



ORTHOLOPHA

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

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Issue 15-10 October 2015

Hi Everyone,

The rainy season looms!!! Exciting times for plant lovers and time to test your gardening strategies to see if you have coped with the dry season stress and can quickly green up the paddock.

The blistering heat this October has been a serious wake-up call for all of us. If there was any doubt about the need to transform our gardens and ideas for the future then I am sure it has evaporated in the hot summer sun. I have had the good fortune this past few weeks to travel the length and breadth of Zimbabwe and the scenes we witnessed just confirmed the appropriateness of the xerophytes we all love. And the adaptability of indigenous trees, especially those that shed their leaves with the dropping temperatures of winter and somehow spring back into life as the summer thunderclouds loom ominously on far horizons.

There is nothing quite like the fresh smell of rain on the parched earth, but for goodness sake do not let it all run off because you have no ground cover. The best is undoubtedly the thick mulch of leaves and pods under Miombo woodlands. See you at the monthly meeting and the Christmas Party to be held on the 22nd November!

Cheers, Mafungi.

Your Committee

Chairman - Doreen Richards
0772 255784

Vice-chairman – Rob Jarvis
0783 383214

Committee members:

Malcolm Thackray - 0772 516644
Ros Houghton - 0772 115364
Mike Kimberley – 04 339175
Caryl Stutchbury - 0772 611756
Hans Wolbert – 0772 653110
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Anne-Katrin Maseko - 0772 440131
Mike Caulfield - 0772 241286
Annah Pasipanodya - 0772 572044

Monthly Meeting : Sunday 25th October 2015

This month's meeting is at the home of James and Sharon Lamb in Mt. Pleasant

Address: No. 5 Old Catton Road, Mount Pleasant

The time: 10.00am for 10:30am

Directions: (Off the Chase) Drive out of town on Second Street Extension. Turn right into The Chase, at the Mazoe Road traffic lights. Turn first right into Old Catton Road.

If you need further directions contact James or Sharon on 0772 603 475.

Please remember to bring a plate of savoury or sweet eats to share.

Don't forget to bring chairs and hats, as well as a labelled plant or other contribution for the raffle.

Flowering Aloe: September

What is this aloe, 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.

September entry has still not been identified. So keep guessing!!!!

Lucky winner in August was Glenn Stutchbury!

You can claim your prize at the next ACSSZ Outing on Sunday 25 October 2015.



You can win a box of chocolates!!!!

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

The Aloe above is the October entry. What is it?

A clue: It has a single inflorescence
Photograph taken by Mafungi

The Rare Plant Sale at the end of September was great fun but sales were quite dramatically down on May's record. Combined with the National Association of Garden Clubs Horticultural show, there were many gardeners who left the Botanical Gardens with great ideas for the future! Either money really is drying up or everyone is a little skittish to purchase new plants when ZESA and water woes dominate our daily lives. What do you think of this monocotyledonous forest seen at Ewanrigg in mid-October???



Annual Subscriptions: If you haven't yet paid, please do, there are a small number of members not yet paid for 2015.

Subs are only \$20 per person/couple. If you don't see one of the committee members, you 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.

Alternatively send \$21-00 through EcoCash to **0783 911314**



Rob Jarvis, renowned for his Horticultural Show entries, clinches Second Prize for his *Adenium multiflorum* brought into full flower, especially for the NAGC Show.

Photo by Theo Wolbert.

Theo Wolbert was so impressed with this *Euphorbia horridus* that he insisted upon being photographed with it even though his own plant arrangement came Third. The Euphorbia belongs to the Jarvis family and also garnered a Second Place.

Photo by Mafungi



The Ploughbreaker"
Erythrina species
 About to break out
 in spring growth
 Rare yellow-flowering
 form. Very valuable.
 Outstanding Plant -
 well presented

But you will have to wait for the next NAGC show to see this plant which received a high commendation from the judges but who were rooted in their position that there was no Bonsai class and therefore no possibility of a winner!!!!

Undoubtedly however this plant was head and shoulders better than any other Bonsai, mainly because it was the only one on Show! However tree expert Meg Coates-Palgrave pointed out that it is not really a Bonsai either because it has the same form and size naturally in the bush.

A luta continua!!!!!!!

I know it is not really our business, (there being an Orchid Society) but we chanced upon this *Ansellia* (Leopard) orchid in mid-October at Ewanrigg Botanical Gardens at Enterprise.

Wow isn't that just amazing, no watering, no pampering and blazing sunshine in one of the hottest Octobers ever and this plant is an absolute profusion of healthy vibrant flowers.

Well done to Ewanrigg you are getting many things right and it is a pleasure to visit the Gardens again!!!



The Health Page

I have had no contributions from members regarding the Health benefits of any plants that we claim jurisdiction over and so am a little short for this month's column. Please we are not all going to die healthy unless you come up with some ideas!!!!



Aloe vera (pictured to the left) is the best known health plant in the plant kingdoms. It is a multi-billion dollar business worldwide and sales by some corporates are done on a pyramid-type scheme where health addicts recruit new salesmen and women to take up the cudgel. You can eat, drink, smear, bathe, pamper, shampoo and just about everything else in between with *Aloe vera*. It's a gel so no powder!



Aloe ferox (above right surrounded by more flamboyant relatives) is equally ubiquitous in its health uses and who could resist the anti-aging claims by the manufacturers of various beauty products. So we are not only going to die healthy, we are even going to die much younger than we are today. *A. ferox* also produces a bitter exudate which apparently gets rid of many internal parasites and because it tastes so bad, it has to be good for you!!!! Remember castor oil? We look forward to some personal anecdotes from those of you with a healthy disposition to enrich this column. With grim determination we can die healthy, looking younger and acting un-grumpily!!!! Let's do it!

Cheers, Mafungi