

ORTHOLOPHA



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

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THE QUIET DEPTHS OF WINTER?

We thought—we hoped!—things would slow down after the Congress, but it hasn't worked out that way. So we are fleeing to the bush for some peace, and then on to further destinations for a complete change of pace.

As winter progresses and another burning season comes upon us, we are very glad that we timed the Congress for when we did. Just a few weeks later would have meant travels through charred and blackened landscapes. The tough plant survivors grow on rocky surfaces and cliff faces for very good reasons. But just think...we'll have our spring-flowering aloes in the not-too-distant future.

Your Committee

Chairman - Malcolm Thackray - 303494

Vice-chairman – Doreen Richards - 884003 or
0772 255 784

Secretary/treasurer - Lynn & Bill Kinsey –
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Outings, outings, outings!

You are really spoiled for choice this month. Take your pick from three choices: two for Sunday the 27th and one for the weekend of 25-27 July.

#1

This will be the familiar Sunday format. You are invited back to view John and Pat Hibbert's garden and horticultural enterprises with all the changes that have taken place since our last visit there.

The address: 181 Fourth Ave, Parktown, Waterfalls. There is parking for all inside.

Phones: John 0773 760418 / Pat 0772 928329

The time: 10.00 for 10.30

Directions:

--From Beatrice Rd: Go out on Beatrice/Simon Mazorodze Rd, cross the bridge over the Makabuzi River, then take 1st left into Masotsha Ndlovu Way (if you get to Reg Harris Motors you have gone too far). Keep going straight on M. Ndlovu; you will see Parktown Shops on your left. Cross straight over the intersection at the shops, then take the 2nd left into Fourth Ave. No. 181 is the 3rd house on left.

--From Airport Rd: Go out on Airport Rd & turn right into St Patricks Rd. Then turn left when you get to Seke Rd. Once on Seke Rd, take the 2nd right into Masotsha Ndlovu Way (you will see a factory complex with a green roof & wrought iron/brick wall). Keep going straight on M. Ndlovu (approx 4km) & you will then see Waterfalls Police Station on the right. Cross straight over the intersection at the Police Station, then take the 3rd road to the right into Fourth Ave. No. 181 is the 3rd house on the left.

The Day

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

#2

Brian and Barbara Terry are holding an open—explore and enjoy--garden on Sunday, the 27th, from 0900 to 1200..There are still some Aloe flowers and spring flowers have started, as well as African Violets, Cacti, Barbertons, and the Orchids are starting to put on a show. There will be no talks. Just bring your own picnic teas/chair/rug and Granny! For those who missed this wonderful garden on the Congress outing, this is a great opportunity to explore.

Where: 2 Halford Road, Greystone Park (off Gaydon Road)
Ring Brian on 0772 313 427 if you get lost!

#3

For the truly adventurous, there will be a camping weekend 25-27 July to view *Aloe taurii*—and other things—in habitat in Buchwa. This outing is in conjunction with the Mountain Club but since our link man, Rob Jarvis, is sipping kir on the banks of the Seine, you'll need to contact Bruce Cowley, who will lead the expedition, on 0772 513 806. The trip will be a totally camping one, and you can drive to the quarry almost on the top of the mountain. You will need to take all requirements: food, drinking water, tents, cooking utensils, etc. It is likely to be very cold, and there is always a possibility of rain. Enjoy!

Xerophytica 2014—Plants for Our Future

Those of you who missed the Congress missed a unique experience—or rather a whole series of unique experiences. Little old Zimbabwe managed to organize an event that brought people from four different continents and seven different countries. Not that these things are competitive, but our Congress was also 73 percent larger than the Aloe conference in South Africa two years ago. The array of topics covered by the presenters was amazing, and there was truly something for everyone. If that weren't enough, the two days of presentations took place in a setting surrounded by fascinating plants, botanical décor, and the inspiring creations of local and international botanical artists...as well as delightful social interactions during coffee and meal breaks and other occasions. We think we knocked the socks off the South Africans who attended. Many favourable comments were heard, and people seemed particularly impressed by the attention to the smallest detail. Our sponsors and the vendors also offered a fascinating range of new food, health and consumer products relating to plants.

If that weren't enough, the three post-Congress tours—stretching across botanic and domestic gardens to the truly wild—opened new horizons for many. For quite a few Zimbabweans, this involved a first visit to the Great Dyke, a place all know about but few have seen, with the reward of seeing *Aloe ortholopha* and *A. cryptopoda* in spectacular flower. Equally rewarding was the spectacle in the eastern highlands of a hillside ablaze with red, yellow and orange at the type locality of *A. cameronii* var. *bondana* and the setting of the undescribed pendant Aloe at Mtarazi Falls. And, of course, there was *Aloe munchii* in flower in the Chimanimanis.

The 4x4 format for the post-Congress tours worked well because it gave great scope for diverse explorations and individualized botanizing. One of the most striking outcomes of this botanizing was the discovery of three new, previously undescribed Aloe species. Once these have been described and presented in the botanic literature, they will represent an almost 10 percent increase in the number of Zimbabwe's indigenous aloes. So that's one in the nose for those who argue that there is nothing new to be learned about the Aloe in Zimbabwe.

For those who didn't attend, you will be able to enjoy the feel and content of the Congress in the special issue of *Excelsa* that will be coming out in due course.

We shan't see you at any of the outings. We are in recovery mode and blissfully uncontactable.
Lynn & Bill