

ORCHID NEWS

March 2010

Read on for...shows and events around the country and at the nursery this month, news, seasonal growing tips, special offers, plants in bud and new additions.

Brian & Wilma Win Top RHS Award for a Lifetime of Orchid Writing

At the 2009 Awards Ceremony of the Royal Horticultural Society held in London on 15th February 2010, brother and sister team Brian and Wilma Rittershausen were jointly awarded the **Westonbirt Orchid Medal** for outstanding literary achievement with orchids. The family's well known books on orchid culture, some of which have been printed in many different languages, have been in continuous print for over 50 years. This is the only occasion that this medal has been given jointly to two individuals.



Wilma and Brian with
RHS President Giles Goode-Adams (centre)



From as far back as 1844 the estate at Westonbirt in Gloucestershire was famed for its orchid collection. In 1926 the collection passed to Mr H G Alexander, probably the greatest orchid hybridist during the first part of the 20th century. When he retired in 1960 Mr Alexander donated a fund to the Royal Horticultural Society to provide for an award to be known as the Westonbirt Orchid Medal to commemorate the collection. Struck in gold, it was to be presented annually in several categories for personal achievement at the discretion of the Orchid Committee.

Now owned by the National Trust, the Westonbirt estate, once the home of Lt Col Sir George Holford, is renowned for its arboretum. Each year thousands of visitors are attracted to its fiery autumnal displays of colour.

Our Nursery's History Soon to be in Print

In line with the esteemed recognition from the RHS, Wilma, with contributions from Brian, Ann and Sara, has been working on getting Burnham Nurseries' 60+ years of history down on paper...

Seen through the eyes of the family, "*Orchids – One Family's Passion*" chronicles

the modest start and slow rise of Burnham Nurseries through the decades, to the world respected position it holds today. It recalls a bygone age, and reflects upon the people and nurseries which are now long gone. The book details the many changes concerning the importation and regulation of species, and laments the loss of the old style private collections. It reflects upon the use of now banned pesticides, early hybrids, classic plants which tell their own tales, and other important historical changes, up to the present day.

We feel that this book is an easy read which will appeal to horticulturalists the world over, as well as anyone who has an interest in recent plant history and one nursery's place in it.

"Orchids – One Family's Passion" will be out very soon at a price of £9.99 but you can pre-order your advanced copy right now for a special pre-publication price of £7.99 (plus postage) plus they will be signed by the authors!

Contact us now to reserve your copy of this special book available in limited numbers.

Spring Masterclasses

Places are still available on the Spring Beginners and Advanced full day courses on 7th and 28th March. Tickets start from £35.50 per class if you book on both days and are an RHS member.

Ideal for any keen beginner!

Would you like to reach 1000s of orchid growers every month?

If so then ask us about advertising in Orchid News! We can offer reasonable rates and discount for multiple issues.

Contact Sara now!

March Dates for your Orchid Diary...

This month we are out and about again, hopefully we will be near to you...

Wessex Orchid Society Spring Show

Saturday 6th March 11am – 4.30pm

at Portchester Community School, Whitehart Lane, Portchester, PO16 9BD.

Orchid Weekend at Sanders Garden World -

We will be there on Saturday 6th March with plants for sale and talks. Open from 9am.

Bristol Road, Brent Knoll, Burnham-on-Sea, Somerset, TA9 4HJ. Tel: 01278 761111

www.sandersgardenworld.co.uk

Bristol & West of England Orchid Society

Show Saturday 27th March at The Town Hall, Chipping Sodbury, South Glos. Open 11am – 4pm

London Orchid Show



This prestigious event with the RHS will be held in the RHS Horticultural Halls, Victoria SW1 on Saturday 20th & Sunday 21st March 10am – 5pm, with a special Preview Evening on Friday 19th March.

As well as the usual fantastic displays of orchids from societies and nurseries from around the world there will also be a stunning Botanical Art Show to see. If you want to learn there is a programme of beginner's talks too.

To pre-book tickets for the show call the RHS booking line on 0845 612 1253 and for more information go to www.rhs.org.uk/londonshows

We are more than happy to bring plants/sundries to the show for collection, please let us know by Wednesday 17th March.

Looking Ahead to April...

Orchids for Easter at the nursery Friday 2nd – Monday 5th April. There will be lots to see in flower plus each day there will be a chance to bring your **problem plants for free advice** and re-potting. Each day at 2pm will be a **FREE** talk 'Orchids for Beginners' so come along and learn lots about your orchids! Open each day 10am – 4pm.

Dublin Orchid Fair Saturday 10th & Sunday 11th April at the National Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin, Dublin. Don't miss out on our annual trip to Dublin! **FREE** entry and talks plus lots to see and buy.

Glasgow Orchid Fair Saturday 17th & Sunday 18th April at the Kibble Palace, Glasgow Botanic Gardens. **FREE** entry.

Central Orchid Society Show Saturday 24th April at Perton Community College, Wolverhampton.

Jobs for March...

It is at this time of year that we need to think about putting on extra shade to protect the leaves from the increasing sun. Towards the end of March, we apply the first layer of paint shading on the greenhouse roof and then later on a layer of netting is added. You can use two layers of netting if you wish, or other forms of greenhouse shading. One layer will probably not be enough for the whole summer. We can see that many of our orchids are starting to wake up, those that have been resting are now starting their new growth. When this happens, sometimes the pseudobulbs start to shrivel a little, as in coelogynes, but regular watering and spraying should plump these up by the autumn. Start to increase watering, spraying and feeding now, especially on bright days as they will dry out quicker. Damp down and mist on fine days too to increase humidity.



Orchid Care

Growth Technology products – available from selected garden centres and orchid retailers

Feeding

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Decorating

Growth Technology
Focus on plants

Tel: 0845 430 3001 www.growthtechnology.com/gc

MARCH OFFERS

Orchids in bud now...

PLEIONES: Here are more pleiones in bud now! They are just starting come out of their winter rest and the new shoots containing the flower buds are emerging! These orchids are deciduous so lose their leaves in the winter when they like to be kept completely dry. They grow as small rounded bulbs and need very cool conditions. Water regularly from the onset of the new growth. All varieties are potted, rooting and in bud or flower. Priced per bulb.

Pleione Brigadoon – soft pink with dark pink and yellow lip **£6**

Pleione Brigadoon 'Stonechat' – lovely pink with dark spots, wide lip **£6**

Pleione Erebus 'Redpoll' – pink with red covering most of the lip **£6**

Pleione formosana – lilac pink with red spotting on a white lip **£6**

Pleione formosana var. alba – white with yellow lip **£6**

Pleione grandiflora – white with orangey-red spots on the lip **£10**

Pleione Hekla – soft lavender with pink lip, spotted darker **£6**

Pleione Krakatoa – pale pink with bright yellow lip, red spots **£8**

Pleione Shantung – cream petals with red spotting in the centre **£8**

Pleione Shantung 'Ducat' – we literally only have a few of this rare golden yellow variety **£20**

Pleione Soufriere – soft pink with cream and red lip **£6**

Pleione speciosa – deep vibrant pink with darker purple on the lip **£6**

Pleione Tongariro 'Jackdaw' – dark lavender with deep red spots **£6**

Pleione Vesuvius 'Phoenix' – bright pink with bold yellow and pink lip **£8**



New stock now in of these lovely Indian species, pictured below left to right:

Pleione hookeriana – miniature with little flowers in shades of pink and white. Spring flowering. Bare root, **3 bulbs for £15**

Pleione humilis – distinctive oval bulbs, white flowers with red spotted lip. Spring flowering. Bare root, **3 bulbs for £15**

Pleione maculata – white petals and sepals with bold red on the lip. Autumn flowering. Intermediate needing a bit warmer than the other pleiones.

£7 each or 3 for £20, potted and rooting

Pleione praecox – narrow-petalled in soft pink with spotted lip. Autumn flowering. Cool.

£7 each or 3 for £20, potted and rooting



***Lepanthopsis astrophorea* 'Stalky'**

This is probably our smallest orchid! The miniature plants only grow to a few centimetres in height and the tiny purple star-shaped flowers just a few millimetres across! But don't worry they produce quite a few of them on several little sprays so you won't miss out on the blooming. On a mature plant although still a small compact clump, it can be covered in 100s of flowers. Keep these little orchids cool, shady in summer and moist and humid. Small pots will dry out more quickly. Believe us, our plants are **now in spike!**



And only £12.

***Restrepia* Collections**

The restrepias are becoming more and more popular as they are easy to grow, very free-flowering and miniature growing so they fit in any gap you might have! They are quite easy to propagate from old leaves and grow into clumps quickly so we have been busy producing stock from many species. Their charming flowers come in various shades of yellow, brown, red, purple and maroon. Plus they have beautiful patterning in spots and stripes. The best way to really



appreciate the intricate patterning is by viewing them through a magnifying glass. The pictures here give you an idea of the range of colours and patterns available.

As we have many different species, some in limited numbers, we are offering a special offer where we will pick you a selection of super South American restrepias to include some in bud/flower whenever possible. They don't have a set flowering season but bloom throughout the year. Grow in cool conditions with shade in summer and moist and humid. They are potted in sphagnum moss.

Plants normally £12 each...

Special offer of 3 selected plants for £30 or 6 for £55, even better value!

Coelogyne flaccida

Pendent flowers in cream and very fragrant. This Himalayan species likes to be kept cool with a winter rest. It will be growing again soon but in the meantime we have a few that are now in spike or bud. **£15**



Epidendrum xanthoianum

This tall, upright growing Epidendrum from South America needs an intermediate temperature (minimum 12°C) in winter with fairly good light. Allow it dry out well in between waterings.

Our plants are in bud/flower **£20**



Phalaenopsis Mini Mark

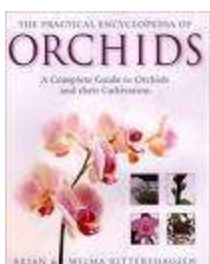
This is always a real favourite. A charming miniature Phalaenopsis in cream and orange needing just the same culture as the larger flowered varieties but on a lovely compact plant. It is very free-flowering and easily produces branching spikes. Keep warm and not too wet.

Now in bud/flower with multiple spikes **£20**

Bulbophyllum grandiflorum

This is a truly stunning Bulbophyllum species from South East Asia. The large olive green and brown flowers have an almost hooded appearance with the dorsal sepal coming over the top of the tiny petals and lip. It is a warm growing orchid that will need a few years to reach flowering from our newly available home-grown seedlings raised from our own beautiful mother plants.

Young plants **£7 each or 2 for £12**



The Practical Encyclopaedia of Orchids – hardback by Brian & Wilma Rittershausen is back in stock and contains everything you need to know about growing orchids! **£25.00**

Please note all prices exclude delivery