

The South Coast Orchid Club Gazette

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MONTHLY MEETING CULTURAL SECTION

Our next Monthly Meeting will be held at the LUTHERAN CHURCH HALL, Windsong Court (formerly Brodie Road), CHRISTIES DOWNS on TUESDAY MAY 9 at 8 p.m.

PROGRAMME

Mr. Trevor Jones, Nursery Supervisor, Botanic Garden Adelaide, will speak on "Shade Houses and Flowering Houses for Orchids and Other Plants."

JUDGES MEETING May Month

The next meeting of Judges and Associates will be held on Thursday 25 May at 7.45 p.m. at the home of Mrs Bubs Gready 2 Margaret Court, Edwardstown. For apologies please phone 276 1773.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Members are advised of the following Show Dates:-

WINTER SHOW July 11 Christies Downs

SPRING SHOW October 1 to October 7 Marion Shopping Centre.

Arranging Saturday 30 Sept. Removing October 7 after 1.30 p.m

At the time that this goes to print the position regarding both the Orchid Club of S.A. and The Orchidaceous Society Spring Show dates is that they both occur during the week preceding our Show. It is understood that their members will be given the opportunity of removing plants on Saturday 30/9/78

The Orchid Connection



G. C. (Bill) White

With the increased number of members competent to act as Judges, the Club Committee have been able to consider the appointment of a Registrar of Judges and it is pleasing to announce that Mr G.C. (Bill) White has consented to accept this position. Your Committee invited Bill to tell the Members something of his background in Orchid growing and we are grateful to Bill for the following article:--

My first interest in Orchids was a notice in a Rundle St's florists window (Sewells I think it was) way back in 1954 which read something like this:-- A display of Orchids will be opened to the public at the home of Mr Allan McAllan on..... all proceeds to the Woodville Spastic Centre.

Little did I know what was in store for me as on viewing same I had unknowingly caught the 'disease'. All my life I had been interested in growing flowers, as a youth it was firstly carnations, gladioli, dahlias etc but the war put paid to this as I served for 4½ years with the 2nd A.I.F. On returning to civy street I was still interested in flowers but could not settle down to a specific interest; on viewing Allan's display I knew where I wanted to go. This was in the days when seedlings were unheard of and back bulbs only available through someone who knew someone. My first purchase was two cymbidium back bulbs at 10/- each from Myers a species tracyianum and a primary hybrid DORIS not that I was technically advanced then. With further purchases and advice from Allan I soon got under way and ever since have gradually got there. In the early 1960's the orchid hobby was opened up with the Dos Pueblos Orchid Co coming on to the Australian market not only with seedlings but with advice too. My knowledge was assisted when Allan seconded by Frank De Rose proposed me as a member of the Orchid Club of S.A. in the middle 1950's and ever since that Club has meant a lot to me. I progressed through various stages of Committee to attain the position of President, but was forced to resign this after one year--an ulcer upset the 'orchid cart.' My interest was in displaying and at each Winter and Spring show I had my share of awards and prizes. I joined the Judges panel where I learnt there is so much to learn- only experience and study can ever help out to attain the ultimate. As Registrar of the South Coast Club it is my intention to do all I can to promote better culture and fellowship in this fine hobby. I ask members to approach me and my panel to assist in any way and in conclusion may I say there is no finer hobby in retirement.

Editors comment:-- Thank you Bill- now we know you better.

M O N T H L Y C O M P E T I T I O N
A P R I L M E E T I N G

The Management Committee is promoting a further incentive to encourage growers to exhibit at Monthly Meetings. From the April Meeting a plant known as 'The President's Flower of the Month' will be selected. The Registrar has been requested to select a plant from each Division for a final selection by the Registrar or appropriate Judges and this will be known as "The President's Flower of the Month" A prize is to be given retrospective when your Committee have decided what the prize will be.

OPEN DIVISION

CYMBIDIUM (min)	Peter Pan 'Greensleeves'	D. May	3
CATTLEYA	BC Languedoc 'Singapore Welcome'	L. & N. Poole	3
PAPHIOPEDILUM	Transvaal	G. C. White	3
	Albion FCC	G. C. White	2
	Unnamed	L. & N. Poole	1
Division Flower of Month			
SPECIES	Paph. Charlesworthii AD/OCSA	G. C. White	3

1ST DIVISION

CYMBIDIUM	Hazelwood Park 'Wisteris'	R. & A. Gowling	3
CATTLEYA	C. Rex x Forbesii x Luteola	Mr & Mrs C. C. Gray	3
	Forbesii x Bowringiana x Amethyaglossa	R. Hill	2
	Unknown	P. Speer	1
CYM (MIN)	Peterpan 'Greensleeves'	R. & A. Gowling	3
SPECIES	C. Labiata Yern	P. Speer	3
	Paph Fairieanum	M. & C. Strout	2
	Malaxis Latifolia	T. Burian	1
MISCELLANEOUS	Onc. Flexuosum	M. & C. Strout	3
	Mil. Tassia Estrelita	R. Hill	2
	Doritis Pulcnerrima x Doritis Buyssoniana	R. Hill	1
Division Flower of Month:--	Onc Flexuosum	M. & C. Strout	

2ND DIVISION

CYMBIDIUM (MIN)	Peterpan 'Greensleeves'	K. Northcote	3
CATTLEYA	Gentle Moments	J. E. Leeder	3
	Pearl Harbour	H. & T. Tormet	2
SPECIES	Paph. Fairrieanum 'Bondila'	H. & T. Tormet	3
	" " 'Fine Dark'	H. & T. Tormet	2
	" Spicerianum Gig	H. & T. Tormet	1
PHALAENOPSIS	Jane Seymour x Dearheart	K. Northcote	3
MISCELLANEOUS	L. Anceps x L. Autumnalis	J. E. Leeder	3

Division Flower of Month:-- Species Paph. Fairrieanum 'Bondila'
H. & T. Tormet

The Presidents Flower of the Month Species Paph Charlesworthii
G. C. White

POPULAR VOTE:-- Orchid Cattleya Mr & Mrs C. C. Gray
Indoor plant Fern R. & A. Gowling.

Judges Vote Indoor Plants: 1. Fern R. & A. Gowling
2. Maidenhair Fern Mr & Mrs C.C.Gray
3. Sanchezia Miss Kay Gowling

Back Bulbs

Those members who divided their Cymbidiums in the spring and saved the back bulbs from the better varieties will by now be expressing satisfaction in admiring the growths.

Propagation by back bulbs is still one of the most satisfactory ways of multiplying your plants. Back bulbs generally are easily handled, grow fast and bloom in some cases in two or three years. It is usual to take all the back bulbs off the plant as they seem to be of little value to vigorous green bulbs.

On examination how good are your results--did you adopt a satisfactory method? Growers have their own way of dealing with the situation:--

1. Planting in the same pot as one of the divisions.
2. Individual pots.
3. Using a 'flat'
4. Plastic sack
5. Placing in an empty clay pot.

Ideally individual pots if you have the luxury of extra room are excellent using your regular planting mix. The bulbs are planted just low enough to hold them in a vertical position.

Those growers who did start their back bulbs in the late spring or early summer probably picked the best time of the year as they do less well as winter approaches in the autumn. The important decision to be made now is to adopt a practice that will in fact promote maximum growth.

As the bulbs sprout and when the new growths reach two to three inches and roots appear, pot into six inch containers. It is often a waste of time to underpot back bulbs, even though growths are small and root systems are not extensive. If you put them into a six inch pot to begin with the growth is much better and it saves the time and expense of unnecessary repotting every few months. A back bulb should progress well in a six inch pot and bloom in that size. It generally takes two years from the time the bulb has been taken to get a good strong green bulb and growth that produce a flower. For those anxious to propagate their stock, it is possible to again detach the back bulb when its growth is well rooted and start the propagation again.

Remember, care must be taken to multiply only the stock that you want for future years,

How To Prepare For The Flowering Season

Spikes are extending, the earliest of the earlys are now in bloom and the flowering season is here. Are you prepared?

We publish hereunder extracts from an article written by Jim Burkey of Santa Barbara Orchid Estate in "The Orchid Advocate" the official journal of The Cymbidium Society of America Inc. :--

"Is there a Cymbidium grower anywhere who dose not feel a tinge of excitement and anticipation at the first sign of a new spike developing? By this time of the year flower spikes are showing on most varieties that will bloom during the coming season, stirring our interest in what we can expect to see in the next few months."

"Midseason spikes begin to appear in late summer and continue to appear."

"Now is a good time to give a final wet spray to gain control over such pests as red spider. By doing so before the buds have emerged from their sheaths you can avoid damage that could occur by spraying with exposed buds or open flowers. This is also the time to try to gain the upper hand over any snail and slug population you may be harboring. Nothing is so discouraging as to grow your plant to perfection and have the buds emerge from the sheaths on several spikes only to be destroyed by some gourmet snail or slug, and these pests can ruin a whole season's growing in a single night or two."

"Once your spikes start to stretch out and extend themselves it is time to start thinking about giving them the care and protection they will need for the flowering season."

"Once a plant is in spike you should also think about giving it more shade in order to improve the color of the flowers. Greens will be a much deeper and clearer green, without the muddy bronze tones, if shaded down. Whites will also be a purer white if grown under more shade, as high light draws out the red pigment in the flower, particularly on the back side of the sepals, making it appear stained. You don't, however want to shade down so heavy that the spikes come soft and weak. The trick is to have just enough light to develop strong spikes while still keeping that good crisp, clean color. Also, shade before the buds break sheath in order to gain the full effect. The exception to this would be with the reds and dark pinks. For good bright colors keep these plants in high light until the spikes are well extended and the buds are close to opening, and you will be amazed at the color improvement."

Since winter is coming on with its short days and cooler temperatures you should be able to get by with less watering. Be sure to keep the plants moist for good strong spikes, but this is not a good time of the year to have the plants too wet. Remember, moist but not wet.

In the past, Cymbidium growers would usually alter their feeding program

at this time of the year by reducing the nitrogen and feeding a type of 'high bloom' to strengthen spikes. Nowadays, many growers continue feeding with a more balance fertilizer, and it is hard to see any difference in results. The plants are not growing as fast at this time of the year and can get by on less fertilizer, but you do want to keep them growing as this could determine what kind of a crop you will have next year.

Finally, be sure to take care of your spikes and train them so the flowers will have a chance to be displayed at their best. Probably the most common way of training spikes is with bamboo stakes and twist-ems." When training spikes try to do so in the warmer part of the day, as they can be very brittle and snap off easily when it is cold. Also try to catch the spike before it is fully extended and "set" and you will find them much easier to work with.

This paying attention to your plants and to the basics of good culture all proves worthwhile when the flowers open on a well displayed spike on a plant grown as well as you can grow it. You can then step back and admire your plant and know what makes growing Cymbidiums so satisfying and fulfilling for people everywhere."

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James Burkey is the Editor of 'The Orchid Advocate' copies of which are in the Club library. It is published bi-monthly and members desiring to obtain their own copy may obtain same by forwarding a subscription of \$18.00 US to Cymbidium Society of America 469 W. Norman Ave, Arcadia California 91006.

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MINIATURE CYMBIDIUM MINUET

Members will recall the tabling of the miniature Cymbidium MINUET at recent meetings. It was about 1942 that miniature cymbidiums drew attention with the flowering of Mr. H. G. Andrews MINUET a novelty cross made by his son with the species insigne and the dwarf species pumilum. At the time this hybrid with small pink flowers on tall racemes established a new trend in Cymbidium hybridization--36 years ago and still a favourite--and miniature cymbidiums much appreciated.

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THOSE TRESTLES

Members will recall an appeal made for those who would be prepared to assist in making trestles for the use of the Club and the Lutheran Church timber being supplied by the Church.

Bill Kiely volunteered to make them in his own workshop and the Committee has expressed it's sincere thanks for a job well done. And now Bill from all the Members--a big thank to a good Clubman.

Balance in Floral Art

BALANCE is one of the most important principles of floral art. It is achieved when the elements of a design is so composed that they give a feeling of stability and security. The proper placement of main stems forming design or pattern will give structural balance.

Visual balance is achieved by the proper use of color and placement in sequence of related sizes of material in conjunction with structural balance. Good proportion in an arrangement is essential for good balance. Texture too can effect balance, remember rough textures look heavier than smooth textures, also color, dark color looks heavier than light colors.

In a modern arrangement we speak of a focal point or area. The focal point is the point of origin or convergence to which the eye is drawn because of the perspective in geometrical pattern. It is the most dominant part of an arrangement. Even though the stems of flowers etc do not reach this point their lines, if continued, would converge at this terminus. By the careful placing of the material in relation to the focal point one is able to produce rhythm in the design. So from this we see that Focal means the most dominant part of an arrangement or the area from which all visible lines appear to radiate.

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FILL IN PLANTS FOR BEGINNERS.

Most beginners start off with Cymbidiums because of ease of culture but soon their tastes wander to other Genera --a normal progression into the World of Orchid Growing. But what to buy that will grow in a shadehouse is a general question. The following list will provide you with Orchids that will thrive in Adelaide and grow equally as well as Cymbidiums in a shadehouse given special attention and with the exercise of common sense.

Australian Natives such as Dendrobiums 'speciosum', 'kingianum', 'gracilicaule', 'delicatum', 'falcorostrum', and their crossings. The Australian Native Dendrobiums flower around September which makes them handy for use in our Spring Shows. A good open potting mix such as Fir Bark is all they need with a regular feeding and hung above the Cymbidiums. *Odontoglossum grande* and *Zygopetalum 'mackayii'* need a little extra shade in summer but all other conditions remain the same and can be grown in cymbidium compost.

Unfortunately purchasing some of the listed plants is rather difficult as they are not always readily available but if the chances do occur do not let them slip by.

floral art

LIAISON MEMBER TO GENERAL COMMITTEE:-- MRS LOIS HANSEN

INSTRUCTOR:-- MRS MAVIS HEINJUS.

MONTHLY MEETING:-- FLORAL ART GROUP

Our next Monthly Meeting will be held at the LUTHERAN KINDERGARTEN HALL CHRISTIES DOWNS on TUESDAY MAY 2 at 7. 45 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

HOMEWORK FROM APRIL MEETING:-- DRIFTWOOD

NEW TOPIC:-- Horizontal arrangement

Material to bring:--

Container or comport

Oasis or pinpoint depending on container.

Outline material

Secateurs

Flowers

Notebook and pencil

A very pleasing attendance for last month's meeting and the homework tabled was of a very high standard. An excellent effort by the girls so please keep it up. Thanks to Mavis and Iris a very enjoyable evening once again was had by all. Grateful thanks once again goes to the gentlemen who set up the tables before and after meetings.

DEFINITION OF A MODERN ARRANGEMENT. Modern arrangement must be in modern containers. The main characteristics are strong linear pattern, boldness in design, and strong contrasts in color and form which all unite to produce a dramatic impact. A focal area is evident.

TOPIC FOR JUNE 6 Shoulder Spray-- How to, present.

July 4 Small Show in preparation for Winter Show on July 11

July 11 Winter Show Schedule.

1. Modern arrangement

2. Featuring Driftwood

3. Shoulder spray

The Judge for the Show will be Mrs Iris Hutchens.

AT ALL MEETINGS FOR THE PURPOSES OF INSTRUCTION IN BASIC LINES, PRINCIPLES AND GROUND WORK ANY MATERIAL AVAILABLE TO MEMBERS CONSISTENT WITH THE NEEDS OF THE INSTRUCTOR WILL BE USED. IN CLUB COMPETITION ONLY ORCHIDS WILL BE USED. MEMBERS WILL BE BRINGING AND DOING.

GROUP MEETS FIRST TUESDAY IN EACH MONTH

7. 45 P. M.

LUTHERAN KINDERGARTEN HALL BRODIE ROAD CHRISTIES DOWNS.

Affiliated with:-- S.A. Judges School for Floral Art Inc.