

**President:** Michael Tuffin **Chairman:** Errol Scarr **Hon Treasurer:** Henry Diesveld **Secretary:** Glenda Thorpe  
**Honorary Members:** Laurie Powis, Marianne Alexander, Barbara Hey, Mary Smith,  
 Anne Bean, Adam Harrower, Michael Tuffin

## NEXT MEETING

**Monday, 5 November 2018 at 20:00** at The Cape Town Athenaeum, Newlands

### GARDENS OF THE USA

CHS member, Yvonne Reynolds, was lucky enough to take a month long AMTRAK train trip around the USA in April/May this year. She says, "Covering almost 20,000kms, I visited cities on both the east and west coasts. I planned the trip so as to travel the most scenic routes and to see as many art museums and gardens as possible. In my talk I will show slides from 10 gardens: the Brooklyn Botanic Garden and High Line in New York, Dumbarton Oaks in Washington DC, Magnolia Plantation Gardens in Charleston, South Carolina, the Denver Botanical garden, the Huntington gardens in Los Angeles, Filoli near San Francisco, Schreiner's Iris gardens near Salem and the Portland Japanese garden in Oregon, as well as the Arnold Arboretum in Boston.

Yvonne is retired and lives on a little farm, Kleine Schoone Uitzicht, in the Boland and is a keen, albeit not very successful gardener. Her claim to fame is as an information scientist and was the website manager for SANBI when she retired.

## FIRST MEETING OF 2019

**Monday, 4 February 2019:** Rosalind Spears on *Antony – Beheading and Dead Heading*.

## NEXT OUTING

**Sat, 24 November at 10:00:** Visit the garden of Henk Scholtz in Franschoek. If you remember what this garden looked like when we visited it exactly 10 years ago, then you're in for a surprise – no more lawn, completely water-wise plantings and an installation of "fish swimming through the garden". Please let Glenda have your name by 21 November if you're interested and whether you can offer – or need – a lift. Limited to 25.

## REPORT BACK

**October Plant Table (suburb – source of water)**

### EXOTICS



**Marina da Gama – only rain:**

*Hibiscus* – a plant that did very well during the drought (above, left)

*Tillandsia* – hang it from trees, mount it on pieces of wood

*Malva* or *Lavatera arborea* "wild Mallow, tree Mallow" – perennial; sometimes considered a weed. Origins uncertain but Ireland and Malta appear to lay claim to this (above, 2<sup>nd</sup> from left)

**Diep River – stored rain:**

*Geranium capriensis* (pale pink flowers) and *Geranium pratense* (darker pink flowers)– fills a pot or trough quite quickly (above, right)

**Pinelands – grey water:**

Poppy – self-seeded in the bed

**Marina da Gama – wellpoint and grey water:**

*Lavatera maritima* – shrub; 2<sup>nd</sup> year of blooming (above, 2<sup>nd</sup> from right)

**INDIGENOUS****Diep River – only rain:**

*Pelargonium capitatum* – sprawling, low-growing shrub; drought hardy; can look tatty after flowering (below, left)

**Pinelands – grey water:**

*Pelargonium*

**Kirstenhof – wellpoint water:**

*Tritonia securigera* – spring flowering bulb (below, 2<sup>nd</sup> from left)

*Melianthus major* – multiple stems; grows to 3m; small plants seeded far away so maybe by birds; flower heads a magnet for sunbirds, White Eyes etc; full of nectar.

*Leucospermum* "Razyia" and *Leucospermum* "Red Rocket" – both hybrids (below, 2<sup>nd</sup> from right, and far right)

**ISABELLA'S AND NICOLA'S CHOICES FOR OCTOBER****INDIGENOUS****Diep River – only rain**

Susan's *Babiana* is a Western Cape bulb.

PlantzAfrica explains: "The genus name *Babiana* means baboon and is derived from the Dutch word *baviaan*. It also refers to observations made by early colonists at the Cape of Good Hope that baboons favoured the corms of this genus."

**EXOTIC****Marina da Gama – only rain:**

*Rosa veilchenblau* – first flowering roses of the season; old-fashioned rambler; changes from one colour to another as it ages.

**JOURNAL OF A HAPHAZARD GARDENER – OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2018**

As I write this the gale force South Easter is wreaking havoc in the garden. I notice that many plants are already wilting because of the dehydrating effect of the wind. So much better to think of the wonderful spring we had in September and early October.

The *Arctotheca calendula* "Cape weed" (left, below) spread across the pavements in the area. The plants, with their yellow daisy flowers, love the adverse conditions. They have flowered for weeks. Our neighbour mowed his sidewalk but luckily to no great damage to the flowers. Dotted amongst the Cape weed were hundreds of an even more prolific weed, the *Cotula* (far right). There





is, however, a garden variety, the sprawling groundcover *Cotula sericea* (below, left) which is easy to grow. It can be propagated from cuttings. It seems quite water-wise as it survived the summer in our garden. The *Carpobrotus deliciosus* "sour fig" (below, right) with its brilliant purple flowers, has also flowered profusely this spring.



As mentioned last month, the weeds have been energised by the winter rains. Gerard Manley Hopkins in his poem *Spring* begins:

Nothing is so beautiful as Spring –  
When weeds, in wheels, shoot long and lovely and lush;  
The dandelions have shot up waist high – not so lovely in their lushness.

In my search for poems about Spring I also found this one by D H Lawrence which describes exactly the exuberance of the season this year.

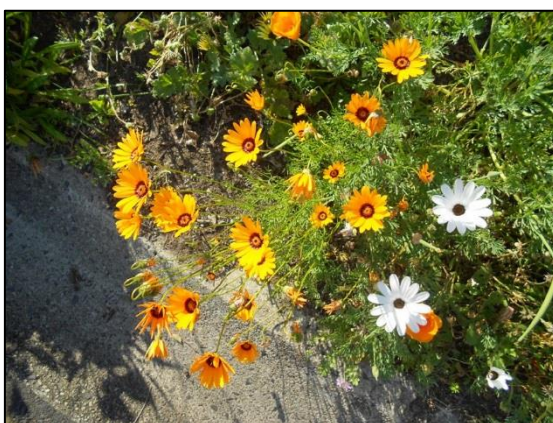
*The Enkindled Spring*

This spring as it comes bursts up in bonfires green,  
Wild puffing of emerald trees, and flame-filled bushes,  
Thorn-blossom lifting in wreaths of smoke between  
Where the wood fumes up and the watery, flickering rushes.

I am amazed at this spring, this conflagration  
Of green fires lit on the soil of the earth, this blaze  
Of growing, and sparks that puff in wild gyration,  
Faces of people streaming across my gaze.

And I, what fountain of fire am I among  
This leaping combustion of spring? My spirit is tossed  
About like a shadow in the throng  
Of flames, a shadow that's gone astray, and is lost.

I leave you this month with some of this conflagration.



And this:

'One of the most pleasing sounds of Springtime to be heard all over the country is the contented cooing of physiotherapists as Man picks up his garden spade'.

*Oliver Pritchett*

I used the following sources:

Briers, Richard *A little light weeding*

Pienaar, Kristo *The A to Z of garden flowers in South Africa*

[www.poetryfoundation.org/poems/44578/the-enkindled-spring](http://www.poetryfoundation.org/poems/44578/the-enkindled-spring)

[www.pza.sanbi.org/cotula](http://www.pza.sanbi.org/cotula)

## WELCOME TO ...

... new members Keith and Penny Swan, Karen Cleminshaw and Pat Ellis, as well as Lillian Masebenza who renewed her membership. We hope they will benefit from being part of the CHS.

## ANNUAL PLANT SALE

Another sale has come and gone. This year was not as financially successful as 2017, but the final figure – after expenses – was R9020, which is not to be sneezed at!

Thank you to those members who *did* arrive to help in the run-up to the sale, as well as on the day – either as a worker or buyer. A big thank you, also, to those who took the trouble to pot up and grow plants and label them. Kirstenbosch and Ferndale nurseries also kindly donated plants.



## GARDENS VISITED THIS MONTH

We've spent the past three Saturdays visiting one type of garden or another.

Firstly, we joined Jane Robertson on 6 October at the Athenaeum, where she and her gardener had spent many weeks in June and July clearing away, composting, planting up and mulching the existing borders around the green patch, aka the lawn, in front of the building. She took the opportunity to enlist our help with weeding the beds, but huge amounts were extracted from the lawn.

The plants, many donated by members, are all doing well. This is, in part, due to the good rains we had in winter, but will they survive the long, hot and dry summer ahead? There are rainwater tanks in place for this eventuality.

If you have not seen the garden yet, take a look when you arrive for a meeting. It is light enough now to see it.



*From left to right: July 2016; newly planted in July 2018; Cherrie weeding the same bed in October 2018.*



*From left to right: The remnants of the working party (the bulk of the weeds were in Steph's van); Joy working her way through the mound of lush "greenery"; Gillian helping to remove the big weeds.*

The following weekend Judi Thomas invited members to visit her old family garden in Sea Point. This property has been in the family for three generations and more and the terraced garden beds have seen many changes. Needless to say all the Roses and Dahlias have been replaced.

Judi's garden always produces something a little different to the norm for our monthly Plant Table.



*From left to right: Beautiful lilac poppy; the lower terrace; one of many carpenter bees.*

This past weekend, 28 of us were given a private tour of Avondale, the 8-acre garden belonging to Ronelle Shuttleworth. Although this was an Open Day, we were escorted by the hostess and her horticulturist, Chris Randelhoff, and given insights into what they had been doing, and still planning to do.



Most of us had visited this garden in the past and now found a lot of it quite unrecognizable. The conservatory (shades of Kew) is now overflowing with orchids and many other plants that require these conditions. Ronelle never throws plants away – they either get moved to another position, or they are put in the nursery to await the right time and place to be moved again. This garden, like any other, is one of trial and error.

The new meadow was only sown in June, after clearing part of the lawn. Ronelle's advice: just weed, do not dig – this brings more weeds to the top. She used the Baal Straathof Western Cape Meadow Mix.



From left to right: Chris showing us the "Pansy" orchid; the mound of excavated soil now covered in "vygies" and succulents; our gang alongside the meadow.



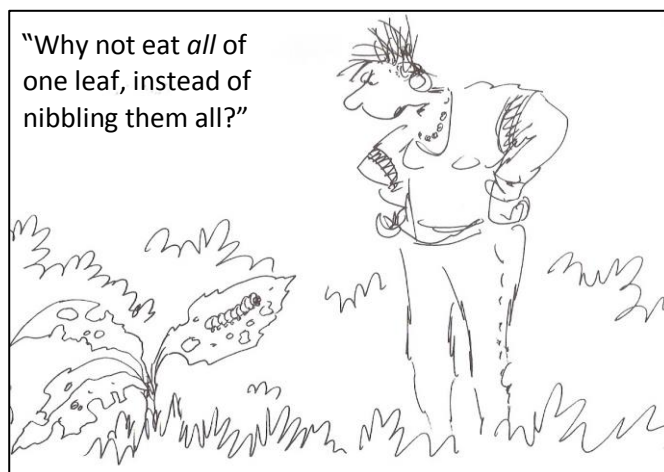
From left to right: Queuing for tea and scones; laughter after coffee; a succulent which needs a name.

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- **Sat/Sun, 27/28 Oct and 3/4 Nov:** Elgin Open Gardens from 10:00 to 17:00. To find out more, visit [www.elginopengardens.co.za](http://www.elginopengardens.co.za) or call Barbara on 021-844-0154/078-021-2101 or Jessie on 083-458-3790.
- **Sat/Sun, 10/11 Nov:** Stellenberg Open Gardens from 9:30 to 17:30. To find out more, visit [www.stellenberggardens.co.za](http://www.stellenberggardens.co.za) or call 021-762-7733 or 082-644-6365
- **Mon, 3 Dec:** Our year-end party will take place. Please let Melanie know if you'll be attending and what you can provide in the way of refreshment. More details in the next issue.

Ed: Haven't we all felt like this over the past few months? At least the plague of *Rhodogastria amasis* "Tri-coloured Tiger moth" larvae (hairy caterpillars) and *Pieris brassicae* "Cabbage White butterfly" larvae (beautiful as they are) seems to have come to an end.

No doubt the next 'plague', viz. flies, will be upon us soon with the heat we're experiencing.



From "The Crazy World of Gardening" by Bill Stott

Photos: Peter Henshall, Athol Brown, Andrew and Glenda Thorpe