

# Cape ORCHID Society

Diamond Jubilee | 1957 - 2017

## Newsletter | March 2021

### News from the Cape Orchid Society

Unfortunately the Athenaeum is still experiencing technical difficulties with their aircon, which means the hall would be very hot and have limited air movement. As such, we will NOT host a meeting in March. We hope to hold our monthly meetings again from April.

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 COS WhatsApp group has been set up 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. If you are a member and have not received communications from this group, please let Christo know so that he can add your details to this group.

Please note that our first greenhouse open day for 2021 will take place on **11 April** between **9 - 11am**. Odin Lipschitz will open his greenhouse to COS members so come along and see how another grower does things. More details will be shared via the WhatsApp group. See you there!

### NEXT MEETING

No monthly meeting in March due to a faulty aircon at the Athenaeum :(

### Birthday wishes

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

#### March

Pierre Martheze	1st
Jenny Scarr	1st
Alan Lipschitz	2nd
Sandi Arnott	5th
Margaret Abbott	11th
Errol Scarr	17th
Jen Thunstrom	26th
Matteo Cicognani	29th

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

### Connect with us

[www.capeorchidsociety.co.za](http://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** - No meeting due to faulty aircon

**April 27** - How to grow Phragmipediums

**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 | *March 2021*

These were the plants on display in our greenhouses during February. Check out [www.capeorchidsociety.co.za](http://www.capeorchidsociety.co.za) for all images.



*Dendrobium Hibiki*

**Grower:** Gavin Routledge



*Zygonisia Cynosure 'Blue Bird'*

**Grower:** Gavin Routledge



*Oncostele Catatante*

**Growers:** Abraham & Carine Vermeulen



*Cattleytonia Kelvin Metcalf*

**Growers:** Abraham & Carine Vermeulen



*Psychopsis Kalihi*

**Grower:** Gavin Routledge



*Bulbophyllum fritillariiflorum*

**Growers:** Abraham & Carine Vermeulen



*Disa Blue Bird*

**Grower:** Jim Holmes



*Dendrobium Hibiki*

**Growers:** Abraham & Carine Vermeulen



*Brassavola flagellaris*

**Growers:** Abraham & Carine Vermeulen

# CULTURE | Growing orchids in the Cape



*Stanhopea jenischiana*

**Grower:** Gavin Routledge



*Lycaste Rowland*

**Grower:** Gavin Routledge



*Tolumnia Jairak Rainbow*

**Growers:** A & C Vermeulen



*Cattleya harpophylla*

**Growers:** Abraham & Carine Vermeulen



*Rhyntonleya Hwa Yuan Bay 'She Shu'*

**Growers:** Abraham & Carine Vermeulen



*Gongora galeata 'Dhow'*

**Grower:** Gavin Routledge



*Habınaria barbertonia*

**Grower:** Jim Holmes



*Phragmipedium pearcei*

**Grower:** Chris Randlehoff



*Brassavola cucullata*

**Growers:** Abraham & Carine Vermeulen

# CULTURE | Growing orchids in the Cape



*Lc Moochie 'Johaam'*  
**Grower:** Gavin Le Grange



*Paphiopedilum Harrisianum*  
**Growers:** Abraham & Carine Vermeulen



*Phragmipedium pearcei*  
**Growers:** A & C Vermeulen



*Polystachya, Stenoglottis, Disa, Calanthe*  
**Grower:** Nulda Beyers



*Cattleya (harrisoniana x Nitsi)*  
**Growers:** Abraham & Carine Vermeulen



*Cattleya Lana se Kind x R/c Cape Blush*  
**Growers:** A & C Vermeulen



*Phragmipedium schlimii*  
**Grower:** Chris Randlehoff



*Phragmipedium Elizabeth March*  
**Grower:** Chris Randlehoff



*R/c Husky Boy 'Romeo'*  
**Growers:** A & C Vermeulen



*Phragmipedium Sedenii*  
**Grower:** Chris Randlehoff



*Phragmipedium Ainsworthii 'Anchol' HCC/AOS*  
**Grower:** Chris Randlehoff



*Cattleya Louise Beal*  
**Growers:** A & C 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

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/](http://www.myschool.co.za/supporter/apply/)

**Funds raised this month:** R407.09  
**Funds raised last month:** R248.17

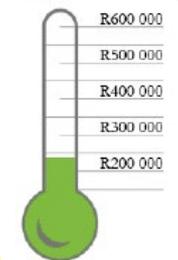
## Sponsoring the Endangered Cape Orchid Project



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



## 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

Odin Lipschitz - 11 April | 9 - 11am

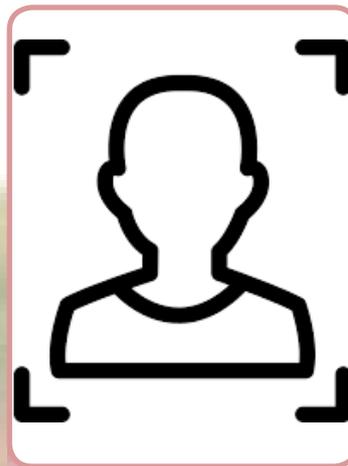
### Member-led hikes 2021

TBC

# Cape Orchid Society Committee *2019/20*



**Gregg Brill**  
President  
Newsletter editor  
072 376 7045



**Vacant**  
Secretary



**Bruce Grater**  
Treasurer  
082 808 8788



**Beverley Schram**  
Events chair  
083 252 4659



**Christo Geringer**  
Communications  
082 696 2775



**Jean Allen**  
Meeting coordinator  
079 096 0976



**Heino Papenfus**  
Librarian  
082 373 4864