

THE SOUTH COAST ORCHID CLUB GAZETTE

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MONTHLY MEETING

Our next Monthly Meeting will be held at the LUTHERAN CHURCH HALL,
Windsong Court, Christies Beach on TUESDAY MAY 11 at 8 p m.

PROGRAMME.

A videotape entitled 'Growing Orchids for Pleasure' will be screened. This programme was prepared by the American Nursery of Jones & Scully and whilst it does emphasise orchids which are generally most suitable to the climate of Florida, nevertheless it does give some very useful information.

MONTHLY FLORAL COMPETITION

The usual Monthly competition will be held. Student Judges on duty:-
Brenda Lynch, Lewis Moore and Geof Speer.

IT HAS BECOME A REQUIREMENT OF SOME CLUBS TO INSIST THAT AN EXHIBITORS NUMBER SHALL BE PAINTED ON THE POTPLANT. TO AVOID THE POSSIBILITY OF SOME MEMBERS HAVING TO HAVE MORE THAN ONE NUMBER PAINTED ON THE POT YOUR COMMITTEE HAS DECIDED TO ALLOCATE TO MEMBERS OF 'SOUTH COAST' THE SAME NUMBER WHICH THEY HAVE AT THE ORCHID CLUB OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

Will members so involved kindly inform the Show Secretary forthwith of their number so that the necessary alterations can be made in Club records; importantly before the Winter Show. It is the responsibility of each Club member to inform the number and it should not be taken for granted that the number has been automatically allocated.

AT ALL FUTURE MEETINGS PLANTS MUST BE BENCHED BY 7.45 p m.

This is to enable judging to commence, thereby avoiding the embarrassing delay which has been occurring during a meeting. Members are requested to move away from the plant benches.

CYMBIDIUM NEWS Points to watch Late May to end of August

Advice given by Harry Lambert at the November meeting 1981.

1. Reduce feeding of fertilizer to every two or three weeks
2. Use balanced fertilizer with occasional supplementary feeding of high phosphorous potash boost.
3. Keep compost neutral ph.
4. Protect flowers from damage, d.e. snails, birds, slugs.
5. Protect flowers from damage, i.e. thrip and red spider. Use either insecticide dust applied with dust gun or use of soil systemic insecticide such as Temik (caution - highly toxic) or Dysiston.
6. Ensure buds are obtaining adequate light.
7. In very cold districts (night temperatures below 5C) provide artificial heat (for some cymbidium varieties.)
8. Appropriately stake or string flower spikes.
9. Manipulate (in warm part of day) recalcitrant buds.

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NATIVE ORCHIDS IN YOUR CYMBIDIUM HOUSE***Dendrobium x delicatum***

In natural growing situations several *Dendrobiums* cross pollinate. The first one of these to be described is the crossing between *Den. speciosum* and *Den. kingianum* which is named *Den. x delicatum*. The plant is classed as a lithophyte (Rock dweller) and is usually fast growing, robust plant, easily grown in the cym house. If combined with both parents it would be noticed that the parts of the plant i.e. canes, leaves, flowers, etc. are close to midway form of both. The flower colour varies from white through cream to pink and mauve, usually about 10 on a raceme. Stems taper from the base to the leaves numbering from 2 to 6. Flowering in springtime a well grown, well flowered specimen plant is a desirable addition to a collection. Back cutting in the spring on the older back canes can assist in growing a specimen plant much quicker.

De. x delicatum resents wet feet so keep the base of the *Den. x delicatum* on top of a good open compost, large bark pieces interspersed with large gravel pieces, allowing air around the roots and eliminating water logging. Hold the plant at the desired height in your planter and carefully feed the compost around the roots. A stake is helpful if the plant is unable to stand by itself.

Containers are chosen by considering your watering habits, the more frequent the watering, the more open the pot. I favour slat baskets allowing roots to come through the compost and wander over the wooden basket. My plants hang over the cym and under 70% shade cloth as the position receives sun most of the day.

If the plant is new, unestablished, and has very few roots then more protection should be given before hanging in the flowering position.

Fertilize sparingly (any of the commercial products) broken down below recommended strength and use only in GROWING SEASON. i.e. when the white roots have a green growing tip. The longer the tip the more active the plant. Only fertilize after watering.

Den. x delicatum multiplies by forming keikies on unflowered eyes so plant supplies are not hard to obtain.

An excellent and easy to grow plant for your collection.

Ack. Northern & Eastern District Orchid Journal (Feb. 1982) D. Wells.

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MEANING OF THE TERM 'LITHOPHYTE'

Plants which grow on rocks but derive their nourishment from the atmosphere and from accumulated humus.

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A DAY TO RESERVE SUNDAY 20 JUNE

JOURNEY BY CHARTERED BUS TO JOHNSTONE'S NURSERY, HIGHBURY;
TOUR OF NURSERY WILL INCLUDE CULTURAL ADVICE; ENJOY A
BARBECUE LUNCH AND OTHER ACTIVITY; EXCHANGE KNOWLEDGE ON
ORCHID CULTURE.

CONVENIENT PICK UP POINTS TO JOIN BUS BEING ARRANGED.

TOTAL COST WILL NOT EXCEED \$11 PER PERSON - BE PREPARED TO
RESERVE YOUR SEAT AT MAY MEETING AND PAY DEPOSIT

New books in library

The following new books have been purchased:-

Growing Orchids - Cymbidiums and Paphiopedilums	J N Rentoul
Orchids in Color	Rittershausen
All about Orchids	An Orchid Review Publication
Growing Ferns -	A beginners guied to hardy Australian Ferns and their culture by Ray Best

New members:-

We welcome the following new members:-

Malcolm J Mangelsdorf Commercial Road Port Noarlunga S outh

Mr & Mrs C B Cuy 58 6th Avenue, Ascot Park 5043

Mrs E D Stevens Foggo's Road McLaren Flat.

THE SOUTH COAST ORCHID CLUB OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA INCORPORATED
 PRIZE SCHEDULE - WINTER SHOW - COLONNADES SHOPPING CENTRE
 19 JULY 1982 to 24 JULY 1982 BENCHING 17 JULY 1982

Champion Bloom of the Show Bronze Medallion and \$30

Champion Miniature Cymbidium	Club Medallion
Champion Novelty Cymbidium	Club Medallion
Champion Standard Cymbidium	Club Medallion
Champion Bloom from all other genera not otherwise classified	Club Medallion

A trophy to the value of \$5 will be awarded in each of the Open/First/Second Divisions in each of the following Classes:

Paphiopedilum - Species	Cymbidiums:-
Paphiopedilums - Hybrid	Best Standard
Paphiopedilum - Novelty	Best Standard Seedling
Cattleya	Best Standard Specimen
Phalaenopsis	Best Red/Pink Miniature
Australian Native Terrestrial	Best Green/Yellow Miniature
Australian Native Epiphyte	Best any other color mini.
Best Orchid any other genus not otherwise classified	Best Seedling Miniature
Best Seedling any genus other than Cymbidium	Best Specimen Miniature
	Best Red/Pink Novelty
	Best Green/Yellow Novelty
	Best any other color Novelty
	Best Seedling Novelty
	Best Specimen Novelty

In each Division a special prize of \$20 for the best group of three Cymbidiums comprising one each of Standard, Novelty and Miniature - exhibitors must lodge nomination sheet specifying the plants to be judged for this prize. Pots must be marked with the exhibitors number - plants to be labelled in correct color coding and have name of plant and exhibitors number clearly visible.

The Savings Bank of South Australia Trophy:-

To be awarded to the most successful exhibitor in the aggregate of points in the Winter and Spring Shows.

N.B. The Spring Show prize schedule is being up-graded in Open Division to provide for second prizes.

DEFINITIONS:-

'SEEDLING' shall mean a plant (being the whole clone undivided) not exhibited at a Show, Meeting or Award judging in a previous flowering season since being raised from seed. For exhibition purposes seedlings shall retain their status of seedlings throughout the flowering season in which they are first exhibited at a Show, Meeting or Award Judging.

Specimen Cymbidium: It is expected that the plant exhibited shall carry five flowering spikes.

THE SOUTH COAST ORCHID CLUB OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA INCORPORATED
EXHIBITORS RULES - WINTER SHOW - 1982.

1. All exhibitors must be financial members of The South Coast Orchid Club of South Australia Incorporated.
2. Entries are free.
3. Exhibitors are bound by the Constitution, Rules and By-Laws and special Show Rules of the Club.
4. The opinion of the judges is final and binding and no objections or discussions regarding results will be considered with the one exception of an infringement by an exhibitor of any of the Club's Laws, By-Laws or Show-Rules. Any objection in this case must be lodged in writing with the Club Secretary.
5. The Club accepts no responsibility for any loss, damage or infection suffered by any plant or blooms exhibited.
6. The Club reserves the right to photograph any of the exhibits if it should so wish.
7. In all matters regarding the arrangement and conducting of the Show (with the exception of judging) the Show Marshall/Secretary is the ruling authority.
8. No plants suspected by the Club Virus Adjudicators of being infected with virus will be eligible for competition and such plants will be completely isolated from all other plants.
9. The exhibition areas will be closed during the judging. No exhibitors, public or members other than the Show Marshall/ Secretary, Judges of the Club and Associate Judges will be allowed to remain in the exhibition area during this period.
10. Non-exhibitors are requested not to congregate in the exhibition area immediately prior to judging so that officials can arrange plants and perform other necessary duties unhindered.
11. Plants must be labelled with the colored labels provided by the Club with the exhibitors number and name of the plant. Supply of these labels can be obtained from the Show Marshall/Secretary or his nominee.
12. All exhibits must be arranged by 4 p m Saturday 17 July.
13. Exhibits must not be removed before 12.30 Saturday 24 July
14. Exhibitors unable to remove their own plants from the Show should provide the person doing so with a letter of authorisation.

SHOW PARTICIPATION - A GUIDE TO PREPARATION. by Gloria Cotton.

Sooner or later, every amateur orchid grower is faced with the question 'To show or not to Show?' In most cases the initial reaction is 'Oh No! My plants are not good enough.' 'I might make a fool of myself!' Don't give up at this point, for putting up a good show is even more important than winning, and if everyone who feels nervous kept their plants hidden away in the greenhouse, the public would be deprived of seeing a lot of beautiful and interesting plants.

Half the battle is getting your plants to flower in time for a show, but the other half of the battle is in presenting your plants properly - this is where I come in, hopefully to give you the knowhow and consequently the added confidence to win.

Preparation of plants for showing does not begin on the eve of the Show, but it starts in most cases when your flower spikes first appear.

TRAINING OF SPIKES

Let us start with that most popular of orchids, the Cymbidium. It is sensible to mark the situation of a flower spike by placing a cane behind it as soon as the spike appears. Care must be taken not to place the cane down the edge of the flower pot as the roots can be badly damaged. The placing of a cane by your spike is also a reminder to you to water and handle your plant with care.

When the flower spike grows to about 12 inches high, tie it neatly to the cane both for support and to ensure that it grows in a nice upright position. Care must be taken when handling the young spikes as they tend to be brittle and snap easily, so hold in gently but firmly and ease it back towards the cane with a controlled movement. As the spike grows and needs more support and extra ties, add them carefully or you may strangle the spike. Ensure that the spike is held firmly against the cane. When you reach the flower buds a tie should be placed just below the first bud. At this stage you must decide whether to let your flower spike grow straight up or gracefully arch. As guidance, you should try to avoid letting your spray arch if it has less than eight flower heads. If you decide you want an erect spike continue to tie your spike to the cane at intervals between the flower buds, and remember to cut your cane off below the top bud. If you wish to let your spray arch, you can either leave your spike with the top tie just below the first bud and cut your cane short at that point, or if it has a large spike and needs extra support, a strong but pliable piece of curved wire can be inserted along its length. Here again remember to cut the wire so that it does not extend beyond the end of the flower stem. Miniature cymbidiums can be treated in the same way, placing the canes in the best position for the flowers to clear the foliage and be shown to best advantage.

Ack:- 'All About Orchids' - An Orchid Review Publication.

Gloria concludes her article with this observation:-your plants do not necessarily have to be expensive or of award quality to win; if shown to its best advantage a comparatively mediocre flower can look a great deal better than a poorly grown and poorly shown awarded flower. So cast aside your doubts if you've prepared your plants well - be confident, have fun, and above all be a good sport; accepting the Judge's decision is final.

CONTROLLING ROT IN ORCHIDS

Generally leaves are the indicators to the health of a plant, but the difficulty comes in deciding just what is the problem and how to deal with it. In many cases it can be traced to the root system, or even the joint between the root (psuedo bulb) bulb and the leaves. Fast treatment is a must because the trouble can be caused by Brown Rot. Although we are fortunate in South Australian conditions (our drier atmosphere inhibits its commencement) there is a similtude in the rotting that will go to work on our orchid plants through lack of control. Many years ago, it was the general opinion in the Sydney area that overhead watering of the plants encouraged this Brown Rot and a lot of growers stopped the practice of water over the foliage and bulbs. No doubt where humidity is high an orchid grower must learn when and how to water his plants correctly.

Although many articles have been written on this subject it is still the grower who knows his own conditions and habits best; so the basics must be learned 'at home'. The entry of rot into a bulb occurs quite frequently through the root system soon after repotting or dividing and this is the time to look carefully for indications that all is not well at this important growing cycle of the plant. In the Cattleya genus, rot can commence from the severed protion of the old flower stem, again possibly because of excessive water over the foliage. To avoid this infection, some growers dust sulphur powder on all cut stems be it Cattleyas, Cymbidiums or whatever. It is almost impossible to save a complete plant, but a back-cut or back bulb, unaffected by rot can often be saved and grown on to replace the diseased one. In the case of early discovery, the part showing rot must be severed from the plant and the remainder treated with an anti-fungus powder or liquid. Strict watering with just enough to keep the growths from dehydrating will be necessary until healthy leaves are indicated. This can be a long process but if the plant is a treasured one, patience will be there to take these special nursing attentions. The important lesson in all this is to be very careful about watering, one must know and understand the nature of the compost used, the humidity of the growing house, room between plants, air circulation etc. Just turning on an overhead sprinkler system for a certain time each day during the Summer and may be once a week at other times does not make your plants thrive. What about sunburn if you water in the heat of the day, or the drips from the pot of Cattleya hanging over the cymbidiums? You can adjust both plants to a suitable position. The ends and bends of foliage are other important inspection places. To sum up, orchids need and should get regular and thorough inspections. Lift the pots, check for tiny slugs and snails under the pot or rim; black or brown coloured bulbs or rhizomes should come in for thorough inspection. Soft sappy foliage gives an indication of something wrong. Follow it up, keep your plants healthy, do not over water or overfeed, especially if your compost retains moisture for too long. Plants should be allowed to almost dry out before water is added in almost every instance.

If we spent as much time inspecting our plants in the 'off season' as we do hunting for spikes, I am sure our collections would be in a very healthy state indeed.