



ORTHOLOPHA

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

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Issue 17-06 June 2017

Hi Everyone,

It's a bumper Harvest weekend for you this month with Open Gardens at four choice sites on Saturday and then the monthly meeting at Charles Waghorn's veterinary surgery in Marlborough on the Sunday 25 June.

June is really aloe month in Zimbabwe and there are absolutely spectacular garden sites to see. On Saturday each garden is open for two hours, starting at Caryl's at 10 am, then Doreen's at 12 noon, then the Terry's at 2 pm and finishing off in the Miombo Woodland of Rockyvale Close at 4 pm for sundowners.

Your Committee

Chairman - Rob Jarvis
0783 383214

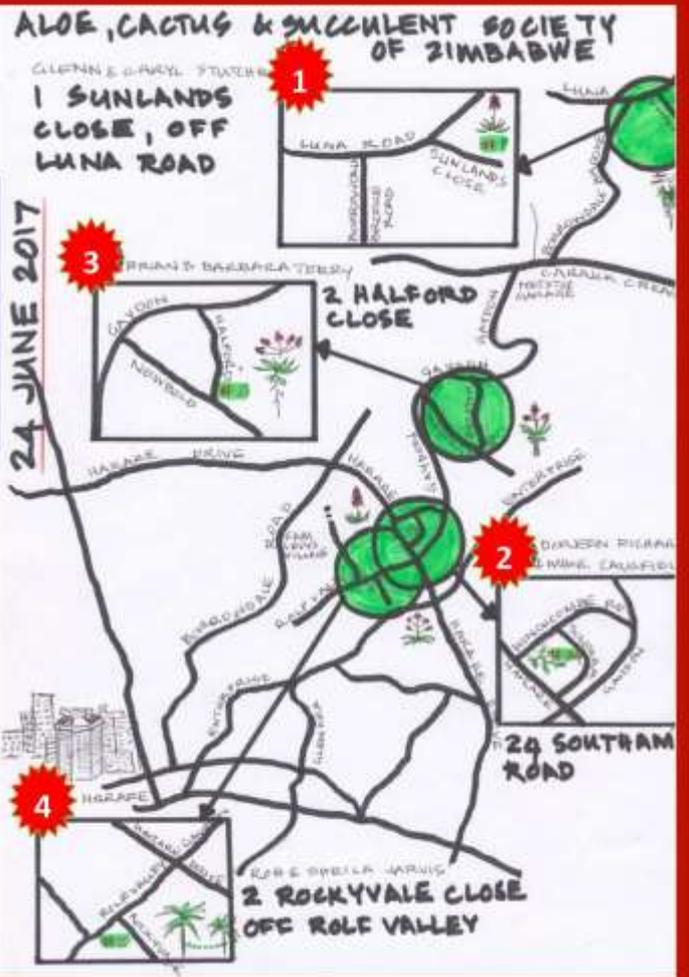
Vice-chairman – Hans Wolbert
0772 653110

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

INVITATION to all members
Aloe, Cactus & Succulent Society of Zimbabwe
HARARE OPEN GARDENS DAY
Saturday 24th June 2017

10h00—12h00 Champagne and Teas at 1 Sunlands Close, Borrowdale
The home of Caryl & Glenn Stutchbury
12h00—14h00 Teas at 24 Southam Road, Greystone Park
The home of Doreen Richards and Mike Caulfield
14h00—16h00 Afternoon teas at 2 Halford Close, Greystone Park
The home of Brian & Barbara Terry
16h00—18h00 Snacks & Sundowners at 2 Rockyvale Close off Rolf Valley
The home of Rob and Sheila Jarvis



Saturday 24 June 2017—Harare Open Gardens Day.

Herewith more detailed directions to the various gardens:

Start— Caryl and Glenn Stuchbury's at 1 Sunlands Close, Umwinsdale

The time: 10.00am for 12.00am

Directions: Travel out of town on Borrowdale Road.

At Helensvale Service Stations, turn RIGHT into Crowhill Road. Travel 1.7km and after Christchurch, turn RIGHT into Carrick Creagh Road. After 2.7km and turn LEFT into Borrowdale Brooke Lane (through Police Road Block.) Go 4km, past the President's house and at T-junction turn RIGHT into Luna Road (strip road.) Follow for 300m and turn RIGHT into Sunlands Close. At the end of the Close, turn LEFT into No 1.

If you need further directions contact Caryl on 0772 611756.

2nd - Doreen Richards at 24 Southam Road, Greystone Park.

The time: 12.00am for 2.00pm

Directions: Travel back towards town on Borrowdale Brooke Lane, turn right in to Carrick Creagh Road.

Then turn first left into Gaydon Road follow Gaydon for about 3 km, turn right at the 6th road on the right this is Winchcome Road, then 2nd left into Southam Road, No 24 is on the right just before getting to the top of the hill. Bring a picnic lunch to this venue.

If you need further directions contact Doreen on 0772 255784.

3rd - Barbara and Brian Terry's at 2 Halford Rd - corner of Halford / Newbold Rd, Greystone Park.

The time: 2.00pm for 4.00pm

Directions: From Southam Road, head back to Gaydon road, turn left travel about 150 m and then turn right into Warwick, then 1st left into Newbold Road, the Terry's home is on the at the corner of Newbold Road and Halford Road, the 1st road to the right. Tea and cakes will be available.

If you need further directions contact Brian on 0772 313427.

4th & last, but not least — Sheila and Rob Jarvis at 2 Rockyvale Close, Greystone Park.

The time: 4.00pm for 6.00pm

Directions: Get back onto Gaydon Road, cross Harare Drive into Rolf Avenue, Rockyvale Close is 3rd on the left, (just opposite the St Johns Sports fields), No 2 is first on the right as you enter the close .

If you need further directions contact Rob on 07783 383214.

Monthly Meeting : Sunday 25 June 2017

This month's meeting is at **54 Marlborough Drive, Marlborough**, the Veterinary Surgery of Charles Waghorn, Charles has a great collection of Aloes and other Succulents.

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

The time: 10.00am for 10:30am

Directions: Travelling on Harare Drive heading towards Westgate, after crossing Second Street Extension take Marlborough Drive, the 3 road on the left, travel about 1km and 54 is on the left and on the corner of Marlborough Drive and Sulgrave Road .

If you need further directions contact Charles on 0712 605 027.

Flowering Plant: June

What is this, 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.

The lucky winner in May was Clare Swales Who correctly identified *Aloe cameronii*.

You can claim your prize at the next meeting on Sunday 25th June 2017 at Charles Waghorn's Surgery.



You can win a box of chocolates!!!

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

The plant above is the June entry.

What is it? A clue it is not *A. cameronii*, but does occur on the same rock. Photograph taken by Mafungi

"Welcome to Sohwe Falls"

Another spectacular Zimbabwean scene.

Although beautiful, the rocks are slippery, rugged and people have died here as a result.

Stark warning to tread carefully when visiting a splendid set of waterfalls in the Mavuradonha Mountains in northern Zimbabwe. Someone else we know was stuck through the leg by an elephant's tusk whilst wandering in these parts. Africa can be dangerous so exercise extreme common sense at all times that you saunter off the beaten path. However do not let this deter you! Read on!!!!

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



The Majesty of the Mavuradonha Mountains

Just two hours from Harare on an almost perfect tarmac road, you can be in the Mavuradonha Mountains that sit proudly above the plains of the Zambezi Valley. There are two wildlife areas one west of the main Centenary to Muzarabani Road and the second to the east. The area we feature this month is that to the east. These mountains are basically the northern end of The Great Dyke of Zimbabwe. They are a result of an igneous intrusion into the great Zimbabwe Craton and happened a mere 2.575 billion years ago. A mere blink of an eye ago!



They are rich in minerals, particularly nickel, chrome and platinum group metals with a fair amount of precious metals like gold and silver. Where the heavy and plant-toxic heavy metals abound, the mountains consist largely of wiry, unpalatable grasslands, populated by hardy adapted plants that can survive fire. Above we see *Euphorbia wildii*, in its rich autumn colours and left, the drying leaves of *Boophonia disticha* whose Latin name indicates that it does not have a kindly disposition to hungry bovines.



On the rocky ridges between 1 400 to 1 500 masl, the endemic *Aloe ortholopha* abounds in the grasslands. Usually where it is protected from fire. This aloe is of course the main part of the emblem of our Society and gives its name to this Newsletter. In flower, because of the background views in these mountains, it is one of the most spectacular sights of the winter veld. If your knees are not too rickety you would be well -advised to take a stroll in these parts.

Find a rocky ridge and observe the plant life that abounds in the nooks and crannies around you. On the right you can see aloes, kalanchoe, euphorbias and even the blackened stems of *Xerophyta* shrubs. As you all well know, these latter are poikilochlorophyllous plants which lose chlorophyll and they stop photosynthesising and even transpiration. However when it rains they miraculously recover and almost overnight they green-up and often flower beautifully.



Further down the mountains you can be led to these wonderful waterfalls, known as Svohwe Falls. The river that arises on the steep slopes above the Mavuradonha Wilderness Eco-Lodge makes these last couple of tumbles before reaching the relatively flat safety of the Zambezi basin below.

Tread carefully in these parts because many an unwary tourist has taken a tumble here and the prognoses have not been good, with a tag on the big toe the usual outcome.

However in this little wooded valley there are several species of tall candelabra-like *Euphorbia* that abound and the undergrowth is rich with *Sanseveria* spp. and *Fockea* creepers.

Some favourite trees vastly improve the scenes, not least being the *Sterculia* and *Brachystegia tamarindoides* in particular.

Butterflies love everything about this place!



And so we close this little window onto the Mavuradonha Mountains, here framed by the blood-red leaves of the *Hymenodictyon floribundum* or Flame tree. The grassy slope seen is undoubtedly laced with heavy metals and only sparse grass growth is possible, with xerophytic treasures in the rocky places along the knife-edged ridges above.

The Health Corner:

For your health this month we have laid on the relaxing opportunity to admire other people's gardens and lifetimes of green-side-up work. The carefully planned and executed recent love affair with Aloes of the Stutchburys out at Sunlands Close. Then the harsh rocky terrain of Doreen and Mike's Greystone Park residence followed by every gardening style and theme of Brian and Barbara Terry also in Greystone Park. And finally, weary after a meandering route through the Northern suburbs of Harare you can put your feet up and sip sundowners under the canopy of a Miombo woodland at Rob and Sheila Jarvis slightly off the mainstream rails, garden, in Rolf Valley. One thing is for sure you will not be attacked by leonine vermin along the way, because the Ridgebacks of Rockyvale have long since dealt with this particular, but once pervasive, problem. Then on Sunday the monthly meeting at the Waghorn Veterinary surgery in Marlborough. Totally relaxing!

Thanks everyone we look forward to seeing you all this coming weekend!

Cheers, Mafungi