

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 15-02 February 2015

Hi Everyone,

Welcome to February where the madness of January has finally worn off and your life is more or less back to normal. Except of course if you forgot Valentines Day!!!! Then you are probably the Fifty-first shade of grey, which is not a good place to be.

The rains are still erratic but in Harare we have had quite a good season and the growth of garden trees and plants generally has been phenomenal. Let's hope the rain continues through to late March and perhaps even April. Then your chosen plants for the Big Rare Plant Sale in May will probably be at their very best. Plump, shiny and healthy, that's what we are after to achieve top prices from the discerning public who grace our biannual events. And flowering, because that really releases the purse strings

A luta continua!

Cheers, Mafungi.

Your Committee

Chairman - Malcolm Thackray
0772 516644

Vice-chairman – Doreen Richards
0772 255784

Committee members:

Ros Houghton - 0772 115364
Rob Jarvis – 078 3383214
Mike Kimberley – 04 339175
Caryl Stutchbury - 0772 611 756
Hans Wolbert – 0772 653110
Debra Wolbert - 0772 515436
Gaudencia Kujeke - 0775 376600
Anne-Katrin Maseko - 0772 440131
Mike Caulfield - 0772 241286
Annah Pasipanodya - 0772 572044

Monthly Meeting: Sunday 22 February 2015

The function this month is at Xanadu the home of Stef and Kim McDonald in Ruwa.

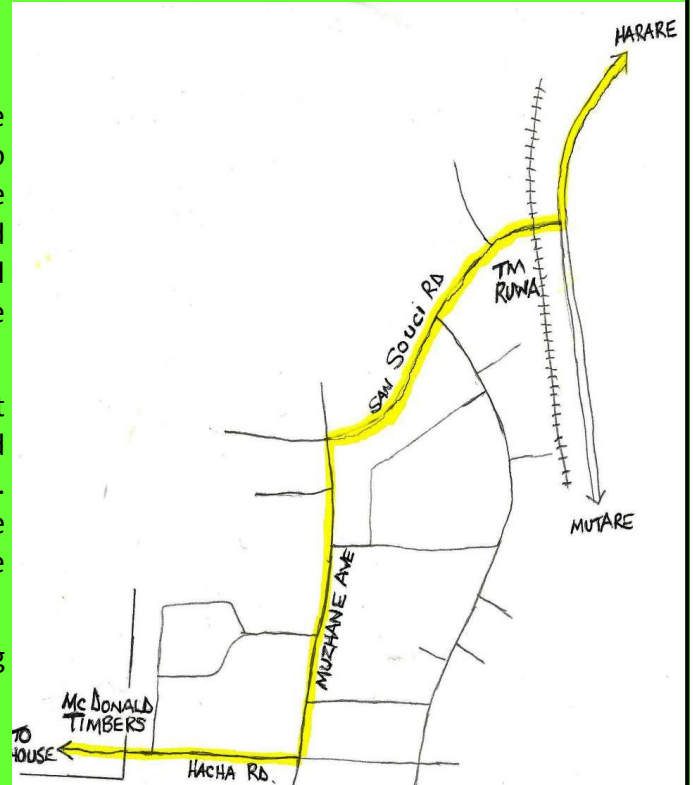
The time: 10.00am for 10:30am

Address: See map and follow directions

Directions: Go out of town on Samora Machel Avenue (Mutare Road). At about 19 km peg, turn right into Ruwa (the first Ruwa turn off). Follow the road over the railway lines and past TM Supermarket, take the second turn left and then the 3rd turn right, follow the road past McDonald Timbers to the garden of the McDonald's. Kim's contact number is 0775 009429.

Please remember to bring a plate of eats to share. Don't forget to bring chairs and hats, as well as a labelled plant or other contribution for the raffle and/or auction. The McDonald's have recently finished the replica of the Great Zimbabwe Ruins as you will have seen in the article "The New Ruins in Ruwa" in Ingens 51.

Everybody is invited to stay on for lunch, please bring your braai stuff or picnic lunch and drinks.



Flowering Aloe: February

We will be posting pictures each month of a flowering Aloe for this time of year, both to encourage you all to look to your roots when deciding what plants to include in your gardening plans and secondly because ecologically and from a preservation of plant diversity point of view it is a good thing to do.

What is this aloe, on the right?

Photo by Caryl Stutchbury

Send your considered opinions to bo.hoom52@yahoo.com. The judge's decision is final and the winner will get a box of Belgian chocolate.

Last month's two entries were *A. nyeriensis* and what we believe to be *A. rauhii*. (see below)



The Aloe above is this February's entry. What is it? A clue: it is probably one of the best grass aloes for hanging baskets and in the right circumstances will have a ball and actually flower throughout the year.

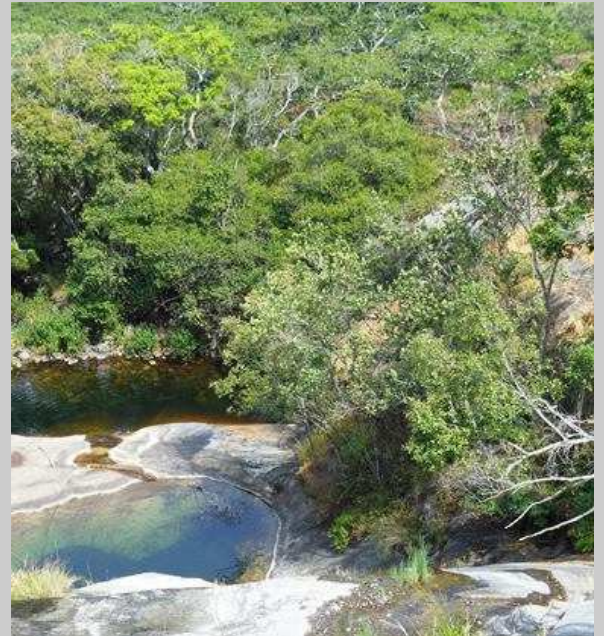
Photo by Caryl Stutchbury

You would be well advised to try and win this competition and the prize for this month's query is a box of chocolate!!!! Send your entries to Mafungi at bo.hoom52@yahoo.com.

Last month's double winners, for effort, were M. Jackson and Doreen Richards. They can get hold of Mafungi at their leisure to arrange for the last Chameleon Safari of the 2015 season. He can be contacted through his more reliable, personal and personable assistant, Sheila, on 0772262150.



These photos, taken by Mafungi in 2012, were snapped at a little known series of infinity pools that occur along the middle reaches of the Wengesi River in Manicaland. The first photograph is unusual for the unexpected appearance of a mermaid who was captured posing at the lip of one of the pools. The plant in the foreground is one of the notoriously difficult to identify, *Cyphostema spp.* plants that spring up from nowhere long before the rains come. They are caudiciform plants having large underground structures that store moisture and nutrients and enable the plant to literally bounce out of the ground when all about is dry and often ravaged by veld fires.



The third picture is of a fruiting body of the tree fuchsia, *Halleria lucida* which is a must-have tree for gardeners who wish to attract wildlife into their gardens. This particular tree was growing on the banks of the Wengesi River and was a huge tree for this species, being nearly 10 metres tall. The red-brick flowers of these trees come straight out of the stems and literally drip nectar and are irresistible to insects and birds. The fruit is edible and the tree casts deep shade although it is very shrubby when young, but can be trained into quite an attractive tree as time goes on. Ash from burnt twigs is very good for keeping wizards away, should that particular problem be plaguing your garden and home.



Annual Subscriptions:- Gaudencia and Debra are collecting subs and handing out new badges for 2015, at the meetings, the subs are only \$20 for person/couple. If it's more convenient people can pay the CABS account:
CABS Platinum: Aloe, Cactus and Succulent Society
Acc #: 901 649 1871 Reference: kindly include your full names as a reference in any deposit.



Stapeliads and Sanseverias, delight the eye but not always the nose with their interesting flowers. These ones appearing in the peak of summer, Rockyvale, Harare.

Photo by: Mafungi



This month our indigenous tree is the Mountain Brachystegia, *B. glaucescens*. Without a doubt one of the most beautiful trees of this part of the world. Usually only occurs naturally on rocky outcrops, sheltered from fire, where it can survive on the thinnest of resources. It doesn't quite have the fire of Musasa in its spring growth, but the pastel leaf shades in September are a delight to behold. The tree has a flattish crown and striking grey bark which makes for splendid natural park-like scenes.

Almost like manicured Japanese style gardens. The best time to plant a group of these trees was definitely twenty years ago, but if you missed that boat, well today will do!!!!

This photo was taken in The Corner, Chimanimani, by Mafungi last year. The tree is now called *B. tamarindoides* to further confuse those of you who knew it as Mountain Acacia, which it very definitely, was not!

Remember that the next Rare Plant Sale will be at the end of May 2015 and now is the time to get your plants into tip-top shape if you want to do well. Take advantage of the rain and sunshine!!!

See you on Sunday at Ruwa!!!! Cheers, Mafungi