



Sarcochilus australis

MARIBYRNONG ORCHID SOCIETY

(The FRIENDLY Society)

AUGUST 2010 BULLETIN

www.mosorchid.org

Affiliated with the Australian Orchid Council
Incorporated in Victoria Reg No 1193Z

Disclaimer: The Maribyrnong Orchid Society Committee will not take any responsibility for actions taken on advice or views expressed in this or any future Monthly Bulletin, or by Guest Speakers. It is always advisable to get a second opinion.

BULLETIN CONTRIBUTION DEADLINE – 3rd Thursday of the month

Next Meeting – 10th August 2010

The next meeting of the Maribyrnong Orchid Society will be held at the Maribyrnong Community Centre, Randall Street, Maribyrnong, on **Tuesday the 10th August, 2010**. The hall opens at 7.00 pm and the Meeting begins at 8.00 pm.

The Early 'New Growers' Group starts at 7.15pm and is conducted by the informative Steve Stebbing. This group runs for approximately 30 minutes prior to the start of the monthly meeting. The topic for this month will be "**Preparing your plants for showing**".

We also have 'Pots and Ferts' and plants sales tables operating at every meeting. Members may bring up to 10 orchids to be sold on the sales table each month. The Society deducts 15% commission on the sale of all plants. Please note that all plants must be labelled correctly and state whether they are hot/cold growing and expected floral colour, if not in flower. Plants are also to be listed on a sales form, available from members on the Sales table, to be filled out by the selling member.

Guest Speaker This Month

The guest speaker this month will be **Mr John Sharam** who will be presiding over our special night: **Club Champion Cymbidium Orchids**.

Bring along your cymbidiums to enter this very special night, and learn what the judges are looking for when they scrutinise your cymbidiums.

See inside back page of this Bulletin for more information.

Thank you to **Mr John Varigos** who spoke last month on the **Orchids of Sicily and Crete**. John shared with us photos of a wonderful experience.

July Meeting Plant of the Night



Paph Noel II was grown by Peg & Ken Pittock. This plant received the Judges Vote and Best in Section for Open at the July meeting. Congratulations to Peg and Ken.

Supper Roster

For the August meeting we have Alex Wild & Hubert Nyssen on Supper Duties. All members are welcome to bring a plate of goodies to be enjoyed after the evening's speaker has finished their talk.

Seedling Competition Report

Only 26 members returned their seedlings last month, down from 31 in June and 36 in March, April and May. Of the original 50 seedlings allocated, 21 have been returned every month.

Our speaker for the month, John Varigos, commented on their general health and the possibility that some of them may have been under-watered. This prompted the remark from one member that the last speaker had suggested that he ease off on the water.

What is a man to do? Report - Jeff Walker

Maribyrnong 2010 Orchid Shows

Spring Show: 4th & 5th September
Sarcophilus Festival: 13th & 14th November

All Maribyrnong Orchid Society Shows are conducted at our club rooms, which are located at Maribyrnong Community Centre in Randall Street, Maribyrnong. Check further bulletins for opening times.

Other 2010 Orchid Club Show Dates

Werribee Orchid Club Winter Show & Sales

Sat 21st August 2010 9am - 4pm,

Sun 22nd August 2010 9am - 3pm

Entry \$3.00

Senior Citizen's Centre, Kelly Park, Synott Street, Werribee, 3030 (Mel.Ref. 205 K9)

Melbourne Orchid Spectacular & International Orchid Fair

Fri 20th August – Sun 22nd August

Springers Leisure Centre, 400 Cheltenham Road, Keysborough (Mel. Ref. 89 A10)

Stawell Orchid Society Annual Spring Show

24th & 26th September 2010

The Stawell Entertainment Centre
Main St, Stawell, Victoria.

6th Australasian National Orchid Conference and Show 2010

25th – 29th August

Newcastle Panthers Club, Newcastle, NSW

ANOS Victoria Spring Show

Sat 25th & Sun 26th September 2010

9:00am to 4:00pm

Mount Waverley Community Centre.

Miller Crescent, Mount Waverley, Victoria

(Opposite Mount Waverley Station)

(Mel.Ref. 70 E1)

ANOS Eastern Suburbs Group

Sat 2 October 2010 10am - 4:30pm

Sun 3 October 2010 9am - 4:00pm

Lilydale Lake Community Hall, Lilydale 3140

(Mel.Ref. 38 F6)

ANOS Geelong Group Annual Show

5th & 6th November 2010 10am - 4pm

Masonic Centre, Regent St, Belmont

(next door to Coles Supermarket)

Geelong, Victoria. Entry \$3.00

(Mel.Ref. 38 F6)

Wanted to Buy

Welcome to our new section. To request anything orchid-related through this column please phone me on 9748 7345, email Jenny.Dark@darteks.com.au or see me at one of the meetings where I will have a sheet you can fill in with your request.

Shaw Hurwood wants a *Paphiopedilum fairieanum* (flowering size) preferably.

If anyone can help he can be contacted on 9397 2503.

Terry and Jenny Dark would like to thank everyone who responded to both their requests.

Bus Trip: Castle Creek Orchids 2010



The bus trip to Castle Creek Orchids at Merrigum was a very successful day and everyone had a great time.

Photo: *Cattleya percivaliana* 'Summit'

Thanks to Andrew Francis and John Martin for their hospitality.

The next bus trip to Tyabb is already fully booked. This will be our final trip for the year. If you have suggestions for trips for next year please get in touch with Wilma Carlesso or Liz Walker. When booking – remember you need to get in early, and if you have booked but find you will not be able to attend, please let the organisers know, as there is always a waiting list of members willing to use the empty seat!

ORCHID AUCTION

Being conducted by the
A.O.C. Victorian Regional Judging Panel
on behalf of Stephen Stebbing

**OVERSTOCKED SALE
SUNDAY 15th August 2010**

**At The Red Cross Centre,
Repatriation Hospital, Heidelberg.**

Entry through Gate 8, Waterdale Road. Free Parking.
VIEWING FROM 9.00 AM WITH AUCTION
COMMENCING AT 10.00 AM.

Approximately 400 plus lots for auction

TERMS OF SALE: Bids shall be recorded by Bidders
Number ONLY. Bidders shall register and be given a
number prior to start of auction.

PAYMENT: Payment is by cash only. EFPOS payment
available.

Postage may be arranged, according to size & volume.

Contact Steve Stebbing for details on

03 9308 2025 or Mob.0412 352 604

TEA & COFFEE WILL BE AVAILABLE B.Y.O. LUNCH

For further information please contact John Sharam on

(03) 9478 9764 or Email lorquery@gmail.com

**PRESIDENTS REPORT
AUGUST 2010**

Hello once again. I must thank all members who helped out at our Winter Show. There seemed to be an air of camaraderie all through the weekend and especially on Friday night when everyone jumped in to help. I would especially like to thank Diane Sharam whose help was invaluable.

It was good to see more entries for this show than the previous show and especially some of our newer members displaying for the first time. I hope that they enjoyed the experience and that we see more plants form them in the future. Unfortunately the amount of people through the door was down, so the committee will be looking at advertisements for the next two shows.

As I said at the last meeting, I have been unable to get our library section going due to not enough time. I still encourage all members to have a look at the library and perhaps borrow a book or two. Many of the orchid books can be quite expensive, (a book on *Coelogyne* can cost up to \$140 dollars) and the club has some of the best orchid books available.

Were you able to attend the last meeting? For those of you who could not make it, our speaker was John Varigos who gave an interesting talk on the orchids of Sicily and Crete. Many of us will never go to these distant lands and it was good to see those beautiful orchids even if only in picture. Still we have some lovely orchids here at home, and the spring will be upon us soon, so do try to get out for a day and see what you can find.

While I have been typing this I have been listening to the movie Sleepy Hollow starring Johnny Depp. If you haven't seen it before, I suggest that you see it soon. Well must sign off now as the heroine is about to get her head cut off.

Elizabeth Walker
President

Guest Speakers for 2010

| | |
|--------------------------|---|
| 14 th Sept | Mr Mark Finnigan Using chemicals with Orchids |
| 12 th October | Mrs Frances Wilde Sarcochilus |
| 9 th November | Jim & Margot Lattimore Phalaenopsis Orchids |

Supper Roster

Please check this list to see when it is your turn. The list is now full. Thanks everyone!

| | | |
|------------------|-------------|---------------|
| September | Alma Bevan | Joyce Spiteri |
| October | Rita Grima | Tien Nguyen |
| November | Judith Cave | Mary Williams |

Tea and Coffee before the Meeting

Early Birds wishing to have that early cup of coffee or tea are very welcome **BUT**, please don't "help yourself" to the milk in the fridge - it is not ours. Our milk will arrive in due time. So, if it is not out on the bench, it hasn't arrived yet. Thanks everyone.

**MARIBYRNONG SPRING SHOW
September 4th & 5th**

Our Spring Show is happening next month!

Sales tickets, entry forms and tickets, etc, for the Spring show can be picked up at the August meeting. New members please note: you may exhibit as many orchids in flower as you want in the show, but they must have been grown and owned by you for a minimum of 6 months. Orchids that have been owned by you for a lesser time may be exhibited in the Non-competitive section.

If any members would like to offer their help during the show it will be greatly appreciated. Please let Anthony know, and he will allocate you a designated duty. Those members who help all day are given a lunch voucher, in appreciation. Those helping with the set up should be there by 12.30pm.

Orchid entry times are from 1.30pm - 6.00pm. Entries after this time will not be accepted, unless prior arrangements are made. Members are asked not to bring their plants into the hall on the set up day for shows until the tables and chairs have all been reorganised, or until the Show Coordinator declares it is safe to do so.

If you wish to sell plants at our shows you must exhibit on the show-bench - the ratio is 8 plants to one exhibit. Members selling plants at our shows may bring them in after 3.30pm on the Friday preceding the show.

The Show closes at 4pm on Saturday and Sunday.

Please Note: The Sales area closes at 3.30pm on Sunday to enable members in this area to start the clean up. You are therefore required to collect your unsold plants at 3.30pm. Sales tickets must be removed and checked off on your sales sheet before taking plants away.

The Show area stays open till 4pm. The show area is cleaned up after that time.

Looking forward to a terrific turnout! If you're new to showing, go along and listen to Stephen Stebbing at the New Growers Group – his topic for August is "Preparing your plants for showing".

Spring Show Special Speaker & Vendor

Stewart Henry will be at our Spring Show, giving talks at 10am and 2pm on Saturday 4th and 10am and 1pm on Sunday 5th September. He will be there all weekend, selling his plants so don't be afraid to approach him any time over the weekend.

Stewart is George Hatfield's agent in Australia, distributing a great range of Cymbidiums. George Hatfield was the keynote speaker at the AOC Conference in 2009, and a well known West Coast USA cymbidium hybridiser, commercial grower, an AOS Judge and ex CSA president. Stewart's business name is Orchid Obsessions. They specialise in cymbidium orchid seedlings and flasks.

More information about Orchid Obsessions can be found on: www.orchidobsessions.com.au
Contact phone is 0400 351 544 or you can email orchidobsessions@gmail.com

JULY Competition Results As per judges sheets

Complete results are unavailable at the time of publication. Many apologies, but they will be published next month.

OPEN SECTION

Best in Section

Paph Noel II P & K Pittock

INTERMEDIATE SECTION

Best in Section

Oncidium Unknown A Philippou

ADVANCED NOVICE SECTION

Best in Section

Paph *insigne* T & J Dark

NON SECTIONAL

Seedling Flowering for 1st time

1st Den Jonesell x Wrigleys Giant B Whearem

Best Cultivated

Cym Ice On Fire B Rowlands

Judges Vote

Paph Noel II P & K Pittock

Popular Vote

Cym Hugh Gordon Freckles B Rowlands

Accumulated Points so far this Year

Congratulations to everyone who has brought in plants to bench on our meeting nights and to the shows. The following points have been accumulated by these members up to, and including, the July meeting:

Open

| | |
|---------------|-----|
| J Crawford | 116 |
| M Pearce | 100 |
| E & F Wilde | 86 |
| S & H Randall | 70 |

Intermediate

| | |
|-------------|----|
| R Austin | 51 |
| A Philippou | 37 |
| K Weyers | 30 |

Advanced Novice

| | |
|------------|----|
| T & J Dark | 73 |
| B Carey | 53 |
| M Mally | 45 |

Photography

Photographs printed in this Bulletin were taken by Terry Dark and/or Jenny Dark unless otherwise acknowledged.

Bulletin by Email

Should you like to have your newsletter emailed, please drop a quick line to my email address: jenny.dark@darteks.com.au
[Thanks to all the members who have responded already. We now have just over 15% of our bulletins being sent by email.](#)

Seedling Flowering for the First Time

This category is one that is used every month for the plant benching at our meetings and at our Shows. It seems to cause confusion with some members.

Definition: this class is for the FIRST time the seedling has flowered EVER.

- It must be a seedling, not a mericlone.
- It must have been owned and grown by you for at least six (6) months.
- It may have belonged to someone else previously, but this must be the first flowering. If it has previously flowered for someone else, it does **not** qualify as a 'first flowering'.
- If it flowered last year or last season, it does **not** qualify as a 'first flowering'.
- At a show, the seedling may be entered in another class, as well as First Flowering (this is identified at our Shows by the use of a red sticker on the plant label, along with the plant number).

NON TOXIC WHITE OIL

To spray your orchid plants to deter insects - in place of more toxic chemicals.

1 litre Canola Oil or vegetable oil

100 ml eucalyptus oil

½ litre water

10 ml dishwashing liquid

Mix together & shake well. To use add 40 ml of mixture to 1 litre of water and spray.

(Published in the Maroondah O.S. Newsletter - written by Terry Poulton - one of Victoria's foremost cymbidium growers.)

MEMBERS BE AWARE



An email has been circulated to dog clubs in Australia warning them of the danger of a type of garden mulch known as '**Cocoa Bean Mulch**' or '**Cocoa Shell Mulch**'. This mulch has not been available in Australia until recently, however, it appears to have been recently imported, is cheap and has the additional appeal of having a chocolate aroma.

Unfortunately it is attractive to dogs (who will consume it if they can) **AND IT MAY BE FATAL TO ANY DOG OR CAT WHO EATS IT**. According to the RSPCA, for a medium sized dog 250 grams could be fatal. Apparently this product contains the same chemical that also makes ordinary chocolate dangerous for dogs. Also, the packaging contains no warnings.

This product is in no way to be confused with the Coconut Fibre we are now starting to use as a potting medium as a replacement for pine bark.

This article was supplied by a concerned member.

Editor's Note: For further information, I found this interesting article online:

http://kb.rspca.org.au/What-garden-dangers-should-I-protect-my-pet-from_314.htm

Floral Art



If anyone is interested in taking up Floral Art and possibly entering into our shows, please don't be shy. There is a section there for entrants of all levels of ability.

Our new judge, Liz, is very approachable and is being very helpful by offering written advice and encouragement to all our entrants. She is also holding floral art

demonstrations on the Saturday morning of all our shows for this year if you'd like to learn a little more.

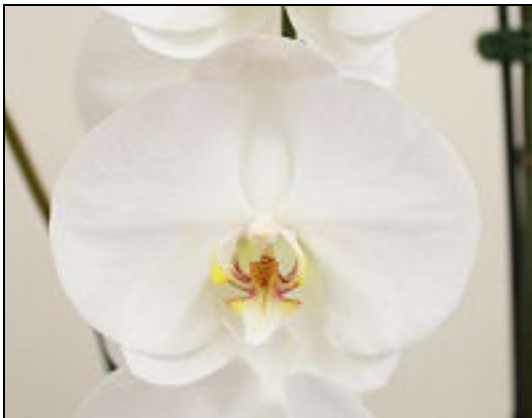
Next show: 4th & 5th September, so start practising. See Liz at **Flower Temple, 18-22 Artemis Lane, QV, Melbourne, 3000**, or phone **1300 650 344**

MARIBYRNONG WINTER SHOW RESULTS July 10th & 11th

MAJOR AWARDS

Grand Champion Orchid of the Show

Phal Taisulo Kalladian x Cygnus J & M Lattimore



Reserve Champion Orchid of the Show

Zygo Kiwi Choice 'Highclere' E & F Wilde

Champion Cymbidium

Cym Little Miss Jess D Wain

Champion Australian Native Orchid

Den Belinda x Bicentennial Rosemary A Evans

Champion Laeliinae Orchid

Thu Dal's Emperor 'Arcada' M Drobski

Champion Paphiopedilum Hybrid

Paph Fluereet Isles J Martin

Champion Paphiopedilum Species

Paph *insigne* 'Harefield Hall' E & F Wilde

Champion Masdevallia Orchid

Masd Reggae S & H Randall

Champion Hybrid Orchid

Phal Taisulo Kalladian x Cygnus J & M Lattimore

Champion Species Orchid: Gerald McCraith AM Award
Cym *erythraeum* 'Paradise' M Pearce

Champion Specimen Orchid
Sc Jeannie Wolf 'Queen Bee' M Drobski

Champion Stand (Predominately Orchids)
J & M Lattimore

Champion Basket of Orchids
A Evans

Champion Orchid by an Intermediate Grower
Paph *villosum* G Pezzin

Champion Orchid by a Novice Grower
Cym Tango 'Velvet Sheen' x Ruby Eyes 'Red Baron'
C Voltolina

Champion Plant (Non orchid)
Silverlady Fern G Ragg

Best Intermediate Floral Art
A Scerri

Best Novice Floral Art
B Carey

Best Wired Work
M Lattimore

MINOR AWARDS (Rosette)

Best Stand by an Intermediate
A Philippou

Best Stand by a Novice
T & J Dark

Best Cultivated Orchid
Cym *erythraeum* 'Paradise' M Pearce

Best Seedling Orchid - 1st Flowering
Cym Tango 'Velvet Sheen' x Ruby Eyes 'Red Baron'
C Voltolina

Best Bromeliad Exhibit
Keaugelia Wild Tiger C Polidano

Best Cacti/Succulent Exhibit
Euphorbia Obsess D Colquhoun

Best Flowering Plant (Non orchid)
Zygocactus L & E Johnstone



Grand Champion of the Show and part of the winning Stand entered by Jim & Margot Lattimore

MARIBYRNONG ORCHID SOCIETY INC.
GUIDELINES FOR THE CULTIVATION OF CYMBIDIUM ORCHIDS

Many people ask, "Why doesn't my orchid flower?" There can be no definite answer to this question, but the reason usually boils down to one of the following factors.

1. LIGHT INTENSITY

Light is generally considered THE most critical factor in getting Cymbidiums to flower. They must be given as much light as possible without getting sunburnt. The following table can be used as a guide:

| | |
|------------------------|---------------|
| April - August..... | full sunlight |
| September-October..... | 30% shade |
| November - March..... | 50% shade |

These conditions can be approximated by placing the plants OFF THE GROUND on the south side of a deciduous tree, but the ideal way to grow them is under a frame of timber or pipe which is covered by shade cloth. The variation of light intensities to those above would probably be ideal, but many of our top growers are obtaining excellent results growing the plants under 50% shade cloth all year round, with some form of solid, transparent material to protect the flowers in spring. Cymbidiums ARE NOT houseplants.

2. AIR MOVEMENT

Air movement is essential at all times, although probably not as critical as light for flowering, it is essential for the health of the plants. An enclosed stuffy atmosphere is a sure way of inviting fungal problems and numerous pests. Cymbidiums should NOT be grown in a glasshouse unless you are prone to many heavy frosts, and then only if it is left open at all times and the plants get plenty of fresh moving air. A small electric fan can help in this regard.

3. POTTING MEDIUM AND REPOTTING

The mix must be open and well drained, it must allow the plant to stay moist, but never soggy or wet. It must also allow the establishment of a good root system and support the plant. There are a few good suppliers of Orchid Bark and usually it can be obtained from our Orchid Society Shows.

It is generally accepted that black plastic pots are best nowadays, but ensure that you choose a pot that has good drainage and make sure all the drainage holes are clear. Cymbidiums don't like to be over-potted so the pot should be just large enough for the roots (After the old mix and dead roots have been discarded) to fit comfortably. Plants should never be divided into pieces smaller than 3 or 4 green bulbs. NEVER USE SOIL IN YOUR MIXES.

4. WATERING

The plants should be kept moist at all times but never allowed to become wet and soggy - especially in cold weather. Potting mixes that are used in warmer climates will not be suitable for our cold Melbourne climate because they hold too much water. With a well drained mix, as suggested above, watering can be carried out every day in the warmer months and reduced to once every 10 days or so in the cooler months.

Watering will depend entirely on your mix, climatic conditions, pot size and type and a great number of variable factors. For this reason you must check your plants individually to decide if they need watering. Remember, just damp, NOT soggy.

5. FLOWERING

Cymbidiums will rarely flower off a plant that has less than 3 or 4 mature green bulbs. If you have a plant around this size, all you can do is provide the correct conditions and wait. Although Cymbidiums ARE NOT HOUSEPLANTS, they can be brought inside for a week or so whilst in flower. The flower spike should only be left on the plant for about 10 days after the last flower has opened or it will take too much out of the plant and next year's flowering will suffer. The flowers will last just as long in a vase inside as they would on the plant. Cymbidiums mainly flower from about July to October, but many more are being bred to supply you with flowering plants all year round.

6. FERTILISERS

It is common practice, these days, to add a slow release fertiliser around the top of the pot when repotting, eg. 8-9 month Osmocote® added at the rate of a level teaspoon to a 6" pot. A similar quantity of Dolomite lime is also said to be beneficial by some growers. The slow release fertilizer can be replaced or supplemented by the use of liquid fertilisers at no more than 1/2 the recommended strength. The usual rule with fertilisers is little and often. Don't use fertilisers high in nitrogen (N) after the end of December as this will inhibit flowering.

7. PROBLEMS

If your plant is sick, or unhealthy to such an extent that the roots are in poor condition, the plant will rarely flower. If all the bulbs are shrivelled and appear empty, it is a sure indication that something is wrong with the roots. Carefully tap the plant out of the pot and have a look at the roots, they should be white and fleshy, not brown or black, nor should they be shrivelled or rotten. If you find that your roots are in poor condition, remove all the dead roots and shriveled back bulbs and repot the plant paying particular attention to the guidelines set out previously particularly in relation to pot size. If your roots are in such poor condition you had better have a look at your mixture or culture at the same time, because you are doing something wrong. Plants that are infected with virus will often refuse to flower. Virus shows up as irregular markings running along the leaves. These marks are a light colour on new leaves and turn black with age. If you suspect virus, separate that plant from the rest of your collection and ask someone who knows. If your plant does have virus, there is no cure. You must burn the plant to stop the spread of this disease to the rest of your collection. You will not be permitted to bring virused plants along to Orchid Societies meetings or shows. A word of warning, the most common way of spreading virus through a plant is with cutting implements during repotting, so it is essential to sterilise all cutting implements thoroughly between each plant. The most simple method of sterilising is to run the instrument through a flame. Various pests and diseases, slugs and snails, scale, red spider mite and mealy bug. These can all be controlled by spraying with some of the numerous pesticides and fungicides on the market, USING EXTREME CARE. **READ THE LABEL AND COMPLY WITH THE SAFETY DIRECTIONS. THEY MEAN WHAT THEY SAY**

Find more general cultivation notes here: <http://www.mosorchid.org/cultnotes.php> or at our shows 1

MARIBYRNONG ORCHID SOCIETY INC
ITEM of the EVENING 10TH AUGUST 2010
CHAMPION CYMBIDIUM

The aim of the evening is to examine the way that the
Judges classify the genus cymbidium and
hence their methods of judging the genus

The proposal is that all cymbidiums entered on the night of August 10th 2010 can compete
for the

"CHAMPION CYMBIDIUM OF THE NIGHT"

We have enlisted the services of John Sharam, to pass comment on the following procedure:

- ❖ How are the cymbidiums "measured"?
- ❖ The difficulty (or otherwise) of "colour judging"
- ❖ What are the Judges looking for when they judge between two plants?
- ❖ Explain good shape
- ❖ Explain good colour
- ❖ Show examples of poorly presented plants (or conversely good presentation)
- ❖ Answer questions of the membership

All cymbidiums will be exhibited across the front of the hall.
They will be placed in the classes:

- ❖ Small Cymbidiums less than 60mm
- ❖ Intermediate Cymbidiums between 60mm and less 90mm
- ❖ Large Cymbidiums greater than 90mm
(All flowers to be an average measurement across the widest dimension of the flower.)

If numbers permit, the plants will be further classed into the sections:

- ❖ Novice
- ❖ Intermediate
- ❖ Open

Further, the plants may be classed into the following colours:

- ❖ White or Green
- ❖ Pink or Red
- ❖ Yellow
- ❖ Any other colour

The committee have agreed to award the following resources
to the night:

- ❖ Champion Miniature Cymbidium
(Rosette and \$25)
- ❖ Champion Intermediate Cymbidium
(Rosette and \$25)
- ❖ Champion Large Cymbidium
(Rosette and \$25)
- ❖ Champion Species Cymbidium
(Rosette and \$25)
- ❖ Champion Cymbidium of the Night
(Sash and \$25)

