



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

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Hi Everyone,

Something of interest this month from a trip we made in 2012 to one of the rivers that drains out of the Himalayas on the Eastern Border between the Vumba and Cashel.

These trips were made with The Mountain Club of Zimbabwe and this very active club will have visited, during the last one-month period, The Corner in the Chimanimanis, Pungwe Gorge and Nyajiiwa Falls on the Gairesi River as it meanders along the Mozambique border north of Nyanga.

There is a lot in common between our two Clubs and active members of ACSSZ, i.e. those with posteriors less predisposed to the seated mode in front of the arch-desocializer, television, should consider getting out and about with like-minded people, see the four corners of Zimbabwe and just maybe find that elusive new species that may make you rich and famous!

Bring happiness back into your life and spring out of a tent each morning, smelling of woodsmoke, with dents in your back from rocks and tufts of grass, your clothes humming and your hair unkempt, but always, your collection of plants, ever-growing.

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
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

Monthly Meeting : Sunday 24 April 2016

This month's meeting is at **54 Beeston Ave, Mandara**, the home and garden of Grim Cooke. Grim is "The Water Guru" and has a most fascinating set up at his home..... that he will very kindly talk to us about. (Grim is also an organics' man !).

PLEASE remember to bring a delicious plate of eats to share. Don't forget to bring your chairs, hats and umbrellas, as well as a labelled plant or other contribution for the raffle.

The time: 10.00am for 10:30am

Directions: Travelling out of the city on Enterprise Road, past Harare Drive, then turn second right into Beeston Ave., (the first right being the service road running parallel with Enterprise Rd.) Number 54 is about 1.2 km along Beeston on the LEFT hand side.

If you need further directions contact Grim on 0772 315 314.

Flowering Plant: APRIL

What is this, 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.

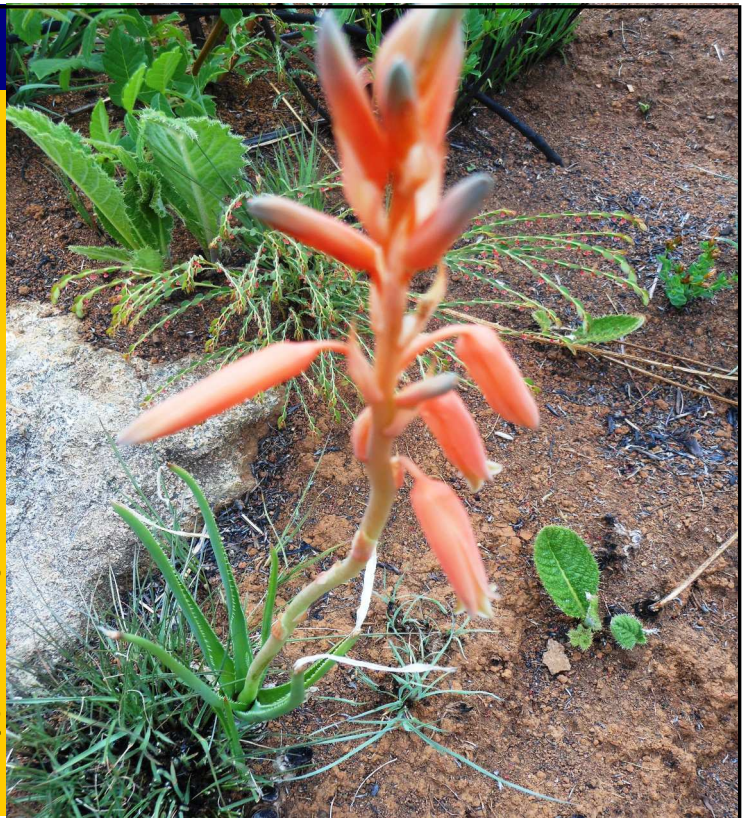
March entry was *Huernia longituba* subsp *cashelensis*

Lucky winner in March was Professor Barbara Maasdorp!

You can claim your prize at the next ACSSZ Outing in April 2016.

You can win a box of chocolates!!!

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



The Aloe above is the April entry.

What is it ?

A clue: The photograph was taken near the Wengesi River in the foothills of the Himalayas in eastern Zimbabwe and was flowering around September.

ODDS and Sods:

For members interested in online reading the: *Xerophilia* no. 16 (Vol. 5, No. 1 – March 2016) is online and ready for you to download from: www.xerophilia.ro.

Next Month, May is the first of our Rare Plant Sales in 2016 and if you intend taking part, either get your plants ready and book your space through Hans Wolbert and definitely get some cash together for those choice purchases you need to make. Don't be fooled by the end of season rains we have had in 2016 after the El-Nino inflicted drought from November to February. There is no doubt the weather is getting hotter, what little rain that does fall will be from intense storms and there will be record-breaking heat-waves in between.

Bin the green lawns, the pampered annual flowerbeds and go for the waterwise.

Annual Membership: Membership payments have been slow this year and you are encouraged to make payment for 2016 as soon as they can, thanks very much to all those that have already paid.

Membership is \$20 per person/couple per year. Make payment to a committee member, or the CABS account: **CABS Platinum: Aloe, Cactus and Succulent Society**

Acc #: 901 649 1871 Reference: kindly include your names as a the deposit reference.

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



Although not taken from a recent trip, the photos shown here were from around a pearl-like string of infinity pools that characterise this river as it heads down from the Himalayas to the Lowveld mainly fed by the Odzi, Save and Lundi Rivers.

Our Guess the Aloe entry came from a little known area of Zimbabwe, all but inaccessible except by 4x4 and some hard trekking, up the Wengesi river some distance from the Mutare/Birchenough Road.

As you can see there were other attractions, like this little group of *Cyphostemma* spp. upstarts (right) that spring out of bare ground, well before the rains come. Below the soil surface will be a large caudiciform storage organ that allows the plants access to moisture and nutrients saved from better times. A bit like the comfortable posterior of a well-fed human, but often those of these plants are more exposed and pachycaul in shape.

In this particular shot the sharp-eyed will notice a typical mermaid enjoying the tranquillity of these pools. In this stretch there were seven in all, falling from one to the next in short 5 to 10m drops.



The objects of interest seen on our visit to the Wengesi included this caudiciform plant found in some loose soil disturbed by an antbear. If you believe the traditional healer's wisdom that plants often resemble that part of the human body that they can be used to treat in times of affliction, this little runner is probably good for the legs! And he was likely fuelled by extracts smoked from the plant on the right !!!



The Health Corner:

Health is not only about the food we eat, herbs and liquors we treat ourselves with and the exercises we subject our bodies to in our quest for eternal youth. It is also about emptying the mind and letting it reboot, so the blank space below is for exactly that purpose! Use it!



We will see you at Grimwood Cooke's house on Beeston Avenue next weekend! Let's hope you will all have rebooted successfully by then.

Cheers, Mafungi