



Solihull & District Orchid Society

Please be reminded, our Website has moved to: www.solihullorchidsociety.co.uk

BOC Photographic Competition

At our December meeting we will, once again all get the chance to choose those photographs that will represent Solihull in the BOC Photo Competition. As a Society we have enjoyed much success with both Stan Taylor and Ken Johnson featuring in the top 3 on a number of occasions.



Stan Taylor's third place photo last year

It would be great if one of our other members picks up a prize although we will all be very proud if Ken or Stan feature once again. However, unless you enter you have no chance so look through your orchid pictures and send them to me – Pam Eden has already done so (thanks Pam) so keep them coming.

Please send your photographs of orchids to me (no more than 5 each) by

Friday 23rd November so that I can create a file of all of the photos for you to judge. We will then pick the best 5 to represent us. I look forward to a fascinating afternoon at the December Meeting when we will have our Christmas Show, Buffet and select the photographs you have sent me. Hopefully, dozens will arrive over the next 5 weeks.

Send to LaeliaM@aol.com

Next Meeting– Change of Speaker

Unfortunately, our planned speaker (Mike Armstrong) is unable to join us on Saturday 3rd November.

As a result Malcolm will be your speaker and will be presenting “Orchids of Thailand” which is a talk that follows his and Andrea’s travels to 2 locations in Thailand featuring the orchids found in those locations along with other images of the culture, flora and fauna that was seen.

Christmas Hamper

Once again we will all have the opportunity to win a wonderful Hamper which we will draw for at December’s Meeting. For every item you donate you will receive tickets for a chance to win this wonderful prize which means the more you bring the better chance you have of walking off with the Hamper. In addition, you can also buy more tickets to increase your chances even further. This is such a lovely prize and would be a great starter to your Christmas celebrations.

Please bring as many items as you can spare and give to Heike.



There’s always a first time!

No plants on the show table this month.



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



Chairman: Malcolm Moodie
01295 788159

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
Society email address: solihulldistrictorchidsociety@gmail.com

Cool Growing Orchids

Jean Barker

The talk opened with a wonderful image of *Dendrobium cuthbertsonii*, a lovely but tricky species from Papua New Guinea. It became quite clear that Jean has remarkable success with this species having an array of different colours growing in her greenhouse. She explained that they are mostly hanging up with a fan constantly blowing a cool breeze over them – a good tip if you are thinking of growing this species yourself.



Inside Jean's greenhouse

collection, which included Tuakau Candy, Pinwheel, Fraseri, Gilbert's Triangle and Angel Frost.

Dryadella albicans and *zebrina* which is extremely variable.

Lepanthes caprimalgus, *inca* and *telipogonifera* which has *Telipogon* type flowers.

Trichosalpinx mathildae (syn. *Pleurothallis*).

Pleurothallis lappacea, *regalis* and *nipterophylla*.

Dendrobium cuthbertsonii which have



Cym. Summer Love "Petra"

She then showed a number of images of her plants that grow well in her conditions: *Cymbidium Summer Love "Petra"*

Spiranthes cernua which particularly likes growing in her cold frame

Dendrobium Glorious Cascade

Masdevallia Confetti which is highly scented

Porroglossum eduardii

Her greenhouses consist of an old lean to that was used for tomatoes, a second lean to that is very low and a 12 foot greenhouse from B & Q

which is partitioned for cool and intermediate zones.

All water is collected in water butts but fortunately her tap water is low in salts so can be used when there is a shortage of rain.

The greenhouse is jam packed with many plants hanging up and fans running constantly.

She then talked about a range of choice plants that thrive in cool



Masdevallia Tuakau Candy

conditions including:

Masdevallia – tovarensis from Venezuela that holds its scapes for multiple years so will flower on old stems.

deformis which she feels is inappropriately named as it is a beautiful species.

veitchiana which is extremely variable in colour, length of stem and shape of flower.

erinacea – a tiny plant with very hairy flowers.

leptoura – a multifloral type that produces a lovely display of flowers.

striatella which has a scent which is slightly unpleasant.

She also included a number of choice hybrids, all very much worth having in your *Masdevallia*



Masdevallia deformis

nearly all been obtained in flasks, *Nagomi* which is a lovely *cuthbertsonii* hybrid, *alaticaulum*, *vexillarius*, *subuliferum*, *dichaeoides*, *sulphureum*, *hellwigianum* which are all from Papua New Guinea as well as *fleckeri* and *Star of Riverdene* which are from Australia.

In addition, she also covered a large range of other genera including *Dockrilla* which also hails from Australia, *Dracula* many with "Monkey Faces",

Dresslerella – a very small genus of 3, *Restrepia*, *Coelogyne* with many plants that can grow into vast specimens,

Cymbidium which generally are grown outside during the summer months, *Pterostylis* which are terrestrial, *Mediocalcar* – many of which have bell shaped flowers, *Trisitella*, *Telepogon*, *Zootrophophium* which has flowers that never fully

open, *Lycaste* often with very large leaves, *Disa* that needs its feet in rain water, *Cypripedium* which grows in a cold



Dracula gigas

frame and *Ponerorchis*, particularly *graminifolia* that grows terrestrially from small tubers that have a tendency to die back and then disappear.

What this long list of genera and species/hybrids goes to show is



Masdevallia Confetti

that there is an enormous range of plants that can be grown without the need for a greenhouse that requires to be maintained at a high temperature.

The list is almost endless with a huge range of colour, scent and form.

So give it a go.

Malcolm Moodie Pictures: Chris Barker