



ORTHOLOPHA

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

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February/March 2022



Hi Everyone,

Good news!!! We are resuming our monthly meetings this Sunday, 27th March at 10 for 10.30am start.

Venue: Ella Plant's home, 5 Albany Road. Alex Park

Bring: A plant for the raffle, chair, hat, snacks for the tea table

Directions: Turn off Borrowdale Road onto Sandringham Drive, (Sandringham goes past the National Parks Headquarters) turn right off this into Albany (third right) and then proceed down Albany until you reach no. 5. The ACSSZ banners will be outside the gate.

Ella and her son Linden have excellent gardening and landscaping skills and since we were last there, they have added more features to their garden. Linden will give a talk on a new clay product that can be used as a draining material for potted plants. We look forward to seeing you all on Sunday!

Cheers Mafungi!





St Giles Garden Rehabilitation

The Society has moved into top gear to help with the rehabilitation of the gardens at St. Giles, deep in the Avenues area of Milton Park. We were invited by Tawny Stidolph, President of the National Association of Garden Clubs of Zimbabwe to take over the landscaping and planting up of an area just as you enter the main gates of St Giles, off Drummond-Chaplin Road. Tawny did the basic designing and two arcs are joined together by a middle shared bank. Inside each arc we shall eventually place picnic benches and have wheelchair and Zimmer/crutch-friendly walkways allowing patients under treatment at St Giles, their friends and relatives and the staff themselves to have quiet corners, surrounded by flowering aloes at peak times of the year. One arc is designed to catch the warm winter sun and the other to allow relaxation during the evening or late afternoon periods.

There was a tremendous effort by members to bring planting material to add to the soil and sand donated by Sean Buckler and sand, gravel and rocks very kindly sent in by Kim McDonald from Ruwa. Rob Jarvis and Tawny brought gardeners and a crew to do the basic landscaping using car-park rubble found on site and a huge donation of builder's rubble sent by building contractor Trevor Clack who found transport for four huge truckloads.

The main feature of the garden is the use of aloes, pachypodiums and adeniums to provide both architectural form to the display, but also in time the careful placement of these plants will allow mass displays of flowers. These will hopefully bring in birds and insects to the garden area and provide interesting opportunities to watch wildlife in action, year-round.

Interspersed amongst the larger plants are water-wise groundcovers that will help bind the soil and provide a fitting background to the stars on show. At the moment there is limited shade, but some indigenous trees have been strategically placed nearby and when they are sufficiently tall, the lone, non-indigenous bauhinia will be removed.



Although it was proposed at the meeting held at St Giles last month that we could all get together again to actually plant out the project, we ultimately realised that it wasn't going to be a practical proposition. So Tawny and her Team set to work laying out the plants in swathes of like with like and then planted, watered and some weeding has even taken place after the recent rains.

Your Committee is very appreciative of the efforts by members to bring plants to St. Giles and to drop them off at central places before the day of our meeting.



Throughout St Giles the various Gardening Clubs involved have embraced the idea of filling beds and corners with waterwise plants that hopefully will be low maintenance and able to withstand dry periods. See picture right. The organisation has only two permanent gardeners and their hands are pretty much full looking after the lawned areas and the hedges of Duranta and the like that border many areas.



St Giles also had fantastic equipment donations from Husqvarna, Halsteads, Sawpower and Electrosales and Morag Flight sited a borehole and had it drilled by Spartan Borehole services. It is a gusher by all accounts so a major problem for St Giles will be resolved when this is equipped and plumbed into the systems. Compost donations came from Lyndsay Charters, Di Kerr and Sarah Chapman.

Well done to the ACSSZ tea ladies and members who braved the extremely hot day to come to the site and see what was potting and planned.





Part of the area allocated to the Aloe Cactus and Succulent Society is in the corner as you drive in the gate. We have heaped the rubble again into a crescent shape and the plan is to make this an artificial granite kopje, utilising the skills imparted to our Society by both Brian Terry and Norman Conlon who have built rock structures in their gardens where before there was just bare ground.

This structure, when finished, will be clad with a man-made web of deformed bar and chicken mesh and then covered with about 150mm of concrete. Oxides or pigments, mainly red, yellow and black will be splattered onto the concrete when still wet to simulate the lichens that naturally occur on our granite mountains found across the length and breadth of Zimbabwe.

In strategic spaces we shall build into the concrete, drainage holes so that growing medium, such as a coarse sand/compost mixture can allow plants to grow on the “rock”. For the patients of St Giles, many of whom will never be able to visit such a granite mountain because of their challenges, it will offer them a chance to get acquainted with the various plants such as aloes, seasonal sedges and *Xerophyta*, *Euphorbias* and *Sanseverias* that we commonly see on the rock. Iconic trees, such as *Sterculia quinqueloba*, *Hymenodictyon multiflorum*, *Ficus ingens* and *Albizia tanganyicensis* all of which have dramatically coloured stems or foliage at various times of the year will find a place. We will also build into the structure some flat spots where potted specimen plants such as *Adeniums* (Sabi Stars), *Pachypodiums*, and maybe even some exotics such as cacti and Agaves can find a spot to be exhibited.

In future our Society can look forward to using the area for a Rare Plant Show, combining landscaped garden features with potted, prized plants. When the winter aloes flower it could be quite a sight.

Donations of:-

Deformed bar
Wire for tying
Chicken mesh
Sacking

And even cement, sand and granite chips for the concrete will be welcomed.




Your Committee

Chairman –
Hans Wolbert -0772 653 110

Committee members:

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Remember the ACSSZ Birthday
Calendars are still on sale by arrange-
ment Phone Rob 0783383214
Just US\$5 each.

PAYMENT OPTIONS FOR SUBSCRIPTIONS TO ACSSZ.

The payment options for subs to ACSSZ are as follows:

Payment in USD cash to me at; 24 Southam Rd, Greystone Park. This is off the Harare Drive, just up West of the large traffic circle. Please phone ahead or e-mail the day and time to ensure that this is convenient.

Payment into the Nostro account in the name of M. Caulfield at

CABS, Nostro: Account number, 1125376759

Please use ACSSZ as the recipient. Also notify me that a payment has taken place.

The amount is US \$10 for those under 65 or US \$5 if older or a junior. This covers individuals or the family.

BOND or ZWL

Payments can now be made in ZWL (Bond) , the amount is ZWL\$2 300

Or Zwl \$1 150, if you are 65 or older , or a junior.

ZWL payments can be made to

CABS account 1002616336

The Aloe, *Cactus & Succulent Society*.

Or Eco Cash (Mike Caulfield) number 0772 241 286.

Please notify me of ANY payments , Thanks

Mike Caulfield Treasurer / Secretary Phone 0772 241 286.

Your Society has resumed monthly garden visits at the end of March 2022 so watch out for the next edition of Ortholopha to see where we shall be going in future..

If there are any volunteers out there willing to host a monthly meeting, please let our Chairman Hans Wolbert know. WhatsApp Hans 0772653110

It is great to see the increased use of waterwise succulent plant. rock and drift-wood arrangements around the city. Next month we shall have a special upon

Interesting Plant: January

What is this lovely summer-flowering aloe, 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.

Last month's plant had not a single entry, not even a wild guess, so no prizes!

You can win a box of chocolates!!!

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



Photograph taken by Mafungi
Clue. Photo taken in Greystone Park, Harare and the yellow and red forms are the same genus.

Hi Everyone,

It looks like we now have a full magazine and so *Ingens* 61 will be able to go to print very soon. A big thank you to all those of you who contributed to its contents. We have a couple of new authors and some very enthusiastic ones who are prepared to go to the ends of Zimbabwe and even further afield to get copy and material for our magazine.

Well done to all of you!

Cheers

Mafungi



Red Alert: US\$ subscription of US\$10 per person/couple.

US\$2 for a junior and US\$5 for a senior.

Foreign members US\$40 per person

We need to replace our US dollar stocks to enable the Society to continue functioning effectively. See previous page for payment details.

Annual Membership:

Are due in January each year. Next year is now due. Remember for your US\$10 per year, you get a monthly Newsletter *Ortholopha*, issues of *Ingens* as they are published and you get invited to at least 11 choice venues each year. Big-time Bargain Bonanza! And the Rare Plant Sales!

See the previous page to find out what payment options there are for you to keep up to date with your subscriptions.



Big Seed Swap

Mukuvisi Woodlands 2nd April

Some activities that members might like to watch out for in the next month or so:

Aloe Cactus and Succulent Society AGM To be advised

ZimSeed Savers Big Seed Swap Mukuvisi Woodlands Saturday 2nd April 9 am to 12 noon.

Orchid Society April Show Mukuvisi Woodlands Saturday 2nd and 3rd April

NAGCC Floral And Plant Competition Hellenic Junior School 23/24 April

Let's see you all at one or more of the above events!

