



Eastern District Orchid Society Inc

Founded 1966

Patron

Paul Lucas



E.D.O.S. NEWSLETTER

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APRIL 2012

NEXT GENERAL MEETING

Members are invited to attend the next General Meeting to be held on **Thursday 26 April, 2012** commencing at **8.00 pm** at the Bayside Uniting Church Hall, 420 Wondall Road, Manly West.

RED SPOTTERS CLUB

Barry Kable – topic to be announced on the night.

FEATURE ITEM

April's Feature Item will be a Forum, with guest speakers Les Vickers, Tony Beck and Reg McIlwain, who will be providing approximately 5 minutes each on the topic of **'My Orchid Culture - Paphiopedilums and/or Phragmipediums'**.

After each guest has spoken, members will be invited to raise questions in relation to the growing of these orchids.

This is an opportunity for members to develop their general knowledge, as all speakers are specialists in the growing of these genera.

The following members are requested to make themselves available for the next meeting:

Judges: Eric Locke, Bill Williams, Les Vickers

Associate Judges: John Rooks, Brent Nicoll, Adrian Bergstrum

Observers: Please see Eric if you are interested

Scribes: Volunteers required please.

Supper Stewards: Marian Samuels, Daphne McKell

Hostesses: Margaret Rieck, Dot Rooks

Library : Helen Vickers

Plant Registrar: Ann Kable

Plants worth Noting: Marian Samuels

Trade Table: Pauline Webster

PLEASE NOTE: The Trade Table will be available for the April Meeting, but will "Go into Recess" for May and June. If you require anything during this period please phone Pauline prior to the meeting to arrange to have the goods brought to the meeting.

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING

The next Committee Meeting will be held at 7.30 pm on **Thursday 3 May, 2012** at the Bayside Uniting Church Meeting Room, 420 Wondall Road, Manly West.

Date Claimer

Once again we will be holding our Christmas in July this year with a function on 21 July 2012 at the Wynnum Manly Leagues Club, so keep this date free and come along and have a great night.

More information will be available in coming months.

Vale Wendy Jones

On Thursday 15 March 2012, Wendy Jones died at the Redland residential nursing care facility. Wendy was highly respected and recognized as a top Redland floral artist and she spent many occasions judging floral art at the Eastern District Orchid Society Autumn and Spring shows.

Wendy always made herself available to provide kind advice and support to a number of our floral art exhibitors. Our sincere wishes were forwarded to her husband Earl and other family members at this sad time.

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Plants Worth Noting

At the last meeting March 22nd there was a brilliant display of all varieties of plants brought in by members.

I was delighted to see *Ceratostylis retisquama* species of which there were three exhibits. The name used to be *Ceratostylis rubra*. The bright orange-red flowers are nestled throughout the plant at the bases of new growths and are about 4 cm across. The leaves have a fleshy appearance. The species has a semi-pendulous habit of growth. Two of the plants were grown in large shallow saucer-like pots and were growing prolifically. Plants can also be grown mounted on a slab and seem to do well.

Ceratostylis retisquama originally comes from the islands of Luzon and Mindanao in the Philippines where it grows at low altitudes in medium to bright light, so if you can provide these conditions the plant should perform well for you. Apparently excessive light will stunt the plant and too little light will affect the amount of flowers produced.

It flowers several times throughout the year which makes it a worthwhile plant to have in the orchid house.

Good luck

Barbara Allen

UPCOMING EVENTS

What: Toowoomba Orchid Society Inc
Where: Garden Fest (Soil Studies Room N101)
 Lindsay Street
When: 5, 6 and 7 May, 2012

What: Southport & Districts Orchid Society Inc
Where: Albert Waterways Community Centre, Cnr
 Sunshine Blvd & Nerang-Broadbeach Rd,
 Mermaid Waters (opposite Pacific Fair)
When: 2 and 3 June, 2012

What: Aspley Orchid Society Inc
Where: Community Hall, Edinburgh Castle Rd,
 Wavell Heights
When: 12 and 13 May, 2012

What: AOC Conference and Show. (For more
 information refer to web site
http://www.waorchids.iinet.net.au/19th_AO_C_Conference.htm)

Where: Perth WA
When: 11 – 16 September, 2012

What: EDOS Spring Show
Where: Bayside Uniting Church Hall, 420 Wondall
 Road, Manly West
When: 29 and 30 September, 2012

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SOMETHING FOR OUR NATIVE SPECIES ENTHUSIASTS

**DENDROBIUM SPECIOSUM SPECTACULAR &
 AUSTRALASIAN ORCHID SPECIES and
 HYBRID SHOW 2012**

Where: 57 Spooners Ave., Greenhill via Kempsey

When: Sat 1st Sept -10am to 4pm [Closed for
 judging 11am to 12noon]
 Sun 2nd Sept - 9am to 2pm

Details: Contact John Zietsch on (02) 6554-9733 or
anosmidnorthcoast@hotmail.com OR Ted
 Walmsley on (02) 6562-7150

Cultural Award

Ceratostylis retisquama

Ceratostylis retisquama is a rambling orchid which grows on the islands of Luzon and Mindanao in the Philippines area. It can be found growing in intermediate to warm locations with bright light and a moist atmosphere.

The semi-terete channeled leaves are about 100mm long and 15mm wide and are produced from rambling rhizomes with a brown papery bract at the base of the

stems. The bright orange flowers develop from under the bract on the axis of the leaf stem and give little notice that they are about to bloom, the blooms can last for 5 to 7 days, this can occur several times a year. To me the display of the flowers appears to be enhanced when seen in daylight as they glisten in the bright light, this seems to disappear when seen at night under artificial light.

I bought several small plants a number of years ago from a show plant sales. They were single growth plants in 75mm pots being sold by a commercial Grower. I have since grown them to big plants in large saucers in a mixture of small bark, jumbo perlite and a small amount of peat. I find it is best to firmly fix the plant to the base of the saucer as they can be easily disturbed because of the fine and short root system. I have tried growing several plants on tree fern, but their growth appeared to be much slower than the ones growing in the large dishes of bark mix.

My plants are located on a bench on the northeast side of the shade house which has 50% walls and roof, they are fertilised weekly with either organic or inorganic fertiliser at half strength and watered as needed depending on climate conditions but never allowing them to dry out.

Graham Bryant

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For Sale

EDOS has for Sale to members the following Sanders books. These books have been donated to EDOS by the late Bill Gaff's family.

1971 - 1975

1976 - 1980

1981 - 1985

1991 - 1995

If you are interested please see our Librarian Helen Vickers at the next Meeting.

Leaf Drop in Hard Cane Dendrobiums

This article was part of the presentation given by Ken Unsworth at our last meeting, as has kindly been provided by Ken for inclusion in the EDOS Newsletter.

Anthracnose - Glomerella – Colletotrichum.

This problem seems to occur mostly in the phalaenanthe type of hard cane – Dal's Dream , Dal's Classic etc etc. Intermediates and natives don't seem to be troubled as much. The problems most dendrobium growers experience occur during winter. Once the night time temperature starts to drop [generally around mid-April] you can expect to see leaf anthracnose start to rear its ugly head. By mid-September it has gone again.

So what can we do to minimize this very vexing problem? While there are quite a few fungicides on the market to combat this fungal disease, I really do think that good hygiene and plant management is the way to go.

However if you do decide to embark on a fungicide program you must start by going around your orchid house and cut off and remove all affected leaves and remove all fallen leaves from around your pots and under your benches. This alone is probably the best and cheapest form of attack. All fungal diseases thrive in a damp airless environment so maximize air flow in and around your dendrobiums either by hanging them up or if benched increase the space between them. From April to October keep floors dry and decrease your watering, only water when necessary in the morning on bright sunny days.

As mentioned before anthracnose is at its worst during winter. I find a monthly application of Seasol very beneficial. It seems to reduce leaf drop and helps ward off the effects of cold winters nights and helps put the orchids into good stead for the emerging new growths in Sept/ Oct. Harden up your den's by using a low nitrogen fertilizer from February to September. Too much nitrogen makes plants too lush and more susceptible to fungal attack. A twice yearly application of dolomite doesn't go astray and would appear to stabilize the PH in your potting media. Some growers benefit from using a pool sanitizer [e.g. Alginox] on their orchid house floor. This kills any algae and a multitude of fungal nasty's that may be lurking under your benches. Keep on top of weeds in pots and on the floor .I'm not saying weeds can cause fungal problems but healthy well grown plants can repel fungal attack a lot better.

So what fungicides are available to combat our problem?? Quite a few years ago I submitted some affected leaves to the DPI at Cleveland. They cultured the spores and confirmed the problem was anthracnose / Glomerella. They suggested using Octave at 1gr/lt plus Mancozeb at 2gr/lt. These two fungicides are compatible and belong to a different active group – Octave is group C and Mancozeb is group Y. Another fungicide that can be used is Carbendazim. Others

include Amistar Cabrio and Flint; however the latter three are quite expensive.

There has been some success using Eco-Oil or an equivalent. Firstly clean up your plants and orchid house then spray with one of the above mentioned fungicides. Follow this up with an application of oil at about every 3-4 weeks interval. The fungicide will kill the internal spores and the oil will stop any new infections. Be careful of the temperature for the first 1-2 days after using oils. As the leaves are coated with oil they find it hard to 'breathe' and can cook if the temperature gets over 30c. Some of the oils that are recommended are – Sacoa Biopest Paraffin Oil, Synertril Horti Oil and Fuchs Spray Oil. Others that already have Mancozeb in them are Dithane OC and Penncozeb 420 SC.

Another problem that orchid flowers suffer from is Botrytis or flower spotting. This can easily be fixed by spraying with Rovril. It is available in either liquid or powder. I prefer to use the liquid as it doesn't leave any residual stain on your flowers. The powder form is ok, it's just a matter of preference. The guys at Farm Craft should be able to point you in the right direction.

Of course with the use of any insecticide or fungicide exercise extreme care and use the appropriate safety gear.

When using any fungicide read the directions first. Especially the headings "Resistance Warnings" and "Resistance Management Strategy's". All fungicides come under a different active group listing. E.g. Mancozeb group Y, Octave group C, Carbendazim group A etc etc.

If any group of fungicides are repeatedly used then the fungicide will become less effective. There are always small populations of spores that exist within any fungal group that may be resistant to a particular group of fungicide. So if you repeatedly use the same fungicide more than twice in a row these rouge/ resilient fungal spores will end up dominating the easier to kill spores and you will end up with a fungal strain that you can no longer properly control. So make sure that you alternate and never use one particular fungicide or fungicides in the same group more than twice in a row.

In conclusion -----

Prevention is better than cure, and a lot cheaper. Keep in mind that a well grown healthy plant will ward off insect and fungal attack far better than a half-baked sickly poor grown plant !!!

Cheers

Ken Unsworth

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WEBSITE

www.edos.org.au. Our Webmaster Ray Girdlestone would like you to have a look at our EDOS website and make comment – remember it is still a work in progress and any suggestions will be appreciated. If you have any Cultural advice you think may be useful to others please pass it on to Ray for inclusion on the website.

Ray can be contacted on email webmaster@edos.org.au or phone 3823 4277

NOTES FROM THE EDITOR

If anyone has any articles they would be interested in having included in the Newsletter please let me know

For anyone who is interested in receiving their Newsletter electronically, please let me know your email address and I will include you in our email group. My email address is editor@edos.org.au

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