



With freedom, books, flowers, and the moon, who could not be happy?  
Oscar Wilde

## CONTENTS

<b>Next Meeting</b> .....	<b>1</b>
<b>Forthcoming Outings</b> .....	<b>1</b>
<b>Welcome to</b> .....	<b>1</b>
<b>From the Plant Sale Committee</b> .....	<b>2</b>
<b>Report-back</b> .....	<b>2</b>
• <b>Autumn Seasonal Raffle</b>	
• <b>February and March garden outings</b>	
<b>Know Your Committee</b> .....	<b>6</b>
<b>CHS Procedures</b> .....	<b>7</b>
<b>As a matter of interest</b> .....	<b>7</b>

## NEXT MEETING

**Monday, 7 April 2025 at 19:30 at The Athenaeum**

Members: No entrance fee

Visitors: R40 per person

Dr. Reynardt Erasmus is an applied entomologist and currently technical manager at Real IPM/Biogrow South Africa. He is focusing on the research and development of sustainable macro- and microbial options for agricultural pest control.

His talk may also cover genetically modified crops, insecticide resistance evolution, and his love for all creepy crawlies – especially the ones with eight legs!



## **BENEFICIAL INSECTS AND BIOLOGICAL CONTROL OF PESTS AND DISEASE**

## FORTHCOMING OUTINGS

**Sunday, 13 April at 09:30:** The ‘outing’ for April will be to 2 Dressage Close, Constantia, where our Plant Sale is being held. No limit on numbers, no need to RSVP and bring along as many family members and friends as you can find.

**Sat, 3 May** – an outing to visit and admire the 44<sup>th</sup> Annual Pniël Chrysanthemum Show. Growers from around the Western Cape display a variety of chrysanthemums for enthusiasts to appreciate. These include lots of different cultivars and colours. Chrysanthemums only bloom once a year and the flower lasts for two weeks. This show is to promote local industries in Pniël and surrounding areas. There is a small entrance fee

Members can carpool and there is no limit on numbers.

## WELCOME TO ...

... John Venn, Trevor Watson and Kevin Turner, and Stephan Fourie. We hope that membership of the CHS will bring them as much pleasure and knowledge as it does the rest of our members.

## FROM THE PLANT SALE COMMITTEE

The **VIP Sale** is getting close, and this is the last general notice we can send out.

### Could we ask members

- to **email on to friends** the **sale poster** which you received on 21 March;
- to **keep your plants** in as perfect a condition as possible. Luckily the heat is easing off quite a bit, but please do a final weed and check before you bring them through on either 11 or 12 April.
- to **volunteer to help at the sale**: that info was in our email of 12 March, and again on the 26<sup>th</sup>. We really need your assistance, both before and on the day.
- to have plants **labelled with the correct name**, if possible. But if you do not know, Susan and the experts will sort it out.

### Items that we need **BEFORE** the SALE:

- **Trestle tables**: if you can lend us one or more of these, please message Chris on 060-402-2089 as soon as possible.
- **Remember that we are selling pre-loved garden equipment, tools, planters etc**, so please bring those with your plants.
- **Prizes for the raffle**: Belinda is keen to have more prizes, so if you have something that will fit the bill, she'll happily accept it. Please message her on 071-872-6923 as soon as possible.
- **Cardboard boxes**, especially the shallower fruit/vegetable boxes for packing sold plants. If you have/can get some, please bring with your plants.
- **Plastic sheets** used by nurseries to protect the inside of car boots from soil etc. can be brought on the 11<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup> but can also be handed to the people at the cash point.

### And **ON THE SALE DAY** we need:

- **Small outdoor/camping tables**: take to Anne at the Tea Garden, but please label it clearly so that you get it back.
- **Eats for the Tea Garden**: again, please label your containers so that you get them back.
- **YOU!** No label, but be ready to buy.

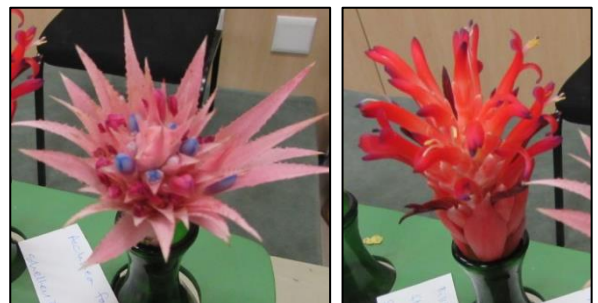
## REPORT BACK

Apologies, the CHS News, February issue, incorrectly labelled the Bromeliads. They are *Aechmea fasciata* (right)

*Billbergia pyramidalis* – flower short-lived (far right).

### Seasonal (Autumn) Raffle

Our first attempt at holding this was a great success, all due to Belinda's suggestion and the members' response to donating prizes. There were at least 60 prizes up for grabs and the amount brought in was a whopping R1480.00. Well done, everyone.



**Sunday 13 April**  
**9.30 am – 1.30 pm**



*The Cape Horticultural Society*  
**PLANT SALE**  
**2 Dressage Close**  
**(off Spaanschemat River Rd), Constantia**

Psssttt! Plant NOW for a great spring display!

- Loads of lovely plants, perfect for your garden
- Unusual plants on offer, and great advice
- Tea, coffee and eats
- Children's entertainment
- Card facilities available

Enquiries: Belinda 0718726923  
Chris 0604022089  
info@capehorticulturalsociety.co.za



**Japhta's Flower Farm, Constantia:**


From the top, left to right:  
 Charles giving the history of the family business and of the area; a field of Zinnias; sunflower;  
 Cosmos; Everlastings; Marguerites  
 Zinnias; yellow Dahlias; Ammi major (Queen Anne's Lace);  
 Daucus carota; Euphorbia; red Dahlias

Anne reports on the March outings:

**John Venn’s garden, Muizenberg:**

He is very involved with the restoration of the stream which runs through Muizenberg Park.

After doing a bit of a walk around the Muizenberg Park to look at the restoration projects that they have done and are planning for the future, we stepped into the Coniston property. I was expecting local indigenous type plants battered by the wind but it was like we stepped into a paradise in Bali. Everything he has in the garden is inspired by his time spent in Singapore and his various travels. I think he mentioned living in Singapore for 30 odd years. He went on a work contract and never came back. The Muizenberg house he bought in 1988 or so and his ex-wife lived there with the children while he was away. The garden had been planted over time but he came back in 2023 when he retired and gave the property his full attention. Alan Dawson, the landscaper, did the tour with us and obviously has a lot to do with the landscaping of this garden and also the Muizenberg Park. There was also a professional photographer recording the whole tour for social media purposes to promote the projects.

John is a larger-than-life character and his home and garden are a reflection of his creativity, passion and zest for life. He has created different rooms making up the garden and it is all on different levels with water running through it from a natural stream. There is even a dell-like area (a bit like Kirstenbosch) where you walk across flat rocks with water flowing underneath and the damp and cool is exactly like the feel you experience in The Dell. His home will be featured in Garden and Home magazine soon and he encouraged us to walk around inside.

The secret to this garden seems to be a wall of trees on the south side which protects the garden from the wind and water, plenty of it. It is hard to believe that this garden is thriving in Muizenberg.



**Ilse Menck's garden, Zeekoevlei:**

Ilse went to so much trouble and made individual coffees for everyone and pots of tea with biscuits on arrival. Her property is on the water and there were pelicans sitting on the little jetty leading into the water. There seems to be so much wildlife and she has regular visitors, including badgers, hedgehogs and boomslang.

I was so pleased Yvette was there. She was very helpful with her knowledge of plants, which was great as Ilse was wanting names of various plants in her garden.

With her helper, Fatima, they demonstrated how they do the printing using various leaves and plants from the garden. The leaves and stems are arranged on the clothing item. Then the garment is rolled up using a dowel stick and bound in a rope. They are then steamed for 4 hours in cauldrons of water. Once cool, the garment will have taken on the pattern from the leaves and stems.

We were then able to browse around her clothing shop and a few members bought some garments.



## GETTING TO KNOW YOUR COMMITTEE



Here are two more members of the Committee.

*Back, L to R:*  
Isabella Hayden;  
Anne Gleeson;  
Chris Wren-Sargent;  
Belinda du Rand

*Front, L to R:*  
Susan Armstrong;  
Marianne Alexander;  
Glenda Thorpe;  
Cherise Viljoen

*Marianne Alexander* tells us “I joined the CHS many, many moons ago but have had an interest in plants since I was a child -and can still recall ‘what grew where’ on our farm in Zimbabwe. I studied at UCT then, as a civil engineer’s wife, moved to East London, and later to cold and snowy Elliot in the Eastern Cape. Returning to Cape Town, I joined the CHS.

The first garden I visited with the CHS (one in Tokai) inspired me to ask the owner if I could photograph her garden. I submitted the pictures to Garden and Home magazine – and continued to work for them for over 30 years. I am also one of the founder members of the Constantia Valley Garden Club, and hike regularly in the mountains surrounded by our beautiful fynbos.

I was elected to the Committee in June 1990 and was Chairperson in 1995 and 1996. and have assisted and judged at our Flower Shows over the years. Having been an Honorary Member since 2001, I then had the honour of being asked, in 2023, to be President of the CHS.”

*Isabella Hayden’s* story is: “I discovered the amazing world of plants when I did a lot of hiking about 30 years ago, and I’ve just got more and more involved with them. I worked at Kirstenbosch Garden Centre for 12 years, until the lease reached its end last year. Now I’m a small-scale landscaper and garden consultant, and when I have time at home I focus on my current favourites – indigenous bulbs.

I’ve been with the CHS for almost 15 years, and on the Committee I’m the Treasurer. You’ll see me at meetings talking about plants brought in by members for the Exhibit Table.”

*Glenda Thorpe* says: “Unlike Marianne I was not *that* interested in plants or gardening when young, although I did try my hand at making pots of mixed plants, not always successfully. I do not remember when I became more attentive to the floral world around me. A fellow Girl Guide friend invited Andrew and me to a CHS meeting, and we’ve never looked back. We are certainly not experts, but we have learnt a vast amount in the last 28 years. Remembering names of plants is still not my ‘thing’. Soon after joining, I was ‘head-hunted’ by Laurie Powis and took on the management of the annual CHS Rose and Spring Flower shows from 1999. I organised these shows,

together with a wonderful Show Committee, for 15 years. Having been in the secretarial world my whole working life, I took over in 2004, as Secretary, from Marjorie Starke when she went 'back home' to Australia.

For those who know me, I am more about being fair and seeing that things are 'done right', admin-wise, rather than being the best plantswoman. I leave that to others who are more qualified."

More next month!

## REMINDER: CHS PROCEDURES (a repeat for our newest members)

- If you haven't renewed yet, membership fees are now due. Cash can be paid at monthly meetings. We can also take card payments. If you prefer to do an EFT, please ensure you reference the payment with your initial and surname. Come the AGM in May, if you have not renewed by then, you will be removed from the mailing list.
- Paid up members do not have to pay an entrance fee at meetings. This has been factored into the annual fee. You will receive a ticket for the **Lucky Draw** on the night.
- We held our first **Seasonal** (fundraising) **Raffle** where everyone bought tickets to win prizes. For the other meetings (Apr, May, Jul, Aug, Oct, Nov), we will revert to handing a ticket to all who attend. This gives you the chance to win the prize in the Lucky Draw. Visitors who attend will have to pay R40 each and are also given a ticket for the lucky draw.
- As there is always a limit on numbers, you must please put your name on the **garden outings/visits** list. A few days before the outing you will receive the necessary information – description, directions etc. If you are sure your name was put on the list but you do not get the directions, please ask – these slip-ups do happen. If members do not fill all the places, then family or friends of those on the list may join the group at a cost of R40. Their name must also be added to the list.
- If you bring plants to be sold on the **Nursery Table** and they are, perhaps, not sold, please take them back home – and bring them along next time.
- **Library books** are there to be borrowed. Please fill in a borrower's card and place it on the trolley. You have up to 2 months to return them.
- Please make a 'label' (do them at home, or at the meeting) for any cut flowers, pot plants, etc, you bring for the **Exhibit Table**. Isabella is there to help if you are unsure of your plant's name. Without a label, your plant will not get a mention in the newsletter.
- By now you have probably picked up on the names we have given to things – Nursery vs Exhibit table; Lucky Draw vs Raffle. This is so there is no confusion as to what is meant – even the Committee has difficulty remembering the difference. 😊

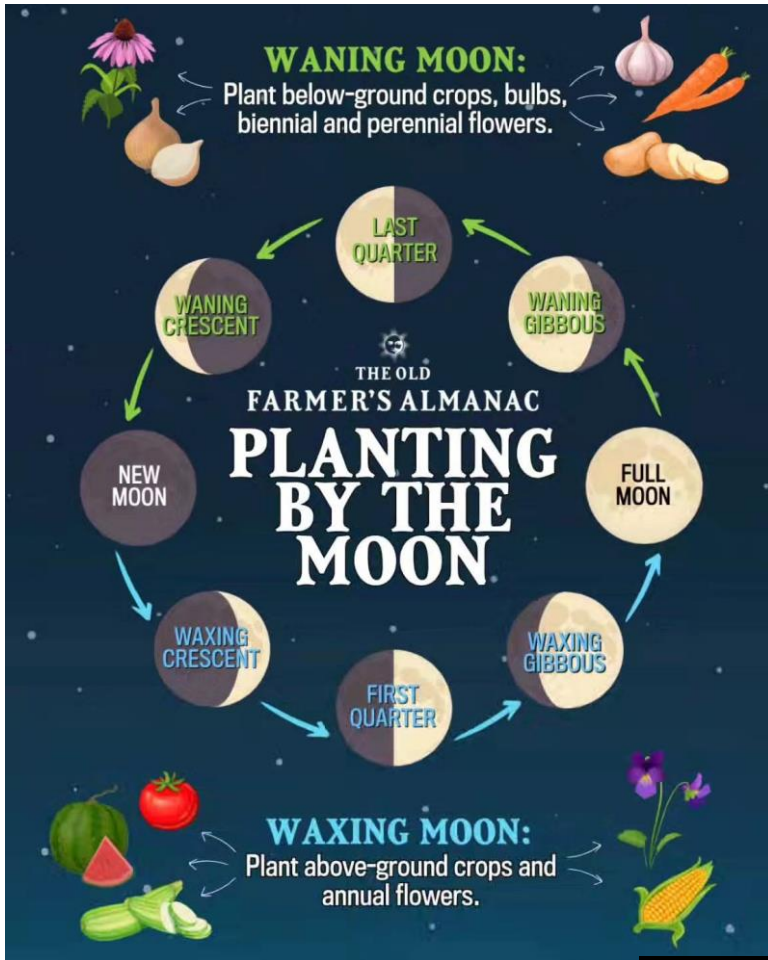
## AS A MATTER OF INTEREST ...

### [Determining What Might Be Eating Your \*Watsonia borbonica\*](#)



Squirrels can be quite the acrobats in the garden, but their love for *Watsonia borbonica* might not always be welcome. Look out for gnawed bulbs and scattered digging, as these are telltale signs of their presence.

I'm not sure how many packets of seeds it takes to be happy,  
but so far, it's not 58



### VEGETABLE PLANTING CALENDAR

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Beet Root												
Broccoli												
Butternut												
Cabbage												
Carrots												
Cauliflower												
Chilies												
Cucumber												
Eggplant												
Green Beans												
Green Mesites												
Lettuce												
Marrow (Baby)												
Onion												
Peas												
Peppers												
Potato												
Squash												
Squash (Germ)												
Squash (Marrow)												
Tomato												
Water Melon												