

ORTHOLOPHA



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

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LOTS COMING UP!

Not only do we have our regular month's-end outing but also there is a very special out-of-town trek scheduled for the first weekend in September. This outing will require considerable advanced planning and coordination, so please read page 2 carefully and respond accordingly...and promptly.

This issue of the newsletter also carries news of an innovative feature being introduced at the upcoming plant sale.

In addition, there is a plea for seed stocks from our members so the seed bank can get up and running in October with lots of fresh stocks.

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
150

Mike Kimberley – 339175

Caryl Stutchbury - 0772 611 756

Hans Wolbert – 581364, 573592 or 0772
653 110

Sunday, 25th August 2013

The outing for this month will be to the garden of floral entrepreneur, Dido de Swardt, in Umwinsidale.

The address: 2 Blue Haze Lane, Umwinsidale

Phones: 0772 596 400

The time: 10.00 for 10.30

Details are below.

Directions:

Take the Enterprise Road out to the Umwinsidale garage, where you turn left onto the main Umwinsidale Road. Proceed approx 3.5km then turn right on Haslemere Lane (with a signpost to Patrick Mavros and Kikis). Proceed a few hundred metres then turn right into Blue Haze Lane. The entrance is the first on the right and the wooden gate is clearly marked with the number 2. The driveway is small, so it will be better to park outside. A guard will be arranged.

The Day

The day starts as usual at 10:00 with tea, so please bring the usual plate of treats to share for tea. As usual, do bring your chairs and hats, as well as a plant or other contribution for the raffle or auction.

Advance Notice—A Very Special Outing

We're going out of town again! This time on a joint outing with the Mountain Club and the Tree Society. Dates are 6-9 (10) September. The location is The Corner (see http://www.zimbabweflora.co.zw/speciesdata/location-display.php?location_id=65 for more information and a scenic overview).

There are two basic alternatives for accommodation:

Camping—For the outdoors lovers, we'll be staying at a little-known National Parks facility. We will block book with National Parks. Rates are \$5 entrance fee, \$5 pppn for camping and \$3 for each vehicle. Camping at The Corner is very basic, but there is a river with clean water & it is very close to where vehicles are parked. Campers should plan to be completely self-sufficient. Waterproof tents are essential because rain is a real possibility. The stream water is potable, but there is unlikely to be hot water. It is advisable to bring charcoal & some firewood plus all food and drink. Warm clothing is essential. Toilets may be rudimentary, so be prepared with a small shovel in case the facilities are not good. Vehicles have to be parked in a fenced area because the hyenas have a taste for car tyres.

Lodges—For the softies, three self-catering facilities are available:

1. Farmhouse: Sleeps 8 at \$20 pppn if you use their bedding; \$15 if you use your own bedding.
2. Tallhaven: Sleeps 2 in 1 double BR, 1 BR x 2 singles, 1 bunk bed at \$20 pppn & there is a large mattress as well.
3. Kweza Lodge: If more than 3 book, then \$20 pppn—can sleep up to 8 people. If only 1-2 people, then it is \$30 pppn.

The above are managed by Tempe van der Ruit, who can be contacted on dougvan@zol.co.zw or 0772 101 283 and visited on <http://www.chimanifarmhouse.com/>. Those opting for the lodge-type alternative must do their own booking. Other possibilities include the Frog & Fern & the Chimanimani Hotel (the latter's price is by negotiation).

The accommodation options above are all in the Village, or very close, but the 30km road to The Corner is quite rough, so it will take about an hour to negotiate. High clearance vehicles are needed.

The plan is to drive to The Corner on Friday the 6th & set up camp. Those opting for lodges would go to these on Friday. Saturday, we meet at The Corner at 9am for a walk around the vicinity of the camp area with a picnic lunch & return by 4pm. Sunday, we visit the tops of the cliffs down into Mozambique to look for endemic aloes/cycads/etc, again with a picnic lunch & return by 4pm. Monday or Tuesday departure depending upon preferences.

Rob Jarvis is our organizer and will do the block booking with National Parks. All planning to attend should notify Rob **asap** (bo.hoom52@yahoo.com or 0779 888 180) with details of numbers, days and accommodation plans.

Car-pooling is suggested, so make your own arrangements.

Seed Bank

The Seed Bank, which has been dormant during the chilly winter months, will be back in action from October. But we are desperately short of fresh seed. Please check your gardens and keep your eyes peeled for seeds on your outings. Place whatever seeds you find in an envelope labelled with the species and whether collected in a garden or in the wild and pass them to a committee member.

Plant Sale—Sunday 29th September

This year's spring plant sale will feature an innovation in Zimbabwe—an auction dedicated to the sale of some very special cycads. *Cycad* auctions are fairly common in South Africa, but this will be a first for us. Included will be seedlings, off-cuts and mature plants. The auction will take place as a separate event during the plant sale. More details will follow in the September newsletter but, if you are interested in auctioning some of your cycads, contact either Hans Wolbert or Malcolm Thackray in the near future. It is also not too early for sellers of other species to begin preparations for the sale.

See you in the Eastern Highlands?

Lynn & Bill