

# ORTHOLOPHA



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

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### PEAK ALOE FLOWERING TIME APPROACHES

It has been another unusual rainy season, and it is hard to predict what the outcome will be as the weather cools and we get closer to peak Aloe-flowering time. Not that this need bother the far-sighted gardener since, with a mix of the appropriate species and a few well-chosen hybrids, it is possible to have Aloes in bloom 12 months of the year.

With the plant sale approaching, now is the time to think about diversifying your mix of succulents. After all, a season that doesn't suit Aloes particularly well is likely to make some other succulents happy. So be open-minded.

### Your Committee

Chairman - Manfred Spindler – 0712 416 722

Vice-chairman - Malcolm Thackray - 303494

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

Hans Wolbert – 581364, 573592 or 0772 653 110

### **Sunday, 28th April 2013**

Our next outing will be at the garden of the Inesons—Ann and Phil—in Greystone Park.

The address: No. 37 Warwick Road, Greystone Park

Phones: 0772 352 068 or 885868

The time: 10.00

Details are below.

### **Directions:**

*From Borrowdale Road:* To Crowhill & right into Stonechat. Turn left into Gaydon at the Roundhouse—T-junction--then the 4th road right into Warwick Rd—after passing the dam on your right. Then it's the 3rd house on the left. Opposite is No. 52, where they are building a 3-storey house.

*From Harare Drive:* Take Gaydon to the south end of Warwick Road (2nd right). But this route is in poor condition and the numbering is rather capricious.

### **The Day**

The day starts at 10:00 with tea, so please bring the usual plate of treats to share for tea. In addition to the customary reminder to bring your chairs and hats, do remember to bring a labelled plant or plants, or other contribution, for the raffle and auction. There will also be a short informative talk on cycad seeds.

## 2013 Subs

Just a reminder that quite a few of you have not yet paid your subs for this year and those who have not paid will be unable to vote at next month's AGM. The final step comes in June, when all those who have not paid are removed from the mailing list.

On the reverse side of your last *Ingens* mailing label was the membership subscription form for 2013. Please make sure we have all your details so that we don't lose contact and pass your completed form to any of the current committee members or bring them to the April outing. It has taken longer than expected to get the CABS account operational, but it should be active this week. A special mailing will go out to you when we have the account number.

## Plant Sale

Full details of the plant sale will follow in the May newsletter...so this is just a tip to save you a little money. Experience has shown that Society members who come to the sale wearing their name tags do not (usually) have to pay admission to the Botanic Gardens on the day of the sale. So it is in your interests to wear your name tag and state that you have come for the sale. Name tags are distributed at every Society outing. So, if you do not have one, it is probably because you have never attended an outing and your name tag is gathering dust. Name tags will not be distributed at the April outing because we are out of the country. So, if you want a name tag...and have paid your 2013 subs, you can phone or email us in the last week of May to make a plan to collect yours before the sale.

## Update on Ewanrigg

Four members of your committee visited Ewanrigg this week to view the progress that has been made on rehabilitating the plant collection and the garden generally. Manfred has been very actively collaborating with the staff at Ewanrigg and, in line with the objectives stated in our constitution, the Society is now seen as working well together with the Ewanrigg Garden. One need identified during the visit however is that Ewanrigg needs assistance with chemicals and fertiliser. Your committee will be considering using some of the funds generated from our plant sales to purchase and donate chemicals and fertilisers, and committee members would like to hear the views of the membership regarding this proposal.

## Another new Aloe

Jean-Bernard Castillon has been a very busy man lately and has just described another Aloe species from the vicinity of Taolagnaro (Fort-Dauphin) in Madagascar. During a visit to the flower market near Lake Anosy, in Antananarivo, Castillon bought a very peculiar Aloe, but the seller had no idea of its origin. This Anosy market, which sounds like a fascinating place, has plants from sources throughout the world, but only those belonging to the family *Asphodelaceae*. Castillon subsequently grew the plant, which flourished during the following season. Its curious mix of features intrigued him. In August 2011, during a trip to the south of Madagascar, he was surprised to see the same plant in cultivation in the town of Taolagnaro. Investigations led him through the garden of a private property to the gardener's house, thence to a woman doctor, and eventually to a local horticulturist who had found this plant in the wild, near Ifarantsa, east of the Andohahela range. This plant is consequently a true species, new to science, and has been named *Aloe mottramiana*. *Cactus World* 29 (4)

*A. mottramiana* raceme →



## The Seed Bank

The seed bank will only resume service following the May plant sale. In the meantime, any members having surplus seed from the season now ending are asked to make a contribution—correctly labelled, of course—to the seed bank. Your fellow growers will be most appreciative.

Hope to see you all at the AGM and the plant sale.

Lynn & Bill