



Solihull & District Orchid Society

Spring Show 2019



Hinckley Orchid Society



Central Orchid Society



Birmingham & Midland OS



East Midlands Orchid Society

The weather for this years show, over the Easter weekend, was glorious and made it a wonderful day for exhibitors, Traders and all of our visitors.

119 people came through the door with more than 20 attending the repotting/cultural demonstrations. Hopefully, everyone went home having learnt a little bit more about orchids, with bags full of plants and sundries and with ever greater enthusiasm for everything orchids.

We made a healthy profit of £192 which will go a long way to funding our speakers in the year ahead all down to the fantastic work done by everybody that volunteered during the day and/or donated refreshments which were enjoyed by our eager visitors.

We signed up 5 new members on the day and look forward to welcoming them to future meetings – I am sure they will enjoy the speakers, the display table and the company of so many nice people.

The Show Table had many lovely specimens mostly exhibited by our own members with a number added by the East Midlands Orchid Society.

Malvern tickets

The Tickets for Malvern Show have been ordered and will be available for collection from Heike at the next Meeting – Saturday June 1st. Look forward to seeing you at the Show.

Next Meeting

We have a change to the programme with the speakers for June and July swapping places. So on Saturday June 1st we welcome one of friends from Central – Tricia King who will be telling us all about her visit to Sulawesi looking for orchids in the wild. One needs to be rather intrepid to travel to such obscure places and I am sure this will shine through from Tricia's presentation.



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: www.solihullorchidsociety.co.uk

Award Winners



SAM BRIDGE



MALCOLM MOODIE



JANET JAMES

Society Cup/Banksian Medal	Most Points in Show	Malcolm Moodie
Society Challenge Cup	Best Group Display	Malcolm Moodie
Bedlam Trophy	Best Monopodial	Stan Taylor
Gloria Cotton Cup	Best Cymbidium	Janet James
Margaret Turton Cup	Best Phalaenopsis	Graham Jones
Trevor Turton Cup	Best Paphiopedilum	Malcolm Moodie
The Challenge Cup	Best Phragmipedium	Malcolm Moodie
Peter White Trophy	Best Pleurothallidinae	Malcolm Moodie
Harry Wilshaw Shirley Goblet	Best Novice	Sam Bridge
Rene Osborne Mem. Trophy	Best Floral Art	Janet James
Janet James Trophy	Best Visiting Display	East Midlands



GRAHAM JONES



**BEST VISITING
DISPLAY - WEST
MIDLANDS
ORCHID SOCIETY**

In addition, Malcolm received 2 Cultural Commendations for his Paphiopedilum Fumi's Delight and his Masdevallia attenuate x Dracula gongora. Once again many thanks to you all for your support and look forward to an even more successful show in 2020.

Pictures: Ken Johnson/Lina Smalinske



Some of the individual exhibits

May display table points winners

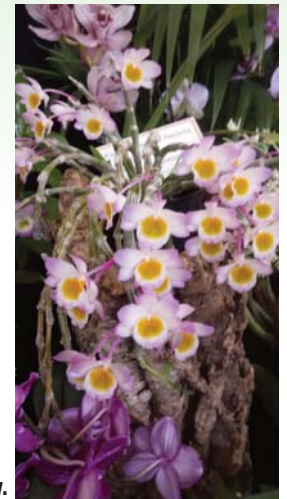
1. *Coeloglyne Mem. William Micholitz* - 29pts - Pat Bussy
2. *Bulbophyllum falcatum* - 29pts - Pat Bussy
3. *Cypripedium reginae* - 28pts - Pat Bussy
4. *Phrag. pearcei* Pink - 29pts - Malcolm Moodie
5. *Paph. delenatii* - 28 pts - Malcolm Moodie



Pictures: Ken Johnson



Central Show



Our recent display put on at Central Orchid Society show.

Dendrobium crepidatum belonging to Chris Gibbs took Best Species.

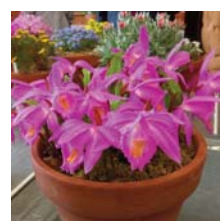
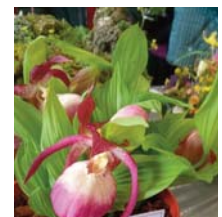
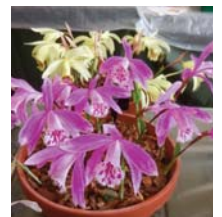
Malcolm Moodie's *Paphiopedium Fumis Delight* won Best Hybrid.

Thank you to everyone who loaned plants for the display.

Pictures: Janet James

Orchids at the Alpine Show

Pics: Janet James



Orchids of Ecuador

Malcolm Moodie

Malcolm and Andrea traveled to Ecuador hoping to see many of the 4500 species that make Ecuador one of the countries with the highest orchid species count in the world. As a comparison, the UK has only 54 species.

The areas visited are not holiday resort destinations and therefore not many tourists were seen, just mountains and orchids. However, before orchid hunting began they took a diversion to visit Machu Picchu in Peru.

The first thing that struck them when arriving in Cuzco was the lack of oxygen which leads to altitude sickness and the array of shanty like buildings. However, within the city of Cuzco they visited an Inca city which was built very sturdily and could withstand earthquakes. Machu Picchu was the only Inca city that the Spanish never found and was only discovered in 1921 by Hiram Bingham an American Archeologist. Since then the site has been largely restored but the buildings have been left roofless. Evidence of farming and plant breeding has been found showing that the Incas were very advanced and well ahead of the Europeans. Whilst at Machu Picchu they saw numerous Begonia plants and Llamas who perform a great job of mowing the grass.

Whilst in this area they visited the local botanical gardens in the hope of seeing some orchids. *Ida fimbriata* was seen growing in clumps next to the road but the botanical gardens was a disappointment as none of the vast array of orchids was in flower apart from a large specimen of *Prosthechea vespa*.

After traveling back into Ecuador with all of the border checkpoints and hotel issues behind them they then embarked on serious orchid hunting starting with trees covered in a spectacular deep pink flower which turned out to be *Cattleya maxima*. Unfortunately, due to widespread cattle grazing much of the forest has been cut down so much of the diversity has been lost.

Erycina pumila was also found there, a very small plant with big flowers, which is not easy to grow in cultivation. The overall terrain was deep valleys covered with undergrowth and trees on both sides with a river at the bottom. The rainfall is high so herbaceous plants and orchids have ideal conditions for growing very quickly and abundantly. Inside the forest is dark and very damp with all trees covered in thick layers of moss and fungi. Amongst the orchids seen was *Epidendrum cochlidium* and various *Telipogons* which are notoriously difficult to grow. Malcolm saw *Telipogon stinae*, *tesselatus*, *andicola* and *hutchinsonii* all growing at about 6 feet from the ground in easy reach of collectors.



Epidendrum lacustre was seen growing in marshy land submerged in water which is quite unusual. A number of pleurothalidinae were found with *Pleurothallis antonensis* being the first. One of the

orchids that Malcolm had never heard of previously was *Fernandezia subiflora*, which was growing on trees covered in moss, bathed in cloud with cattle grazing nearby. The flowers on this diminutive species are luminescent orange red with a yellow lip and nearly as big as the whole plant.

A very large example of *Pleurothallis acuminata* was found across the road along with *Epidendrum suavis*. One of the plants that did catch his eye was a Lilly of the Valley look a like named *Epidendrum minutiflorum* – not fragrant but a beautiful species. Lots of small *Lepanthes* and *Stelis* species were seen dotted everywhere.

He was very pleased see a very attractive *Oncidium cristatum* which much to his surprise was growing on the ground. Some of the plants seen are not normally recommended for growing in the UK mainly because of their size. *Sobralia rosea* and *virginalis* form very large clumps, grow up to 8 feet with flowers that last less than 2 days. Likewise, *Cyrtorchilus pastasae* has flower stems that can reach 14 feet in length – not easy to bring to a table display!!

On day 11 of the trip the first *Masdevallia* was seen *Masdevallia guttulata* which is atypical in that it grows warmer than most of the ones we grow. Only one other *Masdevallia* was seen – *hirtzii* which was a great



disappointment as apparently, it was a wrong time of the year. A large *Vanilla pompona* was seen in flower which although known for sometime had not been seen in flower before.

Just prior to traveling back to Ecuagenera's Nursery they spotted *Phragmipedium besseae* which was a highlight of the trip. Once at the Nursery they were able to purchase many plants from the millions on offer - all to be brought back to the UK when Ecuagenera next traveled to London.

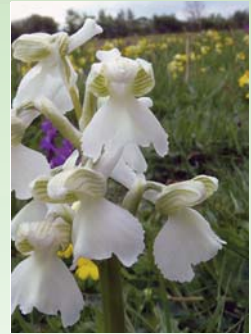
However, on the way back the bus broke down – no need to call the AA when you are at 10,000 feet up in the Andes so they just had to coax the bus back over the very bumpy terrain.

At the nursery they were tempted by: *Dracula marsupialis*, *Macroclinium manabinum*, *Myoxanthus monophylla*, *Phragmipedium besseae*, *kovachii*, *Fritz schomburg*, *Masdevallia Machu Picchu*, *caudata* and *veitchiana*.

At the nursery they also tried the local delicacy of roasted Guinea Pigs which he was not too keen to try.

Finally, Malcolm recommended going to Ecuador as the people are extremely friendly and he reassured anyone going that they would have a very good time.

Lina Smalinske



Green Winged Orchids photographed on the 5th May by Colin Clay at Draycote Meadows. The albino form really showing why it is so called.

Malvern Show – Plants

We need all the plants we can get for Malvern.

So if you have anything but you are having difficulty in getting them to the show they can be picked up.

Contact Tjin on 01527 597180 or email him at tjin1@sky.com

We have not displayed at Malvern for a number of years so it would be great to return with an eye catching stand. Your plants may make all the difference.