



October Bulletin

2011

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Announcements

- At the October Meeting we will be having a vendor from the Southern Orchid Spectacular attending as guest speaker, possibly Bill Miles.
- Thank you to everyone who helped make our Spring Show at Swanes Nursery such a success. Both Judges and visitors agreed that it was a great Show. Congratulations to our Novice Grower, Michael Dimon who won the Grand Champion Prize with Vanda denisoniana x Ascda. Peggy Foo.
- Frank Daniel needs volunteers for the Southern Orchid Spectacular. (help needed for Wednesday plus other days).
- At the October General Meeting there will be a meeting for Judges, Associates, writers and anyone interested in helping with the judging on meeting nights.

Upcoming Events

Event	Date	Time	Place
Bankstown Orchid Society General Meeting	3 Oct	8pm	Scottish Hall in Weigand Street, Bankstown
Southern Orchid Spectacular	7-9 Oct	9:30am- 4pm	Caringbah High School
SSOS General Meeting	10 Oct	8pm	Sutherland Uniting Church Cnr Flora and Merton Sts.
Southside Species Meeting	27 Oct	7:45pm	Peakhurst Bowling Club, Olds Lane Off Holley Road, Peakhurst



The mad rush as everyone gets their own seedling at last month's deflasking night.

Vale Alan Kirkby

It's with sadness that I wish to inform you that one of our long time members, Mr Alan Kirkby passed away recently. Alan and his wife Judith had been members since 1976. Alan had been in a Nursing Home for some time and was always pleased when Judith would read our Society Bulletins to him. A sympathy card has been sent to Judith and family, expressing our condolences on behalf of all members. Members were asked to stand for a minute's silence.

SOUTHERN ORCHID SPECTACULAR – NOTES FOR DISPLAY PLANTS

Here are the plant check-in notes as presented at the September meeting:

THE SHOW IS NOT AT SHARKIES!!! It's at the Caringbah High School gymnasium, on the SOUTHEAST corner of the big Taren Point Road and Captain Cook Drive intersection, on Willarong Road.

PLANT CHECK IN for SSOS members is **Wednesday night, Oct 5, from 6:30 pm – 8:00 pm.**

Do **NOT** bring your plants on Thursday! If you can't get to the School on Wednesday night, you will need to make arrangements with someone else to bring your plants.

Do **NOT** take your plants to Sharkies!! If you do, you will be eligible for the very special WSA (Wooden Spoon Award!!)

Show Entry Form: Write your name on the form – do **NOT** put anything in the "No#" space, this will be completed at Check in. Circle your exhibitor's class (open, novice or junior) THERE IS **NO** INTERMEDIATE SECTION – most of you will be in Open Division. Check RULE 16 of Show Schedule for definition of Novice: if you are not a Novice, then you are in OPEN.

Referring to your Show Schedule, write down the class # of each of your plants and their full name INCLUDING GENERA on the Show Entry Form. Check that your plant is in a **BLACK** pot—if not put it in one, particularly if it is in a **pink** pot! (Anyone bringing a plant in a pink pot qualifies for the WSA!!)

If the plant is a first-flowering seedling or a species plant, put an X in the column. Seedlings have been grown from seed—mericlones are not seedlings. Accurate completion of these 2 columns will help ensure that the proper paperwork is completed for your plant so that it gets judged on Thursday night.

Do **NOT** put any numbers in the last column "plant #" on your form—that will be done at Check In. (Anyone putting numbers in this column prior to check in qualifies for the WSA!!)

Check that your plant has been **watered recently** and that it can stand up properly on its own—if it can't stand on your kitchen table by itself without falling over, **FIX IT UP** so that it won't topple over in our display. (Anyone bringing a tipsy plant for the display qualifies for the WSA!!)

Now you've got your Show Entry Form completed, you're ready to go to the Caringbah High School gymnasium. We'd appreciate it if you brought along any ferns or Spanish moss (old man's beard) to put in the display, make sure your name is in a tag in the pot so you can get the plants back after the Show. **At the school there's a big parking lot, you can't miss it.**

The more plants you have, the closer to 6:30 pm you should arrive. **DO NOT JUST DROP YOUR PLANTS OFF** – you need to stay until all your plants have been checked against your Show Entry Form if possible. This is for **YOUR** benefit—if you drop off plants and don't stay, we don't know where your plants are to attach the labels, and there is also risk of your plants getting damaged as more and more plants are brought in. If you can, **STAY** until your plants have been labeled.

IF YOU WANT TO STAY AFTER YOUR PLANTS HAVE BEEN CHECKED IN – FANTASTIC!!! You can then help set up the vendor area, tables will need to be set up and plastic taped to them

SALES BENCH PLANTS can be dropped off on Wednesday night or during the Show on Friday, Saturday or Sunday. If you bring them during the Show and don't plan to stay, you can drop them off at the Admissions Desk and one of the volunteers will put them on the Sales Bench. **PLEASE DO NOT** come to the School on Thursday unless you have been specifically asked to do so – vendors will be setting up as will the rest of the Societies putting on displays, it will be PANDAMONIUM and extra people will add to the chaos.

ALL MEMBERS HAVE A FREE PASS for one day at the Show compliments of The Society. This year your pass has your name on it – so the Committee will know if you don't use it. You will need to hand your Free Pass in at the Admissions Desk in exchange for a ticket. (Anyone not using their Free Pass qualifies for the WSA unless they have a note from their mum explaining their absence!!)

THE PRIZE PRESENTATION is at 3:00 ON SUNDAY, after which you can pick up plants. You can get in "free" at 2:45 pm on Sunday.

PLEASE BE PATIENT during take down of the displays. Everyone from all participating Society's will be taking down their displays at the same time, as well as vendors packing up. The displays are going to be quite close together, so care will need to be taken by EVERYONE to insure that plants get to their right owners and ALL THE MESS IS CLEANED UP afterwards.

Once you have collected your own plants, it would be appreciated if you could help clean up our display area—which means loading all the ferns, black cloth, framework, and other props into our cars after the plants have been distributed. **IT WOULD BE REALLY GREAT** if you could stay and help clear the vendor area as well. **THIS IS YOUR SHOW** and we want you to enjoy it. If everyone pitches in and helps a little, then we can all have a great time.

NEWS FLASH:

Its been leaked, the theme for the SOS display will be 'Song of Spring' anybody with ideas or potential ornaments for the display is asked to contact May Louise or Jan.

Repotting Workshop at May's Place – 24th September



Although the weatherman said it would be raining on Saturday 24th September for the novice's re-potting at May's place an enthusiastic crowd of 10 people still turned up and the sun actually came out for a while.

Daniel was a little bit shaken when he saw that everyone carried at least two or three plants to the benches set up under the magnolia tree up the end May's back yard. They didn't lose a minute after Daniel's introductory talk and quickly got into re-potting their plants under his supervision.

May was anxious to re-pot her one-and-only champion pendulum 'Ruby Eyes' Cymbidium which was very crowded in its pot. After ignoring the advice of the three seniors, Daniel, John Costa and Lee, who said she should wait for another year, May finally begged John to put it into a 12 inch pot. She was very happy. How is she going bring it to the show bench next year? That's her problem!

As the weather got cooler May kept asking who wanted something warmer to wear, there was no answer. They just kept working very hard.

Finally afternoon tea time; hot tea, coffee, cappuccino were served non-stop from the auto hot water dispenser. The tables under the cover of May's back patio were full of all different cakes and cookies some bought and some homemade and one beautifully decorated that looked just like those you see in the cake decoration exhibition at the Royal Easter Show. Everyone still busy with mouths full of cake at the same time exchanging ideas and Lee is having her computer lesson inside. Afternoon tea breaks up when Eleanor has to go and meet her husband and people go and see the orchids in flower on May's front sunroom and veranda. After another 20 minutes of exchanging news and gossip about other orchid societies everyone headed off at about 5 pm. Special thanks must go to Daniel, from the novice group, from May (who will go to open class next year) and from Frank, for the time and effort he has put into helping us all.



Schedule of Monthly Classes on Web

As several members have been inquiring about it, the schedule of classes for the monthly meetings has been placed on the society's website. This allows members to fill out their place cards before meetings in order to save time etc. it can be found at the bottom of the webpage with the growing articles on it. www.ssos.org.au

Results of the SSOS Spring Show

GRAND CHAMPION ORCHID OF THE SHOW
M. DIMON *Vanda denisoniana* x *Ascda*. Peggy Foo

CHAMPION SPECIES

S. T. HO *Paph. malipoense*

CHAMPION CYMBIDIUM

J. COSTA *Cym. Marvin Gaye* 'Royale'

CHAMPION AUSTRALIAN NATIVE SPECIES

W. HOOGWERF *Den. speciosum* 'Bee Creek' x 'Daylight Moon'

CHAMPION AUSTRALIAN NATIVE HYBRID

E. BEEHAG *Den. Finale*

CHAMPION PLEUROTHALLIDINAE SPECIES OR HYBRID

D. WOOD *Rest. striata* V. *Goliath*

CHAMPION CATTLEYA

W. HOOGWERF *Blc. Dundas* 'Olga'

CHAMPION MISCELLANEOUS

K. WILSON *Paph. Personella* 'Sylvanvale'

CHAMPION ORCHID EXHIBITED BY A NOVICE, INTERMEDIATE OR JUNIOR

M. DIMON *Vanda denisoniana* x *Ascda*. Peggy Foo

OPEN CLASSES (SUTHERLAND MEMBERS ONLY)

Class 1 – Table Top Display, max size 60cm x 60cm, 3 to 5 orchids of different clones

1st M. LUK
2nd K. WILSON
3rd R. MOAR
4th G. BIRSS

Class 2 – Best Cymbidium, red or pink (flowers 60mm max.)

1st J. ROBINSON *Cym. Ruby Eyes* 'Red Baron'
2nd K. WILSON *Cym. Willunga*

Class 3 – Best Cymbidium, green or yellow (flowers 60mm max.)

1st J. ROBINSON *Cym. Freeling* 'Green Ice'
2nd N. ROPER *Cym. Sarah Jean* 'Green Mist'

Class 4 – Best Cymbidium, any other colour (flowers 60mm max.)

1st J. COSTA *Cym. Mem. Marvin Gaye* 'Royale'
2nd T. COSTA & S. CROSBY *Cym. Plush Canyon* 'Beenak'

Class 5 – Best Cymbidium, red or pink (flowers over 60mm to 90mm max.)

1st J. COSTA *Cym. Uncle Everett* 'Dark One'
2nd T. COSTA & S. CROSBY *Cym. Flaming Vulcan* 'Dural'

Class 6 – Best Cymbidium green or yellow (flowers over 60mm to 90mm max.)

1st N. ROPER *Cym. Pearl Dawson* 'Royale'
2nd W. McEVOY *Cym. A Bryant* 'Superstar'

Class 7 – Best Cymbidium any other colour (flowers over 60mm to 90mm max.)

1st L. GANNON *Cym. Louie's Pride* 'Oasis'
2nd N. ROPER *Cym. Louie's Pride* 'Oasis'

Class 8 – Best Standard Cymbidium

1st J. COSTA *Cym. Valley Zenith* 'Concord'
2nd C. FRASER *Cym. Wyong Flame* 'Dural'

Class 9 – Best Cymbidium Seedling (all types)

1st K. WILSON *Cym. Willunga* x *Summer Pearl*
2nd N. ROPER *Cym. Charming*

Class 10 – Best Seedling other than Cymbidium or Native Hybrid

1st K. WILSON *Paph. In-Charm* Show Shaw x self
2nd N. ROPER *Bap. Little Dragon*

Class 11 – Best Cattleya, mauve, pink or white (flowers over 80mm up to 110mm)

1st W. HOOGWERF *Blc. Dundas* 'Olga'
2nd W. HOOGWERF *Blc. Dundas* 'Roland'

Class 12 – Best Cattleya, other colours (flowers over 110mm)

1st W. HOOGWERF *Blc. Glenn Maidment* 'Sth. Cross'
2nd T. COSTA & S. CROSBY *Blc. Erin Kobayashi* 'Lahaina Gold'

Class 13 – Best Cattleya, mauve, pink or white (flowers over 80mm up to 110mm)

1st T. COSTA & S. CROSBY *Sc. Tinonee* x *Lc. Mini Purple*



Our Novice (or was that soon to be open) Winner of Grand Champion, receiving his award



Grand Champ *Vanda denisoniana* x *Ascda* Peggy Foo



RESERVE CHAMP *Paph. malipoense*

Class 14 – Best Cattleya, other colours (flowers over 80mm up to 110mm)

1st T. COSTA & S. CROSBY Slc. Ken Dream 'Dogashima'

Class 15 – Best Cattleya, (flowers under 80mm)

1st E. BEEHAG Slc. Red Elf

2nd T. COSTA & S. CROSBY Sc. Lana Coryell David

Class 17 – Best Cluster Cattleya (minimum of 8 flowers)

1st T. COSTA & S. CROSBY Lc. Gold Digger x Chocolate Drop

Class 18 – Best Paphiopedilum

1st K. WILSON Paph. Personella 'Sylvanvale'

2nd T. COSTA & S. CROSBY Paph. Tearlath x Sally Ann Dulin

Class 19 – Best Primary or Novelty Paphiopedilum

1st T. COSTA & S. CROSBY Paph. (Jolly Roger x Pacific Magic) x Butlers Effect

2nd R. MOAR Paph. Conspicuum

Class 20 – Best Dendrobium – Nobile Type

1st W. HOOGWERF Den. Yukidaruma 'King'

2nd W. HOOGWERF Den. Larapinta 'Kings Love'

Class 22 – Best Vandaceous (excluding Vanda)

1st T. COSTA & S. CROSBY Asc. Brighton Fuchsia x Mikasa 'Pink'

Class 23 – Best Phalaenopsis or Doritaenopsis

1st W. HOOGWERF Phal. Schilleriana x 'Isoribi x Karla's Blush'

2nd T. COSTA & S. CROSBY Phal. I – Hsin Sun Beauty

Class 24 – Best Novelty Phalaenopsis (flowers 75mm max.)

1st T. COSTA & S. CROSBY Phal. Minho Princess x Firebird Cherry

2nd T. COSTA & S. CROSBY Phal. Tzu Chiang 'C16'

Class 25 – Best Odontoglossum, Odontioda, Odontonia or

Vuystekeara only

1st E. BEEHAG Oda. Bawley Point

2nd D. WOOD Wils. Burgundy Sparkling

Class 26 – Best Oncidinae Hybrid Other

1st J. COSTA Colm. Massie

2nd T. COSTA & S. CROSBY Odc. Dark Charmer

Class 27 – Best Pleurothallidinae Hybrid (Masdevallia or Dracula)

1st D. COULTON Masd. Copper Angel x *panguinensis*

2nd T. COSTA & S. CROSBY Masd. Stripendous 'Elegant'

Class 28 – Best Pleurothallidinae Hybrid Other

1st D. COULTON Rest. Julia Howe

2nd N. ROPER Rest. *sanguinea* x *perlyx*

Class 29 – Best Species Paphiopedilum

1st S. T. HO Paph. malipoense

2nd J. ROBINSON Paph. *villosum*

Class 30 – Best Species Laelinae

1st T. COSTA & S. CROSBY Catt. *loddigessi*

Class 31 – Best Species Pleurothallidinae (Masdevallia or Dracula)

1st T. COSTA & S. CROSBY Masd. *macrura*

2nd R. MOAR Masd. *angulata*

Class 32 – Best Species Pleurothallidinae Other

1st D. WOOD Rest. *striata* var *Goliath*

2nd N. ROPER Rest. *sanguinea* 'Fulchers'

Class 33 – Best Species Orchid – Asian (other than a Paphiopedilum or Native)

1st S. T. HO Dendro. *curanii* 'Madge'

2nd W. McEVOY Rhyn. *gigantea*

Class 34 – Best Species Orchid – Other Continent (other than Laelinae, Pleurothallidinae or Native)

1st D. WOOD *Ida. ciliata*

2nd T. COSTA & S. CROSBY *Onc. splendidum*

Class 35 – Best Orchid not elsewhere included

1st N. ROPER Dock. Australian Ginger

2nd W. HOOGWERF Den. (Blue Fairy x superbiens) x carronii

Class 36 – Best Specimen Orchid (other than a Native)

1st S. T. HO Dendro. *curanii* 'Madge'

2nd R. BISETTO Coel. Unchained Melody

Class 37 – Best Dendrobium kingianum

1st J. & M. MOSS Den. *kingianum* 'Merrellen x (Alison F x 525)

2nd R. & J. ETRICK Den. *kingianum* 'Makybe Diva' x 'Ellen' x 'Diane'

Class 38 – Best Native Dendrobium Species – excluding kingianum

1st W. HOOGWERF Den. *speciosum* 'Bee Creek' x

'Daylight Moon'

2nd R. BISETTO Den. *speciosum* 'Kroombit Gold'

Class 39 – Best Native Terrestrial Orchid, Species or Hybrid

1st J. & M. MOSS Ptst. Tallhood

2nd G. BIRSS Ptst. *furcata* x *Ingens*

Class 40 – Best Native Sarcanthinae Species

1st G. BIRSS Plectorhiza *tridentata*

Class 41 – Best Native Sarcanthinae Hybrid

1st D. WOOD Sarco. Melba

Class 42 – Best Native Dendrobium Hybrid – predominantly red or pink

1st T. COSTA & S. CROSBY Den. Burgundy Cream x Aussie Quest

2nd T. COSTA & S. CROSBY Den. Rosy Tips

Class 43 – Best Native Dendrobium Hybrid – predominantly yellow or green

1st E. BEEHAG Den. Finale

2nd T. COSTA & S. CROSBY Den. Gulginni x Andrew Persson

Class 44 – Best Native Dendrobium Hybrid – any other colour

1st R. BISETTO Den. Alice's Rainbow

Class 45 – Best Native orchid not elsewhere included

1st N. ROPER Dock. *tertifolia* var. *Aurea*

2nd J. & M. MOSS Dock. *striolata*

Class 46 – Best Native Hybrid Seedling

1st N. ROPER Den. Lynette Banks x Karsun

Class 47 – Best Specimen Native Orchid – Species or Hybrid (to be selected from all classes)

1st N. ROPER Den. Gracillimum

2nd T. COSTA & S. CROSBY Den. Gulginni X Andrew Persson

NOVICE CLASSES (SUTHERLAND MEMBERS ONLY)

Class 48 – Best Cymbidium

1st J. ROSE Sara Jean 'Ice Cascade'

Class 49 – Best Paphiopedilum

1st C. MATHESON Paph. unknown

Class 50 – Best Native Orchid Species or Hybrid

1st G. HODDER Den. *speciosum*

2nd J. ROSE Den. Kathryn Banks x Gillian Leaney x Aussie Victory

Class 51 – Best Cattleya

1st G. HODDER Haw. Yuan Gold Ung Kang No. 2

Class 52 – Best Orchid not elsewhere included

1st M. DIMON *Vanda denisoniana* x Ascda. Peggy

Foo

2nd M. DIMON Dtps. I – Hsin 'Gem' x I – Hsin 'new Girl'

Class 53 – Best Species Orchid (other than a Native)

1st C. MATHESON *Maxillaria chrysantha*

2nd J. ROSE *Coel. cristata*

INTERMEDIATE CLASSES (SUTHERLAND MEMBERS ONLY)

Class 54 – Best Cymbidium

1st M. LUK Cym. unknown

2nd M. LUK Cym. Tango Brook

Class 55 – Best Paphiopedilum

1st M. LUK Paph. Pathfinder 'Norm'

2nd M. LUK Paph. George Roger x Opera Star

Class 56 – Native Orchid, Species or Hybrid

1st M. LUK Den. Lynette Banks

Class 57 – Best Cattleya

1st M. LUK Lc. Mini Purple 'Tamami'

Class 58 – Best Orchid not elsewhere included

1st M. LUK Wils. Hilda Plumtree 'Purple Wings'

2nd M. LUK Masd. Kimball's Sun x Rein Gold

JUNIOR CLASSES (SUTHERLAND MEMBERS ONLY, UNDER 16 YEARS)

Class 60 – Best Orchid Exhibited by a Junior

1st R. DIMON Sarco. Magic

2nd R. DIMON Phal. Unknown white

Culture of Nobile (Softcane) Dendrobiums

Whereas many dendrobiums species are tropical orchids and require a heated glasshouse, the Nobile type dendrobium (known as softcane dendrobiums) can be grown and flowered outdoors or in a shade house, provided that they receive adequate light, especially during winter. Just about every softcane dendrobium hybrid has at least one species of a Nobile section orchid somewhere in its ancestry. Nobile dendrobiums originate from an area in the lower Himalayas and associated hills in India and from the western side of the mountain ranges that run down the Malay Peninsula, usually at an altitude of 900-1200m. In these locations they are subjected to extremes of heat, cold and heavy rainfall, and quite cool temperatures are often encountered during winter. To successfully grow these orchids in Sydney no special conditions are needed, just an understanding of their basic requirements and the most basic of these basic requirements is a definite and set time to grow and an equally set time not to grow. When this is properly understood, the rest is relatively simple.

CULTURAL REQUIREMENTS

LIGHT AND AIR. It is essential these plants be given enough sun as they grow by photosynthesis, so, during the main growing season (November to April) soft cane dendrobium plants need only 50-70% sunlight, but for the remainder of the year they should be exposed to full sunshine. If not enough sun is given plants do not absorb all the necessary elements from the fertilizer, particularly the potash which produces plant sugars and eventually flowers. Too much shade causes the plants to grow soft and green, Best flowering results from maximum exposure to light during autumn and winter, when the current season's canes are maturing and the pseudobulbs produced by the previous year growth shed their leaves. Some hybrids will produce flowers on the most recently produced canes, but most softcane flower only on canes that matured in the previous year.

POTTING. Soft-cane dendrobiums grow and flower best in relatively small, deep plastic pots and seldom needing pots larger than 100-125 mm in diameter. Because flowering plants can grow quite tall, these pots topple easily so they are best hung using a pot hanger. Pine bark (8- 12 mm) is the most commonly used potting medium. There is no need to repot just because some roots begin to roam free, but it will become necessary when the plant grows over the edge of the pot so far that it becomes unstable. Repotting should be done immediately after flowering is finished. By then the new growths should be between 25mm and 150mm high and just starting to produce new roots from the base. Tip the plant out of the pot and inspect the root system for insect damage and rot. If either is evident take steps to prevent a recurrence of any problems.

WATERING. Regular and frequent watering is necessary during the period when the new growths are developing (November to April) but thereafter the frequency of watering must be reduced, especially during winter. Regular watering in winter will result in the production of offset plants (keikis) instead of flowers from the leaf nodes. Similarly, the application of highnitrogen liquid fertilisers during the growth period will promote the formation of keikis. Size of pots, type of potting material and water frequency are all inter related so the smaller the pot and the more open the mix, the more often watering will be needed.

FERTILISING. New growths on softcane are usually evident at flowering time but fertilising is not commenced until after flowering has ceased. It is advisable to discourage the new growths, if possible, until after flowering as the plant can put too much energy into new growth to the detriment of flowering. After flowering fertilise according to the rate of growth of the new leads, as the growth rate accelerates, so increase the fertiliser rate. As a guide, start fertilising on the 1st week of November and gradually increase frequency up to about Christmas, then maintain that rate till the end of February or early March, when fertilizing should be stopped completely. No more fertilizer is given to the plant until next season. By early March, or soon after, the new lead should have reached their maximum height and only have to fill out the top 2 or 3 nodes to finish their growth. Once terminal leaves appear on the canes no fertilizing and only enough water to stop the canes shrivelling should be given.

FLOWERING: The time to start to look for good flowers is when the old flowers are still on the plant. In other words you need to grow a good lead during the summer to be able to get good flowers from it next spring. Plants flower in September in a normal growing season. However a warmer than usual winter can produce an early start to flowering around August, but usually a poorer flowering will result with only a few blooms on the top of each cane. Excessively dull cloudy weather in the middle of their summer growing season can cause a late start to flowering (end of September and even October). When buds are evident, protect from rain and heavy dew, especially the whites which spot very easily.

AERIALS: (Keiki's) All Dendrobiums have the capacity to produce new growths from their nodes (called keiki's). This is one of nature's ways of ensuring the survival of the species. A plant will use this method of reproduction if placed under stress such as when the root system has been damaged or has rotted, or when conditions are not ideal. Using any fertiliser containing Nitrogen on the plant when they are not in active growth will cause a plant to "keiki" as will trying to grow them under too much shade. The removal of keiki's from plants and potting them is best done when the keiki is making its second growth from the base, and just commencing new root growth.

Pests & Diseases. These orchids are subject to attack by pests that growers know only too well. Treated with the insecticide appropriate for the pest.

Disclaimer: The growing guides are provided only as a starting point to cultivation. Local conditions in your area may require modification to these suggestions. SSOS will not be responsible for the results of your cultivation practices. The opinions expressed in these articles are those of the author and not those of SSOS, SSOS in no way endorses or supports any claims or opinions of said authors.

Some Helpful Hints. Hanging plants up near to the roof provides good light but the lowest humidity. Polystyrene boxes turned upside down with holes cut in them to the pot size with a sharp knife are good to hold plants upright and trap moisture in the root area. It will help if plants are grown fairly close together for the hot growing season but space wider in autumn for better flowering. Flowers are long lasting, and this can be extended by keeping the plants cool and the flowers dry when watering. Some clones flower more easily than others do. Go to shows, write down the varieties that take your eye, and remember, only purchase good strong healthy plants.

Summarising:

1. Lightly shade plants (30%-50% shade) during growing period.
2. Place plants in full sunlight for the rest of the year especially in Autumn & Winter
3. Pot plants in small but deep pots with a well-draining potting mix.
4. Repot plants after flowering has finished.
5. Regular & frequently fertilize during growing period.
6. Cease fertilizing and only water enough to stop canes from shrivelling after terminal leaf has been produced.

Courtesy of the Cumberland Orchid Circle

Beginning with Cymbidium Species

For many orchid growers species orchids hold a special attraction, no less so when it comes to species cymbidiums. There is a special attraction to species cymbidiums and although they don't appeal to everyone, many growers appreciate their natural beauty, varied flower forms and the variety of size, habit and flowering times. From the species *Cym dayanum* and *erythrostylum* which flower in early to mid autumn, through to cymbidiums *suave*, *madidum* and *canaliculatum* which flower through late spring to early summer, species cymbidiums can reward their growers with flowers for almost the whole year. The majority of cymbidium species need little if any special treatment above what would be provided for any cymbidium hybrid and most species are readily available with a little searching and patience. While most may not feature in orchid nursery catalogues, they are often available from other species collectors among cymbidium club members and divisions, mericlones and seedlings do come up from time to time.

It is not my intention to attempt the definitive work on cymbidium species in this article, (it would take much more space than several issues would allow and anyway there are several outstanding books and web sites which provide much more information than I could) rather to provide enough information to dispel any doubts a new grower of cymbidium species may have about giving them a try and to describe some of the more commonly available and easily grown species.

Many of the most commonly available cymbidium species originate from highland areas in India, (Sikkim, Assam, Khasia Hills), Nepal, Burma, Northern Thailand, Vietnam and southern China, at altitudes ranging from 400 to 3000 metres above sea level. At these altitudes the climate range is generally moist temperate. While some cymbidium species do grow in natural habitats closer to sub tropical we will not be discussing those in this article.

For anyone contemplating adding cymbidium species to their collection there are a number of species which provide an ideal starting point due to their general availability and or the fact that they are no more demanding culturally than cymbidium hybrids. The species described in the following paragraphs are some of those.

Cymbidium tracyanum is one species commonly available and is usually seen on club benches in April or May depending on which state you live in.



Arguably the most distinctive of the species, *Cym tracyanum* is easily recognized by its twisted petals and sepals and its distinctive spotted and striped patterning. Flowers are generally cream to greenish heavily overlaid with reddishbrown to dark red and its labellum is whitespotted with purple/red. *Cym tracyanum* is a large growing plant with long arching spikes carrying



fifteen or so large flowers. Specimen sized plants with multiple spikes can look quite stunning. Beware of an old primary hybrid which is still quite common and is often incorrectly labeled as *Cym tracyanum*. It flowers in August to September and has more pinkish colored flowers. Although the flowers resemble *Cym. tracyanum* in shape it is not *Cym. tracyanum*. Culturally, *Cym. tracyanum* will grow and flower under the same conditions which suit cymbidium hybrids.

Cymbidium lowianum a personal favorite and is the cornerstone for many early hybrids.

The striking red vee on Cym lowianums labellum can still be clearly seen in the labellum's of many of today's hybrids. Cym. lowianum is a moderate sized plant which carries arching spikes of largish flowers of around fifteen to eighteen in number. There are three color forms of Cym. lowianum, the type form having green petals and sepals often with a bronzy overlay, the labellum is white with a bold red vee. There is also an album form where the flowers are clean apple green and the white labellum has a yellow vee .

The third form, originally known as Cym. l'ansonii, is colored mid way between the other two, it's labellum carrying the same pattern, but colored an orangey yellow. Like Cym. tracyanum, lowianum grows under the same conditions as most cymbidium hybrids.

Cymbidium insigne comes in two forms, the type form produces pink blooms with white labellum's spotted purple/red, the other form is an album variant which produces pure white blooms with no purple pigment in the petals, sepals, or labellum. Flowers are large and more than twenty or so are carried on very tall and thin, but surprisingly strong spikes.



Cymbidium parishii is another moderately large growing plant with long arching flower spikes. Its flowers are of medium size, perhaps 75 to 80 mm across. Flower color is white, set off by heavy dark red blotching on its white labellum's. There are several forms of Cym. parishii in circulation, though the color is the same in all, flower form being the main difference between them. One particular clone named Cym. parishii var. Emma Menenger is described as being a tetraploid (4n) as opposed to the normal diploid (2n), it's generally fuller and more shapely flowers being attributed to the doubling of chromosomes in the tetraploid form.

Cymbidium erythrostylum is a more compact growing plant than those mentioned so far, correspondingly, its flower spikes are shorter though its flowers are quite large.

Cym. erythrostylum has a very distinctive flower form with its forward pointing petals shielding a small labellum lined with red, it's sepals are large and full shaped and a bit unruly looking petals and sepals are pristine white. The overall effect is quite beautiful and due to its compact plant size an impressive specimen can be produced with many flower spikes in a 200mm pot.

Cymbidium iridioides, previously known as Cym. giganteum, produces long arching spikes with up to 20 scented blooms of up to 100mm across, the flowers are colored from ginger brown to red and the white labellum has a yellow centre outlined by red blotches. While somewhat similar to Cym. tracyanum, it is neither as showy or as large and does not have the sinewy twisted petals and sepals of Cym. tracyanum, never the less it is an attractive species especially when the plant grows large enough to carry several flower spikes.

Cymbidium erythraeum, also known as Cym. longifolium has similarities to Cym. tracyanum, though it produces smaller flowers to around 80mm across. This species is particularly attractive in its own right and can make a fine specimen plant capable of carrying many spikes and flowers. Flower form is similar to Cym. tracyanum and flower color is more predominantly green with degrees of red/brown on the petals and sepals. The labellum is white with a red midline and a few scattered red spots at the edges making a highlight against the darker petals and sepals.

Cymbidium elegans is a most distinctive species due to its yellow bell like flowers. The flower segments are long and thin but because they remain pointing forward the flowers retain their long bell like appearance.

The plant is quite compact with narrow leaves and the flower spikes grow up and then arch over with the weight of the flowers giving a cascading effect. Specimen plants can look quite stunning with spikes of up to 30 closely packed flowers cascading out from the foliage.

Cymbidium dayanum easily produces specimen plants and can produce several spikes from each bulb. The pendulous spikes are capable of carrying up to twenty flowers of around 40mm across. While the flowers are quite starchy and taller than they are wide they are most attractive being colored ivory white with broad red mid lines in petals and sepals. The labellum is almost totally red with a white centre bordered in yellow. Cym. dayanum is not a large growing plant and a specimen can easily be achieved in a 200mm pot.

Note; There are two other species which are commonly available these are the miniature species Cym floribundum and Cym devonianum.



Sources of information on cymbidium species include:- "The Genus Cymbidium", by David Du Puy and Philip Cribb, "Species Cymbidiums" by Stephen Early, on his web site, <http://www.cymspecies.com/>

Noe Smith

From COSV Website

<http://www.cosv.com.au/docs.php>

Disclaimer: The growing guides are provided only as a starting point to cultivation. Local conditions in your area may require modification to these suggestions. SSOS will not be responsible for the results of your cultivation practices. The opinions expressed in these articles are those of the author and not those of SSOS, SSOS in no way endorses or supports any claims or opinions of said authors.

Monthly Results for September

OPEN JUDGES CHOICE

Hybrid	Paph. Norito Hasegawa	G. Hart
Winner		
Species	<i>Ans. africana</i>	Costa/ Crosby
Winner		

NOVICE & JUNIOR JUDGES CHOICE

Winner	Dtps. I-Hsin X I-Hsin	M. Dimon
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INTERMEDIATE

Winner	<i>Sarco. falcatus</i>	
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CLASS # 1 AUSTRALIAN NATIVES

1st	Den. speciosum 'jenny'	D. Wood
2nd	Dock. striolatum	D&M Moss
3rd	Den. tetragonum	J. Robinson
4th	Den. kingianum	Costa/ Crosby

CLASS # 2 SPECIES PAPHIOPEDILUM

1st	Paph. malipoense	ST Ho
2nd	Paph. villosum var. Albomarginatum	ST Ho
3rd	Paph. waltenum	ST Ho

CLASS # 3 CATTLEYA OVER 110mm

1st	Blc. Mary Scalia 'Grace'	W. Hoogwerf
2nd	Cat. Dundas 'Olga'	T. Hyde
3rd	Blc. Erin Kobayashi 'Lahaina Gold'	Costa/ Crosby
4th	Blc. Sylvia Fry 'Supreme'	Costa/ Crosby

CLASS # 4 NOVELTY PAPHIOPEDILUM

1st	Paph. Norito Hasegawa Paph. (Jolly Rodger X Pacific Magic) X Butlers Effect	G. Hart Costa/ Crosby
2nd	Paph. Sukhakuli X Sheila Hanes	Costa/ Crosby
3rd	Paph. Singing Minstrel X Paph. Double Deception	G. Hart
4th		

CLASS #5 CATTLEYA 80 TO 110MM

1st	Lc. Aussie Sunset 'Cosmic Fire'	Costa/ Crosby
2nd	Slc. Ken Dream 'Dogashima'	W. Hoogwerf
3rd	Blc. Bouton D'oeur	L. Buivids
4th	Lc. Mini Purple	J. Costa

Class #6 Paphiopedilum

1st	Paph. Hellas X Beverley Rhodes	ST Ho
2nd	?????	D. Brooks
3rd	Paph. Oto	ST Ho
4th	?????	D. Brooks

CLASS # 7 CATTLEYA INTERGENERIC [UP TO 70MM]

1st	Ctna. Capri X Blc. Waianea Leopard	Costa/ Crosby
2nd	Hwksra. Lisa Hasegawa 'Glen'	J. Costa

CLASS # 8 CATTLEYA UP TO 80mm

1st	C. Walkeriana 'Kenny' Lc. Gold Digger 'Orchid Glade' X Lc. Chocolate Drop	Costa/ Crosby
2nd	Chocolate Drop	Costa/ Crosby
3rd	Bc. Dal's Charm X Sc Lana Coryell	Costa/ Crosby
4th	Sc. Lana Coryell	Costa/ Crosby

CLASS # 9 AUSTRALIAN NATIVE HYBRID

1st	Den. Bardo Rose 'Teresa'	D. Wood
2nd	Den. Finale	D. Wood
3rd	Dock. Amython	R. Bisetto
4th	Dem Alice's Rainbow	
5th	Den. Kathking 'GalaxyClass'	D. Wood

CLASS # 10 SPECIES ASIAN

1st	Osmoglossum pulchellum	L. Gannon
2nd	Phal. amabilis v. formosana	D. Wood
3rd	Coel. flaccida	R. Ettrick
4th	Rhynchostylis gigantea	G. Kyriotis
5th	Coel. flaccida	E&J Ettrick

CLASS # 11 PHALAENOPSIS

1st	Phal. shilleriana X (Isaribi X Karla's Blush)	W. Hoogwerf
2nd	Dtps. Fong Tien's Elegant Lady	Costa/ Crosby
3rd	Phal. I-Hsin Sun Beauty	Costa/ Crosby
4th	Phal. Ida Fukumara	T. Thorburn

CLASS # 12 SEEDLING

1st	Blc. Bouton D'or X Lc. Orange Trick	L. Gannon
2nd	Den. Gracillimum	T. Thorburn
3rd	Aerangis citrata	G. Hart
4th	Lyc. skinneri X isabella	

CLASS #13 ONCIDIUM

1st	Onc. Liz 'Full Moon'	
2nd	Onc. Jiuhbao Gold 'KBR'	Costa/ Crosby

CLASS # 14 NOVELTY PHALAENOPSIS UNDER 75mm

1st	Phal. Minho Princess X Firebird Cherry	Costa/ Crosby
2nd	Phal schilleriana X isabella	W. Hoogwerf

CLASS # 15 ONCIDIUM INTERGENERIC ALLIANCE

1st	Odcn. Mayfair 'Golden Gate'	G. Kyriotis
2nd	Wils. Pui Chin 'Flying Tiger' Mcl. Pagan Love Song 'Ruby Charles'	Costa/ Crosby W&J Chapman
3rd	Wils. Burgundy Sparkling	D. Wood
4th		

CLASS # 16 MISCELLANEOUS

1st	Coel. Unchained Melody	J. Robinson
2nd	Coel. Unchained Melody	J&M Moss
3rd	Coel. Unchained Melody	R. Moar
4th	Coel. Unchained Melody	R. Moar
5th	Coel. Unchained Melody	L. Buivids

CLASS # 17 DENDROBIUM HYBRIDS

1st	Den. Larapinta Kings Lake	W. Hoogwerf
2nd	Den. Blue Fairy X superbiens	W. Hoogwerf
3rd	Den. Mild Yumi 'Lotus'	Costa/ Crosby

CLASS # 20 Intermediate Cymbidium 60 to 90mm

1st	Cym. Lovies Pride 'Oasis'	L. Gannon
2nd	Cym. Uncle Everett 'Dark One'	J. Costa
3rd	Cym Ruby Eyes	W&J Chapman

CLASS # 21A PLEUROTHALLIDINAE HYBRIDS

1st	Masd. Falcata	G. Hart
2nd	Rest. Julia Howe	D. Coulton

CLASS # 21B LAELINAE SPECIES

1st	Cat. walkeriana 'G&W'	Costa/ Crosby
2nd	Soph. coccinea 'Ruby Royale'	R. Bisetto
3rd	Arpophyllum spicatum	J. Costa
4th	Cat. harpophyllum	R&J Ettrick

CLASS # 22 MINITURE CYMBIDIUM UNDER 60mm

1st	Cym. Bulbarrow 'Waikenkae'	J. Costa
2nd	Cym. Plush Canyon 'Beenak'	Costa/ Crosby
3rd	Cym. Mem. Marvin Gaye 'Royale'	J. Costa

CLASS # 23 SPECIES OTHER THAN ASIAN OR PAPHIOPEDILUM			2nd	Paph. Boxali X Radiant Tiger	C. Nidigal
1st	Ans. africana	Costa/ Crosby	CLASS # 32 INTERMEDIATE - CYMBIDIUM		
2nd	Max. variabilis	G. Hart	1st	Cym. Mary Green	May Luk
3rd	Max. densa	L. Buivids	2nd	Cym Toby Brook	May Luk
4th	Max. shunderana	R. Bisetto	3rd	Cym Day Dreamer	May Luk
CLASS # 23A OTHER PLEUROTHALLIDINAE SPECIES			4th	Cym Featherhill	May Luk
1st	Rest. antennifera var. Maculata	D. Coulton	CLASS # 33 INTERMEDIATE - NATIVE SPECIES & NATIVE HYBRID		
CLASS # 24A NATIVE SARCANTHINAE HYBRID			1st	Sarco. falcatus	C. Nidigal
1st	Sarco. Fairy X Zoe	Costa/ Crosby	2nd	Dock. mortii	C. Nidigal
2nd	Sarco. Weinhart X falcatus	T. Thorburn	3rd	Den. Unknown	C. Nidigal
CLASS # 27 - NOVICE - NATIVE & NATIVE HYBRID			4th	Dock. nugentii	C. Nidigal
1st	Den. Burgundy Bride X Delicatum	O. Sutton	CLASS # 34 INTERMEDIATE - CATTLEYA		
2nd	Den. Unknown	P. Davies	1st	Cat. Unknown	May Luk
3rd	Den. Bardo Rose X Cobber	O. Sutton	2nd	Cat. Unknown	May Luk
4th	Den. Harold Hirsch	D. Phillips	CLASS # 35 INTERMEDIATE - MISCELLANEOUS		
5th	Den. gracilicaule	D. Phillips	1st	Zygo. Blue Lake 'Atlantis'	C. Nidigal
CLASS # 28 NOVICE - CATTLEYA			2nd	Wils. Alicia's Halshulace	C. Nidigal
1st	Slc. Dal's Buddy 'Shelly'	P. Davies	3rd	Beallara Tomah Glacier	C. Nidigal
2nd	Cat. Sylvia Fry X Manly	P. Davies	4th	Masd. Angel Frost X Kimballiana	May Luk
CLASS # 29 NOVICE - MISCELLANEOUS			CLASS # 36 INTERMEDIATE - SPECIES		
1st	Dpts. I-Hsin X I-Hsin	M. Dimon	1st	Dendrochillum tennellum	C. Nidigal
2nd	V. Densiona X Ascda. Peggy Foo	M. Dimon	2nd	Soph. coccinea	C. Nidigal
3rd	Phal. Unknown	J. Rose	3rd	Isochilus aurantiacus	C. Nidigal
4th	Coel. Unchained Melody	G. Dodd	4th	Jumella commerensis	C. Nidigal
CLASS #30 NOVICE – SPECIES			CLASS # 41 JUNIORS		
1st	Coel. flaccida	F. Daniel	1st	Pter. curta	R. Dimon
2nd	Coel. cristata	J. Rose	2nd	Phal. equestris	R. Dimon
3rd	Blefla	G. Dodd	3rd	Sarco. Cherie	R. Dimon
CLASS # 31 INTERMEDIATE PAPHIOPEDILUM			4th	Phal. Unknown	R. Dimon
1st	Paph. Unknown	C. Nidigal	5th	Diuris sulphurea	R. Dimon



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