



Cape ORCHID Society

Diamond Jubilee | 1957 - 2017

Newsletter | June 2019

News from the Cape Orchid Society

The COS hosted their AGM at the May meeting. Reports from the librarian, treasurer and president were presented, which detailed the Society's many events and achievements in the past financial year. The new committee for 2019/20 were also voted in. We wish the new committee everything of the best for the year ahead.

The Society's Autumn Show 'The Botanical Library' was held over the weekend of 24, 25 and 26 May. The show had over 130 plants on display and everyone who attended commented on the amazing variety of orchids. We welcomed many hundreds of people to the show and sold over 1000 orchids to Society members and the public. Thank you to all our members who supported the recent autumn show by offering their support. We did miss Pete and Bev though!!

The Orchid Society of the Southern Cape are hosting a mini symposium and workshop taking place on Saturday 29 June 2019 in George. Tickets for the full day event cost R60 and automatically enter participants for one of 3 super lucky draw prizes. There will be some great talks and an opportunity to add to your plant collections from the sales area. For more information, contact ossoutherncape@gmail.com by 20 June 2019.

The Northern Gauteng Orchid Society has announced that they will host the 14th Paphiopedilum Symposium in Pretoria on 20th June 2020. Paph fans should pop that date in their diaries.

NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 25 June 2019 | 19h00
The Athenaeum, Newlands

- Movie night III -

Your third cinematic experience awaits!
Come join us for popcorn and snacks
while enjoying another great orchid
movie.

Birthday wishes

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

Lez Flower 7th
Mike Grace 11th
Tricia Owen 13th
Chris Randlehoff 29th

Connect with us

www.capeorchidsociety.co.za



@capeorchidsociety



@capeorchidsociety

*If we miss your birthday, please let us know so that we can update our birthday list

Meeting topics and talks 2019

January 23 - Planning for 2019

February 26 - Movie night I

March 26 - Quiz and games night

April 23 - Movie night II

May 28 - AGM

June 25 - Movie night III

July 23 - Annual auction

August 27 - Movie night IV

September 24 - Repotting party

October 22 - Movie night V

November 26 - Christmas party

CULTURE | Growing orchids in the Cape

Autumn Show 2019 | *The Botanical Library*



Grand Champion | Best Cattleya Alliance

Cattleya cernua

Grower: Sheila Smith



Reserve Champion | Best Exotic Miscellaneous Genera

Maxillaria ubatubana

Grower: Volkmar Schmidt



Best Paphiopedilum Alliance

Paphiopedilum spicerianum

Growers: Mike & Sylvia Byren



Best Masdevallia Alliance

Masdevallia sijmiana

Grower: Bev Schram

CULTURE | Growing orchids in the Cape



Best South African Genera

Stenoglottis (Neptune x Libra)

Growers: Duckitt Nurseries



Best Cymbidium Alliance

Cymbidium Darling Valentine 'Oudepost'

Grower: Bev Schram



Best Oncidium Alliance

Oncostele Wildcat 'Green Valley'

Grower: Sheila Smith



Best African & Mascarene Genera

Mystacidium venosum

Grower: Abraham Vermeulen

CONSERVATION | Protecting orchids in the Cape

The Endangered Cape Orchid Project

Launched in 2017 as part of the Society's Diamond Jubilee celebrations, the ECOP aims to repopulate key areas of the Cape Floristic Region of the Western Cape with endangered orchid species. Initially, the project will focus on 10 endangered disa species - *Disa barbata*, *Disa spathulata*, *Disa lugens*, *Disa purpurescens*, *Disa multifida*, *Disa hians*, *Disa schlechteriana*, *Disa tenella*, *Disa draconis* and *Disa racemosa*. As the project becomes more established, more species will be added to the list.

Project objectives

- To repopulate areas of the CFR with indigenous, terrestrial orchid species which are in low abundance, threatened or have become locally extirpated;
- To engage with landowners and communities who house orchids on their land and promote sustainable land-use practices and habitat management that preserves orchid habitat now and in the future;
- Educate the public, land owners and policy makers regarding the diversity and distribution of orchids contained within the CFR and inform about the threats facing these species;
- To become a catalyst for orchid conservation in the Cape, by appealing for more effective protection of orchids and the CFR through multi-scale conservation policies and practices;
- To provide opportunities for academic research into various fields of orchid ecology, biological relationships, biophysical assessments, and social-ecological systems;
- To employ, teach and upskill members of the communities in which indigenous orchids are found with horticultural skills such as seed sowing, germination techniques, propagation and transplanting;
- To develop a community of practice around orchid conservation in the CFR as part of a broader mandate for botanical conservation in the Cape; and
- To be fully accountable, transparent and sustainable regarding project income and expenditure through annual audits, project reviews, sustainable business models and other structures and functions.

Project phases



Fundraising

Kickstarting any project requires a great deal of funds. The "seed capital" required for the initial phase of the ECOP amounts to around R600 000. The COS has raised

close on R150 000 which gets us a quarter of the way there. Keep an eye on the fundraising counter later in the newsletter to see how far we can go. If you wish to donate to the cause, there are multiple options to do so, which are also shown later in the newsletter.



Growing

A dedicated growing space (greenhouse) will need to be located. Discussions are underway with a potential project host.

The host has existing growing facilities which reduces the need to pay for the construction and maintenance of a new greenhouse. The project hosts will also be able to keep an eye on the orchid seedlings as they grow. Multiple growing spaces are envisaged as the project grows.



Seed collection & sowing

Seed collection will be one of the trickiest aspects of the project. First we have to find the plants in flower, help them get pollinated (where needed), then return a few

weeks later to collect the mature seed pods. Seeds will be sown locally by someone with considerable experience with disa seed. Once the seedlings are mature enough to leave the lab they will be planted out into the greenhouse. A few years later, we will plant them back in the wild.



Research

One of the key aspects that makes this conservation project different is that we will be researching what makes these orchids tick. From soil samples which will

look at the mycorrhiza found around the roots, through to observing pollinator behaviour, this project hopes to really understand the types of conditions that the orchids need to flourish so that we can find similar habitat throughout the Province for them to thrive in.

Project partners and support

The ECOP has partnered with other orchid NGOs and projects to promote orchid conservation in South Africa. These include:

**WILD ORCHIDS
SOUTHERN AFRICA**



If you would like to join the conservation team on hikes to collect data and samples, or just to see wild orchids in their native habitats, get hold of Gregg who will add your name to the database. For anyone wanting to support the ECOP financially, we have created a wishlist of things you could sponsor. We also have a dedicated SnapScan code for anyone wanting to donate directly to the various project components. We look forward to you joining us on our orchid adventures!

Supporting the COS

Wishlist

The COS has a number of costs throughout the year. If some of these could be sponsored by Society members or members of the public, it would allow us to spend money on the things that really matter.

- Printing of show documents
- Banners
- Stationary
- Hiring of trestles and table tops (twice a year)
- Plant pots
- Bark, stone, polystyrene and other growing media
- Large ziplock bags
- Storage facilities
- A van/transport for 2 days, twice a year
- Wine for events
- Catering supplies
- Website hosting

MySchool MyVillage MyPlanet



The COS is 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. You can add up to 3 beneficiaries per card. To apply for a card or to add the COS to your beneficiaries list, please go to: www.myschool.co.za/supporter/apply/

Funds raised last month: R368.46
Funds raised previous month: R363.78

Sponsoring the Endangered Cape Orchid Project



To make it super simple to support the COS's conservation projects, simply make a donation via Snapscan. If you don't already have the app, download it for free from your app store. Once loaded and set up, just point the open app at the QR code and it will pick up our details. You can select the amount you wish to donate and it will do the rest! Thank you to all those who have donated so far - every Rand gets us that bit closer!

Funds raised so far: R200 000
Still to go: R400 000



COS sponsors

The COS is very grateful to the following companies who continue to support the culture and conservation efforts of the Society. Your support is greatly appreciated!



The Cape Orchid compendium



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!

COS Notice Board

Membership fees for 2019

The 2019 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 Snap-scan at our meetings, shows or events. 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

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.

Orchid shows in 2019

- 16 - 17 Mar - Natal Orchid Society Autumn Show, Parkhill Bowling Club, Durban
- 23 - 24 Mar - Witwatersrand Orchid Society, Floreum, Johannesburg Botanical Gardens, Emmarentia
- 5 - 7 Apr - Plantae Orchid Club Autumn Show, The Herb Farm, Midrand
- 13 - 14 Apr - Rustenberg Orchid Society Autumn Show, Waterfall Mall, Rustenberg
- 26 - 28 Apr - Gonubie Orchid Society Autumn Show, Gonubie Hotel
- 2 - 5 May - Tygerberg Orchid Group Autumn Show, Tygervalley, Bellville
- 3 - 5 May - Zululand Orchid Society Autumn Show, Boardwalk Inkwazi Shopping Centre, Richards Bay
- 3 - 5 May - Northern Gauteng Orchid Society Autumn Show, Safari Garden Centre, Lynwood rd. Pretoria
- 4 May - Highway Orchid Society Mini Show, Pick 'n Pay Westville Village Market
- 10 - 12 May - East Rand Orchid Society Mother's Day show, Edenvale Community Centre, Edenvale
- 10 - 12 May - Wolkberg Orchid Society Mother's Day Show, Lifestyle Centre, Tzaneen
- 11 - 12 May - Rustenburg Orchid Society Autumn Show, Waterfall Mall, Rustenburg
- 24 - 26 May - Cape Orchid Society Autumn Show, Richard Crowie Hall, Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens**
- 25 May - Vlake Orchid Society Autumn Show, Modimall, Modimolle
- 20 July - NOS exhibit, Fairway Orchid & Rare Plant Fair, Durban North.
- 27 - 28 July - Orchid Lovers' Fair, Strelitzia Hall, Walter Sisulu Botanical Gardens, Johannesburg
- 17 - 18 Aug - Rustenberg Orchid Society Spring Show, Waterfall Mall, Rustenberg
- 17 - 18 Aug - Natal Orchid Society Spring Show, Parkhill Bowling Club, Durban
- 30 Aug - 1 Sep - Zululand Orchid Society Spring Show, Boardwalk Inkwazi Shopping Centre, Richards Bay
- 31 Aug - 1 Sep - Highway Orchid Society Show, Kloof Civic Centre, Kloof
- 6 - 8 Sep - Plantae Orchid Club Show, Royal Showgrounds, Pietermaritzburg
- 7 - 8 Sep - East Rand Orchid Society Spring Show, Greenstone Shopping Centre, Edenvale
- 12 - 14 Sep - Orchid Society of the Southern Cape Spring Show, George
- 21 - 22 Sep - WOS Autumn Show, Floreum, Johannesburg Botanical Gardens, Emmarentia
- 27 - 29 Sep - Cape Orchid Society Spring Show, Richard Crowie Hall, Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens**
- 27 - 29 Sep - Walker Bay Orchid Society Spring Show, Saint Peters Church Hall, Hermanus
- 19 - 21 Oct - SAOC National Show and Conference, Casterbridge Centre, White River
- 31 Oct - 3 Nov - Tygerberg Orchid Group Spring Show, Tygervalley, Bellville

Commercial greenhouse open days 2019

Duckitt Nurseries (Darling)

- 4 May | 9am - 12pm
- 1 June | 9am - 12pm
- 7 July | 9am - 12pm
- 4 Aug | 9am - 12pm
- 1 Sep | 9am - 12pm
- 14 Sep | 9am - 12pm | Open weekend
- 6 Oct | 9am - 12pm
- 3 Nov | 9am - 12pm

Eikenhoff Nursery (Stanford)

- 1 June | 9am - 12pm
- 3 Aug | 9am - 12pm
- 1 Sep | 9am - 12pm

Members' greenhouse open days 2019

- Bev Schram - 16 March | 10am - 12pm
- TBC - Spring

Member-led hikes 2019

TBC

Cape Orchid Society Committee *2019/20*



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