

# CLIVIA SOCIETY

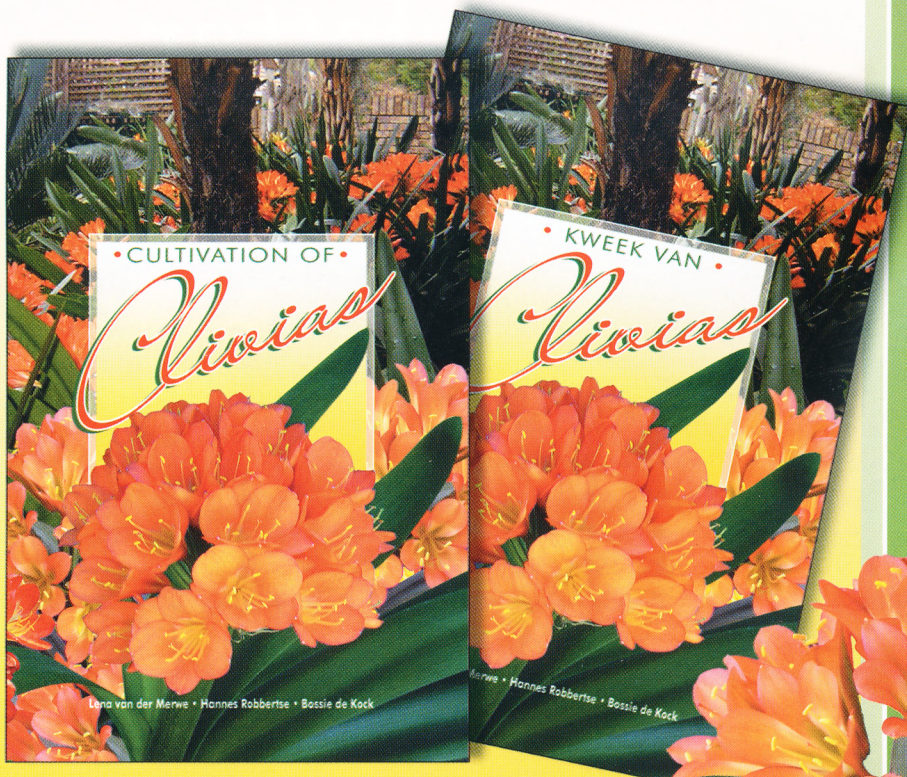
## newsletter



Volume 14 No 2

Winter 2005

*New on the market!*



The first scientific, full colour book on propagation of Clivias, published by the Clivia Society in both English and Afrikaans, is now available from your Club or the Clivia Society.

- The technical correctness of this 72-page book has been verified.
- This book has the answer to many of your questions on the propagation of clivias.
- There is a A3-insert of colour pictures depicting pests, diseases and cultivation problems encountered with clivias.

Contact your Club  
or overseas representative  
now to obtain a copy.

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Views expressed in the newsletter are not necessarily those of the Committee and the Clivia Society.

It is with much sadness that I pen this last newsletter of which I shall be Editor. I have done so with passion and enjoyment. My contact with other Clivia enthusiasts has enriched my life. I shall miss the contact with all the people who have submitted material for the newsletters as I feel I have got to know them personally.

Much of this newsletter is taken up with feedback from the Annual General Meeting held in Pretoria on 21 May 2005. One of the reports of the AGM is reproduced, that by John van der Linde concerning the number of Clivia taken out of the wild for "muti" purposes. This practice is posing a tremendous threat to Clivia in its natural habitats. At this meeting James and Connie Abel were made Honorary Members of the Clivia Society (they had previously been made Honorary Members of the Northern Clivia Club), a reward they richly deserve for the contributions they've made over the years. The Editor was also honored in this way.

Those who ordered Clivia mirabilis should have received their seedlings by now - all beautifully packaged and containing a permit to possess the seedling, a pamphlet with a short history of their discovery and significance and instructions on how to grow them.

Roger Fisher gives a more detailed account of Ammie Grobler's life in a posthumous personality profile. He passed away shortly after the spring shows last year and there were only hurried tributes in newsletter Vol 13 No 3 p15. Roger has also written an article about some of the clivias collected and bred by Ammie.

John van der Linde has put together another

interesting review of "Stories behind the colour photographs": What amazes one at how difficult it is to get members to talk about themselves for "Personality Parade" in newsletters. But, ask a member to discuss a special Clivia and out comes his whole history!

Tom Whitehorn has kept members very busy with comments and questions on various aspects of Clivia characteristics and cultivation. Mrs. Marten from Australia has a suggestion for destroying the moths of the Amaryllis caterpillar. A question by Ulrich Landman regarding Clivia growing in a big garden is also addressed. "Muse 2" by Roger Fisher makes one appreciate the complexities of plant physiology, even if one doesn't fully understand it.

This will be the last newsletter in this format. Roger Fisher takes over as the new Editor and I am sure he will enjoy the challenge of the next decade with new ideas and presentation. He has already contributed substantially to the newsletters. We have been confined to black and white photographs and diagrams. With the use of modern computer software and skills the new format should be much more attractive and exciting with colour pictures illustrating articles. Please continue with your contributions and support him in this new role.

I would like to thank the Chairmen who have helped, encouraged and supported me while I was editor - James Abel, Tino Ferero, John Winter and Chris Vlok. There are other members too numerous to mention who have assisted me in one way or another with the newsletters and I am grateful for all their help. Some typed articles for me when I was

still at UNISA and overwhelmed with work. Others have proofread and done the layout. To all those who have contributed with articles and comments, thank you. Without your input there would not have been newsletters.

The Clivia Society has grown remarkably since its inception in 1992 and I hope it continues to flourish. So many clubs and soci-

eties fail to maintain the interest of their members and once the founder members have passed on they also die. It is up to the Clivia Society to satisfy existing members and to recruit enthusiastic younger members to help maintain its growth.

*Editor.*

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*From the new editor*

Dear Meg

I - as incoming Editor - wish to congratulate you on a sterling job well done. When you took on the task as editor of the Clivia Society Newsletter there were four species and one variety of Clivia. There are now six species and two varieties. This will be a hard act to follow, let alone repeat! Congratulations too on you being awarded life membership of the Society. When I joined the Northern Clivia Club just over a

year back I purchased a set of the newsletters. They have proved a most valuable mine of information. The 39 issues you edited are a living monument. I hope that one of my early achievements will be to assist in having them made available to all in electronic format as web-based publications.

Enjoy many years of carefree cliviating.

Regards  
*Roger Fisher*



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## *From the Chairman*

I received the Afrikaans and English copies of the new Clivia Society publication, Cultivation of Clivias on 9 July 2005. Congratulations and thank you very much Lena van der Merwe and Bossie de Kock for the time, energy and enthusiasm that went into the project. I also received a letter with the publications and I quote "We wish that the profits on selling these books be channeled into research projects through which all lovers of Clivia could benefit." A fair request. I'm also pleased with the support received from clubs in South Africa who have placed orders in advance and those members who have taken advertising space. This means that a large percentage of the cost of the layout and printing is covered before printing. Enjoy reading!

After positive feedback in 2004 we decided to include the minutes of the Annual General Meeting again in this year's newsletter. Note that these have yet to be approved. The minutes should be read with the relevant reports that have been submitted. These will be published on the Clivia Society website and are also available through Clivia Club representatives and representatives of the Clivia Enthusiast Group

Congratulations to Connie and James Abel and Meg Hart, the new Honorary Life Members of the Clivia Society. Your contributions to the advancement of the Clivia

Culture are much appreciated as indicated in this award.

After many years of dedication to the Clivia Society and especially to the newsletter, Meg Hart decided that other pursuits are more exciting than writing "On the Compost Heap" or pleading for contributions. If the late Gert Wiese were still with us, I would ask him to address a word of thanks and appreciation to Meg in this last newsletter. He knew how much time and care was put into the newsletters over the past decade, and when he addressed the Annual General Meetings of our Society he always made mention of her contribution. Meg, enjoy the hikes, travel, your family, the grand children and your clivias.

I would like to thank Roger Fisher for accepting the next Editorship of our newsletter. Good luck to him and his team members: Cobus Roos, Roger Dixon, Maxie Calitz and Coen Calitz. I have promised Roger my support in 2015 when he too can anticipate an Honorary Life Membership.

A sad note to conclude. I recently learned of the tragic and unnecessary death of Jack Coetzer, a member of the Northern and Joburg Clivia Clubs. Our condolences to his widow and family.

*Chris Vlok*

# *Minutes of Clivia Society Annual General Meeting 21 May 2005 (Pretoria)*

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## **1. Welcome**

The chairperson, Chris Vlok, welcomed all present and extended a special welcome to the representatives of the new Clubs, Glynn Middlewick (Joburg Clivia Club), Gerrie Brits (Garden Route Clivia Club) and Hennie van der Mescht (Free State Clivia Club), as well as to Oom Pat (Mr. Pat Gore), a well known face at the AGM of the Society. He also thanked the Northern Clivia Club for hosting the AGM, the get together of the previous evening and the light luncheon to follow the meeting. He explained that all were free to ask questions, but that only official delegates were entitled to vote. Chris also expressed his sincere thanks to all who had traveled far to attend the meeting. All the documents were distributed in time and will be considered as read. The language of the meeting may be Afrikaans or English.

## **2. Constituting the meeting**

The following proxies were recorded: Lena van der Merwe for Ken Smith and Aart van Voorst; Willie le Roux for Gideon Botha. The members attending the meeting constituted a quorum and the chairman declared the meeting duly constituted (proposed by John van der Linde and seconded by Bossie de Kock).

## **3. Attendance register/Recording of representatives (alternates) of Clubs:**

*Present:*

*Ex Officio:* Chris Vlok and John v/d Linde

*Cape Clivia Club:* Claude Felbert. Apologies for Felicity Weedon and Coen Calitz.

*Eastern Province Clivia Club:* Andre Calitz and an apology from Gideon Botha (proxy to Willie le Roux)

*Northern Clivia Club:* Bossie de Kock, Peter Lambert and Lena v/d Merwe

*KwaZulu-Natal:* Apology from Sean Chubb

*Garden Route Clivia Club:* Gerrie Brits

*Free State Clivia Club:* Hennie van der Mescht

*Joburg Clivia Club:* Glynn Middlewick

*Apologies:* Ken Smith (proxy to Lena v/d Merwe), and Aart van Voorst (proxy to Lena v/d Merwe), Tony Barnes, Hamish Sloan and Jim Black (representatives for associate members). An attendance register was circulated to record others attending the meeting.

## **4. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 5 June 2004**

Point 13 .1: "Notice is taken that the conference will be preceded by a conference (in Cape Town) of the International Bulb Society" should read "Notice is taken that the conference will be preceded by a conference (in Goudini) of IBSA".

The minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 5 June 2005 was accepted as a true reflection of the meeting (proposed by Peter Lambert and seconded by Claude Felbert).

## **5. Matters arising from the minutes**

Point 6.1: Report on Clivia mirabilis. Letters were received from Cathy Grimes and Ian Coates thanking John Winter and Joy Woodward for their dedicated hard work in

respectively growing on the *Clivia mirabilis* seedlings and taking care of the orders. A motion of thanks to them was passed (proposed by Willie le Roux and seconded by Peter Lambert).

## 6. Honorary membership

The Northern Clivia Club proposed (seconded by Eastern Province Clivia Club) that Mr. and Mrs. James and Connie Abel and Meg Hart be awarded honorary membership of the Clivia Society. Both proposals were unanimously accepted by the meeting. The Chairman handed a framed Honorary Member Certificate to James and Connie Abel. Meg Hart, who was not present, will receive her certificate later at a meeting of the Joburg Clivia Club.

## 7. The constitution: Willie le Roux

Willie pointed out that several clauses in the constitution refer to how representatives should be appointed for newly constituted Clubs, such as clause 12.9. Only in the financial clause 15.4 and 15.5 is reference made to a date on which the number of paid-up members determines the number of representatives. If the whole document is not studied, this may be overlooked. He proposes that a sub-committee be appointed to revise the constitution. Chris Vlok commented that:

- The intention was that the number of paid-up members as on 31 December will determine the number of representatives to which a club is entitled.
- The reference to 31 December as the date that determines the number of representatives is perhaps in the wrong position in the document.
- The constitution is not clear whether a successful application for club status by an interest group impacts on the membership totals of the former mother club. This needs to be addressed.

Gerrie Brits expressed the opinion that it is standard practice to regard the end of the financial year as an indication of the strength of an enterprise. This is a technical point. Koos Geldenhuys said a constitution is an active document that needs to be revised from time to time and pledged his assistance in revising the constitution. Claude Felbert supports the idea that the constitution be revised but suggested that the original committee should also be involved. Peter Lambert also supports the revision of the constitution.

## 8. Financial Report: B de Kock

The Society has had a successful financial year with a net operating income of R45 175. The membership is approximately 1 300. The Society has had an exceptionally good year regarding the sales of publications - the income of R53 506 exceeded the budgeted amount (R12 000).

The following recommendations were approved at the meeting.

- An additional amount of R5 000 to be transferred to an account earmarked for the future publication of names of Registered Clivia Cultivars.
- An amount of R20 000 be allocated to the printing of English and Afrikaans versions of Growing Clivia.
- An amount of R10 000 to be transferred to the 2006 Conference bank account.
- The net balance, being R10 175, be transferred to the Research and Conservation Fund.
- The following membership fees apply to payments via Clivia Society bank accounts administered by overseas representatives: United Kingdom (£12.50); USA (\$25.00); Australia (\$35.00); New Zealand (\$30.00). Membership payments (credit card) via the treasurer will be debited at the



equivalent of R160.00. RSA membership will remain at R80.00.

The meeting approved the financial report and financial statements (proposed by Peter Lambert and seconded by Willie le Roux). John van der Linde expressed sincere thanks to Bossie for the way he handles the portfolio as treasurer and told the meeting that management receives financial statements monthly.

## 9. Budget for 2006

The opinion was expressed that the budgeted amount of R 2 000-00 for the Public Relations Portfolio is perhaps inadequate. PRO and marketing will be dealt with in the PRO report.

John van der Linde requested that R 66 000-00 be budgeted for the Yearbook and the meeting agreed that this might even be R 70 00-00. The expected amount from publications should be increased to R 30 000-00.

The meeting approved the proposed budget for 2006 (proposed by Peter Lambert and seconded by Andre Calitz).

## 10. Appointment of Auditor

The current firm of auditors, Snijders and Associates, was proposed by John van der Linde and seconded by Willie le Roux.

## 11. Other reports

All reports were circulated and were considered as read.

11.1 2006 Clivia Conference in Pretoria: Peter Lambert. Registration fee will be in the order of R 400-00 with an early bird discount and a discount for husband and wife. John van der Linde wished the organising committee good luck with the project. Cobus Roos requested that in future a SA championship show be held with each conference. Chris Vlok thanked Peter

Lambert and wishes them well.

11.2 Yearbook: J van der Linde. John said he had received pictures of flowers and would like to retract his remark in the report on the Yearbook. Peter Lambert thanked John van der Linde, Claude Felbert and Roger Dixon on an excellent publication, Yearbook 6. Their hard work is much appreciated.

11.3 Newsletter: M Hart. Chris Vlok made mention of the change in appearance of Newsletter volume 14 (1). The next phase will be a change in the layout of the document. Gerrie Britz pointed out that the newsletter is the only source of communication and should be of good quality. Club representatives are requested to motivate their club members to contribute to the Clivia Society's newsletter. Claude Felbert suggested that an electronic version of the newsletter should be considered as such a step could lead to substantial savings in postage. John van der Linde thanked Meg for being editor of the newsletter for just over 10 years. Meg's job became harder to find articles over the years and deserves extra thanks for all her effort.

11.4 Research Committee. A report from Prof. Wynand Swart was circulated. Prof. Johan Spies reiterated that most clivias serve as host to five to six pathogens at any time. A complete description of the circumstances in which the plant was kept is very important to correctly identify a disease. Gerrie Britz requested that this project should be on going and more money should be made available to complete the research. A project submission should be made for any new research. A further R 5 000-00 was made available for research. Prof Spies requested a donation of at least 20 plants of the same clone to be used in a research project on nutrition.

Lena van der Merwe undertook to donate such plants.

Viruses remain a headache for the Clivia grower as nothing can heal a virus-infested plant. Roodeplaat Research Laboratories is an option to have plants tested for virus. Prof. Hannes Robbertse and Mr. Mick Dower will be requested to look into this matter. A letter of thanks will be sent to Prof. Swart.

- 11.5 Public Relations: C Roos. Cobus Roos announced a donation of R 20 000-00 to be divided among the Clubs from Efekto for 2005, 2006 and 2007 in exchange for advertising space and a stall at their shows. Concern was expressed from Claude Felbert on behalf of CCC as they are not allowed to have commercial enterprises at their venue. The Chairman requested Cobus to discuss with the PROs of the new Clubs how they could be accommodated. Gerrie Britz thanked Cobus for his good work done and Willie le Roux thanked him for the donation to the EPCC. Glynn Middlewick pointed out that the Society should budget to advertise shows in periodicals to make advertising a joint effort. Cobus Roos should liaise with the different Clubs in this regard.

- 11.6 Registration of genus Clivia: Ken Smith wrote "The form is available as a printable PDF file on my Cliviasmith website: <http://cliviasmith.idx.com.au/>. A link is available on the Clivia Society website. I urge all enthusiasts to seek help from their Clubs and Societies so that the important name information can be collated. I want members to again realize that every bit of detail, no matter how small, that can be made available will strengthen our understanding of cultivars, old and new. The sale of seeds is an all-important part of the hobby but many of the seed lists

have names incorrectly stated. This is only one part of the potential naming confusion because so many plants are sold locally, with the local name that mean nothing to the wider community. Each year the number increases. I renew my call to all enthusiasts to help us in this matter and make available all information and images of the named forms of Clivia. I am always ready to help in the registration process."

Registration can be done via clubs. All Clubs have the registration documentation. Registration is open to anybody who accesses the ICRA information on the Internet. Claude Felbert is of the opinion that Clubs should be far more involved in the registration process of plants and said we owe Ken a vote of thanks.

- 11.7 Web Site: Chris Vlok reported that he needs to look differently at the organization of the website. Perhaps people serving on the website committee should take more responsibility. Willie le Roux pointed out that it is everybody's responsibility to participate. He thanked Chris for the good work done to keep the website on the air.

- 11.8 Standards and Judging: Reports were received from Roger Dixon (convenor), the Cape Clivia Club, The Eastern Province Clivia Club and the Northern Clivia Club.

1. Roger reported that "...since the last AGM when the draft on the Standards was distributed to the Constituent Clubs, very little has occurred." and that "Unless more participation and enthusiasm can be obtained, I do not know if the continued existence of the committee is justified."

2. The Cape Clivia Club reported "Our Club as the way to go forward has accepted Keith and Roger's revision of the Society's Show Standards docu-

ment. We would like to put on record our thanks to the authors for their hard work to date. In the meantime we have used the Society's draft as the main guideline in our most recent revision of the Rules and Standards for our 2005 CCC Show." The CCC Colour Chart was used as the basis of defining their Classes. The CCC report pointed out that there is a need for a dynamic schedule of Show Classes from which individual Clubs would select the Classes appropriate to their own Shows. A practical flower colour reference point is essential. The CCC Colour Chart had been the first attempt to achieve such a reference point. The Society's Show Standards draft document does not refer to this important issue. All clubs and members are welcome to recommend what colours should be included in a supplementary Colour Chart. An amount of R10,000-00 has been set aside by the Cape Clivia Club towards financing this project. The report concludes with the comment "We regard both the Society and our own Show Standards documents as "work in progress" and are looking forward to cooperate in taking them forward."

3. Eastern Province Clivia Club wrote "Naturally, it would be impossible to cover each and every aspect in the finest detail but the guide, which they have produced, provides us with more than enough to put us in the fortunate position to do proper standardised classification and judging at our shows. Eastern Province would like to sincerely thank Roger, Keith, Ken, Ian, Jim, John, Mick the late Ammie as well as all others who might have been involved for their time and effort to produce this valuable guide."

4. The report from the Northern Clivia Club stated that "The general consen-

sus was that a lot of hard work had gone into the compiling of the document, and that it should not therefore be simply dismissed. It was, however, noted that the contents and descriptions, while well suited for scientific and botanical publications and users, was in too much detail and that a simplified version should be made available for use by the various clubs and their members for show purposes and for general description of plants. For the majority of members, clivias are a hobby and therefore the need for an easy to use guide." The report further proposed that:

- The Show Guidelines of the NCC as printed in their annual show booklet be used for this purpose.
- The sixth species, namely *C. robusta*, should be included in the introduction.
- Due to the constantly changing plants that are being seen, that whatever document was adopted, should be revised and altered on a regular basis.
- That when it comes to classifying and judging imported Chinese and Japanese plants, the guidelines laid down by the Chinese and Japanese growers should be considered.
- That the colour chart from the Cape Clivia Club, with a few minor changes, be adopted as the standard for describing colours at our shows. These proposed changes would be forwarded to the CCC. This chart is very easy to use and well suited for the average member and Clivia enthusiast. The RHS Colour Cards will still remain the gold standard, but they are not freely available, are expensive and not easy to use.
- More details of proposed changes and modifications to the above-mentioned document will be made available later.

Peter Lambert said the document is a major step in the right direction for registering and describing Clivia. However, Clivia is to most of the members a hobby and a more simplified version of the guide will be more user friendly. He offered the less comprehensive NCC show booklet for everybody to use for judging at shows. The CCC colour chart, with certain changes can also be used as a guideline. Willie le Roux emphasized the need of a standardized document that can then be adjusted by the Clubs so as to ensure that the same standard applies at every show. This document is important and each club can take out of the document what they want to use. Drawing up a show schedule needs to follow. The Clivia Society needs one document from which each club could draw out what they want to use. Tino Ferero said the NCC has been working on standards for about 10 years and care should be taken not to re-invent the wheel. Willie pointed out that in 2003 Tino was part and parcel of the decision that was taken to compile a manual on show standards and judging guides. Willie further expressed his disappointment in the apparent lack of support Roger received. Koos Geldenhuys pointed out that the Society's draft document is not rejected; but can be used for what it's worth. The document of the NCC could be attached to complement the standards document.

The chairperson requested the committee to report back within three weeks. Claude Felbert asked members to give their input on the new colour chart. Willie le Roux thanked Roger Dixon and all those members who collaborated in the drawing up of this document.

11.9 Photographic competition. The chair-

man thanked Claude Felbert for his report and especially the initiative he has shown with this project. He urged Clubs and members to take part in this annual competition and to be more pro-active.

11.10 Reports from Clubs. The chairman thanked all Clubs for the reports submitted.

11.11 Chairman's report: C Vlok. The chairman added to his report congratulations to Connie and James Abel and to Meg Hart as new Honorary Life Members. He thanked them for their contributions to the advancement of Clivia. The Chairman's report was accepted as proposed by Willie le Roux and seconded by Peter Lambert. John van der Linde thanked the chair for his very hard work this year. Chris has a lot to do with Clivia prima donnas and learned to be tolerant to other's mistakes. It is a pleasure to work with Ken, Chris, Bossie and Lena. At Clivia Society level we do not wear club hats. On behalf of everybody thank you.

## 12. Election of Office Bearers

The following nominations have been received and approved:

<i>Chairperson</i>	Chris Vlok
<i>Vice-Chairperson</i>	John van der Linde
<i>Treasurer</i>	Bossie de Kock
<i>Secretary</i>	Lena van der Merwe
<i>Additional Member</i>	Ken Smith

## 13. Election/Appointment of members for sub-committees

*Yearbook:* John van der Linde (editor), Roger Dixon, Claude Felbert

*Newsletter:* Two nominations were received for the position of editor. Keith Rose and Peter Lambert were appointed as election officers and the meeting voted by ballot.

Roger Fischer was elected as editor of the newsletter. The other members are Cobus Roos, Maxie Calitz, Coen Calitz and Roger Dixon.

*Web Site:* Chris Vlok, Roger Dixon, Cobus Roos, Owen Fletcher, Riel Lötter and Johan Schoombee.

*Research:* Mick Dower and Hannes Robbertse. Gerrie Britz was requested at the meeting to also serve on this committee.

*Registration of genus Clivia:* Ken Smith, Joan Sadie, Peter Lambert and Willie le Roux

*Public Relations:* Cobus Roos and Gideon Botha.

*Standards and Judging committee:* Roger Dixon, Keith Hammett, Ken Smith, Ian Coates, Andre Calitz, Mick Dower, Johan Schoombee and Koos Geldenhuys. The members should notify the chairman within three weeks hence who is the convener.

#### **14. Honoraria**

An honorarium of R 2 000-00 each to Bossie and Lena was proposed by Andre Calitz and seconded by Peter Lambert. Chris Vlok thanked Bossie and Lena for being two towers of strength. For instance they process the Newsletters within 24 hours after receiving it from the press.

#### **15. Co-ordination of Show Dates - the Society's role. John van der Linde**

The CS initiates the coordination by requesting clubs to share dates with the society and clubs. These dates are then published in the newsletter. When dates clash, the onus is on the Clubs concerned to approach each other in order to find a solution. Unfortunately the reality is that with more shows/clubs clash-

es are unavoidable. It was noted that the club hosting the Clivia Society Conference should have the first choice of a show date for that particular year. James Abel had already liaised with all clubs regarding the show dates for 2006.

#### **16. Conservation status of clivias in the wild. John van der Linde (See Appendix A)**

Muti plant collectors are not regulated. In Johannesburg 15 busses arrive daily with muti plants including Clivia. The Clivia plants are sold for as little as R 1-70. The National Department of Environment and Tourism turns a blind eye to this trade that decimates populations in the habitat over night. John wanted to alert members to this problem. The Management Committee should decide how to go forward. Roger Dixon said this fact should be made public - that is the only way to get reaction from the government.

#### **17. Venue and date for the next AGM**

Gerrie Britz, on behalf of the Garden Route Clivia Club offered to host the next AGM.

#### **18. Closure**

The meeting was declared closed at 12:56. Gerrie Britz, on behalf of the Garden Route Clivia Club offered to host the 2006 AGM in George. The chairman thanked every one present for the congenial way the meeting was approached and wishes them a safe journey home. Gerrie Britz on behalf of the GRCC thanked the CCC for their mentorship and support and expressed the hope that they will collaborate in future. Claude Felbert mentioned that Felicity Weedon plans to start an interest group in Hermanus.

## **Conservation status of Clivia**

Existing provincial statutes are quite strict about possession of indigenous plants and their transport across provincial boundaries.

Also, SANBI staff who collect *Clivia* in the wild for The National Botanical Gardens are closely regulated, require permits, and can remove only a limited number of plants.

However, it would seem that regulations are not applied in the case of "muti" collectors who are busy stripping habitats in the Transkei, Limpopo, KZN, Mpumalanga and Swaziland of *clivias* that have grown there in the wild for countless generations. Remember, the plants that "muti" collectors pull out are not grown on in gardens -they are destroyed. What is the scale of the "muti" trade in *clivias*? I knew of its existence but was startled to learn of its extent.

At the Faraday Street muti market in Johannesburg more than 15 buses a week bring in "muti" plants, including *clivias*, from all over, crossing provincial boundaries, apparently without any trouble, to get there. A conservative estimate, based on a survey conducted at the market, is that at least 200 bags of 50 kg. size of *clivias* (maybe 17 000 plants, at an average of 600gms a plant) are sold at Faraday Market alone each year. The implication is that possibly as many as 30 000 to 40 000 *Clivia* plants a year are sold at "muti" markets throughout the country. By far the majority of these plants are being

taken out of the wild. Genetic diversity is being lost - forever.

Several important local *Clivia* populations have already been wiped out and many more are under threat. Valuable genetic material is being systematically destroyed. Remember, extinction is forever! Incidentally, at Faraday, mature *Clivia* plants are bought in at around R1 each and sold on at R1.70. The nation's *Clivia* gene pool in the wild - a national heritage of diversity- is being sold off - and very, very cheaply.

It would appear that the national Dept. of Environmental affairs and Tourism (DEAT) and the provinces are aware of the scale of what is going on, but they turn a blind eye. The "muti" industry is large and provides employment for many people. Yet at the same time DEAT is working on new Biodiversity Regulations which affect serious *Clivia* collectors, like members of *Clivia* Clubs throughout the country, who want to conserve *clivias*, not destroy them. What can the *Clivia* Society, as the umbrella body for all the *Clivia* Clubs, do?

Chairman, this is a big topic and there is little time for discussion. I therefore propose that this Annual General Meeting of the *Clivia* Society takes note of this alarming situation and ask the Management Committee to consider the actions that should be taken.

*John van der Linde*  
Vice- Chairman  
21 May 2005

# *Nomination for Honorary Life — Membership of the Clivia Society 2005*

## **Nominees: Connie and James Abel**

Connie received her first miniatas from her sister in Ixopo in 1966. That was the start of her passion for clivias and the original plants of that Ixopo strain, a vigorous orange form with umbels of up to 45 flowers, are still prominent in a bed in their garden. James, having grown up on the eastern escarpment, made an initial contribution of caulescens that had been in his grandmother's garden. They moved to their present home in Pretoria in 1976, and clivias soon occupied most of the available space. There are over a dozen beds of different Clivia as well as many potted plants in the collection, which contains most of the species and forms.

- In 1992 they heard of the newly formed Clivia Club, and joined towards the end of the year - their membership is first recorded in the Clivia Newsletter (CN) in January 1993 (CN 2.1.16).
- Editorials reflect that
  - In October 1993 (CN 2.5.9) they participated in the first visits to Clivia gardens in Pretoria.
  - At the end of October 1993 they organized the first habitat visit to see caulescens at Gods Window (CN 3.1.6).
  - And then, January, the 22nd, 1994, was an auspicious date in the annals of Clivia. What is probably the first and only Clivia Association was formed on that day. On that historic date, at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Abel, the following people were present" (CN 3.1.14). The names of 19 participants and 7 apologies were recorded. James, proposed by Nick Primich, founder of the Club, and seconded by Pat Gore, was

elected unanimously as Chairman, and he initiated discussions and plans on a number of activities which still form much of the focus of the Clivia Association, namely garden visits, conferences, shows, photographic exhibitions and habitat tours.

— The first quadrennial Conference and Show was held later that year in mid September (CN 3.8.1). The show committee consisted of James, Renee and Michael Stevenson and Nick, with co-opted members Connie, Adri Haxton, Toy Jennings and Wessel Lötter. Attendance exceeded all expectations, the conference proceedings made a good contribution to Clivia know how, the show and plant sales started a long tradition and it was truly international with contributions from Yoshikazu Nakamura, Keith Hammett and Pen Henry.

—Connie and James hosted many of the Club meetings at their home and organized a number of tours to see Clivia habitats. In an editorial in June 1995 (CN 4.3.10) it was stated that they had taken "the Clivia Club out of an envelope and put it on the show bench"

—They encouraged Clivia activities in other centres, and Des Andersson reported on the first meeting in Pietermaritzburg on June 3rd 1995 (CN 4.4.5) where James Abel noted that the Transvaal members had joined the meeting with a view to giving impetus to a new membership drive..." The fruits of that meeting in Pietermaritzburg included the formation of the second branch of the Clivia

Club, and there has been continued growth in the number of members and groups.

The Abels declined to stand for re-election at the AGM held on September 5th 1998 (CN 7.2.4), and Tino Ferero was elected the second chairman of the Club. Connie and James have continued to make valuable contributions to the Clivia Society and the Northern Clivia Club in various areas. These include the following:

- The recent bulk purchasing of copies of Harold Koopowitz's book 'Clivias' and of the Chinese book 'Junzilan Xinpu' (including the production of an English translation of the text which is an interesting overview of Clivia growing in China).
- Their efforts and encouragement helped ensure that over 15 overseas members (Australia, Belgium, Japan, Netherlands and the USA) attended the 2002 conference, shows and tours, helping cement relationships between Clivia fanatics around the world.
- The importation of clivias and Clivia seeds from various countries including China, Japan, Belgium and the UK and the sale and distribution of these to the members of the Northern Clivia Club and the Clivia Society.
- James is also a member of the 2006 Conference Organizing Committee and has put together and coordinated a truly wonderful tour program coinciding with the 2006 Conference to all the various Clivia natural habitat areas as well as visits to the various clubs and interest groups.
- James has until recently been the coordinator of the Sellers Committee of the Northern Clivia Club. The sales are always a great success and James was also instrumental in establishing the Club Stall, which gives the smaller grower the opportunity of selling their

plants, seedlings and seeds.

The Northern Clivia Club honoured James and Connie Abel with honorary membership of the Club on 23 November 2002.

I am of the opinion that Connie and James Abel, as the first chairperson, have made a very significant contribution to the establishment of the Northern Clivia Club and to the success of the Northern Clivia Club in general, and to the ongoing growth of both the Northern Clivia Club and the Clivia Society and that they should be suitably honoured for this. I therefore wish to propose Connie and James Abel for honorary life membership of the Clivia Society.

Peter Lambert - Chairperson: Northern Clivia Club

(The contribution of Lena van der Merwe is hereby acknowledged).

Nominated by: Northern Clivia Club

Seconded by: Eastern Province Clivia Club

### **Nominee: Meg Hart**

Dear members of the Clivia Society

The father of what we know today as the Clivia Society is Nick Primich. In 1992 he put practice to his vision of forming an informal association of Clivia enthusiasts from across the world. There can be no doubt that Nick had the right idea at the right time. From a modest start in 1992 Nick's idea grew into a vibrant movement. Proof thereof is:

- The 5 energetic constituent Clivia Clubs (and their interest groups) of the Clivia Society with a membership of over 1 000
- An international membership of over 300
- Independent Clivia associations or clubs in Australia, New Zealand and the USA
- A proliferation of Clivia shows, exhibitions, conferences and symposia.



The success of any organization is dependant on:

- Member enthusiasm for a common object (in our case Clivia);
- A product or service that's adds value to being a member;
- People that have the enthusiasm and expertise to drive the idea and deliver the product.

This brings me to a product being the newsletter of our organization. The Clivia movement started in 1992 as a newsletter called 'Friends of Clivia'. In those years information about Clivia was scanty. The newsletter fulfilled a most important function by:

- Building a body of basic Clivia knowledge;
- Providing the forum to exchange ideas, communicate news and events, share ideas, distribute seed and plant material and build friendships.

There is no doubt that without the newsletter the 2005 Clivia scene would have been much more modest. It provided the sound foundation from which the Clivia movement could diffuse in South Africa and indeed across the world. Plenty of letters to the editor can be quoted in which members refer to the huge role newsletters have played in providing them with the know how of growing Clivia. In those letters new members were often advised to buy all the back copies of past newsletters.

If we assume that the newsletter was fundamental to the growth of the Clivia moment, credit should go to those enthusiastic people who made it possible. Nick Primich has been mentioned as the father of the idea and the newsletter. However, Volume 4 number 2 of April 1995 (wrongly published as vol. 3 # 4 April 1994) announced his resignation and the appointment of Meg Hart as Nick's successor.

In January 1995 the name of Meg Hart appeared for the first time in a Clivia publication - it was on the address list of a newsletter called 'Clivia Club'. She was also present on 22 January 2004 when the 1992 initiative of Nick Primich was more formally structured as the 'first and only Clivia association'. In November 1995 we saw the first newsletter (Vol.4, number 5) under the editorship of Meg Hart.

I'm tempted to make the tongue in cheek comment that, during the past 10 years, Meg was one of only a few constants in the organizational structure of the vibrant Clivia movement.

- She served under four different chairpersons;
- The name of the organization changed twice during her decade of editorship;
- In 1999 the entire management corps of the Clivia Club resigned. It could have been disastrous to the Clivia Club if Meg Hart had also opted to call it a day. Fortunately she did not.

She has been a member of the organization since 1994. Nobody else has served the Clivia Society in any capacity longer than Meg has. During her decade as editor of the newsletter she gave us a total of 39 (one in the press) newsletters.

Meg Hart is in many ways the "Grand Lady" of the Clivia Society. She served with dignity for 10 years and never allowed to be drawn into controversy. I trust that the Clivia Society share my view that Meg Hart has played an enormous role in the Clivia movement and that she is a worthy recipient of honorary life membership of the Clivia Society.

Written by Chris Vlok on behalf of the Northern Clivia Club

(The contribution of Adri Haxton is hereby acknowledged).

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## *Clivia personality (posthumous)*

Nominated by: Northern Clivia Club  
Seconded by: Eastern Province Clivia Club

### **Abraham Nicolaas Grobler**

Ammie - the familiar form of his name - was born on the farm Fourieskloof near Afgunst in the Waterberg on 25 January 1932 and died in Pretoria on 12 September 2004.

He was a man of many lives.

He came from a platteland farming background, the youngest of four children, his father pursuing mixed farming while his mother was postmistress of the nearby small post office. The remoteness of the farm necessitated his having to be a boarding scholar in Nylstroom, where he attended both primary and high schools. He excelled in rugby where he represented Nylstroom Hoërskool (Nylstroom Afrikaans-medium High School) in the first team. Rugby became one of the arenas for his administrative skills, where he acted as selector for the Eastern Transvaal Rugby Union, vice-chairman of Stellaland High Schools Rugby Union and vice-chairman of the South-Eastern Transvaal Rugby Union, and Chairman of the Witbank High Schools Rugby Circle. By contrast he had also a great love of music and was active in directing school operettas at the various schools he served.

After matriculating in 1949 Ammie trained as a teacher, specializing in History and Northern Sotho (Pedi), receiving his teaching diploma from Potchefstroom Onderwyskollege (College of Education) and graduating with a BA a year later from Potchefstroom University for Christian Education (the diploma plus degree graduate was a 'GePUKte POot' [the wordplay untranslatable] in the parlance). He spent the year of 1954 teaching at Naboomspruit Hoërskool.

In 1955 he was seconded to Balfour Intermediate School and trekked with them to the newly established Balfour Hoërskool where he did his Honours degree part-time in 1957 while teaching Pedi there. In 1958 the school required a biology teacher, of which there was a shortage, so Ammie was called to fill the breach. He himself had only done Biology up to matriculation level, but, as was the nature of the man, rose so well to the task that the Biology results of the school were the best in the entire Transvaal while he taught it there! While teaching Biology he used the laboratory to raise seedlings of various decorative plants, which were used in the school gardens. At Balfour he rose through the ranks, being promoted to an A-grade teacher, then vice-principal. In a farewell address made by C van Wyk, Chairman of the Governing Body, it was noted that "U ... bekwame hand in die uitleg van die pragtige tuine sal nie gou vergeet word nie" [Your competent hand in the laying out of the magnificent gardens will not soon be forgotten], and the new Headmaster, JA Vorster remarked in his farewell note that these "... sal vir horn as monument bly staan"<sup>1</sup> [will remain his monument].

He also fell in love with one of his biology pupils, Tersia Coetzee, who matriculated in 1959 and they were married soon afterwards in 1960. She remained his stalwart companion and muse. They have three children, Jannes, Martin and Rachel.

In 1974 he became Adjunct Head at Hoërskool Wolmaranstad and in 1976 he became Principal of Patriot Hoërskool, Witbank. This was a spanking new school with undeveloped grounds, which he set to developing and planting, an achievement that won both admiration and respect. It was also

at this time that a persistent lifelong endogenous depression was diagnosed.

In 1982 he accepted an appointment as Head of Potchefstroom Gymnasium, an Afrikaans high school founded way back in 1907 on Christian principles. The presence at his funeral of the Head boy and prefects (girls) from this honourable establishment is testimony to the venerated memory of the man. It was in their time there that Tersia bought the first *Clivia* from the nursery that was forerunner to 'Gift Acres' in Lynnwood Road, Willows, Pretoria. The plant was kept in a pot in a secluded corner on the Western verandah of their home, where it flourished and was admired by all. Tersia recalls how the local Dominee [Church minister] would remark "Maar myne is noord ek kyk hoe goed groei joune!" [Mine is on the northern side and look how well yours is growing!]. It was also at this time that Ammie started dividing the offsets and potting them up separately.

In 1985 Ammie was appointed Schools Inspector, Academic, for African Languages taught in - what were then - White schools. The Groblers were housed in an official residence of the Department of Education at The Hillside in Menlo Park. Here Ammie's love of *Clivias* blossomed and grew. His travels to the various schools brought him into contact with plants throughout the province, and his collection started. When holidaying at Port St John's in 1986, they visited a local art gallery. Ammie started chatting with another of the gallery visitors, a Mrs. Nilsen, and she inquired as to his retirement plans. He said that he intended starting a *Clivia* nursery, to which she replied: "Then I shall give you your first plants!" She invited them to the Nilsen's farm in the Oribi Gorge Reserve, which they drove to in their Volkswagen Jetta sedan on their way back home. They needed to be fetched by the farmer in a four-wheel drive vehicle to reach the farm since the last stretch of the road was impassable for ordi-

nary vehicles. There, beneath an enormous spreading tree was a magnificent display of *Clivias* in flower. They were invited to select the plants they wanted, which Ammie then carefully did. Their vehicle could only carry twenty-six of these large specimens, and not the thirty promised. These are the famed habitat *Clivia miniata* from the Pondoland center of endemism<sup>2</sup> which - as mother plants - formed the core of Ammie's breeding programme. Some, such as 'King' and 'Queen' have, in their uncultivated form, been repetitive show winners.

Ammie retired at the end of January 1992, the month of his sixtieth birthday. The Grobler couple needed to do house hunting and one of those they viewed to purchase was located at Rubida Street, The Willows, Pretoria. Although the house was badly ventilated with a pervasive smell of stale cigarette smoke, Tersia felt it a place she might call 'home'. But when she glanced at the cramped back garden she realized that she should not set her heart on it. Then a voice called in excitement "Ma, kom kyk hier" [Ma, come look here!]. Beyond what seemed like the end of the property was an additional piece of overgrown land. Ammie had found the space for his *Clivia* nursery and Tersia a place which she could make home.

They raised a bond to erect the first shade-house for the *Clivia* Nursery. In the beginning times were tough. Ammie started a small gardening firm and Tersia herself drew up the planting plans. But as time passed things became easier. The *Clivias* flourished and started to pay their way. Tersia herself stayed actively involved with the business until a hip replacement operation of two years ago forced her to ease up on her commitments. There was the added bonus in that when the 'Black Dog'<sup>1</sup> depression snapped at Ammie's heels, he would take himself off to the nursery and spend time amongst his plants. As the hours passed in contemplation the 'beast' would stand at bay. Besides this, Ammie had

two heart by-pass operations. Then the abdominal cancer set in ... Tersia honestly believes that the Clivias extended Ammie's life by a good many years. In their garden grows a Clivia clump that blooms perpetually. At Ammie's death it ceased blooming.

It was Ammie's philosophy to bring in his schoolteacher's enthusiasm to promote a love and understanding for the genus Clivia, particularly among novices, to the benefit of both the new membership of the Club and the future of the plant. He was actively involved in committees and was particularly keen in starting a Clivia Breeders Society, for which he helped Louis Potgieter, leader of the initiative, draft a constitution. His final time was spent in helping with the organization of the 2006 Clivia Congress, to be hosted by the Northern Clivia Club at the Safari Nursery.

He was a devout Reformed Protestant Christian and lifelong member of the FAK (Federation of Afrikaner Culture), a man who loved and served simply his God, his language Afrikaans, and the genus of the plant

he loved, the Clivia. He treated each with the respect that devotion engenders. In the last years of his life he lived yet another life. He took to writing poetry. All we - especially those who came to call him "Friend"- who have grown to love the genus Clivia, are the richer for Ammie's involvement with the Club and thankful for his added years.

The task of cleansing the proverbial Augean stables has been left to Tersia. After thirteen years of breeding, thousands of plants needed to be disposed of. Providence and God have been kind. The plants are gone, the structures sold, the sale of the house a clinched deal. Tertia has a new home to occupy in April. And with her the prize progeny of Ammie's Clivia breeding programme.

*Roger Fisher*

- 1 Vorster, JA. 1973. Ons neem afskeid van Mnr. A.N. Grobler. Skakels p. 10.
- 2 Van Wyk, AE & Smith, GE 2001. Regions of floristic endemism in southern Africa. A review with emphasis on succulents. Hatfield: Umdaus Press. Particularly 3.2 Pondoland Centre, pp. 94-101

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## *Stories behind the cover photographs*

### **Photo No. 1**

This distinctive beauty is Val Thurston's 'Roly's Brocade'. It was grown by Roly Strachan, and he and his wife Barbara have given us some background:

"When I was getting on in life and had a son to do the farming I had to find something to occupy myself with - I did not want to spend my old age on a park bench feeding the pigeons.

I decided to expand the few Clivia clusters that were in our garden. That was 15 years

ago. The original plants came from my in-law's farm nearby where they were growing in the indigenous bush. I split them up and set about planting wherever I found shade. I soon realised that they responded very well to cultivation and did not need any water. Early in spring, no matter how dry it was, they never failed to flower just when everything else in the garden was looking a bit drab after winter.

I collected all the seed and planted it in a seedbed and gradually extended my stand. We get 800mm of summer rainfall, which

comes mostly in the form of mist and drizzle, and I only water in August if we haven't had rain. It certainly helps the flowering process but unfortunately I can't water everything. The biggest problem is periwinkle which we have to hand hoe but once the plants form a canopy nothing seems to affect them. They are not eaten by animals and because of the shade, snakes and guinea fowl do not frequent the Clivia groves either.

We reap the seed crop in June and July when it is red and ripe. I clean it well and the seed, which I haven't sold, I plant by spreading thickly on soft soil and covering lightly with old hay. This is undisturbed for about 2 months. The germination at this stage is very good. The seed pops up through the hay and I leave it in this form for 2 years as the small plants don't like being transplanted. I have also tried using fertilizer and kraal manure with very little response. As a result I now have a vast collection of mature plants growing under evergreen trees - shade being their most important requirement. I was fortunate to have a cluster of bamboos on the farm and so I constructed extra shade shelters. Although they look untidy, they are very effective.

Having started with no knowledge of what lay ahead I owe the KwaZulu-Natal Clivia Club, Sean Chubb and Val Thurston a big 'thank you' for all that they have done for me over the years. Val inspects every flower in my collection each spring and it was Val who originally spotted and selected 'Chiffon' and 'Brocade', amongst others. My thanks go to Val for always preparing and showing these selected beauties on my behalf. Although I still do not feed the pigeons I'm sure they also admire my spring burst of glorious clivias!"

### **Photo No. 2**

*Orange miniata with posy-like umbel*

Note the overlapping petals and tight umbel

of this attractive orange *miniata*, bred and grown by Eric Heine, and photographed at his Stellenbosch home by Johan Schoombee. Both are members of the Cape Clivia Club. Eric has built up a superb collection of plants over many years, but has not kept detailed breeding records. As a result, he was not able to tell me anything further about this particular plant.

Eric is a quiet, unassuming person who, until 2003, declined to show his plants competitively. In September that year, at show time, the organisers had a massive problem; there just weren't enough entries to fill the show benches - the *miniata* in the Cape Peninsula had decided to flower late that year. However, inland at Stellenbosch, Eric's plants were in full flowering mode. He and others were asked, almost at the last minute, to provide plants for the vacant spaces on the benches. Being a good Clivia Club member, Eric agreed, but did not want his plants to be included for judging. He was eventually persuaded otherwise and, as they say, the rest is history...

One of his plants was judged 'Reserve Champion', i.e., runner-up to the 'Best on Show', and quite a few others were best or at least amongst the top three in the classes where they were "helping to fill the benches"!

### **Photo No. 3**

This is 'Tango', an Australian plant, from Bill Morris's bicolour breeding programme. Ken Smith writes:

"It is not surprising that a Clivia like 'Tango' should emerge from Bill Morris's breeding work. Bill told me that he suspects that 'Tango' originated from orange plants but he reserves final comment until further investigation. 'Tango' flowered for the first time during September 1999. It was re-potted the following year, which revealed some root damage, and, as a result of having to re-establish a root system, it failed to flower the

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### YEARBOOK EDITORIAL

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following season. Since then it has flowered each year.

Several other bicolours have been produced out of another breeding line, an [orange x yellow] x yellow breeding, and as they flower, Bill puts them aside. Various crosses using these bicolours have been made with 'Tango', and some of the resultant seedlings are nearing flowering size, so the first flowering is eagerly awaited, hopefully this coming season.

My telephone call to Bill to ask about the origins of 'Tango' certainly created a few questions. Bill will be investigating the seedling batches to see if there are any unpigmented seedlings, which, Bill suggests, will point to the presence of yellow in the background of 'Tango'.

Bill thinks that 'Tango' may have been from a similar group that produced a plant he refers to as 'Allan's Special'. This is a wonderful, full-throated orange Clivia, typical of the broad petal flower types that Bill selects for. I am sure that Bill will be looking over the seedlings from the 'Tango' crosses a bit more closely now to determine if any unpigmented plants show up. A link to yellow in the background will certainly mean that 'Tango' is worth crossing with the range of bicolours he has now. These few special Clivia are the basis of a group of stud plants that have the potential to create some outstanding flowers.

The aim of this line of breeding is to increase the range of colour, particularly if the outside of the petals becomes darker than the inside. It just goes to show that if you raise enough seedlings you can get the variation that you want, so keep on sowing the seeds, because who knows what that first flowering of your seedlings will produce?"

#### **Photo No. 4**

*Yellow miniata with green throat*

Many of us have been excited by yellow miniatas which opened with green throats, but which then disappointed as the green faded away when the flowers matured. Green throats that persist, and which recur year after year, seem to be even rarer among yellow clivias than they are amongst oranges, so this plant is really something special. Trudie Otto, its owner, was thrilled when I phoned her to tell her that it was being featured in this Newsletter. She was so grateful to Tino Ferero who bred this plant from seed as part of his 'Yellow Green Girl' programme and gave it to her for a birthday present. Indeed, most of Trudie's clivias originate from Tino. She says that he and his wife Marita have been like parents to her.

Trudie exhibited it at the Northern Clivia Club Show in the section for 'green-throated yellow miniatas', where it was judged the best in the section, but with a "second place" award, because the umbel was not sufficiently above the leaves. As I am sure you will agree, its nevertheless pretty good, for a first-time flowerer.

Tino tells me that it is an F1 sibling from his 'Yellow Green Girl' that was featured in the very first Clivia Yearbook. His experience is that not all the offspring from seed have green throats, but that this characteristic is carried over to about 50% of F1 siblings. Some have more prominent green throats than the mother plant, and also retain this feature throughout. Joe Dana, in California also has one of these special plants of Tino's.

Trudie has pollinated her plant with pollen from another green throated yellow, and plans to grow the resultant seedlings to flowering stage, aiming to select those plants that have inherited the highly sought after persistent green throats.

#### **Photo No. 5**

Pierre and Isabelle de Coster, with Diné



Calitz in their highly efficient Clivia Glasshouse in Melle, just outside Ghent, 50 kms Northwest of Brussels, Belgium - a memorable visit in April 2001.

Coen Calitz writes as follows:

"When, at an advanced age, my serious love affair with Clivia began, I discreetly asked around about the people who really knew what they were doing in the Clivia world. Apart from the mysterious figures of Nakamura and Sahin, the name Pierre de Coster was often mentioned.

I was elated to find two articles by him in my first book on Clivia, the 1998 Yearbook. We devoured his articles, despairing of ever knowing enough, let alone growing clivias successfully. Twice in his article, Pierre mentioned "mechanized" Being of profession an Ergonomist\* and Industrial Psychologist and naturally lazy to boot, I had visions of a machine carefully, swiftly, precisely and lovingly removing a plant, repotting it and moving it along on a conveyor, with healthy, glowing, flowering plants appearing at a hatch to be whisked off to their breathlessly waiting owners.

Well, the part of the machine was airy-fairy, but certain elements of it were true. All the love, care and efficiency were there, but was done by only three sets of human hands. The best organisation and the cleverest tools, self-designed to remove some of the drudgery, aided them. We found a neat, kindly, soft-spoken man with a shy smile and a lively, vivacious friendly woman carrying a red notebook in which all the records of their operations are kept. That they found time to fetch and return these ignorant strangers from the guesthouse in Ghent, still amazes me, since January to April is their busiest time.

Some of the innovations designed and adapted by Pierre can be seen in the background. You can see cantilevered pallets to move

plants along overhead tracks and a hopper to fill the pots with sized holes to receive the standardized seedlings. Browsing around, we were shown a rake-like tool which could pick up 12 pots at a time and deposit them with a flick of the wrist; a movable conveyor belt to shift plants; simple templates to press holes in a standardised seed tray; a computerised feeding and watering system with all the input and output variables carefully measured and monitored and many more. Pierre must be the most naturally talented Ergonomist around. Now I understood why the two of them, plus one aged worker, could market 200 000 flowering Clivia per year.

But what about the plants, you may ask? Clivia have been grown in Ghent since the middle 1800's. Over decades, through careful selection, a standard, symmetrical miniatra with lush dark green textured leaves and large, bright flowers, marketable after two to four years, have been developed - the well-known 'Belgian Hybrid', which we probably all have in our collections. Yet, I was amazed to see amongst the remaining plants after their main marketing, many plants with beautiful and unusual features - green throats, pastels, pinks, light greens, white hearts, polychromes, variegates, huge Old Belgians, half sized miniatures and many others, all extremely desirable to me as a beginner, but not popular amongst the conservative regular buyers in Europe. The market for Yellows is very limited - there is only some demand at Easter, when all yellow flowers are popular. At the 2002 Dutch flower auctions, on the list of pot plants, Clivia are only ranked 103rd, with little expansion potential (Knippels, P; IBSA Bulletin No. 52, December 2003).

Another very obvious feature was how neat and clean the whole glasshouse was. You could sit on the concrete floor in your white slacks, not a leaf or root lying around. The young plants, all sorted by size, stood in ser-

ried ranks, with all the leaves neatly pointing in the same direction. Here and there a flower shyly peeped out - promises of great things to come.

Pierre sells large numbers of seeds, also to growers in South Africa. I was very careful not to ask for seeds, but as we left, was presented with several small envelopes containing the seeds from the very same plants I enthused about! They should flower this year and it is a great joy just to think of it.

Flavours of the season may vary, and unusual shapes and colours may appear, but one of the best *Clivias* is still the 'Belgian Hybrid', proud heritage of the most efficient *Clivia* grower and some of the nicest people we have ever met - treasures in the *Clivia* community, they and their plants.

(Personal note: The last obstruction I would wish to place on Pierre's efficient operation

would be to cause hordes of rubbernecking *Clivia* lovers to descend unannounced upon them. For the record, I posted a message on the enthusiast group's website and received personal invitations from 9 European growers. Based on our time and itinerary, we were able to visit 4. Thanks very much to Dirk, Jaap and Aart, who all also went out of their way to show us around. We learned a lot from all of you and thoroughly enjoyed it. When you come to the Cape, we will gladly return the favours. Coen and Diné Calitz)

\*(My old - and sexist, in today's terms - dictionary defines ergonomics as: the study of man or of individual men in relation to working environment: adaptation of machines and general conditions to fit the individual so that he may work at maximum efficiency. But what about working women?)

*John van der Linde.*

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## *Correspondence*

### **Some *Clivias* associated with Ammie Grobler**

Ammie was fortunate in starting with habitat specimens of *Clivias* that are show stoppers in their own right, such as 'King' and 'Queen'. Then there is his signature plant, also one of the habitat specimens of Oribi Gorge, never shown, although published in *New Spectrum* of *Clivias* - picture number 150, rather circumspectly termed "South African *Clivia*" - namely his 'Lady of Oribi'. Some of the cultivars derived from his breeding of Oribi Gorge (coded NOG = Natal Oribi Gorge) are respectively 'Amersia', 'Tersia' and 'Carol'. He enjoyed telling the story of 'Carol', a plant he had sold from his nursery stock to a nearby neighbour. When he saw it in bloom he begged her to sell it back to him, or

exchange it for any plant of her choosing. But she would not part with it. He approached her son as intermediary. Eventually she, with tears welling in her eyes, returned the plant. In gratitude he gave it her name.

In setting his breeding programme, Ammie decided to attempt to breed for shorter broad leaves whilst retaining the soccer-ball umbel for which the Oribi Gorge habitat form of *C. miniata* is renowned. To this end he bought in 'Coromandel robusta' varieties of *Clivia miniata*, derived from the stock of Belgium broad-leafed orange-reds brought in by Sidney Press's horticulturalist to his nursery at his Coromandel Farm in the then Eastern Transvaal Lowveld. Ammie's belief was that *Clivias* for the home should be

smaller plants with showy umbels. His brand stock-plant was thus a short broad-leaved variety with good clear open large orange flowers on sturdy peduncles clear of the leaves. Surprisingly, although he bred and sold these by the hundreds - if not thousands - they were never named. The first pollen I was given was from such a plant, merely by way of experimentation. It has extremely viable pollen and produces large fat berries.

The only other plants that Ammie bought to supplement his breeding stock were yellows, variegated and, more recently, Chinese cultivars. Ammie's first yellow *C. miniata* was a 'Giddy Yellow' given to him by an old school friend, Joe Gevea. In order to acquire more yellows he traveled across the country to visit growers. At the time of Ammie's death he had bred an F2 generation of his 'Giddy Yellow', which produced about eighty percent green-based seedlings. He was particularly proud of this achievement. Although he visited the Giddy home, Cynthia was not there at the time so he never made her personal acquaintance. He visited Emmie Wittig at Dalton, KwaZulu Natal, to acquire plants - yellows and pastels. His breeding programme produced the so-called 'Wittig Gemeng' [Wittig Mixed] - yellow taken to pastel producing green-based seedlings, with results still expected. 'Watkins' Yellow' was acquired from the "oubaas" (old chap) and used to produce his first variegated yellows, which have yet to bloom. On my last visit - one of, sadly, too few - Ammie spoke of the conservationists reporting yellows in the Oribi Nature Reserve, but their whereabouts are a well-guarded secret. Yet he must, by then, have known that he had cracked the code, for in his collection was a tray of Oribi Gorge seedlings - all green based!

His first variegated plants - three of them - were bought on a visit to Jim Holmes in the Cape in about 1997, which were plants of Jim's own breeding programme. Ammie's

variegated orange *C. miniata* was a perennial winner in its class at the Northern Clivia Club Show.

He selected from his breeding for extra broad leaved multi-tepal bright orange-reds, which he marked 'HO' (Helder Oranje = Bright Clear Orange) or 'HO-R' (Helder Oranje-Rooi = Bright Clear Orange-Red) 'MP' (Multi Petal) and plants that had exceptional characteristics were labeled 'x3' or 'Super (x3)'. These became mother plants in his breeding stock. His expectation was that the best of his breeding programme will be seen at the 2006 Show when they will be in bloom for the first time.

His last venture was the importation and sale - in association with Andre van Ryn - of Chinese Clivia cultivars. Select specimens from these formed a new addition to his expansive collection - Monks, Light of Buddas, Darumas and Sparrows.

Plants from Ammie's breeding programme are spread nation-wide, and seed and pollen has been distributed across the globe. Ammie's advice was for every grower to retain mother stock - particularly of unimproved and unhybridised forms - as a gene bank for the future.

Tersia kept the bulk of the mother plants and collectables, although she has been obliged to reduce their numbers, and sell some on to other breeders and collectors. Joubert van Wyk, who will - in all likelihood - be showing specimens at the 2006 show, bought the rest of Ammie's nursery stock in its entirety.

*Roger Fisher*

### **Drainage slots in plastic pots**

I have found the advice by Willie le Roux regarding extra drainage slots on page 15 of newsletter 13 (4) summer 2004 very helpful. However, I have found a masonry disk CS 24T - Superflex -115x6.4x22.2 that is now available, that does an excellent job

instead of using two discs to make the slots. It does a fine job when using the 6,4mm disk. I also found that three slots on all the available plastic pots (except the small ones) work very well.

I have experienced a difference in the smoothness of the cut, depending on where you start your cut. I prefer to start the cut on the base of the pot with the angle grinder rotating towards the side whilst the pot is kept upside down. The best results are obtained when you keep the distance that the disk moves into the plastic equal on the side as well as the inside of the base of the pot.

*Tom Whitehorn*  
046-6224573

### **Bug eater**

I have read Newsletter Volume 14 No 1 and I was wondering if you people have access to a light called a "Bug Eater": It works by attracting moths which then fall into water with detergent added. This greatly reduces the Lily borer and any other destructive moths from which caterpillars emerge. In this country cluster caterpillars and many others are a pest.

I have used Natrasoap with great results but have also made sure ants are kept under control.

*J Marten*  
17 Greenwattle Street  
Toowoomba  
Queensland  
Australia

Thank you for your suggestion, Mrs. Marten. I have not heard of a Bug eater here in South Africa. We do have special blue lights which attract insects and moths. They are then burnt on the light filaments. However, a power source is needed to electrify the apparatus, so it is not very feasible in a big garden.

In her latest newsletter, Linda de Luca of Random Harvest suggests using a mixture of Eucalyptus Oil and water and spraying it on Amaryllis leaves to deter moths from laying eggs. However she is not sure of the strength of the mixture and will experiment with different solutions before publishing the results. Too strong a mixture could burn the leaves.

*Editor.*

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*Musings*

### **Musings 2 - Breeder's Sorrow<sup>1</sup>**

My mother bloom'd! my father ripe'd.  
Into the dangerous world I crept.  
Helpless, fruited, looking proud;  
Like a friend hid in a shroud.  
Struggling from my infant bond,  
Striving against my swaddling strands,  
Bound and weary I thought apt  
To sulk, beyond my breeders grasp.

*(William Blake, I am humbled by the debt!)*

The odd thing about plant pollination is that it exposes one to one's greatest depths of ignorance. I've noticed at Clivia Club meetings that members show the greatest level of ignorance concerning the biology of plants. I actually have no excuse for ignorance since I have both first year University level biological sciences and ecology, both of which I passed comfortably well (unlike physics). The teaching of biology as a subject in this eco-systemic era should be compulsory at schools, and the Clivia a mandatory model

plant in the curriculum. Can you imagine the membership this would engender if each pupil were charged with minding their own plant, and the hybridisation opportunities if pupils were doing crossings as part of their class work!

I only now in later life discover that, with plants, there are three episodes of genetic exchange in the making of a planting.

1. The gametes meet and unite to form the embryo
2. There is a parallel union of haploid cells to form the supporting seed tissue
3. In the formation of the seedling the mother donates a range of organelles, each with their own genetic identity

Now some of this is old hat. We all know that the father fertilises the mother and the result is, amongst all other things, us human beings. But it is news to me that, in plants, this is a double fertilisation.<sup>2</sup> Apparently a failure of fertilisation is more often than not a failure of the supporting fertilisation for the formation of the nutrients in the seed.

And then there is the genetics of the supporting cell organelles of the gamete. These all derive from the mother. And each has its own genetic identity - free of sexual reproduction. The theory is that all organelles were once bacteria which have now come into such a unified symbiosis so as to create cells.<sup>3</sup> The apple cart that this concerted effort of bacterial symbiosis upset is Mendelian inheritance. I was raised on simple Mendelianism - put a pure red pea to a pure white pea and you'll get pure pink pea. Put pink to red or white and you'll get reds or whites and pinks in equal measure; to pink and you'll get one of the classic Mendelian colour distributions. In *Clivias* this is the split orange colour inheritance pattern.

Well things are not that simple. If you wish to perpetuate variegation it's to mother plants you must go.<sup>4</sup> This still has a compre-

hendible logic once you understand where organelles - in this case chloroplasts - come from.

But try the theory that in order to increase the chance of multi- and/or polytepals you have a far greater success rate if you cross onto a multi- and/or polytepal flower<sup>5</sup> - even if this is the only one on the umbel! This smacks of pure Lamarckianism.<sup>6</sup> And his theories are not favoured in the circles of earnest geneticists.

I recall reading Arthur Koestler's 'The case of the midwife toad' and putting credulity on hold. It's obviously a read I need to revisit.

The other recent piece of information I have is that the male Y chromosome was produced some three million years ago and then had three thousand odd genes but has now been reduced to eighty since it has no sexual technique of genetic replenishment.

So my addled brain is full of questions, some of them probably trivial to the knowledgeable. Is there really a Lamarckian aspect in plant - and perhaps even animal - inheritance, namely that acquired characteristics are inheritable?

And if variegation is the consequence of a dysfunctional chloroplast should it be encouraged?

*Roger Fisher*

- 1 A parody on 'Infant Sorrow' in 'Songs of Experience' in Bronowski, J. 1973. William Blake. Harmondsworth: Penguin Books. p54.
- 2 Robbertse, H & Swanevelde, ZH. 2001. *Clivia* pollen: function and structure. In: Winter, J, Dower, M & Felbert, C (Eds). *Clivia Three*. Kirstenbosch: Clivia Society, pp 13-15; Robbertse, H. 2001. The *Clivia* pistil: structure and function. In: Winter, J, Dower, M & Felbert, C (Eds). *Clivia Three*. Kirstenbosch: Clivia Society, pp 16-19.
- 3 Mendel, Gregor Johan (1822-84), an Austrian monk who discovered and formulated the basic statistical laws which describe inheritance of characteristics.

His work was neglected in his own lifetime but rediscovered in 1900.

- 4 See Chapter 11 'Variegated Clivias' in Koopowitz, Harold. 2002. Clivias. Portland: Timber Press;
- Smith, Kenneth R. 2004. Maternal inheritance: some observations about variegated Clivia. In: Van der Linde, J, Dixon, R & Felbert, C. Clivia 6. Kirstenbosch: Clivia Society pp 30-32.
- 5 Sasaki, Shingetaka. 2004. Multipetal breeding. In: Van der Linde, J, Dixon, R & Felbert, C. Clivia 6.

Kirstenbosch: Clivia Society pp 57-59.

- 6 Lamarck, Jean Baptiste Pierre Antoine de Monnet, Chevalier de (1744 -1829), a French biologist and founder of a theory of evolution where any sustained change in the conditions of life change the habits of creatures which in turn change their structures, which then become inheritable characteristics. It is claimed that this theory is demonstrated by experiment to be untenable. He *coined the term 'biology'*.

## Questions and answers

### Persistent stigma

I have a broad leaf Belgium Hybrid type mini-ata that is bearing seed. It flowered on a short peduncle. I have observed that what must have originally been the stigma of the flower is now protruding at the front of the berry. I assume that the seed pods have developed around the stigma after fertilisation and have now formed part of the berry. I have seen this happen on several of my other plants. The difference is that in the present case the stigma has developed with the berry and has not fallen off as they usually do.

The stigmas are now firmly attached to the berries and have a natural green colour, giving the impression that it has formed and developed naturally with the berries. The protruding stigmas are about 28 - 30mm in length. This occurrence is only visible on a few of the berries. I would like to know whether or not this is a normal occurrence.

Tom Whitehorn  
Tel: 046-6224573

**Answer:** All plants consist of three organs only, namely root, stem, and leaf; and all structures originate from one or more of these organs. A flower is a short stem with limited longitudinal growth (it's growing tip becomes inactive), and a definite number of modified leaves. In Clivia the ovary (which after fertilization forms the fruit) consists of

three fused leaves (carpels) round the reduced stem. The tips of these carpels are drawn out into threads and fused to form the style, and at the very end of the style the three leaves separate again to form the three branches of the stigma. It appears that, for some or other reason, the growing tip of the floral stem did not stop growing, eventually branched, and then bore more flowers. The structure on your photos is therefore not a style, but a continuation of the floral axis.

Dr. Piet Vorster  
Stellenbosch, South Africa



### Offshoot or seedling?

How do judges differentiate between an offshoot (sucker) and a seedling plant, when plants are entered as "seedlings - flowering for the first time" at shows?

Tom Whitehorn

**Answer:** The judges rely on the honesty of members. Only if there was a challenge would they, and the Club, take any action.

John van der Linde.  
Cape Town, South Africa

### **Browning at tips of leaves**

Is it correct to say that the slight browning at the tip of leaves of *Clivias* originating from KwaZulu Natal is a common occurrence? If so, what is the reason?

Tom Whitehorn

**Answer:** The majority of *C. miniata* plants originated in KwaZulu-Natal and show no signs of browning of the leaf tip. Therefore it is not a common occurrence. However, a certain strain, 'Giddy's Yellow' or 'Natal Yellow' (see discussion in Yearbook 7 on the controversy regarding the correct names of these strains) usually show this phenomenon. The reason is not known. The discolouration looks similar to certain nutrient deficiencies. It appears as if even high dosages of nutrients do not rectify this problem. Therefore this strain may contain a mutation inhibiting the uptake of certain nutrients or it may be a mutation causing leaf tips to die. Our lack of knowledge on *Clivia* is staggering!

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### **Variiegated suckers from non-variegated plants?**

We know that variegation is the result of dividing cells. How can an ordinary *Clivia miniata* have a variegated sucker? Such a plant was on display during the EP annual

meeting I attended. (Charl Coetzee had the plant on display).

Tom Whitehorn

**Answer:** We enjoy variegation at a macroscopic level, but it is determined microscopically, with a *Clivia* leaf cell being perhaps 0.01 mm in size. Most of the seedling's genes will be on the 22 chromosomes in the nucleus (half from each parent) but some are in the cytoplasm which is contributed by the berry parent only. According to Ben Zonneveld of Leiden University, although those genes that finally determine the presence of chlorophyll appear to be in the cytoplasm, there are many (perhaps 1 000) nuclear genes that also influence the development of chloroplasts.

For a seedling to develop variegation, its ovum must have contained in its cytoplasm a mix of chlorophyll functional and dysfunctional organelles, the tiny bodies that give rise to chloroplasts, chromoplasts, mitochondria, etc. In regular variegation, the stripes down the length of the leaf arise from adjoining chlorophyll dysfunctional cells in the meristem, which is the source of all new growth.

The number of such adjacent cells will determine whether the stripe is wide enough to be visible and there must be many invisible stripes that are only one or a few cells wide. The scape, inflorescence and finally the specific seed that gave rise to our specific plant can trace their origin back to a single cell in the meristem. That single cell may have been in line with an invisible stripe and so have the necessary mix of chloroplasts for our seedling to be variegated.

To confuse amateurs such as us, a final curve ball is that with cell division the cytoplasm separates at random and not predictably as do the chromosomes, so inheritance of variegation is unpredictable. Our single cell may have chloroplasts that are all

green, albino or a mix of the two, and our plant will reflect that mix.

Similarly, the offset in question may have arisen from a section of the meristem which has, invisible to the naked eye, a number of variegated cells.

In our experience, the majority of seedlings from a variegated parent are not visually variegated and most of those green leaf plants probably end up as standard clivias, being kept in the collection, sold or given away. And in amongst them and their progeny there could be lurking the cytoplasmic genes which will give rise to the next show winner!

Connie and James Abel  
Pretoria, South Africa

### **Variegation in *Clivia cyrtanthiflora*?**

Why is variegation not seen in *Cyrtanthiflora*-type *Clivias*?

Tom Whitehorn

**Answer:** There is no scientific reason why *cyrtanthiflora* hybrids cannot have variegation. I am not sure of the genetical basis of variegation, but it looks as if it may be recessive. This means that such a hybrid produced from a variegated *Clivia miniata* won't show variegation, but if that hybrid is self-pollinated some of its seedlings should show variegation. A reason why spontaneous variegation in *cyrtanthiflora* hybrids appears to be unknown, may be that it is by nature a rare phenomenon. There are many more plants of *C. miniata* than that of hybrids so that chances of spontaneous variegation in hybrids is much less common.

Dr. Piet Vorster  
Stellenbosch, South Africa

### **Drainage from pots on different surfaces**

Is there a difference affecting the drainage, aeration or capillary action when *Clivia* in pots are placed on bricks or similar material

instead of placing them directly on the soil surface?

Tom Whitehorn

**Answer:** I would like to discuss "drainage aeration or capillary action" first:

a. Aeration: This depends mainly on the sizes of pores in the growing medium. Pore size depends on the particle size:

large particles pack with large pores between them,

small particles pack with small pores and

a mixture of large and small particles results in close packing of particles and, depending on the ratio of large and small particles, a variety of pore sizes.

Air in the growing medium depends on the percentage of large pores present and is expressed as air-filled porosity (AFP). The recommended AFP of a growing medium for *clivias* is 20 % (volume percent).

b. Capillary action: It is a phenomenon whereby water (liquid) overcomes gravity through the action of two forces - cohesion (water molecules glued together) and adhesion (water molecules glued onto the surface of the solid). The smaller the diameter of the pore (capillary) the higher the water will rise into the pores. Widening the pores by using larger particles results in less "free water" (water not used to "wet" the surface of the particle), because gravity pulls the free water down. The top will be drier than the bottom in the soil profile.

c. Drainage: An analogy between the drying of washing and drainage can be drawn: If we observe a water saturated blanket pegged onto the washing line we will first see water draining rapidly from the higher parts of the blanket and flowing freely from the lowest edge. The flow gradually lessens and finally stops. The top of the blanket feels relatively dry while the bottom is wetter. This is exactly what hap-



pens when we water a pot filled with a growing medium. The amount of water retained by the growing medium depends on the distribution of large and small pores in it.

If we use a dry towel (or blotting paper) and dip the one side into water we will notice that the water moves up into the towel wetting it. This movement of the water is by capillary action in the small pores of the towel. How high will the water rise? It depends on continuous capillary pores. Any coarse layer gives rise to large pores and less or no capillary action.

If the growing medium and the soil are in direct contact to form continuous pores (capillaries) drainage from a pot placed on a brick will differ from one directly placed on soil. A brick's surface, depending on the firing temperature, will have more sealed pores on the surface resulting in little or no capillary action.

Dr. Lena van der Merwe  
Pretoria, South Africa

### **Conditions affecting flowering in Clivia**

As an ordinary grower it appears that various studies have been carried out in respect of the flowering period of Clivia. It appears that I either miss the most important aspects as I struggle year after year with plants that either flower too early or too late for the annual show.

In at least two of the editorial comments in the Clivia society's newsletters, Vol. 12 No 4 Summer 2003 and Vol 13 No 3 Spring 2004, has the effects of a mild winter and that of an exceptional cold winter being describe in relation to the influence that these had on the flowering of Clivia.

From the yearbooks one finds that various studies have being conducted in respect of a wide range of aspects, concerning Clivia, where the flowering of Clivia has to some extend been discussed. It would appear that

there is to a large extend a common sharing in the findings that the under mentioned issues plays an important role as far as flower initiation and flower stalk elongation, as well as the setback or retarding of flowering are concerned:-

1. Cold treatment, which differ from 14 days, 45 days and several months.
2. The increase of the growing temperatures after the cold treatment
3. Supplementary lighting
4. Drought stresses
5. Conducting optimal growing conditions
6. Nutrition
7. Promotion of healthy growth during the juvenile stages of the plant
8. Exposing the Clivia to longer or shorter days that is artificially created
9. Placing of the plant in a dark room to retard the flowering.

With the exception of point 9 which was obtained as part of an annexure on preparing Clivia plants for show that was issued by the EPCC the rest of the above points were obtained from the under mentioned year-books:-

First Yearbook 1998 pages 13 to 17  
Yearbook three pages 30 to 35  
Yearbook five pages 42 to 47 as well as pages 69 to 71

Could someone e.g. an experienced grower or expert in the field please advise where the emphasis should be as well as the recommended feeding and time when the cold treatment etc. should be carried out.

I am personally of the opinion that one's own individual climate and other conditions play a tremendous roll and that except where you remove potential plants before the time and place them in an environment that could be controlled, that there is actually very little else, besides giving the correct nutrients, that one could do. Plants that are kept in a

shade house can also be managed better to ensure better flowering.

My own plants are kept under a tree with a canopy and apart from having a fierce problem with the elements one have a big onslaught from pests that is not usually found in a shade house.

Another question that will also have to be answered is the extent to which the movement that had occurred on the ocean floor, prior to the Tsunami disaster, would have an effect on plant life in general, as it would to some extent contribute to a worldwide change in the atmosphere. I have observed various changes in other plants over the last couple of years in respect of their growth cycles and flowering time and is therefore also interesting to know whether changes in the growth pattern and cycle of Clivia could also be expected.

The contents and scope of my questions is very wide and would perhaps have to be divided into more than one question, and would most likely have to be answered by more than one person in the various fields of expertise.

I am busy erecting a small shade house and need the information to do a sensible transfer of some of the plants from the canopy under the tree to the shade house, as I would only be able to move about half of the plants.

I anticipate an answer to my questions to solve at least some of my problems in respect of the unusual flowering time of most of my plants.

Tom Whitehorn  
046 622 4573

**Answers:** I was elected on the management committee of the NCC from January 2000 responsible for the programme of events in the Club. As a trained scientist I realised the need of writing up the information exchanged at the Club meetings and started to write notes and collect hard copies of the

papers delivered. When our Chairman, Chris Vlok, discussed the reprinting of "Hints on growing Clivia" I volunteered to co-ordinate the project of rewriting Hints. This led to a new book - Cultivation of Clivia. This publication is available from your club, representative or from the Clivia Society. About all Tom's concerns are addressed in this book as quoted in the answers to follow:

Questions 1 & 2: Do you have a commercial interest to have masses of Clivia blooms ready for the market before anyone else? If yes, then invest in cold treatment. But the ordinary Clivia enthusiast only wants his selected pollen parent to flower before the seed parent. Section 5.2 explains how to enhance and delay flowering:

- Lower temperature to delay flowering and
- Increase temperature to enhance flowering.

Questions 3,8 and 9: Supplementary lighting has no effect on leaf number (section 8.1). The first flower bud is initiated after 12 to 13 leaves and subsequent flower buds after each four to five leaves.

Less light (section 8.7) - one to two hours - ensures that the flower lasts longer especially if the temperature is also low (12 °C)(Table 8.2).

At a suitable temperature Clivia will flower normally immaterial of the length of daylight received per day. More important is the temperature difference between day and night (section 8.3).

Question 4: There are some benefits of water stress as pointed out in section 10.2: Slight water stress may help to induce flowering, but continued stress once the buds start developing will reduce yields.

Questions 5, 6 & 7: Optimal growing conditions shorten the time from seedling to mature flowering plant. These conditions include growing medium (chapter 7), tem-

perature (chapter 8), nutrition (chapter 9), watering (chapter 10) and a healthy plant (chapter 11).

### Erecting a shade house

This topic was left out of the book — different localities have different solar aspects and with it different climates. The most important factors for South Africa is

- enough shade - at least 50 % shade
- good quality reflected light - red region or blue region of the spectrum depending what result you are looking for
- good ventilation as stagnant air or poor air movement creates ideal conditions for mealy bugs and scale
- not too humid and hot - conditions favoured by many of the pathogens and
- do not keep the roots of the Clivia wet - they only want to be damp.

Buy *Cultivation of Clivia* - it is worth every cent or penny spent on it!

Dr. Lena van der Merwe  
Pretoria, South Africa

### Clivias in big gardens

The many articles on various aspects of Clivia cultivation are very interesting and I have learnt a lot from the last two newsletters.

I have a reasonably large garden with Clivias as the focal points. How about an article for us gardeners?

Ulrich Landman  
Port Elizabeth, South Africa

**Answer:** When developing a Clivia garden the most important point to keep in mind is the natural habitat in which they are found and to emulate this as far as possible. Clivia miniata grow in groups on hillsides in relatively frost-free summer rainfall areas, under dappled shade with their roots in leaf mould and where there is good drainage. They will tolerate some morning sun but not strong mid-

day or afternoon sun. Clivia planted in full sunshine usually look very unhappy. The leaves and flowers become scorched and ugly. Those growing in full shade may look healthy but very often they do not flower. Even if they receive no direct sunlight, for example against a south-facing wall, they should get some reflected light. Enthusiasts should remember that Clivia only flower for about six to eight weeks of the year with a spectacular show in August, September and October but they have little to offer for the rest of the year except for an occasional Clivia which will flower out of season.

Clivia should be grown in a frost-free area of the garden. Mature Clivia can tolerate light frost and damaged leaves can be removed but small plants may not survive. Clivia grow well in semi-shade or dappled shade. Select an area under a tree or shrub which provides dappled shade or where it is shady for much of the day. Clivia are not averse to competition with the roots of other plants. Ensure the area in which they are to be planted is well composted and that there is adequate drainage. The root system of clivias is not very deep, so it is therefore not necessary to prepare the ground too deeply. A spade's depth is adequate. Do not plant Clivia too close together. A single Clivia plant will develop many suckers and over the years will grow into a big clump. Plant Clivia in groups as they show up to better advantage when they are massed. A golden rule of gardening is to plant in groups of uneven numbers - 3, 5, 7, 9, etc. Once planted Clivia should remain in situ for many years, if not permanently. If the clumps grow too big or they are too close together they can be divided after ten or so years. They may not flower for a season or two after being divided and replanted.

Trees provide shade and shelter against sun and frost to understory plants. Take note of the trees that grow well in your area and which are drought and frost resistant. Provide variety in colour, texture, shape and

foliage to make the garden look interesting. However, bear in mind the size of your garden when planting trees. Deep rooting trees are better than surface rooting trees. Deciduous trees may not provide sufficient shade for clivias when they are dormant. Evergreen trees, which are not too dense and which allow sunlight to filter through them, create the best canopy for Clivia. If necessary, trim off untidy or low branches.

Caring for Clivia in a garden is not as complicated as caring for them in a shade house. When established a Clivia garden does not need excessive water or fertilizing. In summer rainfall areas there is sufficient precipitation for plants to be healthy and to flower well. It is advisable to water Clivia more frequently during periods of drought (perhaps once a fortnight), but they are good plants to have in a water-wise garden. On the other hand they also thrive in gardens which have irrigation systems. Where Clivia are grown in winter rainfall areas they should be watered during the hot summer months. Most clivias thrive in the garden without the addition of fertilizers, manure or compost. However, there will be better flower heads if they are given some nourishment.

With a big garden it is impossible to control infestations of Amaryllis caterpillar without regular spraying with a contact insecticide. (If only one or two plants are involved, regular inspections and hand removal of the eggs and worms would be sufficient). Between September and April spray all the Amaryllis species in the garden fortnightly with Ripcord (active ingredient Cypermethrin). Keep a few *Crinum moorei* unsprayed as indicator plants for the Amaryllis caterpillar. Clivia should receive as much light and air as possible around them to prevent Mealy bug infestations.

It is unlikely that any Clivia in a garden will be up to show standards. If one wants specimens for showing, Clivia should be potted and grown in a greenhouse or under shade cloth so that the leaves and flowers are not damaged by rain, hail, falling twigs and leaves. Other hazards are one's pets and big birds like Hadidas. A bonus for growing Clivia outdoors is that the scapes do not have to be staked. As they create the most magnificent displays they are a must in any garden.

Meg Hart.

#### Late news.

A year ago the Cape Club called for contributions to a supplementary Clivia Colour Chart they were planning to produce. To that end Roger Dixon of the Standards sub-committee requested the Clubs to measure the Clivia flower colours at their Shows with reference to the CCC Colour Chart and the RHS colour Chart but only one Club responded and no other suggestions were forthcoming.

Quite apart from selecting colours, a very real problem is to record and transmit those colours accurately. The camera and computer do not always achieve this. Then the selected colours must be matched with printing ink colours and the colours monitored and corrected as they are printed.

Just before the Northern Hemisphere flowering season the Cape Club approached leading growers to match the peach flower colours in particular to printers ink colours but nothing came of this either.

Given the success world wide of its first Colour Chart, the Cape Club is determined to pursue its supplementary Colour Chart project and has set money aside to do so. In a final effort to have as many Clivia growers as possible join in the selection of the colours, it is sourcing printers' ink colour charts which will be forwarded to as many Clubs/Societies as possible, depending on the number which can be obtained. They will be advised how to select colours from that chart and requested to forward their selections to the Cape Club which will make the final selection, based on popular demand and printing feasibility.

They are also looking into expanding the number of colours considerably by using a chart folded into a concertina of 4-5 cm wide strips each with about 8 colours printed on each side with viewing holes.

**Please support this initiative (C Vlok)**

## *2005 Show dates*

<b>Date</b>	<b>Club/Interest Group</b>	<b>Venue</b>	<b>Contact person</b>	<b>Contact detail</b>
4 June	KwaZulu-Natal Gardenii show	Kloof Baptist Church, Abelia Road, Kloof	Val Thurston Ken Rosling	031-7635736 031-7663952
20 Aug 2005	Waterberg Boslelie Interest Group	Mokopane Mall, Mokopane, (Potgietersrus)	Ernst Ferreira	015 491 6013
25 - 28 Augustus	Zoutpansberg Interest Group	Dutch Reformed Church, Soutpansberg, Louis Trichardt	Zanette Wessels	084 5700 347 015-5177108
27 Aug. 2005	Waterberg Boslelie Interest Group	Susan Strydom School Hall, Modimolie, (Nylstroom)	An Jacobs	014 717 3674
3 -4 September 2005 (to be confirmed)	Northern Clivia Club	Hoerskool die Wilgers (to be confirmed)	Christo Topham	082-4975879
10th and 11 September	Metro Clivia	Garden World Nursery on Beyers Naude Drive in Muldersdrift.	Braam Opperman Adri Haxton	+27 11 476-2586 011 802-7985
10/11 September	KwaZulu-Natal	Royal Show Grounds, Pietermaritzburg	Val Thurston Sean Chubb	031-7635736 031-7811978
10 and 11 September	Lowveld Clivia Interest Group	Hoerskool Bergvlam	Jeanette de Witt	084 512 6898
17 September	Northern KwaZulu- Natal	New Tech, Newcastle	Hottie Human Dries Olivier	034-3181327 034-3182586
17 and 18 September	Cape Clivia Club	Bellville Civic Centre	Johan Schoombee	+27 21 91 90066 0836808780
24 and 25 September	Eastern Province Clivia Club	Verkenner School Hall, Port Elizabeth	Andre Calitz Gideon Botha	082 574 9058 083 463 5416
24 September	Free State Clivia Club	Bloemfontein Primary School	Hennie vd Mescht	083 5119519
1 and 2 October	Garden Route Clivia Club	Outeniqua Primary School, Corner of Cathedral and Mead Streets, George	Gerrie Britz	044-8028420

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## *Clivia clubs and interest groups*

### **Joburg Clivia Club**

The Metro Interest Group has held four successful annual shows. Our last show at the Garden World Nursery attracted our largest number of spectators to date. We have had regular talks at our meetings held at the home of Braam Opperman.

At a Metro Clivia Interest Group meeting on the 12th March, we decided to form an independent club. In addition to our independence we wished to be a constituent member of the Clivia Society. As the name Metro was not specific to the Johannesburg Metro, the new name Joburg Clivia Club was introduced and accepted, as was the constitution. Mick Dower of the Cape Clivia Club assisted us with a draft of a constitution which met with our approval.

Acceptance from the Northern Clivia Club, of which we were an Interest Group, and the

Clivia Society followed. I'd like to thank the Chairman of the Northern Clivia Club, Peter Lambert and the Secretary of the Society, Lena van der Merwe for the assistance in the transition to club status.

Our first representation as the Joburg Clivia Club, at the Gardenex exhibition held at the Coca Cola Dome, gave us an opportunity of advertising our September show as well as recruiting new members and developing contacts within the horticultural trade.

As our membership has swelled we have moved the venue of our next meeting to the Garden World Nursery to accommodate the numbers. The enthusiasm and support from the members has been encouraging and we hope to continue building the interest in clivias in the Johannesburg area in the forthcoming years.

Glynn Middlewick.

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## *For Sale*

**Advertisements.** Tariffs for advertising in the Clivia Society Newsletter:

Smalls (1 to 6 lines):	R25.00
Smalls (7 to 10 lines):	R30.00
Quarter page:	R70.00
Half page:	R125.00
Full Page:	R250.00
A5 separate page insert:	R600.00
A4 separate page insert:	R800.00

(You will be sent an account from the treasurer for the appropriate amount.)

### **From the Clivia Society:**

Overseas members can order back volume copies of the yearbooks and newsletters (since 1992) via the society. South African members should approach their local branches. We must point out that it is difficult to quote a fixed price without knowing the method of payment and delivery. We suggest you contact Bossie de Kock (the treasurer) via e-mail at: [bossiedekock@absamail.co.za](mailto:bossiedekock@absamail.co.za) or by fax at +27 12 804 8892 and list the items you are interested in as well as the name of the coun-

try in which you reside. Bossie would then be in a position to suggest the most economical option. Australian, UK, New Zealand and USA members are reminded that they can order via Ken Smith, Dr Hamish Sloan, Di Smith and James Black respectively see centre pages for contact details. Also note that further discounts can be negotiated with Bossie for orders exceeding 10 of a specific item. The following items are available:

Item	Approximate price (US \$)*
Yearbook 6	15
Yearbook5	15
Yearbook 4	10
Yearbook3	10
Yearbook 2	10
Yearbook 1	out of stock
Cultivation of Clivias	15
Volumes 1(1992) to 11 (2002) of newsletters	10 per volume
Set of volumes 1 to 10	available on request
International membership list - hard copy	2
International membership list - electronic format	No charge

\* Including postage and banking charges if paid by credit card. Contact Bossie de Kock for quotation re payments made by cheque.

**Private advertisements:**

**Clivia species, interspecifics and specialities.**

Participate in our coordinated imports and exports of seeds and plants - Asia, ANZ, N. Am. & Eu. Connie Abel, Pretoria, +27-12-3616406 or jcabel@absamail.co.za

**Yellow Nogqaza strains** from R15 to R120. Orange from R1 to R6 for mature plants. Delivery anywhere. SOUTH AFRICAN CLIVIA PLANTATION, Box 855, Hilton 3245. Call 082- 955 5433.

**Clivia miniata.** Seed R100 per kilogram. Year old plants R2 each. Roly Strachan, Box 57, Highflats 3306 or Tel. (039) 835 0085 evenings only.

Swamp *gardenii* and *miniata* seed and

**seedlings** available from various Natal and Transkei locations. Phone Andrew (039) 3135024 a/h or cell 082 7845401.

**Clivia miniata:** Creams, yellows, peaches, apricots, reds, pastels and polychromes. Seed, seedlings, mature plants and offsets of stock plants bred and selected over 25 years. Contact Bing Wiese, Pretoria tel/fax (012) 460 6382 to view.

**Thurlow Flora:** We have on offer a large variety

of carefully bred seedlings and mature plants for sale. We specialize in pastel colours, oddities, species and original wild collected and named clones of Clivia. Mail order and visitors welcome. For our latest plant list please contact Sean and Terri Chubb. Tel: 031 7811978 e-mail: terric@iafrica.com We also have available a few hundred different named daylily clones.

**Peach seedlings** (three years old) at R75 per plant. Contact Rudo Lötter on 072 777 0956 or via e-mail at clivia@iafrica.com.

**The collection of the late Jack Coetzer** of Mulbarton is for sale. Interested parties can contact his widow (Dawn Coetzer) at tel +27 11 432 3003 (after hours).

**Labeling pollinated flowers - Clivia-enthusiast e-group**

I'm curious how others label the flower heads they have pollinated. I use flat plastic stakes to identify plants but haven't come up with a secure way of labeling the flower heads that will last till the seed is mature. Looking for suggestions.

John Wilson  
San Francisco

I haven't tried them but what about the little plastic things that come on bread? I know I've seen a lot of colors on them. They have to be available somewhere. They would be compact.

John Ingram in L.A., CA.  
[www.floralarchitecture.com](http://www.floralarchitecture.com) check it out

The ties are readily available at Home Depot, or Lowe's in the U.S. So I'd wonder if they're not available at Wal-Mart's.

Here is an inexpensive source for cable ties in the USA;

<http://www.buycableties.com/catalog/?cid=5>

The big "tails" can be cut off so they look neater. Joe, your system sounds great but some of us aren't dealing with 1000's of pollinated flowers.

Just a hobbyist,  
Marilyn Paskert  
Sam Mak

I use plastic straps or ties, whatever they are called that you feed one end into a slot on the other end, they come in black, yellow, green, red, and white.

Jerrie

I use a sunfast pen to make first one stripe on the pedicel of the first flower pollinated and then write on the flower stem"/ = name of pollen plant'. Two stripes are made on the pedicel of the flower on which the next pollen is used and on the stem is written"/ = name of pollen plant", and so on. As soon as the berries are big enough the number of stripes on their pedicels are marked on the indi-

vidual berries, so that the code is not lost if they fall off during harvesting.

I find this both simple and effective.

Mick Dower  
Cape Town

I use twister seals in different colors to mark different pollen donors. I keep an Excel program of my plants with each plant assigned a number. They all have a hard plastic identification tag at the base of every plant.

One of the columns in my Excel program is devoted to current year pollinations. In 1014's data I will enter "red tag 3005 blue tag 1004" That means that the red twisters are pods pollinated by plant 3005, the blue twisters are pollinated by plant 1004. Just an idea...

Marilyn Paskert

On a sunny morning in the SF Bay Area

Since I've been asked by several people, they make twist ties in many colors. If you go to google and type in "twist ties" you will see what I mean. The trick is trying to buy them in small quantities. Here is one link for plastic outdoor-worthy ties.

[http://www.uline.com/Browse\\_Listing\\_3151.asp?desc=Plastic+Colored+Ties+%2D+Precut](http://www.uline.com/Browse_Listing_3151.asp?desc=Plastic+Colored+Ties+%2D+Precut)

If you purchase the 4" ties you can cut them in half and get twice as many.

Marilyn

zone 9 SF Bay Area

I also use the wire ties (Great idea Marilyn!!!) or different coloured flex (electrical solid core cable). I record each cross on separate plastic labels kept in the pot/ground at the base of the plant. When the berries are harvested, seeds cleaned & sown these labels are placed in the container with the seed.

Pen:)  
Western Australia



I use plastic ties to put around each individual flower and record what color was used for what cross. There are five different colors, you could double up or use two different ones on the same flower to give you more combinations. I suppose you could even punch a hole in a plastic tag and use these to hang the tag on the flower.

The worst is I don't know where to get them individually, I get them at the auto supply store in an assortment of ties, and these are the smallest one in the assortment.

Jerrie Palotti

Let's all take our hats off for Mick Dower!

I never could understand why placing twist ties in the pedicel would be any easier or efficient than using an indelible ink marker on the pedicel and then writing a key to what you pollinated on the flower stem. I do several crosses on each plant mostly and have done as many as a dozen on a single umbel. When there are too many lines, (I call them tics) it gets hard to count and then use an X, and after so many X's, I use O's. I know people who use colored threads also and never found any sense to it.

All clones and each family unit are assigned a number. Each family unit member, which is distinct enough to keep in the collection and not weeded out, is assigned an alphabetical subsection letter. Like 770-A, 770-B, 770-C. I currently

have over 170 distinct varieties of pollen in storage and write the plant number key in ink on the flower stalk to designate what each flower was pollinated with. Currently there are now over 1,800 distinct family group units and clones.

When there are so many plants to work with, there needs to be a simple efficient way to designate what is what, especially when hundreds of flowers need to be individually pollinated within, lets say six or so hours, three times a week. After pollinating each individual flower on the umbel, I then place a plastic bag loosely over the umbel of flowers.

Three reasons:

- (1) Keeps keep helpful minded pollinators away.
- (2) the overhead sprinklers from wetting the pollen and ruining it as well as washing off.
- (3) Helps increase the flowers personal humidity resulting in keeping the stigmatic fluid on the tip of the stigma from drying out, resulting in better seed set and harvest.

These are just my opinions and don't mean to tread on other very successful hybridizers. It's just how my mind works. Always trying to figure out easier and hopefully better ways to do things. Especially when there is so much to do!

Joe Dana

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## *On the compost heap*

Many Clivia in Johannesburg flowered out of season in the middle of June. It has been a surprisingly mild winter up here on the highveld - no severe frosts yet. We had a severe hailstorm in Johannesburg on 24 April, with approximately 25 cm or 1 inch of hail. Could it not be the chill resulting from the hail causing them to flower, exactly six weeks after that hailstorm? A natural "cold treatment"? Is anyone willing to experiment with ice around their Clivia for 24 hours to see what happens? If it works, please let me know so

that I can ensure my Clivia flower on time for shows.

Lily Borer (*Brithys pancratii*).



Bella Donna Oprah

Bertie & Erda Guillaume

015 517 7162

Fax 015 517 7038

bertie@cliviaworld.com

www.cliviaworld.com



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Excellent genetic stock.



*Connie and James Abel receiving their Honorary Life Membership Certificate from the chairperson of the Clivia Society.*



*Meg Hart, our newsletter editor for the past 10 years and the latest recipient of Honorary Life Membership*



## Clivia Society

P. O. Box 74868, Lynwood Ridge 0040, South Africa

Membership: R.S.A. R80.00 p.a. Overseas US\$20 (or equivalent)