



ORTHOLOPHA

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

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Issue 15-11 November 2015

Hi Everyone,

Christmas is coming a month early for the Society!!!

Great news for those of us with a leaning towards tipping. It is being held in the Miombo Woodland glade in the Property behind Rob and Sheila Jarvis' humble abode in Rolf Valley.

Apparently there are some new antics that members will be encouraged to do their bit to help these poor folk correct some imbalances around their land. First everyone will be expected to drink a gallon of water with every other drink consumed and all waste to be emptied into the empty dam. This dam has been empty since 1991 when it was dug and only a concerted effort is likely to achieve significant inflows and all outflows will be gratefully accepted.

Then when everyone is sufficiently fired up from whiskey, brandy and port, a little rough and tumble will be encouraged with their charming Ridgebacks!!! Do not wear lion-skins to the event. But they do need the exercise. Such fun! Just joking, they will be locked up!

Cheers,

Mafungi (Always read the small print!)

Your Committee

Chairman - Doreen Richards
0772 255784

Vice-chairman – Rob Jarvis
0783 383214

Committee members:

Malcolm Thackray - 0772 516644
Ros Houghton - 0772 115364
Caryl Stutchbury - 0772 611756
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

Christmas Outing : Sunday 22nd November 2015

This month's meeting is at the home of Rob and Sheila Jarvis in Rolf Valley. It will be a very full day with the Christmas Party, a slide show talk by visiting Euphorbia expert Rikus van Veldhuisen from Holland, accompanied by Succulent expert Bob Potter from the UK .

Address: No. 2 Rockyvale Close, off Rolf Avenue just up the hill from Willowmead.

The time: 11.00am for Bring and Share braai/lunch

Directions: Everybody knows Rolf Avenue and Saint John's College, Rockyvale Close is directly opposite the main sports field of the College.

If you need further directions contact Rob on +263 783 383 214

Please remember to bring your own drinks and meat for the braai / gas and a plate of salad / rolls to share. Don't forget to bring chairs and hats, as well as a labelled plant or other contribution for the raffle. There will also be a Secret Santa event so bring a wrapped present, worth \$10, to put in the bag and to earn you the chance to get one in return.

ALOË, CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY OF ZIMBABWE'S ANNUAL CHRISTMAS EVENT

Sunday 22nd November 2015



At the home of Rob & Sheila Jarvis
No. 2 Rockyvale Close, off Rolf Valley Road
11am until afternoon

BRING AND SHARE LUNCH

Pack your chair, and hat
Bring your cooler box with drinks
There will be braais and gas, so bring your meat; and salads and accompaniments to share

FLORAL ART COMPETITION

bring along an arrangement for the renowned Christmas floral art competition - your entry must be based on succulent plants

FATHER CHRISTMAS

bring a wrapped Christmas gift to the value of \$10. Only those who bring a gift will be eligible in the gift swap (if your gift is specifically for a lady or man, kindly gift-wrap it appropriately!)

GUEST SPEAKERS

International Euphorbia expert Rikus van Veldhuisen / Succulent Expert Bob Potter

Flowering Aloe: October

What is this aloe, on the right?

We are putting this competition on hold for a while so that members can beef up their knowledge. In the meantime the October Aloe has had only one entry and the esteemed Judge has decided to leave it open for one more week to allow for more entries. Send your knowledgeable and considered opinions to bo.hoom52@yahoo.com.

Lucky winner in September was Glen Stutchbury.

His wife claimed his prize at the last ACSSZ Outing in October.

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 comes from Africa!!!
Photograph taken by Mafungi

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



Four posteriors in a row!!!!

Members might well ask what on Earth does this have to do with a respectable Society like ours????

Well everything, you will be pleased to know. These are the stripped (obviously), lopped seedlings of the Borassus palm. They are considered a delicacy in East and West Africa where locals leave Borassus palms wherever they occur. They harvest the fruits, very similar to the more common Llala palm in this part of the world, germinate them and then chop them off at the base, boil them, defrock them and sell in the market to dribbling consumers.



However while some people preserve the palms to get fruits for seedling production, others cannot resist tapping the growing point for the sap that is the main ingredient of palm wine.

So a verdant palm (left), can quickly become a dying member like our friend on the right. He has had his very life-forces drained right out of him. Locals believe the seedlings confer extraordinary bedroom skills on men and fatten the buttocks of women to satisfying proportions.

Who are we to argue?





Travelling to far-flung countries can lead to some amazing discoveries. In Nigeria the locals around the Jos Plateau grow what they call Acha or Hungry rice. This is not rice at all although other than the seeds which are tiny, in colour, aspect, growth habit and environment generally the plants at a cursory glance look just like rice. It is grown because the seed apparently has almost zero carbohydrates and particularly sugars and is therefore ideal for people suffering from Diabetes. It is known as *Digitaria exilis* to Botanists.

The ladies doing the harvesting were so excited to meet us that they posed for photographs and then formed a choir group and spontaneously burst into song! One, whose looks were much improved by the plastic bowl on her head, tried to follow me into the car, but I have enough problems in this World without those certain to come from a Jos lady! Bless her.



So Folks that is the end of the Newsletter this month, you have two angles on the healthier side of life, one from a palm that does grow in isolated pockets in this country, Nyamaropa, Honde Valley, Bangala Ranch, and the second from a rice that is not. But which improves your life if you are diabetic, which many of us are, but not me.

Let's just take a last look at the tastiest of those palm seedlings.....
Yes, I do think they might just be the next best thing to Viagra.

Cheers, Mafungi