



ORTHOLOPHA

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

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Issue 18-05 May 2018

Hi Everyone,

Rare Plant Sale time!!!! Come and spend that ethereal sum held on your debit card, Ecocash or similar account that we still pretend is US Dollars but in reality is just like a candle in the wind. Give it roots and buy as many plants as you cannot afford!!!! Competing functions such as the Art Show at Wild Geese should be visited late in the day. By then weary artists will be happy to part with their treasures at much reduced prices, just to avoid the problem of loading them up. We know because last year we bought a giant two-metre owl and a sewing-machine driven-tractor for a song.

For obvious reasons the reverse logic does not apply to our sale. You have to be early for the choicest plants. Cheers, Mafungi!!!!!!

Your Committee

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0783 383214

Vice-chairman – Hans Wolbert
0772 653110

Committee members:

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Aloe, Cactus & Succulent
Society of Zimbabwe

Plants for our Future



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

RARE PLANT SALE | SUNDAY 3rd June 2018: 9am - 1pm

Harare Botanic Gardens HERBARIUM entrance

Special Monthly Meeting : June

There was no Monthly meeting in May but in June we are planning a Round-the-Gardens tour at a date to be advised. This will be on Sunday June 24th

PLEASE remember to bring a delicious plate of eats to share. Don't forget to bring your chairs and hats. There will be no raffle. However bring warm clothing as we will finish at a sunset venue for sundowners.

The time: 10.00am for 10:30am

Directions: These will be provided separately

Flowering Plant: May

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 April entry has not had a single guess!!!! The highly respected Judge is still in a state of shock!!!!

There will be a guessing station at the Rare Plant Sale on Sunday 3rd June 2018 with the prize awarded immediately to the first correct answer.



You can win a box of chocolates!!!

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

The flowering plant above is the May entry.

What is it?

Photograph taken by Mafungi

Annual Membership: 2018 memberships were due in January 2018, 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.



Structure in the Garden

Last night we slept in what will be the lounge of our new home at Rockyvale and we are really looking forward to moving in properly. This is the view westwards. The dead gum is a flitting station for innumerable birds throughout the day but in the evening it is a much-favoured perch.

Just as it gets dark the nightapes, that have lived in our bathroom ceiling for years, come bounding across the bamboo on the right, spring onto the branches of the gum and whisk themselves away into the albizia on the left of the picture. Hopefully, when we are backlit in the lounge when the house is complete they

will pause for a brief moment on the branches and peer at us curious humans in our big glass-fronted abode, shake their heads with perplexed frowns and bound off in search of more useful nuts. If you believe in Feng Shui and other similar influences on your life, we believe that this house will be blessed. On the night of the full moon, when rain should be scarce at the end of May, we had a little thunderstorm. The roof-wetting went well, guests were still dry and fed and nobody fell off the chasms that will soon be protected by laminated glass. This was on the occasion of my wife's 65th birthday.

38 years ago as we moved our possessions from a flat in Avondale to the Rockyvale homestead, we were lashed by a 50mm rainstorm and this was on the 30th of September in 1980. My Birthday, so if you have been looking East and believe in auspicious happenings you would be forgiven for thinking that destiny was playing a role! So for both first nights in these two houses 100 metres apart, on the birthday of one of us, we were blessed with out of season rain for the house-warming and roof wetting respectively.

Visit to Masvingo, Birchenough and Mutare Friday 29 June to Tuesday 3rd July.

Over the last weekend in June and first couple of days in July your Society is planning a trip to the above three destinations on a loop that will show you some of the finest Aloe and succulent populations in Southern Africa. This will be a Four-night journey and we will see *Aloe arborescens*, *excelsa*, *chabaudii*, *greatheadii*, *tauri*, *aculeata*, *cryptopoda*, *cameronii*, *globuligemma*, *pretoriensis* and all with luck in full bloom!!!! We will see some of the largest baobabs, Stapeliads, Sanseverias, Adenums and Adenias in the country. We will see Zimbabwe ruins at their finest. In Mutare we will see some of the most spectacular gardens in the country

So at the Rare Plant Sale this coming weekend lodge your interest in attending this tour with either myself or my wife, Sheila Jarvis or let us know by e-mail at bo.hoom52@yahoo.com. The costs will be shared fuel for a journey of around 1000 kilometres all told. Camping will cost US\$30 for two nights at Norma Jeans in Masvingo and US\$16 for two nights at La Rochelle in Mutare. At both places there are more comfortable options available and certainly in Mutare there are innumerable establishments ranging from friends and family to luxury multi-starred hotels.

The plan is to go early morning on Friday 29th June, visit Great Zimbabwe and Mt Iggar to see *Aloe tauri* on the Saturday, then wend our way on the Sunday seeing various aloe populations and baobabs, have a hot swim at Hot Springs and then join Mutare gardening fanatics at a braai late Sunday afternoon. On the Monday we will look at La Rochelles' stunning gardens and a couple of others in Mutare before returning on the Tuesday morning to Harare.

Book your place now for this fascinating excursion!!!!



On the left is a scene from just next to Birchenough Bridge that will be visited on the expedition outlined above. Sign-up now for this once in a lifetime opportunity to see most of Zimbabwe's winter-flowering aloes and meet special people in destinations rarely visited by us Harare-ites. The Promised Land beckons!!!!

The Health Corner: Hemp and Marijuana

Many dreadlocked folk have known for centuries that hemp and marijuana are good for your health. Rastafarians lead the pack. Everything glows when you are high on weed apparently. As you know Zimbabwe has recently legalised the production of hemp for health and industrial uses. Unfortunately our ever-avaricious authorities have made the cost of licences to grow, process and market the crop way beyond the means of ordinary folk. A great pity, because the easiest crop to grow, as we all know, is a Weed!!!!

So no backyard fortunes will be legally, easily earned.

So what are the health benefits of hemp? Apparently it is very good for your heart, the oils contained being largely linoleic and alpha-linoleic fatty acids. Omega 6 and Omega-3's, no less. And the nutty seeds contain these in just the right proportions to cleanse your clogged-up arteries and free the blood-flow. Munching the seeds will make you a Healthy Nut!!! And any bad blood will pour out copiously if you spring a leak.

They are very good for your skin. These same fatty acids will help banish eczema, thick skin and cracked heels. Many of our members have legendary thick skins and are at least slightly cracked. There is no need to stay in these states with hemp oils available.

For those of the fairer sex and young enough to still experience menstrual cycles, hemp seed is laden with gamma-linoleic acid which produces Prostaglandin E1 which apparently reduces the effect of Prolactin, the hormone thought to trigger crabby behaviour in otherwise truly beautiful, but behaviourally-challenged maidens.

Perhaps the healthiest contribution of hemp will come from the fibre contained in its stalks mainly. These can be used with a type of plastic produced from the seed and used in a whole host of industrial applications, from paper, textiles, to car-body parts and the like. Biomass production from hemp is reputed to be four times that of the most productive plantation forests!!!! So a healthy Planet will be the net result. And on a Healthy Planet, humans will have no option but to be healthy too!!!!

Literally glowing with good intentions as we spin through cyberspace.

Lets see you all bright and early at the Rare Plant Sale this coming Sunday!!!! It's a great chance to catch up with old friends and new and to select plants to fill those empty spaces!

Cheers, Mafungi