

Upcoming Events

2018:

1 - 2 Sep – QOC Spring Show
7 - 9 Sep - Plantae Orchid Club Spring Show
13 - 15 Sept – SCOS Spring Show
21 - 23 Sept – EPOS Spring Show
28 - 29 Sept - Walker Bay OS Show,
28 - 30 Sept – COS Spring Show
28 - 30 Sept – WOS Spring Show,
13 - 14 Oct – NOS Spring Show,
26 – 28 Oct - TOG Spring Show



WITWATERSRAND ORCHID SOCIETY

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Fun & Friendship Through Orchids

AUGUST 2018

Meeting: SUNDAY, 26TH AUGUST 2018

TOPIC: Growing Specimen Orchids
HOST: Chris Hammond
TIME: 13h00 – Tea and snacks
14h00 – General Meeting
VENUE: The Floreum, Joburg Botanical Gardens,
Oliphants Rd, Emmerentia

TEA DUTY

Mandy & Marinus Kort

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

RAFFLE

The **Cym Moonglow** (donated by Bill Mincher) was won by **Margaret Peters**

SPRING SHOW

By now you should be busy staking, cleaning and sorting out your plants for the Show. Make sure leaves and pots are cleaned, and all dead leaves, sheaths and weeds are removed.

The dates of the Show are:

- 26th Sept Plant acceptance 1pm -6pm
- 27th Sept Judging 9am – 12pm
- 27th Sep Display set-up 12pm onwards
- 28 – 30 Open to Public 9am – 4pm

THE PLANT TABLE – JULY 2018

By Allan Abel

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 Plant Table Annual Prize.

This month, the plant table consisted of 20 orchids belonging to 5 members.

Erhard Schmid

Tridactyle tricuspis

Chris Steckner

Den monophyllum

Paph purpuratum

Paph appletonianum

Calanthe Saint Aubin

Onc huyphaematicum

Coelogyne mossiae

Keith Palmer

C Chief Snow

Wandy & Marinus Kort

Paph insigne

Ctt Japanese Beauty

Paph villosum

Cym Dinki Di

Cym Darch Curfew

David Eastman

C Bow Bells

Paph British Concord

Ctt (Gold Digger x Baultanda) (?)

Den (nobile x Joyful Heart)

Den Sacura Hime (?)

Miltoniopsis Newton Falls

Den speciosum

The favourite orchids, as selected by the members, were

BEST HYBRID



Miltoniopsis Newton Falls owned by
Dave Eastman

BEST AFRICAN / MASCARENE



Tridactyle tricuspis owned by
Erhard Schmid

BEST NOVICE

Nil

BEST SPECIES



Dendrobium speciosum owned by
Dave Eastman

Official Naming of the Albertina Sisulu Orchid
(*Brachycorythis conica* ssp. *transvaalensis*)

The critically endangered orchid, *Brachycorythis conica* ssp. *transvaalensis*, was officially named the Albertina Sisulu Orchid at the launch of the Sisulu Circle at the Walter Sisulu National Botanical Garden on the 10th July 2018.



The new Walter Sisulu Circle

The prestigious event was attended by members of the Sisulu family, the Minister of Environmental Affairs Dr. Edna Molewa, The Minister of Tourism Mr. Dereck Hanekom, as well as representatives of the Department of Environmental Affairs, SANBI, Mogale City Municipality and community members.



The Sisulu family and other guests

Karsten Wodrich, Vice Chairman of WOSA, gave a short presentation to the reasons why the name, Albertina Sisulu Orchid, was chosen for the critically endangered species. He then presented a limited-edition print of the endangered orchid by renowned artist Daleen Roodt to representatives of the Sisulu Family, Mr Max Sisulu and his wife Elinor. The framed print was jointly sponsored by the Proteadal Conservation Association and Wild Orchids Southern Africa.



Karsten Wodrich, Vice-Chairman WOSA., presenting the Print to the Walter Sisulu family.

Currently the only viable population of some 120 plants of this orchid is found a mere 2.5km from the Sisulu Circle as the Black Eagle flies. This area is currently under threat of development, which will also be encroaching on the hunting grounds of the majestic Black Eagles. The Record of Decision by the MEC to allow development in the area to proceed is currently being contested in a High Court application by community organisations.

FROM A TO Z – Part 3

(An alphabetical selection of natural Orchid Genera)

Neomoorea

This monotypic genus is found in northern Columbia and Panama, growing at 100m-500m elevations. This warm-growing plant is normally epiphytic, but occasionally semi-terrestrial, and needs regular watering throughout the year.

This species often will not bloom until it is a large, mature plant. In common with *Ansellia africana*, it produces upright spiny, aerial roots around the base of the plant.



Neomoorea wallisii



Ophrys speculum

Ophrys

This genus comprises about 20 species according to a recent reclassification of the genus. Each species can have many varieties and the inter-breed regularly resulting confusion as to the actual number of true species. This terrestrial genus occurs in Europe, North Africa, Asia Minor, and in Asia up to the Caucasus Mountains.

The plants are miniature to small and grow in in short, poor grasslands, banks, abandoned cultivation, and open woodlands at elevations of up to 1200 meters.

Plectrelminthus

This monotypic genus is widespread in West Africa and grow epiphytically in forests which are warm, humid and there is strong light. They can be grown under typical hot *Vanda* conditions. The pendant spikes of large, non-resupinate flowers are produced in late winter and spring.



Plectrelminthus caudatus



Quekettia papillosa

Quekettia

There are very few genera starting with Q. There are 4 species in this genus all found in northern South America south to Brazil, and mostly in the hot, humid lowlands. This genus belongs to the Sub-tribe Oncidiinae. The genus is characterized by the small plants with tiny, single leafed pseudobulbs carrying fleshy, red-spotted, terete to semi terete leaves.

Rhizanthella

There are 3 species in this amazing holomycotrophic (*plant deriving its nutrition solely from a mycorrhizal symbiosis*), terrestrial genus that spends most of its life underground. The only time the plant is visible above ground is when it blooms. The genus is confined to either south-eastern or south-western Australia. The plants are small or micro-mini and the only time they are seen is when the flowers just break through the surface.



Rhizanthella gardneri flower



Rhizanthere slateri buds

Committee Members

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