



THE WITWATERSRAND ORCHID SOCIETY

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SOUTH AFRICA.

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INFORMATION PAMPHLET

HISTORY

The Witwatersrand Orchid Society (WOS) is one of the oldest orchid societies in South Africa, having been formed in 1964, under its original name of The Transvaal Orchid Society. It has always been based in Johannesburg.

MAIN AIMS

The WOS was formed to

- Promote and further the culture of orchids of all types.
- Promote knowledge of orchids amongst the general public.
- Promote knowledge and protection of our indigenous orchids.

MEETINGS – VENUE AND DATES

- The WOS holds a meeting every month, with the exception of December.
- The meeting venue is the Sima Eliovson Floreum, Johannesburg Botanical Gardens, Emmerentia Dam, Johannesburg.
- The meetings are held on the last Monday evening of the month starting at 19h30.
- A monthly newsletter is sent to members with details of the next meeting's speaker and topic and keeps members up-to-date on the Society's activities.
- Guests are always welcome to come to a meeting to see what our Society is all about

MEETINGS FORMAT

Meetings generally consist of the following

- A talk on some aspect of orchids and their culture. The talks are given by experienced members of the WOS or other South African orchid societies, international experts or other experts in specific fields relating to orchid culture.
- A plant table consisting of flowering orchids brought by members. The orchids are discussed by orchid judges who give information about their origins and culture to increase the members' knowledge.
- A raffle of an orchid plant for fund-raising purposes.
- A Sales Table where members have the opportunity to sell and acquire plants from other members. The prices are often substantially below those of similar plants offered by commercial nurseries.
- The meeting ends with tea and snacks and the chance for members to socialise and discuss their orchids with each other. Experienced growers are more than willing to answer new member's questions.

LIBRARY

The WOS has a substantial library, consisting of some 550 books and magazines. Members can take out two books each month, with the exception of specific reference works which can only be consulted in the library. The Library is open before each meeting from 19h00 to 19h25.

SHOWS

The WOS stage two shows every year, an Autumn Show and a Spring Show, and also exhibits at the South African Orchid Council National Show which is held every three years.

GREENHOUSE VISITS & FIELD TRIPS

- Greenhouse visits are arranged at periodic intervals and members get the opportunity to see first-hand how other members grow their orchids.
- Field trips are arranged to see indigenous orchids growing and flowering in their native habitats.
- Visits to other orchid societies or commercial orchid growers.

SOUTH AFRICAN ORCHID COUNCIL (SAOC) MEMBERSHIP

- Members receive the annual SAOC Year Book, a glossy booklet packed with orchid information and news.
- Members of the SAOC can make use of the judging scheme and either submit their orchids for judging awards or become an Orchid Judge.

WOS SUBSCRIPTION DETAILS

For information on subscription costs and membership application forms, please contact:-

The Secretary: Joey Kok

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