

# Orchid

Society of Great Britain

# Journal



VOLUME 64 No 1 February – March – April 2015

# The Orchid Society of Great Britain

Registered Charity No. 261273

[www.osgb.org.uk](http://www.osgb.org.uk)

## Officers of the Society

**#President:** Mr Peter White  
61 Stanwell Lea, Middleton Cheney, Banbury,  
Oxfordshire, OX17 2RF  
Tel: 01295 712159  
e-mail: [peter.orchid@sky.com](mailto:peter.orchid@sky.com)

**Vice Presidents:** Mrs B Arnold, Mrs J Kelleher,  
Mr T Lewis, Dr E Watson

**#Chairman:** Mr Roy White  
30 Acorn Grove, Ruislip Gardens, Middlesex, HA4 6LP  
Tel: 01895 632689 Mobile: 07873 716496  
e-mail: [royjoewhite@hotmail.com](mailto:royjoewhite@hotmail.com)

**#Secretary:** Mrs Val Micklewright  
103 North Road, Three Bridges, Crawley,  
West Sussex, RH10 1SQ  
Tel: 01293 528615  
e-mail: [val@micklewright.com](mailto:val@micklewright.com)

**#Treasurer:** Mrs Sally Mill  
82 Hazelwick Road, Three Bridges,  
West Sussex, RH10 1NH  
Tel: 01293 547896  
e-mail: [osgbtreasurer@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:osgbtreasurer@hotmail.co.uk)

**#Membership Secretary:** Mrs Sue Johnson  
Le Touquet, Station Road, Elsenham,  
Bishop's Stortford, Hertfordshire, CM22 6LG  
Tel: 01279 812704  
e-mail: [osgbmembership@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:osgbmembership@yahoo.co.uk)

**#Displays Manager:** Miss Jeanette Beaney  
50 Court Road, Orpington, Kent, BR6 0QA  
Tel: 01689 826631 Mobile: 07517 006387  
e-mail: [jeanette.beaney@btinternet.com](mailto:jeanette.beaney@btinternet.com)

**Advertising Secretary:** Mrs Kim Solomon  
31 Burghley House, Somerset Road, Wimbledon,  
London, SW19 5JB  
Tel: 020 8946 4410 Mobile: 07717 222403  
e-mail: [akmsolomon@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:akmsolomon@yahoo.co.uk)

**Chair of Judging:** Mrs Dusha Hayes  
62 Link Lane, Wallington, Surrey, SM6 9DZ  
Tel: 020 8647 8496  
e-mail: [dushahayes@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:dushahayes@blueyonder.co.uk)

**\*Programme Secretary:**  
Mr Francis J Quesada-Pallarés  
60 Doveney Close, Orpington, Kent, BR5 3WF  
Mobile: 07951 070637  
e-mail: [ols\\_francisquesadapallares@hotmail.com](mailto:ols_francisquesadapallares@hotmail.com)

## Committee Members

Mrs Betty Barber  
8 Dean Close, Deeds Grove, High Wycombe,  
Buckinghamshire, HP12 3NS  
Tel: 01494 529604  
e-mail: [betty.barber@gmail.com](mailto:betty.barber@gmail.com)

Mr Peter Johnson  
Le Touquet, Station Road, Elsenham,  
Bishop's Stortford, Hertfordshire, CM22 6LG  
Tel: 01279 812704  
e-mail: [pjohnson63@btinternet.com](mailto:pjohnson63@btinternet.com)

**Vice Chairman:**  
Mr Robert Mundell  
5 Elm Grove, Wivenhoe, Essex, CO7 9AY  
Tel: 01206 823777  
e-mail: [bob.mundell@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:bob.mundell@hotmail.co.uk)

# Trustee of the Society  
\* Delegate to the British Orchid Council

## The Journal (ISSN 0306-2996)

**\*Editor and Librarian:** Lady Samantha Hurley  
17 Veronica Road, London, SW17 8QL  
Tel: 020 8673 7751 Mobile: 07900 250247  
e-mail: [sam@ballyhurley.com](mailto:sam@ballyhurley.com)

**Layout and typesetting:** Smallfish Designs Ltd  
e-mail: [info@smallcyberfish.net](mailto:info@smallcyberfish.net)

**Printed by:** Impress Print Services Ltd  
e-mail: [helen.thomas@impressprint.net](mailto:helen.thomas@impressprint.net)

The Journal is printed on paper with a certified Chain of Custody for wood fibre. At least 70% of the fibre originates from certified sustainably managed forests.

# Editor's notes



Photo by Peter Johnson

Thank you to everyone who has renewed their membership for another year and to those who have donated to the Colour Fund, which helps with the cost of producing our vibrant and colourful *Journal*.

This issue features articles from across the world. André Roux writes about an orchid show in his homeland of Zimbabwe and Helen Millner offers us a report of the 21st World Orchid Conference in Johannesburg. Jim Cootes writes about the day he and I spent hunting for Duck Orchids near Sydney and I report on the advances in *Sarcochilus* breeding in Australia. Closer to home, John Haggart provides a practical guide to the cultivation of *Dactylorhiza*, the appealing Marsh Orchids, and Philip Seaton writes about micropropagation at King Charles I School in Kidderminster.

The European Orchid Show & Conference in April will offer a truly exciting range of international displays, traders and lecturers, as well as a Gala Dinner organised by the OSGB which is now also open to non-registrants.

The Society is pleased to welcome two new affiliated societies, the Harrogate Orchid Society and the North of England Orchid Society, and looks forward to working with them both.

As I enter my fifth year as Editor I would like to thank members for their continuing support. I am particularly grateful to Jane Moore, Henry Oakeley and Alan Solomon for their proof-reading expertise; André Roux and Mary-Jane Hawkins for their regular contributions; and Robert Simmons for his superb photographs. My best wishes to all for a year filled with orchids and the joy they bring us.

The copy deadline for the next issue is **10 March 2015**.

# Contents

Officers of the Society .....	2
Editor's notes .....	3
News:	
New member of RHS Orchid Committee .....	4
New chapter for McBean's Orchids .....	4
Kew Orchid Festival .....	5
From the Treasurer – Subscriptions .....	5
European Orchid Show & Conference 2015 update .....	6
Members' plants by Aud Gjerde .....	10
2015 Show season by Sam Hurley .....	12
The day of the Duck (Orchid) by Jim Cootes .....	14
An orchid show under the trees by André Roux .....	20
<i>Sarcochilus</i> – real Australian beauties by Sam Hurley .....	25
<i>Dactylorhiza</i> – a practical guide to successful cultivation by John Haggart .....	36
OSGB Autumn Show 2014 report by Sam Hurley .....	44
<i>Platystele misera</i> by Helen Millner .....	48
Micropropagation at King Charles I School by Philip Seaton .....	49
21st World Orchid Conference report by Helen Millner .....	52
Napier Hall meetings	
Table show report by André Roux .....	56
Lecture report by Mary-Jane Hawkins .....	60
RHS Orchid Committee awards .....	68
Advertisements .....	75
Services to members:	
Meetings, cultural advice, website, library, displays .....	82
Show Diary .....	83

**Front cover:** David Martin's *Phalaenopsis* Liodora

**Back cover:** Alan West's *Dendrobium* Stardust

Both plants exhibited at Napier Hall in October 2014; both photos by Robert Simmons

# News

Sam Hurley (photos by Sam Hurley)



Val Micklewright has recently been elected to the RHS Orchid Committee

## New member of RHS Orchid Committee

Congratulations to Val Micklewright on her election to the RHS Orchid Committee. Val joined the OSGB in 1991 and specialises in growing *Phragmipedium*. She has been Hon Secretary for eight years, regularly helps with displays around the country and is a driving force in the Society.

## New chapter for McBean's Orchids

Liz Johnson has been successful in finding a buyer for McBean's Orchids in East Sussex after concerns last autumn that the nursery



Liz Johnson, owner of McBean's Orchids 1993–2014

might close at the end of October. Liz acquired McBean's in 1993 and, along with her staff, has upheld the nursery's high standards as a specialist orchid breeder and supplier.

The nursery was founded near Lewes in 1879 by a Scotsman named James Ure McBean. By the 1930s it was famous for the high quality *Cymbidium* it produced for the floristry trade. McBean's took over Charlesworth & Co in 1971, acquiring their superb stock of what were then classified as *Odontoglossum* (now *Oncidium*). Thousands of hybrids and varieties have been bred and registered by McBean's over the years and they have long been a favourite with UK orchid growers.

McBean's has been bought by Martin and Rose Armstrong who have been regular customers of the nursery. We hope to see a McBean's exhibit at the European Orchid Show and at Chelsea, as usual, and look forward to the next chapter in this well-known nursery's history.

## Kew Orchid Festival

This year's orchid festival at RBG, Kew, entitled *Alluring Orchids*, will take place in the Princess of Wales Conservatory (POWC) from 7 February until 8 March. The POWC will be transformed with thousands of orchid blooms and visitors may also enjoy surprises such as seeing this Chinese water dragon (*Physignathus cocincinus*), an unexpected resident in the POWC.

Tours of Kew's orchid nursery will be available on Thursdays during the festival: 13:30 tour – £5.00, 14:30 tour plus hands-on repotting – £15.00. Tour tickets can be booked

through Kew's website: [www.kew.org/visit-kew-gardens/whats-on/orchids](http://www.kew.org/visit-kew-gardens/whats-on/orchids)

## From the Treasurer – Subscriptions

I would like to remind you that subscriptions for 2015 were due on 1 January, and membership cards for all those who have paid to date should have been enclosed with this copy of the *Journal*. If you have paid your subscription but have not received your membership card, please contact the Membership Secretary, Sue Johnson, tel: 01279 812704, e-mail: [osgbmembership@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:osgbmembership@yahoo.co.uk)

If you have not paid and wish to continue your membership, please send your subscription to the Membership Secretary as soon as possible. In accordance with Rule No. 7, you will be considered to have resigned if your subscription has not been received by 31 March 2015.



A resident Chinese water dragon (*Physignathus cocincinus*) in the Princess of Wales Conservatory at RBG, Kew

# European Orchid Show & Conference 2015 update



## Key dates

- 1 March Deadline to apply to judge
- 8 April Ribbon judging, evening – preview and official opening
- 8–9 April Science conference at the RBG Kew
- 10 April Hardy orchid conference at RHS Vincent Square
- 10–11 April Horticulture and travel conferences at RHS Vincent Square
- 11 April Gala Dinner at Royal College of Physicians, London
- 9–12 April Show open to the public

## Venue and admission

The show will be held at the RHS Lindley and Lawrence Halls in Westminster, London.

Admission: RHS members £5 in advance, £8 on the day; non-members £9 in advance, £11 on the day.

## Telephone booking

Bookings for show tickets, registration packages and the Gala Dinner can now be made by telephone, for those without internet access. Please contact the RHS Ticket Line on 0844 776 6777; payment must be made by debit/credit card at the time of booking (no cheques accepted). Online bookings can be made through the website: [www.rhs.org.uk/shows-events/rhs-london-shows/European-Orchid-Show-and-Conference-2015/Register](http://www.rhs.org.uk/shows-events/rhs-london-shows/European-Orchid-Show-and-Conference-2015/Register)

## Conference

To date 39 formal lectures by speakers from around the world have been confirmed along with 20 talks in the Lawrence Hall on practical orchid growing, conservation and horticulture.

## Show

The show will be a marvel of black, white and orchid pink with tens of thousands of orchids as its focus. In addition to orchids there will be books, orchid art and other orchid-related merchandise. Members of the OSGB will offer cultural advice and give potting demonstrations in the Lindley Hall in conjunction with Besgrow Europe.

## Exhibitors/Societies/Tradestands

Akerne Orchids, Besgrow Europe, Besley's Books, Bosske, Bournemouth Orchid Society, British Orchid Council, British Paphiopedilum Society, Burnham Nurseries, Buscal Horticulture/Orchidées, Chantelle Orchids, Deutsche Orchideen-Gesellschaft, Devon Orchid Society, Ecuagenera, Emma Hardicker, Equatorial Plant Company, Eric Young Orchid Foundation, Ewa Morawski, French Senate, Helen Millner, Henry Oakeley, In-Charm Orchid Laboratory, Jacques Amand International, Jammy Val, Joseph Wu Orchids, Jumbo Orchids, KJ Orchids, Laneside Hardy Orchid Nursery, Laurence Hobbs Orchids, Lavault Paris, Lea Valley Orchid Society, Liv Healey Art, Louise Lane Art, McBean's Orchids, NAFAS, Nagata Engei, Nudlinger

Orchideenladen, Orchid Inn, Orchid Society of Great Britain, Orchid Society of New South Wales, Orchideen Tonn, Orchideengarten, Orchis Floriculturing Inc, Orquideas del Valle, Paelex Diffusion, Peruflora, Peter Sander, Polina Plotnikove, R F Orchids, Ratcliffe Orchids & Sundries, RHS Membership, RHS Lindley Library, RHS Orchid Review, RHS Shop, RHS Wisley Glasshouse, Roellke Orchideenzucht, Royal Botanic Gardens Kew, RYANNE ORCHIDÉE, Société Française d'Orchidophilie, Sparrows Green, Sun Moon Orchids, Suwada Orchid Nursery, Ten Shin Gardens, Timber Press, University of Kent, Vacherot & Lecoufle, Water Orchids Nursery, Wee Tea Company Artisan, Writhlington School Orchid Project, and Yih Cheng Orchids

### Judging

A number of judges have registered already and interest is likely to be very high. The closing date for people to register as judges is 1 March 2015. Please register first as a delegate and then fill in an application form to judge.

### Gala Dinner

**This is now open to everyone who might like to attend, including non-registrants.** Tickets are still available (price £70 for drinks reception, four course dinner with wine and free prize draw) and may be booked by telephone or through the website.

The Gala Dinner is a wonderful opportunity to visit the Grade I listed building in Regent's Park, designed by Sir Denys Lasdun, which has been the Royal College of Physicians' headquarters since 1964. Considered a

modernist masterpiece, it is one of London's most important post-war buildings.

Members of the OSGB Gala Dinner subcommittee were delighted to visit the Royal College of Physicians in December, taste a variety of dishes and make the following menu selection!

### Menu

Vodka and garden dill-cured salmon, lemon scented leaves, dark rye toast and saffron dressing

Rump of new season, salt-marsh lamb, potato rösti, caramelised red onion, wilted baby spinach, lemon thyme and red wine jus

Passion fruit and vanilla parfait with white chocolate sauce and candied pistachios

Selection of cheese with crackers and fruit

Coffee and petit fours

Vegetarian option:

Warm ticklemore goat's cheese tart, tomato and basil salad and walnut vinegar reduction (starter)

Forest mushroom and vegetable crêpe, potato rösti, toasted pine kernels and curried cauliflower purée (main course)

Wine:

Grandiose Sauvignon Blanc 2013  
Penedo Gordo 2011

Gala Dinner guests will be contacted nearer the time to discuss any special dietary requirements. In the meantime, please contact Val Micklewright or Sam Hurley if you have any queries (contact details inside front cover).



Mayumi Hashi's beautiful study of three native British *Ophrys* (*Ophrys fuciflora*, *O. apifera* and *O. insectifera*)



Emily Burningham's attractive *Miltonia* design

## Free prize draw

The OSGB is delighted to be able to offer a selection of wonderful items in a free prize draw to be held at the Gala Dinner. Guests will be able to view the prizes during the drinks reception and the lucky winners may pick their preferred item in the order in which they are drawn. We are immensely grateful to everyone who has donated a prize to the draw.

Deborah Lambkin, artist to the RHS Orchid Committee, has generously donated a framed orchid painting to the prize draw and will stage a small exhibition of her paintings for dinner guests to enjoy.

OSGB member Mayumi Hashi has painted a beautiful study of three native British *Ophrys* which will be used to illustrate the dinner invitations and menu cards. Mayumi's painting of *Magnolia sieboldii* was included in the *Highrove Florilegium*.

Emily Burningham has kindly donated two orchid cushions covered in her *Phalaenopsis* design to the prize draw and a greetings card featuring her *Miltonia* design for every dinner guest and conference registrant. To view her full range of fabrics, home accessories and stationery products please visit the website [www.emilyburningham.com](http://www.emilyburningham.com)



A pair of orchid cushions from Emily Burningham

## European Orchid Show & Conference 2015 update

Some of the wonderful items on offer in the OSGB's free prize draw at the Gala Dinner



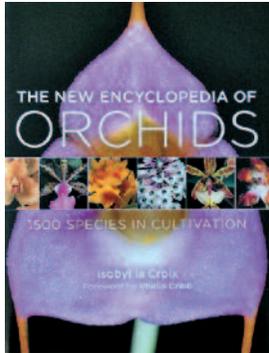
A framed watercolour of *Phragmipedium* Bel Royal from Polly O'Leary ([www.pollyoleary.co.uk](http://www.pollyoleary.co.uk))



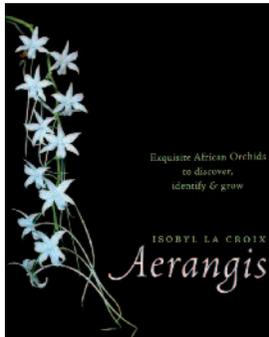
A pair of bone china orchid mugs from Janet Orme ([www.janetorme.co.uk](http://www.janetorme.co.uk))



Two complimentary tickets to Kew Gardens from RBC, Kew and a copy of *The History of the Royal Botanical Gardens, Kew* ([www.kew.org](http://www.kew.org))



A copy of *The New Encyclopedia of Orchids* by Isobyl la Croix from Timber Press UK ([www.timberpress.co.uk](http://www.timberpress.co.uk))



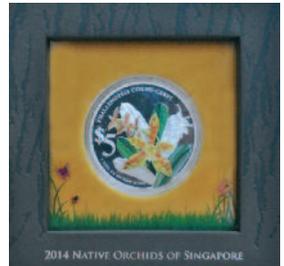
A signed copy of *Aerangis – Exquisite African Orchids to discover, identify & grow* by Isobyl la Croix from Timber Press UK ([www.timberpress.co.uk](http://www.timberpress.co.uk))



A copy of *Highgrove: A Garden Celebrated* by HRH The Prince of Wales with Bunny Guinness from Weidenfeld & Nicolson ([www.orionbooks.co.uk](http://www.orionbooks.co.uk))



A framed watercolour of *Sarcochilus* 'Red Rock Noy' from Janet Orme ([www.janetorme.co.uk](http://www.janetorme.co.uk))



Two commemorative silver orchid coins featuring *Phalaenopsis cornu-cervi* from Johan Hermans



One year's subscription to *The Orchid Review* from *The Orchid Review* ([www.rhs.org.uk](http://www.rhs.org.uk))

# Members' plants



*Paphiopedilum* Saint Swithin (*philippinense* x *rothschildianum*)

## *Paphiopedilum* Saint Swithin

Aud Gjerde (photos by Jan Gjerde)

Orchid nomenclature is a demanding exercise, not least now that so many hybrids are flooding the market – not that this is a big problem. Hybrids are often both beautiful and robust but the best hybrids are derived from well-chosen parents.

An orchid should be registered so one can know its pedigree. A fine pedigree has a market value and breeders know that a fine hybrid offers the chance for economic gain. Carl Linnaeus's system for the nomenclature

of species is based on binominal names which often commemorate the plant's discoverer, or describe its qualities. Hybrid names are often used to honour leaders or other celebrities, living or dead. In a corner of Singapore Botanical Garden, we found the unlikely bedfellows of (*Dendrobium*) Margaret Thatcher and (*Paphiopedilum*) Ho Chi Minh, side by side in the same orchid bed.

What we did not expect on our holiday to Singapore in March 2013 was to find an orchid, *Paphiopedilum* Saint Swithin, named after a British Catholic saint with a special connection to our hometown of Stavanger, Norway. This British saint was the patron saint for Stavanger cathedral from 1125 until the Lutheran reformation in 1537. The reason for this was that Reinald, Bishop of Winchester, came to Stavanger to build the new cathedral, bringing with him relics of the saint, who had also been Bishop of Winchester. Saint Swithun (as it is spelled in Norwegian) is a much-used name for schools, merchandise brands and hostels in our area of Norway. He is the patron saint for 60 churches in the British Isles but only two elsewhere – one in Stavanger and one in Australia. He died on 2 July (between 862 and 865) and we celebrate Saint Swithin's Day in Norway, known as 'Syftesok' on that day (*Ed*: celebrated on 15 July in the UK).

*Paphiopedilum* Saint Swithin is an old hybrid, first registered in 1901, and grows into a large plant up to 60cm tall with three to seven large flowers. Its long, hanging petals give the plant its character, and being larger than most slippers it is demanding of more space.

It is a primary hybrid of *Paph. philippinense* and *Paph. rothschildianum*, both of which are threatened in the wild by deforestation and illegal collecting.

On returning home from our successful holiday in Singapore, we had got our hands on a good plant with three buds. After acclimatising in the greenhouse it began to bloom and was placed on the windowsill where the buds opened. The window faces south, so it gets very hot in the summer sun, and we protected the plant with sunshades. Now it has produced three beautiful flowers, and is kept constantly moist to prevent drying out. Soon it will be back in the greenhouse and the challenge will be getting the combination of watering,

humidity, light and heat right. A humidifier gives 60–80% humidity and the temperature is kept in the range of 18–25°C, but the night temperature in winter can go lower. I move the warmer-growing orchids nearer the 400W sodium lamps when necessary. My experience is that a variation in local conditions is favourable.

*Ed:* Aud Gjerde is chairman of The Norwegian Orchid Society. She is a retired children's nurse and has collected orchids for the last 30 years. Aud's husband, Jan, is her travelling companion and photographer on their orchid adventures and his images of her orchids can be viewed at <http://janus.smugmug.com/browse>



Aud Gjerde repotting orchids in her greenhouse in Norway

# 2015 Show Season

## March – OSGB Open Spring Show

We are returning to The Glasshouse Gallery at RHS Garden Wisley for our Open Spring Show on Saturday 21 March. Full details of the judging schedule and directions to Wisley are published in the Annual Supplement to the *Journal* and on the website. We hope to have plant sales and a display by a visiting society.

RHS members are admitted to the gardens free and there will be 50 free entry tickets for OSGB members. These are available on a first-come first-served basis and should be collected from the OSGB representative at the main entrance between 09:00 and 12:00. Please contact Francis Quesada-Pallarés with any enquiries – contact details inside front cover.



The Glasshouse Gallery at RHS Garden Wisley will host the Open Spring Show (photo by Sam Hurley)

## April – European Orchid Show

André Roux is once again leading the display team to create our exhibit at this international orchid show, 9–12 April (preview on 8 April). If you would like to lend plants, man the stand or help in any way please contact the Display Manager, Jeanette Beaney – contact details inside front cover.



Table show plants exhibited at Napier Hall on 4 April may be left with the display team after the meeting if members wish to lend them for our EOS&C exhibit; build-up begins two days later.

## May – Chelsea Flower Show

This will be the society's 55th appearance at Chelsea, 19–23 May. Sam Hurley, Val Micklewright and André Roux's design will celebrate *British native orchids and their exotic relations*. The society is delighted to welcome sponsorship from Albourne Partners Ltd, an independent advisory firm headquartered in the UK with expertise across hedge funds, private equity, real assets and real estate.

Please do get in touch if you have plants to lend, particularly if you have any British (or European) native orchids. Please contact Sam Hurley or Val Micklewright to volunteer help or plants – contact details inside front cover. Full details about the show are available on the RHS website: [www.rhs.org.uk/shows-events/rhs-chelsea-flower-show](http://www.rhs.org.uk/shows-events/rhs-chelsea-flower-show)



We hope to display British native orchids, such as *Anacamptis morio*, at Chelsea 2015 (photo by Henry Oakeley)

## June – Malvern International Orchid Show

This popular county show will be held at the Royal Three Counties Showground near Malvern, 12–14 June. Reduced-price day tickets (£6.00) are available to OSGB members if bought in advance. Several members missed this offer last year and had to pay full price (£18.00) at the gate. Orders for reduced-price tickets and payment should be given/sent to Val Micklewright by 2 May (please make cheques payable to Orchid Society of Great Britain).

## July – RHS Flower Show Tatton Park

The OSGB has joined forces with the North of England Orchid Society to display at the RHS Flower Show at Tatton Park, 22–26 July 2015. The North of England Orchid Society has displayed at this RHS event since its inception in 1999, recently in the National Plant Society Marquee; but this year our joint exhibit will be in the Floral Marquee so please come along and support us. This exhibit will be sponsored by the Sultanate of Oman Ministry of Tourism, a previous sponsor of two OSGB Gold medal displays at Chelsea.

The show is open to the public Wednesday to Saturday (10.00–18.30) and Sunday (10.00–17.00) with sell off at 16.00. Tickets for this event are now on sale through the RHS website; discounted early-bird rates apply for tickets purchased before 28 February, after which prices will increase. Please visit the RHS website for full details:

[www.rhs.org.uk/shows-events/rhs-flower-show-tatton-park](http://www.rhs.org.uk/shows-events/rhs-flower-show-tatton-park)

## September – 8th Welsh Orchid Festival

We have been invited to return to the Orchid Study Group's festival at the National Botanic Garden of Wales in Carmarthenshire. The show will be held on Saturday 5 September (10.00–18.00) and Sunday 6 September (10.00–16.00).

Please consider lending your plants or visiting the festival and get in touch if you would like to help out over the weekend. For more information about the festival contact Lynne Harrendence, tel: 01269 269847, e-mail: [lynne.harrendence@resqnet.co.uk](mailto:lynne.harrendence@resqnet.co.uk)



# The day of the Duck (Orchid)

Jim Cootes (photos by Sam Hurley)

For several years I have communicated with Sam Hurley and contributed a number of articles to the *Journal*, of which she is the editor. So when I learned of Sam's trip to Australia in October 2014, it was very important, for me at least, for us to meet up (*Ed: for me too!*).

Sam came to Sydney for a few days and we were able to have dinner one evening. The following day we went bush-walking in the Royal National Park, to the south of Sydney. I told Sam that we may not see any orchids in flower, but I was sure we would still have an enjoyable time in the wonderful Australian 'bush'.

We went to the waterfall entrance of the Royal National Park, because I knew of a grand old forest red-gum tree (*Eucalyptus tereticornis*), on which a plant of *Erythrorchis cassythoides* grew, but alas there were no flowers to be seen, only the vine-like plant. However, a short walk along the side of the road soon revealed a number of flowering plants of *Caladenia catenata*, in both its white and pink colour forms. Sam's camera was soon out and a number of pictures were taken.

Our next stop was a little further along the road, where we had to walk to a creek where I knew a *Sarcochilus olivaceus* grew, high up in a tree, hoping there were blooms; but again we were slightly disappointed. A search of the surrounding area did not reveal any terrestrial orchid species either.



*Caladenia catenata* is common in the Sydney area and can be found by the roadside



The pink form of *Caladenia catenata*



Bands of rainforest in the Royal National Park offer cooler, damper habitats for species such as *Sarcochilus*



*Sarcochilus olivaceus* grows as an epiphyte on trees



Successful orchid hunting for Sam Hurley, sitting beside two flowers of *Caladenia catenata* (photo by Jim Cootes)



Beautiful bush flowers included *Eucalyptus* blooms

Off we went again in search of *Corybas* species this time, but again no luck. Sam did see a number of plants of a *Pterostylis* species, one with an inflorescence but the flower had been nibbled off.

Our next port of call was the beautiful walk down to Curra Moors. This is a fascinating walk because we started off in sandstone plateau woodland, then went into semi-rain forest, before reaching the sandstone heath. Along the way we saw a number of flowering plants of *Caladenia catenata*, plus a host of other beautiful bush flowers.

As we were walking along the sandy track towards the moors, there was a sudden rustle in the undergrowth, and there was a Lace monitor lizard (*Varanus varius*) quickly climbing up a gum tree. The lizard was an



Lace monitor lizard (*Varanus varius*)



Sulphur-crested cockatoo (*Cacatua galerita*)

Assorted fauna was an unexpected bonus amongst the flora of the Royal National Park

## The day of the Duck (Orchid)

---

immature specimen about a metre in length; adults of this species can reach two metres long.

This area was also the habitat for *Cymbidium suave*, and there were a couple of plants to be seen in the forks of tree branches, which they were using as a host. Unluckily the cymbidiums were not in flower.

A little further along the track there were three people approaching us, and we stopped and had a short chat. Interestingly two of these were from France, and their guide was an Australian lady. They asked what we were photographing and the reply was bush flowers generally, but orchids in particular. The lady then asked us if we had seen the Flying Duck Orchids (*Caleana*

*major*) along the track, from where we had come – but we had not. Very good instructions were given as to where to find them on our return trip after a picnic lunch. Bearded Orchids (*Calochilus* species) were also mentioned.

Our return was filled with expectation as we wanted to find these Flying Duck Orchids so we could get some pictures. Once we reached the suggested spot it was heads down, looking very intently in amongst the low bushes and grasses. Sam found the first plants and flowers, and we ended up finding about six flowering plants in all. We also found a Bearded Orchid but the flowers were not open, in fact they appeared to be self-pollinating.



Probably *Cymbidium suave* growing in the forks of tree branches



Jim Cootes with a Flying Duck Orchid, *Caleana major*, in the Royal National Park near Sydney, Australia

Flying Duck Orchids have fascinating flowers which in profile resemble a flying duck. Their colour is variable, from reddish-brown to a glossy deep brown, almost black. The sepals and petals are narrow and reflex somewhat. In some clones the tips of these segments are green. The column with the pollinia point downwards and the lip is uppermost, shiny, and resembles the head of a duck. It is attached to the column by a curved strap-like claw which is highly sensitive; when a thynnid wasp lands on the lip and tries to mate with it, the claw snaps the lip downwards, banging the amorous wasp against the pollinia. Plants bear a single leaf, which at flowering time may have disappeared. They grow in sandy or gravelly soil, in open woodland or sandy heathland.

Even though flowering orchids were a little scarce, our time in the bush was well-spent. Just breathing in the unpolluted air and being able to hear, and see, Mother Nature, in all her finery makes it all worthwhile.

### References:

King, R J (editor), *Field Guide to Royal National Park* (2013)

Jones, D L, *A Complete Guide to Native Orchids of Australia* (2006)

*Ed:* I am immensely grateful to Jim for giving me a wonderful introduction to the Australian bush and for sharing his love and knowledge of its native flora.



Flowers of the Flying Duck Orchid, *Caleana major*, really do resemble a flying duck



The lip, which is uppermost, is highly sensitive and will snap shut when touched



# An orchid show under the trees

André Roux (photos by André Roux)

A stroke of good fortune, in the timing of the World Orchid Conference in Johannesburg, meant that the Zimbabwe Orchid Society's spring show in Harare was brought forward one week and happily coincided with my visit home. The show is held outdoors under clear September skies and the shelter of indigenous trees in the gardens surrounding the society's permanent headquarters. Spring in Harare, a mile above sea level, has always seemed a fleeting transition between the icy sunshine of winter and the onset of summer's heat, quite unlike its lengthy awakening in the northern hemisphere. Yet the orchids that most salute this season of new life are remarkably similar.

Cymbidiums are widely grown and have for decades been a cornerstone of the society's spring shows, lending an air of elegance and serenity to the displays. Plants this year ranged from beautifully grown 'antique' hybrids bearing multiple inflorescences of spidery blooms to striking *Cymbidium devonianum* hybrids such as *Cym. Devon Gala* and *Cym. Cali Night 'Geyserland'*. An exceptional *Cym. Fairlands 'Iceberg'* was the deserved recipient of Best in Show, presenting two robust spikes of large and shapely milky-white flowers.

White blooms were a feature of some of the finest dendrobiums on show, another genus with an avid following and one with spectacular floral rewards. Runner-up to Best in Show was a huge plant of *Dendrobium nobile* var. *virginale*, well over a metre in



Best in Show at the Zimbabwe Orchid Society's spring show in 2014 – *Cymbidium Fairlands 'Iceberg'*

diameter and with approximately 40 flowering canes each bursting with 20 or so pristine blooms. Even larger in size was a specimen of *Den. speciosum*, laden with 31 inflorescences – half of which, unfortunately, were in bud on the day of judging. In brilliant contrast to these pale frothy clouds were a range of floriferous hybrids, including old favourites like *Den. Gattton Monarch* and modern Yamamoto-types of voluptuous form and luscious colour.

These vivid tones, lit by the sunlight filtering through the trees, were intensified by fiery *Cattleya* hybrids and complemented by a



An enormous plant of *Dendrobium nobile* var. *virginale* was runner-up to Best in Show



Timing is everything at orchid shows – sadly on judging day this *Dendrobium speciosum* had many flowers yet to open



*Dendrobium* Red Emperor 'Prince' is a modern *nobile*-type hybrid registered by Yamamoto in 1990



Flowers of *Polystachya vaginata* smell of primroses

group of stately *Phaius tankervilleae*, each plant bearing five tall spikes of burnished blossom. *Arpophyllum giganteum* sparked with its candles of luminous pink, while scented cream flowers tumbled from several sizeable plants of *Coelogyne flaccida*.

Amongst all this extravagant exotic beauty was a quiet sprinkling of native and African gems that encouraged closer inspection. Zimbabwe is home to approximately 350 species of orchids, roughly two-thirds of which are terrestrial, but spring is one of the least floriferous of the seasons – most bloom between the onset and retreat of the summer rains.

*Polystachya* was well represented and one eye-catching species, recently reclassified into the genus *Isochilostachya*, is *Polystachya vaginata*. The elongate spikes bear clusters of



*Polystachya greatrexi* flowers on its newly-mature leafless pseudobulbs



*Polystachya brassii* is native only to Zambia and Malawi



*Microcoelia corallina* is a leafless orchid prized for its coral-hued flowers

pubescent, primrose-scented, yellow-green flowers along their length. *Polystachya greatrexii*, with its tiny mother-of-pearl flowers huddled at the top of an inflorescence, is found in Zimbabwe, Malawi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Tanzania and Burundi. A close relative, native only to Zambia and Malawi, is *Polystachya brassii*. The plant and its beautiful pearlescent flowers are about twice as large as those of *Polystachya greatrexii*. Both plants form tight clusters, bloom on the newly-mature leafless pseudobulbs, and grow in humid riverine forest or on mossy rocks, although *Polystachya greatrexii* is less common.

*Microcoelia corallina* is rare in Zimbabwe, only discovered there several years ago, and is now critically endangered as a result of habitat destruction. This exquisite miniature species is more frequently seen in Malawi and Tanzania, and at isolated locations in Mozambique, growing near rivers in dry woodland at low elevations. In a genus of leafless orchids with predominantly white flowers it is prized for its sparkling coral-hued flowers produced in abundance on mature specimens.

This year's show was not interwoven with a customary theme but rather sought to illustrate appropriate potting media for several popular genera. Sample mixes with recipes detailing ingredient ratios were placed among the exhibits and proved insightful talking points for members of the public. What better way could there be to learn more about orchids than while soaking up their splendour in a pleasant outdoor garden setting?

# Sarcochilus real Australian beau-



A beautiful species – *Sarcochilus hartmannii* at the Manawatu Orchid Society Show in New Zealand

Anyone who has visited the Malvern International Orchid Show over the past few years will have seen the wonderful specimen *Sarcochilus* grown by Brian Cope of the Solihull and District Orchid Society (see *OSGBJ* (2013) 62(4): 317). This genus offers a wide range of plants that are free-flowering with a compact, low-growing habit, which seems an excellent reason to give them a try although sadly they are not widely available in the UK. On a recent visit to Australia and New Zealand I visited a commercial nursery

and a private collection to learn more about these enchanting plants and see the recent developments in hybridizing.

*Sarcochilus* are native to Australia, New Guinea and a few of the Pacific Islands. *Sarcochilus falcatus* was first described by Robert Brown in *Prodromus Florae Novae Hollandiae et Insulae Van Diemen* (1810) [Latin for: Forerunner of a Flora of New Holland (ie Australia) and Van Diemens's Land (ie Tasmania)]. In Australia, they are found exclusively on the east coast, from



*Sarcochilus olivaceus* photographed in Eungella National Park, Queensland, Australia (photo by Thilo Nordhausen)

New South Wales to Victoria. These vandaceous orchids belong to the subtribe Aeridinae and have a monopodial habit; they grow as epiphytes and lithophytes.

## Species

There are a mere 25 species listed on the Kew Monocot Checklist. *Sarcochilus hartmannii* and *Sarcochilus fitzgeraldii* seem to be the only two species commonly grown in the UK. Both are lithophytes and these, and their hybrids, seem to be easier to grow in cultivation than their epiphytic relatives. *Sarcochilus falcatus* is the exception and is a relatively easy-to-grow epiphyte. Other species include *Sarcochilus australis*, *Sarcochilus ceciliae*, and *Sarcochilus olivaceus*, all of which have been used to some extent in hybridizing.



*Sarcochilus aequalis* is an attractive species but rarely used in hybridizing



This *Sarcochilus falcatus* has particularly attractive purple and yellow markings on its lip

## Hybrids

There are 571 *Sarcochilus* hybrids registered on the RHS International Orchid Register. Hybrids are wonderfully variable with an ever-increasing range of patterns and colours, which now include reds, pinks, oranges, apricots and yellows.

*Sarcochilus falcatus* and *Sarcochilus hartmannii* produce wonderful large white hybrids when crossed. *Sarcochilus* Melba (*hartmannii* x *falcatus*) was registered in 1966 by Ira Butler and is in turn parent to the robust and reliable *Sarcochilus* George Colthurp (Melba x *hartmannii*). *Sarcochilus* Fitzhart (*fitzgeraldii* x *hartmannii*) is another successful primary hybrid which is regularly seen at UK shows.



*Sarcochilus* George Colthurp (Melba x *hartmannii*) is a robust and reliable hybrid (photo by Lorraine Fagg)



*Sarcochilus* hybrids are incredibly variable which makes them all the more interesting (photo by Scott Barrie)

## Sarcochilus – real Australian beauties

---

*Sarcochilus* can be crossed with a number of other genera including *Aerides*, *Phalaenopsis* and *Papilionanthe*.

### Cultivation

In the wild these orchids grow in damp habitats such as creeks and gullies, enjoying good air movement in both exposed and shaded conditions. The lack of pseudobulbs accounts for their preference for moist conditions so a humid environment along with frequent and regular watering will ensure successful cultivation.

Cool to intermediate temperatures will suit them, adding to their appeal as growers try to reduce heating costs, although they will tolerate temperatures of up to 40°C. A cool winter rest helps to initiate flowering in the spring.

They can be grown easily in pots in free-draining compost although some of the epiphytic species may grow better on mounts. All require good light which should produce light green leaves; dark leaves are an indicator that the plant is not receiving enough light. Leaves should be turgid and upright; broad, flaccid leaves also indicate too little light.

### Barrita Orchids

Barrita Orchids was founded over 50 years ago by Geoff and Angie Barrie, who remain actively involved although it is now managed by their son, Scott. OSGB member John McAuley, who has been living in Australia for many years, kindly took me to visit the nursery which is located near



Scott, Angie and Geoff Barrie, owners of Barrita Orchids

## *Sarcochilus* – real Australian beauties

Kulnura just north of Sydney. I arrived a little ahead of their peak flowering season but there was still plenty to admire.

Barrita Orchids know what they are doing; two walls of the nursery shed are covered in the rosettes, ribbons and awards won by their plants. The nursery produces thousands of orchids each year which are sold as plants or cut spikes to florists, wholesaled to superstores or sold in flasks. They are well-known for their cymbidiums and oncidiums; indeed my desire to visit was prompted by seeing images of their *Oncidium* hybrids which were awarded by the RHS Orchid Committee in May 2014 (see *OSGBJ* (2014) 63(3): 240). And they are now also producing wonderful *Sarcochilus* hybrids on which Scott has been working since 1989.

Most of Barrita Orchids' *Sarcochilus* are sold to superstores although the nursery holds an open day each year which attracts avid hobbyists who queue for several hours to get first pick of the plants. Plants are available for sale, in flower, around two to three years from flask. They are grown so successfully that many of the young *Sarcochilus* plants will have two spikes after only ten months from flask.

Plants are grown almost hydroponically in a medium of rockwool, perlite and polystyrene granules (1:1:1) which is mixed on site. This is an economical medium for a commercial concern because it does not deteriorate and can be reused after bleaching and mixing with some fresh components. Watering and



OSGB member John McAuley could not resist buying a tray of exciting new hybrids

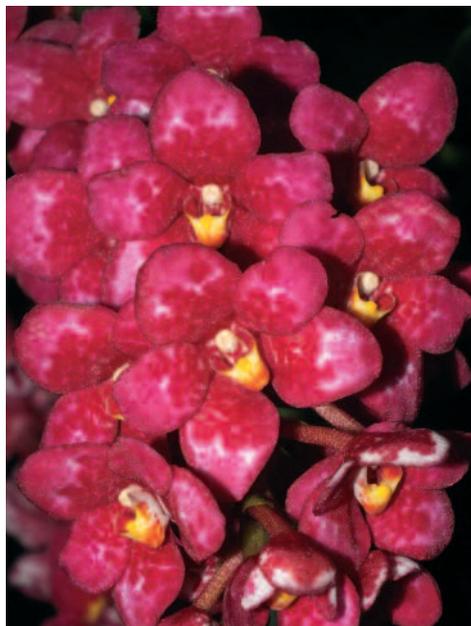


*Sarcochilus* hybrid ready for delivery to superstores

## *Sarcochilus* – real Australian beauties

---

Some of the colourful and award-winning *Sarcochilus* hybrids produced by Barrita Orchids



*Sarcochilus* Kulnura Iridessa 'Purple Edge' HCC/OSNSW  
(photo by Garrie Bromley)



*Sarcochilus* (Bunyip x Kurumba)



*Sarcochilus* Starhart 'Orange Yell'



*Sarcochilus* Kulnura Sanctuary 'Pastel' AM/OSNSW  
(photo by Garrie Bromley)

---

## *Sarcochilus* – real Australian beauties

Some of the colourful and award-winning *Sarcochilus* hybrids produced by Barrita Orchids



*Sarcochilus* Sweetheart 'Wave' AM/OSNSW (photo by Garrie Bromley)



*Sarcochilus* Kulnura Dragonfly 'John' AM/OSNSW (photo by Garrie Bromley)



*Sarcochilus* (Kulnura Ripple x Bunyip)



*Sarcochilus* Kulnura Kaleidescope 'Blazing Gold' AD/OSNSW (photo by Garrie Bromley)

## Sarcochilus – real Australian beauties

---



Barrita Orchids grow plants in a mixture of rockwool, perlite and polystyrene (1:1:1)



Moss thriving on top of the growing medium indicates how much moisture these plants enjoy



*Sarcochilus* Kulnura Scoop 'Barrita' FCC/OSNSW (photo by Garrie Bromley)

feeding occur daily so fertilizer is used at a weak concentration. Moss thriving on the top of the growing medium is a good indicator of the amount of moisture these plants enjoy.

Most of Scott's crosses stem from only two species – *Sarcochilus fitzgeraldii* and *Sarcochilus hartmannii*. Today, he is responsible for around 50 of the hybrids to be found on the RHS International Orchid Register, and some have proved extremely useful in their continuing breeding programme. Barrita Orchids grow on large numbers of seedlings of each cross to see the variation produced and then select the best and most unusual for further breeding. I particularly admired the colourful varieties including *Sarcochilus* Kulnura Dragonfly (2008) and *Sarcochilus* Kulnura Sanctuary (2013).

We are not alone in the UK in our declining orchid-growing industry. There used to be many nurseries around Sydney but numbers have dwindled to only a handful. So it is encouraging to know that Barrita Orchids are pursuing a busy programme of growing and breeding. At a recent meeting of the Orchid Society of New South Wales, Scott and Geoff exhibited 60 plants, in five groups. They received 19 awards including their first First Class Certificate for *Sarcochilus* Kulnura Scoop 'Barrita' (Hot Ice x Tin Yin Lara). Further information about Barrita Orchids can be found at [www.barritaorchids.com.au](http://www.barritaorchids.com.au)

### Lorraine Fagg

I met Lorraine at a meeting of the Geelong Orchid and Indoor Plant Club, south of Melbourne, and she invited me to visit her



Lorraine Fagg with *Sarcochilus fitzgeraldii* 'Lorraine' (on right) – the source of many of the red hybrids available today

extensive orchid collection. Lorraine has been growing orchids for about 40 years, specialising in *Sarcochilus* and breeding many hybrids over the years. She is immensely knowledgeable and offers interesting insights into this genus; eg *Sarcochilus weinthalii* has a 'freckle' on the lip's pouch which it always passes on when used as a parent.

Lorraine is responsible for discovering an important plant of *Sarcochilus fitzgeraldii* over 30 years ago. At first it produced pink flowers which became more pink and then red with each subsequent flowering. It is the source of the red hybrids available today. *Sarcochilus* Star Struck (Southern Cross x *fitzgeraldii* 'Lorraine') produces highly variable flowers from plain white to patterned.

A number of related genera, previously classified as *Sarcochilus*, can readily be



*Sarcochilus* Western's Surprise (*spathulatus* x *weinthalii*) has a distinctive 'freckle' on its lip, inherited from *Sarcochilus weinthalii*

## Sarcochilus – real Australian beauties

---



crossed with *Sarcochilus* and include *Plectorrhiza* (producing *Plectochilus*) and *Rhinerrhiza* (producing *Rhinochilus*). Lorraine showed me several plants of *Plectorrhiza tridentata* growing on a tree in her garden – books recommend growing this species mounted although she has found it will only thrive when mounted on a living tree. It has tiny, lemon-scented flowers, which are olive green with a white and yellow lip, and is known as the Tangle Orchid for its straggling growth habit.

Hybrids produce endless fascination and interest. The star-like flowers of *Rhinochilus Dorothy* (*Sarcochilus hartmannii* x *Rhinerrhiza divitiflora*) only last a couple of days, a trait inherited from its *Rhinerrhiza* parent. *Rhinochilus Lava Burst* (*Dorothy* x

*Sarcochilus fitzgeraldii* 'Lorraine' has helped to create the new red hybrids



*Sarcochilus Star Struck* can produce flowers from plain white to patterned

*Sarcochilus fitzgeraldii*) has reverted to its *Sarcochilus* parent in its leaf shape.

It seems fitting that such an enthusiast has her own name-sake – *Sarcochilus* Lorraine Fagg (*Verolica* x *fitzgeraldii*) registered by Florafest 1991.

My sincere thanks to the following for their warm welcome and generous hospitality in Australia and for sharing their expertise in all things orchidaceous: John McAuley; Geoff, Angie and Scott Barrie; Kevin Hipkins; Judy and Graham Dietrich; Lorraine Fagg; and John Haniver. I am also grateful to the Swiss Orchid Foundation (SOF) for permission to reproduce Thilo Nordhausen's image of *Sarcochilus olivaceus*. For more information about the SOF please visit <https://orchid.unibas.ch>



*Plectorrhiza tridentata*, the Tangle Orchid, grows best mounted



*Rhinochilus* Lava Burst (*Dorothy* x *Sarcochilus fitzgeraldii*) has leaves more like its *Sarcochilus* parent



*Rhinochilus* Dorothy (*Sarcochilus hartmannii* x *Rhinerrhiza divitiflora*) has short-lived flowers inherited from its *Rhinerrhiza* parent

# Dactylorhiza practical guide to successful cultivation

John Haggar (photos by John Haggar)



John Haggar

## Introduction

*Dactylorhiza* is a genus of terrestrial orchids with a largely Eurasian area of distribution. The majority of species are summer-green/winter-dormant and occur in persistently damp habitats such as wet grassland, fen margins or bogs. A few species, such as *Dactylorhiza romana* and *Dact. sambucina*, are distributed in montane habitats and follow a different seasonal pattern of growth; they are best cultivated as alpiners. Most dactylorhizas are commonly known as Marsh Orchids.

## Cultivation methods

A couple of species and hybrids (eg *Dact. fuchsii*, the Common Spotted Orchid) will tolerate and may prefer less damp conditions



Marsh Orchids, such as *Dactylorhiza majalis*, favour persistently damp habitats



*Dactylorhiza elata*, the Southern European Marsh Orchid, will grow well in moist areas of the garden



*Dactylorhiza* grow well with their pots plunged in regularly-watered beds of damp sand



Raised beds beside a pond will be successful as long as the pond is well-aerated

and in some circumstances are suitable candidates for a woodland garden, wildflower meadow, or even a shady herbaceous border. Madeiran Marsh Orchids, *Dact. foliosa* (often confused with the Southern European, *Dact. elata*, and their hybrids) have been plants for moister areas of the garden for many decades.

Traditionally, *Dactylorhiza* has been thought to be a genus poorly suited to pot culture. Certainly, the plants' requirements for a well-drained but persistently damp and moisture-retentive compost without sudden changes in pot temperature would appear to rule out traditional pot-growing methods. By using a combination of plunging and very regular watering, though, these problems can be overcome.

I have been growing dactylorhizas to flowering size from seed for many years. I grow my seedlings and small, younger plants in community clay pots plunged in regularly-watered beds of damp sand. Some beds are outside and others are more protected under the benches in an unheated, well-ventilated glasshouse. Watering from above is perfectly acceptable, although between waterings the plants draw moisture through the porous terracotta pots from the damper, deeper layers of the sand plunge. Dactylorhizas grow naturally in places where 'rising damp' is the norm and cultivation methods that mimic this are likely to be the most successful.

One previously-described method is the Holman raised bog (Cribb & Bailes 1986), where a bed is constructed above a

waterlogged sump. In my experience such beds tend to become stagnant and airless in their deeper layers and affect root growth very adversely. In my opinion they are not appropriate for dactylorhizas. An improved modification of the Holman bog is to construct a raised bed marginal to a healthy, well-aerated pond in order to avoid the problems of airless growing conditions around the roots. The structure is put together so that the pond liner encompasses both the pond and the raised bed, with the soil level built up to 30–45cm above the water level of the pond and maintained by an overflow.

### The plunge bed

As dactylorhizas are offered for sale, purchased and usually kept as individual specimen plants, I have devised a method of growing them potted in a plunge bed. The bed should be assembled on a level, impervious base using breeze blocks, or similar, which are stood on (but not lined with) a waterproof material. The structure is filled with sand into which the pots are

plunged to their necks. Ordinary sharp (not building) sand from a builder's merchant works well; it drains adequately, but maintains a somewhat 'slushy' basal layer when regularly watered. Watered freely with the surface kept constantly damp, a gradient of moisture is formed in the sand. The pots are plunged, ensuring that there is just a little space between the drainage holes at the base of the pots and the sand beneath them.

Such a plunge bed will maintain most dactylorhizas year round in all weathers, but it must be kept visibly damp and watered regularly in the drier summer months. Over the colder months, natural rainfall alone will suffice. In more exposed situations than the garden, the plunge bed may be roofed with light shade cloth to reduce surface evaporation and the sides screened to help cut down wind and to keep out pests, like rabbits. The bed will need regular weeding to prevent growth of grasses and other weeds in the sand. Lightly spraying just the surface of the sand (not the pots) occasionally with vinegar will prevent liverwort from establishing.

Obstruction to the drainage of a pot by blockage of the drain hole(s) will cause water-logging of the compost and loss of the plant, so I usually crock the bottom two centimetres of the long tom pot with a porous free-draining substance like coarse perlite. Ideally terracotta long tom pots might be preferable, but these are expensive and unaffordable if many plants are being grown. I have successfully used plastic long tom pots in this system for many years.



Plants growing in a plunge bed with summer shading

## Composts

Many composts have been described as suitable for these orchids including very inorganic free-draining mixes based on seramis. My preference is to use more natural ingredients with a substantial organic component in my plunge bed system. Cribb & Bailes (1989) recommend their woodland terrestrial mix, but in my opinion, Norman Heywood's original and simpler mix (1 part sterilised loam, 3 parts milled peat, 1 part grit) is just as good. In deference to current objections to the overuse of peat, I have modified (and improved) this latter compost by substituting fine composted bark for half the peat. More bark than this appears to reduce the efficacy of the mix. Other peat substitutes such as coir have not worked well in my hands. In addition, my currently favoured compost enhances drainage by adding perlite.

My suggested mix for lime-tolerant *Dactylorhiza* species:

- 2 parts heat-sterilised limey clay loam
- 3 parts Irish moss peat
- 3 parts fine composted bark
- 1 part coarse grit including some limestone chips
- 1 part fine potting grit
- 2 parts coarse grade perlite

The peat and bark are riddled through a 1cm sieve and woody lumps discarded. Molehills which have been sieved and then heat-sterilized are an easy source of loam. For species which require an acidic mix (eg *Dact. maculata*), use a lime-free loam with an acidic pH and omit the limestone chips. Only

composted bark must be used; 'fresh' fine bark is unsuitable for most true temperate terrestrial orchids.

Peat is becoming more difficult to obtain although bales of Irish moss peat are still available online at the time of writing. Sedge peat drains poorly and is not suitable. Although orchids in general abhor composts with high levels of added fertilizer, dactylorhizas are more tolerant of a little inorganic fertilizer in the mix and a high peat content (>70%) traditional multi-purpose compost, sieved to remove the grosser lumps of bark and fibrous mats of coir, is an acceptable substitute to use in the mix if pure moss peat is unavailable. Ericaceous compost must be used for lime-hating species.



John's preferred compost uses natural ingredients with a substantial organic component

## Obtaining and propagating plants

Most flowering-sized specimens arise from a broadly bilobed tuber which tapers into finger-like, deep root extensions. Superficial roots and next year's tuber arise from the uppermost region of the tuber just beneath the single shoot. Poor cultivation methods initially cause rotting of the root extensions, so beware purchasing tubers that do not possess them!

Bare root plants are purchased during the winter dormancy period and are usually available from September until as late as March. Potted plants may be available from nurseries and orchid shows from March until flowering time, which is generally May to July. Well-grown plants of some strains of species and hybrids will produce more than one new tuber at the end of the growing season. Plants without this tendency can nonetheless be propagated vegetatively by nipping off and potting up the new tuber in the summer as the plant is about to flower.



The name *Dactylorhiza* refers to the finger-like roots of this genus

The mother plant will produce a new tuber in response although it is possible that neither new tuber will be large enough to flower the following year. Do not let the mother plant set seed, and remove the flower spike after the flowers start to die.

## Potting and repotting

Over time, the compost will slowly degrade and become more compact and less free-draining. The owner of a small or moderate number of potted *dactylorhizas* should endeavour to repot them into fresh compost every year, although the described method and growing mix should allow a plant to remain in the same pot for two growth seasons if numbers or time prohibit yearly repotting.

Crock the pot initially with an inch of perlite and hold the tuber so that the shoot is 5–7.5cm below the rim of the pot. Fill in around the plant with the compost and level off the mix with the top of the pot. Gently compress the surface of the compost to create a 1.5cm space between the top of the compost and



*Dactylorhiza* offer attractive and varied species to cultivate (*Dact. x grandis*, *Dact. x kerneri* and *Dact. incarnata*)

---

## *Dactylorhiza* – a practical guide to successful cultivation

the pot rim. Level the pot off again, but this time with potting grit. Water the pot at this stage by slow immersion in water until it is totally submerged and the contents thoroughly saturated. Remove the pot from the drench and allow it to drain – the compost will sink a further 1cm or so and the pot is now ready to be plunged. The top dressing of grit helps to prevent the lighter components of the mix from floating to the surface during the initial watering.

### Fertilizing

As plants are usually repotted during dormancy, there is no need to add fertilizer to the compost, although the plants will

tolerate low levels in the mix. During growth, however, the orchids do respond well to the regular use of dilute organic fertilizers. I personally use a mixture of fish emulsion and seaweed extract at quarter strength every fortnight from the opening of the first leaf to flowering time. Unlike summer-dormant orchids, *Dactylorhiza* species retain symbiotic fungus in their tubers and root systems all year round and it is for this reason that mixes with organic ingredients and organic fertilizers are so appropriate. Should growers choose to use highly inorganic composts based on seramis or pumice, for example, then regular use of organic fertilizers during growth is essential.



*Dactylorhiza foliosa* with a top dressing of grit



*Dactylorhiza praetermissa*, the Southern Marsh Orchid, produces large spikes of pink to purple flowers in June

## The plants

Cheap and obtainable plants for the novice include the British natives *Dact. fuchsii*, the Common Spotted Orchid and *Dact. purpurella*, the Northern Marsh Orchid. These are both relatively easy to grow and can often be purchased for less than £5 per tuber. More expensive are the splendid native Southern Marsh Orchid, *Dact. praetermissa*, which produces large spikes of broad pink to purple flowers in June, and the continental Western Marsh Orchid, *Dact. majalis*, which flowers rather earlier in May but is equally grand with wide, heavily-spotted leaves and a dense inflorescence of rich purple. Expect to pay between £12 and £15 a piece for these species.

Long standing garden hybrids such as 'Eskimo Nell', 'Bressingham Bonus' and the previously mentioned (*foliosa* x *elata*) hybrids posing as true *foliosa*, are vegetatively propagated and generally produce sterile seed. These may be picked up fairly cheaply, at between £5 and £10 per plant. Newer hybrids which are first generation crosses grown laboriously from seed are likely to be priced between £15 and £20 per tuber. These might include the beautiful *Dact. Madonna* (*majalis* x *sambucina*) and *Dact. Lindholm* (*praetermissa* x *sambucina*) or the heavily pigmented *Dact. Caldera* (*fuchsii* x *cruenta*).



*Dactylorhiza* Lindholm (*praetermissa* x *sambucina*)



*Dactylorhiza* Caldera (*fuchsii* x *cruenta*)

## *Dactylorhiza* – a practical guide to successful cultivation

Hybrids or species that are particularly rare or difficult to grow to flowering size from seed may be priced in excess of £20 each. Such plants include the Early Marsh Orchid, *Dact. incarnata*; the Kurdish Marsh Orchid, *Dact. umbrosa*; the strange, rhizomatous Crimean Marsh Orchid, *Dact. iberica*; and the naturally occurring hybrid between the Frog Orchid and the Common Spotted Orchid, *Dact. x mixta* (*fuchsii* x *viridis*) which is also known as x *Dactyloglossum*.

### References:

Cribb, P and Bailes, C, *Hardy Orchids* (1989)

Seaton, P, Cribb, P, Ramsay, M and Haggard, J, *Growing Hardy Orchids* (2011)

*Ed:* John Haggard is a veterinary surgeon by profession. He developed an interest in hardy orchids and their propagation in the late 1980s. He has since become expert at growing European orchids from seed and has produced and named several new hybrids in the genera *Dactylorhiza* and *Epipactis*.

Members wishing to learn more about all aspects of hardy orchids might be interested in the Hardy Orchid Society (HOS). The HOS produces a quarterly journal; arranges field trips; runs seed-sowing workshops; hosts a web-based discussion forum; and holds northern and southern meetings each year. Please visit the website:

[www.hardyorchidsociety.org.uk](http://www.hardyorchidsociety.org.uk)



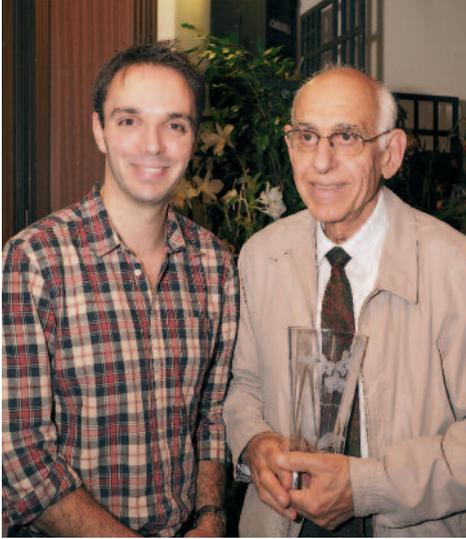
Plants of *Dactylorhiza incarnata*, the Early Marsh Orchid, may be expensive to purchase



*Dactylorhiza x mixta* is a natural hybrid between Frog and Common Spotted Orchids

# OSGB Autumn Show 2014 report

Sam Hurley (photos by Robert Simmons)



Andrew Seal presenting the new Phalaenopsis Trophy to David Martin

Visitors to the show arrived by the coachload this year and helped to create a wonderful atmosphere in Wraysbury Village Hall. Burnham Nurseries and Peter White brought along orchids to tempt us and Just in Glass and EarthenWear offered an opportunity for some early Christmas shopping. Thames Valley Orchid Society produced another attractive display with a varied range of plants including an impressive *Dendrobium amabile*.

It was a pleasure to welcome Andrew Seal, who kindly presented the new Phalaenopsis Trophy, donated in memory of his late parents Allan and Linda Seal, to David Martin for his *Phalaenopsis hieroglyphica* 'White Lavender' which had four flowering spikes.



Malcolm Moodie's *Paphiopedilum* (*spicerianum* x *tigrinum* 'Ifield' AM-RHS) – one of a group of three which won Class 31



Christine Bartlett's *Phalaenopsis* hybrid displayed a well-arranged spike of peloric (mutated) yet uniform blooms – winner of Class 14

There were some old favourites and new contenders amongst the orchids on show including Mike Penney's sizeable *Coelogyne fimbriata* which once again won the Len Page Trophy for Best in Show. Hybrids were much in evidence this year: Malcolm Moodie's *Paphiopedilum (spicerianum x tigrinum* 'Ifield' AM/RHS) was one of a group of three which won Class 31 and Christine Bartlett's *Phalaenopsis* hybrid with peloric (mutated) yet perfectly uniform blooms won Class 14.

Many thanks to everyone who visited the show and displayed plants, and to all those who worked so hard to make the day a success. This year's Autumn Show will be held at Wraysbury Village Hall on Saturday 7 November. We hope to arrange a coach again from central London for those who would like help getting to the venue.

## Autumn Show Trophy winners

<b>Mike Penney</b>	Len Page Trophy Coach Party Challenge Trophy
<b>Mike Buckingham</b>	Dusha Hayes Trophy Jo Kelleher Painting
<b>David Martin</b>	Hubbard Bowl Phalaenopsis Trophy
<b>Malcolm Moodie</b>	Fernhill Trophy (Jeal Cup)
<b>Sam Hurley</b>	Solomon Trophy

A selection of First place winners at the 2014 Autumn Show



**Class 1**

Name: *Epidendrum peperomia*

Grower: Malcolm Moodie

Native to: Colombia to Venezuela

Grow: Warm to Cool (this plant is grown as Intermediate)

Info: A dwarf *Epidendrum* which will form large mats of fleshy-leaved stems



**Class 2**

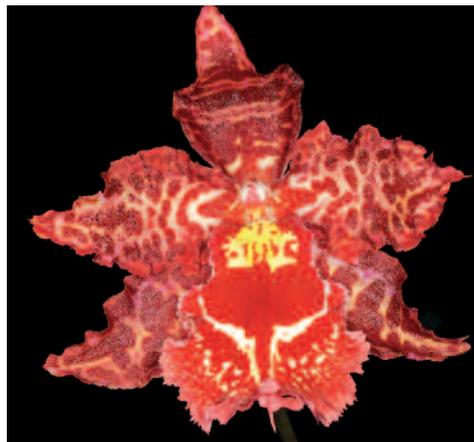
Name: *Cattlianthe Porcia*

Grower: Sam Hurley

Parents: *Cattleya Armstrongiae* (1907) x *Guarianthe bowringiana*

Grow: Warm

Info: Not to be confused with *Cattlianthe Portia* (*Guarianthe bowringiana* x *Cattleya labiata*)



**Class 8**

Name: *Oncostele Stirbic*

Grower: David Martin

Parents: *Rynchostele bictoniensis* x *Oncidium Florence Stirling*

Grow: Cool

Info: *Oncidium alexandrae* is a grandparent on both sides of this hybrid's parentage

A selection of First place winners at the 2014 Autumn Show



**Class 10**

Name: *Paphiopedilum* Doll's Kobold  
Grower: Malcolm Moodie  
Parents: *Paphiopedilum charlesworthii* x  
*Paphiopedilum henryanum*  
Grow: Intermediate  
Info: An easy-to-flower attractive primary hybrid of two well-known species



**Class 12**

Name: *Phragmipedium* Don Wimber  
Grower: Sally Mill  
Parents: *Phragmipedium* Eric Young x  
*Phragmipedium besseae*  
Grow: Warm to Intermediate  
Info: A good introduction to phragmipediums – easier to grow than *Phragmipedium besseae*

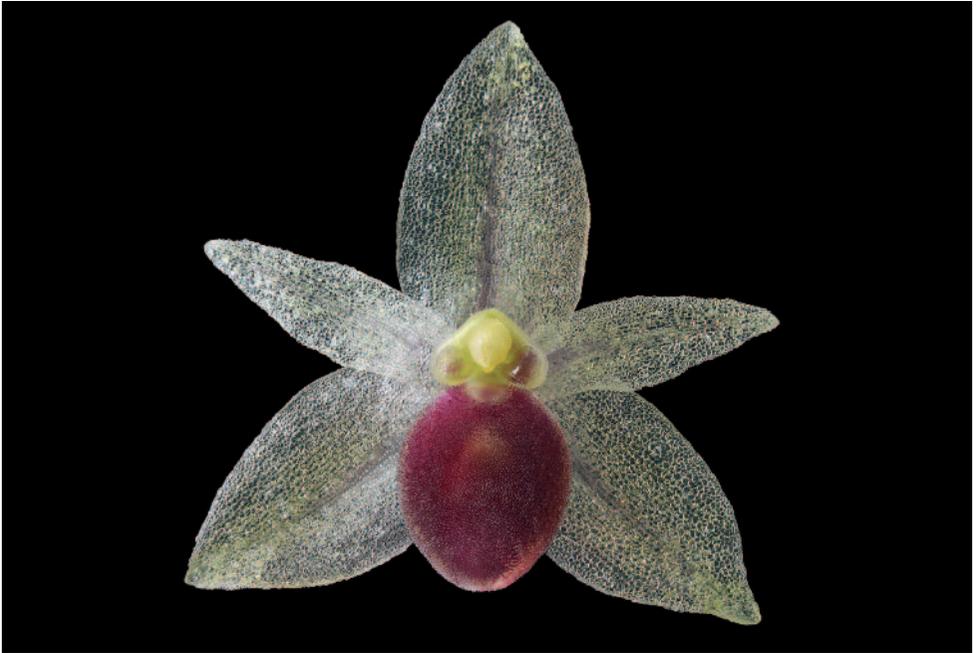


**Class 13**

Name: *Phalaenopsis hieroglyphica* 'White Lavender'  
Grower: David Martin  
Native to: Philippines  
Grow: Warm  
Info: A superbly-flowered specimen with the palest of lavender-coloured lips

# Platystele misera

Helen Millner (photo by Helen Millner)



One hundred separate images of *Platystele misera* are 'stacked' together to create a greater depth of field in this photograph

There are about 85 miniature species in the pleurothallid genus *Platystele*. They are to be found distributed from Colombia to northern Peru at altitudes between 1,800 and 2,900 metres. In common with the majority of orchids they are on CITES Appendix II (ie trade is controlled to avoid use incompatible with the species' survival).

*Platystele misera* is a small species first described as *Pleurothallis misera* by John Lindley in 1859. It is fairly common in collections, but often overlooked or undervalued because of its tiny, pale-coloured flowers, which are usually between 3–5mm in diameter. The name actually means 'the insignificant *Platystele*'. However, to compensate for this, it flowers successively

over a long period of time and is easy to grow.

A moist compost of pure *Sphagnum* moss or *Sphagnum* moss with either perlite or bark will suit it, along with intermediate temperatures. Like most pleurothallids, it will grow better in high humidity and does not like direct, strong sunlight. When the growing conditions are suitable it will quickly increase in size, forming a clump.

The finished photograph is composed of 100 separate images 'stacked' together to produce the greater depth of field in the finished picture. Each separate image was taken using a 60mm macro lens, ISO 100, f/14, exposure time 2 seconds. Photographs were taken indoors, using natural light only.

# Micropropagation at King Charles I School

*Philip Seaton* (photos by Philip Seaton)

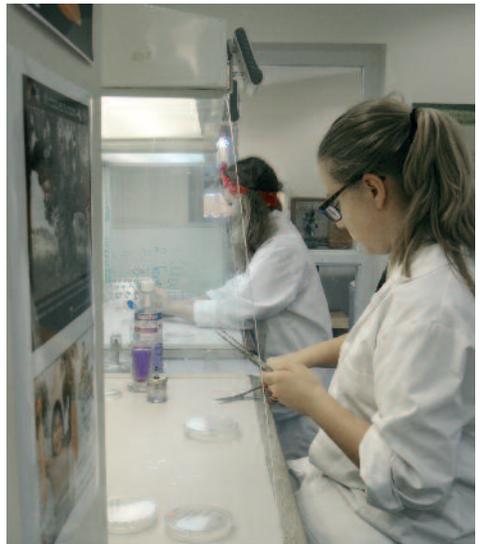
When I began growing orchids, an unbelievable 40 years ago, society displays were full of interesting species and you could still visit orchid nurseries which had benches boasting an exciting range of freshly-imported plants. The days of mass importations of wild-collected material are now long-gone of course, and quite rightly too. The downside, however, is that as the years have gone by we are seeing fewer and fewer species at shows, partly due no doubt to the fact that increasing heating bills mean amateur growers can no longer afford to maintain large greenhouse collections, but also due to a lack of availability.

In a world that is on the brink of an extinction crisis the likes of which have not been seen since the demise of the dinosaurs, it seems to me that we should be doing everything we can to conserve orchids for future generations to enjoy before they disappear for ever. And so for many years I have dreamt of reintroducing some of the orchid gems of the past.

An opportunity to begin propagating orchids from seed arose when I was invited by Dr Nigel Collins to set up an orchid lab at King Charles I School, a mixed secondary school in Kidderminster, Worcestershire. We received a grant from the Royal Society to convert one of the old stables into a small lab and to purchase some equipment. We were given two laminar flow hoods by the Micropropagation Unit at RBG Kew and a refrigerator by the Hardy

Orchid Society. Colleagues at Kew's Millennium Seed Bank donated a pH meter and I have raised funds to enable us to purchase other equipment through giving talks to orchid societies around the country. Societies have been very generous. The project is financially self-sustaining and I expect we will begin to make a small profit next year through selling flasks of tropical orchids. The aim is to invest any profits in further student conservation activities.

For several years in my spare time I have been working as a volunteer, teaching laboratory techniques to members of the school science club and pupils studying 'land and the environment', to enable them to grow orchids from seed both symbiotically



Heidi Pratt and Paige Marshall working in the micropropagation laboratory at King Charles I School

## Micropropagation at King Charles I School

---

and asymbiotically. It has been a very enjoyable and rewarding experience. Pupils have exhibited their work at the Big Bang science fairs in Malvern and Coventry and at the Malvern International Orchid Show.

Time passes, and I have reached what has been termed the 'nirvana of retirement'. Suddenly I have more time to focus on the school project. Recently the headmaster asked if I would like to move my lab into a larger space. The school has invested in turning what was previously the fitness suite (I hasten to add that the fitness suite is now located in new premises) into an orchid lab with separate areas for media preparation and seed sowing, and a separate growing area for the flasks of seedlings. Truly nirvana! Since moving into our new premises the project has progressed in leaps and bounds. I currently operate one day a week with a team of 'citizen scientists' from the Central Orchid

Society and the Birmingham and Midlands Orchid Society who have been invaluable in establishing the new facilities. We presently have in the region of 500 flasks of seedlings of tropical species growing under lights.

The main focus of the project is of course the schoolchildren. This year I have begun working with teachers and three separate student groups at different times throughout the week as part of the school enrichment programme. The emphasis is on the science and we are developing an increasing number of projects enabling students to participate in a wide range of conservation activities and scientific investigations.

Students begin with dactylorhizas; *Dactylorhiza fuchsii* and *Dact. praetermissa* are relatively easy to grow from seed symbiotically. Seed is sown on a simple oats medium consisting of porridge oats and agar in a Petri dish. A cube of agar containing the fungus is then added. Youngsters tend to be very dextrous. They pick up the microbiological techniques very quickly and we have few problems with contamination, partly I think because the oats medium is low in nutrients and partly because potential contaminants cannot compete with the fungus once it is established. Over a period of one or two weeks the fungus can be seen growing across the surface of the medium, infecting the seeds and promoting their germination. The protocorms grow rapidly to form small top-shaped tubers. A sample of the protocorms and tubers can be removed from the Petri dishes, sectioned, stained with toluidine blue and examined under a microscope. Students will see coils of fungal



Orchid seedlings growing under LED lighting

hyphae (pelotons) infecting cells in specific regions of the tubers.

After being established in compost, plants will be used to set up a small demonstration orchid garden on the school premises and, under the guidance of the Wyre Forest District Council, to enhance local orchid populations by reintroduction into sites where they were found historically but have since disappeared. Thus students have an opportunity to participate in practical orchid conservation projects. Our long-term aim is to grow a wide range of British native orchids from seed both symbiotically and asymbiotically to be used as an educational tool in displays. Seed is locally sourced and always collected with permission. It is dried to a suitable moisture content and stored in hermetically sealed tubes in a refrigerator, with each collection being assigned its own, unique, accession number with the information stored on a computer database.

The vast majority of tropical orchids are relatively easy to grow from seed given suitable facilities. With each student focusing on a handful of individual species

they have an opportunity to research the countries of origin, habitats and cultural uses and thereby learn about biodiversity and its value in the wider world. We want to encourage growers around the country to begin pollinating the species they hold in their collections. Plants die, whether through the sheer bad luck of being consumed by some wandering mollusc, heating failure, poor culture or just old age, and if we want future generations to be able to enjoy them we need to embark on a propagation programme. **If you send us your seed you will receive flasks of seedlings in return.**

*Ed:* Philip Seaton took early retirement from teaching, after 32 years as a biology lecturer, to work in orchid conservation. Until recently he was project manager for Orchid Seed Stores for Sustainable Use, a Darwin Initiative based at Kew's Millennium Seed Bank. He is a regular contributor to orchid publications, has written a number of scientific papers with his co-authors, and has authored, co-authored and illustrated three orchid books published by Kew. Philip can be contacted at [philipseaton@gmail.com](mailto:philipseaton@gmail.com)



Petri dishes of germinating seedlings



Tubes of seed ready for storage in a refrigerator

# 21st World Orchid Conference report

Helen Millner (photos by Helen Millner)



The 21st World Orchid Conference (WOC) took place at Santon Convention Centre, Johannesburg, on 10–14 September 2014. The theme chosen for the conference was *Orchids: Gold in the Green Age*. The Star of Africa, *Angraecum stella-africae*, described by PJ Cribb in 1983, was adopted for the logo. A total of 550 delegates from North and South America, Africa, Australia, the Far East and Europe attended the conference, together with over 12,000 other visitors.



There were some beautiful stands that had taken an immense amount of engineering work to construct and which showed great skill in their final presentation. The South African stand stood out in this respect. It was inspired by the history of gold mining on which Johannesburg was founded and included a scale model, built in 1950, of the winding gear of an old gold mine. This exhibit was staged by the three host societies for the WOC: Witwatersrand Orchid Society from Johannesburg, Northern Gauteng Orchid Society from Pretoria and East Rand Orchid Society from Ekurhuleni.

Thailand was awarded Grand Champion exhibit for their striking Thai Pavilion. This display was a joint project between various businesses in Thailand to show the beauty and creativeness of Thai thinking. The construction of the central section alone took two days to complete.

The Reserve Champion exhibit and Best Educational Display went to The Exotic Plant Company, proprietor Mike Tibbs. Many members will remember him, from both Stonehurst Nursery and his days at McBean's

The South African stand featured a scale model of the winding gear of an old gold mine and orchids in mine carts which meandered on tracks across the conference floor



Thailand was awarded Grand Champion exhibit for their striking Thai Pavilion

Orchids with Ray Bilton. This stand was a meticulously arranged collection of memorabilia including stamps, badges, photographs and awards from all the previous 20 conferences. World Orchid Conferences have been held every three years since 1954, each time in a different city, and the work involved in staging each conference has been undertaken wholly by local orchid groups. The Orchid Society of South East Asia, which hosted the last WOC in Singapore, staged an attractive stand called *Diversity in the Green Age*.

A lovely plant of *Angulocaste* Olympus 'Honey' owned by Francois Vorster from Wolkberg Orchid Society was awarded Grand Champion plant, Best Specimen and Best Hybrid. The Reserve Champion plant and Best Species went to a huge plant of *Ansellia africana*, owned by Lourens and Jolisa Grobler of Afri Orchids. This plant was part of a large exhibit of different forms of the species, known



Francois Vorster's *Angulocaste* Olympus 'Honey' was awarded Grand Champion plant, Best Specimen and Best Hybrid



Helen and David Millner produced a superb educational exhibit for the WOC



A large exhibit of *Ansellia africana* showed different forms of the species, known locally as the Leopard Orchid

locally as the Leopard Orchid and common in the Kruger National Park. This species is not well known in the UK, and we were all surprised by the various forms on display.

Representing the UK were Johan and Clare Hermans, who presented *Orchids of Madagascar: A Photographic Tribute*; Dino Zelenika, who exhibited photographs of *The Orchids of Bosnia and Herzegovina* and ourselves, with an educational exhibit entitled *Orchid Insight*.

Unfortunately the show and conference were affected because some exhibitors and speakers pulled out at the last minute. This was due to fear about the Ebola outbreak and personal security; both of these concerns had been exaggerated and proved groundless. In



Jolisa and Laurens Grobler's huge plant of *Ansellia africana* was awarded Reserve Champion plant and Best Species

spite of smaller numbers, the conference lectures were well attended by delegates and proved to be a very successful, interesting and stimulating part of the WOC. We were able to catch up with old friends from around the world, some of whom we had not seen for a long time, and to make some new ones. This has to be the best part of any WOC.

Speaking personally, the most interesting exhibit was the Wetlands exhibit by Wild Orchids Southern Africa (WOSA). They had built a 200 metre square exhibit of three separate wetland habitats to illustrate their diversity and the functions and benefits that wetlands bring to Africa. All of these habitats are under serious threat. While *Disa* are the best known, in fact there are over 480 species of orchid indigenous to South Africa, including many *Satyrium* species. In conjunction with the South African National Biodiversity Institute, WOSA is researching why the relocation and reintroduction of South African terrestrial orchids is difficult and often impossible. Sadly, there was not a *Disa* in sight at the WOC because it was the wrong time of year for them. The best locality for these orchids is the area around Cape Town and Table Mountain. Here, there are wetter winters resulting in lush, green vegetation, unlike the dry winter climate around Johannesburg. For these reasons many people spent some days there, either before or after the WOC, in order to see the native flowers of the Cape Peninsula.

No article on the wonderful flora of South Africa would be complete without mentioning the national flower, the King Protea or *Protea cynaroides*. The name means 'like an artichoke'. This species has the largest flower head in the genus; with long vase life in flower arrangements it makes an excellent cut flower. There are over 2,000

species in the *Protea* family, which was named by Carl Linnaeus in 1735 after the Greek god, Proteus. Seeing some of these species growing wild at the Kirstenbosch National Botanical Garden in Cape Town was one of the highlights of the trip.

The 22nd WOC will take place in Guayaquil, Ecuador in 2017, although the dates have yet to be confirmed, and a Taiwanese bid to host the 23rd WOC in 2020 has been provisionally selected.



South Africa's national flower, the King Protea (*Protea cynaroides*) in a flower arrangement at the WOC



*Satyrium* is one of 480 species of orchid indigenous to South Africa

# Napier Hall meetings



Mike Penney's *Paphinia herrerae* is one of about 15 species in this genus which is related to *Stanhopea*

## Table show report

**October 2014**

André Roux (photos by Robert Simmons)

Seldom do these reports omit to comment on the beauty of paphs (to the aggravation of some readers, I suspect) and this one is no exception. Before you turn the page, however, the first plant up for discussion was not really a paph. Quite unrelated, in fact, and entirely without a pouch or synsepal in sight. Intrigued? This orchid was a member of the genus *Paphinia* and was an exciting addition to October's display table.

*Paphinia* is related to *Stanhopea*, although the deciduous plants are much smaller (and the disproportionately large flowers unquestionably prettier). One of the most striking floral features shared by both these

genera is the lip which, in *Paphinia*, is complex and tipped with either dense or sparse beard-like appendages. The generic name is derived from Paphia, the Cypriot name for Aphrodite, Greek goddess of love and beauty, and Paphos, the coastal city in Cyprus that is her mythical birthplace. Approximately 15 species can be found from Costa Rica through Panama and into Colombia, Ecuador, Venezuela and Brazil.

Southern Ecuador is home to *Paphinia herrerae*, generally regarded as the largest and most spectacular in the genus. Two distinct colour forms are known: the white form is speckled and barred with rust-red in the centre of the flower; the other is pink and shows considerable variation in the intensity and quantity of red patterning. It grows at altitudes around 1,000 metres as an epiphyte in wet, low understory forest and bears long, archingly pendent inflorescences of up to seven, short-lived 20cm flowers.

Paphinias are low-light plants and can be cultivated in baskets or on mounts, in which latter instance the roots benefit from a substantial covering of healthy moss to maintain the high humidity that is key to successful growth. Care should be taken to ensure the potting medium never becomes dry, and temperatures (largely dependent on the species' native altitude) averaging 15°C at night and 25°C during the day are beneficial. New growths rapidly succumb to rot if water is allowed to settle in them for any length of time, so soaking the plant may minimise this risk. Acidic fertilizers aid root health, but any



Jo Kelleher's *Restrepia antennifera* blooms twice a year



Sally Mill's *Restrepia chameleon* is a cool-growing epiphyte



Jo Kelleher's *Restrepia iris* grows in the cloud forests of south-east Ecuador



Sally Mill's *Restrepia sanguinea* is native to Colombia

accumulation of salts in the potting mix will burn the fragile roots. Flowers are produced as the new growths mature and, given that healthy pseudobulbs can bloom on several occasions throughout the year, paphinias are a worthy addition to any collection.

Another genus deserving wider popularity is *Restrepia*, a member of the *Pleurothallidinae* – one could classify them as the Marmite orchids. In fact, one or two uncompromising Australian growers refer to them as Cockroach Orchids, a seemingly unkind moniker but one which alludes to their somewhat kooky flowers as well as their all-round resilience. *Restrepias*, on the whole, tolerate brighter, drier and warmer conditions than most pleurothallids.

Four different species exhibited in October attested to the intrinsic beauty within the



David Martin's *Trichocentrum jonesianum* has distinctive *Oncidium*-type flowers but fleshy and terete leaves

genus. The widely grown *Restrepia antennifera*, from Colombia, Venezuela, Ecuador and Peru, blooms twice a year in spring and autumn and was first described in 1816. It bears some of the larger flowers in the genus. *Restrepia chameleon*, with its delicately speckled synsepal, is a cool-growing epiphyte in sub-paramo valley forests in Norte de Santander, Colombia. Miniature plants with typically coriaceous (*Ed*: leathery) leaves blushed purple on their undersides are characteristic of the striking cloud forest natives *Restrepia iris*, from south-east Ecuador, and *Restrepia sanguinea*, from north-west and central Colombia.

*Restrepia* numbers approximately 50 species, with the largest concentration in the Andes and a scattering in Central America. Named for José Manuel Restrepo, a Colombian politician with a strong interest in the flora of Antioquia, *restrepias* are principally distinguished from their relatives by the highly coloured and patterned fused lateral sepals which are the prominent feature of their singular blooms. An interesting fact is that the apex of a *Restrepia* leaf can be taken as a cutting and used to strike new plantlets.

We have seen a couple of trichocentrums in recent months, the trend happily continuing in October with *Trichocentrum* (previously *Oncidium*) *jonesianum*. This beautiful species has distinctive *Oncidium*-type flowers but leaves that are quite unlike more familiar *oncidiums* – fleshy and terete with a thorn-like tip rather than broad, thin and soft. *Trichocentrum jonesianum* is an epiphyte in riverine forest in Brazil, Bolivia, Paraguay and north-eastern Argentina where it enjoys





Val Micklewright's *Phragmipedium* Fritz Schomburg is a striking primary hybrid (*kovachii* x *besseae*)

shaded conditions and intermediate temperatures. The roots are highly susceptible to rot if they remain wet for too long but high humidity is essential for growth.

Phragmipediums, on the other hand, revel in abundant moisture at root level, frequently growing in seepage or running water. Rounding out this exclusively South American report were two magnificent hybrids, both grown to a high standard and illustrating the finest qualities of these popular slipper orchids. *Phragmipedium* Living Fire (Sorcerer's Apprentice x *besseae*) was registered in 1995 and further advanced the frenzy of breeding with *Phragmipedium besseae*. The plant on display paraded an imposing metre-tall inflorescence with two branches and six glowing blooms. Of more recent stock was a seductively beautiful clone of *Phragmipedium* Fritz Schomburg, a cross between *Phragmipedium kovachii* and *Phragmipedium besseae* registered in 2007, which finally exhibits a glimpse of the unfulfilled potential that has shadowed early hybridizing with *Phragmipedium kovachii*.

## Lecture report

October 2014

Orchids of Southern Africa and Madagascar –  
Johan Hermans

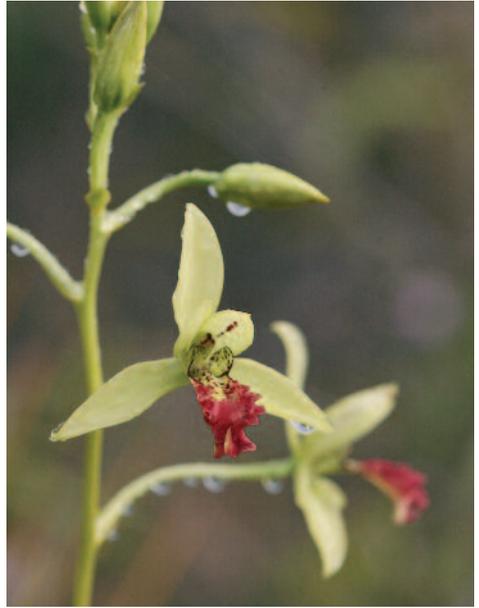
*Mary-Jane Hawkins* (photos by Johan Hermans)

We were delighted to welcome Johan Hermans, chairman of the RHS Orchid Committee since 2006, to Napier Hall in October to talk about the orchids of Southern Africa, Madagascar, and Réunion. Johan is an orchid grower, photographer and author, and is an expert on the orchids of Madagascar. This region is home to a diverse range of orchids and it is easy to imagine they were admired by the indigenous population for many centuries before the arrival in South Africa of the first western explorers from the East India Company in the eighteenth century. Dried herbarium specimens became a valuable commodity which could change hands for considerable sums of money.

It was not long before plants began to be described and illustrated. The Swedish explorer, Peter Jonas Bergius (1730–1790) first described *Disa uniflora* from a herbarium specimen although Carl Linnaeus (1707–1778) described it simultaneously as *Disa grandiflora*. Louis-Marie Aubert du Petit-Thouars (1758–1831) was one of the first botanical explorers to visit Madagascar and discovered new species including *Angraecum sesquipedale*, which he described and illustrated. He also described *Cymbidiella flabellata* (a lovely species but virtually

impossible to grow in cultivation) and went on to publish the first comprehensive illustrated guide to the orchids of Madagascar and the Mascarenes (mainly comprised of Réunion, Mauritius and Rodrigues). Within a few years living plants were surviving the journey home and beginning to emerge in western collections and botanic gardens where botanists such as John Lindley (1799–1865) were able to study them in greater detail.

Only a few species overlap between Asia, Africa and Madagascar, such as *Oberonia disticha*, and these tend to be spread through wind distribution of seed. *Disa brevicornis* is one of the species which occurs in both Madagascar and South Africa.



*Cymbidiella flabellata* is native to Madagascar and extremely challenging to grow in cultivation



South Africa's Drakensburg Mountains are a World Heritage Site



*Disa brevicornis* is found in both Madagascar and South Africa



*Phaius pulchellus* is native to the Mascarene Islands (Réunion, Mauritius and Rodrigues)

Bulbophyllums are widespread and *Bulbophyllum occultum* can be found on all the Mascarene islands and Madagascar. In addition to species overlapping there are parallel species which still need to be studied thoroughly including *Satyrium*. There are interesting local variations: the form of *Phaius pulchellus* found on the Mascarene Islands is pink, whilst Madagascar has its own variant, *Phaius pulchellus* var. *sandrangatensis*, which is green with a darker lip. *Graphorkis concolor* which can be found in both Madagascar, and Mascarenes but the yellow form is only found in Réunion. Morphological differences also occur between locations and flowers may adapt without a spur or lip.



*Phaius pulchellus* var. *sandrangatensis* is found only on Madagascar

## South Africa

South Africa is a huge country of many different habitats and includes the World Heritage Site of the Drakensberg Mountains (the backbone of South Africa). The altitude varies within this site but the land is rich in species and every ravine and corner visited has a wealth of plants including proteas and dieramas. Johan saw a variety of orchids including *Brachycorythis ovata*, *Disa thodei* growing on slimy, moss-covered rocks and the smaller *Disa cephalotes* which grows in rock crevices.

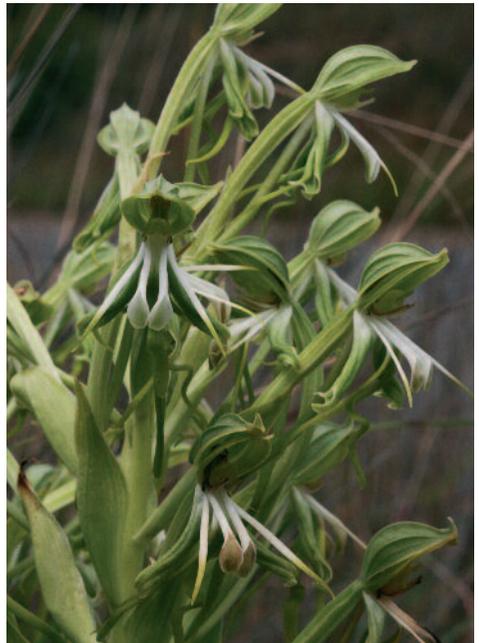
Descending to a lower altitude Johan travelled to Nottingham Road through heavily-farmed areas of grassland. On the road's verge were orchids such as bonateas, including *Bonatea boltonii*, which have

intricately-shaped flowers and are similar to *Habenaria*, and wonderfully-coloured *Disa*. There were also plants of *Eulophia angolensis* up to 1.8 metres tall growing in bogs by the roadside.

A cattle farm in the German community of Luneburg is home to many terrestrial orchids which include *Habenaria* and *Disa*. Little pockets of forest contained semi-terrestrial orchids and after crossing several streams, Johan reached the habitat of epiphytes and was rewarded with Angraecoids, many different *Bulbophyllum* including *Bulbophyllum sandersonii*, and *Tridactyle bicaudata*. Moving further north, Johan went to Wolkberg (which means cloudy mountains) and at the top found *Angraecum stella-africa* although sadly it was not in



*Disa thodei* grows on slimy, moss-covered rocks in the Drakensberg Mountains



*Bonatea boltonii* has intricately-shaped flowers which are similar to *Habenaria*



*Tridactyle bicaudata* is native to tropical and Southern Africa



Madagascar's *Angraecum rutenbergianum* is virtually identical to Southern Africa's *Angraecum stella-africae*

flower. This species is difficult to find in flower as it is self-pollinating and the flower collapses as soon as it is pollinated. It is virtually identical to *Angraecum rutenbergianum* from Madagascar which is found at similar altitudes.

The Cape Peninsula of South Africa is one of the best areas for floral diversity and orchids in the world. Cape Town is famous for Table Mountain, Kirstenbosch National Botanic Garden and jackass penguins. It also has varying habitats, some of which have poorer soil, but are home to several orchids including *Satyrium coriifolium* and *Disperis capensis*. In this region Johan was thrilled to find *Bartholina burmanniana*, a tiny plant measuring approximately 2.5cm high with a leaf the size of a one pence coin. At Cape Point *Satyrium odorum* orchids were seen growing in sea-salt spray.



*Bartholina burmanniana* is a tiny plant only 2.5cm high



*Disperis capensis* grows in the varying habitats of South Africa's Cape Province



*Satyrium erectum* is native only to western and southwestern Cape Province



*Satyrium odorum* growing at Cape Point where it experiences sea-salt spray



*Cynorkis purpurascens* is native to the Mascarene Islands and Madagascar

### Réunion

The small island of Réunion is well known for its commercial *Vanilla* trade. It has very different orchids from those in South Africa, but there is an overlap with some of the Madagascan orchids. It is an active volcanic island (the last major eruption was in 2007) and the lava has been colonised by orchids such as *Spiranthes sinensis* (endemic to China) and *Cynorkis fastigiata*. Other genera found on Réunion include *Angraecum*, *Bulbophyllum* and *Stichorkis*.

### Madagascar

Madagascar (famous for its lemurs) is a vast island, the fourth largest in the world. It has a great variety of different habitats and new species continue to be discovered including *Liparis vulturiceps*, *Cynorkis dens-serpens* and *Eulophiella longibracteata* (all described by Johan Hermans and Phillip Cribb in 2014). There are fewer orchids in the south of the island but *Aerangis decaryana* thrives there



*Cryptopus elatus* is native only to Mauritius and Réunion

and in the coastal forest *Vanilla perrieri* flowers in succession with each flower lasting for one day. There is still dense rainforest in the east although it is less impenetrable than it used to be and many orchids enjoy this wet habitat – *Aerangis articulata*, *Aerangis monantha*, *Angraecum urschianum*, *Cymbidiella falcigera* and a multitude of *Bulbophyllum*. The Madagascar Highlands have been called the Switzerland of Africa and are home to many orchids including *Angraecum magdalenae*, *Aeranthes filipes*, *Polystachya clareae* and terrestrials such as *Disa*. The west of the island is much drier and wilder, largely grassland, with only a few orchids such as *Grammangis spectabilis* and *Angraecum leonis*. The north goes to the other extreme being quite dry in parts.

Members were fascinated to hear Johan describe the varied habitats in which orchids thrive – it demonstrates just how resilient and adaptable this plant family is.



*Aerangis monantha* enjoys a wet rainforest habitat on Madagascar



*Cynorkis dens-serpens* was described by Johan Hermans and Phillip Cribb in 2014



*Bulbophyllum hamelinii* is one of the many bulbophyllums native to Madagascar



# The Royal Horticultural Society Orchid Committee

18 October photos by David Ridgeway

21 October photos by Chris Purver

11 November photo by Henry Oakeley

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](mailto:membership@rhs.org.uk) or website: [www.rhs.org.uk/orchidreview](http://www.rhs.org.uk/orchidreview)

*Oncidopsis* Nelly Isler 'Wilma' (*Oip.* Stefan Isler x *Mps.* Kensington) exhibited by Burnham Nurseries Ltd

*Paphiopedilum* La Saline 'Fort Conway' (Grands Vaux x La Rosiere) raised, registered and exhibited by the Eric Young Orchid Foundation

The Committee met on **18 October 2014** at Dawlish Warren and agreed the following awards:

## Award of Merit

*Oncidopsis* Champs du Chemin 'Fort William' (*Oip.* Saint Aubin x *Onc.* La Palotterie) raised, registered and exhibited by the Eric Young Orchid Foundation



*Oncidopsis* Nelly Isler 'Wilma' AM/RHS

*Oncidopsis* Champs du Chemin 'Fort William' AM/RHS  
(photo by Chris Purver)



*Paphiopedilum* La Saline 'Fort Conway' AM/RHS (photo by Chris Purver)

*Phragmipedium* José Alabarce 'Le Catel Fort'  
(Sunset Glow x Jersey) registered by J P Faust,  
and remade and exhibited by the Eric Young  
Orchid Foundation

*Phragmipedium kovachii* 'Phoenix', a species  
from Peru, exhibited by Richard Rhodes



*Phragmipedium* José Alabarce 'Le Catel Fort' AM/RHS  
(photo by Chris Purver)



*Phragmipedium kovachii* 'Phoenix' AM/RHS



*Barkeria lindleyana* 'Writhlington' CCC/RHS

**Certificate of Cultural Commendation**

To Writhlington School for *Barkeria lindleyana* 'Writhlington', a species from Costa Rica

To Clive Lloyd for *Cattleya* URG 'Elizabeth Ann' (Penny Kuroda 'Spots' x *maxima*)

To Writhlington School for *Coelogyne fimbriata* 'Writhlington', a species from Laos



*Coelogyne fimbriata* 'Writhlington' CCC/RHS



*Cattleya* URG 'Elizabeth Ann' CCC/RHS



*Dendrobium brymerianum* 'Pomarium' CCC/RHS



*Liparis elliptica* 'Roger' CCC/RHS

To Arthur Deakin for *Dendrobium brymerianum* 'Pomarium', a species from Thailand and South East Asia

To Sue Lane for *Liparis elliptica* 'Roger', a species from Asia

To Colin Hughes for *Phragmipedium Cardinale* 'Sophie' (*Sedenii* x *schlimii*)

To Hilary Hobbs for *Zootrophion dayanum* 'Gina', a species from South America



*Phragmipedium Cardinale* 'Sophie' CCC/RHS



*Zootrophion dayanum* 'Gina' CCC/RHS

The Committee met on **21 October 2014** at Vincent Square and agreed the following awards:

**Award of Merit**

*Phragmipedium* Fritz Schomburg 'Le Crete Fort' (*kovachii* x *besseae*)

*Phragmipedium* Memoria Mariza Rolando 'Grouville Village' (*kovachii* x Hanne Popow)

Both plants exhibited by the Eric Young Orchid Foundation



*Phragmipedium* Fritz Schomburg 'Le Crete Fort' AM/RHS



*Phragmipedium* Memoria Mariza Rolando 'Grouville Village' AM/RHS

**Certificate of Cultural Commendation**

To Christopher Ryan who exhibited the plant on behalf of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, for *Ornithocephalus bryostachyus* 'Kew', a species from Ecuador



*Ornithocephalus bryostachyus* 'Kew' CCC/RHS

The Committee met on **11 November 2014** at Vincent Square and agreed the following award:

**Award of Merit**

*Oncidopsis* La Marquanderie 'Archirondel Tower' (*Oip.* Saint Aubin x *Onc.* Moulin de Louis) raised, registered and exhibited by the Eric Young Orchid Foundation



*Oncidopsis* La Marquanderie 'Archirondel Tower' AM/RHS

Wishing the very best of British luck  
to the  
**OSGB**  
at the **RHS Chelsea Flower Show**



More power to the flower

From your friends and sponsors at

ALBOURNE

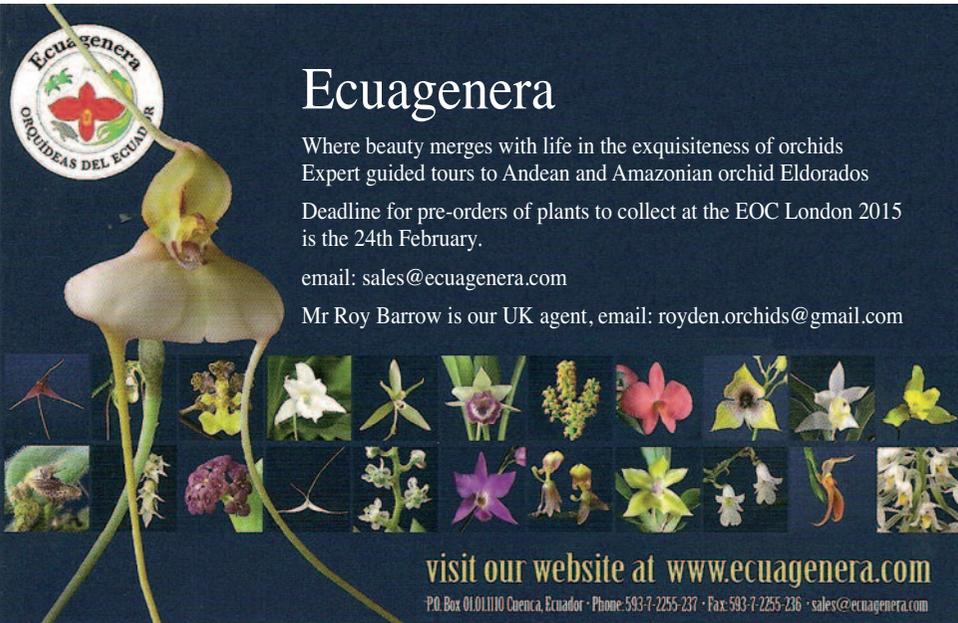


# Ecuagenera

Where beauty merges with life in the exquisiteness of orchids  
Expert guided tours to Andean and Amazonian orchid Eldorados

Deadline for pre-orders of plants to collect at the EOC London 2015  
is the 24th February.

email: [sales@ecuagenera.com](mailto:sales@ecuagenera.com)  
Mr Roy Barrow is our UK agent, email: [royden.orchids@gmail.com](mailto:royden.orchids@gmail.com)



visit our website at [www.ecuagenera.com](http://www.ecuagenera.com)  
P.O. Box 01.01.1110 Cuenca, Ecuador · Phone: 593-7-2255-237 · Fax: 593-7-2255-236 · [sales@ecuagenera.com](mailto:sales@ecuagenera.com)

## Laurence Hobbs Orchids Ltd

Bailiffs Cottage Nursery, Hophurst Lane,  
Crawley Down, West Sussex RH10 4LN  
website: [www.laurencehobbsorchids.co.uk](http://www.laurencehobbsorchids.co.uk)

email: [lhorchids1@btinternet.com](mailto:lhorchids1@btinternet.com)

Tel: 01342 715142 or Mobile: 07961 350053

Near M25/M23/Gatwick Airport

- 
- For quality Cattleyas, Paphiopedilums, Phalaenopsis, Dendrobiums, Cymbidiums, Vandas and Masdevallias
  - Also a range of nursery raised and imported species and hybrids
- Extensive choice, no order too small.

Plants supplied by mail order. Please send sae for black/white stock lists, email us (please include your telephone contact number), or ring direct for current stock availability on 07961 350053

Visitors, Societies/Groups welcome by appointment only. Please ring or email in advance.  
For regular open weekends, please check the website or email us to join the mailing list.

---

Open Weekends 2015: Sat 7th/Sun 8th February and Sat 14th/Sun 15th March  
Come and see us at the 17th European Orchid Show & Conference London 2015,  
to be held at the Royal Horticultural Halls, Westminster, on 9th-12th April.



The specialist orchid growing substrates from New Zealand that are best for consistently superior growth

### Clean

Free from fines & debris. Cleanest available.

### Consistent

Reliable & uniform product characteristics in every bag.

### Best quality worldwide

Recognised for highest quality, stable & long lasting products.

### Sustainable

100% natural New Zealand products, farmed from renewable resources.

### Designed for orchids

A range of grades, proven by commercial growers and hobbyists worldwide for consistently superior growth.



# Spagmoss

Contact Peter White:  
Orchid Accessories  
+44 (0) 1295 712159  
sales@orchidaccessories.co.uk  
www.orchidaccessories.co.uk  
UK's sole distributor for besgrow-europe

# Orchiate

## besgrow

At the root of healthier plants.

Product of New Zealand



**NOW LIVE**  
Our **NEW**  
online  
shop!

THE UK'S LEADING MANUFACTURER OF  
**GREENHOUSE HEATERS,  
THERMOSTATS & GROWLIGHTS**



**Simply Control**

Est 1982

**FREE** explanatory catalogue for professional  
and amateur growers alike.

Includes: ● Automated Watering Systems ● Hydrofoggers ● Shading  
● Propagation ● Ventilation etc



**CALL NOW! 01796 482 128** (24 HOURS)  
OR FAX 01796 482111

**PLEASE QUOTE 202SC WHEN PHONING**

OR SHOP ONLINE @ [www.simplycontrol.co.uk](http://www.simplycontrol.co.uk)  
5, Sawmill Yard, Blair Atholl, PH18 5TL

## Advertising Announcement

New rates from 1 February 2015

Advertisements are welcomed. Full page  
£100, half page £50, quarter page £25.  
Fliers, size A5 or A4 folded, for insertion  
(please supply 1,100 leaflets) £150.  
Adverts must be prepaid. Discounts  
available for four consecutive issues.

Deadlines: December 10th, March 10th,  
June 10th, September 10th .

For all requests and artwork specifications  
please contact Kim Solomon.

Tel: 0208 9464410,  
email: [akmsolomon@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:akmsolomon@yahoo.co.uk)

## Ray Creek (Orchids)

7 Jacklin Lane : Luddington :  
Scunthorpe : DN17 4RB

Exciting list of species  
& hybrids available.  
2 X 1<sup>st</sup> class stamps appreciated.

Gift orchids from £20,  
incl. p & p

Quality washed and heat-treated  
coconut husk chips & top  
specifications orchid feed in  
stock. Try them, they work !!

Telephone: 01724 798445  
[www.raycreekorchids.com](http://www.raycreekorchids.com)



**Ten Shin Gardens** is a registered orchid nursery based in Taiwan.

We specialise in species - Aerangis, Bulbophyllum, Chinese Cymbidium, Cattleya, Dendrobium, Phalaenopsis, etc.

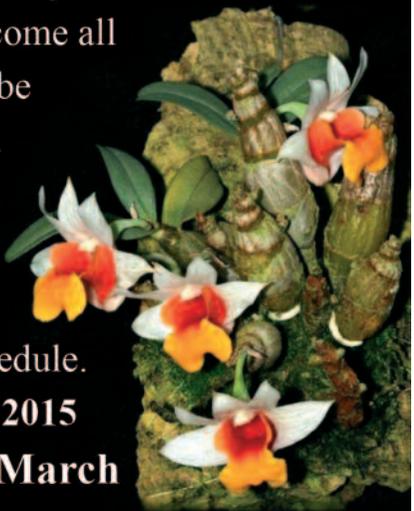
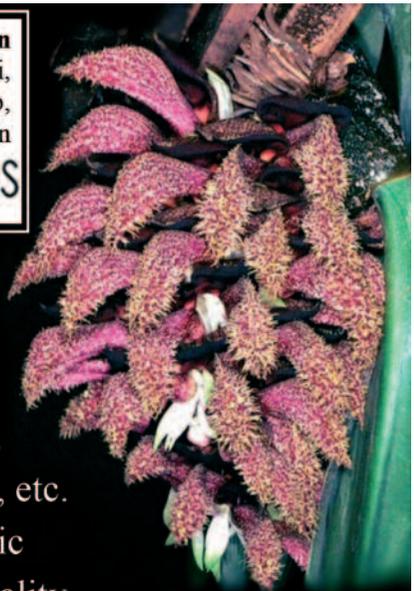
We also offer high quality intergenetic hybrids. We strive to provide best quality plants at competitive prices and welcome all retail and wholesale orders. We will be attending several shows in Europe in 2015 including EOC in London.

**Please contact us at -**  
[info@tenshinorchids.com](mailto:info@tenshinorchids.com) for our complete plant list and our show schedule.

**See you at the EOC in London 2015**

**Pre-orders by 1st March**

**PLEASE!**



## alphabet orchids

Sellers of Hardy, Terrestrial, Unusual  
Species and Primary Hybrids



Based at:  
9 Oak Farm Gardens,  
Headcorn, Kent,  
TN27 9TZ  
Tel: 01622 891894



For our Shows attendances, please visit our website at  
[www.alphabetorchids.com](http://www.alphabetorchids.com)  
[alphabetorchids@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:alphabetorchids@hotmail.co.uk)



## BURNHAM NURSERIES

*Chelsea Gold-Medallists with the widest  
range of orchids in the UK!*

- Mail order a speciality.
- Free email newsletter.
- Events all over the UK.
- Orchid Masterclasses.
- Visit the nursery, Open Daily!
- Plants, sundries & gifts for sale.
- Papazulu's Coffee Shop.



See 100s of beautiful, rare & exotic  
orchids in flower all year round



See us at the  
**EUROPEAN ORCHID CONFERENCE  
& SHOW IN LONDON 8-12 APRIL**  
[www.eoclondon2015.org.uk](http://www.eoclondon2015.org.uk)

Forches Cross, Newton Abbot, Devon, TQ12 6PZ

Tel: 01626 352233 [www.orchids.uk.com](http://www.orchids.uk.com)

## Orchid Supplies UK

Meeting Orchid Growers Needs

[www.orchidsupplies.co.uk](http://www.orchidsupplies.co.uk)

Come to Orchid Supplies UK for all your  
Orchid growing products and a friendly  
personal service when you need it.

- ◆ Highest quality orchid products
- ◆ NEW Online shop
- ◆ Quick Communication
- ◆ Safe & Fast delivery
- ◆ Akerne's Rain Mix
- ◆ No order too small
- ◆ 5% discount with coupon code 0505
- ◆ Email: [info@orchidsupplies.co.uk](mailto:info@orchidsupplies.co.uk)
- ◆ Tel: 01159550324 or 07910870288

## Rosemann Greenhouses

British made greenhouses built to a  
standard not a price.

Our Bernhard range is 8'6" high and  
8'3" wide.

Available from 6' to 12' long.  
Including 6' high doors, 2 roof vents,  
a full width rear shelf and downpipes.

Easy access - opening 4' wide.

If you need a more compact  
greenhouse then our Sprite 6' wide  
range is built to the same high  
standards

19, Eastern Green Road  
Coventry, CV5 7LG

Tel: 024 7647 1228

Email: [rosemann@btinternet.com](mailto:rosemann@btinternet.com)



# Peruflora

London 2015, European Orchid Congress

## ORCHIDS FROM THE HEART OF SOUTH AMERICA

We will attend the European Orchid Show and Conference, from April 8th to 12th 2015.

**This year we have a larger assortment of plants.**

You can visit our sales table at the show, or pre order from our newest plant list.

Price List available upon request, sending an email to: [contact@peruflora.net](mailto:contact@peruflora.net)

# Services to members

## The *Journal*

Published quarterly

## Meetings

Meetings are held on the first Saturday of most months at Napier Hall, 1 Hide Place (off Vincent Street), Westminster, London, SW1P 4NJ. Doors open at 13:30, guest speaker's lecture at 14:30–15:30 followed by refreshments, a raffle draw and a talk on the table show plants.

A competitive table show takes place at all meetings, except at the plant auction. 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 pavement/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 (\*) in the meetings diary on the Services to members page of the *Journal*, or online at [www.osgb.org.uk](http://www.osgb.org.uk)

## 2015

7 Feb	13:30	Doors open	
	14:30	Andrew Bannister – The root to healthy orchids	
7 Mar*	13:30	Doors open	
		Introductory talk	
	14:30	Speaker: Chris Barker – Orchid hunting in Malaysia	
21 Mar	10:30	OSGB Open Spring Show, Glasshouse Gallery, RHS Garden Wisley	
4 Apr	13:30	Doors open	
	14:30	Speaker: to be confirmed	
2 May	13:30	Doors open	
	14:30	Speaker: Maren Talbot – <i>Pleione</i> culture	
6 Jun*	12:30	Doors open for Photographic and Art Competition registration	
	14:30	Annual General Meeting	

## Cultural Advice

Members are encouraged to bring problem plants to monthly meetings if they would like cultural advice and guidance. Cultural advice is also available by post from Val Micklewright, 103 North Road, Three Bridges, Crawley, West Sussex, RH10 1SQ (please enclose an SAE for reply) or e-mail: [val@micklewright.com](mailto:val@micklewright.com)

## Website [www.osgb.org.uk](http://www.osgb.org.uk)

The website has been designed by Marcel Kral of Smallfish Designs. The Society's website manager, Sam Hurley, will be pleased to receive material for the website, e-mail: [sam@ballyhurley.com](mailto:sam@ballyhurley.com)

## Library

Books are available by post from the Librarian, Sam Hurley, or can be collected at the monthly meetings, or from OSGB shows if requested in advance. 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 found on our website or obtained from the Librarian, e-mail: [sam@ballyhurley.com](mailto:sam@ballyhurley.com)

## 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, Jeanette Beaney, e-mail: [jeanette.beaney@btinternet.com](mailto:jeanette.beaney@btinternet.com)

**All articles and photographs in the *Journal* are the copyright of the OSGB and the authors, and may not be reproduced in any form without written permission.**

Opinions expressed in the *Journal* are those of the authors and they, together with services and products offered by advertisers, are not necessarily endorsed by the Society.

The *Journal* is produced quarterly and is available to members by subscription only. The annual subscription is £16.00 with £4.00 extra for each additional family member at the same address. There is an overseas members' postage supplement of £5.00 for Europe and Russia, and £6.00 for the rest of the world. Young person membership (under 21), UK only, is £12.00. Back copies of the *Journal* are available (four issues per year): £5.00 + p&p UK £5.65, Europe £7.00, overseas £11.00.

All subscriptions are due on 1 January unless new members have a special arrangement to cover 18 months.

Membership application forms, standing order forms, Gift Aid forms and back issues of the *Journal* may be obtained from the Membership Secretary, e-mail: [osgbmembership@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:osgbmembership@yahoo.co.uk)

# OSGB Show Diary

including Affiliated Societies and International Shows

2015

## February

- 14 North Bucks OS Annual Show, Flitwick Village Hall, Flitwick, Bedfordshire MK45 1HP, 11:00–16:00  
Contact: Bill Dickens, tel: 01933 355406
- 21 South West OS Show, West Monkton Village Hall, Monkton Heathfield, Taunton TA2 8NE, 10:30–16:00  
Contact: Marian Saunders, tel: 01278 455170, e-mail: [msaunders1@mail105.co.uk](mailto:msaunders1@mail105.co.uk)
- 28 Bournemouth OS Spring Show, Allendale Community Centre, Hanham Road, Wimborne, Dorset, BH21 1AS, 12:00–16:30, admission £3.00  
Contact: Ken Griffiths, tel: 01425 672492, e-mail: [kenr.griffiths@virgin.net](mailto:kenr.griffiths@virgin.net), website: [www.erythos.com/BOS/](http://www.erythos.com/BOS/)

## March

- 7 Cheltenham & District OS 40th Anniversary Show, Churchdown Community Centre, Parton Road, Churchdown, Gloucester, GL3 2JH, 10:30–16:00  
Contact: Jan Broadway, tel: 01452 616387, e-mail: [showsec@cheltenhamorchids.org](mailto:showsec@cheltenhamorchids.org)
- 21 **OSGB Open Spring Show, The Glasshouse Gallery, RHS Garden Wisley, Woking, Surrey, GU23 6QB, 10:30–16:00**  
Contact: Francis Quesada-Pallarés, tel: 07951 070637, e-mail: [ols\\_francisjquesadapallares@hotmail.com](mailto:ols_francisjquesadapallares@hotmail.com)
- 21 Suffolk OS Spring Show, St Michael's Church Centre, The Drift, Martlesham, Ipswich, IP5 3UY, 10:00–16:00, admission £1.00  
Contact: Jenny Gage, tel: 01473 822569, e-mail: [roystongage@btinternet.com](mailto:roystongage@btinternet.com), website: [www.suffolkorchid.co.uk](http://www.suffolkorchid.co.uk)
- 22 OS of East Anglia Spring Show, Eaton Parish Hall, Colman Road, Norwich, NR4 7AW, 10:00–16:30, admission £2.00  
Contact: Jack Butcher, tel: 01603 466535, e-mail: [joan324butcher@btinternet.com](mailto:joan324butcher@btinternet.com)
- 28 Bristol & West of England OS Show, Town Hall, Chipping Sodbury, Gloucestershire, BS37 6AD, 11:00–16:00  
Contact: Brian Tomlinson, tel: 01454 883415, e-mail: [jt007f1810@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:jt007f1810@blueyonder.co.uk)
- 28 Hinckley & District OS Show, St John's Church Hall, 351 Coventry Road, Hinckley, Leicestershire, LE10 0NF, 10:00–16:00, admission £2.50  
Contact: Keith Bates, tel: 01455 446793, e-mail: [keithbates185@hotmail.com](mailto:keithbates185@hotmail.com)
- 29 South East OS Spring Open Show, Ashford Rail Staff Hall, Beaver Road, Ashford, Kent, TN23 7RR, 13:00–16:00  
Contact: Karina Sellers, tel: 01233 720238, e-mail: [karinasellers@btinternet.com](mailto:karinasellers@btinternet.com), website: [www.seos.care4free.net/](http://www.seos.care4free.net/)

## April

- 4 Solihull & District OS 50th Anniversary Show, Arden School, Station Road, Knowle, B93 0PT, 11:00–16:00, admission £2.00  
Contact: Martin Ball, tel: 01564 822897, e-mail: [ballm1@icloud.com](mailto:ballm1@icloud.com), website: [www.solihullorchidsociety.org](http://www.solihullorchidsociety.org)
- 5 West Cornwall OS Spring Show, Camborne Community Centre, South Terrace, Camborne, Cornwall, TR14 8SU, 11:00–16:00  
Contact: Kit Lindsay, tel: 01209 717947, e-mail: [r.lindsay672@btinternet.com](mailto:r.lindsay672@btinternet.com)
- 8–12 **17th European Orchid Show and Conference – London 2015, RHS Halls and RBG Kew, website: [www.eoclondon2015.org.uk](http://www.eoclondon2015.org.uk)**

## May

- 9 Essex OG Spring Show, South Green Memorial Hall, Southend Road, Billericay, CM11 2PR, 13:30–16:00  
Contact: Moira Tarrant, tel: 01245 231437, e-mail: [m.tarrant@virgin.net](mailto:m.tarrant@virgin.net)
- 16 Devon OS 40th Annual Show, Budleigh Salterton Public Hall, Station Road, Budleigh Salterton, Devon, EX9 6RJ, 10:30–16:00  
Contact: Nicola Wakley, tel: 01404 850354, e-mail: [nwakley@googlemail.com](mailto:nwakley@googlemail.com)
- 17 Cambridge OS Show, Harston Village Hall, High Street, Harston, Cambridge CB22 7PX, 10:30–16:30  
Contact: Margaret Serdean, tel: 01763 848895, e-mail: [m.serdean616@btinternet.com](mailto:m.serdean616@btinternet.com)
- 19–23 **RHS Chelsea Flower Show, website: [www.rhs.org.uk](http://www.rhs.org.uk)**

## June

- 12–14 **Malvern International Orchid Show, Royal Three Counties Showground, Malvern, Worcestershire, WR13 6NW, Website: [www.malvern-ios.org](http://www.malvern-ios.org)**

## July

- 22–26 **In conjunction with North of England OS, RHS Flower Show Tatton Park, Mereheath Lane, Knutsford, Cheshire, Wed–Sat 10:00–18:30, Sun 10:00–17:00 Website: [www.rhs.org.uk/shows-events/rhs-flower-show-tatton-park](http://www.rhs.org.uk/shows-events/rhs-flower-show-tatton-park)**

## September

- 5–6 **Orchid Study Group 8th Orchid Festival, National Botanic Garden of Wales, Carmarthenshire, SA23 8HG, Saturday 10:00–18:00 and Sunday 10:00–16:00 Contact: Lynne Harrendence, tel: 01269 269847, e-mail: [lynne.harrendence@resqnet.co.uk](mailto:lynne.harrendence@resqnet.co.uk)**
- 26 Bournemouth OS Autumn Show, Allendale Community Centre, Hanham Road, Wimborne, Dorset, BH21 1AS, 12:00–16:30, admission £3.00  
Contact: Ken Griffiths, tel: 01425 672492, e-mail: [kenr.griffiths@virgin.net](mailto:kenr.griffiths@virgin.net), website: [www.erythos.com/BOS/](http://www.erythos.com/BOS/)

Further diary dates can be found via the OSGB website: [www.osgb.org.uk](http://www.osgb.org.uk) and the British Orchid Council website: [www.british-orchid-council.info/](http://www.british-orchid-council.info/)

