



# ORTHOLOPHA

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

PO Box CY300, Causeway

aloesocietyzim@gmail.com

www.aloesocietyzim.com & www.facebook.com/ACSSZ

Issue 17-04 April 2017

Hi Everyone,

Welcome to the New Botanical Year! Many thanks to Doreen Richards for guiding the ship through some very interesting times. Luckily our Committee is almost intact, with only Ros Houghton opting for a quieter life. However we know that her heart beats strongest when she is doing things for our Society so she won't be far away. Thanks Ros for fantastic outings!!!!

Our first outing is to Ewanrigg Botanical Gardens. We ask that you all come out and see this special place bequeathed to the nation of Zimbabwe by its founder. Bring a friend! Someone we don't know. Preferably a young friend with green, but not light, fingers. Pay the entrance fee with aplomb. The Gardens desperately need all the support they can get. Support their nursery and restaurant if you can. See you on Sunday 7th May!!!!  
Cheers, Mafungi.

### Your Committee

Chairman - Rob Jarvis  
0783 383214

Vice-chairman – Hans Wolbert  
0772 653110

### Committee members:

Doreen Richards - 0772 255784  
Malcolm Thackray - 0772 516644  
Ros Houghton - 0772 115364  
Caryl Stutchbury - 0772 611756  
Debra Wolbert - 0772 515436  
Gaudencia Kujeke - 0775 376600  
Anne-Katrin Maseko - 0772 440131  
Mike Caulfield - 0772 241286  
Annah Pasipanodya - 0772 572044  
Michele Oftebro - 0772 378 679

## Monthly Meeting : **Sunday 7th May 2017**

Please take note of the date, we have moved the meeting to avoid the May-day Holiday Weekend. This month's Meeting Ewanrigg Botanic Gardens Entrance is US\$3 per adult and US\$1.50 for children.

Bring a chair, snacks to share, drinks and a braai lunch, or you can patronise the Aloe Restaurant, their food is good and plentiful. They are licensed as well.

**The time:** 11:00am for 11.30 start, then a ramble, followed by lunch.

**Directions:** Take the Enterprise Road,

(i) Continue straight after the Toll Gate on the Mutoko road, for 23 kilometres, this is the preferred route, after Blue Ranges store take the next major gravel road to the left. This is also signposted and you take a left turn.

(ii) 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. **This road was very muddy a couple of weeks ago. Beware!!!**

## Flowering Plant: April

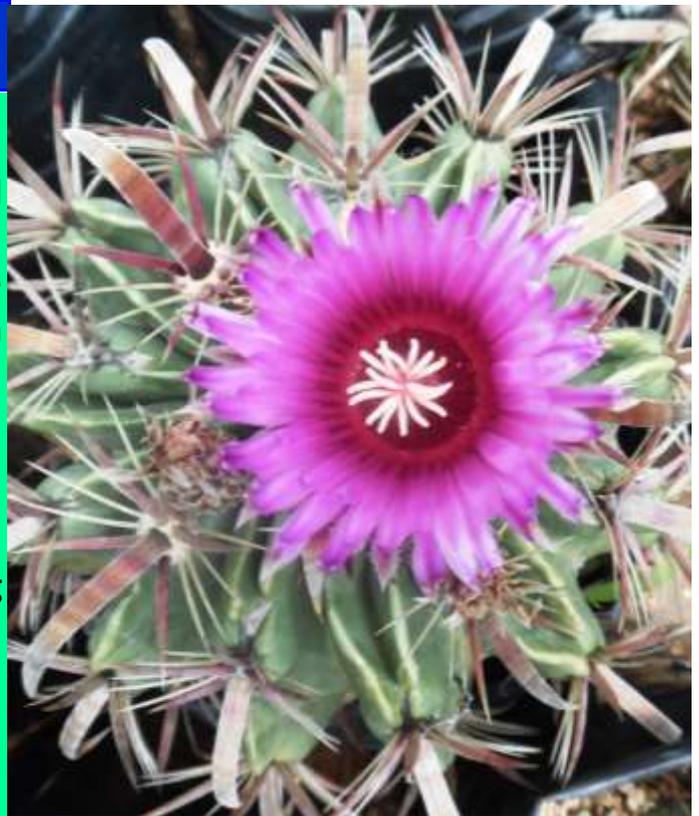
### What is this, on the right?

Send your knowledgeable and considered opinions to [bo.hoom52@yahoo.com](mailto: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.

### The lucky winner in March was

You can claim your prize at the Ewanrigg Meeting on Sunday 7th May 2017



The plant above is the April entry.

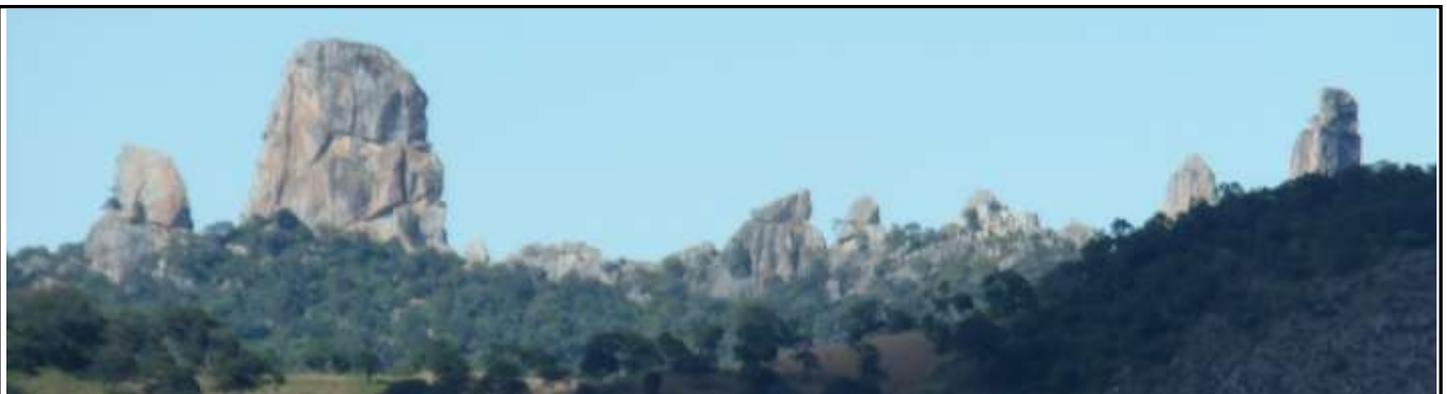
What is it?

A clue, it is not an aloe!

Photograph taken by Mafungi

### You can win a box of chocolates!!!

Send your entries to Mafungi at  
[bo.hoom52@yahoo.com](mailto:bo.hoom52@yahoo.com)



If you venture down the long and winding road to Hauna and finally Aberfoyle in the Honde Valley you will see these amazing rocks on the eastern horizon. Known as The Pinnacles they have apparently been climbed by various mad members of the Mountain Club of Zimbabwe. A bit of a challenge for our members but who knows what specialised plant species inhabit such rocky fastnesses?

**Annual Membership:** Thanks to all the members that have already paid. If you haven't yet paid, please do.

Membership is \$20 per person/couple per year. Children \$5 per year. Foreign membership \$40 per year. Make payment to a committee member, the CABS account, or through EcoCash:

**CABS Platinum: Aloe, Cactus and Succulent Society**

**Acc #: 1002616336 Reference: kindly include your surname as the deposit reference.**

Alternatively send \$21-00 through EcoCash to **0783 911314** : kindly include a reference



## Treasures of the Eastern Highlands of Zimbabwe

Recently we accompanied a couple of Plant Treasure Hunters on a trip to the wondrous valleys of the Eastern Highlands of Zimbabwe. This page is dedicated to the rather isolated population of *Aloe swynnertonii* to be found just down the Nyanga/Mutare Road from the Juliasdale intersection. In April it is obviously peak flowering for these plants in habitat and the capitulate format of the flowering head is clearly seen. Bright colours too with some variation between pink and a rich red. Bejewelled with raindrops.

The darker red-flowering form seems to grow more vigorously as isolated plants, whereas the pink specimens formed cloning clumps. Both are equally happy on undisturbed ground on top of the road cutting where they were undoubtedly found before man came and rent the earth asunder to put in a tarmac road. Both now also cling grimly to the 20 metre walls of the cutting equally happily where other vegetation is mor sparse. At the end of this extremely wet rainy season, veld fires are probably far from our minds but



as sure as night follows day in this topsy-turvy country of ours, once the June frosts strike and the grass browns and dries, fire is highly likely to rage through this habitat nearly every year. So if you are growing these aloes out of natural habitat, then they probably need fierce competition from grasses and the odd fire from time to time to keep the population healthy and to prime the seed and soil to germinate new seedlings when the spring rains come. Experiments are underway!



The capitulate head of the raceme is seen in the photos left and right. The pink version on the left and the underneath of a red flowering head on the right. In the background of the left hand picture you can also see the bracts which subtend branchlets on the flowering stalks.





## The Kingdoms of Tolkien

**On the same trip mentioned on the previous page our main purpose was to hike through the mountains surrounding the Honde Valley and see what we could see. Of course, in April in the wettest rainy season on record, it was quite likely that we would not see much beyond our own very wet noses. There were glimpses however of places rarely trod and of mountain fastnesses totally inaccessible thanks to the relentless rains. And of worlds within worlds where mosses and ferns and fungi find a foothold on the tree trunks, rocks and lianes. Special, special places.**



**When you stand here and the view east is clear, Gorongosa Mountain in Mozambique is visible. The mountain immediately below is at the point where the Pungwe C new hydro-plant draws its water. It is where we planned to camp and has a shower and toilet but the incessant rains turned it into a muddy quagmire. Somehow our support vehicle made it here just, and in the dark of the night, made it out, sideways, down precipitously slippery roads so we could come back the next morning with porters to carry out the kit of the intrepid hikers. So I think our first job as a new committee is to include the tree ferns as part of our stable of endangered plant species so that we can wander in such places with purpose and without guilt. Do not go here in the rains!**

We were saddened to hear that Pine Tree Inn may be closing until better times come. Well worth supporting is Aberfoyle Lodge, right, at the far end of the Honde Valley where all manner of entertaining options beckon the intrepid tourist. Golf, white-water rafting, jungle swings, swimming in rocky rivers, hiking, snooker, bowls and tennis.



Closer to home, Hidden Rocks Chalets and campsite at the 57.5km peg on the road from Nyanga to Juliastdale road is a self-catering option. If you can go there in September when the Musasa trees are in full spring foliage. From now until July the many aloes found in and around are starting to flower.

## The Health Corner:

**MORINGA**  
HUGIANO HEALTH

RESEARCH HAS PROVED THAT MORINGA HAS OVER 300 HEALTH BENEFITS

- BOOSTS IMMUNE SYSTEM
- IT REMOVES TOXINS FROM THE BODY
- FIGHTS CANCER CELL, FEVER, HEPATITIS, EYE PROBLEMS
- IT HAS ANTIBACTERIAL PROPERTIES. FACIAL CLEANSER
- IT FIGHTS VIRGINAL LOOSENING
- IT PROTECTS THE HEART, KIDNEY & LIVER
- TREATS DIABETES & HIGH BP
- STOPS RHEUMATISM & ARTHRITIS
- IT IS GOOD FOR HIV, AIDS AFFLICTED ONES
- IT FIGHTS INFERTILITY, FIBROID, IRREGULAR MENSTRUAL CIRCLE

**HUGIANO HEALTH NEEM OIL**

- \* Arthritis & Rheumatism. \* Sickle cell Anemia, Stroke
- Malaria, Asthma, Ulcer, Cold, Cough, Pile, Sexual Transmitted diseases, Tuberculosis, Vagina infections, Stomach pain, Catarrh, Diarrhea, Pimples, Chicken Pulse, Leprosy, Eczema, Wrinkles, Mouth/Body Odor, Ageing, Stress, Scabies, Stretch marks, Muscle & Back pains. Muscle Pull, Measles, Dandruff, Eye Infections, Cataract etc.
- \* Anti-Oxidants \* Removes Toxins \* Liver \* HIV/AIDS \* Immune System \* Acne \* Diabetes \* Blockage of fallopian tube
- \* Appendixes \* Tumor \* Hernia \* Psoriasis \* Teething Problem
- \* Heart-disease \* Parasites \* Hair Growth \* Insect repellent \* Jaundice \* Nail Fungus \* Warts, cold sores \* Cancer \* Ear Infection \* Chlamydia \* Gonorrhoea \* Kidney infection \* Typhoid
- \* Headache \* High BP \* Syphilis \* Fibroid
- \* Hepatitis \* Lack of Ovulation \* Keloid

YUHAM PLAZA, AHMADU BELLO WAY BY GWANDU ROAD JUNCTION CLOSE TO KATSINA ROUND ABOUT, KADUNA. 09093556403, 08035640684, 080330429

Well there you go everyone! This wonderful sign I saw on the display window of a shop in Kaduna, Nigeria. Only two things you need in your life and probably just about every affliction and affliction imaginable is cured, catered for or removed from your worries. I must admit that I find the "Fights virginal loosening" of Moringa quite interesting. And of course the Neem Oil, well there is a Snake Oil if you ever saw one! From pimples, parasites and psoriasis to sorting out Chicken Pulse, Wrinkles and Ageing! Wow, what a winner. If you have a Pickled Granny at home, what about dragging her out and rubbing her down with Neem oil and see if the bones can creak again! Careful, you might unblock her fallopian tubes and then you will be landed with the proverbial baby. See you on Sunday 6th, at Ewanrigg! Just in case they are right, plant two trees this year, a Neem and a Moringa. Cheers, Mafungi