



The work of a garden bears visible fruits – in a world where most of our labours seem suspiciously meaningless.

*Pam Brown*

## CONTENTS

|                              |   |
|------------------------------|---|
| Monthly meeting .....        | 1 |
| Monthly outing .....         | 1 |
| Subs renewal .....           | 1 |
| Report back .....            | 2 |
| Plant sale .....             | 3 |
| Membership drive .....       | 4 |
| Roses .....                  | 5 |
| As a matter of interest..... | 6 |

## NEXT MEETING

**Monday, 6 May 2024 at 19:30 at The Athenaeum**

**Members: No entrance fee**

**Visitors: R30 per person**

**Notice is given of the 119<sup>th</sup> AGM of the CHS to be held on Monday, 6 May 2024 at 19:30 at The Athenaeum, Campground Road, Newlands**

### Agenda

1. Signing the Register
2. Confirmation of Minutes of the AGM held on 1 May 2023
3. Chairlady's Annual Report
4. Treasurer's Report with Financial Statements
5. Appointment of Auditor for the ensuing year
6. Election of President
7. Election of Committee
8. General

The AGM will be followed by

## AN INTRODUCTION TO THE FASCINATING SNAKES AND REPTILES OF CAPE TOWN

**Tyrone Ping's** talk will explore the common and lesser known species of snakes and reptiles that call this region home. It will also touch on basics of venomous and non-venomous snakes of the area, rare reptiles, threats to reptiles and how the general public can help.

Tyrone has spent close on two decades documenting and photographing reptiles across the length and breadth of South Africa. Having authored two field guides including the first field guide pertaining exclusively to the Snakes and Other Reptiles of the Western Cape (<https://www.tyroneping.co.za/product/a-field-guide-to-the-snakes-other-reptiles-of-the-western-cape/>), as well as dozens of scientific papers, he has one of the most comprehensive collections of images which showcase the incredible diversity of the country's reptiles.

## NEXT OUTING

**Fri, 24 May at 14:00** to visit the new garden and nursery of Graham Paarman in Constantia. More details will be available later. Limited to 15 members. RSVP to Glenda by no later than Tues, 21 May.

## SUBSCRIPTION RENEWAL

Renewal of your annual membership (R230 or R350) is due. This is the last time of calling.

Please ensure that your name is recorded when paying at meetings, whether through Yoco or in cash, so you don't get left off our database. The response to your subs payment will be an e-mail. If you *have* paid and *not* received this acknowledgment, please advise Glenda.

## REPORT BACK

### April Plant Table

#### Exotic:

*Kalanchoe beharensis* "Donkey's Ears": a cut leaf, that had been put into the bottle with water, had formed roots and sprouted new growth on the underside.

That was possibly an important step before it formed the new plantlet.

Isabella's comments:

Maybe it could work like *Streptocarpus* and *Gloxinias*, propagating new plants from leaf cuttings? The usual way of propagating this plant is by rooting a truncheon, but this was far more interesting!



### Ceropegia talk



1<sup>st</sup> row, L to R: *Ceropegia sandersonii* (Giant *Ceropegia* from KZN; *C. radicans* (E Cape); *C. simoniae* (S Madagascar); *C. stapeliaformis* var. *serpentina* (Mpumalanga)

2<sup>nd</sup> row, L to R: *Ceropegia ampliata*; *C. linearis* var. *woodii* "Chain of Hearts" with 'bokhorings' (buck horns) and the upper half of the plant 'climbing' a tree

Watch the video of Mike Picker's presentation to learn more about these strange looking flowers.

PLANT SALE

The aim of the Autumn 2025 Plant Sale is to try and sell more unusual plants. A number of recent buyers appear to be quite knowledgeable about plants and are looking for the not-so-common shrubs, bulbs and herbs, to name a few. It is difficult for many of us to know what is meant by ‘unusual’. To help us with this, Cherise has drawn up a list of plants we may have in our gardens. She’s asking that you take cuttings to pot up or propagate any seedlings that have popped up all over the place. Ask her or Isabella for advice if you’re unsure.

A plea from the Plant Sale Committee: We know the more common plants are easier to grow, but we’re looking for the more unusual plants in your gardens, please.

The more unusual plants that are sought after:

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• All Bulbs (except Dietes and Pregnant Onion):<br/>Chasmanthe, Clivia, Crinum, Cyrtanthus, Haemanthus, Nerine, Kniphofia, Snowdrops, Scadoxus, Veltheimia, Watsonia etc.</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Shade Plants:<br/>Asparagus densiflorus Cwebe or Meyersii, Anemone, Aspidistra, Brillantaisia, Bromeliads (not common ones), Dianella, Ferns, Hellebore, Liriope, Knowltonia, Larger Plectranthus (P. saccatus, ecklonii, zuluensis), Ruscus,</li></ul> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Proteas and Buchu</li></ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Pelargoniums:<br/>Unusual (sidoides, etc) or very Fragrant (rose, lemon, peppermint, nutmeg etc)</li></ul>  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• More Common Shrubs:<br/>Buddleja, Brunfelsia, Daisies, Hibiscus, Hydrangea, Lavender, Murraya, Polygala, Salvias</li></ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Unusual Shrubs:<br/>Azalea, Ice cream bushes, Frangipani, Justicia, Podalyria, Pavetta</li></ul>  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Climbers:<br/>Bignonia, Bougainvillea, Clerodendron, Dipladenia, Granadilla, Jasmine, , Honeysuckle, Golden shower, Potato creeper, Snail vine,</li></ul>                         |   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Larger Shrubs/Small Trees:<br/>Anastrabe, Gardenia, Indigofera, Diospyros, Psychotria, Weigelia,</li></ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Orchids, Stags Head ferns</li></ul>   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Fruit Tees:<br/>Real Banana, Paw-Paw, Tree tomato</li></ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Indoor Plants (all)</li></ul>   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Herbs:<br/>Basil, Marjoram, Lemon Verbena, Parsley, Sage, Thyme,</li></ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Perennials:<br/>Aster, Diascia, Dahlia, Gaura, Foxglove, Fuchsia, Selago, Zinnia.</li></ul>   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Small Succulents:<br/>Please rather make mixed bowls/containers/pots of at least 5 different small succulents</li></ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Large succulents:<br/>Aloes, Crassula, Cotyledon, Euphorbia, Senecio, etc</li></ul>   |

**NB:** The CHS Nursery Table at meetings will still be open to sell the plants you bring. While you’re building up stock at home for the Plant Sale, please feel free to bring your plants that have grown too large or can’t last until the following year, to sell at meetings.

To do now:

Isabella has provided a list of plants that can be potted up now and ought to be big and lush by Autumn next year.

| Plants to propagate from semi-ripe cuttings in April: |   |
|---|---|
| Marguerite daisies (Argyranthemum)                    | Euryops species including E. pectinatus |
| Pelargoniums and Geraniums                            | Leonotis leonurus, Leonotis ocymifolia  |
| Salvias   | Convolvulus cneorum ("Silver Bush")     |
| Mackaya bella   | Cistus ("Rock Rose")                    |

Plants to propagate by division in April:

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Agapanthus (label what colour the flowers will be)  | Japanese anemone (when it's finished flowering) |
| Summer-flowering bulbs like Zephyranthes  | Daylilies                                       |
| Salvia leucantha (Mexican Sage)   | Kniphofias (Red-hot Pokers)                     |
| Phlomis fruticosa or other Phlomis species<br>Phlomis can be grown from cuttings and can also be propagated by layering – take a long, lax branch, scrape the bottom where it will touch the soil, and place a weight on top of that part to keep it from moving. Leave it till early summer, then if it has developed roots, cut the branch off and pot up the new rooted plant. |   |

Locally indigenous plants (i.e. Western Cape plants) can be grown from seed sown in Autumn:

|  |  |
|--|--|
| Fynbos (seed might need smoke primer to stimulate germination)   | Bulbs such as Moraeas, Ixias, Freesias, Tritonias, Sparaxis, Babianas, etc |
| Seed is available online from Silverhill Seeds, Seeds and All, and Seeds for Africa. Sow in autumn in seed trays using a very well-drained growing medium, and LABEL the seed tray. They should germinate and grow through winter, losing their leaves in late spring. Leave them in the seed tray till autumn next year, and by then there should be small bulbs (dormant) to sell. |  |

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE 2024

Our aim is to have 20 new members by September 2024. Right now we have 12 new members, so 8 to go!

To achieve this, the **SPRING POOL** will run from 1 January to 31 August 2024.

- Every member who introduces a new paid-up member/s in that time period earns entry into the pool.
- Each new paid-up member who joins in the time period gets entry into the pool.
- A new member does not have to be invited by a current member to earn entry.
- There are TWO pools: one for CURRENT CHS members, one for NEW CHS members.

The draw will take place at our 2 September meeting.

Prizes will be:

*Current Members’ Pool:* 1<sup>st</sup> place is a voucher for R1000; 2<sup>nd</sup> place is a voucher for R500.

*New Members’ Pool:* 1<sup>st</sup> place is a voucher for R1000; 2<sup>nd</sup> place is a voucher for R500.

And a special mystery prize will go to the gregarious and ultra-competitive CHS member who introduces the highest number of new members.

If we get fewer than 20 new members, prizes will be reduced on a pro-rata basis.

Hot tip: If you are a new member, your name is entered in the new member pool. But if you persuade someone to join after you have joined, you will also be entered in the old member pool. Which doubles your chance of a win.

Chris Wren-Sargent

You fight dandelions all weekend, and late Monday afternoon there they are, pert as all get out, in full and gorgeous bloom, pretty as can be, thriving as only dandelions can in the face of adversity.

Hal Borland



## SOUTH AFRICA'S ROSE-GROWING FAMILY

Ludwig's Roses was established in March 1971.



Ludwig Taschner, after whom the business is named, was born in Germany during the Second World War. He trained as a nurseryman and subsequently escaped from East Germany in 1960. He gained invaluable experience by working in nurseries in West Germany, Switzerland and England, where he started specialising in rose growing.

He arrived in Pretoria in 1962 and worked for Buss Nurseries until he founded Ludwig's Roses north of Pretoria. From small beginnings, the nursery has grown world renowned, as the premier rose nursery in South Africa.

We grow the largest selection of rose varieties available anywhere in the world.

Ludwig pioneered the propagation of roses in containers. Previously roses could only be purchased in winter as pruned, bare-rooted plants. The effect containerised rose plants had on South Africa was that gardeners could select roses by their flowers, fragrance and growth habit for most of the year. This obviously facilitated popularising roses in every South African garden even more.

Ludwig's has developed strong relationships with over 25 breeders from all over the world and annually tests thousands of new varieties according to their performance in the South African climate. From these, a selection of 10 to 20 novel cultivars are named and released annually. This selection process may take up to 8 years.

We are proud to have released top garden roses since they first opened their doors to the public in 1971. Varieties like Just Joey, Burning Sky, Casanova, Esther Geldenhuys, Archbishop Tutu, Walter & Albertina Sisulu and South Africa are to name but a few of the "rose celebrities".

Ludwig is the mastermind behind enthusing gardeners to get "hooked" on growing roses. He has been writing, giving talks and has travelled throughout South Africa and the world to convey his love of the rose.

He released his first colour catalogue in 1975 with only 180 varieties listed. Today the catalogue contains over 1 000 varieties in a myriad of colours, fragrances and growth habits. Over the years the catalogue has become "a must have" collector's item and used to be posted free of charge to over 45 000 gardeners around the country. Today the catalogues are distributed from any one of our 8 nurseries across the country.

By sending out a free monthly "Talking Roses" e-mail newsletter to over 80 000 "rose lovers", we stay in close contact with each and everyone who enjoys the beauty of the rose. The website shares ample information on the growing of roses plus descriptions and photographs of all the different varieties and diseases.

Visiting the farm, the mother nursery north of Pretoria is a sight to behold. A million rose bushes in full bloom appear like an ocean of colour with an overwhelming fragrance.

His son, Halmar, who already, as a 5 year-old boy, dreamed of working with roses, entered the nursery in 1999. Ludwig and Halmar have a profound understanding and that has been the main reason the company has been able to grow so much. Ludwig quickly but also easily gave over the management reins to Halmar. This in turn enabled him to focus even more on the rose and so their healthy dynamic proved to translate into the nursery flourishing.

Currently 135 people work for the nursery. Of course it is the individuals who form part of our wonderful team that make all the rose growing possible. Many have been part of the company for over 40 years. We can but express our sincere gratitude and appreciation for the commitment.

*Halmar Taschner*

**Rose History in South Africa** (published in SA Gardening magazine about 15 years ago) – *Ludwig Taschner*

Roses are not indigenous in the Southern Hemisphere. It is recorded that rose plants were brought along with Jan van Riebeeck. Subsequent settlers brought roses with them, often cuttings rooted in potatoes. Dr Gwen Fagan did tremendous research and this was published in her by now world famous book "Roses of the Cape of Good Hope".

It is not by chance that so many of these old treasures are found on farms in the Karoo. The old roses, now regarded as Heritage Roses grew into formidable dense shrubs and in such a way shading and protecting their roots. A second wave of roses were brought to the Grahamstown region with the 1820 settlers. It was only very recently that a rose known in the region as 'Grandmother Wiggill' was identified to be *Rosa moschata plena* and propagated from a

shrub still growing on a farm. Presently plants of this rose are shipped by Ludwig's to descendants of the Wiggill family. An effort is made by the Heritage Rose Society of South Africa to establish a memory garden of as many of the old roses grown a hundred year ago as they can find.

Another rose that arrived at that time was *Rosa canina rubiginosa*, the Eglantine Rose also known as the apple scented rose due to the distinct apple scent that exudes from the leaves, not the petals. This rose set hips easily. Birds ate the hips and distributed the seed around the countryside. Rose seed will only germinate after it was subjected to be frosted. This is the reason why this rose has become a nuisance all over the edges of the Drakensberge. Indeed, it has recently been declared an invader plant. However, hips are being harvested and processed for medicinal purpose, but also for rose hip jams and other edible products.

These early wild roses grew relatively easy from slips or runners and were obviously distributed from farm to farm. The five petalled white "Dog Rose", *Rosa laevigata* is still seen growing over fences mostly in the Western Cape.

Well over a hundred years ago a specialist rose nursery was established in Grahamstown issuing a catalogue listing over a thousand varieties. Likely the rose plants offered for sale were all grown on their own roots. (Unfortunately, I have not been able to get hold of such an old catalogue).

To be continued ...

## AS A MATTER OF INTEREST ...

### Jackal Fly

Research has been done on the Durban Harbour *Ceropegia*, which relies on a special fly, the Jackal Fly.



A Crab spider, normally found on daisies, doesn't mind attacking and eating a bee (left).

The Jackal Fly is attracted to the blood of the dying bee. They will even feed on the blood on the mouth of a Praying Mantis that has been eating a bee.

[Refer to the video on *Ceropegias*]

### Homegrowers Plant Sale

In aid of Kirstenhof Garden Club funds  
 Venue: 37 Sunwood Avenue, Tokai  
 Date: Saturday, 4 May 2024  
 Time: 09:00 – 12:30

Did you know that Autumn is the best time for planting? Reap the rewards in Spring!

Join us for \*great deals\* at the

**Homegrowers**

**PLANT SALE**

Saturday 4th May  
 9.00 am to 12.30 pm  
 37 Sunwood Avenue,  
 Tokai, Cape Town

Tea, coffee and homebaked eats also on sale!

Card payment available

### Athenaeum Garden

Don't forget to let Cherise ([cherise@cherishplants.com](mailto:cherise@cherishplants.com)) know if you have any of these plants for her.

*Eurypos, Statice, Pelargonium, Eriocephalus, Tulbaghia, Cotyledon, Senecio, Salvia*

Please provide well-established plants that will survive the harsh conditions. Planting can take place in the next month.

Thanks and appreciation must go to Cherry Mann, John van der Linde and Sue Kingma for their kind donations of plants.

Take a look around your 'nursery' and see if you have any varieties, from the above list, looking for a good home.