

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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AN UNUSUAL SEASON

Our rains are officially over, although you wouldn't know it from the mid-April weather. It has been a strange season with enormous variability in rainfall even within Harare, a tornado, and early cold weather. And Bulawayo has had rain, rain, rain! The aloes in Harare seem to be flowering much earlier than usual, so we are hoping there will be some left by the time of the Congress.

The AGM last month was a great success...and shows there is no reason such events have to be boring. This one certainly wasn't. Thank you, Wendy.

Thanks to those who paid their subs at the AGM or who have used the CABS facility. Too many however still have not paid. You'll get two more newsletters from us...after that, no more communications.

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, 27th April

This month's outing is at the garden of Vernon and Chantelle Lapham.

The address: No.19 Ross Road, Rolf Valley

Contact details: 0772 204 777

The time: 10.00 for 10.30

Details are below.

Directions: Take Harare Drive to Rolf Avenue and turn toward town (toward St. Johns College). The first right is Ross Road and no. 19 is on the right.

The Day

The day starts with the customary tea when you arrive, so please remember to bring a plate of eats to share. Remember also to bring chairs and hats, as well as a labelled plant or other contribution for the raffle and/or auction.

Vernon will show us his garden's dam-building project, which enables him to store water to last the whole of the season and has allowed the Laphams to transform a desert to a lovely garden.

Xerophytica 2014—Plants for Our Future

Note the change in title, which the steering committee felt better reflects the theme of the upcoming Congress. The breadth of topics that will be covered by the presenters is truly impressive, and there will be something for everyone—from the deeply thought-provoking to the practical. There will also be an exhibition of plant-themed art as well as a display and sale of food, health and cosmetic products relating to plants, particularly succulents. It really will be a very special event.

Presentations will take place on June 20th and 21st, interspersed with delicious meals, tea and coffee, and plenty of opportunity to interact with the presenters. In addition, starting on the 22nd, there will be three outings—two of one day each and the third of 5-6 days. So be sure to put June 20-29 in your diaries. Mailings, with details of registration, will be going out to you this week. Note that places at the Congress are limited, so early registration is strongly advised. No last minute walk-ins will be allowed.

Seed Bank Modus Operandi

Two changes are being made to the way the seed bank operates. First, we are introducing a member's charge of \$1 per order to help with the costs of envelopes and printing. This will cover your order of up to the limit of 10 packets per order. Recall that non-members pay \$1 per packet. We hope this small amount will encourage members to treasure the seeds they receive and tend them carefully.

Second, so we can learn from one another's experience, each order will be accompanied by a form on which you will be asked to record items like species name, date of planting, planting medium, any special treatment, and germination outcomes. This information will then be collated and, when we have enough, it will be printed for distribution to the membership.

ACSSZ AGM 2014



Reminder

Don't forget that the autumn plant sale takes place the last Sunday in May. This will be at the new venue in the Botanic Garden (near the Herbarium office). If you are planning to sell, you should already have most of your plants organized. Complete details will follow.

Hope to see you on the 27th.

Lynn & Bill