

ORTHOLOPHA



The Newsletter of the Aloe, Cactus and Succulent Society of Zimbabwe

PO Box CY300, Causeway
aloe143@gmail.com
www.aloesocietyzim.com & www.facebook.com/ACSSZ

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THE GROWING SEASON IS UPON US

Those who missed the November outing at the Williams' garden in Hogerty Hill missed a true inspiration for landscapers. What a magic setting! And the off-and-on light mist only enhanced what was a very special atmosphere marked by secret niches and hidden cul-de-sacs. Thanks to Mike Caulfield for his inspiring display of arrangements and his encouraging words to those who have never done arrangements of any sort. And, in the same department, see details of this month's outing for a creative challenge.

The seed bank is now well-stocked again. If you want to try some interesting new species and varieties this year, check the item below and you can be growing before Christmas.

Your Committee

Chairman - Malcolm Thackray - 303494
Vice-chairman – Doreen Richards - 884003 or
0772 255 784

Secretary/treasurer - Lynn & Bill Kinsey –
0772 782 493, 0776 404 950 or 302812

Committee members:

Val & Hamish Brown - 0772 423 344 or
883724

Ros Houghton - 0772 115 364 or 333975

Rob & Sheila Jarvis – 0779 888 180 or 0772 262
150

Mike Kimberley – 339175

Caryl Stutchbury - 0772 611 756

Hans Wolbert – 581364, 573592 or 0772
653 110

Sunday, 15th December

This year's Christmas function will be in the garden of Debbie and Graeme in Christon Bank.

The address: 38 Maputi Drive, Christon Bank

Contact details: Debbie Bowker 0772 357 086

The time: 11.00

Details are below.

Directions

Take the Mazowe Rd & proceed to the 22km peg (allow \$2 for tolls there & back—car-pooling is suggested). Turn right into Christon Bank Rd & travel for +/- 6km. Turn left into Garonga Rd & continue about 300m to a T-junction. Turn left into Maputi Drive. No. 38 is on the right...the 3rd house along.

The Day

The day will not follow our usual routine. There will be no tea to start off, hence the later start time. Instead there will be a bring-and-share lunch, so please remember to bring a plate of eats: salads, cold plates, desserts, and the like. Also there will be no braai this year, so it will all be cold dishes. The Society will provide some wine and soft drinks, but you may wish to bring your favourite tippie. You will also need to bring your own plates, cutlery and glasses. Remember also to bring chairs, hats and umbrellas as well as a labelled plant or other contribution for the raffle and/or auction.

As usual, we'll have a gift exchange via Santa's bag. So please bring a small wrapped gift [no more than \$10.00] to put into his bag. And remember Santa's governing rule: "The ones that brings none, gets none."

Continued overleaf

Christmas outing, continued

In place of a Christmas quiz, we are going to have a botanical competition. Following Mike Caulfield's initiative to encourage the use of succulents in arrangements, you are invited to prepare one or more arrangements using your choice of succulent materials with a supporting cast of stone, wood, *objets trouvés* or whatever takes your fancy. Use your creative imaginations. If you want to follow a Christmas theme, you'll have done part of your decorating. But any and all themes are welcome. There is no limit on the number of entries.

The really special part of this competition is that we'll have a professional judge, who will also follow up the judging by offering us constructive tips on how we can improve the aesthetic appearance of our arrangements. Our judge will be Neels Scott, Zimbabwe's Gold Medal winner at this year's Royal Horticultural Society's Chelsea Flower Show in London. To inspire you, here's a photo of Neels with his winning entry in London.

Yours don't have to be this large! But Neels' freeform creation should invigorate you to expand your thinking about materials and form.



Seed Bank

Thanks to Ewanrigg and others, we now have a good stock of seeds. Those now available are:

Aloe aculeata
A. alooides
A. barberae
A. broomii
A. cameronii
A. castanea
A. chabaudii (deep red)
A. chabaudii (orange)
A. chabaudii (pink)
A. claviflora
A. comosa
A. dichotoma
A. excelsa
A. ferox
A. fosteri
A. gariopensis
A. globuligemma
A. greatheadii
A. hereroensis
A. humilis
A. irridiflora
A. lineata

A. marlothii
A. linearifolia
A. littoralis
A. longibracteata
A. lutescens
A. sp. nova (Marina)
A. microstigma
A. ortholopha
A. parvibracteata
A. plicatilis
A. polyphylla
A. pretoriensis
A. saudiarabica
A. speciosa
A. spicata
A. striata
A. tenuior
A. thraskii
A. vanbalenii
A. variegata
A. vryheidensis
A. zebrina

Aeiospilos ? (mix)
Acacia abysinnica
Acacia polycantha
Aloinopsis luckhoffii
Conophytum (mix)
Cyphostema spp.
Faucaria (mix)
Gasteria bicolor
Gasteria (mix)
Hoodia gordonii
Orbea variegata
Pelargonium (mix)

If you want to order seeds, email us your request. Seeds are free to members and \$1 per packet for others. There is a limit of 10 species per order. Seeds will be packed and taken to the next outing, or we can arrange for you to collect.

Hope to see you on the 15th.

Lynn & Bill