

CHS NEWS

NEXT MEETING

Monday, 2 October 2023 at 19:30 at The Athenaeum

Members: No entrance fee

Visitors: R30 per person

GROWING GREEN CITIES

This was the theme of the 2022 Floriade in the Netherlands – an expo which showcased the latest trends in the garden and horticultural world (with the emphasis on nature and the environment) including show gardens, a bio-based natural pavilion, international pavilions displaying their culture and local innovations, sustainable vegetable gardens and cut flowers.

Marianne Alexander will tell us about her visit, which will include a visit to the Leiden Botanical Garden, dating back to 1590 – and has close ties to South Africa. There are fascinating glass houses and a systematic garden showing the main groups in the plant kingdom.

NEXT OUTING

Sat, 30 Sept from 09:30 – 11:00 to visit the Lower Silvermine Wetland area in Clovelly. Limited to 20 members. RSVP asap as there are a few places left.

Thurs, 12 Oct at 14:00 and **Sun, 15 Oct at 10:00** to view the garden of the late Jane Robertson which has been rejuvenated to its former glory by Cherise and Gerald. RSVP to Glenda by **Monday, 9 October**, and advise which day would suit you. Only 20 members each day as parking is limited. Travelling together is advisable.

WELCOME TO ...

... Mary Gibbs. We hope her time with the CHS will be beneficial.

REPORT BACK

September Plant Table – read this in conjunction with the Plant Table video https://youtu.be/cl1gh_XM7gs which gives more explanation.

Indigenous:

Veltheimia – deciduous; winter/spring flowers.

Tetradenia riparia – very early spring flowering; prune down each year.

Melianthus “Kruidjie roer my nie” – likes wet feet; occasional water in summer; this is growing in an old kitchen sink.

Salvia africana-lutea “Bruin Salie” – there are 2 forms – one with green bracts, the other purple brown.

Podylaria calyptata – white form.

Corycium orobanchoides “Monkshood orchid” (right) – very common in the Western Cape.

Pelargonium suburbanum

Buddleja salvifolia – nice form with lilac flowers; some are paler – almost white.



SEPTEMBER 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

Marianne Alexander Mary Smith

Adam Harrower Bill Elder

Ernst van Jaarsveld

“Perennial: Any plant which, had it lived, would have bloomed year after year.”

*Henry Beard and Roy McKie
from “Gardening:
A Gardener’s Dictionary”*



120 YEARS

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Dipogon lignosus – the Cape Sweet Pea is a delicate and vigorous climber; this covers an unsightly wall; semi-evergreen, perennial with unusual fragrant pink flowers from August; flowers change colour and go to mauve and purple; can be invasive as it grows incredibly quickly.



Far left: *Tetradenia riparia*
 Left, above: *Podylaria calyprata*
 Left, below: *Dipogon lignosus*

Exotic:

Arum italicum "Lords and Ladies" (below, right) – shade loving; easy to propagate from seed.

Spiraea cantoniensis "Cape May" – tough shrub; needs no watering in summer; survived the drought; single and double forms.

Cercis occidentalis "California Judas tree" – grown from seed; doesn't really thrive.

Viburnum carlesii or *V burkwoodii* (below, left) – tough; deciduous; scented.



Prunus glandulosa "Chinese bush cherry"? – a short running shrub.

Wisteria sinensis – a tough climber that needs no watering once established.

Malus sp "Crab Apple"

Prunus persica "flowering Peach" (below, centre) – do bear fruits; also comes in double pure white.

Hypericum "St John's Wort" – dappled shade; occasional watering in summer.

Blue Bell – very old bulbs

Raphiolepis kruschenii

Raphiolepis indica "Indian Hawthorn" – very hardy and waterwise shrub; attractive all year round, with new foliage a bronze/red, ageing to a dark green; delicate clusters of white, pale or dark pink flowers; loved by bees and butterflies.

Sanseveria (streaky); *S doorneri* from Kenya; *S* "Dinosaur's Tail" (below, right)

Geranium dalmaticum (pale) and *G sanguineum* (dark)

Rhododendron sp "Scented Azalea" – bought in Hogsback; likes a shady spot; there was a plant in the octagonal garden at Vergelegen.



Ceanothus – sp unknown (top, left) – mediterranean climate (California); slow growing

Cistus purpureus (top, centre)

Primula malacoides (bottom, left)– can live and flower for more than a year; needs water; self-seeding.

Buddleja – probably *X lewisiana* (below, centre) which is a cross between *B asiatica* and *B madagascariensis*; grown from slip.

Lavatera “Barnsley”(far right) – makes very large bush but is short-lived.



PLANT SALE

Dear CHS members

“Thank you so much”, says Chris, “for the plants, the donations of books and raffle prizes, the baking, the volunteering and the enthusiasm. Your dedication has ensured another successful sale, spread the message of delight in nature *and* raised R14 837.00 for our Society. A wonderful effort all round.”

Susan also says: “A big thank you to all who helped with the labelling, pricing and positioning of plants. It is always an enormous task, especially on the Thursday when the majority of the plants arrive. Members who brought plants often had filled every space in their cars with their homegrown treasures!

A stranger looking in could be puzzled by the sight of the number of us hobbling around because of various back, hip, knee, or ankle problems. Thankfully there were also a few fit members who were able to help at certain times. Thanks also to Chris and Andrew for collecting all the tables, boxes, etc and bringing them to the venue.”



The raffle prizes were a bottle of Champagne and two pots full of succulents.

The Scouts, with Nick, did a sterling job selling the tickets and the winners were:

- CHS member, Margaret Reason,
- Coreen du Toit
- Shirley Norton

Congratulations to all!



Left: the buyers

Right: booksellers, Cherry, Jean and Gerald



Above: cashiers, Elwyn, Linda P and Pat



Above: Shelley, Linda J and Anne behind the tea table

CIVIC HONOURS

The Cape Town Council unanimously agreed to award our former CHS member, Hank Lith, the Cape Town Mayor's Medal for his service to Cape Town and the Arderne Garden. Hank was one of eight who received the Mayor's Medal.

At the award ceremony, Geordin Hill Lewis said: "... In the category of conservation, a wonderful man, a former City official, who quietly went about his tireless business of looking after the natural treasure of Claremont's Arderne Garden, one of the most important public gardens in the whole of South Africa – the late Mr Hank Lith."

This was the first time in 12 years that civic honours were awarded. Our former President, the late Anne Bean, received this medal in 2010 for *her* contribution to conservation.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

- **Entrance to the Athenaeum grounds:** You may have experienced this when attending a meeting. If not, please ensure you have your driver's license ready as the security guards have been instructed to scan this, as well as the vehicle's licence plate and ask for your phone number.
- **Pieces of *Stanhopea*** will be available at our October meeting (see e-mail of 18 Sept).
- **Exotic and Rare Plant Market:** 30 Sept.
- **Prince Albert Open Gardens:** Sat, 30 Sept and Sun, 1 Oct.
- **Cape Clivia Show:** Sat, 30 Sept and Sun, 1 Oct. Entrance R20.
- **Kirstenbosch Plant Fair:** Sat/Sun, 7/8 Oct.
- **Fish Hoek Garden Fair:** Sat, 14 Oct.
- **Lost Property**
 - Lost: Two wooden salad bowls – one plain round yellowwood plate, the other a slightly scooped engraved oak plate/bowl. If you took these home by mistake, please return them.
 - Found: a pair of scissors/bottle opener (right). If it is yours, please ask for it.



Photos: M Wren-Sargent, A and G Thorpe