

BOC NEWSLETTER

An occasional publication from The British Orchid Council.

August 2011

Editor: Ian Parsons

Editorial

In this edition of the Newsletter you will see the winning picture from the 2010 BOC Photographic Competition, and a brief overview of this year's competition. This event can be run annually as we now have the technology to manage it on a regular basis.

The time has come again to publish the Golden Guide, and notices have gone to BOC Member organizations to ensure that updates to the information that is held in the BOC Database is done because it is our sole source of contact information for Member Organizations.

Of course, this information is available at any time from the database, and it is essential that it is kept updated regularly.

This year another initiative that may bring in additional members has been discussed at BOC meetings, and this is a National Orchid Festival. Further information can be found in this newsletter.

Editor.

Photographic Competition

The BOC's National Orchid Photographic Competition is running again this year, and in future years as an annual competition.

It is open to all individual members of organizations that are themselves members of the BOC. There are prizes for the first three winners of £50, £30, and £20 respectively. Each BOC member organization will be able to submit up to five pictures from its own members, and to put these in to a Gallery held in the BOC Database. The complete Gallery is available for viewing by anyone via the BOC web site.

The Gallery is open for adding pictures from September 2011 until the end of December 2011. At the end of the year, the Gallery will be locked, and votes may then be cast for the best pictures. This will take place between 1st January 2012 and the end of February 2012.

Similar to last year, the awards will be made at the BOC AGM in March 2012, and in the case of a draw, the BOC Executive Committee will make the final decision.

BOC Photo Competition 2010



1st : *Habenaria medusa* by Denys Morten
Submitted by Cheshire and North Wales Orchid Society.

Public access to the Gallery is via the BOC website at www.british-orchid-council.info.

The winners of the 2010 competition are

1st - Denys Morten, for his photograph of *Habenaria medusa*.

2nd - Chris Barker, for his photograph of *Masdevallia 'Pat Akehurst'*.

3rd - Chris Barker, for his photograph of *Cypripedium formosanum*.

Congratulations to the winners who were presented with their awards at the March meeting of the BOC.

Our New President

At the BOC meeting in July we elected a new President. He is Max Hopkinson, and is a well-known orchid grower and award-winning showman. Max is also a member of the RHS Orchid Committee and brings a wealth of knowledge to the post. Max has served as Chairman of the BOC, and was a Vice-President until elected to his new role.

Welcome Max!



2nd : *Masdevallia* 'Pat Akehurst'
by Chris Barker
Submitted by Darlington & District Orchid Society.

A National Orchid Festival

A proposal was made to hold a National Orchid Festival covering the month of October 2012. This has been discussed at the last two BOC meetings, and arrangements are progressing well.

We still need to clarify some aspects of the sponsorships, and exactly what is being offered by the sponsors. As things progress, then we shall be able to give BOC members more information.

In the short term, we have some ideas for the type of events that may take place during the Festival. These include :-

- Open days in Gardens featuring orchids and in British orchid growing nurseries .
- Information sessions in Garden Centres by orchid societies.
- Discounts by orchid growers to Garden Centres for the period of the Festival.
- Articles and competitions in relevant magazines.
- Publicity on radio and (hopefully) TV.
- Promotion of orchids and the Festival by retailers and growers.
- One of the main attractions for the Garden Centres to participate would be that a nearby society can set up a display in the Garden Centre and offer useful advice on orchids and possibly repotting sessions.
- Festival ends with the BOC congress.

The object is to promote the growing public interest in orchids by giving more information about their culture in a format that both informs and entertains.

Contact the BOC by email to: bocsecretary@ineedbroadband.co.uk

The BOC may part-fund the cost of speakers for the Festival provided that such talks are open to the public and widely promoted and advertised.

It may be possible for BOC Member organizations to group together to put on an event with a main speaker. This may provide a way of getting very good, but expensive, speakers to give talks.

Proposals for such funding must be made in person at a BOC meeting; there are three meetings, in November, March and July when it may be possible to make such a presentation. Members wishing to do this should contact the Secretary by close on 1st of the month, one month prior to the BOC meeting to book a slot in the agenda (Richard Baxter, bocsecretary@ineedbroadband.co.uk).

BOC Congress

At the last BOC meeting in July, it was agreed that the next BOC Congress will take place at Writhlington School, Radstock, North Somerset BA3 3NQ. (You can find it using the postcode on Google Maps).

The dates for the Congress are from Friday October 26th 2012 to Sunday October 28th 2012, with the school open on Thursday October 25th for deliveries and staging.

Registration will be charged at £28, and will include access to the Show on Friday evening (Registrants Buffet and Preview), Saturday and Sunday, plus free access to the Lectures and the Science Symposium under the auspices of Orchid Conservation International (a new venture for this Congress!).

Tickets for the Buffet and Science Symposium can be purchased separately by those not registering.

There will be a Congress Dinner at the school on Saturday evening at a cost of £25 per head.

We all appreciate the work of Simon Pugh-Jones who has proposed this Congress, and thank him for this, and look forward to a successful event.



3rd : *Cypripedium formosanum*
by Chris Barker

Submitted by Darlington & District Orchid Society.

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