

# RHS Orchid Awards

CLARE and JOHAN HERMANS describe the best plants submitted to the RHS Orchid Committee for judging

*Calanthe* Portelet 'Saint  
Brelade', Award of Merit

1

## RHS Awards

**5 October 2010** The RHS Orchid Committee met at the RHS Lawrence Hall, London. No plants submitted.

## RHS Awards

**9 November 2010** The RHS Orchid Committee met at the RHS Council Chamber, London. Ten plants were exhibited; four Awards of Merit and one Award of Garden Merit were recommended.

### Award of Merit

■ For *Calanthe* Portelet 'Saint Brelade' **1**, raised and exhibited by the Eric Young Orchid Foundation, Jersey. Votes were eight in favour, four against. The parents were *Calanthe* Five Oaks and *Calanthe* Augres. It was first registered by the Foundation in 2002. This cross had an excellent shape, deep magenta pink colour and a contrasting splash of white on the lip.

The plant exhibited had a 55cm arching spike with eight open flowers and four buds. The overall flower size was 60 x 50mm. The dorsal sepal was 30 x 16mm; lateral sepals paler pink, 25 x 15mm. Petals 28 x 12mm; lip trilobed, central splash of white,

yellow callus at throat, 30 x 32mm, spur pink 20mm long; column magenta pink 8mm long.

### Award of Merit

■ For *Calanthe* Mont Ube 'Saint Martin' **2** and **3** raised and exhibited by the Eric Young Orchid Foundation, Jersey. Votes were eleven in favour, one against. The parents were *Calanthe* Mont Nicholle and *C. Beresford*. It was first registered by the Foundation in 2009. This grex was an attractive pale pink flower with good spacing on the spike.

The plant exhibited had one 76cm arching spike with seventeen open flowers and numerous buds. Overall flower size was 60 x 50mm. The dorsal sepal was 30 x 15mm; lateral sepals reflexed paler pink, 35 x 10mm. Petals 26 x 12mm; lip deep pink at throat, 22 x 40mm, spur beige, 12mm long; column pink 8mm long.

### Award of Merit

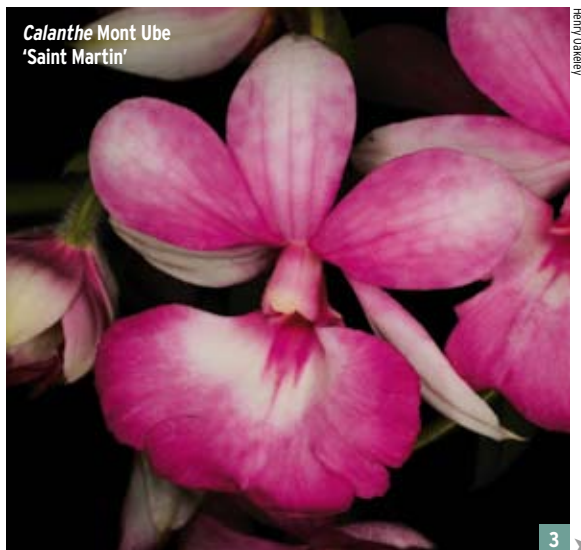
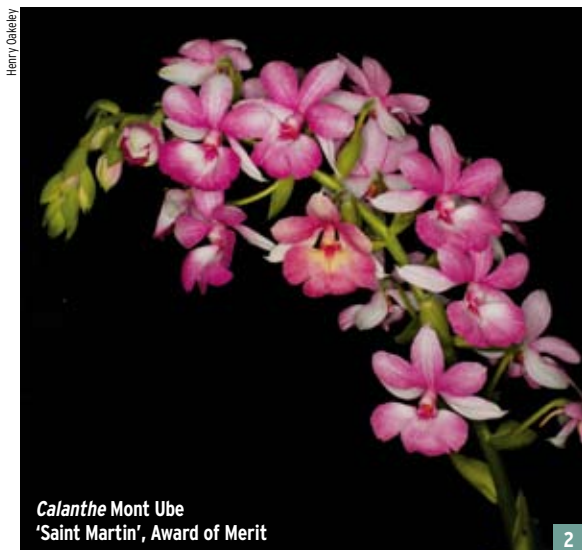
■ For *Calanthe* Mont Nicholle 'Saint Saviour' **4** and **5** raised and exhibited by the Eric Young Orchid Foundation, Jersey. Votes were nine in favour, three against. The parents

were *Calanthe* Mont Pinel and *C. Rose* Georgene. It was first registered by the Foundation in 2005. The flowers were a pretty pale pink with faint marking on the petals.

The plant exhibited had two arching spikes 80 and 70cm long with nine and ten open flowers and numerous buds. Overall flower size was 55 x 55mm. The dorsal sepal was 28 x 14mm; lateral sepals pale pink, reflexed, 25 x 14mm. Petals 20 x 20mm; lip trilobed, pink at throat, 30 x 37mm, spur beige, 22mm long; column pink, 5mm long.

### Award of Merit

■ For *Calanthe* Mont Pinel 'Saint Peter' **6** and **7** raised and exhibited by the Eric Young Orchid Foundation, Jersey. Votes were unanimous. The parents were *Calanthe* Rose Georgene and *C. Five Oaks*. It was first registered by the Foundation in 2002. Another Foundation cultivar 'Trinity' was awarded an Award of Merit in 2002 (*Orch. Rev.* 111: p.77, 78). The cultivar 'Saint Peter' was a larger flower, the colouration was a striking deep cerise pink with a contrasting darker purple hue on the lip and



Henry Oakeley



*Calanthe* Mont Nicholle  
'Saint Saviour', Award of Merit

4

Henry Oakeley



*Calanthe* Mont Nicholle  
'Saint Saviour'

5

Henry Oakeley



*Calanthe* Mont Pinel  
'Saint Peter', Award of Merit

6

Henry Oakeley



*Calanthe* Mont  
Pinel 'Saint Peter'

7



an excellent spike habit.

The plant exhibited had one 68cm arching spike with twenty open flowers and ten buds. Overall flower size was 60 x 65mm. The dorsal sepal was 25 x 14mm, lateral sepals paler pink 30 x 13mm. Petals 20 x 18mm; lip 25 x 36mm, spur pink, 20mm long; column mauve, 10mm long.

### Award of Garden Merit

The Award of Garden Merit is one of the RHS's most important awards, it indicates that a plant is recommended by the RHS. It is given on recommendation from Committees to plants of outstanding excellence for garden decoration or use, this includes tender plants grown under glass or in the home.

The AGM was originally launched in 1922 and today there are around 7,000 AGM plants. The list of awarded plants is reviewed from time to time. The RHS publishes annual updates and there is a searchable online database [www.rhs.org.uk/plants/agm](http://www.rhs.org.uk/plants/agm). A trophy symbol is used throughout the horticultural trade to mark the AGM. It appears on plant labels, in nursery catalogues, and in many books and magazines, including all the Society's publications.

Some years ago, orchids and their

cultivars were thought to be too transient and withdrawn from the list but recently the RHS Orchid Committee has been working on a new list of AGM-worthy orchid species and hybrids. This work is in tandem with a general review of the standards and definitions of the Award of Garden Merit; the new list will be launched in February 2013. The AGM is intended to be of practical value to the gardener and is currently awarded to a plant that meets the following criteria:

- It must be of outstanding excellence for ordinary garden decoration or use
- It must be available from nurseries, seed suppliers or specialist growers
- It must be of good constitution
- It must not require highly specialist growing conditions or care
- It must not be particularly susceptible to any pest or disease
- It must not be subject to an unreasonable degree of reversion in its vegetative or floral characteristics.

### Award of Garden Merit

■ For *Spiranthes cernua* 'Chadd's Ford' 8, 9 and 10. By chance, a very suitable AGM orchid was shown to the Committee at the November meeting by Mrs Chai Butler of Chippenham, Wiltshire. A nicely

presented pot-grown plant of *Spiranthes cernua* 'Chadd's Ford' was brought to the Committee and after discussion it was agreed that this plant answered all the criteria for an AGM. After verification of its identity by the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, the plant was recommended to be included in the list by eleven votes to two.

*Spiranthes cernua* was originally described as *Ophrys cernua* by Linnaeus in 1753 and placed in the genus *Spiranthes* in 1817. It is most widespread in the eastern part of the United States of America where it occurs in bogs, meadows, marshes, wet woods on the edge of lakes and streams, in peaty and gravelly soil. It is very variable and treated as a polymorphic species. *Spiranthes odorata* is similar in many ways but differs considerably in leaf and spike habit. In the *RHS Plant Finder* it is listed as *Spiranthes cernua* var. *odorata* 'Chadd's Ford'.

The cultivar 'Chadd's Ford' was first found by Dick Ryan in a wet ditch near the town of Bear, Delaware. The cultivar has large fragrant flowers, the scent has been described as a mix of jasmine, vanilla and gardenia. The plant was also found to be vigorous in cultivation



and was propagated easily by dividing its stolons. In 1973, a division grown by Dr Brubacker received a Certificate of Cultural Merit from the AOS when it was named 'Chadd's Ford' after the owner's home town in Pennsylvania. It has now been widely introduced into cultivation through division and, more importantly, through tissue culture.

The species grows well in rich moisture-retentive soil which is also well-drained; it prefers sun or partial shade. Plants are hardy in the garden in most parts of the UK but can also be grown in pots, again, in a moist, well-drained medium; they require a cold period to initiate flowering. The spikes of pure white, diaphanous flowers, with a dash of yellow in the throat of the lip are arranged in a semi-spiral along the 30 to 65 cm spike. In the UK it flowers from October until November.

## RHS Awards

**7 December 2010** The RHS Orchid Committee met at the RHS

Lawrence Hall, London. Twenty-one plants were exhibited; six Awards of Merit and two Botanical Certificates were recommended. It was unusual to see such a fine collection of high quality orchids shown to the Committee at a December meeting.

### Award of Merit

■ For *Calanthe* Mont Pretre 'Saint Brelade' <sup>11</sup> raised and exhibited by the Eric Young Orchid Foundation. Votes were ten in favour one against. The parents were *Calanthe* Five Oaks and *C. Portelet*. It was first registered by the Foundation in 2009. The flowers were a very attractive pink with contrasting paler sepals and lip, they had a good shape and substance as the cultivar was tetraploid.

The plant exhibited had one 80cm arching spike with seventeen open flowers and three buds. The overall flower size was 60 x 60mm. The dorsal sepal was pink, 30 x 12mm; lateral sepals white-pink, 30 x 10mm. Petals pink, 15 x 25mm; lip white-pink yellow at throat, 22 x 32mm;

spur pink-green 15mm long, column pink 10mm long.

### Award of Merit

■ For *Odontioda* Moulin de Louis 'Portelet' <sup>12</sup> raised and exhibited by the Eric Young Orchid Foundation. Votes were nine in favour two against. The parents were *Odontioda* Aviewood and *Odontioda* Ingmar. It was first registered by the Foundation in 2006. A previous Foundation cultivar, 'Saint Martin', was given an Award of Merit in March 2010 (*Orch. Rev* 118: p117). The cultivar 'Portelet' had striking deep purple flowers with dark red blotches.

The cut spike exhibited had twelve open flowers. The overall flower size was 100 x 95mm. The dorsal sepal was 55 x 40mm; lateral sepals 55 x 40mm. Petals 50 x 40mm wide; lip yellow-orange callus at throat, 25 x 40mm; column mauve 13mm long.

### Award of Merit

■ For *Calanthe* Mont Mado 'Saint Mary' <sup>13</sup> raised and exhibited by the

*Calanthe* Mont Pretre  
'Saint Brelade',  
Award of Merit



David Redgrave

Eric Young Orchid Foundation. Votes were nine in favour two against. The parents were *Calanthe* Baron Schröder and *C. Beresford*. It was first registered by the Foundation in 2009. The striking crystalline white flowers had a contrasting yellow-red spot in the throat.

The plant exhibited had one 80cm arching spike with eight open flowers and numerous buds. The overall flower size was 70 x 70mm. The dorsal sepal was 15 x 15mm; lateral sepals 35 x 15mm. Petals 30 x 20mm; lip tri-lobed 30 x 45mm; spur green 30mm long; column 15mm long.

#### Award of Merit

■ For *Calanthe* Mont Perrine 'Saint Saviour' <sup>14</sup> and <sup>15</sup>, raised and exhibited by the Eric Young Orchid Foundation, Jersey. Votes were unanimous. The parents were *Calanthe* Brandywine and *Calanthe* Beresford. It was first registered by the Foundation in 2009. The flowers were large and well balanced on the spike; they were pink in colour with contrasting paler pink lip and again were tetraploid.

The plant exhibited had one arching 90cm spike with twenty-one open flowers and eight buds. The overall flower size was 70 x 65mm. The dorsal sepal was 40 x 15mm; lateral sepals 32 x 12mm. Petals 30 x 15mm; lip pale pink, white-orange at throat, 35 x 35mm; spur green 15mm long; column pink 8mm long.

#### Award of Merit

■ For *Cattleya* Mari's Beat 'Humming' <sup>16</sup> raised and exhibited by Suwada Orchid Nursery, Chiba, Japan. Votes were nine in favour, three against. The parents were *Cattleya* Mari's Song and *Cattleya* Beaufort. It was first registered by T. Kuroyanagi, Kuroyanagi Orchid Nursery, Japan in 1998. The cultivar 'Humming' was an excellent example

*Odontioda* Moulin de Louis 'Portelet', Award of Merit



David Ridgway



David Ridgway

*Calanthe* Mont Mado 'Saint Mary', Award of Merit



14



*Calanthe* Mont Perrine  
'Saint Saviour',  
Award of Merit

15

of a splashed petalled *Cattleya*. The flowers were pale pink with the petals splashed darker at the edge, contrasting well with the yellow on the lip.

The cut flower spike had three open flowers. The overall flower size was 90 x 85mm. The dorsal sepal was 50 x 32mm at the widest point; the lateral sepals were 50 x 23mm at the widest point. Petals 50 x 40mm; lip frilly, purple edge, yellow inside, white-pink at throat, 35 x 40mm; column white 15mm.

### Grower's advice

*Cattleya* Mari's Beat 'Humming'

“We made this hybrid grex

in 1993 and it has produced many good compact plants and flowers. Some clones have the splashed petal markings and others are plain pink. This clone is one of our selections

over 10 years. It is easy to grow and a fast grower.

**In winter the plant has a nighttime low of 12 to 15°C. It has normal light levels for a *Cattleya*. This grex is second generation from *Cattleya* (*Sophranitis*) *coccinea* and *C. luteola*. As a result, it likes to have its roots a little bit wet most of the time year round.**

**If it dries out, the plant is easily damaged. Because of this, we grow this grex in plastic pots with sphagnum moss. We water well almost everyday in the hot summer months, and once a week in winter.”**

Munekazu Ejiri

### Award of Merit

■ For *Brassocattleya* Gulfshore's Beauty 'Green Gem' 17 raised and exhibited by Suwada Orchid Nursery,

Chiba, Japan. Votes were nine in favour, two against. The parents were *Brassavola nodosa* and *Cattleya dormaniana*. The cross was first registered by Gulfshore Orchids Florida, USA, in 1998 and the cross was registered again in 2003 by Suwada Orchid Nursery as *Brassocattleya* Carnival Kids, the later name is now recognised as a synonym. The flowers were a clear lime green with a contrasting mauve lip which resulted in an extremely pretty flower.

The cut spike exhibited had six open flowers. The overall flower size was 100 x 100mm. The dorsal sepal was 55 x 8mm at the widest point; the lateral sepals were 50 x 8mm at the widest point. Petals 50 x 5mm at the widest point; lip mauve, fine reticulation at edge, white spotted mauve inside, 50mm long, 30mm wide at the widest point.

## Grower's advice

### *Brassocattleya Gulfshore's Beauty 'Green Gem'*

“This is another of our own hybrid grexes. We made this cross in 1997. The parents are *Brassavola nodosa* and *Cattleya dormanniana*. One parent has a pale green flower and the other a brown flower, so we did not know what to expect from the hybrid. When the first flower opened, it was clear green with a mauve lip. Most of the seedlings had fine green flowers, some staying a clear green until the flower dropped, some turning brown halfway through the flower's life. The plants look like very much *Brassavola nodosa*, so we give them maximum sunlight all year round, and a slightly cooler temperature in winter, with a minimum night temperature of 8°C. The plants need lots of water during the summer, but in the winter we keep them a little dry. We grow them in clay pots with sphagnum moss.”

Munekazu Ejiri

## Botanical Certificate

■ For *Angraecum platycornu* ‘Tideswell’ 18 and 19 exhibited by Johan Hermans, Enfield. Votes were ten in favour. The Botanical Certificate was awarded in recognition of the unusual morphological feature of the expanded horn shaped spur. This species comes from Madagascar and was described in 2002 (*Orch. Rev.* 110, 1242: p22–23. See Letters, *Orch. Rev.* 117, 1285: p50 March 2009 for the first flowering of this specimen).

The plant exhibited had two pearly white to pale yellow flowers and two buds on two 55mm spikes. Overall flower size was 20 x 17mm. The

*Cattleya Mari's Beat 'Humming',*  
Award of Merit



16

*Brassocattleya Gulfshore's Beauty 'Green Gem',*  
Award of Merit



17

dorsal sepal was 11 x 7mm; lateral sepals 13 x 10mm. Petals 10 x 3.5mm; lip 16 x 11mm, spur 34mm long.

## Grower's advice

### *Angraecum platycornu* ‘Tideswell’

“*Angraecum platycornu* is surprisingly easy to grow. It flowers prolifically even on a

small plant, sometimes twice in one year. The species is still rare in cultivation but seed-grown plants should make this attractive novelty accessible in due course.

Being naturally pendent the plant is not easily accommodated in a pot, and is best mounted on ▶



a cork raft with a small pad of sphagnum moss underneath the crown to provide a small reserve of moisture. The growths can hang freely and a small number of aerial roots will develop along the length of the stem.

The plant is small and delicate and should not be disturbed if possible. As long as sufficient atmospheric moisture is provided it will only need the occasional misting in the greenhouse. *Angraecum platycornu* needs to be exposed to only a medium amount of light, a semi-shady spot suspended in an intermediate greenhouse is ideal. Night temperatures should not drop below 12°C, with day temperatures kept below 25°C. Gentle air movement should be provided at all times. ” *Joban Hermans*

#### Botanical Certificate

■ For *Phragmipedium kovachii* ‘Gaytarn’<sup>20</sup> exhibited by John Gay, Wakefield, West Yorkshire. Votes were unanimous. The Botanical Certificate was awarded

to encourage the cultivation of this fascinating species. This species comes from Peru and was discovered in 2001 on an orchid vendors stall. It is named after Michael Kovach an American collector who took it to the United States. Only two Peruvian Nurseries had permission to propagate and sell the species. The flowers last only a short time so getting them to the Committee when they are fresh poses a challenge. The cultivar ‘Gaytarn’ was felt to be a good size and had an attractive dark pouch.

The plant exhibited had one 25cm spike with one flower. The overall flower size was 130 x 180mm. The dorsal sepal was pink-green, 60 x 35mm; synsepal pink-green, 55 x 45mm. Petals pink 90 x 75mm; pouch deep purple, white edge, white spotted purple inside, yellow rolled edge, 70 x 55 x 50mm deep; disc white 20mm wide.

#### Grower’s advice

*Phragmipedium kovachii* ‘Gaytarn’

“*Phragmipedium kovachii* is native to the northern highlands of Peru. Having

visited the area, I try to replicate the climatic conditions of its habitat. It grows in my warm greenhouse with a minimum night temperature of 16°C, rising in the day to 21°C. It grows in good light especially in winter where I extend the daylight hours with a grow light. I grow my *P. kovachii* plants in a 50/50 mix of Grodan (absorbent rockwool) and rockwell cubes. The plant needs constant moisture at the roots and should never be allowed to dry out. Feeding is at every watering at the maintenance strength of Dyna-Gro Liquid Grow to which I add Dyna-Gro Pro-Tekt again at maintenance strength. ” *John Gay*

#### Statistics of 2010 Awards

2010 was another busy year for the RHS Orchid Committee. A total of 128 plants were assessed. One First Class Certificate, twenty-three Awards of Merit, eight Botanical Certificates, one Award of Garden Merit and nine Certificates of Cultural Commendation were awarded. The overall percentage



*Angraecum platycornu*  
‘Tideswell’, Botanical  
Certificate

Joban Hermans

18



*Angraecum platycornu*  
‘Tideswell’

David Ridgeway

19



*Phragmipedium kovachii* 'Gaytarn', Botanical Certificate

20

of awards given to plants shown was 33 percent (25 percent in 2009).

## Annual RHS Medals

**7 December 2010** The recipients of two annual medals were also decided.

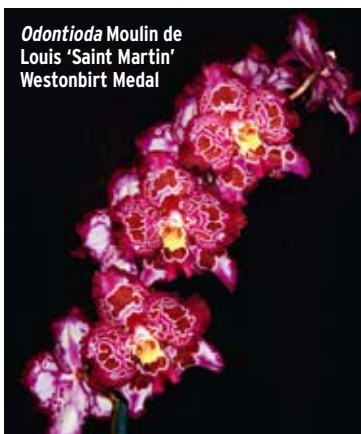
### George Moore Medal

Awarded annually to the exhibitor of the best cultivar of a grex of *Paphiopedilum*, *Selenipedium*, *Phragmipedium* or intergeneric hybrid between these genera. The plant must have been submitted for judging and awarded during the relevant year. This year, the George Moore Medal was awarded to the Eric Young Orchid Foundation for *Paphiopedilum* Du Motier 'Victoria Village'.



*Paphiopedilum* Du Motier 'Victoria Village', George Moore Medal

Henry Chelley



*Odontioda* Moulin de Louis 'Saint Martin' Westonbirt Medal

David Ridgway

grex which has been shown to the Society for the first time and received an award during the year, or which, having received an award during the previous five years, has had the award raised during the year. The medal was awarded to the Eric Young Orchid Foundation for *Odontioda* Moulin de Louis 'Saint Martin.'

Many congratulations to the Eric Young Orchid Foundation for this double achievement.

**CLARE HERMANS** is an orchid grower, author and member of the RHS Orchid Committee

**JOHAN HERMANS** is an orchid grower, photographer, author and Chairman of the RHS Orchid Committee

### RHS AWARDS

For details about future meetings of the RHS Orchid Committee and entering plants for awards, see Forthcoming Events on p58.