jan 2011

The Royal Horticultural Society Orchid Committee

(Photos of the Dawlish Warren meeting by Chris Purver)

Full descriptions and illustrations of the plants awarded by the Committee are published in *The Orchid Review*. Subscription details are available from the RHS, tel: 020 7821 3401, e-mail: membership@rhs.org.uk or website: www.rhs.org.uk/orchidreview

The Committee met on **13 September 2011** at Vincent Square and agreed the following award:

First Class Certificate

Phragmipedium kovachii 'Trinity', grown and exhibited by the Eric Young Orchid Foundation.



Phragmipedium kovachii 'Trinity' FCC/RHS

The Committee met on **4 October 2011** at Vincent Square and agreed the following awards:

Award of Merit

Calanthe Beresford 'Le Don Le Brocq'
(Brandywine x Mont Pinel)

Stanhopea Hautlieu 'Le Don Renouf' (Augres x *tigrina*)

Both plants were raised and exhibited by the Eric Young Orchid Foundation.



Calanthe Beresford 'Le Don Le Brocq' AM/RHS



Stanhopea Hautlieu 'Le Don Renouf' AM/RHS



Botanical Certificate and Certificate of Cultural Commendation

Sudamerlycaste ariasii 'Le Don Paton', grown and exhibited by the Eric Young Orchid Foundation.

The Committee met on **15 October 2011** at Dawlish Warren and agreed the following awards:

Award of Merit

Calanthe Five Oaks 'Grouville' (Gorey x Brandywine), raised and exhibited by the Eric Young Orchid Foundation.

Dendrobium smillieae 'Anja', a species from Papua New Guinea and northeastern Australia, grown and exhibited by Asendorfer Orchideenzucht.

Phragmipedium La Vingtaine 'Le Don Le Gros' (Memoria Dick Clements x *kovachii*), raised and exhibited by the Eric Young Orchid Foundation.



Calanthe Five Oaks 'Grouville' AM/RHS



Dendrobium smillieae 'Anja' AM/RHS



Sudamerlycaste ariasii 'Le Don Paton' BC/CCC/RHS



Phragmipedium La Vingtaine 'Le Don Le Gros' AM/RHS



Oncidopsis Champs du Rey 'Le Don Huelin' PC/RHS

Preliminary Certificate

Oncidopsis Champs du Rey 'Le Don Huelin' (*Oncidopsis* Saint Aubin x *Oncidium* Rozel), raised and exhibited by the Eric Young Orchid Foundation.

Botanical Certificate

Brasiliorchis schunkeana 'Eva May', a species from Brazil, grown and exhibited by Ellis Eyre.

Cattleya fidelensis 'Mirjam', a species from Brazil, grown and exhibited by Asendorfer Orchideenzucht.

Gastrochilus japonicus 'Leia', a species from China to temperate East Asia, grown and exhibited by Jean Barker.

Oncidium heteranthum 'White Wine Spot', a species from Ecuador, grown and exhibited by Ryanne Orchidée.



Cattleya fidelensis 'Mirjam' BC/RHS



Brasiliorchis schunkeana 'Eva May' BC/CCC/RHS



Gastrochilus japonicus 'Leia' BC/RHS



Oncidium heteranthum 'White Wine Spot' BC/RHS



Prosthechea grammatoglossa 'Estrela' BC/RHS

Prosthechea grammatoglossa 'Estrela', a species from tropical South America, grown and exhibited by Sally Mill.

Certificate of Cultural Commendation

To Ellis Eyre for *Brasiliorchis schunkeana* 'Eva May', a species from Brazil.

To Robert Gowland for *Vandofinetia* Pat Arcari 'Janet' (*Vanda coerulea* x *Neofinetia falcata*).

To Hilary Hobbs for *Bratonia* Aztec 'Toni' (*Bratonia Cartagena* x *Miltonia Minas Gerais*).

To Sue Lane for *Dendrochilum latifolium* 'Grace Trebble' and for *Renanthera philippinensis* 'Roger', both species from the Philippines.



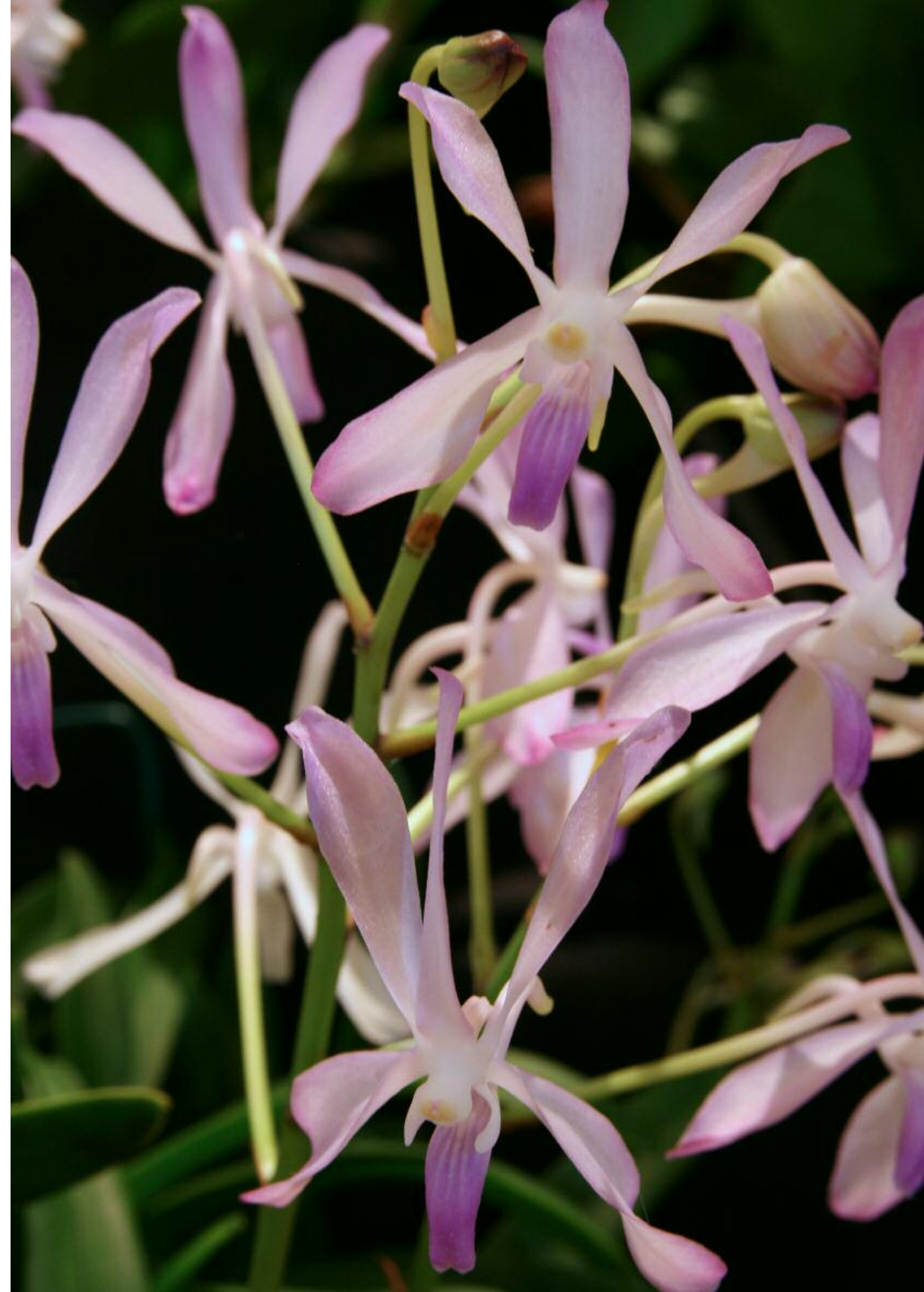
Bratonia Aztec 'Toni' CCC/RHS



Dendrochilum latifolium 'Grace Trebble' CCC/RHS




Renanthera philippinensis 'Roger' CCC/RHS




Vandofinetia Pat Arcari 'Janet' CCC/RHS

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We will be attending the following shows. Pre-orders are most welcome.

| | |
|---|-------------|
| Ye Old Bell Hotel, Barnby Moor | 19 Feb |
| Harrogate & District | 26 Feb |
| Cheltenham & District | 3 March |
| RHS London Orchid Show | 16-17 March |
| Birmingham & Midland | 25 March |
| Hinckley & District | 31 March |
| North East of England | 1 April |
| MERLIMONT, France | 7-9 April |
| 15 th European Orchid Congress | 12-15 April |
| Wisley Garden Orchid Show | 28 April |



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15th-17th March
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6th-9th April
Belgium Orchilium, Limburg.

12th-15th April
15th European Orchid Congress,
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20th-22nd April
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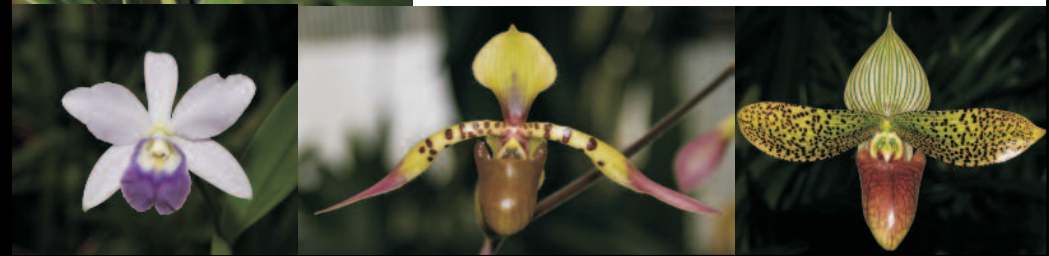


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Services to members

The OSGB Journal

Published quarterly

Meetings

Held most months at Napier Hall, 1 Hide Place, (off Vincent Street), Westminster, London, SW1P 4NJ. Doors open at 13:30, and unless otherwise stated, introductory session and cultural queries at 13:45–14:15 with guest speaker at 14:30. Competitive table show at all meetings. Plants for judging must be in place by 14:00. Non-competitive plants are always welcome. Parking is currently free on Saturdays on single yellow lines (do not park with wheels on the kerb or alongside dropped kerbs) and in Pay & Display bays, but DO NOT PARK in Residents' Parking bays. Meetings at which members may bring plants to sell (with 10% to the Society, please) are marked with an asterisk (*).

2012

| | | |
|--------|-------|---|
| 4 Feb* | 13:45 | Introductory session: oncidiums (odontoglossums) and cultural queries |
| | 14:30 | Speaker: Professor Andy Jones – Growing orchids under lights |
| 3 Mar | 13:45 | Introductory session: paphiopedilums and cultural queries |
| | 14:30 | Speaker: Dick Warren – Where orchids grow |
| 7 Apr* | 13:45 | Introductory session: dendrobiums and cultural queries |
| | 14:30 | Speaker: Helen Millner – Pleurothallids with special reference to <i>Restrepia</i> |
| 28 Apr | 10:30 | OSGB Spring Show at RHS Garden Wisley in the Glasshouse Gallery |
| 5 May | 13:45 | Introductory session: ludisias (jewel orchids) and cultural queries |
| | 14:30 | Speaker: Andrew Bannister – Growing hardy orchids |
| 2 Jun* | 14:30 | AGM followed by a panel of experts to answer your orchid queries |
| 14 Jul | | Please note change of date – this is the 2nd Saturday in the month |

Cultural Advice

Available at all meetings, or by post from Val Micklewright, 103 North Road, Three Bridges, Crawley, West Sussex, RH10 1SQ (please enclose an SAE for reply) or email: Val@micklewright.com

Website www.osgb.org.uk

The new-look website has been designed by Marcel Kral of Smallfish Designs. The Society's internet web controller, Sam Hurley, will be pleased to receive material for the website, sam@ballyhurley.com

Library

Books are available by post from the Librarian (address inside front cover of *Journal*) or can be collected at the monthly meetings. They may be borrowed for up to four weeks. The borrower is asked to pay the outward and return postage. A full list of books may be obtained from the Librarian or found on our website.

Displays

Members are invited to bring their plants to contribute to official displays by the Society at those shows **shown in bold in the Show Diary**, but please liaise beforehand with Displays Manager Val Pugh, valeriepugh@tiscali.co.uk

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Further Diary Dates can be found via the OSGB website: www.osgb.org.uk and the British Orchid Council website: www.british-orchid-council.info/

OSGB Show Diary

including *Affiliated Societies and International Shows*

2012

February

- 18 North Bucks OS Spring Show, Flitwick Village Hall, Flitwick, Bedfordshire, MK45 1HP. 11:00 – 16:00
Contact: Kate Bellingham, tel: 01234 824882
- 25 South West OS Show, Village Hall, Monkton Heathfield, Taunton, TA2 8NE. 10:30 – 16:00
Contact: Marian Saunders, e-mail: msaunders1@mail105.co.uk
- 25 Bournemouth OS, Spring Show, Allendale Community Centre, Hanham Road, Wimborne, Dorset, BH21 1AS. 12:00–16:30
Contact: Chris Broomfield, tel: 07712 479056
- 26 OS of East Anglia, Spring Show, Eaton Parish Hall, Colman Road, Norwich, NR4 7AW. 10:00–16:30
Contact: Jack Butcher, tel: 01603 466535, e-mail: joan324butcher@btinternet.com

March

- 3 Suffolk OS Spring Show, St Michael's Church Centre, Martlesham Heath, Suffolk, IP5 3UY. 10:00–16:00
Contact: Mo Turner, tel: 01473 278310, e-mail: moturner@hotmail.com
- 15–17 **RHS London Orchid and Botanical Art Show (preview evening: Thursday 15 March, show: Friday 16 and Saturday 17 March), website: www.rhs.org.uk**
- 17–15 April RHS Garden Wisley Orchid Event.

- 31 Bristol & West of England OS Annual Show, Town Hall, 57–59 Broad Street, Chipping Sodbury, Bristol, BS37 6AD. 11:00–16:00
Contact: Peter Ball, tel: 01275 372147
- 31 Hinckley & District OS 21st Anniversary Show, St John's Church, 351 Coventry Road, Hinckley, Leicestershire, LE10 0NP. 10:00–16:00
Contact: Keith Bates, tel: 01455 446793, e-mail: keithbates185@hotmail.com

April

- 1 North East of England OS Annual Show, Bowburn Community Centre, Durham Road, Bowburn, Durham, DH6 5AT. 11:00–16:00
Contact: Brian Coulson, tel: 0191 420 7329, e-mail: brian.coulson@hotmail.com
- 1 West Cornwall OS, Spring Show, 'Blaythorne' Holman Sports Club, Pendarves Road, Camborne, TR14 7QB. 11:00–16:00
Contact: Kit Lindsay, tel: 01209 717947, e-mail: r.lindsay672@btinternet.com
- 7 Solihull & District OS Show, Arden School, Station Road, Knowle, B93 0PT. 11:00–16:00
Contact: Martin Ball, tel: 01564 822897, e-mail: ballm1@me.com

- 12–15 15th European Orchid Congress and Show, SYMA Event Centre, Budapest, Hungary, website: www.eocbudapest.hu/aindex.php
- 14 Essex Orchid Group, Spring Show, South Green Memorial Hall, Southend Road, Billericay, Essex, CM11 2PR. 13:30 – 16:00
Contact: Margaret Dalton, tel: 01702 218533, e-mail: orchids@tesco.net
- 22 CHS Sussex OG Open Spring Show, Crawley Horticultural Hall, Ifield Avenue, Crawley, RH11 7AJ. Doors open 13:30
Contact: Sally Mill, tel: 01293 547896
- 22 Fenland OS Show, Village Hall, Terrington St Clement, Kings Lynn, Norfolk, PE34 4LZ. 10:00 – 16:00
Contact: David Morgan, tel: 01553 767032, e-mail: morg611@aol.com
- 28 **OSGB Spring Show, RHS Garden Wisley. 10.30 – 16.00**

May

- 5 Devon OS, 37th Annual Show, Elizabeth Hall, Exmouth, Devon, EX8 2AZ. 10:30–16:00
Contact: Nicola Wakley, tel: 01404 850354, e-mail: nwakley@googlemail.com
- 5–7 Raby Castle Orchid Show, Raby Castle, Staindrop, Darlington, Co. Durham, DL2 3AH. 11:00–17:00
Contact: Maurice Local, tel: 01642 566761 email: Maurice.local@ntlworld.com
- 19 Cambridge OS Show, Great Shelford Memorial Hall, Woollards Lane, Great Shelford, Cambridge, CB22 5JZ. 10:30–16:30
Contact: Peter Johnson, tel: 01279 812704, email: p.johnson63@btinternet.com, website: www.cambridgeorchidsociety.org.uk
- 22–26 **The RHS Chelsea Flower Show, website: www.rhs.org.uk**

July

- 6–8 **Peterborough International Orchid Show, East of England Show Ground, Peterborough, website: www.peterboroughinternationalorchidshow.org.uk**

September

- 9 **Orchid Show, Josephine Butler College, Durham University. Contact: Chris Barker, tel: 01642 654748**

October

- 21 OS of East Anglia, Autumn Show, Eaton Parish Hall, Colman Road, Norwich, NR4 7AW. 10:00–16:30
Contact: Jack Butcher, tel: 01603 466535, e-mail: joan324butcher@btinternet.com
- 26–28 25th British Orchid Congress, Writhlington School, Somerset, website: www.wsbeorchids.org.uk and www.british-orchid-council.info

