



CHS NEWS

MARCH 2015

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NEXT MEETING

Mon, 6 April 2015 at 20:00 at The Athenaeum, Newlands
NB: R10 for members and R20 for visitors

Dr Roger Stewart will speak to us about

BURCHELL, THE PLANTSMAN

William John Burchell (1781 – 1863) was twenty-two years old and 'well versed in the science of Botany' when he was elected a fellow by the Linnean Society. He is remembered in South African botany in the indigenous plants that bear his name and for his botanical manuscripts, book and massive collections of herbarium specimens.

Before he came to South Africa, Burchell had also developed remarkable horticultural skills in his father's successful Fulham Nursery (nine and a half acres in London) and in the Royal Botanic Gardens in Kew. Burchell is seldom remembered for the seeds and bulbs he collected in South Africa, many in hot semi-desert regions, and successfully cultivated on his return to England.

Burchell was one of a group of plant collectors who traversed South Africa in the 18th and 19th centuries. He did a four year trek from Cape Town to Grahamstown to Kuruman in 1811 and collected over 40 000 preserved plant specimens in the process, seed of over 2 000, and 270 bulbs!

It is appropriate during the last year of the bicentenary of William Burchell's extensive journey in this country to reflect on this plantsman and to highlight some of his accomplishments.



Dr Stewart's hobby is the management of his family's collection of Africana maps and books. The books are mainly on antique maps; the history of the Cape Colony, its pioneer travellers and scientists; the medical experiences of early travellers to and in the Cape.

His interest in William Burchell started with his map. "After I read his book," he says, "I became fascinated by his wide-ranging knowledge and skills and have conducted deep research into his life and work."

Roger's other (neglected) hobby is wild-life photography ... when he follows his wife, a qualified game ranger, into the bush.

NEXT OUTING

Fri, 27 March 2015 at 10:30: Herb Garden at Allée Bleue in Franschoek. Limited to 20 members. The tour, without lunch, will cost R35 per person. The tour, followed by lunch, will cost R185 per person. When giving your name to Glenda, please stipulate if you are staying for lunch. Give your name to Glenda as soon as possible, but not later than **25 March**. If you need, or can offer, a lift, please advise.

WELCOME TO ...

... Roy Oldfield, a very regular visitor to our meetings, and Bea Heymann who has returned to our ranks. We wish them a long and beneficial association with our Society.

THANK YOUs

We have a few people to thank for their generosity:

The books donated by Ken Southey were sold by Marion Whitehead and Sybil Head to CHS members and by Jackie Diesveld to her neighbours and book club members. Their efforts brought in a total of R1420. Thank you to these ladies and, also, to our members and visitors who supported this fund-raiser.

Harold and Esmé Mills, who grow the most wonderful veggies, brought in two baskets of tomatoes and members helped themselves, for a donation. Thanks to them, we raised R102,30.

Our President, Anne Bean, and her husband, Angus, have moved from their home of more than 40 years. Thanks to Anne for sharing some of her books with members. Those who came for books managed to gather slips of some of Anne's more unusual plants, which we hope will be propagated for future sales.

President: Anne Bean, **Chairman:** Michael Tuffin, **Hon Treasurer:** Henry Diesveld, **Hon Secretary:** Glenda Thorpe

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REPORT BACK

Donation to Vera School for Autistic Learners:

Errol and Jenny Scarr took a bag of fertilizer, 10 bags of compost, 2 bags of chicken manure and 2 Hibiscus plants – bought from the proceeds of our year-end party – as well as a number of plants that they had grown on for them. With help to get the holes dug, all the plants were in by lunchtime.

If you have any spare plants, that you don't want to put on the plant table, let the Scarrs know because they'll make a plan to visit next month and help tidy up the garden for the school. If you want to help with the planting, also let them know (tel 021-531-0711).

March Plant Table:

Members' gardens seem to be bustin' out all over – and it's not even June!

Cyrtanthus (Kei Lily) – don't water them in November; Wilma's get watered when it rains; *Phlomis italica* – very delicate; *Impatiens niamniamensis* (Parrot Plant); *Strelitzia* (13); *Lavandula sidonie*; *Antigonon* (9) – Coral Vine; *Aloe tenuoir?*(1) – uncertainty as to the identity of this as it's rather robust and not a climber; *Fuchsia Magellan*; *Araceae* (3); *Hibiscus tiliaceus*; *Clivia*; *Thunbergia alata* – Black-eyed Susans (14); Deer tongue lettuce (12); *Dovyalis caffra* – Kei apple; *Hoya* (10) – a climber that needs shade through bushes or trees; Balsam (5); *Salvia* (4); *Leucadendron nervosum* (2) – high altitude from the Langeberg. Have been dyed in subtle colours for flower arrangements. Available from Engelke's in Wetton.

To propagate your own tomatoes: take out the middle bits/flesh, let them ferment in a glass of water on window cill for about 3 days. All the outside coating comes off and the seed will germinate.

"*Solanum wendlandii* (6) (Giant Potato Creeper or Divorce Vine) catches the eye for its large, 1.5" flowers, that are reminiscent of the fading purple flowers of Yesterday Today and Tomorrow. The Giant Potato Creeper can grow to 15 feet. *Solanum wendlandii* is native to Costa Rica and, no surprise, prefers moist tropical conditions. The Giant Potato Creeper blooms in full sun to light shade. *Solanum wendlandii* is Winter hardy into the upper to mid-20's F but will likely go Winter deciduous in all but the warmest California gardens."

[http://www.californiagardens.com/Plant_Pages/solanum_wendlandii.htm]

"*Hamelia patens*, (8) formerly *H. erecta* is a member of the Rubiaceae or Madder family. Other notable members of this family include *Ixora*, *Gardenia*, *Pentas*, and Coffee. The genus *Hamelia* was named in honor of prominent French botanical author, Henry Louis Duhamel du Monceau (1700-1782). The genus is represented by some 40 species, located in the tropics. *H. patens* hails from the gulf states of Mexico, South Florida, the West Indies, and Central and South America."

[http://www.plantanswers.com/arcadia_pages/plant_of_the_month/Firebush.htm]

Hamelia is drought- and wind-resistant; semi-deciduous and can be pruned hard after it flowers in October; difficult to propagate. Has red berries that turn black.

"*Achimenes* (11) originate from Central and South America, and are related to African Violets and Gloxinias and are mainly grown as summer-flowering house or greenhouse plants.

The common name, '*Hot Water Plants*', is thought to be derived from the idea that plunging the entire pot into hot water (not boiling), promotes flowering.

- Grow them in indirect light and or sunlit conditions that is humid and draught-proof.
- The pots should contain well drained, humus rich potting compost.
- Keep the compost moist and fertilise fortnightly during the growing season.
- Allow the compost to dry out slightly between waterings, and provide a high-potash feed to keep plants flowering.
- Pinch out tips as necessary to induce bushy habit.
- Keep a watchful eye open for signs of aphids and Red Spider mites and treat accordingly.
- When the flowers begin to fade, reduce watering, and this will cause the plants to go dormant and begin to form tubers.
- Once the leaves have fallen, the fragile tubers can be gathered and saved for replanting the following season."

[<http://www.thegardenersalmanac.co.uk/Data/Achimenes/Achimenes.htm>]

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"The Jerusalem artichoke (7) (*Helianthus tuberosus*), also called sunroot, sunchoke, earth apple or *topinambour*, is a species of sunflower native to eastern North America, and found from eastern Canada and Maine west to North Dakota, and south to northern Florida and Texas.

Jerusalem artichokes were first cultivated by the Native Americans long before the arrival of the Europeans; this extensive cultivation obscures the exact native range of the species. The French explorer Samuel de Champlain found domestically grown plants at Cape Cod in 1605. He then brought the plant back with him to France. By the mid-1600s, the Jerusalem artichoke had become a very common vegetable for human consumption in Europe and the Americas and was also used for livestock feed in Europe and colonial America.^[5] The French in particular were especially fond of the vegetable, which reached its peak popularity at the turn of the 19th century."
[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem_artichoke]

Wait for them to die down before digging up the tubers.



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Stellenbosch Botanical Garden:

What a wonderful place to visit. The members who attended this outing spent a very pleasant morning with the Curator, Martin Smit, learning about the garden, roaming along the paths, having a look-see at the treasures in the hot houses and ending off with a delicious lunch.



Above: *Victoria amazonica* – the Victorian Lily pad (underside) and the 'tentacles' to each pad.

Below: An aquatic resident, and tree labels from days gone by.



Lavenders:

Elmarie de Bruyn, a commercial grower of Lavender, was very specific about the classification of these plants as the use of names like French, English and Spanish were just "... VERY confusing". According to her "A Concise Guide – Lavender Growing in SA", the genus *Lavandula* is in the family *Lamiaceae* and currently has 6 Sections and about 32 Species. These sections are *Lavandula* (from central and SW Europe), *Dentata* (from the Mediterranean, western Arabia, Ethiopia), *Stoechas* (Mediterranean and Madeira), *Pterostoechas* (Mediterranean and north Africa), *Chaetostachys* (central and SW India) and *Subnuda* (southern Arabia, Socotra and Somalia).

Lavender requires little water but young plants need sufficient water to establish. Lavender performs best in soil with enough calcium. Prune back a third to a half in autumn but not into old wood as the plant will die.

If you are interested in growing Lavenders for their oils, I have a copy of the Concise Guide for you.

Glenda

PLANTS TO PROVIDE FOOD FOR HONEYBEES – part 2

The last of the list of plants that will help to keep the bees happy if you have them in your garden. This list is primarily Western Cape, but does have application elsewhere. When planting, check with a local nursery for subspecies or varieties that occur locally to prevent inappropriate hybridisations with natural veld species in your vicinity.

Climbers

Asparagus spp.
Clematis brachiata
Dialium schlechteri

Podranea ricasoliana (carpenter bees)
Rhoicissus digitata
Rhoicissus tomentosa
Senecio macroglossus

Senecio tamoides
Thunbergia alata

Aquatic Plants

Aponogeton distachyos
Mentha aquatica

Nymphaea nouchali var. caerulea
 Nymphoides indica
Bulbous Plants
 Agapanthus praecox
 Agapanthus praecox hybrids
 Aristea capitata (& carpenter bees)
 Babiana angustifolia
 Babiana fragrans
 Babiana pygmaea
 Babiana rubrocyanea
 Babiana stricta
 Bulbinella spp.
 Chasmanthe bicolor
 Chasmanthe floribunda
 Clivia miniata
 Dierama pendulum
 Dietes spp.
 Eucomis comosa
 Freesia alba
 Gladiolus alatus
 Gladiolus aureus
 Gladiolus carinatus
 Gladiolus gracilis
 Gladiolus griseus
 Gladiolus hirsutus
 Gladiolus inflexus
 Gladiolus jonquillodoros
 Gladiolus meliusculus
 Gladiolus papilio
 Gladiolus patersoniae
 Gladiolus quadrangulus
 Gladiolus trichonemifolius
 Gladiolus watsonius
 Haemanthus spp.
 Hypoxis spp.
 Ixia dubia
 Ixia flexuosa
 Kniphofia spp.
 Lachenalia spp.
 Merwillia plumbea
 Moraea bifida
 Moraea collina
 Moraea comptonii
 Moraea elegans
 Moraea miniata
 Moraea ochroleuca
 Moraea pseudospicata
 Moraea reflexa
 Nerine spp.
 Ornithogalum thyrsoides
 Oxalis spp.
 Oxalis pes-caprae
 Oxalis purpurea
 Tritonia crocata
 Wachendorfia thyrsiflora
 Watsonia borbonica
 Wurmbea stricta (=Onixotis stricta)
 Zantedeschia aethiopica

Grasses many species

Buchus

Acmadenia heterophylla
 Acmadenia mundiana
 Acmadenia obtusata
 Adenandra spp.
 Agathosma betulina
 Agathosma cerefolium
 Agathosma ciliaris
 Agathosma collina
 Agathosma crenulata
 Agathosma glabrata
 Agathosma gonaquensis

Agathosma mucronulata
 Agathosma ovata (& cultivars)
 Agathosma serpyllacea
 Agathosma spp. particularly:
 Coleonema spp.
 Diosma spp.
 Euchaetis meridionalis

Pelargoniums

Pelargonium betulinum
 Pelargonium candicans
 Pelargonium capitatum
 Pelargonium cordifolium
 Pelargonium crithmifolium
 Pelargonium cucullatum
 Pelargonium echinatum
 Pelargonium fruticosum
 Pelargonium fulgidum
 Pelargonium glutinosum
 Pelargonium graveolens
 Pelargonium grossularioides
 Pelargonium papilionaceum
 Pelargonium scabrum
 Pelargonium suburbanum
 Pelargonium tricolor

Ericas many species as listed
 below (AVOID tube-flowered spp
 with very sticky flowers that can
 trap bees) Erica alexandri

Erica arborea
 Erica articularis
 Erica baccans
 Erica bauera
 Erica caffra
 Erica canaliculata
 Erica curvirostris
 Erica deliciosa
 Erica densifolia
 Erica discolor
 Erica dispar
 Erica formosa
 Erica glabella
 Erica glandulosa
 Erica hirtiflora
 Erica intervallaris
 Erica lateralis
 Erica nudiflora
 Erica perspicua
 Erica plumosa
 Erica quadrangularis
 Erica sitiens
 Erica scabriuscula
 Erica sparsa
 Erica taxifolia
 Erica versicolor
 Erica vestita

Restios – male plants (pollen)

Calopsis paniculata
 Ceratocaryum argenteum possibly
 Elegia capensis
 Elegia cuspidata
 Elegia filacea
 Elegia fistulosa
 Elegia capensis
 Restio dispar
 Restio multiflorus
 Restio subverticillatus
 Thamnochortus bachmannii
 Thamnochortus cinereus
 Thamnochortus fraternus
 Thamnochortus insignis
 Thamnochortus lucens

Thamnochortus pluristachyus
 Thamnochortus spicigerus
 Willdenowia spp.

Proteaceae

Aulax umbellata
 Leucadendron spp. especially:
 Leucadendron daphnoides
 Leucadendron sessile
 Leucadendron tinctorum
 Leucospermum spp. especially
 Leucospermum bolusii
 Leucospermum catherinae
 Leucospermum conocarpodendron
 Leucospermum cordifolium
 Leucospermum cuneiforme
 Leucospermum erubescens
 Leucospermum formosum
 Leucospermum glabrum
 Leucospermum mundii
 Leucospermum oleifolium
 Leucospermum praecox
 Leucospermum reflexum
 Leucospermum tottum
 Mimetes chrysanthus
 Mimetes cucullatus
 Mimetes hirtus
 Paranomus spp.
 Paranomus reflexus
 Protea spp. particularly:
 Protea aurea
 Protea burchellii
 Protea caffra (summer rainfall)
 Protea compacta
 Protea cynaroides
 Protea eximia
 Protea mundii
 Protea nitida
 Protea obtusifolia
 Protea punctata
 Protea repens
 Protea roupelliae (summer rainfall)
 Protea subvestita (summer rainfall)
 Serruria spp: including
 Serruria aemula
 Serruria aitonii
 Serruria fasciflora
 Serruria fucifolia
 Serruria glomerata
 Serruria rosea
 Serruria triternata
 Serruria villosa

Succulents

Aloe spp. particularly:
 Aloe arborescens
 Aloe ferox
 Aloe marlothii
 Aloe speciosa
 Bulbine spp.
 Carpobrotus spp.
 Cephalophyllum spp.
 Conicosia pugioniformis
 Crassula multicava
 Crassula multiflora
 Crassula ovata
 Delosperma spp.
 Drosanthemum spp.
 Euphorbia spp. E. mauritanica
 Jordaaniella anemoniflora
 Lampranthus spp.
 Malephora crocea
 Oscularia deltoides

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Othonna carnosa
Ruschia spp.
Sarcocaulon crassicaule
Tetragonia fruticosa
Tetragonia decumbens
Tetragonia spicata
Zygophyllum fulvum
Zygophyllum spinosum

Trees

Acacia spp.
Albizia spp.
Apodytes dimidiata
Berchemia discolor
Brabejum stellatifolium
Brachylaena neriifolia
Bridelia micrantha
Buddleja saligna
Burchellia bubalina
Calodendrum capense
Canthium inerme
Cassine peragua
Clausena anisata
Combretum spp.
Croton spp.
Cunonia capensis
Dais cotinifolia
Dichrostachys cinerea

Diospyros spp.
Dodonaea viscosa
Ekebergia capensis
Ekebergia pterophylla
Erythrina caffra
Erythrina latissima
Euclea spp.
Euclea crispa
Euclea natalensis
Euclea racemosa
Euclea tomentosa
Euclea undulata
Faurea rochetiana
Faurea saligna
Ficus spp. (propolis from injury sites)
Galpinia transvaalica
Halleria lucida
Harpephyllum caffrum
Ilex mitis
Kigelia africana
Kiggelaria africana
Loxostylis alata
Metrosideros angustifolius
Mimusops spp.
Nuxia floribunda
Ochna spp. O.pulchra
Olea spp.

Peltophorum africanum
Phoenix reclinata
Prunus africana
Pterocarpus spp.
Rapanea melanophloeos
Rauvolfia caffra
Schotia spp.
Sclerocarya birrea
Searsia lancea (=Rhus lancea)
Searsia viminalis (=Rhus viminalis)
Schrebera alata
Sideroxylon inerme
Strelitzia nicolai
Syzygium cordatum
Syzygium guineense
Syzygium pondoense
Tarchonanthus spp.
Tarchonanthus spp.
Terminalia spp.
Trema orientalis
Trichilia emetica
Vepris lanceolata
Virgilia spp. (carpenter bees)
Zanthoxylum capense
Ziziphus rivularis

Carol Poole, Project Coordinator: pollination and other ecosystem services projects at SANBI, told us last year that they would be bringing out a book "Bee plants of South Africa" by Martin Johannsmeier. "It would contain the nectar and pollen values of many, many plant species. Gardeners, landscapers and farmers would then be able to do some nice comparisons when deciding on what to plant – and choose the higher value species if they wish to support bees." Perhaps you've already come across this book at the SANBI Bookshop?

ITEMS OF INTEREST

- Looking ahead at our monthly meetings:

Marijke Honig will speak at our AGM on 4 May

Marion Whitehead, CHS member, garden coach, author and photojournalist, will get us thinking about Spring Flowers

- Looking for laying hens? Georgina Charlesworth has 2 to give away to anyone in the Society. Contact her on cell 076-579-1773.

Botanical Society Kirstenbosch
Feast of Fynbos
PLANT FAIR
18–19 April 2015



Are you a hobbyist grower? If you are and would like to support the Plant Fair this year, ask Glenda for the information, which can be e-mailed to you.

- Flower and Garden Show: The Show Manager would really like some help. If you are interested in helping with the show in any way at all, he would be really happy to have you along. Please give him a call and he will welcome you on board with open arms. Contact Rod on 021-788-2840.
- Plant Sale: Melanie asks if everyone would slip and pot up plants for the Plant Sale. We did well last year and as it's in a new area (Marina da Gama), there's a whole new market because there is no nursery anywhere near. Melanie says that Hart's Nursery is/was selling plants at R1 a plug and if you plant those up now they'll be ready for the Sale later this year.

(Photographs: Andrew and Glenda Thorpe)

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YOUR THOUGHTS, PLEASE

In order to gauge whether our current members are happy with what their Committee organises for them, we would appreciate you giving us your comments and returning this page (renewal form on the back) to the Secretary – either at a meeting, by fax or by e-mail.

Contents of the CHS News (the newsletter):

What would you like to see more/less of? _____

Have you any ideas for something different? _____

Other comments _____

Subject matter of our monthly talks:

Are the talks of interest to you? _____

If not, what subjects would you prefer to hear about? _____

Are you able to provide details of good speakers you have heard? _____

Other comments _____

Monthly outings:

Have you enjoyed the outings you have attended? _____

What have you not enjoyed? _____

Other ideas _____

2015 MEMBERSHIP

The time for renewing your membership is now! Your subscription renewal form can be found on page 8 of this newsletter. Please complete it and bring it along to the next meeting, together with your cash or cheque payment.

If you do not attend a meeting and make an electronic payment, you must PLEASE complete the form and return it either by fax or by e-mail. Having these forms just helps to keep the records straight so that no-one falls through the cracks.

Please ensure that you put the correct reference for the beneficiary (meaning the CHS) because receiving notification of payment from "CHS Subs" is of no use in identifying the member! Please use your initial and surname as a reference.

NB: If you have paid your subs and have not received a receipt in a reasonable time, please enquire.

You are aware of how costs are constantly rising no matter where you go. The same is true for the running costs of the CHS – speakers' fees, postage, printing etc. Bearing this in mind, the Committee is proposing an increase in subscriptions come March 2016, but the structure will be different. Although not yet finalized, the members who receive newsletters by post will have to pay towards the cost of producing and posting them. At present just over half of the annual fees of "snail mail" members is used to pay for their newsletters, while there is no cost for receiving newsletters electronically.

Give this some thought, as a proposal will be put forward in May at the AGM.

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MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTION RENEWAL (March 2015 – end February 2016)

**Please print clearly when completing this form and return it,
together with your payment, or proof of payment, to the Secretary.**

To: The Secretary
The Cape Horticultural Society (CHS)
22 Rustenburg, PINELANDS 7405

Tel: 021-531-5713
Fax: 086-514-0998
e-mail: info@capehorticulturalsociety.co.za

Please renew my subscription for the **year ending 29 February 2016.**

NAME (if a single membership) or NAMES (if a family membership): _____

My/Our personal particulars have changed in the past year and are recorded below – eg. name change, new residential address, new phone number and/or new e-mail address etc:

I am/We are prepared to help with: **TEA DUTY AT MONTHLY MEETINGS**, the **FLOWER AND GARDEN SHOW**, the **ANNUAL PLANT SALE** (circle your preference/s).

I/We would prefer to receive newsletters by **E-MAIL/ POST** (please consider adding postage to your fee).

Banking details:

Account name: Cape Horticultural Society

Branch: Standard Bank, Blue Route

Account number: 072030321

Branch code: 025-609

Reference: Your initial and surname

Due to the high bank charges levied, direct individual cash/cheque deposits into our bank account are not favoured. If you have no other means of payment, please add R4.00 to your cash deposit or R14.00 for a cheque deposit into the bank.

This is not necessary when paying cash at a meeting or posting a cheque to the Secretary.

NB: Membership renewal will only take effect on receipt of both the Subscription Renewal form and Proof of Payment, posted, faxed or e-mailed to the Secretary (details above).

PAYMENT:

Membership – Single (one adult) @ **R120** R _____

Membership – Student @ **R60** (with copy of valid Student ID) R _____

Membership – Family (two adults with/without children under age 16) @ **R160** R _____

Name Badge/s** (with a pin – **R45**; or magnet – **R55**)..... R _____

Donation (optional) R _____

Extra charges, if applicable – bank, postage..... R _____

TOTAL: Paid by **CASH / CHEQUE / EFT** R _____

** (Specify name/s to be printed on badge/s): _____