

# CHS NEWS

## NEXT MEETING

**Monday, 5 September 2022 at 19:30 at The Athenaeum**

**-- PLEASE NOTE OUR NEW STARTING TIME --**

Entrance fee for visitors: R30.

Margaret Abbott, originally from the USA, retired to Kommetjie, in 2015 with her husband, after living in the U.K. for 26 years. Originally from New England and the state of New Hampshire, she lived in Atlanta Georgia for almost 20 years, working for The Coca-Cola Company where she was the Executive Director of The Coca-Cola Foundation and responsible for the company's philanthropy. She and Geoff moved to Britain in 1989 where she became the Director of Development of the American School in London. She then started her own educational fundraising consulting practice - ASK Associates - focusing on the independent school sector for 20 years, working with many of the great public schools of Great Britain.

During lockdown, she started sharing her love of gardens and international travel with members of the International Womens Club of Cape Town where she is the Garden Group Leader. Her lectures were on Zoom so members could see and enjoy beautiful gardens from around the world. This has now developed into a new career as she is now presenting to garden clubs and organisations in South Africa, the UK and the States. All fees are donated to a small elementary school she and her husband are involved in which has been set up to provide an education to the children of undocumented workers in the township of Masiphumelele. She recently presented five of her 'gardentainment' lectures at the UCT 2022 Summer School. She will again be lecturing at the 2023 Summer School with three new lectures in January.

Margaret's talk, entitled ...

## THE HISTORY OF THE TULIP

... will explore the history, magic, mystery and myths associated with the tulip, this most emblematic of spring flowers.

We will discover the origins of the tulip on the steppes of Kazakhstan, following its cultivation through the Ottoman Empire to the explosive bulb fields of the Netherlands, now the epicentre of the tulip world. We explore Keukenhof Gardens in the Netherlands, as well as Chenies Garden in Buckinghamshire UK; and we take a look at the complex and competitive business of growing tulips.

- The library is open and you are welcome to borrow books until the next meeting.
- The Plant Table is operational again. Bring your blooms or pot plants and place them on the table. Please fill in a form giving your name and the name of your plant and anything interesting you have to say about the specimen.
- Tea **WILL** be served.

## AUGUST 2022

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### President

Marianne Alexander

### Chairlady

Jenny Scarr

### Vice-Chairlady

Isabella Hayden

### Hon Treasurer

Henry Diesveld

### Hon Secretary

Glenda Thorpe

### Committee Members

Susan Armstrong   Gerald Robertson

Cherise Viljoen   Natalie Michie

### Honorary Members

Laurie Powis   Marianne Alexander

Mary Smith   Anne Bean   Adam Harrower

Michael Tuffin   Bill Elder   Ernst van Jaarsveld

*"For a person whose work  
throws up an agreed set of  
figures at the end of each  
day, a garden is the last sane  
place on earth."*

*Pam Brown*



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<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Cape-Horticultural-Society/779615695489381>

Instagram – capehortsoc

## NEXT OUTING

- **Sat, 10 September at 10:00 and 11:00:** Visit member, Susan Armstrong's garden, which was planted by Helen Fraser's (Bergvliet succulent garden) gardener and is a mini version of hers. A small garden but full of a variety of succulents as well as a collection in pots. Little Orchard Nursery is close by where plants are very reasonably priced. Limited to 8 members per session. Please RSVP to Glenda by Thursday, 8 September, if you want to join us.

## WELCOME TO ...

... the Kruger family – Lizzie, Ryan and Willow – who have joined up since our last meeting. We wish them many happy years with the CHS.

## REPORT BACK

### August Plant Table

*Bulbine natalensis* (below left) – broad-leafed; long stalk.

*Polygala virgata* – tall and narrow plant; flowers continuously even through the winter; seeds itself.

*Agathosma ovata* 'Glentana' (below centre) – makes a nice big bush; covered in little pink flowers; leaves have a nice gentle scent; bees love this plant; quite an easy Buchu to grow; worthwhile.

*Lapeirousia jacquinii* (below right) – grown from seed collected in December 2020; planted in Autumn 2021; first year the plants put out the long narrow leaves and in the second year the appearance has changed totally; broader leaves and the plant has flowered for the first time this winter; has flattened flower stems and gorgeous, smallish flowers marked with white landing strips for the pollinators to see; flower has a long narrow tube.



*Sparaxis metelerkampiae* (far left) – beautiful flowers.

*Ixia ciliaris* – has a longer stem but specimen was cut just above the leaves; flowers not fully open now.

*Lachenalia aloides* – looking very much like Aloe flowers;

*Clivia miniata* 'Pico Light' (left) – broad leaves; very deep orange with yellow throat.

*Geranium* – grows in late morning sun; almost permanently in flower; watered every 10 days or so but not out in the rain.

*Veltheimia bracteata* – dark pink and 'Lemon Flame'

*Cyrtanthus mackenii* 'Ifafa Lily' – only coming into flower now; also comes in orange.

You can view these blooms on <https://youtu.be/dkXFmkxZZQo>. The rest of the Plant Table specimens were recorded and can be seen on <https://youtu.be/Yyb94PdF35E>. Here is a list of the blooms:

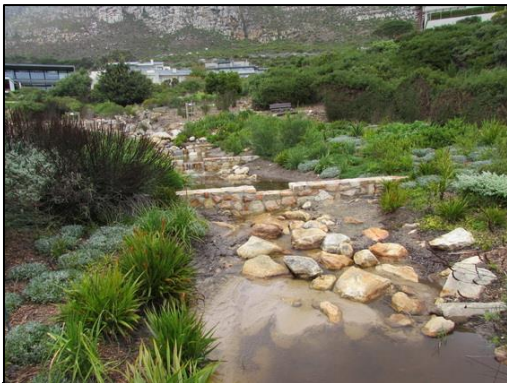
- *Paphiopedilum* Little Irene x Van Ness (yellow and white)
- *Paphiopedilum* LEEANUM (yellow)
- *Lachenalia carnosa*
- *Lachenalia trichophylla*



- *Lachenalia suavedens* – rescued from the roadside
- *Lachenalia* hybrid (orange)
- *Sanseveria* ‘Bantels Sensation’
- *Oncidium* Sharry Baby ‘Ruby Doll’
- *Cane Begonia*

### Stonehurst visit:

You can tell from the woolly hats and thick jackets that the weather was rather chilly. Nevertheless, there was no rain and we had a wonderful few hours looking at what has been achieved on the Stonehurst Mountain Estate in a very short space of time.



(L) Looking upriver...

... (R) and down river.



(L) Chivalry is not dead

(R) One of the ponds with new plantings on the banks.



(L and R) The upper reaches of the Estate.



(L and R) The Winfield's private garden, filled to capacity.



## SPRING PLANT SALE – SATURDAY, 8 OCTOBER 2022!!

We are now 6 weeks away from our second attempt at selling our home-grown plants. We hope the plants you've potted up – or grew on from May – are all doing well. The good rains have probably helped. Keep your eyes open for the snails and slugs munching on your plants. The hairy caterpillars are also having a field day with our plants at the moment.

Don't forget to put a label into each pot with the plant name, as well as your initials. The rigid plastic labels are the best if you use a good marker (Sharpie seems to be a good one). Wooden labels are acceptable but the writing on them tends to disappear if left in the rain. If you are unsure of a name, put in the label with your initials and ask for identification when you bring them to the pre-sale marking and pricing days.



Do you have something to sell that can't be potted up, like

- 🌱 packets of fresh seeds? Put a worthwhile number into brown seed packets (we have lots to give you), label them with the name, year and instructions on how to sow them. Your initials would help if people wanted to make contact with the grower.
- 🌱 bulbs you didn't manage to put into pots? Put 5 or 6 in a packet or net bag and label as above.
- 🌱 ceramic pots that came with the many orchids you've been given over the years? These went down very well in May. Ordinary plastic plant pots will be given to those who want them.
- 🌱 cuttings of *Aloe*, *Echevaria* or *Aeonium*, which root easily, can have a label tied to each stem.

We will let your imagination run wild, but please do not hesitate to ask if you are unsure of anything.

Are you still collecting

- 1 Kg yoghurt containers (or any container made of rigid plastic) for labels? Longer strips are easier to see in pots with lots of foliage; pointy ends are easier to stick into soil; thin, soft plastic has difficulty going through mulch or hard soil. These strips are needed for both the labelling of plants, as well as the prices.
- boxes of any shape or size? These come in very handy. Ask your local store for these veggie boxes – most are happy to be rid of them. Bring your collection along on the 6<sup>th</sup> or 7<sup>th</sup> of October.
- pieces of slasto for the crevice gardening demo we plan to have?



Plan of action for the pre-sale days:

- 🌱 Well-grown plants can be brought on **Thursday, 6 and Friday, 7 October** from 09:00.
- 🌱 Sorting and pricing will take place on these days for which help will be needed.
- 🌱 Placing the priced plants in the sales area will also require a few extra hands.



Sale day:

- 🌱 The sale will **open at 09:30 on the 8<sup>th</sup>** and run until about 13:30.
- 🌱 We will have a tea garden again as this proved to be very popular.
- 🌱 Any member who has a garden-related product to sell is welcome to have a stall on the day. Please inform Glenda if you are interested.

Please let Glenda know what you would be prepared to do and the amount of time you can give to helping out on both the pre-sale and sale days. A list of the tasks for which help is needed will be sent out separately.



## WEEVILS IN ALOES

In the last year or two many gardeners have noticed round marks on their aloe leaves. Some plants have actually collapsed and died. The culprit is a weevil!



I got this information from the Kogelberg Botanical Garden at Betty's Bay.

The weevil, [which they didn't see but I think I have photographed on mine], which is causing the round lesions with the small slit in the middle on the Aloe leaves, is the "Lesser aloe snout beetle" (*Rhadinomerus illictus*). It is the larval stage (right) which actually lives in the stem of the Aloe and typically causes the entire head to die. [I am surmising that once the weevil is mature, the eggs, which could be laid in the slit, hatch and make their way into the stem of the plant.]



### Treatment



They suggest spraying the head regularly with **Karbaspray** (a residual contact and stomach poison) with a good wetting agent; this should go a long way to controlling the adult stages. And, the writer says, they've also read about treatments involving injecting poison into the stem below the leaves, but not tried this.

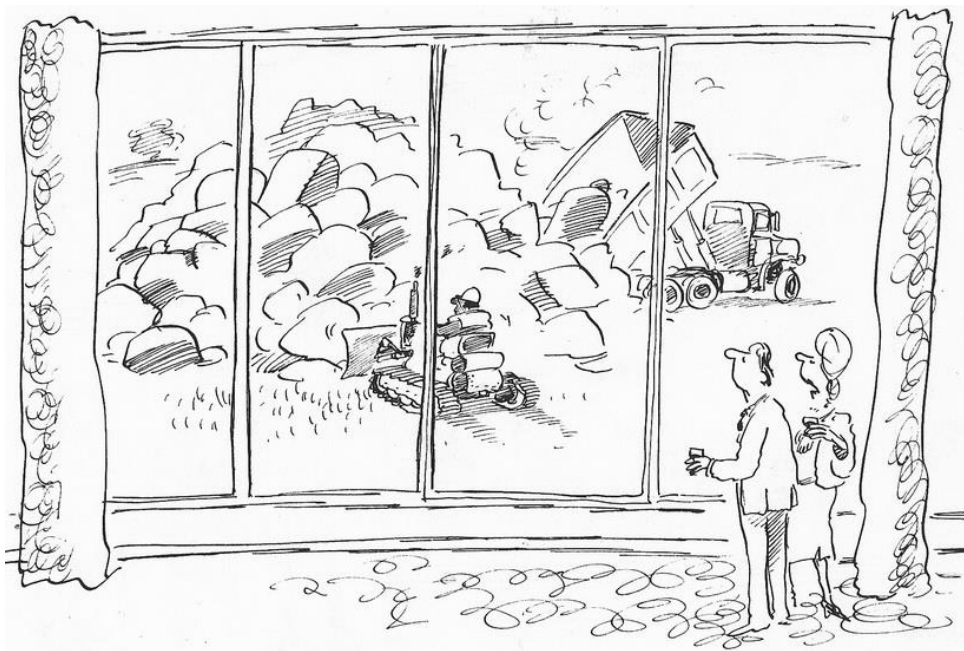
In extreme cases **Koinor** or **Sevin**, which are **systemic poisons containing Imidacloprid** or one of the other **systemic neonicotinoids** should work as they are absorbed by the plant. BUT there is a risk of it affecting bees if you do, as the poison could work its way into the nectar.

Should you need to use this product, make sure to apply after flowering has finished so that it is not taken up into the flowers, and should have worked itself out of the system before it flowers again. No one has been able to tell me how long it persists in the plant.

Aloes that seem resistant to aloe borer weevil: *Aloe striata* (coral aloe), *Aloe chabaudii*, *Aloe barbarae* (tree aloe).

*Aloe arborescens* which, as it is capable of branching out lower down, will send up new growth. But in Aloes like *A. plicatilis* and some of the single-headed species, the entire head and the supporting branch dies, and often then the whole plant.

Marianne Alexander



"So I said to George, 'We've got the land, we've got the money – let's have a real rock garden!'"

## MEMBERS' PLANTS

John has sent in photos of his gorgeous *Veltheimias* – *V bracteata*, the dark pink form, and *V bracteata* 'Lemon Flame', together with a lighter pink form.

He says: "Before they flower you can tell which will flower yellow. The bulbs are green. The rest have pigmented bulbs from an early age."



With crevice gardening being all the rage at the moment, here are a few natural examples from our members' gardens:

Below left: John's back steps have this self-sown, sweet smelling, *Freesia alba* growing happily. He says there are others, also in flower, in a pot at the other end of the stoep, quite far from this one.

Below right: Judi sent in these photos asking whether these qualified as crevice gardening.



## ITEMS OF INTEREST

🌱 **Fri to Sun, 16 – 18 September:** Calitzdorp Succulent Society's Vetplantfees 2022. For more details and to book go to [www.vetplant.co.za](http://www.vetplant.co.za).

🌱 **Sun, 9 October:** Celebrate Garden Day as a group and win prizes. Watch this [https://youtube.com/shorts/h\\_mep0RBG2c](https://youtube.com/shorts/h_mep0RBG2c) to give you an idea of what you can do. We will celebrate this at our Plant Sale, so get out your best garden attire and florally adorned hat and come along to celebrate this day.

🌱 **Sat/Sun, 29/30 Oct and 5/6 Nov:** Elgin Open Gardens. Brochures can be found at Ferndale, the Greenhouse Nursery, Starke Ayres and Kirstenbosch, or visit [www.elginopengardens.co.za](http://www.elginopengardens.co.za).

If you should hear of plant exhibitions, open gardens and the like taking place, please send details to Glenda.