

Upcoming Events

2017

13-21 Sep - COS Spring Show

29 Sept - 1 Oct - WOS Spring Show

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



WITWATERSRAND ORCHID SOCIETY

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Fun & Friendship Through Orchids

AUGUST 2017

Meeting: 27TH August 2017

TOPIC:	Frikkie Marais	
SPEAKER:	Encyclias	
TIME:	13h00	Tea, coffee and eats
	14H00	Main Meeting
VENUE:	The Floreum, Johannesburg Botanical Gardens, Oliphants Road, Emmerentia Dam	

TEA DUTY

The members on Tea Duty in August are:

Gladys & Brian Simms

Please volunteer for Tea Duty (2 members per month). It is very social and no skill is needed for this duty.

RAFFLE

The winner of the **Lc. Hsin Buu Lady** was **Marinus Kort**. Congratulations.

Rosalie Schmid

It was with great sadness that the Committee learnt of the death of Rosalie on 16th August, after a long illness.

Rosalie met Erhard at a SAOC Show and moved to Johannesburg, where they were married. Rosalie was a member of the WOS Committee for several years, where she served as the Show Chairperson. In addition she regularly did the catering for shows and the WOS' Year-end Functions.

Rosalie was a keen orchid grower with a particular interest in the indigenous orchids of South Africa.

Our condolences go to Erhard, her family and friends in this difficult time.

She will be missed.

Orchid Lovers Fair

A very successful Show was held at the Walter Sisulu Botanical Gardens over the last weekend in July

Congratulations to all the prize winners, including Bill Mincher. One of his plants was judged as being one of the TOP 3 Plants on Show.



Cym (Edith Piaf 'Bananarama x Khairpour 'Perfection')

THE PLANT TABLE – JULY 2017

By Allan Abel

Reminder of the rules of the plant table

Every member is encouraged to bring and share their flowering orchids with other members.

However, for plants to be entered in the prize selection process, they must comply with the following rules

- All plants must have been grown by the owners for at least 6 months.
- Novice section is for those members who are new to growing orchids. A Novice will cease to be a Novice when they;
 - o win a Red Ribbon at a WOS Show or
 - o win the annual Plant Table Annual Prize.

This month, the plant table consisted of 12 orchids belonging to 6 members. The very small table was due to members exhibiting plants at the Orchid Lovers Fair, which was held on the same weekend.

The African/Mascarene section had only 2 plants, both belonging to Karsten Wodrich. They were ***Eulophia tuberculata*** and ***Eulophia hians var inequalis***.

There were also 2 Dendrobium plants, both belonging to Mandy & Marinus Kort. They comprised ***Den Specio-kingianum*** (*speciosum x kingianum*) and ***Den* (Berry x Ranger 'Festival')**.

2 is definitely the favourite number this month, there being 2 plants of the Oncidiinae on display. This time the 2 plants belonged to Chris Steckner, being ***Miltoniopsis Red Knight 'Grail' AM/AOS*** (Piccadilly x Mrs. J. B. Crum) and ***Aspasia Frank Johnston*** (*epidendroides x Principissa*).

There were 2 Other Species this month and they were Chris' ***Masdevallia medusa*** and Erhard's ***Cattleya coccinea***.

The Other Hybrids section comprised 4 orchids. Chris tabled a ***Paphiopedilum Hsinying Macabre*** (Pulsar x Macabre), Erhard Schmid brought his ***Vanda (testacea x garayi)***, Sheila Davis exhibited a ***Cymbidium unknown hybrid*** and Ancebeth & Jan Grobler showed a ***Phalaenopsis unknown hybrid***.

The favourite orchids, as selected by the members, were

BEST AFRICAN / MASCARENE



Eul hians var inequalis owned by
Karsten Wodrich

BEST HYBRID



Milt Red Knight 'Grail' AM/AOS
owned by Chris Steckner

BEST SPECIES



Cattleya coccinea owned by
Erhard Schmid

BEST NOVICE



Phalaenopsis unknown owned by
Ancebeth & Jan Grobler

Feeling Potty?

Excellent drainage pots

Generally, the pots we buy at the local nursery or DIY store are perfectly adequate for our requirements. However, there are sometimes orchids that need a container that is more specifically designed for their needs. The problem then is where do you find these pots?

The problem can be solved by a little ingenuity and “thinking outside of the box”

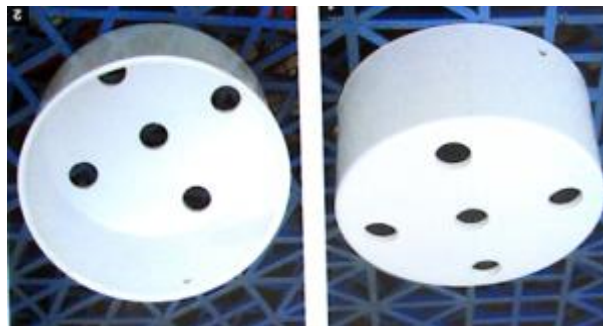
If you are looking for a container that drains well, allows air movement around the roots and in which they dry out quickly, most of us turn to baskets. However, these have a limited life-span which is very dependent on the wood used. Perhaps the answer is those baskets which hold your pool chemicals.



These baskets are sturdy, probably long-lasting as they are designed to withstand chemicals and have excellent drainage holes all around the sides, which can be made bigger. The disadvantages are limited sizes available and high cost.

Shallow pots

There are orchids that do not seem to like a normal pot and grow much better in wide, shallow pots. Some examples of these orchids are Bulbophyllum, Mediocar, Pleione, some Dendrobiums, Stenoglottis, Ludisia and miniature Cattleyas. A suggestion from Daniel Duda in the AOS' "Orchids" Magazine, Vol 86 No. 1 January 2017) is to use PVC drainage pipe cap-ends.



Drainage holes can easily be drilled in the bottom, the smooth inner surface means roots can be easily removed from them, they are strong enough to be drilled into without weakening them, come in various sizes and they are very long-lasting. However, they are more expensive than ordinary pots

Do any members have other suggestions for alternative pots/containers for our orchids?

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