

ORTHOLOPHA



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

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WHERE ARE THE RAINS?

Although a few of us have been lucky enough to have good falls, most are still waiting with crossed fingers. Harare's water table desperately needs recharging, and the experts tell us three years of above-average rains will be needed to do this. How this will happen with over 3000 new boreholes being drilled within the city limits annually and people using precious groundwater to water verges is anyone's guess. The Met Department is predicting an above-average rainy season, but the sun-spot watchers say we are in for another dry year. On a cheery note, however, the forecast for Sunday's outing is rain!

For your diaries, the Christmas function this year will be on 15 December in Christon Bank. Details in next month's newsletter.

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
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Mike Kimberley – 339175

Caryl Stutchbury - 0772 611 756

Hans Wolbert – 581364, 573592 or 0772
653 110

Sunday, 24th November

This month's outing is to the garden of Graham and Sue Williams in Hogerty Hill. This is a large garden (wear your walking shoes!) set on a hillside with great views and some very interesting landscaping by two serious enthusiasts.

The address: 114 William Powlett Drive, Hogerty Hill

Contact details: Sue 0772 601 801, Graham 0772 600 164, or 04 852315

The time: 10.00 for 10.30

Details are below.

Directions

Go out Domboshawa Road and turn right into William Powlett (just past the Institute of Agricultural Engineering on the left). The property is a little way down the road on the left.

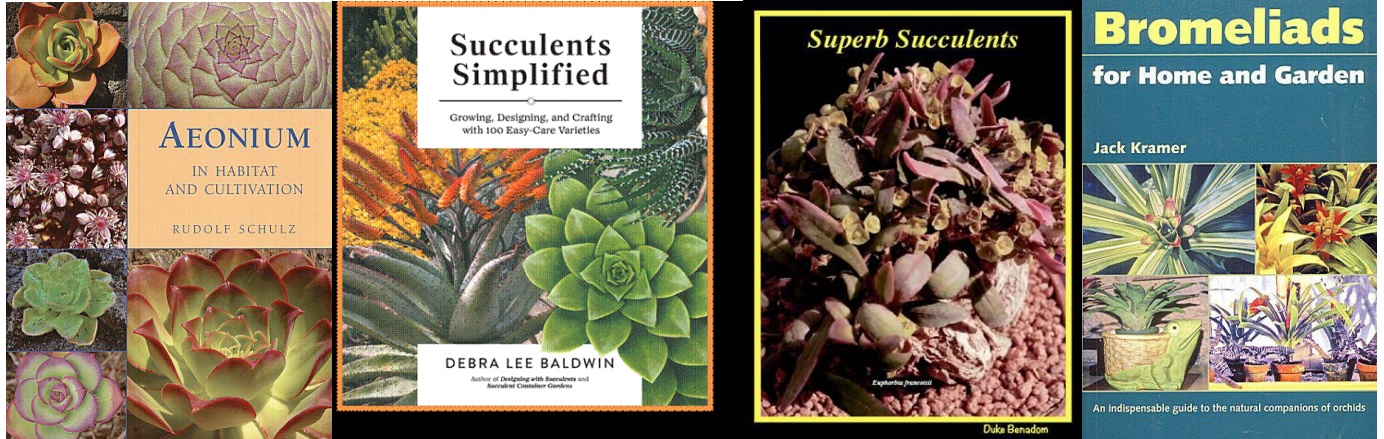
The Day

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, hats and umbrellas as well as a plant or other contribution for the raffle and/or auction. In addition to a guided tour by Graham and Sue, Mike Caulfield will talk to us about a scheme to encourage the use of succulents in arrangements.

Contributions to *Ingens*

Malcolm Thackray and his team of editorial elves are always on the lookout for interesting material for *Ingens*. There has to be universal agreement that the last issue was one of the best ever. So...if you are a keen plant photographer, or if you have a good story to tell in our areas of interest, put pen to paper (there's a phrase that's almost lost its meaning) and let Malcolm have the results of your creative efforts. Your fellow members will enjoy them.

Christmas is Coming!



These and many more excellent books are available from <http://www.cactusbookstore.com/>

A First for Zimbabwe

Although they are fairly frequent occurrences in South Africa, Zimbabwe had never had a Cycad auction—until the plant sale of 29 September. The auction was 'nested' inside the plant sale but at a physically adjacent venue. A total of 220 plants—comprising 30 different species (including some hybrids)—was put up for auction. And despite the fact that sellers were allowed to attach reserve prices, 95% of all the cycads offered for auction were sold. Some 50-100 spectators and 17 serious bidders attended the auction. Plants were sold as cones, plants, suckers and seedlings. Cycad buffs will know that cycad valuations are normally done by species and by cone circumference. The highest price recorded—\$18 per cm—was for a *Zamia amblyphyllidia*, but the average price overall was just over \$8 per cm. Suckers and seedlings averaged some \$29 each, with the record price of \$70 going for a *Stangeria eriopus* seedling. Many thanks to Hans Wolbert and Manfred Spindler for their organizational efforts.

Water-wise Gardening

For those who missed last month's outing, rush out and buy a copy of the November issue of *Ndeipi* (before they disappear) and read Rob Jarvis' (Mr Mafungi) article on the relationship between Miombo woodland and water infiltration. An edited version of the discussion in the roundtable at the meeting will be appearing in *Ingens*.

Our Electronic Boundaries Have Expanded

If you looked carefully at the masthead, you will have noticed two new additions—the official website for our Society and the address of our Facebook page. Thanks to the multifaceted talents of our very own tea lady and webmaster, Caryl Stutchbury, both of these are now up and running in handsome fashion. If you want to appreciate what a dynamic and interesting Society you belong to, by all means take a look at both sites and start to contribute yourself to our Facebook page.

Seed Bank

The Seed Bank is back in action but with very limited stocks of fresh seed. At present, we only have good stocks of *Aloe excelsa*, *A. ferox*, *A. chabaudii* (deep red) and *A. marlothii*. We shall be ordering additional stocks—both indigenous and exotic—and these should be available before Christmas. but fresh seed is in desperately short supply, so we again call on the membership to contribute their surplus seeds. If you want to order seeds, email us your request. Seeds will be packed and taken to the next outing, or we can arrange for you to collect. There will be a full listing of all available seeds in the next newsletter.

Hope to see you on the 24th.

Lynn & Bill