

# RHS London Orchid Show

**E**XOTIC ELEGANCE reigned supreme as more than 30 specialist nurseries from around the globe showed off their prized orchids over the weekend of March 21 and 22. The preview evening on the Friday was enjoyed by visitors and exhibitors alike. Trade was brisk all weekend, with over 4,600 visitors in total, many coming on Sunday to celebrate Mother's Day.

Two stands were awarded Gold medals. Ivens Orchids, of St Albans, whose colourful display boasted a magnificent specimen of Darwin's orchid, *Angraecum sesquipedale*, and McBean's Orchids, of Cooksbridge, whose huge display was based around a centre-piece pyramid of cymbidiums. Other medals included seven Silver Gilt, 11 Silver Flora, and nine Bronze Flora.

Three £100 prizes were inaugurated. Best Professional Plant went to German

nursery Roellke Orchideenzucht for their 2 metre tall specimen of *Phaius wallichii* 'Bernd'. Allan Burdis won Best Amateur Plant with his beautiful *Cypripedium formosanum* 'Highcliffe Castle' (see p65, and p117), which was displayed on the Ratcliffe Orchids stand. Most Innovative Display was awarded to the Lea Valley Orchid Society for their intricate, potting shed themed stand.

A botanical art exhibition was held in conjunction with the show. Works included Mary Tarroway's paintings of wild orchids of Wessex, which were awarded a Silver Grenfell medal. A total of 17 medals were awarded, including four Silver Gilt Grenfell, ten Silver Grenfell, and three Bronze Grenfell medals.

**Sarah Brooks**

For RHS Award plants, see pp111–118.



Sarah Brooks

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Sarah Brooks

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Cameron Shaw

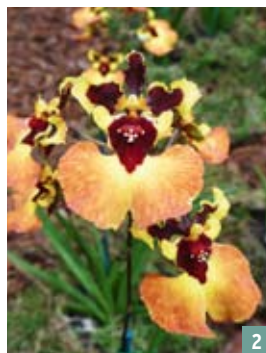
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Cameron Shaw

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Sarah Brooks

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1 Lea Valley Orchid Society won the Most Innovative Display, and a £100 prize, with their potting shed themed stand, complete with watering cans and hand trowels.

2 *Tolumnia* Peach was one of several eye-catching hybrids on the Akerne Orchids of Belgium stand, which was awarded a Silver medal.

3 *Pleione* Britannia 'Doreen' was among the hardy orchids and pleiones on the Silver medal winning Heritage Orchids stand.

4 *Phalaenopsis* 'Yellow Lightning' was the colour of primroses. It shone out on the Silver-Gilt medal winning stand Orchids by Peter White.

5 *Cypripedium formosanum* 'Highcliffe Castle' won the £100 prize for Best Amateur Plant. Read owner Allan Burdis's tips for success on p117.

6 Darwin's orchid, *Angraecum sesquipedale* on Ivens Orchids stand. Darwin predicted that a moth would be found with a proboscis long enough to reach the nectar at the base of the 30cm spur. The moth

was found in 1903 and named *Xanthopan morgani praedicta*.

7 The pyramid of cymbidiums at the centre of McBean's Orchids huge, Gold medal winning display.

8 An imposing specimen of *Phaius wallichii* 'Bernd' won Best Professional Plant and a £100 prize for Roellke Orchideenzucht from Germany. Their stand was awarded a Silver medal.

9 Part of Ivens Orchids Gold medal winning stand, with the floriferous *Angraecum sesquipedale* (right).



Cameron Shaw

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Sarah Brooks

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Cameron Shaw

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