



Cape ORCHID Society

Diamond Jubilee | 1957 - 2017

Newsletter | *September 2018*

News from the Cape Orchid Society

The COS held their annual auction at the August meeting. This year's auction echoed the 'back to basics' theme for 2018 and offered a number of smaller, affordable lots. Our auctioneer extraordinaire, Dr Peter Schram, dazzled the crowd in his tuxedo. Those in attendance were in fine spirits on the evening, and by raising their paddles, managed to raise over R10 000 for the Society's culture and conservation efforts! A massive thank you to all who sponsored lots and who supported us on the evening.

The COS Spring Show, entitled the 'Potting Shed' will take place over the weekend of the 28th to the 30th of September. Plant check-in will take place on Thursday 27 September between 9am and 12pm. This show will display a bounty of unusual and exotic orchids as well as offer members of the Society and public an opportunity to have their orchids repotted by some of the top orchid growers in the country. Repotting will happen all weekend starting from just R10. Bring your orchids along to the show and have them repotted while you check out the display or sales area. The members of the Society are happy to help collect your plants from the entrance gate if needed. Call the number on the poster displayed at the entrance gate for assistance. The show will be held in the Richard Crowie Hall at Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens from Friday 28th to Sunday 30th September from 9am to 5pm on Friday and Saturday and until 4pm on Sunday. The Richard Crowie Hall is at the top entrance near the tea room and nursery. If anyone can offer their help at the show, please contact Bev Schram.

There is a plea from WOSA (Wild Orchids of southern Africa) to please send any pictures of indigenous Cape orchids to them for their website. They have a full list of all the orchid species in the country and are needing images of the rarer species.

Duckitts will host their open weekend starting on Friday the 14th of September.

NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 25 September 2018 |
19h00

The Athenaeum, Newlands

- How to grow orchids
in small spaces -

From windowsills to small greenhouses, this talk will offer helpful advice on how to maximise space and improve your growing conditions..

Birthday wishes

Many happy returns to those members who celebrate their birthdays in October:

Tobias Linders - 1st	Rodney Hahn - 12th
Samantha Black - 4th	Gregg Brill - 20th
Gerry Walden - 4th	A-M Ellmann - 22nd
Nadia Jones - 5th	Trudi Erasmus - 25th
Tristan Woudberg - 5th	Virginia Schmidt - 26th
Floris Haasbroek - 7th	Michael Ford - 28th
Else Hall - 11th	Frans Gous - 28th
Luc Pegram - 11th	Sheila Smith - 28th
Volkmar Schmidt - 11th	

Speakers list | 2018

January 23 - Orchid Alliances | Gregg Brill

February 27 - Watering and feeding | Chris Randlehoff

March 27 - AGM | Gregg Brill

April 24 - Potting media | Chris Randlehoff

May 22 - Potting vs mounting | Gregg Brill

June 26 - Annual Quiz | Jean Allen

July 24 - Foods and feeding | Gregg Brill

August 28 - Annual Auction | Peter Schram

September 25 - Growing in small spaces | Gregg Brill

October 23 - Botany basics | Jean Allen

November 27 - Christmas party

Plant table | August 2018

These were the winning plants on display at the meeting last month. Visit www.capeorchidsociety.co.za for more images.



1st

Cymbidium Mary Green 'Houston Street'

Grower: Bev Schram



Dendrobium Spring Dream

'Apollo'

3rd

Grower: Bev Schram



2nd

Dendrobium Gillieston Gold 'Nathalie'

Growers: Abraham & Carine Vermeulen



Members
Choices

Epidendrum paniculatum

Grower: Gregg Brill

Other plants

Gregg Brill - *Cuitlauzina pulchellum* | *Paphiopedilum* Lucky Strike | *Blc* Bouton D'Or | *Blc* hybrid

Bev Schram - *Cattlianthe* Jewel Box 'Dark Waters' | *Colmanara* 'Painter Tropic Jungle' | *Dendrobium nobile* var. *virginalis*

Tristan Woudberg - *Coelogyne* Unchained Melody

Growers guides | *Gongora*



Gongora is an epiphytic orchid genus containing over 70 species. This genus is found in wet tropical forests throughout Central and South America. The pendulous inflorescences arise from the base of the pseudobulbs, with some spikes growing to more than a metre long in length in some species. The spikes bear many intricately-shaped flowers that are often scented. The flowers can resemble birds or dragons depending on how active your imagination is. In general, gongoras are easy to grow into large, showy plants.

Temperature

Temperatures should be intermediate to warm, ideally between 21 - 29° C during the day, dropping to 6 - 8° C at night.

Light

Gongoras like bright, indirect light, similar to Cattleyas. They will tolerate less light, (even dim Phalaenopsis lighting) but the leaves will grow more horizontally and darker in colour to compensate for the lower light levels.

Water

This genus likes a lot of water so don't let them dry out. You can water as often as daily during the spring and summer. In winter, slow down the watering to avoid root rot. The growing medium should contain products that retain moisture, such as fine bark, sphagnum moss, perlite, etc.

Feeding

Gongoras are heavy feeders so fertilise regularly, particularly when they are actively growing in spring and summer. Supplement the growing medium with slow-release pellet fertiliser to increase the amount of food the plant is exposed to.

Humidity

This genus likes high levels of humidity - between 50 - 70%. Maintain good air movement around the plants too.

Cutting Dead Flower Spike

Dead spikes can be cut off where they emerge from the pseudobulbs once the flowers have fallen off the pendulous inflorescences. Flowering may occur throughout the summer.

Repotting

When repotting, try not to break the fine roots, which branch often and go throughout the potting mix. They also make spiky aerial roots to catch leaves and other detritus; you don't have to bury these, especially if that would require you to bury the ridged pseudobulbs. Best grown in hanging baskets due to the pendulous nature of the inflorescences, although pots can be used because the inflorescences do not grow downward through the media like Stanhopeas.

Did you know?

This genus was named in 1794 in honour of viceroy Antonio Caballero y Gongora of New Granada.

Did you know?

In nature, these orchids often grow in ant nests high in trees.

COS Notice Board

Shows and upcoming events

This segment alerts members to upcoming COS and other orchid-related events. Should you wish to lead an event, please contact Gregg Brill for inclusion in this section.



2018:

21 - 23 Sept - Eastern Province Orchid Society Spring Show, Sherwood Garden Centre, Port Elizabeth

28 - 29 Sept - Walker Bay Orchid Society Show, St. Peters Church Hall, Main Road, Hermanus

28 - 30 Sept - Cape Orchid Society Spring Show, Richard Crowie Hall, Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens

28 - 30 Sept - Witwatersrand Orchid Society Spring Show, Floreum, Emmarentia, Johannesburg

13 - 14 Oct - Natal Orchid Society Spring Show, Parkhill Bowling Club, Durban North

26 - 28 Oct - TOG Spring Show, Tygervalley Shopping Mall

Ask the expert

This section allows members to ask an orchid-related question and we will get an expert grower in the Society to answer it. Please forward your questions to Gregg Brill for inclusion in this section.

Buy, swap and sell

This section is where members can place advertisements for plants and growing materials that they want to sell, buy or trade. Please send relevant information to Gregg Brill for inclusion in this section.

A member of the public is looking for either *Cattleya* Carl Hausermann or *Rlc* Taida Eagle Eye 'Victory'. If any members are interested in selling these plants, please contact Gregg.

Congratulations

We like to applaud the achievements of our members. Send relevant information to Gregg Brill for inclusion in this section.

Fond farewells

This section is where we bid our fond farewells to those who have left us, have passed on or are going abroad. Please send relevant information to Gregg Brill for inclusion in this section.



For those interested in learning more about the Cape Orchids, the COS has partnered with author Bill Liltved to offer 'The Cape Orchids' - A regional monograph of the orchids of the Cape Floristic Region. The work encapsulates a comprehensive overview of what is currently known about the classification and ecology of all 241 orchid species native to the Cape Floristic Region. Orchids are one of the most treasured elements of the Cape flora and this book is intended as a fitting tribute to their magnificence. 'The Cape Orchids' is an indispensable reference work for botanists and plant-lovers alike. The COS is retailing this double-volume collection at R3500. Contact us should you be interested in purchasing this fantastic monograph!

Connect with us



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Supporting the COS



The COS has been appointed as a beneficiary of the Woolworths MySchool MyVillage MyPlanet Programme. We are asking everyone with this card to add the COS to their beneficiaries list so that we can raise some much needed funds for the Society. To apply for a card or to add the COS to your beneficiaries list, please go to: www.myschool.co.za/supporter/apply/

Support our culture and conservation initiatives by making a donation to the Society. Simply scan the QR code using Snapscan and choose an amount you wish to donate. Download Snapscan from your app store for free.

Join the COS and share in our many activities throughout the year. Whether you attend a hike or provide time and expertise at our annual shows, your membership will be a great way to support the Society's initiatives.

Membership fees for 2018

Membership fees for the Cape Orchid Society are listed below. Membership forms are available on the website, at all shows and events and at monthly meetings. Payment can be made by EFT (online) or with cash, credit card or Snapscan. Should you wish to pay by cheque, please include a further R20 to cover bank fees.

Our bank details are: **Standard Bank, Pinelands Branch, Acc. number: 375350322, Acc type: Market Link.**

Single member:	R330 - includes SAOC registration
Family members (2):	R360 (and R40 per additional member) - includes SAOC registration
Trade members:	R400
Single Associate member:	R140
Associate family members (2):	R170 (and R40 per additional member)
Honorary & Life Members:	R200 (if SAOC journal required)
Scholar/student	R265

Cape Orchid Society Committee 2018/19



Gregg Brill
Vice-President*
Newsletter editor
072 376 7045



Beverley Schram
Events Chair*
083 252 4659



Lindi Kamstra
Secretary*
084 684 0509



Bruce Grater
Treasurer*
082 808 8788



Tristan Woudberg
Librarian
071 443 7519



Jean Allen
Meeting coordinator
079 096 0976

*interim posts