



ORTHOLOPHA

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

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Hi Everyone,

The meeting this Sunday 29th May will be at the home of Thoko Saungweme at 15 Warwick Road, Greystone Park. You go down Gaydon Road from the roundabout on Harare Drive, take the second turn right into Warwick and the property is no. 15 on the right. Bring some snacks to share for tea, a plant or similar for the raffle, your hat and a chair. Chairman Hans Wolbert will be talking about the aloe snout beetle, the destruction it can cause and hopefully some tips on control and prevention of damage. Our own rough and ready control is to dust the growing point of all our aloes with the tobacco dust you can get for a couple of dollars from roadside vendors. It seems to work.

I am afraid we shall not be there, at Thoko's, as we are somewhere near the above bridge which to Americans is perhaps as well-loved as Birchenough Bridge is to us Zimbabweans. And lo- and behold within sight of the above bridge in the Conservatory of Flowers in the Golden Gate Park, we found this plant growing and flowering. None other than *Adenium multiflorum*, the Sabi Star! It brought a warm glow to our hearts to see it flowering so happily, tucked away on a shelf in glass-covered buildings that housed some of the most wonderful plants to be found on This Good Earth.

Time to enjoy winter and see the amazing flowers that warm our hearts at this time, especially the aloes that give a bonanza of colour through May, June and July. Get your ride out of the garage, check the oil and water, fill the tank and burn that gas as you go to see the Aloes of Zimbabwe! Leave a trail of Zwl behind you, well spent. Cheers, Mafungi





I guess when plants are growing close to their original centres of origin they are likely to flower better than we would ever see them when flowering out of context. I am pretty sure that most of us have the above succulent growing in our gardens at some stage, but have you ever seen it flowering like this? Largely untended, in a suburban garden in San Francisco, this plant is just a blaze of cheerful spring colour and if we could protect our plants from the onslaught of our summer rains and sprinkle gentler rains in winter, then perhaps we could also trigger such a profusion of flowers.

Of course waterwise-plants, which our succulents are, do not mean that we should consider plants that grow on or near wetlands, are not waterwise. I have no idea what the plant below right, nor the ones on the left are, but they look like succulents but in this case absolutely not short of water and if we want to grow such types, then it is probably best done in a closed system, so get busy and build a conservatory and don't waste precious water trying to create a lowland forest outside.





This is the amazing *Amorphophallus titanum* plant. We get similar species here in Zimbabwe, they grow from an underground tuberous root and all the above-ground parts of the plant wither away to nothingness during the dry season, but come spring and all the energy stored in the underground tuberous root springs into action and the plant sends up either a new leaf or a flowering stem with a beautiful dark, almost purple-black, lily-like flower. Ours as you all know are called *A. maximus* or perhaps *A. abyssinicum*, but the flower of this Titan seen on this page, may only appear once every 7 to 10 years and it can be 2,5 metres tall and 1.5 metres wide!!!! And it stinks to High Heaven.

This particular species, *A. titanum* comes from Sumatra, Indonesia and is literally Titanic in its proportions. I would really love to see a flower! Maybe one day!

These are growing in the absolutely stunning flowering-plant greenhouses in the grounds of the San Francisco Golden Gate Park in California.

Luckily this particular greenhouse has a high centre portion to the roof, allowing the plant full expression.

Personally I don't think that I would ever sleep in this greenhouse, just in case some of these plants are meat-eaters. Closing time was 6pm and we were well-clear by then.



New Plant erupting from deep in the soil.



Golden Gate Park has some normal type exhibits with the succulent garden above somewhat similar to what we could see at our own Ewanrigg, but with a greater preponderance of agaves than aloes. We were late and most of the aloes had already flowered, but the agaves were in full swing.

Generally the growing areas were neatly tended and well looked after, beautifully labelled and pathways paved. However there were some unsettling sights not the least of which were this green plant, left which looked as though an over-zealous gardener had come early in the morning and carefully folded down the edges of the leaves. And as for the Mexican Devil's Hand tree, well I'd rather it scratched your back than mine. *Chiranthodendron pentadactylon*!




Your Committee

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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\$3 500**

Or **Zwl \$1 750**, 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.

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 this theme so you can all get ideas for the way forward.

Interesting Plant: May

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!

Our Readership is clueless!

Still applicable!!!!



You can win a box of chocolates!!!

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

Photograph taken by Mafungi

Clue: People who like these sorts of flowers are usually prickly customers.

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



Ingens 61

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.

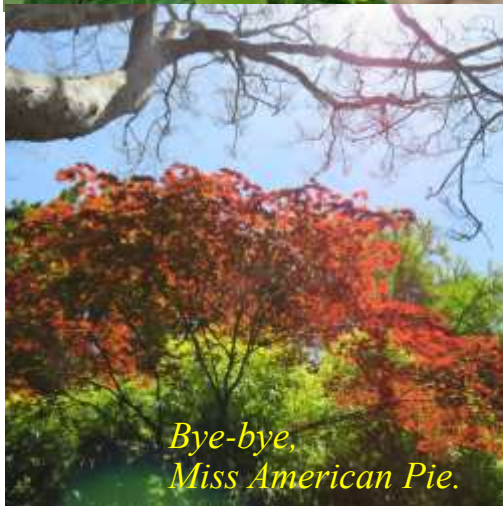
Annual Membership:

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.



This kaleidoscope of pictures were all taken in the space of 3 hours at the Golden Gate Park in San Francisco, an absolute must-visit place for plant lovers. We looked only at the Conservatory of Flowers, the Japanese Garden, the Succulent Garden and the Valley of Tree Ferns. There is still a lot more to be seen and we hope to do so when back in San Francisco about ten days from now.



*Bye-bye,
Miss American Pie.*