

CHS NEWS

NEXT MEETING

Monday, 5 June 2023 at 19:30 at The Athenaeum

Members: No entrance fee

Visitors: R30 per person

BEAUTY FROM BULBS

Charles Barnhoon, Director of Hadeco Bulbs, will share valuable tips and insights gained from his extensive experience in the bulb fields. You can expect to learn about different types of bulbs, proper care and maintenance, and some lesser-known facts about bulbs and their place in creating stunning gardens.



Charles's journey in the bulb farming industry has been rich and diverse. Growing up in a family of bulb farmers, he was exposed to the world of bulbs from a young age. He trained on bulb farms in the USA and Holland before joining the family bulb business Hadeco. Founded in 1946, Hadeco has a long-standing history in the bulb industry. Over the years, it has grown to become one of the most diverse bulb producers in the world. Hadeco supplies more than 60 kinds of bulbs and flowers to over 40 countries. Charles's deep love for plants and gardening transformed into a passion as he worked through every field and process within the Hadeco farms. With his hands-on experience and extensive knowledge of bulbs, he now plays a key role in managing the eight farms owned by Hadeco. Additionally, Charles oversees the export of the bulbs produced, contributing to the company's international presence. He has published a book titled "The Bulb Book - A South African Gardener's Guide".

His talk will bring tips and insights from the bulb fields to your garden.

The above-mentioned book will be available to purchase at R150 per copy.

NEXT OUTING

Saturday, 24 June at 10:00 to visit Ninon Carrington's Kirstenhof garden

Every member attending is guaranteed at least 5 cuttings to take home and root, to grow on for themselves, or the CHS Plant Sale in September (more details on page 5).

Limited to 20 members. Please RSVP to Glenda by Wednesday, 21 June, if you want to join the group.

MAY 2023

President

Marianne Alexander

Chairlady

Jenny Scarr

Hon Treasurer

Vacant

Hon Secretary

Glenda Thorpe

Committee Members

Susan Armstrong Gerald Robertson

Cherise Viljoen Cherry Mann

Chris Wren-Sargent

Honorary Members

Laurie Powis Marianne Alexander

Mary Smith Anne Bean Adam Harrower

Bill Elder Ernst van Jaarsveld

*"Want to hear the
sound of birds? Don't
buy a cage; plant a
tree."*

Unsure



120 YEARS

Tel: 021-531-5713

Fax: 086-514-0998

Post: 22 Rustenburg, Pinelands, 7405

info@capehorticulturalsociety.co.za

<https://capehorticulturalsociety.co.za>

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

Instagram – capehortsoc

IN MEMORIAM**Michael Tuffin****10.02.1938 – 29.04 2023**

"Having spent most of my active CHS membership under the leadership of Anne Bean and Michael Tuffin, I write from that context rather than a personal one. Having said that, one learns a good deal about someone as he/she just goes about their business.

I always thought of Michael as very British with a bit of French flair. He seemed unflappable, unhurried, enjoying the finer things of life – good music, fine wine, fine books, good company and fine dining. He was a great cook and discussed his creations with relish. He loved gardening and often sought to buy and grow unusual plants – especially succulents and bulbs.

He used language in elegant ways – I use that word rather than eloquent which of course it also was. For example, while I might say *I have built a water channel through my garden*, Michael built *a rill*. He always spoke of *Mother* when telling us of something she might have done or said. His annual reports or his opening remarks at monthly meetings as Chairman of the Society were always wonderfully worded and always punctuated with his particular dry sense of humour.

He chaired committee meetings in the same unhurried manner in which he moved and lived and hated controversy or conflict; yet he dealt with those issues graciously but firmly when necessary. I remember a letter to a particular CHS member who has stepped out of line once too often.

His passing leaves me with a sense of warmth at having known him – even if superficially. A fine gentleman whom I often pictured as a gracious host lolling on cushions as he entertained his guest at a Roman-style banquet after **he** had done all the cooking – especially the dessert (probably something like Death by chocolate!) with good music in the background."

Wilma Tindall

Lyn McCallum recalls:

"Deryck my late husband, and I, went to our first ever CHS Meeting many years ago, when Michael was a recently elected Chairman, and he was so kind and welcoming that we signed as members immediately!

His horticultural enthusiasm was instrumental in enthusing us both to start gardening seriously and we soon were asked to become committee members – Deryck as Treasurer and I as Speaker convenor. And soon after that I was asked to join the CHS Show Committee team. This enabled me to get to know Michael and appreciate his mischievous sense of humour and his wide interests in music, cooking as well as gardening. (Being part of the Show management team was great ...)

Michael was a very knowledgeable and enthusiast *Pelargonium fundi*, and as I was very interested in growing *Pelargoniums*, we got on like a house on fire, albeit with several "discussions" about species names and how to grow them! I found this very inspiring and helpful and went on to do a *Pelargonium* display at one of the CHS Shows – an interesting and challenging task.

Committee meetings held at Michael's Marina da Gama home were always a delight... both horticulturally and culinary. Michael was an excellent chef – his tea spread after the meetings was legendary.

He shared his recipes generously (well, perhaps not all of them!). However, I have several of his recipes, Risotto with Thyme – showed me how to do a good risotto; Trout with Marjoram and Mint – a new flavour combination; Crème brûlée with Rhubarb and Sage, another interesting flavourful blend; and also his special traditional chicken stuffing. Michael also did a delicious, glazed ham, much enjoyed by my whole family at our Christmas luncheon.

Sadly, I was never lucky enough to hear Michael playing the piano or hear any of his compositions, but knew he was a maestro of note.

All in all, Deryck, and I both think Michael was a wonderful person and he certainly enriched our gardening lives in so many ways. This charismatic man will be missed by ever-so-many friends.

A few members' reminiscences:

John van der Linde: "We (he and Beth) used to meet Michael while he was shopping for the gourmet dinners for which he catered."

Georgina Charlesworth: "I will forever be indebted to him for introducing me to the wonderful world of Pelargoniums which, as you know, went on to become almost something of an obsession with me."

Lee Leith: "Michael Tuffin will certainly be remembered as a great and wonderful character and, I think, for his scone recipe?"

Gerald Robertson: "Jane knew him as a colleague, of course, going back a long time to when he asked for some manuscripts to be translated from French."

As mentioned by Wilma, Michael was eloquent and we all hung on Michael's every word.

For the 2007 AGM, his report began:

As a preamble to this year's Chairman's report I would like to apologise to members here present for the obligation, on your part, to sit through the obligation on my part, for presenting the Chair's report for 2006. I am sure you would rather be listening to an erudite slide presentation on some aspect of plants and gardening than to a concatenation regurgitating the events of last year. Unhappily, neither you nor I can get away with ignoring this boring but ordained annual pilgrimage through the immediate past. However, it is for our benefit, for as Sir Francis Bacon wrote in his essay 'Of Gardens', "God Almighty first planted a garden and, indeed, it is the purest of human pleasures".

One AGM, when reporting on the Annual Flower Show, he said "... the problem-solving efforts Glenda Thorpe and her splendid team of Wilma Tindall, Lyn McCallum, Michael Payne and Andrew Thorpe; efforts, I might add, that seem Sisyphean at times."

Most of us had to rush home to look up the meaning of Sisyphean. 😊

In his Chairman's Report for the year 2015, Michael ended off with: "When you refuse to open your garden for members' visits, just remember Ruth Draper's words:

'As a matter of fact, you know I am rather sorry you should see the garden now, because alas! it's not looking at its best. Oh, it doesn't *compare* to what it was last year'."

Sound familiar?

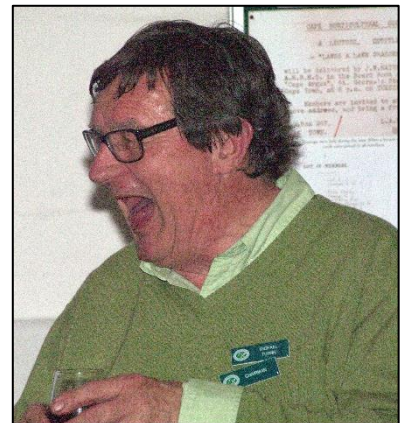
Rest in Peace, Michael



Show judging



Packing away the trophies



Celebrating post-show

REPORT BACK

May Plant Table – read this in conjunction with the Plant Table video which gives more explanation

Exotics:

Schlumbergera Noid Peach (top row, left): grown in milled bark mix in a perlite slow release fertilizer and bone meal.

Impatiens “Busy Lizzy” (top row, centre): native to the tropics of Asia; long cultivated in the temperate regions of the world; grows well in shady areas; some of the larger varieties can be tall and good for back areas; these types I still find at Little Orchard or Montebello nurseries. Root from cuttings.

Acmella oleracea “Toothache plant”: leaves give a tingly feeling when eaten; ‘Cooked leaves lose their strong flavour and may be used as leafy greens. Both fresh and cooked leaves are used in dishes such as stews in northern Brazil’ [Wikipedia].

Justicia carnea aurea (top row, right): watered occasionally.

Salvia macrophylla and *S. cacaliifolia* (bottom row, left): semi-shade; quite tough; seeds itself; flowers for long period.

Cassia corymbosa (bottom row, right): from south America; started as a seedling and taken about 15 years to reach 3m.



Indigenous:

Hypoestes aristata “Ribbon Bush”, “Purple Haze”: semi-shade is best; autumn flowering; very easy; cut back after flowering.

Cyrtanthus “Ifafa Lily”: often comes into flower; seeds germinate easily

Dioscorea elephantipes: only remembered to water it three weeks ago. It is a deciduous climber. It takes the name “elephant's foot” from the appearance of its large, partially buried, tuberous stem, which grows very slowly but often reaches a considerable size, often more than 3 m (10 ft) in circumference with a height of nearly 1 m (3 ft 3 in) above ground [Wikipedia].

Afrocarpus falcatus: a nearby Yellowwood dropped seed and these grew up amongst Agapanthus; becomes very invasive.

Nerine sarniensis “Guernsey Lily” (next page – top row, left): occurs Citrusdal to Caledon; many colour forms.

Plectranthus oertendahlii: native to coastal forested river valleys in southern KwaZulu Natal; in dappled shade; likes good drainage; ideal as potplant; first described in 1924 in Sweden; in cultivation in SA from 1977.

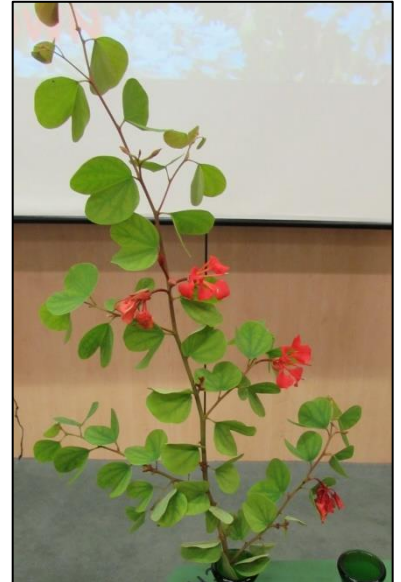
Plectranthus ciliatus: needs a bit of water.

Leucadendron salignum (top row, centre)

Bauhinia galpinii (top row, right)

Barleria varieties (bottom row, left)

Orbea variegata (bottom row, centre): a gift a year ago, it has flowered often; gets no special treatment; probably needs a bigger pot or be in the ground [told it should be left in its pot].



From your Committee

TEA DUTY: Don't forget we are looking to re-instate the tea duty roster. If we can fill the roster, the number of times you need to make tea will lessen. Please speak to Susan Armstrong either at a meeting or on 072-369-6826 who will have a roster for you to choose a month that suits you.

PLANT SALE – 9 SEPTEMBER 2023: The date has been confirmed and this will be held at 2 Dressage Close, Constantia, in the garden of member, Belinda du Rand.

In the meantime, Cherise has these well-rooted plants to get the Sale rolling (quantity of each is in brackets). They are available at R5-00 each at our June meeting. Come and buy a number of these to grow on and return in September for the Sale. They should be looking beautifully established, healthy and worth selling for 4 times the price or more.

Leucadendron xanthoconus 5

Leucospermum High Gold 5

Plectranthus saccatus Mauve 5

Agathosma serpyllacea 5

Leucadendron Wilsons Wonder 8

Leonotis leonurus Orange 4

Phyllica ericoides 5

Freylinia helmei 5

Pelargonium cucullatum 8

Pelargonium capitatum 8

Tecomaria capensis Red 5

If you have enough cuttings or seedlings of your own, please continue to pot up these extra plants. Look after them now so they will be well-established come September. The unusual is always sought after. We need to teach people that there is more to this 'plant business' than buying the same old common or garden plants. 😊

But that's not to say that the usual is not welcome. Keep growing them and bring lovely well-grown plants – and, don't forget the herbs!!

FAMILY SEARCH WITH A DIFFERENCE

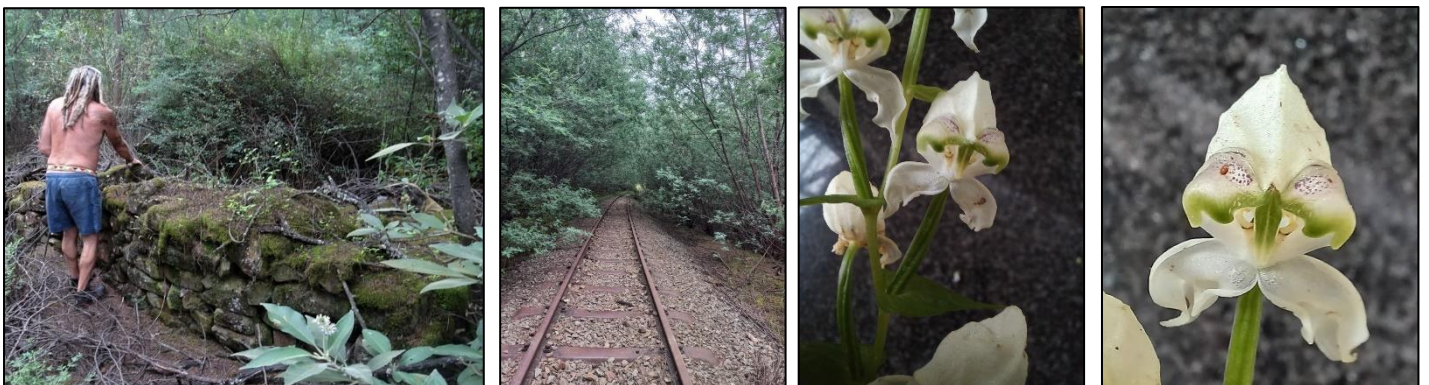
by Marianne Alexander

While in Natal, near Bulwer, I went on a search for an ancestor's grave – my grandfather's young sister – who passed away, aged about 6, in the 1890s.

It was quite an adventure with a real 'hippy', with dreadlocks, tattoos etc ,who owns the 'One Love Farm' where I was told the grave was, leading the way. He took us to look for the grave which he thought was behind this wall (below, left).

Having bundu bashed through rough terrain, we left the car and set off along an old out-of-commission railway line (below, centre), surrounded by dense thickets of wattles, to where he thought it was. Unfortunately, it turned out, we think, to be the remains of an old stone building. BUT growing *en masse* under these alien trees was a plant with white flowers. Getting down on my hands and knees, I managed to photograph it and found it was a hooded orchid – *Disperis fanniniae* (below, right and far right). With further research, my niece and I discovered it had been named after Marianne Fannin, whose brother had discovered it and she had painted it ... and yes, there *is* a family connection. Her brother married my great-grandmother's sister! And, what is more, she is a famous artist!

Wikipedia provided this information: "Fannin appears to have been a self-taught artist. She was encouraged by her older brother, George Fox Fannin, a keen botanist, to study the local flora of South Africa. Their interest lay primarily in orchids and *Asclepiadoideae* (milkweeds). This interest led to Fannin pressing and painting the plants George collected and sending the illustrations to William Henry Harvey at Trinity College, Dublin. Harvey was so impressed by her paintings, he named an orchid in her honour, crediting her as its discoverer. Around 1869, Fannin painted an album detailing the flowers of Natal. In 1878, Fannin was a member of a mission party led by Bishop Henry Bousfield, and during their journey from Durban to Pretoria Fannin made sketches of the surrounding countryside. Whilst living in Transvaal, Fannin painted wildflowers and landscapes. Her flower paintings are held by the School of Botany, Trinity College, Dublin. Her landscapes are held in private collections in South Africa."



FOR YOUR HORTICULTURAL DIARY

- **Calitzdorp Succulent Society's Vetplantfees:** Fri/Sat/Sun, 15 – 17 Sept from 09:00 – 17:00 (15:00 on Sun).
- **Herb varieties for sale:** Carol Hopwood (074-076-8713) runs a tiny outlet in Plumstead which has a variety of medicinal, culinary, insecticidal and scented herbs. Examples are, soapwort, horehound, artemisia, yarrow, nettles and others. She also has a range of berry plants such as elderberries, mulberries, tayberries and youngberries. Give her a call.
- **CHS Plant Sale:** Sat, 9 Sept from 09:30 – 13:30 (TBC) at 2 Dressage Close, Constantia.