



# CHS NEWS

APRIL 2014

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## MONTHLY MEETING

**Mon, 5 May 2014 at 20:00** at The Athenaeum, Newlands  
(R8 for members and R20 for visitors)

**Notice is given of the 109<sup>th</sup> AGM of the CHS to be held on Monday, 5 May 2014 at 20:00 at The Athenaeum, Campground Road, Newlands**

### Agenda

1. Confirmation of Minutes of the AGM held on Monday, 6 May 2013
2. Chairman's Annual Report
3. Treasurer's Financial Statements and Auditor's Report
4. Election of President
5. Election of Committee
6. Appointment of Auditor for the ensuing year
7. General

The Minutes of the 2013 AGM can be found on page 5, with the audited Financial Statements for the year ended 28 February 2014 on page 7 and the Balance Sheet on page 8. We would appreciate you bringing your copies of these documents to the meeting.

There is an Attendance Register for all members and visitors to sign when attending the AGM – one person per line.

The formalities will be followed by member, John van der Linde, who will tell us of the time ...

### WHEN MARIANNE MET KATHARINE

This is the story of two remarkable Victorian ladies, both botanical artists, and their 1883 meeting, far away from their native land, on a sugar estate on the North Coast of colonial Natal.

Marianne North was a wealthy globe-trotting spinster and painter in oils, who visited Katharine Saunders, a farmer's wife-cum-botanical collector and water-colourist.

John's talk is lavishly illustrated with pictures by both artists.



## NEXT OUTING

**Wed, 14 May at 10:00:** Take a walk around the gardens at the Vineyard Hotel with "Head Gardener", Chris van Zyl. Limited to 25 members. Please let Glenda have your name by no later than 9 May.

## REPORT BACK

### Plant Table:



*Exotic:*  
*Hibiscus* - tropical (1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> left) and European (left); *Myrtus* (below left); Unnamed plant (below centre): If you know the name, please advise us.

# CHS NEWS

APRIL 2014

2



*Indigenus* (centre to right):

*Hypoestes phyllostachya*; *Aerva*; *Plectranthus oertendahlii*

Other specimens on the Plant Table: *Achimenes*; *Leonotis* (white and orange); *Tecoma stans*.

**JOHN HENRY STEGMANN WINTER**

**24-7-1936 to 8-4-2014**

John Winter was Curator of the Kirstenbosch Botanical gardens, rated one of the top six in the world, from 1978 to 1998. He was then promoted to Deputy Director of the National Botanical Institute, responsible for all the National Botanical Gardens in South Africa.

John retired in 2001 but continued to curate the Kirstenbosch collection, based entirely on plants collected from their habitats, mostly by him, with Mick Dower and John Rourke accompanying him on some expeditions.

He collected many plants in the wild, from a wide range of genera besides *Clivias*, and brought them into cultivation. For example, "Mandela's Gold", a yellow flowering form of *Strelitzia regina* was one of his 'babies', now widely grown. It took 20 years to get *Strelitzia* seeds that bred true to get the yellow "Mandela's Gold".

An *Aloe*, an *Erica* and a *Leucospermum* have been named after him.

John was granted Honorary Life Membership and elected Honorary Vice President of the Cape Horticultural Society in 1991. He held the position of Honorary President for a short time from 2000. In addition to this he was always willing to give of his time and expertise as a judge at our annual flower shows.

His passion was the genus *Clivia* and he attended the first international Clivia conference in 1994 in Pretoria. This then led the establishment in 1995 of what grew into the Cape Clivia Club (CCC). John was long-time Chairman of the CCC and was also the first Chairman of the Clivia Society, which has members from all over the world.

In papers presented to international Clivia conferences, John reported on the results of his Clivia-hunting expeditions. He also wrote several important articles for the Clivia Yearbooks and Newsletters.

As if that was not enough, John was a most successful *Clivia* breeder in his own right, with many show-winners to his credit.

The *Clivias* he collected included new *C. miniata* forms, such as the group forming the "Appleblossom" complex. Seedlings grown from seed from those and other *Clivias*, including *C. mirabilis*, are now found all over the world, many grown from seed associated with John Winter.

He self-pollinated an orange flowering *C. miniata* collected at the Umtamvuma Gorge and was surprised to see that several seedlings had unpigmented stems. When they flowered, this beauty was the best of them. The "32C" refers to the orange colour as determined according to the Royal Horticultural Society Colour Chart, which was all that was available in those early days.

John was a plantsman to his fingertips, humble and gentle and always ready to help other enthusiasts at workshops and individually. Thanks to his generosity many of us have grown and bred better *Clivias*.

*John van der Linde*

# CHS NEWS

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APRIL 2014

3

## **LAST CALL FOR SUBSCRIPTION RENEWALS**

A Subscription Renewal form for the 2014/15 year is enclosed. Please remember that this form needs to be completed, whether your personal details have changed or not, and returned with your cash/cheque payment. If you do an EFT, please see that the form is either faxed or e-mailed (details on page 1). EFT payments without a reference cannot be correctly allocated.

Your name will be removed from the membership/distribution list if you have not renewed by the AGM – and we would not like that to happen, so get your payment done as soon as possible.

## **THANK YOU**

To those who have already paid their annual subscription, thank you. Your loyalty to the CHS is greatly appreciated.

For a number of years now, members have been kindly including donations with their subscriptions. The Committee would like to take this opportunity to thank, most sincerely, all those members who have been generous in giving that little bit extra towards the work of our Society. We value your support.

## **WELCOME ...**

... to Megan Blatchford and Rebecca Wengrowe, this year's CHS Book Prize winners; Jean Fillis, a long-time visitor to our monthly meetings; and the De Quelen family – Hedwig, Maiwenn, Beatrice and Raphaelle – who joined up at the Kirstenbosch BotSoc Plant Fair. We hope to have a long and happy association with them all.

## **COLLECTOR'S CORNER**

Our fourth collection – not quite a private one – is *Streptocarpus* and these are the babies of Cherise Viljoen who has been looking after them at Kirstenbosch for many years. Here are her notes on how to propagate and care for these beauties.

Gesneriaceae (named after Konrad Gesner – a Swiss scholar, 30 years after his death) are mostly tropical and sub-tropical herbs, about 130 genera, including the horticulturally important Gloxinia and African violet. From the Greek: *Streptos* = Twisted and *Carpus* = Fruit

Also called Cape Primroses, these were first collected in 1818, in Knysna by James Bowie, who sent seed to Kew Botanical Gardens. As other species were discovered, extensive hybridisation was done.

### **FAMILY**

Gesneriaceae

### **GENUS**

*Streptocarpus*

### **SUB-GENERA**

*Streptocarpella*

*Streptocarpus*

Stemmed

Rosulates & Unifoliate

### **Interesting Facts**

Each leaf is an individual plant with its own roots and flowering stems (Phyllomorph). Rosulates are clusters of single leaves joined to form a rootstock, Unifoliate are monocarpic = flower then die.

The flower is zygomorphic = asymmetrical, so can only be cut in one plane to give two identical halves and most often the flowers are self-pollinating, and can last a few days if cut for the vase.

They can survive severe wilting, and are often Lithophytic = grow on rocks.

Leaves form abscission layers when over wintering – and continually grow from the base.

### **Natural Habitat**

These plants occur in evergreen forests, in gorges, ravines, cliff faces or on rocky outcrops on hillsides.

They can be found growing in soil banks, on sloping ground, in crevices, next to streams, or on rocks; mostly in shade or dappled light, and in moist but very well drained soils.

# CHS NEWS

APRIL 2014

4

## **Propagation**

Do this in Spring, at the start of the growing season in a well-drained propagation medium (sand, palm-fibre, bark, vermiculite, polystyrene) – 40% bark, 40% polystyrene and 20% sand, either by

- Seed
- Division
- Leaf or stem cuttings

## **Growing Environment**

Provide good light in shade but no direct sunlight – or leaves will burn.

Some like warm and dry; others prefer cool and moist roots (not leaves).

Depends on natural habitat

Good air movement is essential to combat fungal problems

## **Soil Medium**

1 part Good Compost\*

1 part Coarse Sand\*

1 part Palm Fibre (pre-soaked and rinsed very well)\*

2 x 20cm pot Organic Fertiliser

\*Ideal PH 6.5 to 7.5

## **Watering**

Do not over-water – this leads to rotting and fungal problems

This varies greatly – can be twice a week in summer and once every two weeks in winter.

Allow the plant to dry out completely – even let it start to wilt.

Wilt can also be a sign of rot, so always feel/check the soil first.

## **Feeding**

Every two weeks during growing season with liquid foliar feed (Seagrow, African Violet food, Biogrow, Nitrosol etc) and once a month with Trelmix to provide all the trace elements.

**Cuttings and Seedlings:** Every week with Kelpak, to reduce stress and encourage rooting.

## **Hygiene**

Regularly remove all dead, unhealthy, dying leaves & flowers, as these encourage fungal growth.

Remove any leaves with fungus.

Scratch off any algae that might occur on the soil surface.

## **Recommended Species**

*S. candidus* and *S. cyaneus*

*S. primulifolius* and *S. polyanthus*

*S. kentaniensis*

*S. johannis*

*S. gardenii*

*S. rexii*

*S. thompsonii* and *S. glandulosissimus*

*S. meyerii* and *S. modestus* and *S. montigena*, *S. floribundus* and *S. formosus* and *S. fasciatus*

## **ITEMS OF INTEREST**

🌿 **Garden tours:** It has become a regular occurrence, through our website, for other horticultural societies, private tour operators and the like, to ask for information on private gardens to visit. A number of our members already open their gardens annually for charity, but if they and any other members with beautiful and interesting gardens feel they would like to have like-minded “tourists” visiting, please let Glenda know. The arrangements, under your conditions and for a fee, would be made directly with the tour guide.

## **DATES TO DIARISE**

❖ **6/7 September:** CHS Flower and Garden Show

❖ **20 September** (to be confirmed): Annual CHS Plant Sale

(Photographs: John van der Linde, Andrew Thorpe, Cherise Viljoen)



# CHS NEWS

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APRIL 2014

5

## **MINUTES OF THE 108<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE CAPE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY HELD AT THE ATHENAEUM, CAMPGROUND ROAD, NEWLANDS ON MONDAY, 6 MAY 2013 AT 20:00**

**PRESENT:** In the Chair, Michael Tuffin, with 74 members and 8 visitors.

**APOLOGIES:** 6 apologies as per the register

The Chairman conducted the meeting in accordance with the Agenda.

### **1 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES:**

The Minutes of the 107<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting held on 7 May 2012, having been distributed, were proposed for adoption by W Ackerman and seconded by I Macfarlane.

### **2 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:**

The Chairman presented his Report, as follows:

“Here beginneth the obligatory annual pilgrimage through the immediate past.

Our 2012 monthly meetings began with CHS member Yvonne Reynolds taking us around some gardens in the UK, including Wisley, Sissinghurst and Rousham; and over the course of the year we metaphorically walked around a garden on the Gulf steam with Hillary Rohde, some gardens in Iran with Clare Burgess, Wisley with Linda Dolan and some gardens in Kyoto, Japan, with Adam Harrower.

Adding to the mix were Cherise Viljoen inspiring us to use indigenous plants in our gardens, Marianne Delpont suggesting what to fill our garden with to attract birds, Mike Allsopp of the Plant Protection Research Institute on destroying some of the fables surrounding honeybees and their place in the ecosystem, and David Davidson took us around Chelsea.

The Society was invited to visit Dr Harley's garden in Tokai, Lyn and Deryck McCallum's garden in Bergvliet, and the Tierboskloof Estate in Hout Bay. Dr John Rourke took us around the Arderne Garden, and Marijke Honig led us around the Green Point Biodiversity Garden. And, of course, the Christmas party rounded off the year. At this party we unfurled our new logo, which we thought would celebrate our 110 years of existence.

Other events were the Spring Show and the Annual Plant Sale. The Show brought in 358 exhibits, from 33 members, who as Glenda wrote in the Newsletter “picked their exhibits in the foulest of weather;” but the weather was kinder on the Saturday and Sunday, so the stallholders, of which there were more than 30, had fine weather in which to sell their wares. There were four talks: John van der Linde on Clivias, Guy Preston on Conservation and Working for Water, James Rawlings on the Constantia Green Belt and Pam Hart on organic gardening. Many thanks to Glenda and her team for making our shows such a success.

The Annual Plant Sale, with its marvellous bargains that elicited comments about getting value for money, added more than R10 000 to the coffers from the plants and a gift of bromeliads. Many thanks to Melanie Stewart who works hard to get the Sale up and running.

Joshua Butcher, the top final year student of horticulture at the Cape Peninsula University of Technology, was the winner of the Society's R1000 Book Prize. We also instituted prizes for the best students lower down the food chain and the winner was Megan Blatchford.

The Society is to be congratulated that it voted in such a hardworking committee with a commitment, zest and enthusiasm that are constantly infectious. We do have fun at our meetings.

Your thanks must go to Anne Bean for her Presidency of the Society, who has been very ill and we are glad to see her well on the way to recovery.

Deryck McCallum, has had a serious stroke and could not continue as Honorary Treasurer and we thank him for his devoted service to the post. We wish him well for a full recovery. Henry Diesveld has taken over and we thank him for that. Lyn McCallum, who so diligently ran the Speaker portfolio and worked so hard on the Show Committee, has had to resign from both, in order to look after Deryck. Clare Gibbon, who ran the Outings Portfolio has also resigned for personal reasons and we thank her for all her input and hard work. Thanks also to Bill Elder, aided by Rod Stewart, for looking after our technical needs and, of course, to Sara Pascal who tried to persuade you to buy the plants that so many members bring to the sale table every Monday. Jenny Scarr has taken over the Speaker Portfolio and now looks after the Monday Meeting Nursery. Melanie Stewart organises the Plant Sale and the Christmas Party.

# CHS NEWS

APRIL 2014

6

Bill Elder looks after our electronic and technical requirements along with Rod Stewart. Jenny and Errol Scarr and Cherise Viljoen contribute vigorously with excellent ideas for keeping up interest. Our grateful thanks must go to Guy Carter for placing his vast experience at our disposal as our auditor.

Our hard working Secretary, Glenda Thorpe, organizes everything else, and produces the splendid Newsletter. She began as Secretary in 2004, and I can tell you her energy, her gentle irascibility and her enthusiasm have not diminished.

One should also say thank you to Jacqui and Trevor Fox and others who serve you tea and biscuits at the end of each meeting. So, on your behalf, I offer sincere thanks for all who give their time, hard work, inspiration and perspiration.

May I end off with a couple of thoughts from the literary world?

Francis Bacon wrote:

*Nature is often hidden; sometimes overcome; seldom extinguished. ... A man's nature runs either to herbs, or to weeds; therefore let him seasonably water the one, and destroy the other.*  
["Of Nature in Men."]

On the other hand Gerard Manley Hopkins presented another point of view:

*What would the world be, once bereft  
Of wet and of wildness? Let them be left,  
O let them be left, wildness and wet;  
Long live the weeds and the wilderness yet.*

But I think Ralph Waldo Emerson said it all when he posed the question, "*What is a weed?*" to which he answered, "*A plant whose virtues have not yet been discovered.*"

Acceptance of the Chairman's Report was proposed by H Mills and seconded by W Tindall.

### 3 TREASURER'S REPORT:

The Treasurer presented his Report, as follows:

"The Audited Financial Statements for the year ending 28 February 2013 have already been circulated and I will therefore only refer you to some of the key figures shown in these Statements.

#### *INCOME STATEMENT*

Total Income increased by R5 805 (14%). This mainly resulted from increases of R1 200 in subscriptions, R700 in donations, R4 500 from the annual plant sale, but these increases were offset by a decrease of R1 200 from the Spring Show.

Total Expenses increased by R6 616 (16%). This mainly resulted from increases of R3 800 for the Athenaeum rental (2012 & 2013 rental), R800 for the storage garage rental, R1 100 for badge purchases, R500 for student awards, R500 for publicity, these being offset by a R1500 decrease in assets purchased.

The Net Result is that the Society showed a surplus of R577 vs a surplus of R1 385 the previous year.

#### *BALANCE SHEET*

The financial position of the Society remains healthy with Total Accumulated Funds of R145 414, which includes the R9428 held for the Society's Arderne Gardens Project.

The Society's investments in Sanlam unit trusts and 32 day notice accounts with Standard Bank and Nedbank were disposed of during the year and replaced with a suite of unit trusts. This was done to reduce the risk and volatility of the investment as well as increasing the income. This resulted in an apparent R48 400 increase in value of the Society's accumulated funds.

In closing, I would like thank, firstly Deryck McCallum for the very professional set of spreadsheets I inherited which made my task a lot easier, and, secondly, Guy Carter for auditing the Society's accounts and for his assistance and guidance in preparing the financial statements."

The Treasurer's Report and Financial Statement were proposed for adoption by R Stewart and seconded by I Macfarlane.

As a token of the Society's appreciation for the hours Guy Carter devotes to this audit each year, he was presented with a gift of wine.

# CHS NEWS

APRIL 2014

7

## 4 ELECTION OF PRESIDENT:

The Chairman advised that no other nominations had been received for this office and proposed that Anne Bean be re-elected as President. This was seconded by J van der Linde.

## 5 ELECTION OF COMMITTEE:

Anne Bean took over the Chair and advised that Michael Tuffin, Henry Diesveld, Glenda Thorpe, Sara Pascall, Bill Elder, Melanie Stewart, Errol Scarr, Jenny Scarr and Cherise Viljoen were all available for re-election and had been nominated. Kelly Dini and Rod Stewart were new nominations. On her proposal that they be elected *en bloc*, the members present unanimously voted them into office for the ensuing year.

## 6 APPOINTMENT OF AUDITOR:

As Guy Carter was willing to remain as Auditor for the ensuing year, this appointment was proposed by H Diesveld and seconded by S Pascall.

## 7 GENERAL:

7.1 Our Chair bestowed the well deserved honour of Honorary Membership on a very surprised Anne Bean for services rendered to the Society and to horticulture.

A request was made for the names of all Honorary Members to be published in the next newsletter.

7.2 Our Chair announced that Rod Stewart had agreed to take on the position of Show Manager in 2014.

## 8 CLOSURE:

There being no further business, the meeting was closed and followed by Rachel Saunders' fascinating talk on "Gladioli of South Africa".

SIGNED: .....

CHAIRMAN

DATE: .....

## FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 28 FEBRUARY 2014

2013	<u>INCOME STATEMENT</u>	2014
	<b>INCOME</b>	
21,205	Subscriptions	21,980
7,677	Admissions - monthly meetings	6,648
2,392	Plant sales at monthly meetings	1,931
10,232	Fund raising - annual plant sales	8,223
-138	Xmas party	162
1,025	Badges	760
1,483	Donations	1,004
3,988	Interest & dividends (reinvested)	5,697
<b>47,864</b>	<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>46,405</b>
	<b>EXPENSES</b>	
3,519	Printing, stationery & postage	3,424
4,185	Speaker fees & Gifts	4,840
680	Refreshments	716
1,103	Tea charge at monthly meetings	1,050
260	Raffle plants at monthly meetings	336
4,880	Rental - storage garage	4,440
7,816	- Athenaeum	3,908
194	Spring Show - deficit	6,323
15,000	Secretary - honorarium	19,200
1,696	Name badges	1,082
1,860	Bank charges	1,316
-	110th Anniversary celebration	990
1,129	Banner written off	-
2,500	CPUT student awards	2,500
1,167	Publicity	172
567	Website	567
731	Sundry	325
<b>47,287</b>	<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>51,189</b>
<b>R577</b>	<b>NET DEFICIT</b>	<b>-R4,784</b>

# CHS NEWS

APRIL 2014

8

## BALANCE SHEET AT 28 FEBRUARY 2014

2013		2014
	<b>ACCUMULATED FUNDS</b>	
87,815	Brought forward	135,986
577	Less deficit (2013 - surplus)	-4,784
47,594	Add surplus on disposal of Sanlam Index Unit trusts	-
R135,986		R131,202
	<b>Represented by:</b>	
1	Fixed Assets at nominal value	1
	Allan Gray Investment - brought forward	136,793
	Add interest and dividends	5,697
		142,490
	Less withdrawal	8,000
136,793	Balance - carried forward (Market value R148,822)	134,490
136,794		134,491
	<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>	
110	Cash float	110
2,242	Standard Bank - current a/c	4,801
480	CPUT carried forward	500
2,832	Surplus wine subsequently sold	-
139,626		5,411
	<b>Less Current Liabilities</b>	139,902
-	Rental for garage	3,908
3,640	Subscriptions paid in advance	4,792
R135,986		8,700
	<b>NET ASSETS</b>	R131,202
	<b>FRIENDS OF ARDERNE GARDENS</b>	
	<b>Standard Bank Deposit Account</b>	
9,199	Balance brought forward	9,428
229	Add interest	369
-		9,797
R9,428	Less donation to FOTAG	4,700
		R5,097

Signed:

*H J Diesveld*  
HON. TREASURER

*G H B Carter*  
HON. AUDITOR  
DATE: 26 March 2014