

RHS London Orchid Show

A colourful cornucopia of orchids filled the magnificent, art deco RHS Lawrence Hall during the 2011 London Orchid Show, 18–20 March. Twenty eight exhibitors from all over the world put on breathtaking displays, impressing visitors and judges alike. Many unusual species were on display, representative of the diversity of the largest plant family, and a selection of these are pictured here.

Three Gold medals were awarded, eight Silver Gilt, six Silver and seven Bronze. The Most Innovative Display prize and £100 was won by the Orchid Society of Great Britain, with its diamond mine-themed exhibit (overleaf). The design, by André Roux, complete with trolleys of orchids on a miniature railway track, celebrated 60 years of the society – their diamond anniversary. The display was awarded a Silver Gilt medal.

Writhlington School Orchid Project

celebrated its 20th anniversary. They displayed orchids they had grown from seed, many from the Himalayas, flanked by bright blue prayer flags. A photographic display showed the group's development, from the early days of Greenhouse Club, to the micropropagation laboratory, expeditions and conservation projects they have set up overseas, and their new state-of-the-art glasshouses. Their large plant of *Coelogyne cristata* f. *alba* won Best Amateur Plant and £100, and the display was awarded a Silver Gilt medal.

Best Professional Plant and £100 went to Roellke Orchideenzucht of Germany for their plant of *Epidendrum centropetalum*. This is the third consecutive year that they have won Best Professional Plant.

Trade was brisk, with more than 4,000 visitors. The Slipper Orchid Symposium was a great success, and a botanical art competition was held in the Lindley Hall with 23 medals awarded. *Sarah Forsyth*



André Schilleman

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Rudolf Jenny

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Rudolf Jenny

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Cameron Shaw

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- 1 *Telipogon andicola* is a miniature species from the Andes that dies back after blooming. It was shown by Ecuagenera from Ecuador.
- 2 *Dendrochilum saccolabium* from the island of Luzon in the Philippines has around 40 flowers on an inflorescence. Each flower measures 6mm across and has spotted bracts.
- 3 *Thrixspermum formosanum* is a *Vanda* relative found in Vietnam and Taiwan. Its scented flowers measure about 1.25cm across.
- 4 McBean's Orchids impressive, circular display was awarded a Gold medal (see right).
- 5 *Neomoorea wallisii* is from a monotypic genus, found in the cloud forests of Colombia and Panama. This waxy-flowered species was shown by Kopf Orchideen from Germany.
- 6 *Cymbidium giubeiense* is found in southeast China and has elegant flowers, 5cm across. It was displayed by Akerne Orchids from Belgium.



Rudolf Jenny

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Sarah Forsyth

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GOLD MEDAL WINNERS



Cameron Shaw



Sarah Forsyth

Above Burnham Nurseries won a Gold medal for their colourful display. Their *Coelogyne multiflora* was awarded a Botanical Certificate (see p124).
Left Helen and David Millner won a Gold medal for their educational display about growing orchids in terrariums.
Below McBean's Orchids huge, circular display featured standard cymbidiums, with bowls of odontoglossums and paphiopedilums, and was awarded a Gold medal.



Sarah Forsyth

Philip Cribb



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- 7 *Dendrobium tobaense* from northern Sumatra, shown by KJ Orchids from Denmark.
 8 *Cynoches barthiorum* is a fragrant species from southern Colombia, described in 1999, and shown by Roellke Orchideenzucht from Germany.
 9 *Houlletia tigrina* grows in rain and cloud forests in Guatemala, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Panama, Venezuela, Colombia and Ecuador. Shown by Ryanne Orchidée, France. Their curious *Bulbophyllum clipeibulbum* was awarded a Botanical Certificate (see p123-4).
 10 A rare form of *Dendrobium thyrsiflorum* with a white lip was shown by KJ Orchids of Denmark.
 11 The most unusual species on show, *Ipsea thailandica*, is a terrestrial from Thai grasslands, and was also displayed by KJ Orchids, Denmark.
 12 Colombian species *Gongora flaveola* has eight to fourteen fragrant flowers, 6cm across.
 13 *Bulbophyllum lemniscatum* is a small epiphytic species that grows at about 400m elevation in Thailand and Myanmar.

Philip Cribb



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Philip Cribb



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Sarah Forsyth



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Rudolf Jemny

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Rudolf Jemny

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WINNERS OF THE CASH PRIZES



Cameron Shaw

OSGB's diamond mine-themed display celebrated the society's 60th anniversary, and won Most Innovative Display, and a Silver-Gilt medal



Cameron Shaw



Henry Oakley

Epidendrum centropetalum (syn. *Oerstedella centradenia*) won Best Professional Plant for Roellke Orchideenzucht, their third win in a row



Cameron Shaw

Coelogyne cristata f. *alba* won Best Amateur Plant for Writhlington School Orchid Project, whose display celebrated 20 years of the project