



Eastern District Orchid Society Inc

Founded 1966

Patron Neil Symes MP



E.D.O.S. NEWSLETTER

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DECEMBER 2012

The Committee of EDOS Inc would like to wish everyone a

Merry Christmas and a

HAPPY NEW YEAR

NEXT GENERAL MEETING

Members are invited to attend the next General Meeting to be held on **Thursday 24 January, 2013** commencing at **8.00 pm** at the Bayside Uniting Church Hall, 420 Wondall Road, Manly West.

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING

The next Committee Meeting will be held at 3.00 pm on **Saturday 12 January, 2013** at the Kable residence.

EDOS CHRISTMAS PARTY

The 2012 EDOS Christmas Party was held on 1st December 2012 at the Manly Bowls Club. Once again we had a great night, with lots of prizes from the rolling raffle (although some of us weren't as lucky as others!!!!).

Our Patron Neil Symes entertained us with his calling of the numbers for our Rolling Raffle, and his quips and comments.

The meal as usual was great, with plenty of food for all.

It was great to see so many of our members and their families attending, including long-time members Stan and Thelma Rawlings.

The Jack Fiege Memorial Trophy for 2012, as judged by our visiting judges, went to G & F Webb with *Phalaenopsis. violacea*.

Popular Vote for the night went to Eric Locke's Paph Saint Swithin 'Thomas'

Second place went to Brent and Lyn Nicoll's Den lindleyi 'Goldilocks'

Third place went to Barry and Ann Kable's Den Unknown

UPCOMING EVENTS

What: Aspley Orchid Society Inc Summer Show
Where: Mt Coot-tha Auditorium
When: 16 and 17 February, 2013

Notes from November Red Spotters

Courtesy of Ken Unsworth

The following is just a quick rundown on our little talk at last month's meeting regards to 'Hard Cane Dendobiums after winter'

Sept/Oct . Repot at this time of the year as the new growths and roots have not yet emerged. Potting now will eliminate the risk of damaging these new growths if potting is left until later. Knock the plants out of their pots and remove all old potting mix. Clip off any old flower spikes, dead roots and leaves etc. Then lay the plants on the ground and spray both sides with a fungicide and a systemic insecticide. You won't get a better opportunity than this to give them a really good going over. The insecticide will kill all the sap sucking insects e.g. aphids and mealy bugs and the fungicide will help heal any damage the plant may receive, especially if you divide some of them. Sept/Oct is now the time to start increasing your watering to about once every ten days depending on your location and conditions. Increase fertilizing to about every two weeks with a high nitrogen fertilizer. Also, now is the time to keep a very good look out for any Dendrobium Beetles. They seem to become more active as the weather warms up after winter.

Nov to End of year. Increase watering to once or twice a week, depending on the weather and fertilize weekly with a high nitrogen fertilizer. Look out for Mealy Bugs and Aphids that may be hiding in the new growths and spray if necessary with an appropriate systemic insecticide e.g. Confidor .

After the New Year. During Jan/Feb I start to introduce low nitrogen fertilizer by alternating between high N and low N. The first week in January I use low N, the next week I use high N, and so on until the end of February. The reason I do this is because I have been using high nitrogen for the past four months, and the plants tend to grow a bit lush. By introducing low nitrogen I find that it helps to harden the plants up and also helps with flower production. From March to September I use low nitrogen, decreasing the frequency as the weather starts to cool down. Throughout the year I use Seasol about every fourth fertilizing. I use Horticultural Solution HSO 22 NPK 22-8-12 and HSO 12 NPK 12-12-20. Confidor will kill sap sucking insects and carbaryl will kill chewing insects e.g. caterpillars, cockroaches, dendrobium beetles etc. My potting mix comprises of 1 part Bark 1/3 part Charcoal and 1/3 part super course perlite. If you can't get charcoal it really doesn't matter. It will pay you big dividends if you provide a roof for your dendrobiums during winter. And one last thing -----
- If you are growing your orchids well and have come up with a good 'system' keep on doing it --- why fix it if it isn't broken.

Cheers and happy growing

Ken Unsworth

What: Qld International Orchid Fair
Where: Beenleigh Showgrounds, James Street, Beenleigh
When: 1, 2 and 3 March, 2013

What: Beaudesert Districts Orchid & Foliage Society
Where: School of Arts Hall, Canungra
When: 9 and 10 March, 2013

What: EDOS Inc Autumn Show
Where: Bayside Uniting Church Hall, 420 Wondall Road, Manly West
When: 6 & 7 April, 2013

What: Redlands Orchid Society Autumn Show
Where: Donald Simpson Centre, Cleveland
When: Saturday 27th April, 2013

What: Aspley Orchid Society Inc Autumn Show
Where: Community Hall, Wavell Heights
When: 11 and 12 May, 2013

What: 7th Australasian Native Orchid Conference and Show (hosted by ANOS Kabi Group)
Where: Strathpine Community Centre, cnr Gympie Rd and Mecklam St, Strathpine
When: 21 to 25 August, 2013

Sad News

EDOS Inc would like to offer their Condolences to the families of the following, for their recent losses:

Lorraine Ashcroft on the recent loss of her father, Honorary Member Jack Morris, and also mother, Marjorie Morris in July.

The family of member Marianne Kelly

Graham and Fiona Webb for the loss of Fiona's mother

President Barry, and Ann Kable for the loss of Barry's mother

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Cultural Notes October Meeting

Paphiopedilum hirsutissimum

This plant is very rewarding and easy to grow and makes a wonderful addition to any collection. The small hairs that adorn the flower spike, ovaries and the backs of the flowers are very interesting, though can hard to see, and are the namesake of the plant, derived from the Latin *hirsutus*, meaning shaggy or hairy. Lindley in *Curtis's Botanical Magazine* first described the plant in 1857.

I purchased this plant from Rob Trost at Rolin Farms, about 12-18 months ago. At the time it was labeled as *Paphiopedilum esquirolei*. However R. Govaerts, a member of The Board of Trustees of the Royal Botanical Gardens, Kew changed it to *Paphiopedilum hirsutissimum* var. *esquirolei* after publishing it as such on the *World Checklist of Monocotyledons Database* in 2003. Then in 2009 in *Volume 25* of Z. Wu & D. Hong series of publications known as *Flora of China*, published by Missouri Botanical Garden Press, *Paphiopedilum hirsutissimum* var. *esquirolei* was renamed as just *Paphiopedilum hirsutissimum*.

Paphiopedilum hirsutissimum naturally occurs from Assam to Southern China and it is classed as a Hemicrotophyte by Kew Gardens.

"*Hemicyptophytes (hemicr.)* have herbaceous stems that often die-back during unfavourable seasons, and surviving buds placed on (or just below) soil level. This group includes many biennial and perennial herbs, including those in which buds grow from a basal rosette." (Source: Kew Gardens)

In summer and autumn I have the plant hanging underneath the benches in one of the shade houses with shade cloth of 75% on the roof and 50% on the sides, during that time it gets watered around two to four times a week depending on the temperature. Then in Winter and Spring the plant is moved to the top shelf for extra light and a solid plastic cover is put on the roof to keep out the dew and any rain that we may receive so that I can control watering, and to stop the orchids from being wet and cold because, as people often say, a lot of orchids can stand being wet, or being cold, but not both at the same time. I slightly cut back on watering in winter however that is merely due to the

slower rate of the pots drying out. The plant is in a mixture of medium Coconut Husk Chips, Stryrofoam Balls, and Medium Bark. This plant, like all my others, gets fertilized whenever I remember to, or have the time.

As I'm unable to attend the November EDOS meeting, due to school exams, nor the EDOS Christmas Party I would like to wish all the members of Eastern Districts Orchid Society a very safe and happy Christmas and New Year and I look forward to seeing you all again in January.

Michael Tervo

Sources:

Royal Botanical Gardens Kew,

What Orchid Is That? Edited by Alec Pridgeon,

Internet Orchid Species Photo Encyclopedia by Jay Pfahl

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Warning!! (confirmed by Telstra & Australian Police)

This information has been provided by our Secretary Ken Webster, and comes from a reliable source.

Please read below and pass on to your family & friends. "Got a call last night from an individual identifying himself as a Telstra Service technician who was conducting a test on our Telephone lines. He stated that to complete the test I should touch nine (9), zero (0), hash (#) and then hang up. Luckily, I was suspicious and refused. Upon contacting the telephone company, I was informed that by pushing 90#, you give the requesting individual full access to your telephone line, which allows them to place long distance telephone calls billed to your home phone number. I was further informed that this scam has been originating from many of the local Jails/prisons. DO NOT press 90# for ANYONE. PLEASE pass this on to your friends. If you have mailing lists and/or

newsletters from organizations you are connected with, I encourage you to pass this on.

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Proprietors: **Steve & Wendy Swan**

Cultural Notes November Meeting

Masdevallia maculata

This species originated from the Columbia, Venezuela and Peru regions. It prefers cool conditions, and relatively high humidity.

We grow ours in the controlled conditions of the glass house, where the temperature is between approx 12 degrees minimum and approx 28 degrees maximum. It sits on the lower shelf, which is lower-than-average light, with plenty of humidity. Our masdevallias are fertilised weekly at half strength with either Arcadian seaweed solution or one of the Horticultural HSO Solutions, depending on the time of year. Once a month they are sprayed with Amino K and Hysan, and because of the fairly high humidity in the glass house, at least monthly with either Rovral or Captan as a fungicide/bactericide. Basically they are grown in the same conditions as the Phallies. This Masdevallia is potted in a mix of rockwool, perlite and styrene, which is then covered with a thin layer of small stones (the stones help prevent any moss from forming on the mix, and also adds weight to the pot). Masdevallias like to be kept moist but not too wet.

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

This plant has almost doubled its size in the 18 months we have had it. The interesting aspect of this plant is that it re-flowers several times from the previous flower stems, so it is important not to cut them off when the flowers have died off, until the stem itself dies off. It also flowers more than once a year.

Happy Growing

Ray and Janelle

CALL FOR HELP - Red Spotters, Guest Speakers and Plants Worth Noting

We are looking for some ideas and people to help out with the above on Meeting nights.

If you have a suggestion, or you are prepared to spend a small amount of time on either of these sessions at our meetings, please speak to one of our Committee members.

Red Spotters is generally a more informal presentation, to a smaller audience, most of whom are our newer growers.

If we can't fill the spots, these informative sessions may need to be discontinued due to lack of support. It is unfair to those few members who are doing it month after month.

Remember, knowledge shared is knowledge gained.

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

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