

## HELSINKI ORCHID SHOW IN OCTOBER 2017

The biennial Orchid Show of the Finnish Orchid Society is seen in full bloom from 13th to 15th of October. The exhibition is held in modern premises of Tapahtumatila Ruohis in Ruoholahti Helsinki. The location is easy to reach both by car and with public transportation. Plenty of parking places are found directly from the Ruoholahti shopping centre's parking garage. You can arrive there with ease and enjoy a day or the whole weekend exploring the most beautiful and surprising plants of the world's wilderness, the orchids.

This year you can find three German orchid nurseries at the show: Karge Orchideen, Currlin Orchids and for the first time in Finland, Asendorfer Orchids. Nurseries exhibit beautiful orchid displays and sell their rare to find plants for you to enjoy. Members of the Finnish Orchid Society are there to guide you to choose the right orchid for your home or collection and help you with your orchid growing questions.

During the weekend there is a lot to hear and learn as the Professor of Botany from Helsinki University, Jouko Rikkinen will give a presentation over a topic "How the orchids look like through the eyes of a botanist and an explorer?" and the master florist Jouni Seppänen will present about the orchids of the Finnish nature. If you are interested in the outstanding cymbidium orchids you must hear what the long-term orchid enthusiasts Oili Pentinsaari and Kristiina Hämäläinen present over the nature and growing of cymbidium orchids.

### Orchids – bizarre beauties of botany

Perfumed or stinking, colourful, pollinator fooling enchantresses that's what orchids are all about. Their flowers can remind female bumblebees or long legged spiders. Some *Bulbophyllum* species even have teeth like appendages in their flowers to catch unsuspecting insects to reassure pollination. Each orchid species has evolved precisely to attract certain types of pollinators which suite their needs. There exists around 25 000 different species of orchids and over 155 000 hybrids. Many species and hybrids can be easily grown on a windowsill but more demanding species require light, humidity and temperature which fit the species natural living conditions.

### Finnish Orchid Society

The 56-year old Finnish Orchid Society gathers together approximately 700 orchid enthusiasts from around the country and distributes information about both tropical and Finnish orchids. There are altogether five regional groups in the society. The monthly meetings with varying themes are held in Helsinki. Every spring an orchid co-order is organized by the society to help members purchase orchids from foreign nurseries. The Finnish Orchid Society publishes a magazine called *Orkidealehti* which turns 50 years in 2017. The magazine publishes articles about wild orchids, botany, orchid growing and everything related to orchids.

***Orchid Show 13th to 15nd of October 2017.***

***Opening hours Friday 6pm to 9pm. Saturday and Sunday from 10am to 6pm.***

***Address Ruohis, Ruoholahden ostoskeskus, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, Itämerenkatu 21, Helsinki***