



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, Bill Elder

NEXT MEETING

Monday, 7 October at 20:00 at The Cape Town Athenaeum, Newlands

Entrance fee: Members – R10; Visitors – R30

CAPE TOWN'S TREE CANOPY AND TREEKEEPERS OBJECTIVES

TreeKeepers is a citizens' organisation that came together to protect big trees mainly in the Southern Suburbs of Cape Town and a relationship has been formed with the City's Parks Department (guided by a memorandum of agreement) to help conserve and maintain the urban forest. They assist fellow residents to look after mature trees in their gardens to work with City Council staff to ensure that no trees along roads and on public land are cut down without good reason.

Henk Egberink will discuss the benefits of trees in an urban environment, the relevance of the Paris Climate Accord and what other countries and cities have achieved, as well as a short description of their objectives, how they spend their time and where they need to do more. TreeKeepers is working on gathering information for the "Significant Trees" category (as opposed to the already established "Champion Trees" category). How to go about submitting information for this study will be explained.

Follow them on Facebook at "treekeeperscapetown" or visit their website <https://treekeeperscapetown.org.za/> where you can report unnecessary or illegal pruning or felling under "Tree Alerts". Contact details for the City's Department of Recreation and Parks, who have jurisdiction over trees in all public places, will also be available.

NEXT OUTING

Thurs, 3 Oct at 10:15: Visit the Red Hill garden of members, Allan Lutge and Jane Yeats.

This garden is about 2.5 hectares of a 5 hectare small holding. The property was bought in 1993 when it was a sea of Port Jackson, bluegums and pines. These were removed to make an indigenous garden.

Jane tells us that "it is now a very naturalistic garden, the planting is quite free and easy, and highly water-wise. Although there is some fynbos and the garden runs into natural fynbos, it's an all-South African affair with lots of trees, especially Natal fig, Wild plum, Karoo thorn and white stinkwoods – all of which do surprisingly well there, and create a microclimate that allows us to grow a much wider variety of plants than you would expect in such a windy coastal spot.

There is a young grove of wild gardenia, and an area of "savannah" grassland, as well as lots of easy indigenous bulbs massed in sun e.g. yellow chasmanthe and in shade e.g. veltheimia, haemanthus. Quantities of strelitzias, cycads, tree aloes, other aloe species and succulents are also in abundance."

This will be followed by a visit to Good Hope Gardens Nursery, just down the road, where you will have a chance to look around the nursery and get some advice on propagation, plants etc. Afterwards, if you are up to it, you will take a walk up onto the mountain to look at the fynbos up there.

Limited to 25 members. Please let Glenda know, by 30 September, if you would like to attend.

WELCOME TO ...

... new members John van Zijl, Margie le Roux, Jenny Liedtke (a previous Book Prize winner), Rose Buchanan and Jean Weight, who have joined our ranks over the past few months.

We wish them many years with the CHS which we hope will be of benefit to them – or perhaps they can teach *us* a few things. 😊

SUGGESTION BOX

A Suggestion Box has been implemented for those members who have a bright idea or suggestion but feel too intimidated to speak out. Write down your suggestion and place it in the box at a meeting. It will be taken to a committee meeting for consideration.

REPORTBACK

Annual Plant Sale:

A big Thank You to the Stewarts for the success of Operation Plant Sale. All their hard work was aided and abetted by many members who lovingly grew the necessary stock to sell, which was of a high quality.

The stock was back-breakingly sorted and priced by more members on the two days before the sale. On the day, there were those with good selling techniques, others who imparted gardening knowledge to those who asked for it and, last but not least, those who relieved the buyers of their cash.

Our leftover plants do a great deal of good and bring happiness to many people and groups. Plants went to Heideveld Place, an old age home, Abalimi Bezekhaya, the Sozo Foundation in Capricorn, two members' churches, and the Marina da Gama Garden Club.

A round of applause to everyone for the many different ways in which you showed support and gave of your time and effort. This resulted in the most profitable Plant Sale yet – and we have been holding these since 2007!

2019 PLANT SALE		
INCOME		
Raffle		R380.00
Plant sales		
Meeting - June	R120.00	
Meeting - July	R230.00	
Prior to sale day	R640.00	
Sale Day	R15 121.00	
After sale day	R465.00	
		R16 576.00
		R16 956.00
EXPENSES		
Seedlings		R75.00
Labourers		R440.00
Transport costs, trailer etc		R200.00
Teas for workers		R200.00
Bank charges - cash deposit		R217.59
Donations of plants by members		Priceless
		R1 132.59
	PROFIT	R15 823.41



The first raffle prizewinner was Sheila Rice (left) who won Jane’s beautiful “red-hot” flower arrangement.

Other winners were Bernard Madden, Margaret ?, Niek van Geyswyk and Caroline Stephenson.

September Plant Table:

EXOTIC

Impatiens zombensis

Phlox stolonifera

17th C Sweet Pea – Matucana: worth growing for the fragrance; comes true from seed.

Allium neapolitanum: almost like a weed, but very attractive.

Raphiolepis “Indian Hawthorn”: nurseries now have much better colour forms now with bigger flowers.

Clerodendrum mastacanthum

Daffodil: grown in a small trough (right, above).

Buddleja asiatica x madagascarensis: from an old garden; a very big bush (right).

INDIGENOUS

Plectranthus: grow in shade/some sun but need a bit of care as they are summer rainfall plants.

Encephalartos natalensis: about 3 years old. New stamp issue depicting Cycads.

Ixia scillaris: pops up every year.

Helichrysum argyropsis: a wonderful “front of border” mat ½ m square and buds are attractive for a long time before flowers open to white with yellow centre; nice grey foliage and neat growth habit.



Melasphaerula graminea – from Agulhas to Namibia: 30 – 50cm high; many small creamy white to pale yellow flowers with a musky scent are produced on a branched slender stem in spring (August to September)
<https://www.pacificbulbsociety.org/pbswiki/index.php/Melasphaerula>

Clivia cyrtanthiflora: hybrid

Tetradenia (formerly Iboza)

Below, from left to right:

Babiana villosa – Tulbagh area: flowers with other red bulbs, sharing pollinator. Babianas can also be white or yellow in different species besides the common blue.

Lachenalia "Rosabeth": known since 1975; unclear if it is a selection or a hybrid.

Lachenalia pustulata

Ochna natalitia "Natal Plane": 20 years old; ±5m tall; drops many seeds but a very slow grower.



JENNY'S CHOICES FOR THE MONTH

EXOTIC:

Arpad's *Brassolaeliocattleya* 'Namib Sunset':

Left: flowering since mid-August; Centre: both spikes open at meeting (apologies for poor quality); Right: close-up



INDIGENOUS:

John's *Clivia miniata*

Here is an explanation from John for those who would like to know more about how the colouring in the flowers comes about:

"The more commonly seen orange clivia has red anthocyanin in the outermost cell layers of the petals and sepals. The middle layers of cells contain yellow carotenoid pigment.

The overlay of red on yellow produces the orange colour that we see.



In the case of peaches, like mine, there is a naturally occurring mutation in the anthocyanin pathway which results in only a small amount of the red pigment being deposited in the petals and sepals.

The overlay of this dilute red over the yellow in the middle cells results in the peach colour of the flowers.

The physical difference between a yellow flower and a peach or orange flower is that with a yellow a mutation results in a total blockage of the anthocyanin pathway so that no red anthocyanin pigment at all is deposited in the outermost cell layers of the petals and sepals. All that is visible in the flowers of a yellow clivia is the yellow carotenoid pigment in the middle layers of cells in the petals and sepals, underlying a clear layer of outermost cell layers."

GUIDANCE FOR OUR NEW MEMBERS

Having been asked a question recently by a new member regarding the Plant Table, it brought home to me how we are inclined to assume that everyone knows the ins and outs of how – and why – we “do” things in the CHS. So, for those who don’t know and are too afraid to ask, here is an explanation of some of our regular features/events to make you feel more at home:

Monthly Meetings:

These take place, like clockwork, on the first Monday of every month (except January), including public holidays, and always at our “home”, The Athenaeum.

The Plant Table – actually a seasonal showcase – is for members to bring plants, flowers and veggies, or horticultural curiosities to show what is growing in their gardens. There are slips of paper to be filled in giving the name of your specimen/exhibit and a bit of information about it (optional), as well as your name. On arrival at a meeting, you will always find a knowledgeable member to help with naming your plant if you are unsure. These slips of paper are collected and recorded in the newsletter, with as much information as is given by you or Jenny (also depending on whether my Dictaphone works or not) and intended to help those who may be new to gardening.

Our CHS Nursery Table sells plants brought in by members. More often than not you will find plants here that are no longer available in the nurseries. Jane and Cherry can be found behind the table.

A Seed Swop Box is also available. The original purpose was for members to bring in a packet of seeds (labelled and with instructions, if possible) and swop it for another packet of seeds in the box. The result is we now have a huge amount of seeds with very few being swopped. So you may now either swop or buy the packets. This is run by Jane.

Library:

There are two trolleys of library books – horticulturally-related – for members to browse before meetings and at tea-time. Books may be borrowed for the month and returned to the following meeting. Make sure Debbie makes a note of the books you are taking.

Outings:

Cherise and Belinda organise a visit once a month to a private garden. This is open to all paid-up members. A limit is set by the hostess on the numbers permitted – depending, usually, on the size of the property. The outing is advertised in the newsletter and a deadline set by which to RSVP. Directions to the chosen garden are sent out a few days beforehand to everyone who has responded. As we quite often have a waiting list, you are asked to advise whether you are unable to attend.

We are known for visiting gardens in any weather, so they are rarely cancelled. The choice would be yours to attend or not.

End-of-year Party:

The first Monday in December takes the form of a social gathering, for members to get together and meet new members. Everyone is asked to pay a nominal fee and to bring a plate of something from “the menu”. Wine is sponsored by the CHS. This is held in the Drawing Room and on the veranda of The Athenaeum.

That should cover the most important things, but please do not hesitate to ask if anything is unclear. Information is usually disseminated through the newsletter, e-mail messages or at the start of monthly meetings.

Glenda

THE BRIGHT SIDE OF HORTICULTURE

IT'S ALL LATIN TO ME!

We all know – and many of us dread – the importance of the Latin name in horticulture and gardening, and although designed to ease communication, the Latin pronunciation somehow always leaves us with tongues in a twist. Inspired by the April article earlier this year, as well as names like *Hamamelidaceae* and *Falcatifolium falciforme*, I thought it would be a fun opportunity to de-code some of the Latin tongue twisters we commonly encounter! Maybe make them more household names (I can try!).

With many of our common names being hugely descriptive and far easier on the eye, it's fine to throw them around between friends but the trouble comes when one ventures to a new garden centre or neck of the woods. Unfortunately, "dog's tail cactus" simply may not get you exactly what you want; instead one needs to spit out the likes of *Selenicereus testudo* or *Cleistocactus winteri*. Romanced by names like "love-in-a-mist" and "blushing bride", it is easy for one to sweep Latin aside, but don't get caught having to whisper about "horehound" or "bloody cranesbill" across the brunch table – when quite frankly *Geranium sanguineum* isn't all that hard to say.

As mentioned in the "Lumbered with Latin" article in April, it may always be easier to write these names down and allow the nurserymen to handle it, but if you wish to learn a thing or two about what you're saying when attempting the above, read ahead!

Firstly, it helps to keep in mind that many of the Latin names too include a description or explanation of some sort – some more obvious than others. For example, *Rosa canina*, commonly Dog Rose, has a rather straight forward break down for us; *Rosa*, the genus and easily deduced as "rose" and *canina*, the species, pertaining to dogs.

But, before diving too deep, let's get some technicalities on the table: there are a few conventions and common additions when dealing with Latin names, and although straight forward to some, it's good to clarify what they mean:

Subsp. Or ssp. – subspecies, or distinct variant of the main species, ie: *Acer negundo* subsp. *Mexicanum*.

Var. – Variety, this highlights slight variations in botanical structure. ie: *Acer palmatum* var. *coreanum*.

'Alice' or 'Lauren's Grape' – Cultivar, this is exclusively for artificially grown plants. *Papaver somniferum* 'Lauren's grape'

As with these technicalities, there are many common descriptors used in Latin naming.

The descriptions mentioned below are generally physical and will most commonly be at the second part of the Latin name (species). These are usually used to describe specific or prominent characteristics of the species. I will be looking at these in more detail in this article as I think these can help one make the right decision or give you a better idea of what is to come with your plant.

Examples of these are:

Acanthus/acanthifolius/acanthacoma



Derived from the Latin word *Akantha* meaning "thorn", one can be aware that if part of the name contains *Acanth-* some part of the plant will be spiny or have spikes! Despite *Acanthus* being a genus on its own, this descriptor can be used in the species name too, to describe an aspect of the plant likening it to that of an *Acanthus*; as to describe leaves with spikey hairs (*Trithrinax acanthocoma*) or spikey leaves (*Carlina acanthifolia*). The genus *Acanthus* will stay true too, almost always being spikey or sharp.

Acanthus,
gardenersworld.com

Albiflorus/Albiflorum/Albiflora

Meaning 'with white flowers'. This is quite a nice easy one to remember – with *Albi-* relating to albino, and *florus/florum/flora* being quite recognisable as relating to flower. This can be helpful when deducing how the flowers will look, knowing immediately they will come out white. *Aloe albiflora* is a nice example.

Aloe Albiflora.
WorldofSucculents.com

Densus/densa/densum

Describing a feature of the plant to be compact or dense! The description can be shown as above in *denus* or *densa* or can be in conjunction to refer to a specific aspect of the plant, for example *densiflorus* for densely flowered, or *densifolius* for densely leaved! *Dendrobium densiflorum* clearly shows the densely packed flowers described!

Dendrobium densiflorum,
Capeoasis.net

Giganteus/gigantean/giganteum

As the prefix may hint, this describes a tall or large plant – important when you want to know if this plant will suit your windowsill or not! With *gigantea* referring simply to "large", as with *Stipa gigantea* one immediately knows this is a large grass, and will look for perhaps a more suitable small variety or will delight at the size!

In addition to this, there is also *giganthus*, *gigantha* or *giganthum* which refers specifically to having giant flowers!

Stipa gigantea
greatplantpics.org

Xanth/xanthinus/xanthina/xanthocarpus

Meaning 'yellow'. Generally, if the name has the prefix *xanth-* then one can expect a yellow element to the plant. *Xanthinus* describes the plant to have a yellow flower as with *Rosa xanthinus* (this can be great when the plant is not in flower and allows you to be sure when choosing for colour) where as *xanthocarpus* represents yellow fruit, as with *viburnum xanthocarpus* which produces small yellow berries!

Rosa xanthine,
rhs.org.uk

There are many more descriptions or hints and tips to be found in Latin names; however, many also pay tribute to botanists or explorers: *Berberis darwinii*, after Charles Darwin, or perhaps the location they are native to – *Camellia japonica*, although now wide spread,

these are found wild in Japan. Some even give hints to the native terrain in which the plants would be found: *Streptocarpus saxorum*, where *saxorum* means "of the rocks" – and this plant is found natively on rocky outcrops!

So, although Latin names can be quite intimidating, once you break away the language barrier so to speak, it gives us a peek into the naming process of plants! Latin helps us with clues about the plant's ideal growing space, or which plant is right for the spaces we have or wish to create!

I, for one, am not going to take up Latin as a second language but it certainly is handy to know some key words and keep a few in the back of your mind, to help make informed growing decisions, or even just to grab those extra points at pub quiz!

Stacey Bright

REMINISCENCES OF A BYGONE ERA – Part 1

Mike Byren is, possibly, dare I say, our "oldest" CHS member. To be more correct, he is definitely not the oldest but rather a member of long-standing, having joined as a young man in 1958.

With the rose season upon us, Mike recalls the days, 60 years ago, of the annual CHS Rose Show.

"The Rose Show

7.30 am – It is a warm October morning and as you enter the City Hall from the dusty smelly streets of Cape Town the air is heavy with the wonderful overpowering fragrance of hundreds of roses.

The scene is dominated by the dark velvety reds, 'Papa Meilland', 'Charlotte Armstrong' and 'Charles Mallerin'; the pinks, 'First Love' and 'Aloha'; the beautiful light yellow 'Chiang Kai Shek' and especially the ultra-vigorous new variety 'Peace', hybridized by the Meilland Family of France and described by Robert Pyle, renowned American Rose Breeder and Grower, as "pale gold, cream and ivory petals blending to a lightly ruffled edge of delicate carmine".

Our venue is a veritable bee-hive, with the Cape Horticultural Society secretary John Minnitt, his wife Edna, the CHS Committee and a band of helpers finalising the setting up of tables etc. There are nearly 200 entries from 25 exhibitors, who are very busy locating tables and classes – and then the last minute name checks – while placing, presenting and preening their entries.

The Wars of the Rose (Growers)

There were always many competitive entries for the different categories of roses i.e. tree, floribunda, cabbage, old-fashioned etc. with the most hotly contested group being 'Hybrid Tea Roses'. While Judging was in progress growers were excluded from the judging environs but this did not stop some of these growers from loudly passing opinions which they perhaps hoped might influence the results.

On one memorable occasion a small group of enthusiasts were viewing proceedings from a City Hall mezzanine-level VIP Box and, although not able to hear the judging discussions in progress on the ground floor, a competing grower with lip-reading talents complained to the folk around him that a judge, with familial connections to another exhibitor, had made some derogatory comments about his rose-growing capabilities. Within minutes there was an angry confrontation at ground level with threats of fisticuffs between the combatants (oops – Growers). Thank goodness at this stage our Secretary intervened and his promise of instant disqualification succeeded in extinguishing this over-heated exchange. Apologies and shaking of hands soon returned us to a gentle peace loving flower show.

The 'Grand' Luncheon

At 12.00 noon with judging completed, awarded Ribbons attached to winners and Trophies for the Best on Show, Reserve Champion and Best of Class displayed with the successful entries, the Show was opened to the waiting public. The CHS Secretary, the Committee, the Judges and invited guests then walked across to the Grand Hotel – the corner of Adderley and Strand Street – where the customary sherry preceded a very pleasant celebratory lunch with a short address from the invited Guest of Honour."

60 years ago special events were exactly that. Whether you were going to the Opera, a Stage Show, the Theatre, a Garden Party or Flower Show, you celebrated the occasion by dressing up. Ladies enjoyed the opportunity to wear fashion items from their wardrobes and highlighting them with gloves, a dressy hat and matching handbag. Shown right is a picture (courtesy of Die Burger) taken at the 1962 CHS Spring Rose Show with my young wife, Sylvia, admiring a prize winning Rose.



The CHS Shows usually opened at 12.00 noon and were well supported by the gardening community of Cape Town. The local newspapers, knowing the popularity of our Shows, provided plenty of advance publicity. A steady flow of visitors continued throughout the afternoon until the Show closed at 5.00pm. Just before closing time at a Rose Show a CHS member was tasked with auctioning the hundreds of cut roses which had been entered for competition. These flowers, bunched in dozens, were quickly snapped up by folk thrilled to buy some top quality blooms.

Amongst the buyers were frequently some of the Adderley Street Flower Sellers; these ladies who sold many thousands of roses throughout the year were very much aware of this annual sale and fully appreciated the quality of these show blooms. With much laughter and chaffing, bidding and banter was in our local street talk. It was great to see these hard working folk going home with some '*lekker blomme*' (lovely flowers) for their own pleasure.

All the income from flower sales was donated to charities supported by the CHS.

... to be continued

TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

1. What is the name of the pigment that determines the colouring in Clivia flowers?

(Answer on page 3)

2. To which colour does "xanth..." refer?

(Answer on page 6)

BAOBAB BRIGADE



Recently our members were offered the chance to grow a Baobab seedling. These plants had been propagated by a very enthusiastic Pinelander, from seeds obtained from Silverhill Seeds. He, unfortunately, now works in Amsterdam and decided these plants should go to good homes. 15 members jumped at the chance and they are now the owners of a 3-year old seedling.

We look forward to seeing how these have grown in the years to come.

Left: Some of our proud owners and their "baby" which they collected at our September meeting.

DATES TO DIARISE

- ✿ Staghorn Fern: Fiona is wanting to break up a huge staghorn fern and is looking for homes for the pieces to go to. If you would like a piece or two, call her on 082-467-4804 or via fiona@zsd.co.za.
- ✿ Eucalyptus "Penny Gum": Do you have a tree with branches to spare? Jenny is looking for stems for a wedding arrangement in January. If you can help, please call her on 021-531-0711.
- ✿ Open Garden Season:
 - Water Oak Farm Open Day: Sat, 5 October from 09:00 to 17:30.
 - Constantia Open Gardens: Fri, 18 from 14:00 – 18:00 and Sat, 19 October from 09:00 – 17:00.
 - Elgin Open Gardens: Sat/Sun, 26/27 Oct and 2/3 November for 10:00 to 17:00.
 - Stellenberg Estate Open Gardens: Sat, 9 and Sun, 10 November
- ✿ 2020 International Conference: Fri, 28 – Mon, 31 August 2020. This will give us an opportunity to meet members of Mediterranean Gardening International.