



Solihull & District Orchid Society

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

BOC Photographic Competition

At the December meeting we will all have the opportunity to vote for our favourite photographs entered by our members. We have a tremendous record to maintain with both Ken Johnson and Stan Taylor achieving high honours in the past. I am pleased to say that 4 members have already entered but there is still time for a few more of you to get your pictures to me. Please send a maximum of 5 to me at LaeliaM@aol.com no later than the 24th November. Don't worry about their size; just send them to me as jpeg's and I will resize them for presentation at the meeting. With lots of entries we will have a most interesting meeting choosing our favourites and hopefully, once again, our choices will result in further honours for a Solihull member.

Christmas Hamper

It is still time to bring additional items for the Hamper.

Although we will be making the draw at our Christmas Show there is still time to add further items to this wonderful prize. For these additional items you will receive tickets for a chance to win and then if you buy some more tickets you will increase your chances further.

What a way to kick off Christmas – with a lovely hamper.

Please give any additional items to Heike.

Christmas Buffet

Whilst our December meeting contains our Christmas Show, the BOC Photo Competition and the Hamper Draw. It is the Xmas Buffet that we all enjoy the most. A great opportunity to share food, enjoy each others company and talk about all sorts of orchid and non orchid related things.

Please bring along cakes, savouries and nibbles for us all to share.

It is sure to be a lovely afternoon.

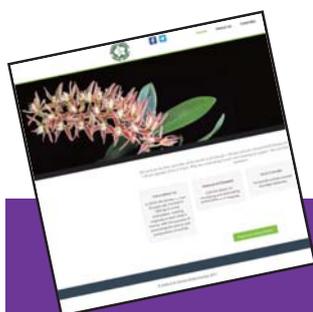
Birmingham Orchid Society show



Camaridium scalariforme best species Stan Taylor



Best hybrid - Malcolm Moodie



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

Orchids of Thailand

Malcolm Moodie

Malcolm started by explaining that March was an ideal time to see orchids in flower as this was the precursor to the monsoon season and as a result a lot of plants bloom at this time. Once the monsoons arrive the water and mud make access to the forest very difficult and then later the increased growth means one needs a machete to even get into the forest.

The talk was divided into two halves with the first part focused on Chiang Mai in the north and the second on Udan Thani in the east. The architecture in Chiang Mai is very striking and drastically different from what one will see in the UK as are the street scenes although the ubiquitous MacDonald's is everywhere and contributing to a rising obesity problem in Thailand.

The first couple of days were taken up with enjoying the culture and architecture of this interesting country and to much surprise the Thais love of English bedding schemes which were much in evidence on the way to Doi Inthanon which is the highest mountain in Thailand.

This area is rich in orchids and rhododendrons and many wonderful specimens were seen here including thousands of *Coelogyne nitida* growing in enormous trees which are bathed in cloud every night which ensures the orchids are saturated once every day.



A visit to a CITES approved orchid nursery followed where many beautiful plants were seen

and some purchased including a stunning *Paphiopedilum exul* which had to have its flower spikes removed before being dipped in chemicals in order for it to receive a phytosanitary certificate before returning to the UK. This was followed by a visit to an orchid farm that had hundreds of beautiful *Vandas* in full bloom but could not be purchased as this farm is not CITES approved.

The terrain is "Dry Dipterocarp Forest" which is mainly deciduous allowing a great deal of light to reach the forest floor during the dry season. Many instances of fire was seen in the forest but this is a natural phenomenon and one which does no harm to the forest but removes non natural shrubs and herbaceous plants + ensures good germination of the dipterocarp seeds.



The first difficult trek was to see where *Paphiopedilum bellatulum* is located and after 2½ hours of walking a 70 foot high limestone cliff was located with *bellatulum* growing on the top edge. Not in flower, unfortunately, but nice to see the substrate it was growing on – recrystallised micritic limestone with a pH of greater than 8.



Fortunately, not all the treks were that arduous and a large number of flowering specimens were seen – *Den. capilipes*, *Den. draconis*, *Den. secundum* (the

toothbrush orchid), *Den. dixanthum* and an enormous clump of *Cymbidium aloifolium*.



On the last trek before travelling east many orchids were seen including a wonderful plant not often seen in the UK – *Den. gratiotissimum* and an unusual terrestrial *Eulophia macrobulbon* with dark brown flowers.

After travelling by train he ended up in Udan Thani where the terrain is classified as "Low Montane" with evergreen trees

and much less light reaching the forest floor.

Much of the trekking used dry riverbeds to access the forests which are ideal at this time of the year and many interesting orchids were seen. *Anoectochilus roxburghii* which is a lovely jewel orchid was seen growing in profusion on the forest floor.

The main area of orchid interest centred on the area that was the last stronghold of the communist rebels who were finally defeated in 1982.

When the botanists were allowed in to survey the area they discovered a wonderful array of flora and fauna including elephants, tigers and of course, orchids. Flowers of *Dendrobium thyrsoiflorum* were hanging from many trees along with *Den. nobile*, *draconis* and *lindleyi* among many others all in full flower.



It was at this point that Malcolm told the story of an unidentifiable orchid which was thought to be a new species of *Nervillea* which after bringing back two flowers pickled in whiskey turned out to be *Nervillea aroagona* – a widespread but variable terrestrial.

On other treks he was able to see 3 other

*Paphiopedilum*s – *concolor*, *villosum* that grows on trees and *sukhakulii* which is believed to be extinct in the wild – it isn't but it is extremely rare and protected.

Besides *Paphs.* some other unusual orchids were spotted – *Den. bellatulum* (a diminutive but beautiful plant that is seemingly difficult to grow), *Bulbophyllum dayanum* which grows on the ground and looks like a birds nest full of baby birds with their beaks agape, *Den. primulinum* with lovely markings on the lip and *Dendrobium cruentum* which is lime green with a dusting of what looks like paprika in the throat.

Malcolm finished the trip with a visit to the Queen Sirikit Botanical Garden which has an array of greenhouses but once again he homed in on the orchid house where a massive plant of *Paph. hirsutissimum* was growing alongside a wonderful pot full of *Paph. concolor* which really displayed all of the characteristics of a Lady Slipper Orchid.

Thailand proved to be a beautiful country with lovely people, delightful food and an array of stunning orchids.

Christmas Show

Attached to the Newsletter is the new schedule which has been completely refreshed and mirrors the schedule for the Spring Show.

There are increased opportunities for everybody to join in with new classes such as "A Windowsill Grown Orchid" and "An Orchid Judged for Foliage Only" and, of course, there is the Novice Class for those who have not won 3 First Prizes at previous Xmas Shows.

If everybody brought along one plant we would have a marvellous show.

The room will be open to accept your plant entries from 1.00 until 1.45 when judging will commence.

If you can please email your entries to Tjin Ong – tjin1@sky.com or phone 01527 597180 during the week before but if not please bring along your entries on the day.

Subscriptions

Please pay at the next meeting, or send direct to our treasurer, Heike Lilley. Membership is unchanged from last year - £12 for a single and £16 for a couple.

Please note that if you wish to receive your newsletter by post please add another £5 to your subscription to cover the additional costs of postage and printing. On payment you will receive your new membership card with the programme for the year ahead and also your copy of the 2019 BOC Year Book.



November Table Pictures

Ken Johnson



Dtps. Apoya - 30 pts - Malcolm Moodie



Cat bowringiana coerulea - 27pts - Monica Johnson



Masd. Raymunda Del la Andes - 30pts - Malcolm Moodie



Phrag. schlimii Birchwood - 33pts - Malcolm Moodie



Masd. Highland Monarch - 31pts - Malcolm Moodie



Paph. helenae - 28pts - Malcolm Moodie



Vanda (no name) - 31pts - Pam Eden



Tuberolabium kotoense - 28pts - Monica Johnson



Tuberolabium guisumbingii - 28pts - Monica Johnson