

SHEFFIELD & DISTRICT ORCHID SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

MAY 2012



**MAY PLANT OF THE MONTH
*GALEANDRA LACUSTRIS***

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BUSINESS

The major business concerned the forthcoming annual show at Chatsworth. This will have passed by the time this newsletter is issued, so the details are no longer relevant. Our next display will be at the Sheffield Fayre in the Norfolk Park on Sunday 26th August.

The arrangements for the next meeting were confirmed as an afternoon at Ted and Annette's on Sunday 10th June in the afternoon – around 14.00. NB. There is no meeting in July as most members will be at Peterborough. A combined newsletter will be sent out in July.

The planned coach trip by the NEOS to the BOC has been scrapped due to a lack of numbers. Any SDOS members who would have liked to attend will now have to seek out alternative arrangements – Sorry!

THE TABLE SHOW

This month's commentary was given by Charles Ford who started on the left with an unnamed white Phal with 2 spikes of medium sized well spaced flowers. Phal. Chew Ging Hoe (*borneensis* x Penang Jewel) was unusual as it has light coloured leaves that are less tolerant to light, and

only has a short spike. A further unnamed Phal had 2 spikes of smallish flowers of pale yellow with a pink lip that was a good contrast.

Disa Kewensis had 4 flower spikes of decent pink flowers. It is an easy grower requiring cool conditions grows in peat and doesn't need much feed. Lc. Pink Starlight was an appropriate name for this plant with 2 single large flowers and very clean leaves. C. Walkerinter was a primary hybrid and was a smallish plant with just a single medium sized pure white flower. C. milleri was a tiny plant with a tallish spike of 2 open small red flowers and a bud to come. Oddly it had dark leaves. Lc. Caribi Dam 'Red Star' was a deep red colour with 3 flowering growths – a real cracker of a plant.

Cyp. calceolus was an European strain of our native and endangered species. It had a single flower out of 4 growths. Hopefully as a mature plant in a couple of years it will have several flowers. Pleiones are getting towards the end of the season, but the pink Aurita was still looking strong.

Restrepia lankasteri (syn. trichoglossa) was a small plant mounted on cork, and lives in a breezy spot in the intermediate house. It has small flowers of brown and red. Catasetum Rebecca Northern is a frequently seen plant on the table. It is deciduous and had a couple of small pale pink flowers which are produced just prior to the new growth starting.

Den. Polar Fire was probably making its final appearance this month, and has been good value with strong reddish colours. Den. victoriae-reginae is another deciduous plant with tight clusters of purple flowers usually produced on the naked canes. The old pendant canes will reflower several times. A tiny Neofinetia falcata had tiny white flowers with pinkish tails. This clone 'Momohime' was just one of many clones that the Japanese go wild for. It is something that Charles just 'doesn't get'. The final plant was Galeandra lacustris that was growing well with 2 large clusters of pale brown and white flowers (see front cover). This is usually dried off from October to March when it starts to grow, and is supplemented by a high feed. This was adjudged to be the plant of the month.

PLANT OF THE MONTH

GALEANDRA LACUSTRIS

I bought this plant as a single growth from Willi Kenntner at his nursery in Germany, in 2001. It has kept going reasonably well but it has taken ten years for it to make more than one growth per season, probably because

it's hot-growing and my greenhouse isn't quite hot enough for it. I keep it at 70F minimum by day, dropping to 60F minimum by night although it did fall to 38F one night in the winter when the heating cut out!

It is native to the countries nearest to the equator in South America, extending as far south as Bolivia, where it grows near lowland rivers as an epiphyte. Even in these situations there are distinct wet and dry seasons so in nature, it is semi-deciduous. I always dry mine off in the winter and it becomes totally deciduous; it gets no more watering until the new growth(s) are clear of the compost in about late March. Watering is done very carefully at first, ensuring that no water gets into the new growth. Similarly with feeding – a little when growth is speeding up, then regularly as the growth matures and flower spikes develop.

The flower spikes are usually terminal and carry about half a dozen flowers per cluster. These last about a month before falling, when new buds will be seen in the same cluster, which in turn will take 2 or 3 weeks to expand. This alternation will keep going till the leaves start to yellow in the autumn so the flower spike is not cut off until it's clear that no more buds are forthcoming.

The chief pests to watch out for are spider mites but if a high humidity can be maintained during the growing season it shouldn't be too much of a problem. Nonetheless, some suitable anti-bug spray should be kept handy. **Ted Croot**

CHATSWORTH 2012

Following weeks of rather wet weather that had caused several events (such as the horse trials) to be cancelled, the weather chose to be kind to us on our special anniversary show. Even the grassy car park that looked damp of Saturday held up well for the Sunday, so we had fewer parking issues than may have been the case! Having said that there appeared to be fewer vehicles than usual heading to Chatsworth as the overall forecast wasn't for cracking the flagstones, and consequently we had fewer speculative visitors calling in on us.

Setting up began quite early on Saturday morning for Charles and his assistants as our demanding display had to be finely positioned prior to plants being staged in the afternoon (see back cover). The 'Orchid Hunter' drew many comments, and the additional text explained all about the trials and tribulations of supplying the Victorian demand for the exotica that we now find so familiar. We were rewarded with 3 firsts, but no 'Highly

Commended' amongst the colourful floor display. The general standard of plants in the overall exhibition was high with many specimen plants on show – The public really had their money's worth.

The best in show came from EMOS with a quite spectacular *Laelia purpurata* (see back cover) around 1m tall. EMOS had several good plants with *Onc. phymatochillum* (2 long arched spikes of tiny whitish flowers) and *Paph. St. Swithin* and *rothschildianum* to the fore. These were well complemented by some good miniatures. Harrogate OS had another fine display with some striking *Coelogynes* and an imposing *Cyrtopodium palmifrons*. Hinckley had several smallish *Cypripediums* and red *Disas*. NEEOS had a large *Masd. coccinea* f. *xanthina*, and also a rarely seen upside down *Paraphalaenopsis* with long spiky leaves. CANWOS had a decent display with both specimen and small plants.

The displays were complemented by the trade who appeared to be selling fairly well. This year entrants were given a raffle ticket for an hourly draw of plants from the trade, and this did seem to hold their attention a little while longer.

Enormous thanks are due to all who provided support for the event – from plants to catering and door/raffle etc., and especially Charles for organising the event. NB. For those of you who are online jigsaw lovers, I have created one of the 'Orchid Hunter' at the following link - <http://www.jigidi.com/solve.php?id=7FLIZLRX> Enjoy!

2012 Annual Show Results –

Phalaenopsis species:	<i>Phal parishii</i>	D Johnston	HOS
HC	<i>Phal lueddemanniana</i>	A Deakin	EMOS

Phalaenopsis hybrids:	<i>Phal KV Charmer</i>	V Hollins	HOS
HC	<i>Phal Dutch Starlight</i>	V Hollins	HOS

Cymbidium:	<i>Cym tigrinum</i>	I Dorman	HOS
HC	<i>Cym tigrinum</i>	M Stephen	EMOS

Any Other species:	<i>Cyrt palmifrons</i>	B Marsh	HOS
HC	<i>Coel. ochracea</i>	C Bulpitt	EMOS
HC	<i>Bulb. picturatum</i>	M Armstrong	..EMOS
HC	<i>Css.rubra</i>	J Barker	NEEOS

Any Other hybrid:	<i>Coel Burfordiense</i>	H Hobbs	HOS
HC	<i>Coel. Mem. W. Micholtz</i>	H Hobbs	HOS

Lycaste and Allied:	<i>Lyc groganii</i>	R Baxter	SDOS
HC	Angst Joiceyi	D Hartley	EMOS
HC	Ang Elisabeth Eyles	D Hartley	EMOS
Oncidiinae species:	<i>Onc phymatochillum</i>	A. Deakin	..EMOS
HC	<i>Milt spectabilis v. lineata</i>	J Barker	NEEOS
HC	<i>Onc leucochilum</i>	T Houghton	NEEOS
HC	<i>Lhta oerstedii</i>	H Hobbs	HOS
Oncidiinae hybrids:	Brsa Memoria Bert Field	D Tanner	CANWOS
HC	Wils Tiger Brew	K Kent	EMOS
HC	Oda Keighleyensis	B Coulson	NEEOS
Vandaceous species:	<i>Neof falcata</i>	I Dorman	HOS
HC	<i>Pps labukensis</i>	T Houghton	NEEOS
HC	<i>Ascdm ampullaceum</i>	Steve Pask	EMOS
Vandaceous hybrids:	Neof. <i>falcata</i> x Asco	Blue Sky J&H Wood	CANWOS
HC	<i>Vasco Thai Sky</i>	J Barker	NEEOS
HC	V Fuchs Delight x V Ponpimol	J Barker	NEEOS
Laeliinae species:	<i>L purpurata 'Stiala'</i>	A Deakin	EMOS
HC	<i>L purpurata semi-alba</i>	A Deakin	EMOS
HC	<i>L reginae</i>	R Tanner	CANWOS
HC	Psh <i>vitellina</i>	R Dennis	HOS
Laeliinae hybrids:	Slc Jewel Box 'Dark Waters'	R DennisHOS
Masdevallias	Masd Takau Candy 'Eva may'	E Eyre	EMOS
HC	Masd Peppermint Rock	E Eyre	EMOS
HC	Masd <i>coccinea f.xanthina</i>	J Barker	NEEOS
HC	Masd <i>infracta</i>	H Hobbs	HOS
Pleurothallidinae:	<i>Pths grobyi</i> 'Yellow'	J Barker	NEEOS
Terrestrials:	<i>Cyp parviflorum</i>	J Garner	SDOS
HC	Cyp Pink Blush	N Cope	HkOS
HC	Cyp Parville	N Cope	HkOS
Miniatures:	<i>L reginae</i>	D Tanner	CANWOS
Paphiopedilum species:	<i>Paph rothschildianum</i>	G Dobbs	EMOS

HC	<i>Paph tonsum v curtisifolium</i>	J&H Wood	CANWOS
HC	<i>Paph sukhakulii</i>	J&H Wood	CANWOS
Paphiopedilum hybrids:	Paph St. Swithin	A Deakin	EMOS
HC	Paph Clair de Lune 'EVb'	H Hobbs	HOS
HC	<i>Paph fowliei x tonsum v cupreum</i>	J&H Wood	CANWOS
Phragmipedium species:	<i>Phrag pearcii</i>	J&H Wood	CANWOS
HC	<i>Phrag longifoliumum</i>		EMOS
HC	<i>Phrag warcewiczianum</i>	H Hobbs	HOS
Phragmipedium hybrids:	Phrag Longueville	J&H Wood	CANWOS
HC	Phrag Grande	G Cope	HkOS
HC	Phrag Calurum	B Marsh	HOS
Dendrobiinae species:	Den delacourii	T Croot	SDOS
HC	Den thrysiflorum	Keith Kent	EMOS
HC	Den fleckeri	Jean Barker	NEOS
Dendrobiinae hybrids:	Den Second Love	Keith Kent	EMOS
HC	Den Ice on Fire	David Johnston	HOS
Best Amateur Plant -	<i>L purpurata</i>	A Deakin	EMOS

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY...

MONTHLY MEETINGS AT RANMOOR – 10AM

June 10th	Afternoon Soiree at Ted and Annettes
July	No Meeting

OTHER SHOWS

June 24 th	NEOS show at Tatton Park
July 6-8 th	Peterborough International Orchid Show.



Above: - Refreshments were available at Chatsworth – Honestly, there was no need for Anorexia on this scale! Slim Jim said he was ‘dying’ to get into the display, but he looked a bit gutless to me.....

Below: - Best in show at Chatsworth – *L. purpurata* on the EMOS display.

