



Solihull & District Orchid Society

Our Spring Show

April 15th (Easter Saturday)

Our Spring Show will soon be upon us and hope that we will have a large number of exhibits. If every member brought along one plant we would have a lovely display for the public to feast their eyes on.

Please find attached to the Newsletter the Show Schedule, Entry Form and Rules.

We still have a few gaps on the rotas so if you can give up an hour or make a cake it would be much appreciated.

Coach Trip to Chester Zoo and the National Collection of Pleurothallidinae

On Sunday August 6th we plan to visit the National Collection of Pleurothallidinae which is housed at Chester Zoo

It is not open to the public so this is a special opportunity to see the National Collection housed in 2 greenhouses containing Masdevallia, Dracula, Restrepia, Pleurothallis to name but a few of the genera and in addition, also visit the other 2 greenhouses containing a wide range of other orchid plants – Cattleya, Coelogyne, Dendrobium, Paphiopedilum, Phalaenopsis etc etc. In all about 4,000 orchids and we will be given a special guided tour.

In addition, you will have the opportunity to spend the rest of your day enjoying the delights of the zoo whose ethos is conservation and breeding of endangered species. Hence why the National Collection fits in so well with what the zoo are trying to achieve.

14 people have added their names to the list already so there still is space if you are interested. The cost will be in the region of £40 - £45 which will include the coach, entry to the zoo and a guided tour of the orchid houses.

The list will circulate again at the next meeting but please let Malcolm know if you are interested if you are not coming to the meeting.

Over 400 different species in the National Collection of Pleurothallidinae made up of over 2,500 plants

Malvern International Orchid Show

June 16, 17 & 18th

The special concession Tickets for Orchid Society Members is once again available but at a slightly increased price over last year. £8 is still a fantastic reduction on the gate price of £23.

The tickets can be used on any single day of the show.

The rota was circulated at the last meeting and a number have already reserved their tickets but I am sure many more will be interested in availing themselves of this fantastic deal.

I will circulate the list again at the next meeting – Saturday 1st April but if you cannot get to the meeting and you would like some tickets please let Malcolm know by phone or email.

Please pay Heike at the next opportunity as we will only order those tickets that have been paid in advance.

I will place the order for Solihull in early May so you still have plenty of time.

Next Meeting

Our next meeting will be on Saturday April 1st when Richard Baxter will be entertaining us with "Orchids my way". As we all know there are so many different ways of growing orchids successfully and Richard will be showing us how he achieves success with his orchids.

Other dates for your diary

April seems like a busy month with Central Orchid Society holding their show at Perton Community Centre (WV6 7PD - 11.00am - 4.00pm) on Saturday, 8th April, followed by our show on April 15th with Hinckley Orchid Society holding their show at Stoke Golding Club (CV13 6DZ 10am-4pm) on the 22nd. Janet and Martin will need to borrow plants for these shows for our displays.

So much to do and so much to see in April – hope to see you at these wonderful events.

You can follow Solihull & District Orchid Society on Facebook and Twitter



Chairman: Malcolm Moodie
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If you have any pictures or information you would like to put on our website please email: caroline.reid1@blueyonder.co.uk or copy and pictures for newsletter: ballm1@mac.com

Phalaenopsis species – Francis J Quesada-Pallares

Francis explained how he set up growing orchids, starting with Phalaenopsis hybrids in a South London flat some 15 years ago. He established a business www.phalaenopsisandmore.co.uk to widen the availability of Phalaenopsis species in the UK.

The talk covered the 23 species which Francis has grown quite successfully indoors and for the presentation he split them into 3 groups for which he gave an overview of each.

Interestingly, Francis pointed out that since he has now moved home and has a greenhouse, he has lost more orchids than when he was growing them indoors in his flat.

Phalaenopsis is distributed from the south eastern mainland of Asia including China & India, down through the south east Asian islands to the north east of Australia.

Most hybrids have no perfume, but species are often perfumed with some having very strong scent. Many of the species also have very interesting leaf patterns.

Group 1 - The Classic Look

P. amabilis

This is the commonest and most widely distributed species and is native to Taiwan in the North, the Philippines to New Guinea in the East, from Java to Northern Australia in the South and as far as Sumatra in the West. The flowers are white with multiflowering arching stems that will grow up to 3ft in length. There are also a number of recognised varieties but all are white with a yellowish lip.

P. equestris

A small sized species found mainly in the Philippines with flowers that are very variable in colour but are normally pale pink. This species tends to produce keiki's, (N.B. If this happens Francis advised that no more than a maximum of 3 you should keep on the plant).

It can also produce peloric flowers.

P. sanderiana

This is a medium sized plant also native to the Philippines that is similar to *P. amabilis* but with blush pink flowers with various shades depending on the plant. The underside of leaves are usually purple and this can increase in intensity if given bright light which it prefers.



Group 2 – Foliage

This group all have mottled leaves that make the plants interesting even when not in flower.

P. lindenii

This is a small sized species, again native to the Philippines, that has variegated leaves and is better suited to mounting. The flowers open simultaneously along the whole inflorescence and last for a very long time. This species needs to be kept on cooler side.

P. philippinensis

Previously known as *P. leucorrhoda*, a natural hybrid between *P. amabilis* var *aphrodite* and *P. schilleriana*, *P. philippinensis* usually has white flowers tinged pink. This is a medium sized plant with mottled leaves that have a dark purple underside. As the name suggests it is also native to the Philippines.

P. schilleriana

The flowers are about 4.0-4.5cm in diameter, pale pink in colour and having reddish-purple spots at the base of the lip on a branched multi flowered inflorescence. The flowers are fragrant and the plant produces plants vegetatively from the roots.



Group 3 - True Minis

P. chibae

This plant was not discovered until May 1994 in Vietnam. It is distinguished from other species by having 4 pollinia with flowers of mustard yellow with maroon markings.

P. parishii

Native to Burma and some areas of Thailand with leaves that are broad and short (10.0 – 15.0 cm) when fully grown. Flowers are usually white with a pair of broad brown blotches on the mid-lobe of the large lip.

P. lobbii

Flowers are small white with sepals larger than the petals. This species must be kept moist during winter.

P. violacea

This is a lovely species found in Java, Sumatra, Borneo and the Malay Peninsula. It is often seen as *P. bellina* which is the Borneo form of *violacea* and is now recognised as a separate species. *P. violacea* has a number of different colour forms but all are highly fragrant and small in size.

This was only a snapshot of the variety of species that are available. It just goes to show that Phalaenopsis is not just about the large flowered hybrids one sees in supermarkets and garden centres. Maybe we all should be tempted to grow some of these wonderful plants.



March table show



1. Epicat Rene Marques Flame Thrower - 29pts - Monica Johnson
2. Dinema poybulbon - 32pts - Malcolm Moodie



3. Ascocentrum christensonianum - 33pts - Stan Taylor
4. Dendrobium limpudum - 31pts - Stan Taylor

East Midlands show



Janet James and Martin Mitchell set up the Solihull display at the EMOS show

Judy Ralph and Stan Taylor were awarded rosettes for their plants

