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MONTHLY BULLETIN

VOLUME 43 NO 10

Meetings held at the Uniting Church Hall, cnr. Flora and Merton St., Sutherland on the Second Monday of the Month. All Visitors Welcomed. Visit our Website on www.ssos.org.au

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OCTOBER 2007

Bulletin October 2007.

In opening the meeting, President Murray extended a welcome to the members and visitors to the evening. He then called for a motion that the minutes of the last meeting, as printed in the Sept. Bulletin, were a true record. Moved by G. Birss.

Apologies. David Brooks.

Correspondence.

Orchid S.P.E.C.I.E.S. 2007 Orchid Show & Auction, 20th. Oct. Auction starts 10:15 a.m.

Enmore Produce's latest price List.

Murray then went on to speak of the successful Spring Show at Swanes Nursery. The number of plants exhibited was down on last year, but still a successful show. Our sponsors, Swane's were very happy with the display.

A thank you to Neville Roper for filling in at the last minute, to act as Marshal, our Show Sect. Diane Hannah, George Birss, our Treasurer , See Ting Ho for the Judging results and printing of the Show cards, and Kevin Wilson on the evening with the judging. Bob Moar, as assistant Marshal was in attendance every day, from start to finish, Russell Ettrick for the transport of the trestle legs, Madge Errington for the judges supper (which Madge has been preparing for some years), and to Audrey Marks for her kind donation again, of the

hand crochet rug for the raffle. A thank you to the many other members who in some way contributed in any way to make our show, the success that it was.

Murray reminded us of the Marton Public School Fete on the 25 th. Sept. a chance to sell our spare plants, the 15% commission on sales applies.

Wal Chapman, Jan Robinson, and Louise Gannon, will be in charge of putting our display together and would welcome your orchids, ferns, and foliage plants for the Sharkies Spectacular, but be advised that we will be doing the display on the WEDNESDAY EVENING 10 th. OCT. The time to start, to be advised at the October meeting. The show will be open to the public from the 12th.- 14th. Oct.

The Eric Marygold Trophy applies for the best Sarcanthaenae.

Volunteers are required to help at the Show for supervision, ticket sales, etc. If you can help for the day lunch will be provided A roster will be available at the Oct. Meeting , or see Murray.

A thank you to Jan Robinson for her encounter, in our last issue, on her trip to Noosa.(If you can contribute an article ,I would be pleased to hear from you, Editor)

It seems if you want an audience all one has to do is mention the word, SEX. Going on the attendance who lined up last meeting to hear Nev's talk, it certainly wasn't just the novice growers. They all looked very serious with a

tooth-pick in one hand and a flower in the other.
A fun, but learning experience. Well done.

Committee members are now rostered on as hosts to meet new members and visitors. Russell Ettrick is the host for this month. If you feel you could help in this position, see Louise or Murray.

Murray selected a plant of *Aerangis citrata*, which was The Grand Champ. at the Spring Show, owned and grown by Nev. Roper. An African plant, he has had for four years, growing in a mix of coco-peat chips and Maidenwall stone, requiring moisture and a warm glasshouse at 10oC.

After the supper break, our Junior Member, and Web-master, Daniel Coulton, gave us an insight to the workings of our web-site, www.ssos.org.au). He is wanting articles/pictures etc. to update the site. Thanks Dan, well done.

Lucky Plants. J.Robinson, T. Beehag, G.Hart. (139 plants benched)

Plant Raffle. L.Gannon, G. Kay, Not recorded.

Judges Choice.

Novice. Trevor Costa. Intermediate. G. Birss.
Open. N. Roper.

Judges for October.

OCTOBER	TEAM 1	TEAM 2	TEAM 3
LEAD JUDGE	N ROPER	G HART	I CHALMER
JUDGE	W CHAPMAN	D BROOKS	K WILSON
JUDGE	I WARE	S T HO	J HART
ASSOC.	J MOSS		
WRITER	M HITCHCOCK	J ROBINSON	D COULTON

Dates to Remember.

SSOS. 8th. October, Monthly Meeting.7:30 p.m.
Beginners Class- Bob Moar will be speaking on Common genera and Species. 8 p.m. Ted Beehag on "The resilience in Orchids" and Murray Aldridge, slides from San Fransisco.

SSOS. 12th. October Monthly Meeting

Editors Corner.

Unfortunately, two plants went missing from the show, one belonging to Neville Roper was taken, a Sarc. but the other a *Dendrochillum copelandii* of Ian Ware may have been picked up in mistake

at the breakdown on Sunday. Please check your plants in case it was accidentally picked up.

Nice to see David Brooks is up and about after his scare.

MONTHLY JUDGING RESULTS

For : **Sep-07**

OPEN JUDGES CHOICE

Winner *Aerangis citrata* N. Roper

INTERMEDIATE JUDGES CHOICE

Winner *Coel. Unchained Melody* G. Birss

NOVICE & JUNIOR JUDGES CHOICE

Winner *Phal. City Girl* T. Costa

CLASS # 1 AUSTRALIAN NATIVES

1st *Dend. kingianum* D. Wood

2nd *Pter. concinna* J. Hart

3rd *Pter. concinna* J. Hart

4th *Dend. speciosum* D. Wood

CLASS # 2 SPECIES PAPHIOPEDILUM

1st *P. Victoria 'Regina'* G. Hart

2nd *P. esquirolii* G. Hart

3rd *P. villosum var boxallii* G. Hart

4th *P. venustum var alba* G. Hart

CLASS # 3 CATTLEYA OVER 110mm

1st *Blc. Burdekin Bells* S.T. Ho

2nd *Lc. Drumbeat 'Heritage'* A. Holsted

3rd *Blc. Ranger Six 'A-OK'* A. Holsted

4th *Mt. Sylvan 'Snow White' x Earl Imperialis* Costa / Crosby

CLASS # 4 NOVELTY PAPHIOPEDILUM

1st *P. Maudiae 'Colouratum'* W&J Chapman

2nd *P. Papa Rohl* Costa / Crosby

3rd *P. bellatulum x glaucophyllum* Costa / Crosby

4th *P. Lady Sara x moguetianum* Costa / Crosby

CLASS # 5 CATTLEYA OVER 80 TO 110mm

1st *Slc. Lana Corell x C. Horace 'Maxima'* J. Hart

2nd *Lc. Marie's Song x Slc. Dal's Buddy* Costa / Crosby

3rd *Bc. Dal's Cherry x Blc. Sylvia Fry Essie* Costa / Crosby

CLASS # 6 PAPHIOPEDILUM

1st *Paph. Mem. Jack Carrett* G. Hart

2nd *Paph. Crescent Meadow x Huddle* S.T. Ho

3rd *Paph. Winston Churchill x Freckles* K. Wilson

CLASS # 8 CATTLEYA UP TO 80mm

1st *Slc. Dal's Rage* E. Beehag

2nd *Lc. Trick or Treat 'Orange Magic'* Costa / Crosby

3rd *Slc. Dal's Buddy* Costa / Crosby

4th *Slc. Bright Angel x (Lc Hawaiian Fantasy x)* E. Beehag

CLASS # 9 AUSTRALIAN NATIVE HYBRID

1st *Dend. Finale* D. Wood

2nd *Dend. Finale* D. Wood

3rd *Dend. Kingzip* D. Wood

4th *Dend. Star of Gold x Lorikeet* T. Thorborn

CLASS # 10 SPECIES ASIAN

1st *Aerangis citrata* N. Roper

2nd *Coel. cinnamomea* E&A Marks

3rd *Dendrochillum wenzellii* E. Beehag

4th *Dendro. uncatum* G. Hart

CLASS # 11 PHALAEOPSIS

1st *Phal. Minho Venus* Costa / Crosby

CLASS # 12 SEEDLING

1st *Sarco. Riversong x Dove* N. Roper

2nd *Sarco. Perky x hartmannii* N. Roper

3rd *Paph. Small World x (Colonist x Flight Path)* K. Wilson

4th *Sarco. Tigress x hartmannii* N. Roper

CLASS # 13 ONCIDIUM

1st *Onc. Elegance x Mexico* R. Ettrick

CLASS # 14 NOVELTY PHALAEOPSIS UNDER 75mm		
1st Phal. Brother Sarah Gold		Costa / Crosby
2nd Phal. Flight of Birds x Phal. Taiper Gold		W&J Chapman
3rd Phal. Little Emperor		Costa / Crosby
CLASS # 15 ONCIDIUM INTERGENERIC ALLIANCE		
1st Odcdm. Bon Bivan		E. Beehag
2nd Burr. Nelly Isler 'Swiss Maid'		Costa / Crosby
3rd Odcm. Hansveli Isler		D. Wood
4th Odcdm. (Tiger Hambuhren x Odn. Muleta) x		E. Beehag
CLASS # 16 MISCELLANEOUS		
1st Coelog. Unchained Melody		R. Moar
2nd Lyc. Shoalhaven 'Mavis'		G. Hart
3rd Lyc. Calynea		W&J Chapman
4th Zygo. Arthur Elle		K. Wilson
CLASS # 20 INTERMEDIATE CYMBIDIUM 60 TO 90mm		
1st Cym. Bingo 'Santa Barbara'		E&A Marks
2nd Cym. Wyona Ruby 'Siren' x Last Tango 'Geyser'		Costa / Crosby
3rd Cym. Gentle Touch 'Bon Bon'		Costa / Crosby
CLASS # 21 ODONTOGLOSSUUM INCLUDING ODONTODA		
1st Oda. Avieewood x Harrodgfoeul		E. Beehag
2nd Oda. F.J. Hanbury x Oda. Harry Baldwin		J. Hart
3rd Oda. Mornington		E. Beehag
4th Oda. Mornington		E. Beehag
CLASS # 21A PLEUROTHALLIDINAE HYBRIDS		
1st Masd. Marguerita 'Firewalker'		J. Hart
CLASS # 21B LAELINAE SPECIES		
1st Enc. cochleata		G. Hart
2nd Cat. loddegsii		E. Beehag
3rd Cat. intermedia		Costa / Crosby
4th Cat. loddegsii		Costa / Crosby
CLASS # 22 MINITURE CYMBIDIUM UNDER 60mm		
1st Cym. Daddy's Girl		E&A Marks
2nd Cym. Orkney 'Pink Heather'		W&J Chapman
3rd Cym. Mimi 'Sacramento'		W&J Chapman
CLASS # 23 SPECIES OTHER THAN ASIAN OR PAPHIOPEDILUM		
1st Max. densa		G. Hart
2nd Chordoryncha discolor		N. Roper
3rd Max. schurkeana		G. Hart
4th Max. picta		R. Moar
CLASS # 23A OTHER PLEUROTHALLIDINAE SPECIES		
1st Rest. lemsylana		B. Moar
2nd Rest. antenniferria		N. Roper
3rd Pleuro. maidonaldii		G. Hart
CLASS # 24 STANDARD CYMBIDIUM		
1st Cym. Kelly's Winter 'Patricia'		Costa / Crosby
CLASS # 24A NATIVE SARCANTHINAE HYBRID		
1st Sarco. Molly		N. Roper
2nd Sarco. Judith x Fairy		N. Roper
3rd Sarco. Misty x hartmanii		N. Roper
4th Sarco. Weinhart		N. Roper
CLASS # 26 NOVICE - CYMBIDIUM		
1st Cym. Da Vinci 'Charm'		T. Costa
2nd Cym. unknown		J. Robinson
3rd Cym. unknown		J. Robinson
CLASS # 27 - NOVICE - NATIVE & NATIVE HYBRID		
1st Den. Warrambool		J. Robinson
2nd Den. kingianum		J. Robinson
3rd Den. aemulum		J. Robinson
CLASS # 29 NOVICE - MISCELLANEOUS		
1st Phal. City Girl		T. Costa
2nd Phal. Tinny Sunshine x Takco Windian		T. Costa
3rd Coelog. Unchained Melody		G. Dodd

CLASS # 30 NOVICE -SPECIES		
1st Max. densa		G. Dodd
CLASS # 32 INTERMEDIATE - CYMBIDIUM		
1st Cym. Doris Butler		L. Gannon
2nd Cym. Lunahira		D&M Hannah
3rd Cym. Joan's Charisma		D&M Hannah
CLASS # 33 INTERMEDIATE - NATIVE SPECIES & NATIVE HYBRID		
1st Den. Tyabb 2		D&M Hannah
2nd Den. kingianum		G. Birss
3rd Den. kingianum		G. Birss
4th Den. unknown		L. Gannon
CLASS # 34 INTERMEDIATE - CATTLEYA		
1st Cat. Portia		D&M Hannah
2nd Cat. unknown		G. Birss
CLASS # 35 INTERMEDIATE - MISCELLANEOUS		
1st Coelog. Unchained Melody		G. Birss
2nd Lyc. Calynea		D&M Hannah
CLASS # 36 INTERMEDIATE - SPECIES		
1st Paph. tonsum		G. Birss
CLASS # 41 JUNIORS		
1st Coelog. Unchained Melody		D. Coulton
2nd Den. speciosum		D. Coulton
3rd Zygo. Blue Blood		D. Coulton
4th Den. kingianum		D. Coulton

The Evolution of the Spring Show

By Jan Robinson

Back in the “good old days” (1967, to be exact), the Society’s Spring Show was held in the Catholic Hall on President Avenue in Caringbah, on September 22nd through 24th. Kevin Wilson presided as Show Marshall. The schedule reflected the fact that Sutherland was one of the biggest cymbidium growing areas in New South Wales in that almost half of the show classes were for cymbids. There were classes for a single cymbid, for two cymbids together, and for a cymbid threesome; cymbid seedlings; coloured cymbids (single plants); and “decorative” cymbids which, Kevin tells me, were the ones with big arching sprays. Apparently one of the competitors had a reliable method of achieving winning sprays which involved use of a lead sinker tied to the tip of the developing racemes.....plant “enhancement” is obviously nothing new!

For native specialists, there were classes for Native Dendrobiums, Terrestrials, Kingianums, Australian-Raised Native Hybrids, and Other Native Orchids. Sarcs must have not been very popular back then as they didn’t even rate a mention in the Show schedule. But don’t get too bitter and twisted about that, Neville, because cattleyas, paphs, phalaenopsis, oncidiums, and pleuros didn’t have classes to themselves either. Contd...after show results.....

Class	11 - Best Cattleya - Mauve, Pink or White (flowers over 110mm)	
1st	MR. S.T.HO	Blc. Burdekin Bells
2nd	MR. S.T.HO	Blc. Burdekin Bells
Class	13 - Best Cattleya - Mauve, Pink or White (flowers over 80 mm up to 110mm).	
1st	MR. J. HART	Slc. Lana Coryell x Cat. Horace 'Maxima'
Class	14 - Best Cattleya - Other Colours (flowers over 80 mm up to 110mm).	
1st	MS. S CROSBY/ MR. T COSTA	Lc. Marie's Song x Slc. Dals Buddy 'Bad Attitude'
2nd	MS. S CROSBY/ MR. T COSTA	Slc.Ken's Dream 'Dogashima'
Class	15 - Best Cattleya - (flowers under 80 mm)	
1st	MR. E. BEEHAG	Slc. Bright Angel x (Lc. Hawaiian Fantasy x Soph. coccina)
2nd	MR. E. BEEHAG	Pot. Free Spirit
Class	18 - Best Paphiopedilum	
1st	MR. S.T.HO	Paph. Sunny Tear x Winston Churchill
2nd	MR. K. WILSON	Paph. Paeony 'Regency' x Barbourne
Class	19 - Best Primary or Novelty Paphiopedilum	
1st	MR. & MRS. W. CHAPMAN	Paph. Maudiae 'Coloratum'
2nd	MS. S CROSBY/ MR. T COSTA	Paph. bellatulum x glaucophyllum
Class	21 - Best Dendrobium - Phalaenanthae Type	
1st	MR. K. WILSON	Den. Mike's Mystery
Class	23 - Best Phalaenopsis or Doritaenopsis	
1st	MR.& MRS T & J HYDE	Phal. Taira New Life x Ho Fancy Leopard
2nd	MS. S CROSBY/ MR. T COSTA	Phal. Minho Venus
Class	24 - Best Novelty Phalaenopsis (flowers 75mm max.)	
1st	MR.& MRS T & J HYDE	Phal. Little Ploro Queen
2nd	MS. S CROSBY/ MR. T COSTA	Phal. Brother Sarah Gold
Class	25 - Best Odontoglossum, Odontioda, Odontonia or Vuylstekeara only	
1st	MR. E. BEEHAG	Oda. Mornington
2nd	MR. E. BEEHAG	(Oda. Aviewood x Harrods Forever) x Oda. Annwood
Class	26 - Best Oncidinae Hybrid Other	
1st	MR. E. BEEHAG	(Odcdm. Tiger Hambuhren x Oda. Muletta) x Odcdm Tiger Butter
2nd	MS. S CROSBY/ MR. T COSTA	Burr. Nelly Isler 'Swiss Maid'
Class	27 - Best Pleurothallidinae Hybrid (Masdevallia or Dracula)	
1st	MR. J. HART	Masd. Marguerite 'Firewalker'
Class	29 - Best Species Paphiopedilum	
1st	MR. S.T.HO	Paph. wolterianum
2nd	MR. G.HART	Paph. villosum var boxallii
Class	30 - Best Species Laelinae	
1st	MR. E. BEEHAG	Cat. loddegessii
2nd	MR. G.HART	Enc. cochleata
Class	32 - Best Species Pleurothallidinae Other	
1st	MR. N. ROPER	Restrepia antiferia
2nd	MR. N. ROPER	Restrepia cuprea
Class	33 - Best Species Orchid -Asian (other than a Paphiopedilum or Native)	
1st	MR. N. ROPER	Aeringis citrata
2nd	MR. I. WARE	Dendrochilum tenellum
Class	34 - Best Species Orchid -Other Continent (other than a Laelinae,Pleurothallidinae or Native)	
1st	MR. G.HART	Max. schuakeana
2nd	MR. & MRS R & J ETTRICK	Max. densa
Class	35 - Best Orchid Not Elsewhere Included	
1st	MR. N. ROPER	Zygoneria Adelaide Meadow 'Alison'
2nd	MR. N. ROPER	Coel. Unchained Melody

Class	36 - Best Specimen Orchid (Other than a Native)	
1st	MR. N. ROPER	Aeringis citrata
2nd	MR. N. ROPER	Coel. Unchained Melody
Class	37 - Best Dendrobium kingianum	
1st	MR. N. ROPER	Den. kingianum 'Freckle'
2nd	MR. D. WOOD	Den. kingianum
Class	38 - Best Native Dendrobium Species - excluding kingianum	
1st	MR. N. ROPER	Den. speciosum 'Sibera'
2nd	MR. N. ROPER	Den. speciosum var curvicaulie x Little John
Class	39 - Best Native Terrestrial Orchid, Species or Hybrid	
1st	MR. J. HART	Pter. concinna
2nd	MR. J. HART	Pter. curta
Class	40 - Best Native Sarcanthinae Species	
1st	MR. & MRS R & J ETTRICK	Sarco. falcatus
2nd	MR. & MRS R & J ETTRICK	Sarco. falcatus
Class	41 - Best Native Sarcanthinae Hybrid	
1st	MR. N. ROPER	Sarco. Orange Glow 'Flames'
2nd	MR. N. ROPER	Sarco. Misty Spangles x hartmanii
Class	42 - Best Native Dendrobium Hybrid - predominantly Red or Pink	
1st	MR. D. WOOD	Den. Jonathon Gray 'David'
2nd	MR. D. WOOD	Den. Kingzip
Class	43 - Best Native Dendrobium Hybrid - predominantly Yellow or Green	
1st	MR. D. WOOD	Den. Finale 'Sophie'
2nd	MR. N. ROPER	Den. Kayla
Class	44 - Best Native Dendrobium Hybrid - any Other Colour	
1st	MR. T. THORBURN	Den. Golden King x Aussie Quest x Delicatum
Class	45 - Best Native Orchid Not Elsewhere Included	
1st	MR. N. ROPER	Dock. Aussie Cascades x dollchophyla
2nd	MR. R. MOAR	Bulb. shepherdii
Class	46 - Best Native Hybrid Seedling	
1st	MR. N. ROPER	Den. speciosum
2nd	MR. N. ROPER	Sarco. Riversong x Dove
Class	47 - Best Specimen Native Orchid - Species or Hybrid	
1st	MR. N. ROPER	Den. speciosum
2nd	MR. N. ROPER	Dock. Aussie Cascades x dollchophyla
Class	48 - Novice - Best Cymbidium	
1st	MRS. J ROBINSON	Cym. Unknown
2nd	MRS. J ROBINSON	Cym. Unknown
Class	50 - Novice - Best Native Orchid Species or Hybrid	
1st	MRS. J ROBINSON	Den. Warrambool
2nd	MRS. J ROBINSON	Den. kingianum
Class	52 - Novice - Best Orchid Not Elsewhere Included	
1st	MR. T. COSTA	Phal. City Girl
2nd	MR. T. COSTA	Burr. Nelly Isler 'Swiss Maid'
Class	54 - Intermediate - Best Cymbidium	
1st	MRS. L. GANNON	Cym. Doris Butler 'Top Show'
2nd	MR. & MRS M HANNAH	Cym. Lunakira 'Dubloon'
Class	55 - Intermediate - Best Paphiopedilum	
1st	MR. G BIRSS	Paph. Unknown
Class	56 - Intermediate - Native Orchid, Species or Hybrid	
1st	MR. G BIRSS	Den. kingianum 'Albert West'
2nd	MR. G BIRSS	Den. kingianum

Class	57 - Intermediate - Best Cattleya	
1st	MR. & MRS M HANNAH	C. Portia 'Monts Amy'
2nd	MR. G BIRSS	Cat. Unknown
Class	58 - Intermediate - Best Orchid Not Elsewhere Included	
1st	MR. & MRS M HANNAH	Lyc. Kawana x Jason
2nd	MR. G BIRSS	Coel. Unchained Melody
Class	59 - Intermediate - Best Species Orchid (other than a Native)	
1st	MR. G BIRSS	Paph. tonsum var curtissifolium
2nd	MR. & MRS M HANNAH	Coel. cristata
Class	60 - Best Orchid Exhibited by a Junior	
1st	MST. D COULTON	Den. speciosum
2nd	MST. D COULTON	Den. kingianum

Cont. of article.....

However, there were classes in the Show specifically for the Ladies Auxiliary: Shoulder Sprays, Handbag Sprays, Victorian Posies, Arrangement of Orchids, Basket Arrangements, and Novel or Film Title. The Ladies Auxiliary apparently was quite active in various Club activities besides providing refreshments at all of the Society's functions and meetings. Nowadays the Ladies Auxiliary is made up of just one member: Madge Errington! How about entering your best Handbag Spray in our next show, Madge!

Members of the public could compete in many of the classes as long as they belonged to an orchid society, but some classes were limited to SSOS members only. The Show Marshall never knew how many non-Society members would be competing at the show until people and their plants arrived, making table space allocation particularly interesting! As well as table tops, there was also a class for native orchid displays, which were required to be six feet by three feet in area. Guess who won that class in 1967? Yep, our illustrious Show Marshall along with his mate John Ezzy. One of the table top displays that year had a "wishing well" set up as a cascading waterfall; \$16 in coins' worth of wishes were made over the duration of the show. (Now there's a money-making idea for you Table Top Display competitors!) Kevin also won one of the coloured cymbidium classes with his Girrahween Enid, sporting one spike with ten red flowers that had a touch of green. How about this: back in "those days" just one bulb of that cymbidium would set you back by 100 pounds!! So how did Mr. Wilson come to own this extremely exxy plant? Ask him yourself the next time you see him, he was a bit vague on the answer when I tried to find out.

Only four champion rosettes were given in 1967 (or at least there were only four mentioned in the write up in the October Bulletin for that year). There was one for Champion Other Than Cymbidium, won by Lycaste Koolena 'Amy.' (Koolena is still used today in breeding lycastes.) The Best Specimen Other Than Native rosette was won by Kate Bell 'Elanora' which Kevin thinks was probably an odontoglossum, odontioda, or odontonia. Grand Champion Cymbid went to Mallana 'Yowie Bay' and Reserve Champion Cymbid was won by the "consistent prize winner" Dorchester 'Jeanette.' According to the Bulletin, that particular cymbid had "probably won more favour than any other orchid in the last few years" at that time. Do any of you club members still have a piece of either of these two old cymbid winners?

Maybe the number of rosettes was limited due to the cost. There was no sponsorship of any prize money or rosettes. In fact, Society members contributed personally so that prizes could be given at all. In the President's report in the February 1968 AGM, Mr. Bill Mills commented that the 1967 Spring Show was "rather notable in that we didn't lose any money!" Contrast that to our current lucky position in which we have a very generous sponsor, Swane's Nursery in Sylvania, which provides prize money and rosettes as well as a free venue for both our Winter and Spring Shows. Can you just imagine the hue and cry now if us members had to kick in over a thousand dollars for prize money twice a year for both shows! (Perhaps that was another reason for having only 26 classes back in 1967 compared to the 60 we had this year in the Spring Show.)

Although the plants, classes, venue and sponsorship have changed dramatically over the past 40 years, this quote from Mr. Mills regarding the Spring Show back then still applies today: "...the quality of flowers in all genera was excellent. It speaks well for the growing ability of our members...and makes one proud to belong to this Society."

THE CULTURE OF CYMBIDIUM ORCHIDS IN THE BACKYARD

Courtesy of Leisure Coast Orchid Society Inc.

Air Light & Water are the 3 important elements for growing any orchid; the backyard can complicate these requirements.

Air Flow can be restricted by buildings, solid fences and to a certain extent paling fences, to overcome some of these problems wire mesh benches can be used to lift the plants up off the ground or plants can be hung. If you do not have a bench to stand your plants on it is better to stand them on bricks than put them straight onto the ground.

Light (sunlight) Similar problems to airflow some trees add too much shade, remember the plants can stand full sun for most of the year except for the real hot months.

It is best to use shadecloth 30 to 50% to protect the plants from severe sun & some degree of frost protection. If a choice has to be made on Morning or Afternoon Sun pick the Morning.

Watering Water the pot so that drips appear at the base, it is better to have one good watering than many wet the leaves type watering.

Frequency of watering will vary on the type of potting mix, the time of the year & the weather, get to know your potting mix, if the top 25% or so is dry it needs watering. In hot weather it can be almost daily, the cold months 7 to 14 days, if very shady 3 to 4 weeks would not be uncommon, do not water on cold cloudy days.

Fertilising your Plants

If you use liquid fertiliser remember weakly weekly is far better than one strong dose monthly as this can burn the roots of the plant which will set it back 12 months on its flowering cycle.

I use Peters Blossom Booster all the year round at half a gram per litre of water, in Jan, Feb & March I raise the nitrogen level by mixing Peters High Nitra (30% nitrogen) with the blossom booster 54/50 to raise nitrogen level to 20% still mixing it at the rate of half a gram per litre of water; in the cold months I reduce the level of fertiliser to 1/4 gram per litre of water.

Phostrogen can be used (directions on the packet) all the year round except Jan, Feb & March when half strength Aquasol is used on a weekly basis. Water the plant before Fertilising.

When the plant has outgrown its pot, repot into the next size pot using fresh potting mix, only when the plant is too big for you to handle do you need to divide the plant up keeping the divisions to the minimum size clump of 3 bulbs.

Staking of Spikes

I do not use bamboo stakes, I prefer wire stakes, these I sterilise as soon as they are taken out of the pot, remember it takes at least 15 minutes to do the sterilising. (Household bleach or Pool Chlorine).

Take care where you put the stake into the pot, too close to the edge a damage can occur to growing roots, too close to the spike as you can damage the new shoot that grows out under the spike.

I always break spikes & do not use any cutting implements as this can spread disease. Hygiene as with most orchids is important and if the plants are kept clean there are generally few problems. One main problem can be with fungal spots on the leaves, these black spots are caused by not allowing good airflow around the plants, and they can be controlled by spraying with one of the zinc sprays like Zineb or Mancozeb.

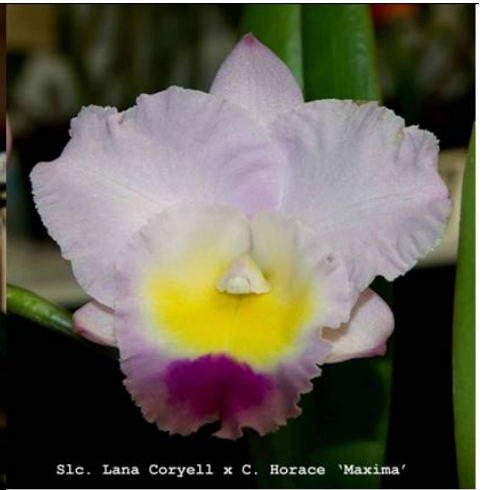
Snails will cause damage to the buds and flowers, use good snail bait at bud formation to prevent this. Like most orchids some form of protection at flowering time especially in wet seasons will help protect the flowers from spotting, this spotting can cause the flowers to deteriorate.



Cym. Valley Splash 'Awesome'



Aeringis citrata



Slc. Lana Coryell x C. Horace 'Maxima'



Dock. Aussie Cascade x Gollchophyla



Rest. antiferia



Paph. Maudslayi 'Colaratum'

CHAMPIONS OF SPRING SHOW



Lyc. Calynea



Den. speciosum