



CHS NEWS

MAY 2014

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MONTHLY MEETING

Mon, 2 June 2014 at 20:00 at The Athenaeum, Newlands
(R8 for members and R20 for visitors)

Morné Faulhamer, of Super Plants, will give us a talk on a topic we tend to leave to professionals – the

History, maintenance and construction of water features

NEXT OUTING

Sat, 7 June at 09:30: Be one of the first to walk the *Boomslang* at Kirstenbosch with Cherise Viljoen. With her insider knowledge about the elevated walkway, this will be a very interesting outing. Limited to 35 members. It is wheelchair friendly.

Please let Glenda have your name by no later than 5 June. Non-Botanical Society members will have to pay the entrance fee to the gardens.

Tues, 17 June at 09:00: We have been donating plants to *Abalimi Bezekhaya* for a number of years, so now it is time to pay them a visit and see what is being achieved not too far from where we live. The tour takes in a community garden in Gugulethu, then the Abalimi-Harvest of Hope office and pack shed in Phillipi and finishes up at the “place where all our work begins” – at the Abalimi People’s Garden Centre, in Nyanga. There is no charge for this visit, but donations are always welcome.

Limited to 30 members. There would be a central meeting point in Wynberg and members would fill cars and travel in convoy with Rob Small of Abalimi.

Please let Glenda have your name by no later than 13 June.

REPORT BACK

AGM:

Our 109th AGM was held on 5 May with rather a smaller turnout than usual of members. Nevertheless, the proceedings were carried out with our Chairman’s usual aplomb, taking us through the activities of the Society for the past year and giving thanks to those members whose tasks keep the Society running smoothly. As has become customary in our Chair’s annual reports, one of this year’s quotes was most apt, although referring to the northern hemisphere:

The Twelve Months by George Ellis [1753-1815]
Snowy, Flowy, Blowy,
Showery, Flowery, Bowery,
Hoppy, Droppy, Croppy,
Breezy, Sneezzy, Freezy.

Our Treasurer reported on a few key figures shown in the Financial Statements which were published in the April 2014 issue of CHS News.

“Income Statement:

Total Income decreased by R1459 (3%). This mainly resulted from decreases of R1000 (meeting admissions), R500 (meeting plant sales), R500 (donations) and R2000 (annual plant sale). These decreases were offset by an increase of R800 (subscriptions) and R1700 (investment income).

Total Expenses increased by R3902 (8%). The Spring Show showed a R6300 loss. Other increases in expenditure were R4400 (Secretary’s honorarium), R700 (Speaker and outing host gifts), and a R1000 once off cost for the Society’s 110 year celebrations. These increases were partly offset by reduction in costs: R500 (bank charges), R600 for badges, R1100 (no banner purchased) and R1000 (publicity).

The Net Result is that the Society showed a deficit of R4784 vs a surplus of R577 the previous year.

President: Anne Bean, **Chairman:** Michael Tuffin, **Hon Treasurer:** Henry Diesveld, **Hon Secretary:** Glenda Thorpe

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Balance Sheet:

The financial position of the Society however remains healthy with Accumulated Funds of R131 201. There is R5 097 in the Society's Arderne Gardens Project account which was reduced by a R4 700 donation to the Project.

The Society's investments consist of a unit trusts portfolio: 52% in Allan Gray Balanced fund, 44% in Coronation Strategic Income Fund and 4% in Allan Gray money market fund."

The Treasurer went on to thank all those members who either refrained from banking their subs directly into the CHS account, or who made an allowance for the bank charges in their renewals, thereby saving on bank charges to the CHS's account. He also thanked Guy Carter for auditing the Society's accounts and for his assistance and guidance in preparing the financial statements.

ELECTIONS:

There were 9 nominations received for Committee Members and all were unanimously elected to serve for another year. They are: Henry Diesveld, Bill Elder, Errol Scarr, Jenny Scarr, Melanie Stewart, Rod Stewart, Glenda Thorpe, Michael Tuffin and Cherise Viljoen. Office Bearers will be appointed by the elected Committee and if there are any changes to the portfolios, you will be advised.

Anne Bean was also unanimously re-elected as Honorary President of the Society.

Our Honorary Auditor, Guy Carter, was prepared to stand for another year and was duly elected.

May Plant Table:

Aerva (right) – good as a cut flower; lasts a long time; adored by Carpenter bees; *Aerva leucura* is widespread in the summer rainfall regions of South Africa, Namibia and Botswana.

www.plantzafrica.com (posted 2001) has this to say: "In the garden *Aerva leucura* has the potential to be used far more for landscaping. The dense flowering spikes create an interesting texture for contrast, while the soft, creamy colour is easy to blend with other colours. Plants flower from summer to autumn (November – April). *Aerva leucura* goes dormant during the cold winter months and the plants are cut down to the ground. Fresh, new growth starts to shoot again in spring. New plants take about a year to establish and then get more vigorous and tough with age. At Kirstenbosch *Aerva leucura* has been very successful in the herbaceous planting with the wild forget-me-not (*Anchusa capensis*), the ribbon bush (*Hypoestes aristata*) and *Vernonica glabra* which also flowers till late autumn. *Aerva leucura* requires full sun and water during the summer when it is actively growing. It will do best in a well drained, loamy soil. *Aerva leucura* is propagated from cuttings of the new shoots in spring and early summer. The cuttings root fast and usually within 3 months the young plants are ready to be planted into the garden."



www.plantzafrica.com (posted 2001) has this to say about *Hypoestes aristata* – Ribbon bush – (blue, pink and white): "The name *Hypoestes* refers to the calyx which is covered by the bracts. Greek – *hypo-* below and *-estes* referring to the calyx. The Latin *aristata* means *bearing an awn*, referring to the flower bracts. In its natural state the ribbon bush is distributed along the southeast coast of the country from the Eastern Cape through Kwa-Zulu Natal and then inland along the Transvaal Drakensberg and again on the Soutpansberg. It is usually found in reasonably thick vegetation often on forest floor and margins as well as in woodland and thicket bush clumps."

Orchid (right) – *Blc Village Chief North 'Green Genius'* (Sc Village Chief Cuba x Mem. Helen Brown)

Blc = *Brassia Laelia Cattleya*

The owner, Arpad, has this to say about the plant he won in a raffle in April 2010: "I grow all my orchids and clivia under 80% shade cloth in a corner of my garden. It is not an ideal position – it gets sun only from late morning, but that is the only place where my garden is sheltered from the wind.

I use plastic pots. The medium I use is 12mm bark and nothing else! Lately I have been using Phostrogen, general fertiliser, at 1ml/l (recommended by Mike Tibbs)."



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Last month's "mystery" plant (page 2 of April issue) was identified by Judi and Nicola as a *Talinum paniculatum* "Jewel of Opar" of the Portulacaceae family (refer to Wikipedia); 15 species in the genus are native to the Americas, West Indies and Peru; is tuberous and leaves are apparently edible (anyone tried them?); has medicinal properties – good for anaemia and as an anti-inflammatory.

According to the City's Invasive Species Unit, it is not a 'problem' plant. It does have many seeds per capsule, so keep an eye out for this if you have it in your garden and report back if it becomes problematic.



This month's "mystery" plant (left) is doing well in a Constantia garden. Only a colour print was to hand but it could be a *Strobilanthes flaccidifolia* (or *hamiltoniana*), according to www.igarden.com.au. Would anyone disagree? [The Editor]

Other plants brought in:

Gladiolus dalenii; *Duvalia caespitosa*

Recent happenings:

Kirstenbosch/BotSoc Plant Fair

Thank you to those members who took the time to (wo)man our promotional stand. Here Glenda and Jane sign up a new member.



Trees of Arderne Garden

This was a most interesting and informative trip through the millennia with Des Lazar. He began with plants from 270 million years ago – the *Cycas*, moving on to 260 million years – *Ginkgo biloba*, under which Wilma, Rob and Dutch are standing (right), all the way to 135 million years when plants first bore flowers, apparently in New Caledonia.

The Arderne Gardens is home to six official Champion Trees* and one of them, the Aleppo Pine's (*Pinus Halepensis*) canopy/crown had crashed to the ground not long before we visited, leaving its massive trunk battered and bruised (far right) and the label askew.



The members donated towards the CHS's Centenary fundraising project in 2003 to label the trees in the Arderne Gardens. The labelling has been an ongoing project, as trees die or have not, as yet, been correctly identified. Brown labels (top, right) were chosen to identify the Gondwana trees and green for the non-Gondwana trees. There are about 150 trees that still require labels. As can be seen on page 2, there is still an Arderne Gardens "label" account and if you wish to add to this, please feel free to do so (for EFTs use the reference 'labels').

[* The Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries – DAFF, has identified "Champion Trees" worthy of special protection throughout South Africa. These are deserving of protection because of their remarkable size, age, aesthetic, cultural, historic or tourist value.]

Vineyard Hotel Garden

This garden was a great surprise to all, as many of the members had held their wedding receptions at the Vineyard (we won't say how many years ago) and the place was almost unrecognizable.

Peter, Ninon and Catherine (right) pose in the garden at the end of the courtyard garden, surrounded by all the varieties of *Hypoestes*.

The gang enjoyed a tea (far right) after an exhilarating and very pleasant garden tour.



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A PLEA FROM THE CHAIR

Your committee works very hard to keep the Society going and solvent.

We are desperately in need of a member who can take charge of the Public Relations portfolio. It is important that the public gets to hear about us.

The duties are not onerous – it is simply a matter of sending details of our meetings, the Plant Sale and the Spring Show to the media. Therefore, it is one mail shot per month for the meetings and a little bit extra when it comes to the Sale and Show.

A database of contacts is already in existence and details, such as the speaker and the title of the next meeting, need to be updated on an existing “template” and sent out timeously. I think it is enough to say that this willing volunteer must be computer literate.

Once again – A PLEA ... P L E A S E

The Chair

If you feel you fit the bill, or would like to know more about this, please speak to Michael or one of the Committee Members.

GARDEN TOURS:

This is a repeat of last month's request, as I got no response.

It has become a regular occurrence, through our website, for overseas 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.

If you are not willing to do this, perhaps you have ideas for these people to visit 'horticultural' places with a different, which are not on the usual list of tourist attractions. Some visitors want more interaction with fellow gardeners. As the contact person for the Society, I feel I should be able to pass on information, as we are regarded – no doubt due to our age – as an organisation of some import. Any suggestions would be welcome.

Glenda Thorpe, Secretary

DATES TO DIARISE

- ❖ 7 July meeting: David Davidson on Chelsea 2014 and some special English gardens
- ❖ Planned outings to look out for: Gardens of Vera School for Autistic Learners, members in Lakeside and Constantia
- ❖ 6/7 September: CHS Flower and Garden Show
- ❖ 20 September: Annual CHS Plant Sale

ITEMS OF INTEREST

☼ **Tea for sale:** We have received a donation of boxes of 50 Dilmah tea bags (Ceylon Supreme and Breakfast) – an “ethical” tea. Visit www.dilmahconservation.org and www.mjffoundation.org for more information. If you are a tea lover and would like to purchase a few boxes, they will be available at our 2 June meeting for a donation.

☼ **IBSA weekend away:** The Indigenous Bulbgrowers of South Africa are planning a Flower Tour to Calvinia and Nieuwoudtville from 5-7 September 2014. Days are spent botanising and evenings are sociable occasions with presentations on bulbs given by experts. Accommodation is available at R1190 per person for the weekend for dinner, bed and breakfast. For more information, Glenda can send it to you or contact Ruth Prescott of IBSA at ruthprescott@gmail.com.

NB: Please take note that this is on the same weekend as our Flower and Garden Show and you know that your help is always needed there.

(Photographs: Andrew Thorpe, Google Images, Glenda Thorpe, Sally Hey and DeWet Bezuidenhout)