

## Upcoming Events

### 2016

9-10 July - ACOS Show

17<sup>th</sup> July – **Plantae visit**

23-24 July - Queensburgh  
Orchid Society Show

30-31 July - **S.A.O.C. Orchid  
Lover's Fair**

1-4 Sept - GOS Show

2-4 Sept - ZOS Show

2-4 Sept - Rustenburg Orchid  
Society Show,

3 Sept - ACOS Day Display

9-11 Sept - National  
Conference & Show,  
Pietermaritzburg

3-4 Sept – **EROS Show**

17-18 Sept – NOS Show

17-18 Sept– COS Show,

30 Sep & 1 Oct – WBOS Show

30 Sep - 2 Oct - EPOS Show,

7-9 Oct – **WOS Show**

27-30 Oct – TOG Show

### 2017

19-22 Nov – 22nd World  
Orchid Conference, Guayaquil,  
Ecuador



# WITWATERSRAND ORCHID SOCIETY

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*Fun & Friendship Through Orchids*

**JUNE 2016**

**June Meeting: 26<sup>th</sup> June 2016**

TOPIC: **The Curtis Botanical Magazine - Kew Gardens**

SPEAKER: **Bill Mincher**

TIME: 13h00: Tea, coffee and eats

14h00: General Meeting.

VENUE: The Floreum, Johannesburg Botanical Gardens, Oliphants Road,  
Emmerentia Dam

***Please note that the road over the dam wall is now open.***

### TEA DUTY

The members on Tea Duty at the June meeting  
are:

Mishi Rieckhoff

Stuart Smith

Please volunteer for Tea Duty (2 members per  
month). It is not difficult and no skill is needed for  
this duty.

### RAFFLE

None as the May meeting was cancelled

### FLASKS FOR SALE

There are 3 flasks remaining and these will be sold at  
the June meeting. They are all the Cymbidium cross as  
described in the email sent out before the April  
meeting. The price per flask is R120

***Cymbidium {(pumilum x sanderae) x Red Sox}***

## THE PLANT TABLE – MAY 2016

By Allan Abel

**There is no Plant Table Report this month as the May meeting was cancelled**

### Rare orchid discovered growing on roof of Islington Council building

( Ex article in Islington Gazette, UK)



*Cllr Claudia Webbe admires the **Anacamptis morio** orchid on the green roof in Holloway*

Botanists were left stunned this week after a rare orchid was discovered growing closer to central London than ever before - on the roof of an Islington Council building

The purple flowered, green-winged orchid (*Anacamptis morio*) was discovered by council staff on the green roof of the Household Reuse and Recycling Centre in Holloway, and is the first to be found growing on a green roof in the UK. Green roofs are a system of roofing that uses plant life for roof covering instead of traditional covering materials.

Distinguishable by green veins on the outer parts of the flower, the rare lone orchid requires highly specific conditions to germinate. Past discoveries in or around London have been rare, with just a few found in outer London



“This is a very exciting find and its importance should not be underestimated,” said Cllr Claudia Webbe, Islington Council’s executive member for Environment and Transport. “It just shows that even in inner-city, urban areas you can create the kind of conditions that encourage and nurture the rarest wildlife there is.” Orchid specialist and London Wildlife Trust conservation ecologist Mike Waller, who verified the finding, said he was “amazed” when he heard of the discovery. “There are only really one or two sites in London where it still flowers today,” he said. “This is an example of the quality and good management of this green roof.”

The green roof was installed on the building in 2004, and Dusty Gedge, president of the European Federation of Green Roof Associations, praised Islington Council’s forward planning after the discovery. “It’s only a little thing but it’s quite an exciting story. What’s really fascinating for me is that you do something 12 years ago through the planning process and suddenly something special turns up,” he said. “This would not have happened without good planning.”

Islington Council has approved nearly 54,000 m<sup>2</sup> of green roofs since 2006, and Cllr Webbe said she can’t wait to see what else they have in store.

### **Plantae Greenhouse Visit**

We have organised a visit to Plantae Orchids in Brits on **Sunday, 17<sup>th</sup> July**. This will be a social outing and a “bring-and-braai” has been organised. Plantae will supply the braai fires and members must bring food, drinks, cutlery, chairs and all other item they need. Family members are welcome to come along and enjoy the day with us out in the country.

To get directions to Plantae Orchids, please go to their website at;

<http://www.plantae.co.za/directions-plantae-orchids.html>

This should be a fun day with the opportunity to see Plantae’s facilities and orchids, and the chance to go away with the orchid you have always wanted!

## Home Remedies for Treating Pest & Diseases.

**NOTE: these remedies are not guaranteed to work in your conditions with your plants. Test them out on a sample before using on all your plants.**

There are commercial pesticides, fungicides and algacides which will get rid of pests and diseases. Unfortunately many of them contain dangerous chemicals which can harm mammals and other living things. Luckily there are homemade, organic remedies which are effective but have to be applied regularly to prevent further attacks as they are not usually systemic.

When I grew Disas for the first time, Professor Cyd Cewes, a world expert on growing them, highly recommended that I use Garlic Spray as a cure and a preventative for insect infestations and bacterial/fungal attacks. It is an excellent spray for sucking insects like aphids. Use in place of sulphur sprays to control fungal problems.

### Recipe

1 to 2 heads garlic, chopped

Enough boiling water to cover

Put garlic in the bottom of a mason jar and cover with boiling water. Put lid on and allow to soak overnight, then strain. This will decay, so be sure to freeze leftovers until ready to use again.

Combine with the following ingredients in a bucket and mix well.

1 to 2 tablespoons liquid soap

1 liter water

Spray as required and make sure to cover all surfaces of the plant. Avoid spraying in the heat of the day and in direct sun.

### **Committee Members**

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