

RHS Orchid Awards

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

Calanthe
Beresford
'Le Don le Brocq'

1

Henry Oakley

RHS Awards

4 October 2011 The RHS Orchid Committee met at the RHS Lawrence Hall, Westminster. Four plants were exhibited; two Awards of Merit, one Botanical Certificate and one Certificate of Cultural Commendation were recommended.

Award of Merit

■ For *Calanthe* Beresford 'Le Don le Brocq' **1** and **2** raised and exhibited by the Eric Young Orchid Foundation, Jersey. Votes were ten in favour, two against. The parents are *Calanthe* Brandy Wine and *C. Mont Pinel* and it was registered by the Foundation in 2007. *Calanthe* Beresford had an excellent shape with a full lip and a most attractive white flushed with pale pink. The flowers were well-arranged on the spike, without the gaps in spacing that would be common in its parents.

The cut spike exhibited had fourteen open flowers and seven buds. The overall flower size was 65 x 60mm. The dorsal sepal was 32 x 12mm; lateral sepals 30 x 15mm. Petal 30 x 20mm; lip white, yellow at throat, 32 x 40mm; spur green, 20mm long.

Award of Merit

■ For *Stanhopea* Hautlieu 'Le Don Renouf' **3** and **4** raised and exhibited by the Eric Young Orchid Foundation, Jersey. Votes were eleven in favour. The parents are *Stanhopea* Augres and *Stanhopea tigrina* and it was registered by the Foundation in 2007. A previous cultivar 'Trinity' gained an Award of Merit in 2009 (*Orch. Rev.* 117, p.173, 175).

The highly scented flowers had an excellent texture, were long-lasting and less reflexed than the previously awarded cultivar. The petals and sepals were yellow and densely spotted red, contrasting with the deep purple of the hypochile, and the

Calanthe Beresford 'Le Don le Brocq', Award of Merit



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Henry Oakley



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Stanhopea Hautlieu
'Le Don Renouf',
Award of Merit



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cream, spotted-red, epichile and horns of the lip. The flower is reported to last for more than five days, which is highly unusual for the genus. As the blooms age they developed a delicate red flush at the centre.

The cut spike exhibited had two open flowers. The overall flower size was 140 x 160mm. The dorsal sepal was 50 x 100mm; the lateral sepals were 80 x 65mm. The petal 80 x 40mm; the lip 40 x 65mm; the column 60mm long.

Botanical Certificate

■ For *Sudamerlycaste ariasii* 'Le Don Paton' 5 and 6 exhibited by the Eric Young Orchid Foundation, Jersey. Votes were fourteen in favour. This species, which comes from Peru is not often seen in cultivation. It has a compact habit with erect flower spikes. The species was first described by Henry Oakeley in 2003, and named for Manuel Arias, the owner of Orquideas Peruanas where the plant was first noticed. It is scented at dusk

and grows at altitudes between 1,700m and 2,200m in damp woodland.

The plant exhibited had approximately sixty flowers; the sepals were white with a green edge and the petals and lip were crystalline white. The overall flower size was 30 x 45mm. The dorsal sepal was 40 x 20mm; lateral sepals 35 x 20mm. Petal 30 x 20mm; lip 15 x 10mm; bract brown, 40mm long.

Certificate of Cultural Commendation

■ To the Eric Young Orchid Foundation, Jersey, for *Sudamerlycaste ariasii* 'Le Don Paton' 5 and 6. The plant exhibited was 105cm across, and growing in a 14cm diameter pot. It had approximately sixty open flowers and ten buds. Votes were fourteen in favour. This was a truly astounding display of flowers on a plant that can be difficult to grow in cultivation. The Eric Young Orchid Foundation grow it in the cool odontoglossum house with good air movement. It is unusual to see specimen plants of this species and the cultivar 'Le Don Paton' was a fine example of a specimen plant.

Recommended for trial

■ *Phalaenopsis* Taida King's Caroline 'Little Zebra' 7 exhibited by Peter White, Banbury, Oxfordshire, was proposed as a candidate for trial for an Award of Garden Merit. The parents are *Phalaenopsis* Ever-spring King and *P. Ho's* Little Caroline and it was registered in 2007 by Taida, Taiwan. The compact plant carried a good number of flowers on several spikes; the flowers were very eye-catching and boldly marked.

RHS Awards

15 October 2011 The RHS Orchid Committee met during the Devon Orchid Society Orchid Weekend held in Dawlish Warren. Nineteen

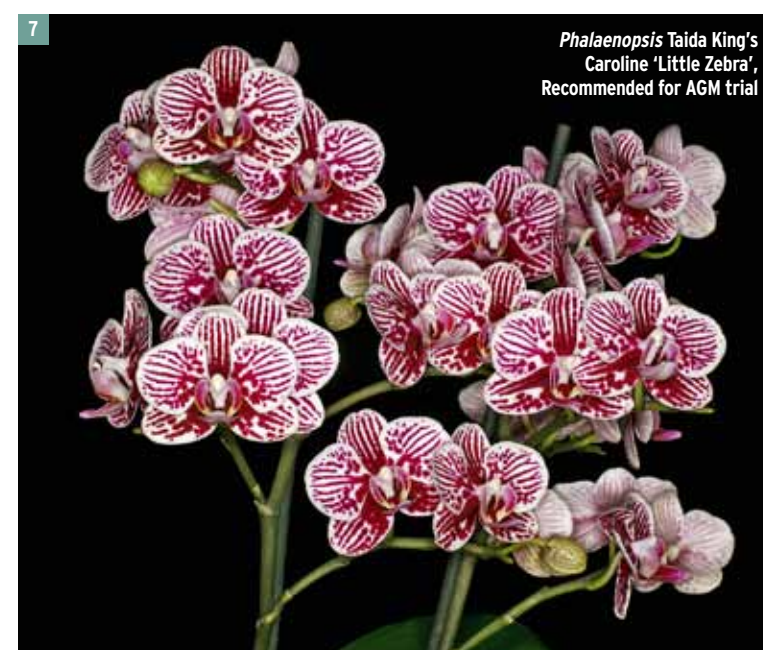
plants were submitted for judging, and the vast majority were of high quality. As a result, three Awards of Merit, five Botanical Certificates, one Certificate of Preliminary Commendation and five Certificates of Cultural Commendation were recommended.

As part of the Devon Orchid Weekend and the British Orchid Council (BOC) judging training scheme, members of the Orchid Committee held a workshop on Sunday 16 where they shared some of the intricacies of their work (see News, p9, for full details).

Award of Merit

■ For *Calanthe* Five Oaks 'Grouville' 8 raised and exhibited by the Eric Young Orchid Foundation, Jersey. Votes were six in favour, three against. The cultivar 'Grouville' was a cross between two cultivars of *C. Five Oaks*, it was also tetraploid and so had excellent substance. The parents of *C. Five Oaks* were *C. Gorey* and *C. Brandywine*. It was first registered by the Foundation in 1995, several other cultivars of this hybrid have been awarded in the past, including 'Saint Helier', 'Mont Millais', 'Jersey', 'Saint Martins' and 'Saint Saviour'; all gained Awards of Merit in the 1990s (*Orch. Rev.* 104, p13; *Orch. Rev.* 105, p75, 77; *Orch. Rev.* 106, p4, 11, 72, 74, 77). The cultivar 'Grouville' was an attractive bicolor form; with deep pink petals and sepals with a contrasting white lip, edged with pink and deep pink at the centre.

The plant exhibited had one 107cm long arching spike with nineteen open flowers and ten buds. The overall flower size was 75 x 65mm. The dorsal sepal was 35 x 15mm; the lateral sepals were 32 x 12mm. Petal 27 x 15mm; lip 40 x 40mm, spur red-green, 23mm long; column pink, 10mm long.



Phalaenopsis Taida King's Caroline 'Little Zebra', Recommended for AGM trial



Calanthe Five Oaks 'Grouville', Award of Merit

Award of Merit

■ For *Phragmipedium* La Vingtaine 'Le Don le Gros' 9 raised and exhibited by the Eric Young Orchid Foundation, Jersey. Votes were nine in favour. The parents were *Phragmipedium* Memoria Dick Clements and *P. kovachii* and it was first registered by the Foundation in 2005. A previous cultivar 'Victoria Village' gained an Award of Merit in June 2011 (*Orch. Rev.* 119, p115).

The cultivar 'Le Don le Gros' was a darker, richer, deep-pink colour and had an excellent shape.

The plant exhibited had one 41cm long spike with one open flower and two buds. The overall flower size was 110 x 145mm. The dorsal sepal was 45 x 35mm; synsepal pink-green, 45 x 40mm. Petal 70 x 50mm; pouch deep pink, white spotted-pink inside, 50 x 45mm, 35mm deep; disc white-pink, 20mm wide.



Sudamerlycaste ariasii 'Le Don Paton', Botanical Certificate



Phragmipedium La Vingtaine 'Le Don le Gros', Award of Merit

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Dendrobium smilliae 'Anja', Award of Merit

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Award of Merit

■ For *Dendrobium smilliae* 'Anja' 10 exhibited by Asendorfer Orchideenzucht, Asendorf, Germany. Votes were ten in favour, two against. The species comes from Papua New Guinea and northeast Australia where it grows in coastal rainforests, at altitudes of up to 500m, and it is bird pollinated. The species was awarded a Botanical Certificate in 1890, based on a plant exhibited by Sir Trevor Lawrence. The cultivar 'Anja' was line bred and had larger and more substantial flowers than usual forms and had an excellent shape and colouration. This pink form of the species had white petals and sepals tinged green at the tips, becoming pink at the centre with a contrasting very dark, deep green, glossy lip.

The plant exhibited had one 90mm spike with sixty open flowers. Overall flower size was 20 x 20mm. The dorsal sepal was 15 x 5mm; lateral sepals 15 x 5mm. Petal 15 x 5mm; lip 15mm x 5mm.

Botanical Certificate

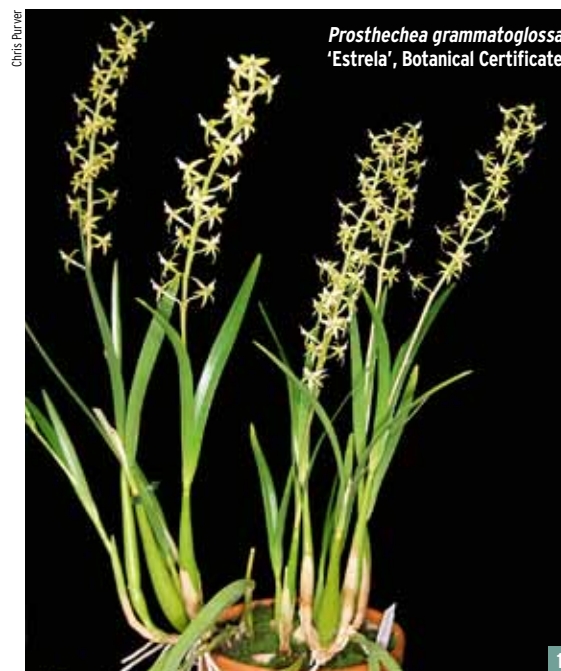
■ For *Prosthechea grammatoglossa* 'Estrela' 11 exhibited by Sally Mill, Three Bridges, West Sussex. Votes were eleven in favour one against. The Botanical Certificate was awarded to encourage the cultivation of this attractive, floriferous species. The species comes from tropical South America. It can be found growing on citrus trees, and is citrus scented.

The plant exhibited had six spikes, 19–26cm tall, with an average of sixteen star-shaped flowers, pale green, with a darker centre. Overall flower size was 15 x 10mm. The dorsal sepal was 9 x 2mm; lateral sepals 7 x 2mm. Petal 6 x 1mm; lip white, 4 x 2mm.

Grower's advice

Prosthechea grammatoglossa 'Estrela'

“ I first saw *Prosthechea grammatoglossa* growing



Prosthechea grammatoglossa 'Estrela', Botanical Certificate

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Cattleya fidelensis 'Mirjam', Botanical Certificate

12

naturally in Ecuador at 1,400m on the trunk of a citrus tree in a rather damp area. *Prosthechea grammatoglossa* 'Estrela' was bought from Ecuagenera in June 2009 as a small mounted plant. As *P. grammatoglossa* comes from a damp climate, I grow it in a shallow terracotta pot. I use the same compost I grow my smaller *Encyclia* and *Prosthechea* plants in: two parts fine bark and one part each of medium bark, chopped cork, giant perlite and sphagnum moss, with perlag as crocking.

It is watered weekly when in growth. I allow a little water to collect in the saucer and this is slowly taken up over a few days, keeping the plant moist at all times. This growing method, in my intermediate greenhouse (winter night minimum 12°C, summer maximum 30°C, humidity about 70 percent) has allowed the plant to grow to a large size.” Sally Mill

Botanical Certificate

■ For *Cattleya fidelensis* 'Mirjam' 12 exhibited by Asendorfer Orchideenzucht, Asendorf, Germany. Votes were ten in favour, two against. The species comes from Brazil and was found in 1940 by Dr Juliú Sodre, in the São Fidélis mountains near Rio de Janeiro, but was not described until 1967. It grows in intermediate to cool conditions. The Botanical Certificate was awarded to encourage the cultivation of this attractive species.

The plant exhibited had three 150mm spikes with five lavender-pink flowers. The overall flower size was 100 x 100mm. The dorsal sepal was 50 x 12mm; lateral sepals 50 x 12mm. Petal 55 x 25mm; lip pale lavender-pink, white at throat, 50 x 25mm wide at the widest point.

Botanical Certificate

■ For *Gastrochilus japonicus* 'Leia' 13 and 14 exhibited by Jean Barker, Stockton-on-Tees. Votes were ten in favour, two against. The species comes

from China (Hong Kong) to temperate East Asia, and it was first described by Makino in the *Flora of Japan* in 1891. It grows on pine trees at altitudes of 500–2,000m. The Botanical Certificate was awarded to encourage the cultivation of this attractive and compact, floriferous species.

The plant exhibited had four spikes, 40mm long, with a total of twenty-four open lime-green flowers, and one spike in bud. The overall flower size was 14 x 12mm. The dorsal sepal was 5 x 2mm; lateral sepals 8 x 2mm. Petal 4 x 2mm; lip white, central yellow spot, red at throat, 8 x 8mm; column 2mm long.

Grower's advice

Gastrochilus japonicus 'Leia'

“ I bought this plant from Water Orchids, the Taiwanese nursery, at the Peterborough Orchid Show in 2007. It was a single growth seedling in a pot of moss. Because it is vandaceous, I decided to mount it on tree fern and placed it in



Gastrochilus japonicus 'Leia',
Botanical Certificate

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my intermediate greenhouse. It is sprayed with rainwater every day, all year round. Fertiliser is added once every two weeks in the summer, less in the winter months. The minimum temperatures are set at 14°C at night and 19°C during the day. The light levels are medium to good and there is always good air movement. The plant now has four growths and because the spikes hang down under the leaves it is important to have it mounted to give room for the flowers to develop. The flowers have a waxy texture and last for about a month. ” Jean Barker

Botanical Certificate

■ For *Oncidium heteranthum* 'White Wine Spot' 15 exhibited by RYANNE ORCHIDÉE, BAVAY, FRANCE. Votes were eleven in favour, one against. The Botanical Certificate was awarded to recognise the species' strange morphological feature of bearing two kinds of flowers, fertile and non-fertile ones; which is the meaning of the name *heteranthum*. The most widely known example of the group is *Oncidium ornithorhynchum*. *Oncidium heteranthum* comes from Mexico, through Peru to Argentina and grows intermediate to cool. The cultivar 'White Wine Spot' was much paler than usual. Its petals and sepals were white with brown stripes, and the lip had a yellow midlobe and brown side lobes.

The plant exhibited had one 110cm arching spike with fourteen flowers. The overall flower size was 20 x 20mm. The dorsal sepal was 7 x 3mm; lateral sepals 8 x 4mm. Petal 10 x 6mm; lip 10 x 10mm.

Botanical Certificate

■ For *Brasilorchis schunkeana* 'Eva May' 16 exhibited by ELLIS EYRE, RETFORD, NOTTS. Votes were eleven



Gastrochilus japonicus 'Leia',
Botanical Certificate

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in favour, one against. This species was first described as a *Maxillaria* in 1993. It comes from Brazil where it grows in the coastal Atlantic rainforest at altitudes of 600–700m. It has a faint scent reminiscent of rubber. The Botanical Certificate was awarded to recognise the species' morphological feature of dark red, almost black, flowers resembling beetles climbing around the green plant.

The plant exhibited had fourteen spikes, 40mm long, with fourteen flowers. The overall flower size was 10 x 22mm. The dorsal sepal was 10 x 5mm; lateral sepals 15 x 6mm. Petal 12 x 5mm; lip shiny, 15 x 5mm.

Grower's advice

Brasilorchis schunkeana
'Eva May'

“ I bought this plant at the BOGA show at Highfield Park in 2005, from the Brazilian nursery Miranda Orchids. I grow this plant in a pond basket high up in the greenhouse. The plant has grown very well for me. I love the flower colour, which is almost black, and the flowers last for months. My new medium mix is working well and consists of 70 percent New Zealand sphagnum moss, 10 percent foam sponge and 20 percent sponge rock, all of which I get from Peter White Orchids. I do not feed this plant in the winter months as the daylight hours are too short for the plant to take up the fertilizer. When I do feed it I use Green Jungle fertilizer at 230ppm. The temperature is 16°C in the day and 10°C at night. I use reverse osmosis water as I live close to power stations and the rain water is not good. I do not use any artificial lighting. ” Ellis Eyre



Oncidium heteranthum
'White Wine Spot',
Botanical Certificate

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Brasilorchis schunkeana 'Eva May',
Botanical Certificate

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Certificate of Preliminary Commendation

■ For *Oncidopsis* Champs du Rey 'Le Don Huelin' ¹⁷ raised and exhibited by the Eric Young Orchid Foundation, Jersey. Votes were nine in favour. The parents were *Oncidopsis* Saint Aubin and *Oncidium* Rozel and it was first registered by the Foundation in 2009. Many hybrid grexes of *Oncidopsis* were previously known as *Vuykstekeara*. The cultivar 'Le Don Huelin' had a very flat flower with a large and well-shaped lip. As it was still a small plant and had not yet reached its full potential the Certificate of Preliminary Commendation was recommended.

The plant exhibited had one 55cm spike with eight ruby red flowers with white spots. The overall flower size was 90 x 92mm. The dorsal sepal was 45 x 30mm wide at the widest point; lateral sepals white flushed mauve, 45 x 30mm wide at widest. Petal 40 x 30mm; lip white, red at throat with

central yellow callus, 50 x 45mm; column green-red, 35mm long.

Certificate of Cultural Commendation

■ To Robert Gowland, from Bishop Auckland, County Durham, for *Vandofinetia* Pat Arcari 'Janet' ¹⁸ and ¹⁹. The plant exhibited measured 38cm across and was growing in a 20cm basket. It had fifteen flower spikes with an average of four open flowers on each. Votes were eleven in favour, one against. The parents were *Vanda* *coerulea* and *Neofinetia* *falcata* and it was first registered in 1970 by Hajime Ono. The grex had large, attractive mauve flowers on a floriferous, compact plant.

Grower's advice

Vandofinetia Pat Arcari 'Janet'

“This orchid was bought from Ray Creek in 2002 as a small plant in an 8cm pot. It produced one small flower stem

that year. After it had finished flowering I put it into one of my 8 x 8 x 10cm slatted baskets.

A few years ago I planted it into a larger basket, without disturbing the roots. This large basket is 15cm deep and 20 x 20cm wide, and the orchid has grown to 25cm tall and 100cm in circumference, and is constantly making new growth.

The plant is kept in the cool part of my orchid house, at temperatures between 7°C and 10°C. The roots are kept damp and the air circulation is good. Feeding is done every two weeks using a balanced feed of 20-20-20 at half strength.

I use a medium consisting of 50 percent large coconut husk and 50 percent large bark. The roots of the orchid do not leave the basket that it is growing in.” Robert Gowland

Certificate of Cultural Commendation

■ To Sue Lane, Cullompton, Devon, for *Dendrobilum latifolium* 'Grace Treble' ²⁰ and ²¹. The plant exhibited was 150cm across and growing in a 30cm diameter pot with approximately fifty flower spikes and three thousand open flowers. Votes were unanimous. The species comes from the Philippines and was first described by John Lindley in 1843; it grows at altitudes of 300–1,000m.

Grower's advice

Dendrobilum latifolium 'Grace Treble'

“I bought this *Dendrobilum* as a seedling *D. longifolium* but it has turned out to be *D. latifolium* – not an unusual occurrence! I have a lean-to greenhouse which faces due south, it is not the best position but I have no choice. This



Oncidopsis Champs du Rey 'Le Don Huelin', Certificate of Preliminary Commendation

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Vandofinetia Pat Arcari 'Janet', Certificate of Cultural Commendation

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Dendrobilum latifolium 'Grace Treble', Certificate of Cultural Commendation

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Vandofinetia Pat Arcari 'Janet'

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Dendrobilum latifolium 'Grace Treble'

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orchid stands continuously in water in the intermediate/warm house in full light. The daytime temperature is set at 21°C with a drop to 16°C at night. In the summer the temperature tends to escalate and I use aluminium lath shading, which does help. The compost is a bark/foam/perlite mix. I water once a week with ordinary tap water and add Orchid Focus

fertilizer every other week. I love *Dendrobium* plants because I find them graceful, architecturally pleasing, fragrant and comparatively easy to grow.” Sue Lane

Certificate of Cultural Commendation

■ To Ellis Eyre, Retford Notts for *Brasiliorchis schunkeana* ‘Eva May’ 16. The plant exhibited was 37cm across

and was growing in a 19cm diameter pot. It had fourteen flower spikes and fourteen open flowers. Votes were eleven in favour. See p54–55.

Certificate of Cultural Commendation

■ To Hilary Hobbs, Radcliffe-on-Trent, for *Bratonia* Aztec ‘Toni’ 22. The plant exhibited was 107cm across and was growing in a 43cm diameter pot. It had twelve flower spikes and sixty seven open flowers. Votes were unanimous. The same plant had gained Certificates of Cultural Commendation in 2005 (*Orch. Rev.* 114, p58) and 2008 (*Orch. Rev.* 117, p57). Each time it has had more flower spikes and more open flowers. The parents were *Bratonia* Cartagena and *Miltonia* Minas Gerais, and it was first registered by WWG Moir in 1976 and is better known by its older name *Miltassia* Aztec.

Certificate of Cultural Commendation

■ To Sue Lane, Cullompton, Devon, for *Renanthera philippinensis* ‘Roger’ 23 and 24. The plant exhibited was 122cm tall and was growing in a 11cm diameter pot. It had one branching

flower spike with approximately one hundred and thirty open flowers. Votes were eight in favour, four against. The species comes from the Philippines where it grows at low elevations in mangrove swamps.

Grower’s advice

Renanthera philippinensis ‘Roger’

“I have had this orchid for quite a few years and it just grows and grows. It stands in the intermediate/warm house, in full light. Because of its height, I had to cut the staging and drop it below the bench once it started hitting the roof. The temperature during the day is set at 21°C with a drop to 16°C at night. I have a misting system which helps with humidity. The compost is a mix of bark and perlite, and I water once a week, and use Orchid Focus fertilizer every other watering. *Renanthera* plants are one of my passions – although keeping the leaves in good, clean condition is a challenge. It is very easy to end up with beautiful leaves and flowers at the top with a leafless stick below, for which I have no answer!” Sue Lane

Annual RHS medals

15 October 2011 The RHS Orchid Committee also decided the recipients of two annual medals.

George Moore Medal

Awarded to the exhibitor of the best cultivar of a *Paphiopedilum*, *Phragmipedium* or *Selenipedium*, or intergeneric hybrid between these genera, shown to the committee during 2011. This was awarded to the Eric Young Orchid Foundation, Jersey for *Phragmipedium kovachii* ‘Trinity’, which gained a First Class Certificate on the 13 September 2011.

It was an outstanding form of the species. (*Orch. Rev.* 119, p255–256).

Westonbirt Medal

For 2011 the Westonbirt medal was awarded to the best orchid exhibit

seen at an RHS Show in the year. It was awarded to Dave Parkinson Plants for their gold medal-winning exhibit of *Disa* plants at the RHS Hampton Court Palace Flower Show, held in July 2011.



Bratonia Aztec ‘Toni’, Certificate of Cultural Commendation

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Renanthera philippinensis ‘Roger’, Certificate of Cultural Commendation

23



Renanthera philippinensis ‘Roger’

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Dave Parkinson's gold medal-winning exhibit of *Disa* plants at the 2011 RHS Hampton Court Palace Flower Show was awarded the Westonbirt Medal



Phragmipedium kovachii ‘Trinity’, was awarded the George Moore Medal

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

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RHS AWARDS

For details about future meetings of the RHS Orchid Committee, and information about entering plants for awards, see Forthcoming Events, p62.