

Jeanne Dunn and Assistants Daryl Williams and Neville Lee 18/3/18

Jeanne presented a slide show on pieces that she had selected for Auction. Then Daryl Williams presented a deflasking demonstration, and whilst that was going on Jeanne and Neville mounted ten Docks for auction.

The Daryl Williams deflasking routine was plain and simple – a fairly brutal extraction from the bottle, a good rinse in tap water (no anti-fungal) putting separated the seedlings, into a take-away food container with kitchen paper lining, lid on loosely. Leave for 4days before potting into community pots for 12 months. Jeanne's method was to use an antifungal when deflasking and a hormone treatment using Auxinone.

David Brooks – Soft Cane Dendrobiums 18/3/18

Soft cane dendrobiums nobile are native to Southeast Asia and grow naturally high up in trees and in areas where there are two distinct seasons, Wet and Dry, and where there is lots of air movement. In our environment they enjoy 30%-50% shade in late Spring/Summer although larger plants can manage without shade, provided they have good air circulation. Remove shade for Winter. Slightly shrivelled canes were preferable to big fat juicy ones.

Low overnight Autumn temperatures will initiate flower buds. As temperatures decrease, stop watering. When overnight temperatures get to about 10C, water weekly to keep canes from shrivelling – do this early morning so mix can dry out by sunset. Keep dry if night temperatures fall below 5C.

He grows in two parts coco, one perlite. Repot after flowering – they don't like to be overpotted, and once repotted, keep dry for a fortnight.

They like low Nitrogen fertiliser – but none in Winter. Start feeding weakly in November and increase strength and frequency to twice per week from December to March. Six month Osmocote is OK, as is Campbells Yellow or Peters Blossom Booster.

As an anti-fungal David uses Alginox at 5ml/litre of water, Eco-Carb or Phos Acid.

Clive Halls – Some cultural tips for Masdevallias and Odonts, 18/3/18

Clive's method of keeping Masdevallias cool on a hot summer's day is water the leaves, twice a day. Clive considered Masdevallias as one of the more prone orchids to virus.

Markers for virus are one or all of leaf twisting up; black spot; deterioration of plant. Most viruses are spread by aphids and they also can cause general plant damage. He recommends and Eco Oil and Eco Carb spray monthly.

Masdevallias can be split and repotted in Spring, or after the heat, in Autumn.

He considers that Odonts and Masdevallias perform better in Sphagnum Moss, but don't fertilise as much as you might in a bark/perlite mix. If Sphag develops a green slime on top, it's had too much fertiliser. Odonts should only be repotted when they're growing, and as a general rule, they should not be watered until new growths start to develop.

If there was one common message provided by the Workshop's three Speakers, it was to keep plants dry(ish) in Winter, provide good light levels and air movement throughout the year.