

President: Michael Tuffin **Chairman:** Errol Scarr **Hon Treasurer:** Henry Diesveld **Secretary:** Glenda Thorpe
Honorary Members: Laurie Powis, Marianne Alexander, Mary Smith, Anne Bean,
Adam Harrower, Michael Tuffin, Bill Elder

NEXT VIRTUAL MEETING

Monday, 7 September 2020 at 20:00 – once more from the comfort of your home.

WEIRD AND WONDER PLANTS

We will, at last, be able to hear the talk we missed out on at our March meeting.

Marianne Alexander will take us on the promised whirlwind trip around the world, showcasing some of the most weird and wonderful plants she has met. From thrombolites – built up over centuries by colonies of microscopic bacterial cells, to the grass tree *Xanthorrhoea australis*, trigger plants and Wollemi pines in Australia; cactus and yaretta *Azorella compacta* in South America; baobabs and pitcher plants from Madagascar; to cannon ball trees in Asia.

Attending a Zoom meeting:

The link to this Zoom presentation will be sent to you prior to the “meeting”. All you have to do is click on the link in the body of the e-mail message and you will gain access to the meeting on the night. Try and link in a few minutes before the time and wait to be admitted or wait for the Host to begin. Remember to “Mute” yourself. It is also a good idea to switch off the video (bottom left corner) while the presentation is running. Too many videos on the screen can affect the quality of the presentation – and whatever you are doing will not be seen by everyone. We can all switch our videos on again after the presentation to say hello to one another.

There has been a hitch in uploading August presentation to You Tube. The link will be sent to you in due course.

MONTHLY OUTINGS

The Committee is considering kickstarting Spring by organising outings again. What they would like to know from you is if you would be prepared to attend an outing – at the regulation distance and masked. The numbers allowed would be as prescribed by the host. Please reply as soon as possible for the Committee to gauge your interest.

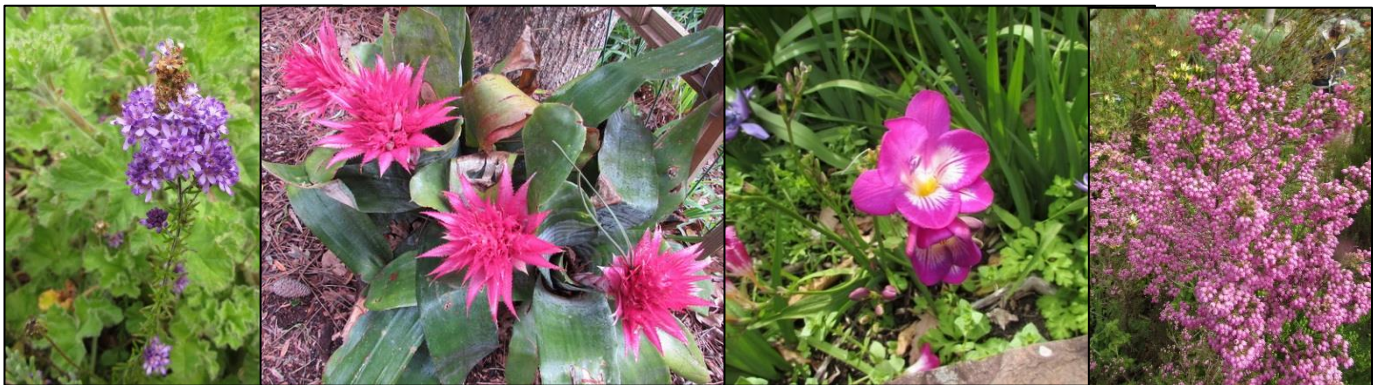
FAREWELL TO ...

... Peggy Reynolds, who passed away in Worcester Mediclinic on 8 August 2020, two months shy of her 93rd birthday. Peggy and her husband farmed in the Komga district of the Eastern Cape for over 40 years. Here her love for indigenous plants and bulbs developed. In 1992 she came to live with her daughter, Yvonne, and together they have been members of the CHS for almost 20 years. They were regular attendees at meetings and outings, which Peggy enjoyed. Her last years she spent with Yvonne at Kleine Schoone Uitzicht near Wolseley, so we didn't see Peggy as frequently, although we were pleased to see her on our weekend in Barrydale last October. Peggy loved nature and was a keen gardener, making collections of bulbs and pelargoniums. She also had an interest in medicinal plants. She will be missed. Our condolences go to Yvonne and her family.

MEMBERS' PLANTS

Jane Robertson's garden is full to overflowing with flowers. Here is a selection that are blooming now.

Below, left to right: *Selago serrata* “Purple Turtle”; *Aechmea fasciata*; *Freesia*; *Erica multumbellifera*



Below, left to right: *Euryops virgineus*; *Physalis* "Cape Gooseberry" – a view not usually seen; *Leucadendron salignum* (?); *Mimetes cucullatus* (?)



Below, left to right: *Syncarpha argentea* "Silver everlasting"; variegated *Trachelospermum jasminoides* – the pink/red are actually leaves, not flowers; Daffodil; Bottom row: Variety of *Osteospermums* (or *Dimorphotheca*)



Jane apologises for any incorrect names, but over the years labels have disappeared and names forgotten.

Jean Fillis says: "I attach a photo of this *Salvia discolor* (family Lamiaceae) as it is supposed to be rare and unusual. I finally found its name just by accident in a magazine. Neither Nicky nor Morné (of Tokai Super Plants) could identify it other than being a *Salvia*. It just came up in a pot.

I googled it and found its common name is Peruvian "Black" Sage, though Wikipedia calls it Silver Leaf Andean Sage. It grows in a very localized area in Peru - rare in horticulture and in its native habitat. It has white stems (very sticky – also referred to as Flypaper *Salvia*) and grey-green leaves with white hairy undersides. It flowered here (Kirstenhof) in June and they look totally black but are dark purple inside the "pistachio-green calyx", which remains on the stem long after the flowers fall, as *Salvias* normally do.

I originally thought it was a weed and ugly but Morné said not to dump it. Thank goodness I didn't as, once potted on, it recovered and has become more attractive. And it is still flowering in August (right)."



SALE OF PLANTS – DOING IT DIFFERENTLY!

We do hope the cuttings you started propagating at the beginning of the year, which were destined for the Flourish Garden Club sale, are now well grown and ready for selling.

You have already had an appeal from Melanie: "Members should bring their plants which are ready to sell here (Marina da Gama) and make sure that each plant is identified. I would also like a list of the plants. These will later be priced by me, and a list of them prepared. Glenda will send out the list to all members, and all it will require then is a call to check whether we're here for deliveries and purchases.

Anyone bringing or buying plants will need to wear a mask, use hand spray and observe social-distancing.

Two important requirements:

*** Members bringing plants must please label them

*** Members must also please bring a list of the quantities and names of their plants.

All plants will be listed with their prices, and members may then order up front and collect, or come to browse through what's on offer."

Please contact Melanie on 082 550 2618 (no landline) to make arrangements to deliver your plants.

WELCOME TO ...

... Jacqui Miller and Paul Tross. We wish them happy gardening with the CHS.

ELGIN OPEN GARDENS

You will all be delighted to know what Barbara Knox-Shaw has to say:

"Just to let you all know that the Elgin Open Gardens are not to be cowed by COVID! We are going ahead this spring, which after all the rain we've had promises to be a good one. Sadly, Fairholme won't be joining us again, but on the other hand we are welcoming Jessie Walton's new indigenous garden at Sonop, on a very interesting terraced site overlooking a dam.

So this year Auldearn, Fresh Woods, Houw Hoek Outspan, Keurbos and Sonop, Lavenham, Stone Kitchen and Wildekrans Country House are all opening on 31 Oct-1 Nov, and 7-8 Nov, at the slightly earlier opening time from 9.30-5. Full details are now on the website www.elginopengardens.co.za. Do keep checking this for any changes or announcements."

The Open Gardens leaflet is attached. These will not be printed this year.

AT GROUND LEVEL

Excerpt from The Little Book of Quick Fixes for the Impatient Gardener by Gay Search

Six reasons to make gravel your choice:

1. Gravel can have an informal or Mediterranean feel about it, or it can be formal, used with low clipped hedges to create a parterre effect.
2. It is an ideal material for integrating the hard and soft elements within a garden because you can grow plants through and even in it.
3. It's inexpensive.
4. It can be used for drives, parking areas, paths and patios, as long as they have firm foundations.
5. It can be used to great effect in combination with other hard materials such as York stone, bricks, setts* and cobbles.
6. It may just be spread loose in borders to bring a uniform look to an area.

* Setts are 10cm square blocks of granite, real or imitation, with a slightly rounded upper face. They are good for making intricate flooring patterns and for tight curves and circles. The curved tops give an interesting textured surface. Use them on their own, as decoration to break up an area of slabs, or as an edging to contain gravel.

ALOES, striking, varied and bright

Excerpt from Go South, Life is a Garden – July 2020

There are a huge variety of spectacular Aloes bred for patio pots and gardens.

Breathe warmth into your winter garden and attract sunbirds and bees. Aloes range from dwarf forms like *Peri Peri* and *Hedgehog* to the multi-coloured *Charles* and *Ballerina*, the rich colours of *Fireball*, *Andy's Yellow*, *Gold Sparkle* and many more. These sculptural plants have interesting leaf shapes and colours such as *Freckles* with grey tones and speckles, and *Aloe striata* which has stunning pink-lined flat, grey leaves.



Aloe 'Charles'



Aloe 'Hedgehog'



Aloe, 'Gold Sparkle'



Aloe striata



Aloe, 'Freckles'

Scale on Aloes

White Aloe Scale is a pesky and resilient species of armoured scale insect. This means that they produce a hard outer coating covering the body, which protects them from external influences such as diseases and pathogens.

Identification

If your Aloes have small grey ridges or bumps forming on the leaves it probably indicates an infestation of scale insects. They seldom kill the plants they infest, but nonetheless, are definitely not a problem that will go away on its own.

What this means for your plants

They attach to the plant and suck the juice, damaging the vitality of the succulent and causing discolouration and stippling. If left untreated, aloes will begin to lose vigour, ending up covered in what appears to be a white, fluffy waxy deposit.

Suggested Action

Take a picture or sealed sample to your local GCA Garden Centre and allow them to recommend a spray that will not burn the tender, succulent Aloe leaves.









For scale insects on other plants, spray with a recommended organic spray dilution.





TIP: Avoid spraying the soft, new leaves of ferns and tree ferns as some sprays can damage them.

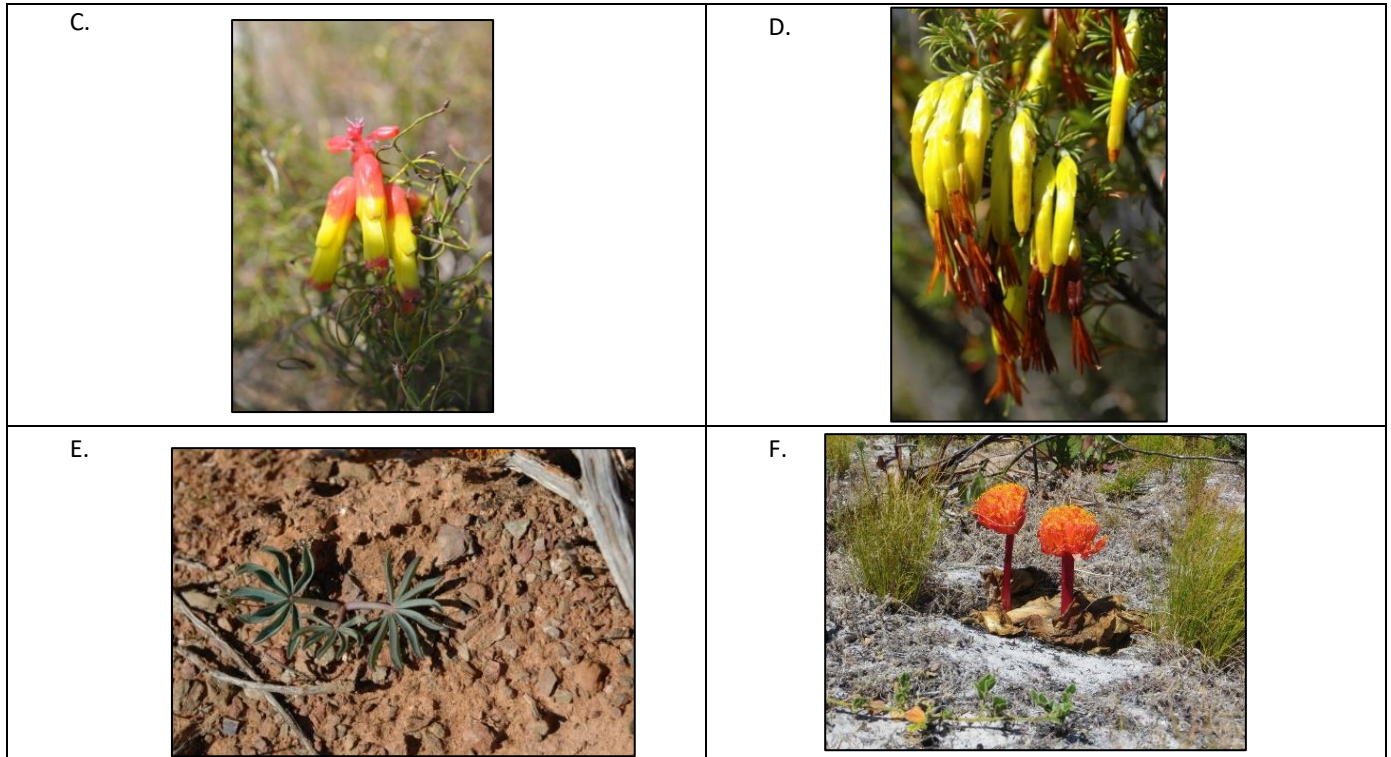
TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE ...

... and Wilma certainly did. Congratulations go to her for identifying 6 of the 8 plants, which are now labelled for your reference.

JULY'S ANSWERS	
<p>1. <i>Ferraria spp</i> (crispa??)</p> 	<p>2. <i>Serruria spp.</i> hybrid "Blushing bride"</p> 
<p>3. <i>Hyobanche spp</i> "Cat's nails"</p> 	<p>4. <i>Mesembryanthemum</i></p> 
<p>5. <i>Spiloxine capensis</i> "Sterretjie"</p> 	<p>6. <i>Erica massonii</i>, "Houwhoek Erica"</p> 
<p>7. <i>Muraltia spinosa</i> "Skilpad Bessie" – as it is eaten by tortoises (was <i>Nylandtia spinosa</i>)</p> 	<p>8. <i>Protea coronata</i></p> 

Perhaps we could have a better response this month? We promise not to publish any incorrect answers. Here are 6 more for you to wrap your grey matter around.

AUGUST BOTANICAL NAMES	
<p>A.</p> 	<p>B.</p> 



AUGUST IN THE GARDEN

Excerpt from the Atlantic Fertilisers’ August newsletter:

An African appetite

Have you considered growing an edible local fruit? The following shrubs, trees and ground covers can form an aesthetic part of your garden and become a valuable, unusual food source:

- The kei-apple (*Dovyalis caffra*) is an evergreen large shrub, or small tree, that creates an impenetrable hedge with its spiny thorns. The yellowish-orange fruits are delicious and mostly used for jam, jelly, and syrup-making. The flowers feed honey-bees and attract butterflies whilst the fruit is a delicacy for several birds. (Right, above)
- The shrub num-num (*Carissa macrocarpa*) and the ground cover num-num (*Carissa macrocarpa* ‘Green Carpet’) both have beautiful glossy leaves with compact, thorny growth. They have star-like white flowers which have an orange-blossom fragrance with elongated mini plum-like num-num fruit, which is red when ripe. They can be eaten raw or made into jams or jellies. The num-num shrub is also rather impenetrable as a hedge. Carissa’s love the coastal weather but grow in most areas with light to mild frost e.g. they grow in most Johannesburg gardens but are harmed by the heavier frost in the Vaal and Free State regions. (Right, below)



For more tips, take a look at these links:

- <https://atlanticfertilisers.co.za/2020/07/29/august-in-the-garden-2/>
- <https://atlanticfertilisers.co.za/2020/07/29/kids-sensory-garden/>

Another tip: Now is the time to cut back your tatty *Hypoestes* “Ribbon Bush” to where the new growing shoots are pushing out. This will help to tidy up the plant.