



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 18-03 March 2018

Hi Everyone,

The AGM is on this coming weekend, please be sure to attend. We are still looking for someone to take over the duties of Treasurer, which has been filled by Malcolm Thackray for the past few years. Malcolm has many other duties in the Society, not least of which is the Publications portfolio and under his able watch we regularly get the monthly newsletter Ortholopha distributed and the the bi-annual glossy Ingens Publication out for distribution at the Rare Plant Sales.

We will be asking members to provide Exhibition-quality plants for the static displays that we will have at the 2019 Xerophytica Congress. Now is the time to repot your precious, colourful and interesting gems and provide the plants with the most nutritious, well-drained, growing medium so that they look their very best at the Congress, just 15 short months away.

We will be doing a dry run for the 2019 post-Congress tour this year at the end of June and a separate e-mail circular on this event will be sent out at the beginning of April. Please be sure to try and make this event a big success.

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
Lillian Pswarayi - 0772 516 441

Monthly Meeting & AGM : Sunday 25th March 2018

This month's **Meeting** is at Bev and Jimmy Jaynes home in Highlands – **36 Hindhead Ave., Chisipite**. The Jaynes garden is well laid out with a well developed and self-sufficient vegetable garden and fruit trees.

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: From Enterprise Road at the Chisipite roundabout head towards Chisipite Girls Senior School along Hindhead Avenue. The house numbers are not consecutive No 36 is on the right some way after passing the School, look for a red steel-slatted gate.

Flowering Plant: March

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.

The lucky winner in February was Anne-Katrin Maseko

You can claim your prize at the next Meeting on Sunday 25th March 2018



You can win a box of chocolates!!!

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

The plant above is the March entry. What is it? Your nut should be firmly screwed on to get this one. Photograph taken by Mafungi

It is with shock that your Society notes the recent abduction and disappearance of Rod and Rachel Saunders of Silverhills Seeds and Books of Cape Town. Many of the seeds that your Society offered to members came from Silverhills. At the time of writing they had still not been found although there have been several arrests and the suspects had some belongings of this couple in their possession. For all of us we must be aware of the big picture in everything we do. These suspects apparently have links to ISIS and although the abduction is quite likely just for crime, it could well be politically motivated as well.

Tread carefully Folks!



Annual Membership: 2018 memberships are now due, thanks to members that have already paid.

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 : If the payment is not from your own EcoCash Account, please follow the payment with an SMS with member's name.



Aloe season is approaching and those of you with a high leisure preference should start re-evaluating your life-styles. Instead of couch potato-ing watching endless re-runs of the same old series, sports events and the dreadful news channels, why not head for the hills and do the same thing but try and get inspired by nature to improve your gardens back home? Seen above are some snappy little ideas for a water feature, natural sedges and where to place the loungers. Lay-lines abound. The view, in this case the whole of the Mazowe Valley from the last of the Masembura Mountains, just north of Harare, gives you the really big perspective on life. Decisions made whilst in this recumbent pose, will no doubt be worldly and wise and result in enduring and calming changes to your little plot back home. What on Earth are you waiting for?



The rocks have been around for millions of years and they are not going anywhere soon. The plants are more recent but for sure when next summer's rains come galloping in from the ITCZ, these mounds of *Xerophyta spp.*, probably the most iconic succulent or xerophyte of them all, will burst forth in new growth and if lucky we will be there on the day they flower with beautiful but fragile lilac blooms.

For now though they look like the heads of a sage audience-in-waiting for the

2019 Xerophytica Conference that your Society is putting in place right now. If you have a 2019 calendar to hand, on your cellphone or computer start to ink in the proposed dates of June 28 to July 2nd in 2019. The two-day Congress will be followed by a four-day excursions to aloe, cycad, palm and succulent habitat in the southern regions of Zimbabwe.

You don't want to miss this event!!!!



Recently there has been much in the news channels of the world about scary environmental issues that undoubtedly will affect us all, and sooner than we think. Bees are dying off, the Orang-utans of Borneo are finding the trees they need to build their homes in are tumbling down to chain-saws, the seas are seething with vast, slowly circulating but choking mats of man-made plastic and other detritus. What can you do? Well before reaching for the can or bottle of broad spectrum pesticide and spraying everything in your garden with gay abandon,

why not think of some more environmentally friendly way of dealing with the problems you face. The photo shows a queen termite unearthed in our backyard last week. We and a friend are currently building and we figured that these pests were a little risky to still have around near the wooden materials needed. So they had to go, and a morning's work by a specialist crew of two, unearthed no less than six queens in short order. We paid them ten dollars for each one. Man-implemented solutions, or woman- if its rugby or cricket season and your attention is firmly required warming the couch and fingers at the controls of the remote, can easily be done by squashing slugs and snails underfoot, rubbing off scale insects found on aloe leaves using a dishwasher solution, and those pesky striped caterpillars that munch the leaves of Crinum lilies and the like, can be hand-plucked and dealt with mercilessly underfoot as well. Weeds can be sprayed with a mixture of salt and vinegar, and for some reason cinnamon powder works as a disinfectant keeping fungal diseases at bay. In many cases the effort you put in is probably more like a placebo effect, as Africa is relentless is sending hordes of bugs and infections at your precious plants, but you have to take some hits on the chin and let the bugs that feed on bugs have a chance to come to your aid.

Restock at our Bi-annual plant sales!!!!

The Health Corner: By chance on the internet I found a story about what a wonderful health plant asparagus is for us mere humans. I am sure that you have all experienced the very strong stench in your urine after munching crisp green stems of asparagus. Liquids in your bodies pass through the kidneys just before they are emitted and they take with them all the toxic salts that you definitely don't need. These same salts can be the toxins that contribute to gout, arthritis, inflamed arteries, weak willies, pounding headaches and the like. So asparagus apparently is one of the very best purgatives and all you have to do is get some crisp green stalks, add pure water and macerate them up in a juicer or similar equipment and store the jug generated in the refrigerator and take two small glasses of the juice daily, one first thing in the morning and the other, last thing at night before you nod off to sleep. Energy levels will improve, joints become more supple and you can take your golf handicap down to single figures again!!!! And the smelly urine? Well it goes too because it came from the toxic salts in your system, not from the asparagus itself!!!!

That's it Folks let's hope we see you all at the AGM this coming weekend.

Cheers, Mafungi