



ORTHOLOPHA

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

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Issue 15-06 June 2015

Hi Everyone,

The Rare Plant Sale was a tremendous success at the end of May! Nearly 30 sellers and 2 985 plants were bought!!!! The Society's cut is enough to fund the next issue of Ingens so members can look forward to that in the next couple of months. Well done to all concerned and especially to our loyal public who came in droves, throughout the day, to snap up the wonderful plants on offer.

In this issue of Ortholopha we list a number of activities that you can enjoy during this colourful time of the year when a lot of our aloes, in particular, are in flower. We are also having a couple of joint functions with The Mountain Club of Zimbabwe next weekend and the first weekend of July as this very active Club is particularly well-placed to know where endemic populations of aloes and other interesting plants are located.

So make the most of the warm sunny days and go to see the aloe ridge beyond Ngomakurira next Saturday, the wonderful collection at Ewanrigg on Sunday and if you are brave enough, you can join the camping expedition to Buchwa Mountain in the southwest of Zimbabwe. Then later in July you can gaze in shock and awe at the amazing *Aloe ortholopha* on the grassy hills of the Great Dyke. From being considered an endangered aloe we have now found that this is one of the pioneer species to start populating the numerous mine dumps that pepper the Dyke. So man's unbridled desire for mineral wealth is having a positive effect on these unusual aloes.

Unfortunately this is not true for many of our other plant species and as a Society we support official attempts to keep indigenous plants growing healthily in habitat. So be good!

Cheers,
Mafungi.

Your Committee

Chairman - Doreen Richards
0772 255784

Vice-chairman – Rob Jarvis
078 3383214

Committee members:

Malcolm Thackray - 0772 516644
Ros Houghton - 0772 115364
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Mike Caulfield - 0772 241286
Annah Pasipanodya - 0772 572044

Annual Subscriptions:- If you haven't yet paid please do, just over half our members are paid up for 2015.

Gaudencia and Debra are collecting subs and handing out new badges for 2015, at the meetings, the subs are only \$20 per person/couple. If it's more convenient people can pay the CABS account:

CABS Platinum: Aloe, Cactus and Succulent Society

Acc #: 901 649 1871 Reference: kindly include your full names as a reference in any deposit.

Alternatively send \$21-00 through EcoCash to 0783 911314

Upcoming Events : The continuation of various visits scheduled in June and July to catch all the flowering aloes :

Saturday 27 July 2015 Gentle hike in Chinhamora Communal Lands just beyond Ngomakurira where there are many *Aloe cameronii* and *A. chabaudii* flowering. A spectacular sight at this time of year. We will meet in the carpark at Sam Levy's Village, just outside Pirellis Tyres at the bottom left corner of the Village as you enter from Piers Road. Meet at 10 am for a 10.15 start and we share transport. Bring lunch, at least two litres of water in an easy to carry back or shoulder pack and have stout walking shoes and something warm to wear because there is often a cold wind on the mountain ridge. This walk will be led by Professor Barbara Maasdorp and she can be contacted on 0774447906. We normally get back from these trips at around 5pm.

Sunday 28 June 2015— Joint lunch braai meeting with the Mountain Club of Zimbabwe to Ewanrigg Botanic Gardens.

The time: 10:30-11:00am

Directions: Take the Enterprise Road, on the A2 highway until the Shamva and Mutoko road junction is reached, (just after the tollgate) approximately 22 km from Harare. Take the left-hand fork, sign posted Shamva, on the A13 highway and follow this road for 15 km, until the signpost indicating Ewanrigg National Park is reached, turn right and follow the gravel road for about 2.5 km.. During the dry season, there is an alternative route via the Mutoko road, this is also signposted and you take a left turn. A huge amount of work has been done at Ewanrigg in tidying the gardens up, labelling the trees, aloes and cycads and National Parks is trying very hard to make this venue attractive again. Let's support them!

Friday 3rd—Sunday 5 July 2015 — This is a **Camping trip to Buchwa Mountain and surrounding areas**. If interested in joining this trip please let Sheila Jarvis know by e-mail at sheila.f.jarvis@gmail.com or by telephone 0772262150. We expect to go in four or five vehicles so numbers will be limited to around 20 people maximum. We will leave early on Friday morning and spend two nights camping on the mountain. You can drive to the camping spot but there are no facilities so it will be a bit rough and ready but there is water in the hole left by mining operations so washing is possible. Buchwa is renowned for sudden changes in weather and in July it will be very cold at night so participants should be prepared to weather any storm! On the way we will visit a site with *Aloe tauri* and hopefully the collection at Kyle High School.

Sunday 12 July 2015 — **Visit to the Great Dyke—Matorashanga area**. We plan to meet at Pick and Pay parking at Arundel Shops (big parking area just past Hallo Hallo Restaurant at 8:00 for an 8:30 departure, We will get into groups and share suitable transport, bring a picnic lunch and drinks. We will plan to be back in town by mid afternoon.

Any questions call:

Malcolm 0772 516644

Caryl 0772 611756

Whew, after you have attended all of these you will be ready for several good nights' sleep!!!



Flowering Aloe: June

What is this aloe, on the right?

Send your considered opinions to bo.hoom52@yahoo.com. The judge's decision is final and the winner will get a box of choice Belgian chocolates, provided they are willing to share them.

May's entry was *Aloe chabaudii* and as predicted everyone got this one right.

Lucky winner in May was Connie Haden!!! Brains and beauty triumph yet again!

She can claim her prize at the Ewanrigg outing on Sunday 28th June.



You can win a box of chocolates!!!!

Send your entries to Mafungi at bo.hoom52@yahoo.com. To further cheer you up here is a photo taken last September at Hidden Rocks in Juliasdale. Put a trip to Nyanga in September right at the top of your bucket list!!!! But don't kick the bucket.

The Aloe above is the June entry. What is it? A clue: It is endemic to the Chimanimani Mountains and a close look at the leaves should be a giveaway and the aloe is a bit of a cliffhanger!

Photograph taken by Mafungi



As I write this I am in Nairobi in Kenya and about to go to Nigeria for a week. Having read a little about aloes and the history of their identification over the years, it was with some interest when I saw a buffalo bull's mounted head that greets you ominously as you walk into the reception area of the Kitale Club in Western Kenya. This had been shot by a Mr. Tweedie on the slopes of Mt Elgon on the border between Uganda and Kenya. The current occupants of the Kitale Club probably had no idea that this name Tweedie is a well known one in Aloe circles. When I get home I'll dig out the history and see how Ms Tweedie was related to the buffalo hunter! Of course this connection triggered my sight sense in particular and when walking across some bush between crop fields I spotted some maculate aloes in the long grass. There were also many flame lilies flowering brightly at this time of year. Reminders of home are what make foreign travel a little more bearable! Unfortunately the aloes were not flowering, so an identification will have to await another visit.. Hopefully it is a Tweedie aloe!

