



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 17-09 September 2017

Hi Everyone,

It has been a busy time of year with winter a little reluctant to actually close down the nippy mornings and let in the hot winds of summer.

However I think we have finally turned the corner and with the rapid spread of grass fires in recent weeks we can see that spring has come and gone in the flash of an eye and that hopefully we are now in the long hot build-up to the rains.

Prognostications for the rains are not too promising for the first half and the second half, from January onwards is likely to be frenetic. Whichever way it goes, there is no doubt in our minds that you should be looking at making your gardens more water-wise than ever before.

This week I went down to the Zambezi Valley and from the escarpment you could not see the Valley floor. Smoke from bushfires has turned the sky into a leaden blanket of polluted air. Expect the resultant warming to make for intense storms when the rains do break. Be ready for this by having thick leaf mulches to capture every drop!!!!!!

Cheers, Mafungi.

Your Committee

Chairman - Rob Jarvis
0783 383214

Vice-chairman – Hans Wolbert
0772 653110

Committee members:

Doreen Richards - 0772 255784
Malcolm Thackray - 0772 516644
Ros Houghton - 0772 115364
Caryl Stutchbury - 0772 611756
Debra Wolbert - 0772 515436
Gaudencia Kujeke - 0775 376600
Anne-Katrin Maseko - 0772 440131
Mike Caulfield - 0772 241286
Annah Pasipanodya - 0772 572044

Monthly Meeting : Sunday 24th September 2017

This month's **Meeting** is at **Lillian Pswarayi**'s home at No **3 Mansfield Rd.**, in **Marlborough**, (close to Marlborough Civic Centre). Lillian is an avid gardener and landscaper and has her own nursery.....

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

The time: 10.00am for 10:30am

Directions: Travelling on Harare Drive towards Westgate—after crossing over 2nd Street Extension (Golden Stairs), take the 4 road on the right - Princess Margaret Rd. and 2nd left into Admiral Tait Rd., then 1st right into Mansfield Rd.,

Lillian's mobile number is 0772 516 441

Flowering Plant: September

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.

**There was no lucky winner in August yet!
Please keep guessing!!!!**

You can then claim your prize at the next Meeting on Sunday 24th September 2017

You can win a box of chocolates!!!

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



The plant above is the September entry.
What is it? Clue it is not an aloe!

Rare Plant Sale

The next plant sale is on Sunday 29th October 2017 at the Botanical Gardens. If you want to be a seller please get hold of Hans Wolbert Cell 0772 653 110), our Convenor, to book your site. Charges are only US\$50 for a half-sized site and US\$100 for a full-sized one. Sellers should make sure that they have either Eco-cash or point of sale capabilities because there is no doubt that real cash will still be in short supply at the end of October!!!!

Buyers welcome!!!!!!

Aloe, Cactus & Succulent Society of Zimbabwe

Plants for our Future

ALOES, SUCCULENTS, CACTI, SABI STARS, BAOBABS, PALMS & CYCADS

RARE PLANT SALE | SUNDAY 29th October 2017: 9am - 1pm
Harare Botanic Gardens HERBARIUM entrance

Annual Membership: Thanks to all the members that have already paid. There are a few that haven't yet paid, please do.

Membership is \$20 per person/couple per year. Children \$5 per year. Foreign membership \$40 per year. Make payment to a committee member, the CABS account, or through EcoCash:

CABS Platinum: Aloe, Cactus and Succulent Society

Acc #: 1002616336 Reference: kindly include your surname as the deposit reference.

Alternatively send \$21-00 through EcoCash to 0783 911314 : kindly include a reference

Open Gardens

June 2017

What a fun weekend! Your Society took members on a tour of the suburbs, looking at various gardens that were in the absolute peak season for colour, diversity and interest. We started at the **Stutchbury's out near Luna Road, beyond Borrowdale Brooke.** Everything was on fire, aloes we have watched for the past couple of seasons are now in their full splendour with pride of place probably going to the yellow *Aloe arborescens* (far right).



From the windows of Sunlands, we watched flowers being plundered by a host of sunbirds drinking the sweet nectars of all manner of aloes. This is a garden to spend all your time up in the tree-house, or on the open-plan verandah and look out over a job extremely well done! Brother Wayne makes twirly dreamcatchers out of wood that swirl endlessly!!!!!!





Thence on to the wonderful hilltop residence of Doreen Richards and Mike Caulfield, Here interesting plants are two a penny, with lifetime collections strategically placed over a hill facing north over the Greystone Park area. Water is at a premium and so the emphasis is on hardy, resilient plants that can survive the months between rains with minimal intervention. In addition to the local aloes, Adeniums and some architecturally magnificent trees like Sterculias and forest fever trees, there are astounding Cacti (above)



And many different species of Euphorbia with the mark of the cross, (left) being a beacon for the bees and nectar-hungry insects of the Highveld. The garden literally hums with vitality at this time of year with a sting on the end of every red nose a very likely possibility!

One feels for Mike and Doreen however as they struggle with water, the municipal supply being all but non-existent and the difficulty of negotiating their driveway means that the tankers must offload at the bottom of the hill and the water is then pumped to storage at the top.



Brian and Barbara Terry's lovely garden reflected a lifetime of absolute dedication to the joys of gardening. Their interests have spread from the aloes collected early on for what was once a bleak hillside. Now beautifully landscaped there are multiple areas of interest and no matter how long you spend in their garden, there is a good chance you will still miss something! They have a fantastic collection of African violets and in the open spaces outside their shade rooms there are beds of violets. Bright with colour!!!

Here and there too there are interest plants and if you can control their intrinsic urge to spread through underground runners, then the colourful spines and strong healthy leaves of the agaves make great focal points in this most varied of gardens.

True love has been expended in making the bright splashes of colour, in arranging the architectural plants and in ensuring that the sunbirds face their June smorgasbord of fiery flowers dripping nectar.





The day finally came to a close at the woodland home of Rob and Sheila Jarvis. Luckily the property had been cleared of lion and other vermin by the dedicated selfless application of the family ridgebacks and ACSSZ members were able to safely relax in the shade of indiginous Munondo trees. Both people and dogs were fed with a hearty stew of beef and potatoes and comfortably belching, with stomachs well-filled, they all eventually departed as the last rays of the sun set.

Many were intrigued by the top-secret facility they observed on the way to the party venue, (left) but no-one had the temerity to peer inside to see shat was afoot. Time will tell.

Of course if you were foolish enough to take a nap on the leaf-strewn floor of the miombo woodland here at Rockyvale, your regular snore-beat of slumber might well have been disturbed by the beasts that frequent this balanced eco-friendly environment. Some have four legs, some six and a number have no legs at all and the same description might equally apply to a few dedicated members who had attended the full itinerary of Open Gardens and drunk the sweet nectars at every opportunity!!!!!!





On the Sunday we went to the grounds of the Marlborough veterinary surgery owned by Charles and Diana Waghorn and were intrigued by the phased development of this property through landscaped plantings of aloe and other succulent plants. Charles related how the spiders are dwindling even though his garden is becoming richer through the spreading of humic riches from very industrious earthworms that inhabit his cleverly constructed tower farms.

The Health Corner:

We are in the process of building a retirement cottage for us to live in as we go from slightly off-beat to doddery, dribbling idiots. I think building on your own property is one of the most therapeutic things you can do in life. It is made a bit easier by using professionals to do the crunch work and in our case we will have a roof over our heads long before there are walls and a floor.

Not exactly normal, but who wants to be normal in this mad world? Here our K-Nine building inspector puts his indelible stamp of approval on one of the foundations of the cottage!!!



**There you go Folks, only one month to go to the Rare Plant Sale. If you are a seller, make sure your plants are fully spit and polished to achieve top-dollar!!!!
Cheers, Mafungi**