

CLIVIA SOCIETY

newsletter



Volume 13 No 3

Spring 2004

CLIVIA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chairman: Chris Vlok, PO Box 99583, Garsfontein 0060,
Tel H + 27 12 998 5942, e-mail: vlokac@wol.co.za

Secretary: Lena van der Merwe, PO Box 74868, Lynnwood Ridge, 0040,
Tel & Fax +27 12 804 8892, e-mail: cliviasoc@mweb.co.za

Vice-Chairman: John van der Linde, 1 Wheelan Str.. Newlands, 7700
Tel & Fax +27 21 671 4535. e-mail: vandal@iafrica.com

Treasurer: Bossie de Kock, PO Box 38539, Garsfontein, 0042,
Tel +27 12 998 3620, e-mail: bossiedekock@absamail.co.za

Office Bearer: Ken Smith, 593 Hawkesbury Rd., Winmalee, NSW 2777, Australia.
Tel +61 2 47543287. E- mail: cliviasmith@hotmail.com

REPRESENTATIVES OF CONSTITUENT CLIVIA CLUBS

Cape: Claude Felbert, Felicity Weeden, GertWiese

Eastern Province: Willie le Roux, Charl Coetzee

Northern: Lena van der Merwe, Peter Lambert, Bossie de Kock

KwaZulu-Natal: Sean Chubb

REPRESENTATIVES OF OVERSEAS MEMBERS

Keith Hammett. 488C Don Buck Rd, Massey, Auckland 8,
New Zealand. Tel +64 9 833-9453. E-mail: kharnmett@clear.net.nz

Michael Morri, PO. Box 192, Union City, Michigan 49094 USA.
Direct enquiries to Michael at either tel. (517) 741-4769 or
E-mail: MorriGardens@cbpu.com

Ken Smith, 593 Hawkesbury Rd., Winmalee, NSW 2777, Australia. Tel
+ 61 2 47543287. E-mail: cliviasmith@hotmail.com

Aart van Voorst. Frederick Hendriklaan 49, Hillegom, TE 2181,
Netherlands. Tel: +31 252529679; email: a.v.voorst@freeler.nl

OTHER OVERSEAS CONTACT PERSONS FOR MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

United Kingdom Dr Hamish Sloan, 40 Wendan Road, Newbury, Berkshire RG14 7AF,
England, UK.
Tel: 044 1635 47417; e-mail: Hamish.sloan@virgin.net

New Zealand Di Smith, 71 Taylor Road, Mangere Bridge, Auckland, New Zealand.
Tel: (09) 634 6807 or 021 231 9200; e-mail: dismith@clear.net.nz

(Continued on inside back cover)

Contents

CLIVIA SOCIETY COMMITTEE MEMBERS	Inside front cover
EDITORIAL-Meg Hart	2
FROM THE CHAIRMAN — Chris Vlok	3
STORIES BEHIND THE COVER PHOTOGRAPHS — John van der Linde	4
CORRESPONDENCE	6
A bedtime story - The Clivia Fairy	6
Clivias in China - Sakkie Nel	6
An interesting adjunct on Katherine Saunders - Roger Fisher	8
THEY LIVE IN ALLIANCE WITH NATURE - Paul Edmunds (Submitted by Roger Fisher)	9
SOME EARLY NAMES ASSOCIATED WITH CLIVIA — NO. 8 ROBERT DYER	
— John van der Linde	12
WIN SEED WITH YOUR CLIVIA PHOTOS — Claude Felbert	13
IN MEMORIAM - A TRIBUTE TO AMMIE GROBLER — Cobus Roos	15
CLIVIA CLUBS AND INTEREST GROUPS	16
EASTERN PROVINCE CLIVIA CLUB	16
Open meeting and Interspecific Show — Willie le Roux	16
2004 show report - Willie le Roux	16
GARDEN ROUTE CLIVIA CLUB	17
2004 show report - Gerrie Britz	17
NORTHERN CLIVIA CLUB	18
Gedenkdiens vir Ammie Grobler:16 September 2004— Peter Lambert	18
CAPE CLIVIA CLUB	19
Centenarian celebration at Kirstenbosch — Marlene Bilas	19
FOR SALE	20
BEGINNER'S LUCK — Show preparation — Meg Hart	21
ON THE COMPOST HEAP— Meg Hart	22

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

A mild winter brought the clivias on earlier than usual this year. September is now over and the last of the clivia blooms are fading. We anxiously await the first summer rains on the highveld. (A weatherman says they usually appear ten days on either side of the 10 October). It has been a busy clivia season with shows starting in early spring and ending in late September. All the usual organizational efforts have had to be done for the shows as well as all the common clivia tasks: harvesting berries, pollinating flowers, fertilizing plants and spraying against attacks from the Lily Borer.

The popularity of clivia continues to grow with shows being bigger and better with increasingly magnificent plants and blooms on display. New cultivars with the most superb shapes, sizes and colours appear and when sold go for astronomical prices. Great care goes into preparing plants for shows with not a mark on a leaf or pot, and the flowers on the umbels perfect posy-like spheres. The Northern Clivia Club (Pretoria) and Metro Group (Johannesburg) shows were held at nursery venues, the beautiful Safari and Garden World nurseries. As shows get bigger and better, they are shown on the Internet but there is less enthusiasm for reporting them in the newsletter. Willie le Roux and Gerie Britz are exceptions. They report on the Eastern Province (Port Elizabeth) and Garden Route (George) shows respectively.

A draft document on 'Standards' has been

compiled by Roger Dixon and Keith Hammett. The 'Oprah' clivia has been chosen and the name of the winning entry will soon be announced. Lily Borer hears it would have won a 'Best on Show' on a previous occasion but lost points because of a dirty pot! A Clivia Society member celebrated her hundredth birthday at Kirstenbosch in Cape Town. Sadly, Ammie Grobler has passed away in Pretoria. As a special tribute to Ammie, it has been decided to publish both contributions without translating the original documents into English.

The theme for this spring is devoted to Nature. Roger Fisher delves into archives and finds narratives that tell us more about female characters associated with clivia. The piece on Katherine Saunders (of Tongaat fame) describes her personality and idiosyncrasies and from the Cory Library at Rhodes University in Grahamstown a fascinating story is told about the Blackbeard sisters. Other tidbits on clivia come from 'The Clivia Fairy' and Sakkie Nel who has written up a talk on Chinese Clivia. John van der Linde brings to a close his series on "Some early names associated with Clivia" with Robert Dyer a pioneer who first described *Clivia caulescens*.

The summer lies ahead of us and we will all be watching our handiwork of the plantings as the season develops. The Editor and others look forward to a spate of new growth and dreams of next spring.

Editor.

From the Chairman

Dear Friends

Very positive feedback was received regarding all the shows. Congratulations and thank you for all the hard work that went into organizing the eleven shows and exhibitions held in South Africa. Our friends in New Zealand and Australia also had fantastic exhibitions in their respective countries. Hats off to the Lowveld Interest Group who staged an excellent first Clivia Show. They really did it in style by also crowning Nicolette Steyn as "Miss Clivia". The Northern Clivia Club's decision to move to Safari Garden Centre (most probably the venue for the 2006 conference) proved to be a sound decision. The Eastern Province Clivia Club enrolled more than 40 new members at their show. The phone calls I received on the evening of Sunday 26 September were most exciting - the messages were short and sweet - "Watch the news - the Eastern Province Clivia Club's show will be on TV." Well done Eastern Province!



Unfortunately the Editor received only two show reports in time for publication. We have since requested other clubs and interest groups to submit show reports that will

be published in the next newsletter. A document reflecting the results of all the shows will soon be ready (also on the website). Members of South African clubs should contact their club secretaries for copies of this document. Overseas enthusiasts can contact either the Clivia Society secretary or one of the Enthusiast representatives.

We received just over twenty entries for the "Finding Oprah project". Several of the owners who submitted entries indicated that they were prepared to donate a sucker to Ms Winfrey irrespective of the outcome of the judge's decision. Judging took place on Monday 4 October at the offices of Associated Magazines in Cape Town. The Clivia Society was requested by the editor of Oprah Magazine not to make an official announcement before certain formalities had been attended to. We hope to share the outcome with you in the next newsletter. Thank you for the entries submitted by Sarel Naude, Herman van Rensburg, Mick Dower, John Winter, Lien Joubert, Cobus Roos, Lena van der Merwe, Norman Weitz, Bertie Guillaume, Freddie de Kock, George Mann, Fred van Niekerk and Frans van Zyl.

I am sure you all agree that John van der Linde, Claude Felbert and Roger Dixon did a great job on Yearbook 6 - they produced a publication that The Clivia Society is proud of. I would also like to thank everybody who contributed by forwarding articles and photographs. Without these inputs it would be impossible to produce yearbooks (and newsletters!!!). We in South Africa are also particularly pleased by the fact that New Zealand lately excels more in taking photographs than scoring tries against South Africa on the rugby field. Congratulations to Tony Barnes, the winner of the first photographic competition and thank you to Claude

Felbert who promoted this initiative. Details of the second photographic competition appear in this newsletter - please support this competition and the editorial team.

The cooperation we received from clubs to our request to upload show photographs on www.cliviasociety.org could have been better. We are nevertheless thankful for those photographs that have been posted to me or uploaded directly onto the website. Please use a moment of your time to have a look at the photo gallery. Should you want to upload photographs on our website you are most welcome to contact me so that I can give you the required password.

A draft document on guidelines for the classification and judging of Clivia has been posted for comment and discussion on our website at

http://www.cliviasociety.org/clivia_guide_intro.php. If you do not have access to the web, please contact your club's representative on the Standards and Judging committee. A uniform and easily understandable guideline to enable all to understand each other when discussing their plants is very important. Please look at the document and test it against your plants, if you have anything to add, or comments to make, please

send them to Roger Dixon so they may be discussed and incorporated into the final document. We especially need colour measurements to be made of your flowers to expand and complete our colour range terminology, and assistance with the terminology for leaf appreciation. If you have photographs which can show any of the various terms or features discussed, we would welcome them for the website. Please resize/resample photos to 800 x 600 pixels. Roger can be contacted on +27 82 457 5174 or at alchemy@global.co.za.

A word of welcome and thanks to Di Smith who has been appointed membership representative for members in New Zealand.

Note that the Yearbook 'Clivia Three' has been reprinted. A copy can be ordered from the Society secretary or from your club.

I have been informed by John Winter that Northern Cape Nature Conservation has given approval for the release of Clivia mirabilis seedlings in 2005. Full details will be published in the next newsletter and communicated to clubs.

Regards

Chris Vlok.

Stories behind the cover photographs

Photo No 1 - Front cover

This plant is considered to be a distinct form of *Clivia*, unlike any other known pendant types, and may well be judged to be a new species when described taxonomically. Fred van Niekerk has named it 'Maxima'.

Fred grew up in the Transkei and recalls seeing this plant in his mother's garden during the early 1930's. With this in mind, in September 1989 he went in search of the

plant in the natural indigenous forests in the so-called Wild Coast. He found several populations in the Umtentu River Valley in the Bizana district, close to where his parents traded for many years.

He says that this form has only been found in the magnificent scenic area of the Bizana, Flagstaff and Lusikisiki districts in Pondoland, (Mrs. Winnie Madigazela-Mandela and the late Mr. Oliver Thambo,

were both born there). In recent times this area has been prominently in the news since the proposed new Coastal National Road through the Transkei will carve it up.

Plant description: The flowers are pendant with up to 49 flowers on an umbel, which is close to the number for *C. nobilis* and decidedly more than any of the other well known pendant species - *gardenii*, Swamp or *caulescens*.

When mature the plant reaches a height of more than a metre. The leaves are strap-shaped, approximately 55mm wide, up to a metre long and slightly serrated along the edges towards the tip, another similarity with *C. nobilis*. The leaf tip is moderately pointed, intermediate between *nobilis* and *gardenii*, and similar to *caulescens*. In many cases the leaves have a *nobilis*-like median stripe. The main flowering time is late autumn, around May, the same as *gardenii*, in contrast with the other species which flower in spring or summer.

Photo No. 2

The *C. nobilis* in photo 2 belongs to Mike Jeans who lives in England. He obtained it from Ian Brown, who lives in Cape Town. Ian's mother plant is a magnificent specimen which has several times been placed first in its class at Cape Clivia Club Shows.

Ian's mother plant stands about a metre tall and has up to 70 flowers. When self-pollinated, seedlings take 7 to 8 years to bloom, by which time many offsets have been formed. Under European growing conditions plants may well bloom sooner.

C. nobilis, the second most primitive species after *mirabilis*, and the first to be named (in 1828), is easily identifiable. The leaves are stiff with a cutting leaf margin - just run your fingers down the edges. As you can see here, the leaf tips are blunt, often with a concave indentation, whereas other species

tend to have acute leaf tips. Inflorescences contain more flowers than other species.

Plants vary in flower colour, and as Harold Koopowitz has written, a well-grown specimen "with its large umbels of narrow, pendent, tubular flowers in shades of orange with contrasting green tepal tips can be quite memorable". In other species with pendent flowers, the petal tips recurve (see the *gardenii* in photos 3 and 4), whereas in *nobilis* they are straight. The stamens and style do not normally extend or protrude beyond the length of the tepals. Plants usually flower in late spring.

Photo No. 3

A yellow-flowering *C. gardenii* from the Ngome Forest in KwaZulu Natal is pictured in photo no. 3. John Winter who curates the plants in the Clivia Collection at NBI, Kirstenbosch, considers this to be the finest form of any of the plants in the *gardenii* complex. Note the flared petals and protruding stamens and style typical of *C. gardenii*. Leaves are pointed, with smooth edges, and it flowers in autumn which is typical of *C. gardenii*.

Photo No. 4

This shows Rob Drake's *gardenii* with variegated leaves flowering at his home in Kloof, inland from Durban in KZN. Rob inherited the plant from an uncle, but does not know where it originally came from. The year this picture was taken the plant flowered in reduced light, hence the pink colour. The flowers were more orange this year. The plant does not self. Rob has crossed it with a non-variegated pinkish *miniata*, and 7 out of 9 seedlings have variegated leaves, nicer than the mother plant. This autumn he crossed it with a darker orange/red *gardenii*.

John van der Linde.

A BEDTIME STORY

Once upon a time there was a Clivia Enthusiast. He was a 'Man' - most of them are! in the year 2003, during the height of Winter, a terrible Black Frost descended upon his shade houses, causing great damage to his Clivias. As fate would have it, those most damaged were the Broad leaf, Variegated, and his very special ones. He had hardly anything to put on show and he was very despondent and troubled. How could this have happened?

In 2004, he got smart. As the days got shorter and colder he put thermometers into the different shade houses to monitor the maximum and minimum temperatures. The special seedlings were moved into the main bedroom, so that they would not stop growing. "it is the warmest room in the house", he told his spouse. First there were just a few, but like Pinocchio's nose, they grew and grew. His spouse would not allow the big plants into her boudoir. On that she was adamant, so he hatched a plan. Take the cars out of the garage and put all the best plants in there. Temperature checks were done and it was definitely warmer than the shade house. So the migration of 'Wittig Pinks', 'Gail's Peach', 'Gibson Picotee', 'Golden Chalice', dark red broad leaves, 'Chubb's Peach', Thurston specials etc. etc., were moved as it got colder and colder.

The plants seemed very happy, The doors were open during the day and the garage has clear roofing on one side so light was no problem. The plants were delighted, and discussed this change of accommodation amongst them. "It is so nice and warm in here" said a 'Wittig Pink'. "Lets send up spikes". So all the 'Wittig Pinks' did just that. Not to be outdone, the 'Gibson Picotee'

did the same, followed shortly by 'Paradise Peach', and all the other peaches. 'Golden Chalice' and 'Noyce's Yellows' were not going to be left out so they followed suit. Oh what fickle things Clivias are!

Now the Clivia Enthusiast is once again dejected and miserable. The Show is not until September and most of his "Specials" will have finished flowering by then.

The moral of the story is, let Nature take its own course!!!

The Clivia Fairy

CLIVIA IN CHINA

The first clivias reached Japan from Europe in 1854. Early in the 20th Century *Clivia* had been brought to China (Qing Dao province) by a German missionary. Some reports state that this took place in the late 19th century. A second group of *Clivia* was taken to China by a Japanese by the name of Tamura after the invasion of China by Japan in 1931. After the 2nd World War these clivias remained at the Emperor's palace. In 1942 the Emperor's second concubine died and a clivia plant was displayed at her funeral. This plant did not return to the palace and remained at the temple. A monk at the temple then continued to cultivate this plant, which was named "Monk".

From the plants at the palace two plants were given as gifts: one to the Chanchun Tung Hsing Dyeing Factory, which became known as "Dyeing Factory", and the second to the Chanchun Sheng Li Park after the liberation, and which was fittingly called "Victory". Until the 1950's plants only became available as offsets (suckers). In the early 1960's some growers started to pollinate plants and a cross-breeding union was established.

In 1963 some plants (Monk) from the temple became available to the public and trade. During the 1976 Cultural Revolution the Red Guards tried to destroy all remnants of the old society, including *Clivia* plants. However, in 1980 it was estimated that about 150 000 families in Changchun still grew some *clivias*.

The official flower of Changchun

On 11th October 1984 the *Clivia* was named the flower of Changchun . After this some nationalised companies, private groups, and individuals came together and formed a large scale society to research and enhance *Clivia* cultivation. This organisation soon had 24000 members. The cultivation objectives were:

- Aesthetics - To have a plant that could be appreciated all year round
- Leaf - Viewing the leaf is better than the flower
- Flower - Beautiful leaf with a captivating flower
- Shape - Graceful style of *clivia*

“Light of Buddha”

First found in China by Mr. Wo Bo many years ago, the “Light of Buddha” was initially a plant with narrow leaves. About 15 years ago Mr. Bo started with a breeding program using a broad-leaf Japanese Daruma as pollen parent. At first the Chinese public did not want to buy the LOB as they believed that the plants suffered from a disease similar to a skin disease affecting humans! However, large number of plants and seeds were purchased by Mr. Nakamura.

The characteristics of Light of Buddha plants are bright green shiny leaves with distinct cream / white bands. New leaves are always a bright yellow with very little green, turning green with age. The leaves have distinct veins.

The Chinese concentrated their breeding of

Light of Buddha plants on the leaf appearance. On some LOB plants the variegation appears to be the same as on Akebono. Considering its history this mutation could be from the same gene pool as the Japanese Akebono. The Chinese refer to it as Akebono variegation using the Japanese word, but it still has to be shown whether the two are physiologically the same or not.

As with other forms of variegation, inheritance of the LOB variegation appears to be from the mother plant. LOB can produce up to 80% variegated seedlings, which show variegation at the 1-4 leaf stage. LOB variegation improves with age. About 8% seedlings can show normal variegation which could change to LOB as the plant grows older.

“Henglan”

Henglan was developed around 1992 by crossing Chinese Round Tip with Japanese Daruma. The leaf length should not to exceed 150mm, and the leaf width to length ratio should be 1-1.5:1, with round leaf tips. Henglan is used as a pollen parent only, as it has very strong dwarf genes, and will reduce leaf length by approximately 1/3. At present when using Henglan pollen on variegated Daruma very few good quality variegated Henglan seedlings are obtained.

“Sparrow”

Sparrow *clivia* were produced from an off-set mutation from Chinese *clivia*, about 12 years ago.

“Broad Leaves”

Broad leaves are mainly achieved by crossing short leaf Monk with Japanese Daruma, with leaves reported to reach up to 180 mm wide. Growers with extremely good plants, however, are very secretive and release little information about them. Visitors who are trusted may have the privilege of seeing some of these unique plants, but almost

without exception they refuse permission for their plants to be photographed. Such plants are so prized that no price can be attached to them or insurance cover arranged!

They are not such attractive plants as the leaves become too heavy and pendulous. To grow broad leaves the pot temperature should be maintained at 15-24 degrees C. Plants should not be allowed to carry seeds as this deforms the leaf shape.

With all their excellent tunnels and growing houses the Chinese, Japanese, Belgians, Netherlands en Americans are light years ahead of South African growers, as they can control all aspects within these houses, while our clivias must "grin and bear it" with the elements in our shadehouses. In the controlled environments of Asian, European and American plant houses the plants build up little resistance to pests and plagues as these are not allowed in. Inside these plant houses humidity, temperature, feeding, irrigation, ventilation and light are controlled as in the intensive care unit of a heart hospital.

"Monk"

The width of the leaves is 90-110mm. The plants are classified into three groups, according to leaf length, with a ratio of length-width of 3:1 -5:1:

Long-leaf Monk - More than 450mm

Medium-leaf Monk - Leaves between 350mm-450 mm

Short-leaf Monk- Leaves less than 350mm

"Daruma Monk"

When the leaves are longer, they are narrower. The leaves have much more shine and more defined veins than other forms. As the leaves become shorter and wider, so does their habit - they are more upright, in contrast to the more normal pendulous habit.

The leaf width of Daruma Monks is 90mm-150mm, with a ratio length- width of 1.5:1-

2.5:1

Long-leaf Daruma Monk - More than 250 mm

Medium-leaf Daruma Monk - Leaves between 200 mm-250 mm

Short-leaf Daruma Monk - Leaves less than 200 mm

Daruma plants were brought into China from Japan about 18 years ago.

"Round Tip"

Chinese Round Tip plants have been developed from Monk plants.

These notes were made by Sakkie Nel from Andre van Rhyn's presentation of "Clivia in China" to the members of the Northern Clivia Club in February 2004.

Sakkie (I H J) Nel

Lynnwood, Pretoria

2004-05-12

Tel +27 12-361 6415

AN INTERESTING ADJUNCT ON

KATHERINE SAUNDERS

An extract from Bayer, A. 1979. *Flower paintings of Katherine Saunders*. Tongaat: Tongaat Group, pp 88-89.

... [A]t Tongaat House, Katharine, or "Mia" as she was now called by her children and later by her grandchildren, became increasingly involved, almost to the exclusion of all else, in her own pursuits. Slight, erect, dignified, her life ordered by devout Christian belief, this brave, highly intelligent and talented woman ruled and regulated her family and home. Never having approved of alcohol, she now forbade it; utilizing her capacity for languages, she added to her fluency in Zulu, Hindustani and Tamil so that she could conduct prayers in the respective tongues of her servants; refusing to let the lack of cultural pastimes in the colony envelop her, she con-

tinued to study and read French and Italian, as well as practice and play the piano, to the admiration of Mary Tyler Gray, who heard her play one of Beethoven's sonatas.

...“even at the age of 73”; acquiring a passion for all living creatures she did not allow anything to be killed unnecessarily. She would always collect black rose beetles and parasites from her garden and then throw them away when out for a walk or during a drive. This could be carried to excess if swarms of insects invaded her garden and even threatened to destroy her plants. In

addition, terrified grandchildren put to sleep in the long upstairs “bunk-room” saw the canvas ceiling cloth writhe and quiver as snakes slithered above their heads at night. A story recounted by her daughter-in-law, Walter's wife Jean Saunders, is that she even forbade her Zanzibari maid, Marilla, to kill a snake which was in the canopy of her mistress's bed. Too scared to make the bed, the maid called James who shot it, but added “Marilla, you must not tell madam that I shot the snake”!

Roger Fisher

They live in alliance with nature ¹

Source: *Evening Post*, Saturday April 30, 1955

SCOTT'S FARM lies in a valley between Makanna's Kop and Sugar Loaf Hill. Though within the Grahamstown municipality, it is one of the last of the wild places of the district - an expanse of over-grown green, clothing the moist earth and nourishing all the creatures that such unofficialdom breeds.

Along its border drops the little stream that wet the feet of warriors when the Battle of Grahamstown was fought more than 100 years ago. The land is virginal for the most - utterly wild - but here and there cool and mellow clearings bear evidence that paths were hacked through the sanctuary many years ago.

Blues, browns and greens are the colours. Their brilliance or sombreness, matches the weather's mood, for when Grahamstown skies are overcast, the earth's covering reflects the cold and inhospitable colour. But usually sky and land are bright with blue and green radiance.

Hidden by the entangled nature is a house.

In it there live three ageing sisters, all three spinsters. They are ordinary people, yet in their way they have created great beauty.

It is about them, the animals and the plants they have tended, and the pressure of politics that this story is told.

Many years ago, Colonel Scott, military commander of the district, was honoured with an imperial grant of land on the outskirts of Grahamstown.

He built a house on the 86 square roods given to him, and lived there for a time. Later he sold the property, and eventually it passed into the hands of Mr. E.H. Marshall, grandfather of the three sisters I spoke about.

An escape

It was passed down from generation to generation until today the three sisters own it, Miss Gladys, Miss May and Miss Mauyd Blackbeard. They grow flowers, watch animals and plants and for reasons seem to prefer the company of nature to human society.

Some of their reasons are apparent if you

visit them. An afternoon at Scott's Farm is an escape from modern-day sophistication into a sanctuary of simplicity.

In these surroundings I saw a new and refreshing significance to this well-worn old verse that hangs in their dining room. It reads:

*I think that I shall never see
A poem lovely as a tree . . .
A tree whose hungry mouth is pressed
Against the earth's sweet flowering
breast.
A tree that looks at God all day
And lifts her leafy arms to pray
A tree that may in summer wear
A nest of ribbons in her hair
Upon whose bosom snow has lain
Who intimately lives with rain
Poems are made by fools like me
But only God can make a tree.*

To use their words, the three Misses Blackbeard have withdrawn into a society "where the simple things of life count."

Cornerstones of their quiet philosophy are plants, animals, the land and nearly 70 years of reminiscences. And the expression of their code is in the peculiar charm of their home and grounds.

Rare blooms

Alone, with nothing to disturb her, Miss Gladys has bred her rare collection of Clivias. She started with one pot, given to her by her mother. But through hand-crossing and gifts, she has increased her collection to about 1,500 lilies which express their beauty in massive heads of tubular blooms in shades of cream, reds and various nasturtium colours.

So valuable is her garden of Clivias that Dr A. Dyer, Government botanist at Pretoria, sent an artist down to Scott's Farm to record a

series of paintings of her blooms.² But it is really of the Blackbeards' alliance with Nature that I wish to write. The greater part of Scott's farm is a sanctuary for the hunted. It's owners are friends to all things wild, and the wild things have repaid them with their friendship.

Tamed in their enclosures are Egyptian geese, which take off at evening on wide wings for their feeding grounds, then return to the farm at dawn; owls that feed on what the Grahamstown ratcatcher brings; Stanley cranes, the ballet dancers of the menage; and many varieties of water birds.

Friendship

Some have a history. They were brought to the farm with broken legs or wings, or disabled in some way. The care and nourishment of the three sisters have restored them to normality - but they have never left; in fact, they have attracted more of their fellow creatures.

The sisters have been content in the knowledge that when storms blew, or when hunters' guns crashed, their birds were safe. And it has also pleased them that implanted somewhere in these creatures is the born knowledge of their existence and their safe haven.

So intimate has this link with the wild become, that Miss Gladys refers to her "friendship" with a timid little vleioerie [Burchell's Coucal]. "Our friendship started in the garden," she said. "I heard a rustle, then saw the little bird hop quietly and straight-legged from its green shelter. Slowly I gained its confidence, until eventually I could creep up to it with a little cut-up beef in my hand. The vleioerie would first bow, then thank me with a melodious call and eat." One day, the bird arrived at the farm with a mate - they built a nest and hatched a mop of young.

Frustrated owl

Then there was the frustrated owl, which continually laid eggs that never hatched. In a moment of pity, Miss Blackbeard put some bantam eggs under the wise old bird, and it hatched and reared a couple of bantams.

Animals also know Scott's Farm. A duiker that used to eat chocolate from Miss Blackboard's fingers was brought to the sanctuary as a starving orphan. That was just about the time when the "V" sign came into prominence, and so like the latter was the shape of the buck's ears that it was dubbed "Victory".

Disney was the tiny grysbok that preferred the shelter of the old farmhouse to the elements outside. He used to spend most of the day curled up with the dog or the cat or walk daintily after his mistress as she moved from room to room.

The tortoises deliberately rustle through dry leaves. Age does not weary them nor do the years condemn them to more than another ring on their already well-ringed shells.

You can talk of virtually any animal that can be kept in a garden, and one of the sisters' faces will light up, and she will tell you of some simple story linking that animal and Scott's Farm.

Tree from Smuts

As the years went by and the pursuit of civilization stripped more and more of the district of its indigenous look, Scott's Farm became known as a little cameo of the original. Visitors started arriving to wonder at the work and simplicity of the three women. Among them were the two famous botanists from Leyden University in Holland, Dr Lotsy and Dr. Goddijn.

They were studying plant hybrids and actually met Miss Gladys Blackbeard at a lecture demonstration on hybrid grasses at Rhodes University College. In conversation with

them, Miss Blackbeard mentioned the "human hybrids of South Africa".

The two botanists became deeply interested. With her help they organized a photographic and factual survey of Coloured people, investigating the characteristics and descent of many non-Europeans.

Their findings, which were published in Europe, gave an indication of the impact of European civilization on indigenous tribes. Some of the facts were eagerly seized on by Germany, which exploited points of the survey in its campaign to maintain and intensify racial purity.

Although General Smuts never visited Scott's Farm, he also knew about the life there. He actually sent a tree to be planted in the sanctuary.

Fateful map

Mrs. Margaret Bellinger, M.P. has admired the collection of Clivias, and so has Sir Arthur Hill, a former curator of Kew Gardens, and Dr Hutchinson, also of Kew. But all the while South Africa's problems were becoming more crystallized. An ever-increasing contrast was becoming apparent between Scott's Farm and the neighbouring ground.

Hundreds of Coloureds were arriving in the towns to work, and an arid location of dirty streets, shops and jig-saw puzzle houses slowly sprang up, completely encircling the sanctuary. It is this location that frames my last scene - the bare foyer room leading to the Mayor's Parlour in the Grahamstown City Hall. Pinned against a board is a map showing the municipality's zoning proposals as prescribed under the Groups Areas Act. An ageing woman timidly enters, and looks at the plan. She sees - what she already knew - that Scott's Farm, the love, labour and lives of three generations, is destined to be cut up for Coloured ownership.

Paul Edmunds.

Extracted from *Bothalia* 14, 3 & 4 (1985)
pg 633

Blackbeard, Gladys Ivy (1891-1975)

b. Grahamstown, C.P., 19 May 1891; d. Grahamstown, 11 Sept. 1975; gardener and nature lover who maintained a nursery for indigenous plants, especially *Amaryllidaceae* and succulents, on her property Scott's Farm on the outskirts of Grahamstown, most of which she collected and propagated herself. She supplied plants to the Albany Museum Herbarium and to authorities overseas, such as Von Poellnitz, and assisted Lhotsky and Goddiijn of Holland during their visit to the eastern Cape Province in 1927. Her collection of some 2000 plants of *Clivia* was acquired by Mr. Gordon McNeil of Ocolaco in 1962.

¹ I am indebted to Suzy Nyakale, Librarian, Cory Library, Rhodes University, Grahamstown, South Africa (Tel: 046 603 8498 E-mail: s.nyakale@ru.ac.za) for sourcing this article.

² Ms Gillian Condy, Botanical Artist to the National Botanical Institute, Brummeria, Pretoria has located two of these. On one the florets with individual inner and outer petals is illustrated, a dark brick-red *C. miniata* labeled: 'Original plant in garden at Scott's farm. Leathery from [sic] growing in open, also deeper shade. On a separate sheet two florets: 'A. *C. nobilis* from Grahamstown. B. Hybrid [*Cyrtanthiflora*-type],

Some early names associated with Clivia — No 8 Robert Dyer

This article, the last in this series, deals with Dr. Robert Dyer and his naming of *Clivia caulescens* in 1943, nearly 90 years after the last *clivia* species identification (*gardenii*) back in 1856. It is ironic that *caulescens* is the only one of the better known pendulous species NOT appearing on the cover of this particular Newsletter!

Many people knew of *Clivia* growing in the north-eastern parts of South Africa and in Swaziland. Plants had been collected in the districts of Pilgrims Rest, MacMac, Graskop and the then Pietersburg. The earliest recorded collection was in 1890, in the Barberton district, from the summit of the Saddleback Mountains.

As Dr. Dyer, then a 43-year old and shortly to become director of the Botanical Research Institute in Pretoria, wrote in *Flowering Plants of South Africa* (1931), "*Clivia caulescens* has been under observation for several years without being definitely identified... When the species was first studied there was some doubt as to the justification of separating it specifically from *C. nobilis* (Lindl) and *C. Gardenii* (Hook.)." He concludes: "Our plant (his type specimen, the one from MacMac) is intermediate in the number and size of flowers between these, and differs from both in the production of a stem up to 45cm long, which is considered sufficient justification for specific separation."

Robert Allen Dyer was born in Pietermaritzburg in 1900, educated in Natal, and gained experience at the Herbarium in Grahamstown and at Kew Gardens in England. He spent the rest of his professional career in Pretoria, where he also founded the Pretoria National Botanic Garden. He received wide recognition for his service to botany and to science in general.

C. caulescens, incidentally, has recently

been identified by DNA analysis as probably being the species most closely related to *miniata*, the more "primitive" species being *gardenii*, *nobilis* and *mirabilis*, in that order (Conrad, S.A. *Journal of Botany* 2003 , 69). Roger Dixon tells me that the species can also be identified on the basis of their chemical constituents.

John van der Linde.

Win seed with your Clivia photos

The Editorial Board of the 2005 Clivia Society Yearbook 7 announces the second Clivia Society Photographic Competition. It is open to all and the object is to encourage clivia enthusiasts to submit photographs from around the world. We would particularly like photos of plants that flower outside of the normal Clivia Show dates and therefore are not seen by many people. We intend that this will be an annual event that brings entries of photographs of attractive, as well as some unusual, Clivia flowers and plants. Prominent space will be allocated in the Yearbook to all category winners. The name of the Photographer and Grower, where submitted, will be publicized along with any other relevant information. There will be prizes for winners as shown below. The Best Photograph and Runner-up will be selected from all entries and will then not be eligible to win other categories. Prizes will be a selection of some of the rarest and most sought-after seed and/or seedlings to the value shown below and will be awarded next year when we know what is available.

Categories are as follows:

Best Photograph:	R300
Runner-up:	R200
Each of four Species Sections:	R100

(*miniata*, *caulescens*, *gardenii* & *nobilis*.)

Best Interspecific: R100

Best Habitat Picture: R100

Single Flower any specie: R100

The conditions and rules of entry are:

1. The completed entry form (see page 23) must accompany submissions.
2. All entries are welcome, but due to publishing deadlines must be received by the last day of March 2005, to be eligible.
3. Publication rights for entries will wrest with the Clivia Society.
4. Entries are limited to six per class per person.
5. Photographs may be mailed to
Clivia Photographic Competition,
P O Box 53219, Kenilworth. 7745. Cape Town. South Africa.
Or emailed to: accolade@ibox.co.za
6. Photos must be submitted in one of the following formats:
 - i. A Print in portrait or landscape at least 10 x 14 cm but no larger than 14 x 18 cm.
 - ii. A plastic mounted 35mm slide or larger format not mounted.
 - iii. On CD-R where the image is recorded

in a tiff or jpeg format. The pixel size should be a minimum of 1600 x1200 pixels as that should give a printable picture of approximately 14 x 10cm, The resolution of the image would be preferred at 300 dpi or greater but don't let a lower resolution stop you from entering.

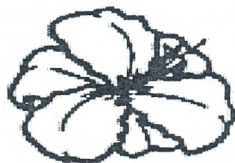
- iv. Photographs must be on their own and not embedded in another program, e.g. MS Word.
- v. An email in jpeg format at 72 dpi with picture size 10 x 14 cm.

N.B. The type of submission in v.

above must be available on a CD as all emailed photos that reach the final selection of 12, or on request, will have to be submitted to the specifications in iii. above to remain eligible.

No scanned Pictures to be submitted by email.

- 7. If you wish your Photographs returned after the competition then you should include a suitably addressed envelope. (S.A. Entrants must include a stamp).
- 8. The decision of the Editorial Board on the Winners of the Competition is final and no correspondence will be entered into.



Shields Gardens Ltd.

P.O. Box 92
Westfield IN 46074, U.S.A.

We now export

Conway's Clivias

to the whole world.

Already well-known among American connoisseurs of fine clivias.

David Conway's wonderful cultivars of *Clivia miniata* from Santa Barbara, California, are now being introduced by us to the rest of the World See them on the web at

<http://www.shieldsgardens.com/Clivia/Conway.html>

We also have rare and unusual species of *Ilaeagnus*, *Scadoxus*, and *Nerine*, as well as species and hybrids of *Crinum*,

Shields Gardens Ltd

<http://www.shieldsgardens.com/>

Tel ++1-317-867-3344 (international) & 1-866-449-3344 (toll-free in USA)

Fax ++1-317-896-5126



In memoriam — a tribute to Ammie



He had a passion for his language - Afrikaans. But I know that Oom Ammie would understand when I also share some of this with those who are not able to understand his language, and also respected and loved him.

Silence please ladies and gentlemen, A great spirit has left us.

Stilte asseblief dames en here, 'n Groot gees het ons verlaat.

Although we will no longer see his beloved face, he will forever live in our hearts. Although we will no longer hear his voice, he will speak to us for many years to come. Many of us have lots of Clivia that we bought from him, and even more he gave to us. Every year when our Clivias flower, and it is time for the annual NCC show, his spirit will wander amongst us. With Oom Ammie it was not just about Clivias. He gave so much more to those who crossed his path. I love him like I do my own father, and I know that many more share this with me. His passing leaves a void that could never be filled, not only in my life and those of many others, but even more so in the lives of his wonderful wife, Tersla, his three children, and his

grandchildren.

Dankie Oom Ammie, dat jy so baie van jouself gegee het en ons lewens verryk het. Dankie Tannie Tersia, Jannes, Martin en Rachel dat u hom so geduldig met ons gedeel het. Ons weet dat hy nou rus vind aan die voete van sy God wat hy so lief het. Ons weet dat hy nie meer pyn voel nie. En al is ons harte gebroke, het ons ook berusting in diefeit dat ons weet hy nooit ons harte sal verlaat nie, en dat hierdie pragtige blom wat hy so lief voor was elke jaar vir ons mooie herinneringe sal bring aan 'n man wat in statuur groter was as 'n mens. Sy mensliewendheid en vrygewigheid sal ons alt yd bybly.

Aan Tannie Tersia, kinders en kleinkinders - ons deel in julle smart. Maar ons is ook dankbaar vir die tyd wat ons hom kon ken, en met u kon deel. It is true that behind every successful man there is a strong woman. I can truly say that Oom Ammie was blessed to have Tannie Tersia at his side for 44 years. She was the silent strength that allowed him to be who he was. We thank her for being there, and sharing him with us. Like Oom Ammie, she has, in her silent manner, earned the respect and love of many.

Many people will wander in and out of your life, but some are so special that they'll leave footprints in your heart. The footprints that this man left in our hearts are imbedded there forever. He had a passion for life and people like no other I have ever known. He touched the lives of so many, and he gave love so unconditionally. He loved to love, and loved to be loved. He reached out with his hands, and touched the hearts of so many. Someone once said that love is the perfume of life, which you cannot pour onto others without splashing a few drops on

yourself. Oom Ammie was almost reckless in pouring buckets of love on others, and I know that it came back to him in buckets.

With this we say goodbye to a man loved by so many. We will miss him terribly. Until we meet again.

I conclude with the words of his eldest son, Jannes, at the funeral: "Chiao Oudste. Moenie worry nie".

Cobus Roos

(Clivia Society Public Relations Officer)

Clivia clubs and interest groups

EASTERN PROVINCE CLIVIA CLUB

Open meeting and mini interspecific show

Hello to all from the friendly City on the Sunshine Coast. We had our very first Interspecific Clivia mini show and open meeting during the afternoon of 24 July 2004. The main object was to introduce these crosses to our younger members and the public. In spite of inclement weather hampering flower opening, we never the less managed to fill seven tables with Interspecific plants. Advertising via our local newspapers and radio stations ensured a very high attendance. Oom Fred Gibello came all the way from Cape Town whilst Louis and Nantie Chadinha traveled from Welkom to attend. Much interest was shown and committee members were kept busy explaining how these crosses came about and answering numerous other related questions. All visitors were required to vote for their choice by means of a ballot paper. Welland Cowley's (Nakamura yellow *miniata* x *gardenii*) x (*caulescens* x *miniata*) was awarded best on show whilst Charl Malan's minigard (*miniata* x *gardenii*) was runner-up. At the end of the day the visitors went home with much more knowledge of these crosses, sellers were smiling and the Club gained 13 new members.

Cheers until next time.

Willie le Roux

Eastern Province 2004 Show Report.

Our show, which was held during the weekend 25/26 September was again extraordinary and indeed something to remember.

A beautiful display of Clivia plants and a water feature in the foyer welcomed visitors to the show. On entering the hall visitors were greeted by the 'Best On Show', a stunning peach with re-curved tepals. This magnificent specimen owned by Charl Malan was bred from a cross between a 'Vico Yellow' and a 'Chubb's Peach'. It was flanked to the right by the 'Runner-up to Best On Show', a beautiful light pastel owned by Lester De Beer. This plant originated from a garden in the holiday resort of Keurbooms and has been in the De Beer's possession for the last nine years. They only joined the Club some six months ago and needed some convincing to enter the plant in the beginner's class where it was awarded the 'Best Beginner On Show'. The runner up to the 'Best Beginner On show', the beautiful peach of Margie Young flanked the 'Best On Show' to the left. The plant was grown from seed she received from her brother in Australia. Several of the prize-winning entries can be viewed on the Clivia Society website.

The special layout of the show tables provided exceptional display for the high quality plants boasting an array of many colours, which drew numerous compliments from the visitors.

Rain throughout Saturday and Sunday morning contributed to fewer visitors than last year. Our pamphlet 'Thinking of Joining our Club', displaying a list of privileges which members are entitled to and which were distributed amongst visitors, coupled with committee members going out of their way to communicate and give information and advice to the visitors, contributed to 43 new members joining our Club.

The 'cherry on top' was undoubtedly the coverage that our show received on three channels of our National Television with the camera zooming in on the variety of colour blooms on show.

The success of our show can only be attributed to the earlier coverage by local newspapers and radio stations, the displaying of posters and banners and of-course the hard work put in by each of our committee members, as well as other members volunteering to assist prior and during the show. Thank you one and all for the part you played to make this show one to remember. A big thank you to all who donated yellow adult plants for our raffle, yellow seedlings for our new members and seed for our starter packs. Last but not least, a thank you to Gerrit Van Wyk and Cobus Roos who undertook the judging duties.

Instead of sitting back and relaxing we are already busy planning something new for next years show.

Willie Le Roux.

GARDEN ROUTE CLIVIA CLUB

Garden Route Clivia Club Show Report

The Garden Route Clivia Club staged their second Annual Show during the first week-end of October. We initially thought that this would be too late to have many flowers still in bloom for exhibition, but were pleasantly surprised by both the number and the quality of the of entries.

220 plants were entered in the 24 different classes with participants from Cape Town and Port Elizabeth.

About 1200 members of the public attended the show - this number does not include non-paying children who accompanied their parents. Seventeen potential new members took subscription forms to join the club in 2005.

All three judges, John Winter, Geraldine Vermaak and Charl Coetzee, praised the high standard of the entries in all classes. The biggest representative classes were the orange broad-leaf, yellow broad-leaf and pastel/apricot broad-leaf categories. The Best-on-Show plant was an orange broad-leaf owned by Gerhard von Coppenhagen, purchased from grower Ian Vermaak. There were two runners-up: a yellow broad-leaf owned by Malan Clivia Brothers and an inter-specific green bloom owned by Charl Coetzee. Some of the prize-winning entries can be viewed on the Clivia Society website.

The lay-out of the hall received very favourable comment, as the different categories were placed so there were varying patches of colour throughout the display area which created a very festive atmosphere. Eleven sellers were also accommodated inside the hall along the walls and on stage - their sale plants added colour and flamboyance to the whole scene.

The show committee gave their whole-hearted support to the event and chairman Gerrie Brits would like to thank these hard working members for their contribution towards the success of the show.

GERRIE BRITS

Hop Breeder

SAB Hop Farms

Tel: +27 044 8028420

Fax: +27 044 8707550

Cell: 0827385842

Gerrie. Brits@za.sabmiller. com

NORTHERN CLIVIA CLUB

Dr Peter Lambert read the following contribution at Ammie Grobler's memorial service. An English version will soon be available on the Clivia Society website at www.cliviasociety.org

OOM AMMIE GROBLER - GEDENKDIENS 16 SEPTEMBER 2004

Ek het Oom Ammie ontmoet deur Clivias, die betowerende blomme waarvoor ons as lede van die Noordelike Clivia Klub almal so lief is. Oom Ammie was my eerste mentor toe ek aangesluit het by die Klub ongeveer vier jaar gelede. Vir die wat nie weet wat so 'n mentor doen nie, sal ek gou verduidelik - so 'n persoon is daar om nuwe lede te help en raad en advies te gee. Op hierdie gebied het Oom Ammie uitblink en sy entoesiasme het my verder aangespoor.

Soos 'n ware opvoedkundige kon hy al die verskillende aspekte van die Clivia op 'n baie eenvoudige dog deeglike manier verduidelik en sodoende 'n groter belangstelling en nuuskierigheid by ons nuwe lede laat ontkiem, en dan ook terselfde tyd die vlam van entoesiasme in die gevestigde lede aan die gang hou.

Ek sal altyd die vriendelike manier onthou waarop ek en die ander Clivia vriende by Rubida Straat 72 ontvang is, nie net deur Oom Ammie, maar ook veral deur Tersia. Dit het my altyd laat dink aan die ou Nederlandse gesegde - "Wie als vriend hier binne gaat komt nooit te vroeg, maar steeds te laat." Ons vele gesprekke om die tafel daarbuite en al die heerlike koppies tee en koffie sal altyd onthou word. Al Oom Ammie se raad en advies, leiding en aanspooring sal ons almal in die toekoms help.

Alle aspekte van die NCK het naby Oom Ammie se hart gele en hy het verskeie poste in die NCK beklee, maar ek is seker die een waarvoor hy altyd onthou sal word is die

van opsteller en leier van ons inligtingsprogram en -sessies. Soos wat ek hier voor al die familie en vriend staan, kan ek Oom Ammie sien op sy eie beskeie manier ons inligtingssessies lei, ons deskundige sprekers voorstel en dan ook onderbreek gedurende die lesing om iets wetenskapliks eenvoudig te verduidelik as hy gevoel het dat alles te ingewikkeld en te gevorderd was vir die gewone lede.

Dit was veral die gewone lede - die wat nie noodwendig 'n wetenskaplike kennis van plante gehad het - wat vir Oom Ammie baie belangrik was. Dit gese, was hy ook baie bekommerd dat hy alles te eenvoudig sou maak en dat ons sodoende die meer gevorderde lid sou verloor. Soos ons almal weet het dit nie gebeur nie en het Oom Ammie hom uitstekend van sy taak gekwyt.

Sy taal, Afrikaans, was veral vir ons leermeester belangrik. Hy sal lank onhou word in die NCK vir sy bydra op hierdie gebied en vir sy kampvegtersbenadering ten opsigte van die gebruik van Afrikaans by ons vergaderings en in al ons geskrifte en publikasies.

Regverdigheid in die Klub was ook baie belangrik. Oom Ammie het hom altyd bewywer om te sorg dat almal gelyke kanse sou he - hetsy by verkopings, uitstallings of by die kies van plante vir bv. 'n veiling.

Oom Ammie constantly reminded me that the NCC was not just all about our beloved plants, but is also about friendship and camaraderie. I certainly have made many new and lasting friends since joining the Club, and so did Oom Ammie. This special kind of friendship was demonstrated so vividly by Andre van Rhyn, Steve Moodie and Roy Williams, who during Oom Ammie's illness cared for his plants, prepared and groomed plants for our annual show. Some of these entries fittingly and justly won prizes. These friends also kept the Clivia

business running, allowing Tersia to be at Oom Ammie's side most of the time. On behalf of Tersia, I would sincerely like to thank these true friends. We in the NCC are justly proud to have you as members and especially friends.

Ons het almal 'n groot vriend verloor, 'n ware vriend, 'n mentor en leermeester, een van die groot karakters in die klub,

Namens al die lede van die NCK, ons innige simpatie aan Tersia en die familie.

Tot siens Oom Ammie, my ou vriend. Dankie vir alles wat jy vir my en al die ander lede beteken het, en daar waar jy jou finale rusplek kry is ek seker, om aan te haal uit een van Oom Ammie se vele grappies, WILL YOU BE LOOKING FOR US.

Peter Lambert

Vo or sit ter

Noordeike Clivia Club

CAPE CLIVIA CLUB

Centenarian celebration

Margherita Blaser became a member of the Cape Clivia Club in 1997 and, since she turns 100 on the 14th of this month, the committee decided to pay tribute to her at a special luncheon held at the Stone Cottages in Kirstenbosch. About 50 people attended the occasion, including nine close family members, two of whom were visiting from Switzerland.

A spectacular sight greeted Mrs Blaser when she arrived. A bank of *Clivia miniata* in all their magnificent colours was arrayed on the wooden stairs outside. She was warmly welcomed by everyone and then proceeded inside, where there was another arrangement of flowering *C. miniata* that created a very special atmosphere in this historic cottage.

Joy Woodward, Mick Dower and Claude Felbert had organised a veritable Italian feast of three different pasta dishes followed by strawberries and ice cream, melkert and coffee. John van der Linde proposed a toast and good wishes were read from the Chairman and PRO of the Clivia Society.

In his speech, John Winter told us some of the interesting aspects of Mrs Blaser's life and of her numerous interests and activities. At the club's annual show in Bellville last month, Mrs Blaser entered an enormous *C. miniata* with five flower heads that won an "Honourable Mention" certificate. Among other talents, she knits, sews (two years ago she made her granddaughter's wedding dress), makes her own pasta and teaches the art of pasta making! John presented a certificate to her commemorating her membership of the Club and this event. A beautiful floating trophy to be called the Margherita Blaser Centenary Trophy was handed to Mrs Blaser. It will be introduced as a Floating Trophy to be awarded each year for the 'Best on Show'.

Marlene Bilas.



John Winter, Chairman of the Cape Clivia Club, presenting Mrs Margherita Biaser with Honorary Life Membership on the occasion of her 100th Birthday (5 October 2004). Photo by Claude Felbert.

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:	R 125.00
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 or by fax at + 27 12 804 8892 and list the items you are interested in as well as the name of the country 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 Harnish Sloan, Di Smith and Michael Morri respectively — see covers for contact detail. 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	10
Yearbook 5	12
Yearbook 4	10
Yearbook 3	10
Yearbook 2	10
Yearbook 1	10
Volumes 1(1992) to 11 (2002) of newsletters	10 per volume
Set of volumes 1 to 10	available on request
Hints on growing Clivia - hard copy	3
Hints on growing Clivia - electronic PDF format	2
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 specialties.

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 7811-978 e-mail: terric@iafrica.com We also have available a few hundred different named daylily clones.

Beginner's luck

At the last Metro Group meeting before the Metro Show, Elroy Janse van Vuuren, who is a judge at the shows, spoke to the group about preparing plants for showing. Some tips are mentioned here that may not have appeared elsewhere. Editor.

Container: The pot must balance with the size of the plant - it shouldn't be too big or too small. No marks or labels should be showing. Remove the white crusts from watering and fertilizing from the bottom of the pot with vinegar.

Leaves: If there is detritus between the leaves, gently vacuum between the leaves. Using a soft cloth or cottonwool wipe the leaves with a 50% solution of milk and water. This makes the leaves shine and also has an antibacterial effect. Do not use commercial leaf cleaners as they often have substances in them which block the leaf pores and inhibit leaf growth over time. Remove damaged leaf tips by cutting them off. Shape the edges to simulate a leaf tip and seal with undiluted milk. Only trim the tips of the leaves the day before the show, if trimmed too far in advance, the cut edges will be too evident.

If leaves have been removed from the base of the plant and the base has not greened up,

bury the plant a little deeper in the pot. This will also help stabilise the lower leaves which have a tendency to flop. Cover the earth in the base of the pot with bark to improve the appearance of the plant. This also helps to hide the white at the base of the plant if the lower leaves have been removed.

Flowers: Flower heads should be as posy-like as possible. Assist even spacing of flowers by wedging cotton wool inbetween the pedicels as the buds are developing. When it comes to judging, 10 points will be lost if two flowers are spoilt. If more than two flowers are spoilt, the plant won't be judged.

Meg Hart.

On the compost heap

While the subject of shows is fresh on my mind, you have no idea how much time is spent primping and preening plants before shows. Sometimes I think clivia enthusiasts spend more time with their plants than with their spouses or their children! There was a case where a husband wanted to bring his clivia plants into the bedroom! As for cleaning them with milk?! That never happens in the wild!

I visited the Northern and Metro Clivia shows and observed the clivia from other shows on the Internet. Clearly size counts - size of umbel, size of flowers, or size of leaves. All the clivia looked bigger and better than they had done before. It seems the secret is regular fertilizing with chemicals. Could it be that the plants are on steroids or other performance enhancing substances? Should there not be mandatory testing as in other

fields of endeavour?

A draft document on Standards has been compiled and I hope a clause has been written into the document forbidding the use of steroids and illegal substances. Every plant should be tested before showing and I am happy to offer my services in this regard.

Lily Borer (*Brithys pancratii* from South Africa and *Brithys crini* from Australia!).



CLIVIA SOCIETY

PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION

ENTRY FORM

ESSENTIAL ENTRY DETAILS					
NAME OF ENTRANT:					
ADDRESS & CONTACT DETAILS:					
PHONE:			AND/OR EMAIL:		
NAME OF PHOTOGRAPHER:					
DATE PHOTO TAKEN:					
NAME OF GROWER:					
ENTRY NUMBER (1 to 6):					
CATEGORY ENTERED: X relevant box				Caulescens	
Single Flower		Interspecific		Habitat	
TYPE OF SUBMISSION: X relevant box				Print	
Slide		CD-R		Email	
Gardenii					
Nobilis					
Miniata					
OPTIONAL ENTRY DETAILS					
REGISTERED PLANT NAME:					
NAME OF BREEDER:					
PARENTAGE OF PLANT:					
BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF PLANT:					
SUGGESTED PHOTO CAPTION:					
PHOTOGRAPHIC DETAILS: CAMERA TYPE:					
FILM DETAILS OR DIGITAL:					
EXPOSURE DETAILS:					
OTHER COMMENTS:					

CONTACT DETAILS FOR CLIVIA CLUBS AND INTEREST GROUPS

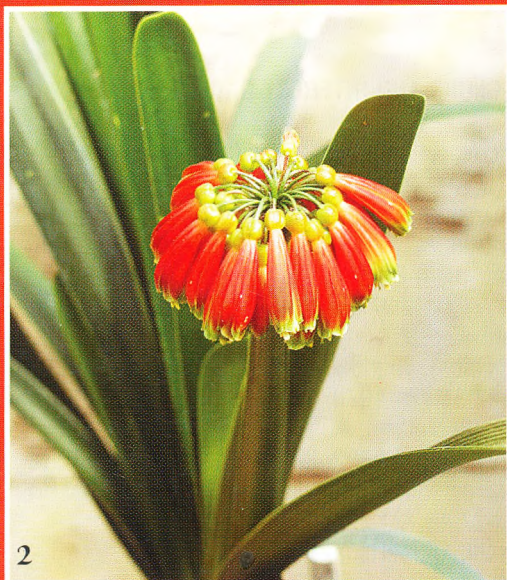
Cape Clivia Club:	Joy Woodward (Secretary). PO Box 53219, Kenilworth, 7745. Tel (h) +27 21 671 7384, Tel (w) +27 21 799 8768, Fax +27 21 797 0002. E-mail: capeclivia@ibox.co.za or woodward@nbict.nbi.ac.za
Eastern Province Clivia Club:	Willie le Roux (Chairperson) PO Box 19292, Linton Grange, Port Elizabeth, 6015. Tel & Fax: +27 41-360 3480. E-mail: girly@absamail.co.za
KwaZulu-Natal Clivia Club:	Sean Chubb (Chairperson). Thurlow Farm, PO Box 126, Eston, 3740. Tel & Fax: +27 31 781 1978. E-mail: terric@iafrica.com
Northern Clivia Club:	Lena van der Merwe (Secretary). PO Box 74868, Lynnwood Ridge, 0040. Tel & Fax: +27 12 804 8892. E-mail: nclivia@mweb.co.za
Border Interest Group:	Stella van Gass (Chairperson). 16 Greenan Street, Berea, East London, 5241. Tel +27 43 721 2964
Free State Clivia:	Hennie van der Mescht, 18 Mettam Street, Fichardt Park, Bloemfontein, 9322. Tel. +27 51 522 9530. Fax: +27 51 436 4340. E-mail: vandermescht@absamail.co.za
Garden Route Clivia Interest Group:	Gerrie Brits (Chairperson). Tel: +27 44 8028420. Fax: +27 44 8707550. Cell: 082 7385 842. E-mail Gerrie.Brits@za.sabmiller.com
Metro Group:	Glynn Middlewick (Chairperson). 2 Willow Road, Northcliff, 2195. Tel +27 11 476 1463. E-mail: gcmidd@mweb.co.za
Northern KZN:	Dries Olivier. PO Box 8783, Newcastle, 2940. Tel +27 83 264 6230. Fax: +27 34 318 6667. E-mail: dries@sawa.co.za
Waterberg Boslelieklub:	An Jacobs. PO Box 3893, Nylstroom, 0510. Tel & Fax: +27 14 717 2674. E-mail: johanana@pop.co.za
Zoutpansberg:	Anneke Stroebe (Secretary). PO Box 1712, Louis Trichardt, 0920. Tel +27 83 326 6073. Fax +27 15 516 5710. E-mail: alstroebel@lantic.co.za
Lowveld interest group:	Ian Radmore (Secretary). PO Box 1146, White River, 1240 Tel: +27 13 751 2051. E-mail: ian@nelvet1.agric.za

EDITOR OF NEWSLETTER

Meg Hart. 70 The Valley Road, Parktown, Johannesburg, 2193.
Tel & Fax +27 11 646 9392, E-mail: hartmh@mweb.co.za

PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER

Cobus Roos. Tel 082 416 6178, E-mail: cobusroos@telkomsa.net



Clivia Society

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

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