

SHEFFIELD & DISTRICT ORCHID SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2012



SEPTEMBER PLANT OF THE MONTH
DENDROBIUM VENUSTUM

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BUSINESS

The recent display at Norfolk Park went very well with a well coloured exhibit and variety of genuses. Some interest was shown, and thanks are due to all who manned the display and/or provided plants. The 1 day rather than 2 days display worked well. Our next show is at EMOS on 30th September, and final arrangements were discussed.

Our Annual Show at Chatsworth in 2013 is now confirmed for Sunday 19th May. Setting up will commence on Saturday afternoon. We are very grateful to James Charlesworth who has volunteered to do the planning and arrangements.

The treasurer would like to remind members that their subscriptions are due in October

THE TABLE SHOW

Silvia volunteered for this month's talk and started with Phal. Sherine's Rose which had large flowers of a lovely pink with a deeper lip. Phal. First Delight was a clean pure white. This was followed by a smaller unnamed white with 2 spikes and a speckled pink of a deep colour.

Ctt. Loog Tone was a fairly compact Cattleya type with several medium sized yellow flowers with a red lip. *Lepanthes telepogoniflora* was a very tiny plant with flowers of just 2mm. It is difficult to appreciate without a magnifying glass. *Dresslerella caesariata* was unusual. It is also a miniature with very hairy leaves that tend to be pendant, and it had 2 small purple slipper shaped flowers. *Bulbophyllum frostii* was cork mounted and had several hairy mottled red and white flowers. *Stenoglottis longifolia* is quite a common plant that is a good grower and it had several small pink flowers. This African terrestrial can soon bulk up into a very showy display.

Milt Angela Barker is a true *Miltonia* with small flowers of yellow with a red mask. It is a bit more warmer growing than *Miltoniopsis*, and the flowers last quite well.

Several paphs were on show with *coccineum* being quite a deep colour. *braemii* is a smallish plant related to *tonsum*, and had a single flower with another to come. *barbigerum* was a decent size for a small species with a strong flower of brown fading to white. *godefroye* 'Yellow' is a nice flower on a very short stem typical of the species. The final species was *insigne* 'Mauliea' an old clone that does very well. Clair de Lune 'EVB' is an old fashioned *Maudiae* type that lasts in flower for months, and is worth growing for its mottled foliage alone.

Den. *venustum* was a specimen sized plant that has increased in size over the last 2-3 years. It had a mass of yellow flowers, and was adjudged to be the plant of the month. *Miltassia* Red Robe 'Diplomat' was a very nice purple colour with some lip markings. The flowers are long lasting and make the plant good value. *Catasetum* Orchidglade was a large flowered type with flat and round lip of mottled red & yellow. The final plant was Den. *lanii* (*unicum*?) which was quite small with a few bright orange flowers. Thank you Silvia.

SEPTEMBER PLANT OF THE MONTH

DENDROBIUM VENUSTUM

I bought this plant from Willi Kenntner's nursery during our expedition to the D.O.G. Congress at Ulm in Germany in March 1999. It is an unusual Dendrobium, not often offered for sale in this country and this particular plant doesn't quite fit the description of the species given in Baker and Baker's monograph on the genus. *Den venustum* is an intermediate-growing species from what used to be known as Indo-China (Thailand, Burma, Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia) and it is very closely related to *Den delacourii*. It is quite distinct from it though – *D delacourii* flowers in May on short (c.5cm) compact pseudobulbs, with fewer, larger flowers (mine is usually on our stand at Chatsworth) whereas this one flowers in September on longer (c.15cm) thinner, pseudobulbs. *Den ciliatum* is probably a synonym of *D venustum* differing only; it seems, in the length of the cilia on the lip of the flower.

This plant is deciduous: the leaves fall in late autumn and then it is kept almost dry until the new growths appear in spring. Careful watering is started now (the new roots are easily drowned by standing water). When growth is well-established it is watered more freely provided that drainage is good. I feed with Orchid Grow until the flower spikes show in mid-July, when I change to Orchid Bloom, gently increasing the feed in spring and tailing-off in autumn.

The compost I use is a very little chopped sphagnum moss with medium bark, charcoal and coarse Perlite – drainage must be good. It is kept hanging up, in good light and in continuous breeze from a fan. The drop in temperature from a minimum of 70F in the daytime to a minimum of 60F at night that my thermostat provides is apparently important in inducing flowering. My plants always get this, so I can't say what happens if they don't! **Ted Croot**

EOC 15 – BUDAPEST

TED CROOT

SDOS ran a trip to EOC 14 in Dresden 3 years ago, and this was a lengthy coach journey. Budapest is as far east as the EOC have ventured, and would have been an extra 2 days on a coach (both ways), so no such journey was planned. A train trip was arranged elsewhere, and several SDOS members signed up for the trip. The party departed London Waterloo via the Eurostar service on the 8th April, passing through/changing at Brussels, Cologne, Berlin, Dresden, Prague, and finally reaching Budapest in time for the start of the show and judging.

Unusually for an EOC this wasn't a standalone orchid event, and one of the first stalls on show was from David Austin roses, which gave an awkward feeling of home. The exhibition was in quite a large hall, and there seemed to be a lot of filler stands, many of them not really about flowers – whilst having some flowers on them. Generally in an orchid show filler plants are foliage, and definitely not in flower.

Hungary is only recently out of the grip of the iron curtain, and is still coming to terms with the freedom that we enjoy in the west. Orchid growing is still in its infancy at a national level, although there is now a Hungarian Orchid Society – who arranged the congress. As you might expect, there aren't a lot of local traders, so these mainly had to travel, and comprised some of the larger Europeans as well as the Taiwanese.

Franz Glanz had some very good Paphs, with several multiflorals including *rothschildianum*, *platyphyllum*, Lady Isabel, Duke of Earl and St. Swithin. Paph. Wössner Black Wings (*rothschildianum* x *anitum*) was awarded the best in show. He also had a large round 'bowl' of yellows with *armeniicum*, *emersonii*, *hangianum* and *concolor* as well as various hybrids. Paph. Liberty Taiwan was displayed next to one of its parents – *micranthum* (x *hangianum*), and was a good example. Phrag x *colombianum* was an interesting plant being a natural hybrid between *schlimii* and *manzurii*, and only described by Olaf Gruss in 2011. He also had an excellent *Calanthe sieboldii* 'Wössen' GM/DOG with around 7 flowering stems.

Akerne had made the long trip from Belgium, and had a solid display with their usual wide variety of plants

In other good plants within the show, *Lycaste lanipes* was an excellent plant with a large number of pale brown flowers (*back cover*). *Trichopilia suavis* had flamboyant Cattleya shaped flowers of pink and white spotted flowers that is actually a member of the *Oncidium* tribe. *Acineta humboldtii* (syn. *superba*) was very interesting with hanging spray of brown freckled flowers from the *Stanhopea* group. *Chiloschista javanica* (syn. *lunifera*) is one of the leafless orchids in the vandaceous section, and has small yellowish flowers. *Ascocentrum christensonianum* is a straggly plant with short clusters of small pale pink flowers. *Liparis nigra* was rarely seen. *Brassavola caudata* was a good example with several clusters of flowers of yellow and white. *Den. jenkinsii* was mounted on cork, and had a mass of bright yellow/orange flowers. *Den. farmeri* was also a mass of flowers – this time with pendant yellow/white ones.

The Taiwanese were colourful as usual, with Water Orchids having some lovely Cattleyas and Phals, with Dtps. Joy Angel Voice a wonderful example of a spotted pink (*back cover*). *Oncidium varicosum* ‘Baldin’ is now rarely seen when it once was so common, but still retains its beauty. Lots of Paphs were on display as well as for sale, alongside the usual offerings.

The conclusion was that the show was a little bit lacklustre and disappointing, and may have been a little too soon for the HOS to organise with too few local Societies to add displays. The awards were almost nondescript being small label/tags.

The train journey home took just as long as getting there, but all arrived home safe and well. The 16th EOC will be held in Vienna in 2015 where it is returning for the first time since the 1st EOC.

JERRY FISCHER – LECTURE TOUR

Jerry is coming to the UK in late October, mainly to speak (and sell plants) at the BOC at Writhlington in late October. Whilst he is here, he is talking at Darlington Orchid Society on Wednesday 31st October, Sadberge Village Hall, 7.15pm. ‘The History and Development of Orchids Ltd, Hybridising and Favourite Orchids’ is

the theme of his talk. Jerry is well suited to a talk such as this, and has made many hybrids of his own over the years. Jerry is also talking to Cheltenham & District on Tuesday 23rd October, and the OSGB at Westminster on Saturday 3rd November.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY...

MONTHLY MEETINGS AT RANMOOR – 10AM

Oct 14th **Chris & Jean Baker - Orchid Hunting in Malaysia.**
Chris & Jean are regular visitors to us, and will talk about their travels around Malaysia following the last WOC in Singapore.

Nov 11th **John Garner – Nomenclature, Taxonomy and Terminology.** This is usually the realm of botanists and scientists – not some half wit like John, so it may be interesting and erratic, but not a disaster.

NB. This is Armistice Sunday, so there will be a minutes silence at 11.

OTHER SHOWS

Oct 26-28th BOC at Writhlington School, Radstock, Somerset
SDOS exhibiting

Nov 24th BOGA Pre-Christmas fair, Knowle, Birmingham

Society website - www.sheffieldorchids.org



Above: - Dtps. Joy Angel Voice

Below: - *Lycaste lanipes*

