



ORTHOLOPHA

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

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Hi Everyone,

Shake your heads and get rid of the last remnants of the January disease. By now you should have survived the consequences of celebrating or forgetting to celebrate Valentines Day with your most beloved. If the latter you will have a long, tedious year ahead. Chin-up however, the trenches of World War One were worse and many survived them!

Remember March is the month for the AGM and if you intend staging a coup or effecting regime change, this will be the time to spring to action. Enthusiastic, ambitious new ideas will not be subject to sanction in any form. An important part of this year's AGM will be an explanation of how the new Plant Sales will work. Our own success has made the old format unworkable and key to future success will be the ease of transacting business. So if you are prone to nodding-off during AGM's, can you do so before or after this crucial matter is discussed.

Otherwise, enjoy your week and start polishing up your plants for the end of May sale. Remember the rallying cry of successful gardeners the world over: **Green Side UP!!!!**

**Cheers,
Mafungi.**

Your Committee

Chairman - Doreen Richards
0772 255784

Vice-chairman – Rob Jarvis
0783 383214

Committee members:

Malcolm Thackray - 0772 516644
Ros Houghton - 0772 115364
Caryl Stutchbury - 0772 611756
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Anne-Katrin Maseko - 0772 440131
Mike Caulfield - 0772 241286
Annah Pasipanodya - 0772 572044

Monthly Meeting : Sunday 28 February 2016

This month's meeting is at the home and garden of Robin and Alison Wyrley-Birch on the northern outskirts of Harare. Robin is a big grower of succulents.

The time: 10.00am for 10:30am

Directions: Travelling along Harare Drive, head north at Teviotdale / Alpes Road, go past Pomona Quarries, continue past Wingate Golf Club and passed the Emerald Seedlings turn off, and after the road curves to the right, the entrance to the house is on the left.

If you need further directions contact Robin on 0712 601995.

Please remember to bring a plate of eats to share. Don't forget to bring chairs and hats, as well as a labelled plant or other contribution for the raffle.

Flowering Stapeliad: FEBRUARY

What is this Stapeliad, on the right?

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

January entry:- *Aloe rhodesiana*.

We are resting the aloes for a while and will instead post a picture of one of the other succulent species that we cherish.

Lucky winner in January was Gaudencia!

You can claim your prize at the next ACSSZ Outing in February



The Stapeliad above is the February entry.

What is it?

A clue: The size of the flower is probably involved!

Photograph taken by Mafungi

You can win a box of chocolates!!!!

Send your entries to Mafungi at
bo.hoom52@yahoo.com

Reminder: The offer of a huge US\$100 prize to the first member who germinates *A. polyphilla* seed and brings it to flowering maturity remains open. I believe a number of members have drawn the seed from Bill Kinsey and are frantically trying to crack the code of reproduction. In vitro, in aqua, in sand and insane techniques are all being employed in this noble quest!!!

Annual Membership: Members are encouraged to make payment for 2016 as soon as they can, thanks to all those that have already paid.

If you haven't paid your membership for last year - 2015 this will be the last newsletter you will receive.

Membership is \$20 per person/couple per year. Make payment to a committee members, or the CABS account:

CABS Platinum: Aloe, Cactus and Succulent Society

Acc #: 901 649 1871 Reference: kindly include your names as the deposit reference.

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

Obituary—Mr Philip Rousseau

Sadly we notify our members of the tragic passing of Philip late November 2015. Philip was an enthusiastic and energetic cycad researcher and taxonomist.

Those who attended the Xerophytica 2014 International Congress will remember Philip's very interesting presentation on "The African endemic genus *Encephalartos*".

As an authority of the *Encephalartos* genus he was doing a lot of work on the separating the *E. manikensis* complex. Philip presented 4 papers at the last Cycad conference in Colombia in August 2015 and will be greatly missed by all that knew him.



Armchair Journey

Hold onto your seatbelts! For now you are privileged to see this sneak preview of one of the massive granite ridges that run like giant ramparts to the precipitous edge of the Nyauri Valley just northeast of Ngomakurira in the Chinhamora Communal Lands. *Aloe cameronii* is a many-splendoured community player in this breathtaking view. Right now the plants have this coppery-red colour to their leaves but by June they will be out in all their floral glory, parading up and down the mountain slopes, tempting the unwary and unwise to lean over dangerously to capture the very best, mega-pixelled shots. We will take the brave and stout-hearted to this mountain wilderness in June to see them flowering.

Do not tumble, because tumbling will be terminal!



Along the way we shall pass by these fairy gardens of green lawns surrounded by *Xerophyta* plants with a herding instinct. In the Miombo woodland there will also be colonies of *Aloe chabaudii*, some of which may also be flowering at the same time.

The rocky mountain slopes will be wounded with the blood red leaves of *Hymenodictyon floribundum* or firebush. This is a near-succulent tree that can only survive where it is protected from the ravages of fire. Join us to see these wonders of Gondwanaland!!



I am a little bit blessed in that my work often involves taking me to some of the most picturesque places in Zimbabwe and neighbouring territories. This craggy mountain is an outrider from the Great Dyke, near Mutoroshanga. We will only have lived this year if we kick our shoes off, atop this mountain, and feel the granite of Gondwanaland beneath our toes. Who is up for it??????

The Health Corner

Space is a little cramped this month and so we shall only have a snippet of good health advice. By now you are all drinking your fresh lemon juice before every meal. You are using the gels of either or both of *Aloe vera* and *Bulbine frutescens* to treat open wounds, burns and other blemishes. You are adding nutritious powders from Moringa and Baobabs to your food. You are eating right and the tummy tight!

Try this juice to clean out the gut and tone up the critical organs.

One or two fresh beetroot

One freshly squeezed lemon

A quarter of a watermelon for bulk

Six granadillas and the pips of one pomegranate for taste

A paw-paw for nostalgia (remember Harold Wilson?) and a pineapple for the bromelain enzyme it contains

A spoon of honey and another of ground cinnamon.

Chop, grind and juice them all up together and drink a good-sized glassful every morning.

Beat your chest and bellow out a few baboon barks to wake the neighbourhood! I find this particularly satisfying at 5.30 am on a Sunday morning, as do all the dogs in the 'hood.



So that's it Folks,

We shall see you this coming Sunday at the Wyrley-Birches. Bring attitude, a chair, a prize for the raffle, some eats.

Take away some ideas.

Cheers, Mafungi