

Cape ORCHID Society

Diamond Jubilee | 1957 - 2017

Newsletter | February 2021

News from the Cape Orchid Society

Despite the number of Covid infections slowly decreasing, Society meetings will not take place. The Athenaeum is still experiencing technical difficulties with their aircon, which means the hall would be very hot and with limited air movement. We hope to hold our monthly meetings again from March.

As we can't hold our monthly meetings, Society members are asked to submit pictures of their flowering orchids throughout the month. This way we can continue with a virtual plant table.

A reminder to those who have not yet paid their annual membership subscriptions for the year, these are now due. Your annual subs keep the Society going as well as support the SOAC in their journal publication costs. By paying **before the end of February**, you are guaranteed both journals in 2021. The membership fees are unchanged for 2021 and can be found later in the newsletter. Please contact our treasurer Pierre should you have any questions or to make payment.

The committee has decided to set up a COS WhatsApp group to keep members up to date on all the Society happenings. This group will be for admin matters only, such as informing members of monthly meetings, greenhouse open day details, special offers etc. We will limit the number of messages to keep this group free from clutter. Christo will add your details to this group soon.

NEXT MEETING

No monthly meetings until further notice due to COVID-19 :(

Birthday wishes

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

March

Bruce Grater - 6th
Jonathan Dennis - 6th
Mary Dennis - 9th
Heino Papenfus - 12th
Debra Martheze - 17th
Odin Lipschitz - 17th
Shirley Nel - 21st

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

Connect with us

www.capeorchidsociety.co.za



@capeorchidsociety



@capeorchidsociety

Proposed meeting topics and talks 2021

January 26 - No meeting due to lockdown

February 23 - No meeting due to lockdown

March 23 - How to grow Phragmipediums

April 27 - How to grow Vandas

May 25 - AGM

June 22 - How to grow Cymbidiums

July 27 - How to grow Bulbophyllums

August 24 - Annual auction

September 28 - How to grow Terrestrials

October 26 - How to grow Dendrobiums

November 23 - Christmas party

*Meetings are held on the fourth Tuesday of every month

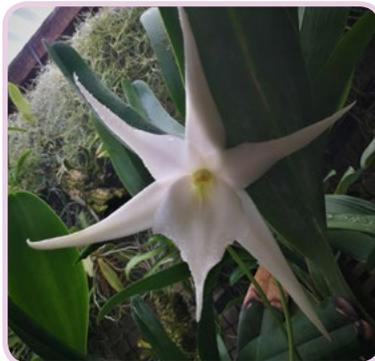
CULTURE | Growing orchids in the Cape

Virtual plant table | *February 2021*

These were the plants on display in our greenhouses during February. Check out www.capeorchidsociety.co.za for all images.



Rlc Liu's Joyance 'Orange'
Grower: Marc Hensburg



Angraecum Lemförde White Beauty
Grower: Gregg Brill



Polystachya Green Mamba
Growers: Bev and Peter Schram



Prosthechea Edith Arakawa
Growers: Gregg Brill



Dendrobium Mtn's Butterfly Kisses
Growers: Bev and Peter Schram



Stanhopea oculata
Grower: Gregg Brill



Tolumnia Jairak Firm 'Orange Bull' x Rainbow 'Red Sun'
Grower: Gregg Brill



Gauricattonia Toddler 'Little Gem'
Grower: Gregg Brill



Tolumnia Bloody Bird
Grower: Gregg Brill

CULTURE | Growing orchids in the Cape



Cattlianthe Pannavee Beauty
Growers: Gregg Brill



Phragmipedium Calurum
Grower: Gregg Brill



Restrepia trichoglossa
Grower: Gregg Brill



Promenaea Crawshaya
Growers: Bev and Peter Schram



Vanda Robert's Delight
Growers: Bev and Peter Schram



Vanda Khaoyai Blue
Growers: Bev and Peter Schram



Oncidium naevium
Growers: Bev and Peter Schram



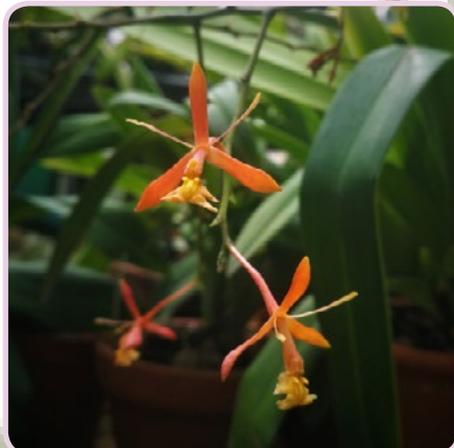
Encyclia alata
Growers: Bev and Peter Schram



Polystachya maculata
Grower: Gregg Brill



Dendrobium lawesii
Growers: Bev and Peter Schram



Epidendrum Teipels Widder
Grower: Peter and Bev Schram



Encyclia (Lorraine Smith) x (Memoria Theodore Orfanedes)
Grower: Gregg Brill



Encyclia Pacilla
Growers: Bev and Peter Schram

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

over R250 000 which gets us close to half 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.

- Banners
- Stationary
- Hiring of trestles and table tops (twice a year)
- Plant pots
- Bark, stone, polystyrene balls and other growing media
- Large ziplock bags
- 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 this month: R407.09
Funds raised last month: R248.17

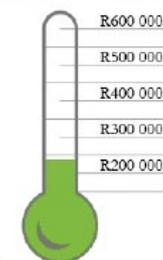
Sponsoring the Endangered Cape Orchid Project



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: R270 000
Still to go: R330 000

Fundraising Goals



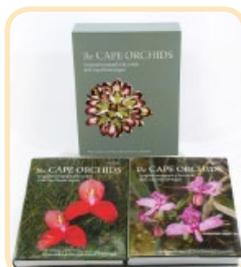
COS sponsors

The COS is very grateful to the following companies who continue to support the culture and conservation efforts of the Society. If you or your company would like to support the COS, please contact us. Your support is greatly appreciated!



The Cape Orchids monograph

PRICE REDUCED



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. Please contact Bill Liltved directly on 021 789 1069 if you wish to purchase this double-volume collection.

COS Notice Board

Membership fees for 2021

The 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 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 |



COS growing supplies

The COS has developed a number of items perfect for growing orchids in the Cape. So whether you need hand-made potting mix, orchid fertilisers or pots, give us a shout and we'll kit you out. Contact Bev Schram to order your supplies.

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 2021

1 - 3 Oct - Cape Orchid Society Spring Show, Richard Crowie Hall, Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens (tentative)

Other shows and events will be based on lockdown levels

Commercial greenhouse open days 2021

Duckitt Nurseries (Darling)

1 May | 9am - 12pm

5 June | 9am - 12pm

3 July | 9am - 12pm

7 Aug | 9am - 12pm

4 Sep | 9am - 12pm

TBC | 9am - 12pm | Open weekend

2 Oct | 9am - 12pm

6 Nov | 9am - 12pm

Eikenhoff Nursery (Stanford)

Contact the nursery to make an appointment

Members' greenhouse open days 2021

TBC

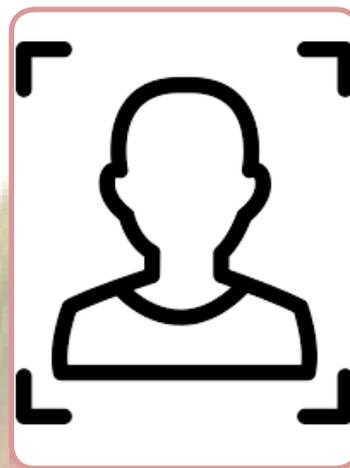
Member-led hikes 2021

TBC

Cape Orchid Society Committee *2019/20*



Gregg Brill
President
Newsletter editor
072 376 7045



Vacant
Secretary



Pierre Rossouw
Treasurer
072 376 7045



Beverley Schram
Events chair
083 252 4659



Christo Geringer
Communications
082 696 2775



Jean Allen
Meeting coordinator
079 096 0976



Heino Papenfus
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082 373 4864