



Solihull & District Orchid Society

Malvern International Orchid Show

I hope that those who made the journey to Malvern this year enjoyed the show as much as I did.

Many were seen leaving the show with a number of large carrier bags full of plants.



Masd. monicana

The marquee had been moved very close to the South Gate and this seemed to increase the footfall substantially especially on Sunday which normally proves to be a very quiet day.

The weather was kind with very little rain and temperatures that were more than bearable. There were a couple of traders missing with both Ecuagenera and Peruflora pulling out at the last minute although any pre-orders were delivered via other traders. The displays were superb with 5 being awarded a Gold Medal. It was unfortunate that we were not displaying this year but we now have a whole year to plan for Malvern 2019.

A number of members displayed their plants on other displays with Stan Taylor winning Awards of Merit for Neofinetia (Vanda) falcata and Masdevallia monicana on the Hinckley Orchid Society stand.



Neofinetia (Vanda) falcata

Malcolm Moodie received an Award of Merit for Dactylorhiza fuchsii "Andrea" and a 2nd place Rosette for Masdevallia scitula on the Orchid Society of Great Britain display.

The show next year will be on the 14th, 15th and 16th of June 2019 so mark up your calendars as this should not be missed.



Masd. scitula



Dactylorhiza fuchsii "Andrea"

Next Meeting

Our next meeting is on Saturday July 7th when Mick Bee will entertain us with his talk on Disas. These are a very colourful family of orchids mainly coming from tropical and southern Africa and have become a very popular genus.

Mick has been a long term friend of Solihull and we look forward to welcoming him to the meeting in July.



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



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If you have any pictures or information you would like to put on our website please email: LaeliaM@aol.com or copy and pictures for newsletter: ballm1@mac.com
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Neofinetia/Vanda falcata

25 yrs ago John bought his first Neofinetia falcata from Burnham Nurseries which he still has today. Over the years he has given away many divisions of this plant but it is still the largest and most vigorous Neofinetia in his collection. By stumbling across some variegated varieties around 5-6 years ago, John became captivated by this family of plants.

Neofinetia consists of 3 species which have only been fully described since 2004:

falcata, richardsiana and xichiangensis. Recently these 3 species have been moved into the genus Vanda and are only found in Japan, China and Korea. Originally, Neofinetia was named in honour of Achille Finet, a French Botanist, who worked on the orchids of China and Japan, with "neo"(new) – Hence, Neo Finet ia.

John became interested to understand why these Asian cultures admire this particular orchid with such a passion and with a greater reverence than with any other orchid he knew, so he looked at the differences in cultures by comparing art and paintings of the period when the Fukiran Society was established in the 1920's.

He looked at visual aesthetics of paintings such as:



"The Raft of the Medusa" by Théodore Géricault 1818-1819 and "The Blue Boy" by Thomas Gainsborough 1779 and compared them with Japanese woodblock prints "The Great Wave of Kanagawa" by Hokusai 1829 - 1833 and "Karp

fish" woodblock print by Ohara Kōson 1877 - 1945

He demonstrated in his slides the great differences in the perception of beauty between cultures. He also looked at comparisons between zen gardens and cottage gardens and the architectural aesthetics of building placement within the landscape.

It was clear; the differences in perception are vast.

In Japan, "Fuuran" or wind orchid is the common name for Neofinetia falcata but 'Fūkiran' - means the orchid of the rich and noble people. Therefore, only the most beautiful or unusual plants are given this name. Cultivation started in Japan's Edo era, about 400 years ago (1603-1868). Then, in the Meiji Period (1868-1912) trade was opened to the west with these orchids. John believes that this genus is relatively new within the orchid family which would explain such unstable features appearing within the same species or even on the same plant

Out of 2200 described only 220 Neofinetias have been registered. There is a yearly calendar/table released by the Fukiran society every year, called Fukiran Meikan which consists of desirable varieties.

To register a new Neofinetia name, three different specimens of the same plant features have to be exhibited and have to be considered to be worthy and distinct enough by the Japanese society and costs between \$500 – 3000. No wonder that there are relatively few registered plants.

Japanese naming conventions are very different from the west. For example, Neofinetia falcata "Shutennou" - is still a species and it is identified only by the closeness in the looks.

Judging in Japan is done by looking at the overall plant and the composition around it, with flowers not included. This is a long way from the 50% points for culture and 50% for flowers of BOC judging.

The Japanese have very strict presentation rules for the shows: the plant has to be sat on a ball of moss, planted in a particular pot on 3 legs with the label and one of the legs facing the viewer. The pot chosen for display has to be suitably matched with the overall look of the plant. Pots are hand painted with intricate illustrations of landscapes, dragons, fish or birds and signed by the artist.

Plants are characterised by the differentiating features and grouped by plant parts giving their specific Japanese names:

LEAF TYPES

Namiba (normal) - regular non variegated type.

(Variegated leaves)

Hukahukur - the leaf has a white to yellow edge with a green centre.

Nakasuke - the leaf has a green edge with white to yellow centre.

Shima - the leaf has alternating strips of white/yellow and green lengthwise across the leaf.

Torahan - the leaf has alternating strips of white/yellow and green horizontally across the leaf.

Tiger coloration - leaves have horizontal bars of white/yellow coloration.

LEAF SHAPES

Mameba - Bean shape, leaves are shorter and thicker than average.

Hariba - Pine needle, leaves are long and narrow.

Kuruiba - Twisted, creating a display of interestingly untidy appearance where growths mingle with each other.

TSUKE SHAPES – (This is a uniquely Japanese defined plant characteristic that describes the part of a leaf attachment to the axis. There are four types of tsuke)

Thre (Crescent Moon) - the most common appearance in plants.

Yamagata (Mountain) - the rarest tsuke found.

Namigata (Wave) looks like the ripples of the ocean as the waves meet the shore.

Ichimonji (Straight line)

FLOWERS - are usually white and very fragrant, smelling of vanilla, honeysuckle or orange blossoms. They can also be found in green, yellow and pink or dark pink in hybrids. Some flowers do not have any spur, while others have additional spurs, a highly desirable variety, "Manjushage", has three or even four spurs sometimes.

ROOTS - collectors are more interested in the colour of the root tips which can be bright green, brown or mud, pink and the most desirable ruby red.

Culture:

When starting his talk John expressed the view that Neofinetias are easy and that he has only killed two plants in his long career. They make an ideal houseplant for a sunny windowsill and take up very little space and are rarely attacked by pests and then only scale.

Fungal or virus problems are not known.

You do not need to be a samurai to grow them.

The two Japanese methods are either on a ball of moss or the traditional way - in a basket. They like to dry out between watering which is required 2-3 times a week with soft rainwater using the dunking in water method. However, on hot summer days, they may need watering every day but in winter once every 14 days. Neofinetias have a winter rest period of 4-5 months, although they still need water and continue to grow, but no feeding is advised. They can grow in intermediate to cool temperatures but flowering is unpredictable (roughly around the same time each year). Humidity is kept at more than 60% at all times around the year.

A fascinating talk about a fascinating genus.

Lina Smalinske

GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation)

Please find attached to the Newsletter the Society's Privacy Policy which is in line with the new General Data Protection Regulation which became law recently.

I am sure you have all been bombarded with statements from various companies and organisations that you deal with regarding these regulations so this should not come as a surprise.

You will see from the policy that we keep minimal personal data and it is only used for the purposes of running the Society

FOR SALE

3 Terrariums 2 18"x 18"x18"
and 1 12"x12"x18"

OPEN TO OFFERS - with or without
plants

Contact Janet James for further
details

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June Table

Pictures: Ken Johnson



Bulbo bicolour - 29pts - Stan Taylor



Stellis itatiayae - 30pts - Stan Taylor



Brassavola perrenii - 28pts - Stan Taylor



Bulbo bicolour - 29pts - Stan Taylor



Paph Joyce Hasegawa - 30pts - Malcolm Moodie



Masdevallia Fuzzy Navel - 29pts - Malcolm Moodie

Janet's been out and about in search of Wild Orchids

Green Winged - Draycote Meadows, purple and alba forms, Man Orchid and Butterfly - Ufton Fields, Common Spotted hybrid - Oversley Wood, Heath Spotted - Earlswood Lakes, White Helleborine - Oversley Wood (Pics left to right)

