



Cape ORCHID Society

Diamond Jubilee | 1957 - 2017

Newsletter | May 2021

News from the Cape Orchid Society

We will hold our AGM in May. We will tackle some of the admin tasks like nominating and voting in our new committee and also discussing the plans for the next year. If you'd like to nominate someone for a role on the committee please click [here](#) to access the nomination form. Forms can be mailed to president@capeorchidsociety.co.za before the monthly meeting. Unfortunately, forms cannot be accepted on the night of the AGM.

The Society held a very successful orchid sale on Sunday 2 May. Thank you to Peter and Bev Schram for hosting the event at their home in Bishops court. The profits raised from the event will support the culture and conservation efforts of the COS.

Recently, the committee tidied up the library and donated a number of the older books and reference material to the Stellenbosch University Botanical Gardens. While tidying up, we noted that our copy of The Cape Orchids is not in the library. If anyone has taken these books out, please let us know so that we can make a note of this.

NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 25 May 2021 | 19h00
The Athenaeum, Newlands

Annual General Meeting

Join us as we vote in the new committee and plan the year ahead.

Birthday wishes

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

Christo Geringer - 1st
Jean Allen - 11th
Joan Hart - 19th
Bes Gous - 21st
Steve Bull - 26th
Pierre Robertson - 30th

*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 - 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

Plant table | *April 2021*

These were the plants on display at our monthly meeting in April. Check out www.capeorchidsociety.co.za for all images.

1st



Bulbophyllum medusae

Grower: Alex Anderson

2nd



Cattlianthe Portia 'Etta Gray'

Grower: Gregg Brill

3rd



Stenoglottis Kirstenbosch

Growers: Jim Holmes

Members
Choice



Cattleya Love Castle 'Kurenai'

Grower: Gregg Brill



Pterostylis concinna

Grower: Jim Holmes



Pterostylis rogersii

Grower: Jim Holmes



Cattleya trianae

Grower: Christo Geringer

CULTURE | Growing orchids in the Cape



Cattleya Pastoral 'Innocence'
Grower: Jean Allen



Guaricattonia Chyong Guu Cherry
Grower: Jean Allen



Cattleya intermedia var alba
Grower: Christo Geringer



Phragmipedium Calurum
Grower: Gregg Brill



Oeceoclades lonchophylla
Grower: Jim Holmes



Vanda Pachara Delight 'Pachara'
Grower: Gregg Brill

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: R261.31
Funds raised last month: R320.00

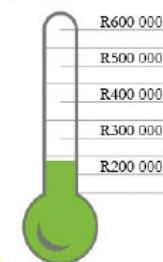
Sponsoring the Endangered Cape Orchid Project



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: R280 000
Still to go: R320 000

Fundraising Goals



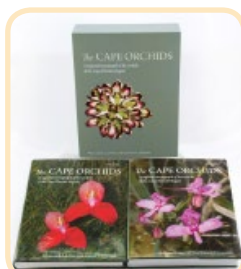
COS sponsors

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

2 May - Orchid Sale, 5 Hildalan Lane, Bishopscourt

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)

29 May | 8am - 12pm

Members' greenhouse open days 2021

Odin Lipschitz - 11 April | 9 - 11am

Member-led hikes 2021

TBC

Cape Orchid Society Committee *2019/20*



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Newsletter editor
072 376 7045



Vacant
Secretary



Bruce Grater
Treasurer
082 808 8788



Beverley Schram
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