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CLIVIA SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

CLIVIA SOCIETY, PO Box 74868, Lynwood Ridge, 0040, South Africa

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CONTENTS

CLIVIA SOCIETY COMMITTEE MEMBERS	Inside front cover
EDITORIAL	
FROM THE CHAIRMAN	
STORIES BEHIND THE PHOTOGRAPHS – CLIVIA SOCIETY NEWSLETTER VOL.12	
NO. 1 AUTUMN 2003 – Mick Dower	
NOTES ON SOME 2002 ‘BEST ON SHOW’ WINNERS	
Northern Clivia Club Show – Dawie van Heerden	
Metro Interest Group Show– Pikkie Strumpher	
Cape Clivia Club Show – Felicity Weedon	
CORRESPONDENCE	
Growing clivias in a cold climate. Part 2 Growing seedlings on - Jim Shields	
Quo Vadis 2002 – James Abel, Keith Hammett and Ken Smith	
A short peduncle – Johan Lubbe	
A clivia database – Viv Elliot	
SNIPPETS FROM THE CLIVIA ENTHUSIAST E-MAIL GROUP	
Cross pollination of Group 1 and Group 2 Yellows	
Berries falling off the umbel prematurely	
Optimum pH level for clivia	
Clarification on breeding multipetals	
Severed seedling	
Exciting find. ? Picotee	
SOME EARLY NAMES ASSOCIATED WITH CLIVIA - NO. 3 WILLIAM JOHN BURCHELL - John van der Linde	
“THE CAULESCENS TOUR SEPTEMBER 2002” – Ken Smith	
NORTHERN CLIVIA CLUB	
Motivation for Honorary Membership of the Northern Clivia Club: Connie and James Abel – Lena van der Merwe and Bossie de Kock	
EASTERN PROVINCE CLIVIA CLUB	
Abbreviated minutes of the Annual General Meeting	
FORTHCOMING EVENTS	
Annual General Meeting of the Clivia Society	
KwaZulu Natal Clivia Club	
2003 Show dates	
FOR SALE	
BEGINNER'S LUCK – GERMINATION OF CLIVIA SEED – Harry Erasmus	
ON THE COMPOST HEAP – Meg Hart	

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

EDITORIAL

Editors of small journals, which appear relatively frequently, are often confronted by concerns of the sufficiency of material, only in the end to find that articles have to be omitted. There is much that could be added to this issue, but items that have been left out need to be discussed with the Management Committee before they can be published.

What has not been mentioned in this newsletter is that Ken Smith from Australia, as Chairman of the Registration Committee of the Clivia Society, submitted the Clivia Society's application for registration of clivia cultivars to the International Society for Horticultural Science. At their August meeting in Toronto, the Commission reaffirmed the Clivia Society as the International Cultivar Registration Authority (ICRA) for the genus Clivia. He has been collating a list of cultivars during the past year and will be reporting on his efforts at the Annual General meeting to be held in May 2003.

Apropos this, there has been a "Motivation for Registration of Cultivars" from Dr. Louis Potgieter of the Northern Clivia Club that would provide for controlled breeding programmes of South African cultivars. This is an involved procedure and requires more discussion and refinement and it will be published in the Newsletter in due course.

The Clivia Enthusiast E-mail Group has grown to almost 400 members and is an internationally recognised clivia forum. This electronic medium has probably done more to promote clivia worldwide than any other group. Rudo Lötter has recommended that the Clivia Society becomes the body responsible for the Clivia Enthusiast E-mail Group. The implications of this changeover, whether acceptable and feasible or not, are being discussed. More will be reported on this subject in the next newsletter.

The present newsletter begins with the 'Stories behind the photographs' on its cover and continues with reflections on some of the 'Best on Show' photographs in 'Clivia 5'. Jim Shields concludes his article on 'Growing clivias in a cold climate' in the correspondence section. The Clivia Society has been in existence for ten years and Keith Hammett and Ken Smith offer suggestions as to where South African growers should be directing their efforts in the future. Johan Lubbe relates his shock treatment for a short peduncle and Viv Elliot has introduced an exciting concept of a software programme that can be used to keep records of clivia cultivation. The Clivia Enthusiast E-mail Group always has many interesting topics to discuss and some are repeated here for the benefit of those who are not part of this group. While Ken Smith from Australia was in South Africa in September last year he joined the Abels and others on a tour of the areas in which *C. caulescens* is found. His impressions of the trip are highlighted here.

Clivia news is not only about the plants and flowers but also about people. John van der Linde has interesting facts on William John Burchell in his series about 'Some early names associated with clivia'. The Abels have been in the limelight and have been made Honorary Members of the Northern Clivia Club. Their contribution to the Clivia Society and the Northern Clivia Club is detailed in the motivation for their nomination. Now that the Eastern Province Clivia Club is no longer an Interest Group but a fully-fledged club it has held its first Annual General Meeting. An abbreviated version of the minutes of this meeting relates their activities. Harry Erasmus's reflections on 'Germination of clivia seed' (given to the e-group) are reproduced in 'Beginner's Luck'. It emphasizes the importance of cleanliness and sterility when germinating clivia seed. The Editor greatly appreciates all your contributions.

The underlying theme in this newsletter namely, the help given to members needing advice and support, comes through in almost all the articles. The Clivia Society has many mentors who have generously given advice, encouragement, seed and plants to beginners and new collectors. This generosity has contributed to making the Clivia Society what it is today.

Note that the rates for advertisements have been increased. The Clivia Society Annual General Meeting is to be held in Port Elizabeth on 17 May 2003. The delegates are the Clivia Society's committee members and Clivia Club representatives. All Clivia Society members are invited to attend as observers.

Editor.

FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Enquiries, which I received during the last three weeks, indicate that there is a lack of knowledge regarding the structuring of the Clivia Society and especially the status of overseas members. Two questions that I received serve as examples:

- "...why are we considered Associate Members when we pay the same subscription as the South African Members?"
- "I suspect that you are equating "Members Resident Outside RSA" with the term Associate Member..., but I do not like the term as it suggests "second tier..."

I agree that the Associate Members are a special category of member, but there are good reasons for this. When the Clivia Society was established in 1999 a federal system of administration was put in place. The idea was to coordinate the interests, activities and objectives of regional Clivia Clubs that were already in existence in South Africa. Prior to 1999 the then Clivia Club had approximately 800+ individual members. The Clivia Society is a more streamlined organisation – as a decision-making body it consists of a small Executive Committee and Club Representatives that are appointed by the respective clubs and not by the Clivia Society. A club can have a maximum of three representatives should the membership of such a club exceed 200. Individual clubs determine their own membership fees but all clubs pay a standardised per capita fee to the Clivia Society.

A practicality with which the writers of the constitution were faced in 1999 was that the overseas members were not organised in club context. Much thought went into solving the "problem" and eventually it was decided to administer the overseas members according to the following two basic principles.

- Until such time as persons or bodies outside the Republic of South Africa are members of a constituent Clivia Club or Clivia Clubs, they may be Associate Members of the Society.
- All Associate Members of the Society shall, as a group, be entitled to representation...as though the Associate Members as a group were a constituent Clivia Club.

Although we welcome the formation of clivia clubs overseas we will not pressurise any country or group of members to form clubs. Based on the membership totals in early 2002, two representatives (Ken Smith from Australia and Michael Jeans from the United Kingdom) were appointed to represent all the Associate Members on the Clivia Society. We intend to amend the constitution at the Annual General Meeting (scheduled for 17 May 2003) in such a way that more than the current maximum of three Associate Member representatives may

serve on the Clivia Society. One of the variables which we feel should be taken into consideration is the geographical distribution of Associate Members.

Since 2002 we have issued new overseas members with a copy of the current constitution. Overseas members who joined the Clivia Society before 2002 and who wish to have a copy of the constitution should contact Lena van der Merwe. Members in South Africa should approach their local club secretary.

To conclude, as the constituent Clivia Clubs in South Africa, we strive to provide our individual members (the Associate Members) with as professional a service as possible within the constraints of the environment in which we operate.

Chris Vlok.

Chairman.

STORIES BEHIND THE COVER PHOTOGRAPHS – CLIVIA SOCIETY NEWSLETTER VOL. 12 NO.1 AUTUMN 2003

FRONT COVER

On the front cover is a photograph of a *C. miniata* grown by Chris Viljoen. It won second prize in the pink *C. miniata* section at the Northern Clivia Club Show in 2001.

Chris has been growing clivias since 1991 but only joined the Clivia Club in 1996 when Koos Geldenhuys introduced him to it.

In September 1994, on a visit to the Safari Garden Centre, the nursery of Anna Meyer, he spotted a plant the flowers of which were just beginning to open and which appeared to be different from the others.

He bought it. Much to his delight its flowers were a beautiful pink, with characteristics typical of the well-known “Ella van Zijl”. However, instead of a golden overlay, this plant has a more silvery sheen, so that its colour is a shade or two lighter.

Chris has bred various cultivars with this plant as pod parent but only a few of its offspring have inherited its colour and sheen. Fortunately, however, it suckers freely.

Photograph No 2

This is Emmy Wittig’s “One House”. Emmy’s father-in-law farmed at Boilingfontein near Dalton, which is between Pietermaritzburg and Greytown. One of their neighbours was the Jackson family who lived at the ‘One House Wattle Company’. Their properties bordered on the Godweni River, a tributary of the Umhloti River. There are forests of indigenous trees with many cycads in the Godweni valley - an ideal natural environment for clivia. All the clivia in the Godweni valley were orange and to her knowledge, no yellow clivia have been found there

The nearby farmers used to picnic in the valley and collected clivia for their gardens. Emmy’s mother-in-law gave her an orange *C. miniata* from their farm, which had been

collected in the Godweni valley. However the Jacksons found a pastel coloured clivia and gave a sucker to Ruth Viljoen. Emmy admired it in Ruth's garden and Ruth gave Emmy a sucker about 10 years ago. It is, therefore, originally a plant from the wild.

They have decided to name it "One House" to remember its origin. The Wattle Company closed down some years ago. Emmy does not yet know what its breeding characteristics are. She has only selfed it and the seedlings are presently 3 and 4 years old.

(Emmy's husband is now 90 years old and they have been married for 56 years.)

Photograph No.3

Toy Jennings has had this *C. miniata* for many years. The late Theresa Boegmann, a member of the Clivia Club and a good friend of Wessel Lötter and his late wife, Maryna, gave it to her.

Its flowers are very big and shaped like an open tulip with very broad overlapping petals. Some of the florets are multi-petaled, with up to 10 petals. The umbel is posy shaped and the petals are crinkled. The leaves are 10.5 cm. wide and strong and they grow in a fan shape from the base.

When a member of the Clivia Club in Pretoria first saw a particularly fine specimen of this plant he was speechless and could only utter "Bliksem!" Since then it has been known by that name. The literal translation into English is "lightning", but it is often used colloquially as an interjection meaning "Damn it!" In this context you could say that it is an "earthy" version of "awesome"!

Photograph No.4

This is a photograph of a *C. miniata* grown by Ben Marais. He showed it at the Cape Show in 2000 where it won 1st prize in the 'Orange *C. miniata*' section and was then judged 'Best on Show'. At the 2001 Cape Show it won a first prize again.

Ben grew this plant from a seedling he bought from Les Brown. In fact he bought a number of green-stemmed seedlings from Les Brown that were expected to be yellows. The stem of one of these seedlings became pigmented and Les replaced it with another green seedling because Ben had ostensibly bought only "yellow" seedlings. He told Ben to keep the pigmented seedling, which grew into this champion!

Photograph No. 5

Louis Swanepoel owns this yellow *C. miniata*, which was awarded a first prize in the 'C. *miniata* yellow with broad petals and two umbels' section at the 2001 Northern Clivia Club Show. Jim Holmes bred it, sold it to Susan Kruger and Louis acquired it from her.

NOTES ON SOME 2002 "BEST ON SHOW" WINNERS

The following descriptions apply to three of the photographs in the Clivia 5 Yearbook that will be distributed shortly. They are the 'Best on Show' prize winners which were shown at

some of the 2002 Clivia Shows in South Africa and tell us a bit about the plants and people who grew them. Editor.

Northern Clivia Club Show

I have been requested to write something and it is like my joining the ‘clivia family’, very modest. My learned friends Dr. Bing Wiese and Ahtri Wessels hold the view that you cannot boast with something you haven’t made, and this is quite true.

If I may add anything to this, I would like to say that it is by the grace of God that one succeeds. Who succeeds anyway – the plant or you? Something special about clivia is that it teaches us that even the least among us have something that all of us desire. Genetics don’t abide by our rules and very often provide the undeserving with the most pleasure.

I have very little to say about myself. I have always had a great love for all animals and plant life and must surely have been inspired by my father who also had a great passion for both. I am also a Biology teacher and I am indebted to my mentor, Ammie Grobler, who introduced me to clivias and who still tolerates me. However, I am very thankful that I could beat him with his own plant and pay him back a little for spanking us more than occasionally, and for beating us to the prettiest girl in school. He has had a great impact on the whole of my being and I will always be very grateful for that.

A special word to Frans Gerber, the man with the golden heart and Margo McNeil. In her clivia paradise I have seen what God actually meant clivias to look like.

I have also been asked to give a few tips to aid young enthusiasts. I’d like to try:

- If you aim to make money – stop now
- Buy selectively, explore and buy widely and visit all the big nurseries. Clivia growers will not sell their best products to you unless they know you very well. Good seed is perhaps more readily available than plants.
- Never allow it to become an idol. You will find no pleasure and you will be driven by the wrong motives and goals.
- Take great care of you plants. If you do, you will be rewarded.
- Start young – if you can. Clivias teach you patience and success very often only comes after years of hard work.
- Keep records of the origin of all plants. A well-organized system has great value.
- Don’t stagnate. Experiment. Think and plan future-wise, market-wise and money-wise.

My sincerest congratulations to all clivia enthusiasts. During the 2001 NCC Show, I came to the conclusion that South Africa can be intensely proud of what has been achieved in the interest of clivia.

Dawie van Heerden

Metro Interest Group Show

Five years ago when my wife Elize suggested that we should plant clivias in the garden, my question to her was, “What are clivias?” Two weeks later she informed me that she had made an appointment with Koos Geldenhuys, a colleague of hers, who grows clivias. A ten-minute appointment turned out to be more than two hours! I bought some clivias for the garden and before we left, Koos gave me some seeds and seedlings. I don’t know if he did that on purpose, but that got me hooked on clivias. (Thanks Koos.)

Soon I realized that I needed more information on clivias – back to Koos I went and he shared his knowledge about clivias with me. Most important was the set of old newsletters he gave me to read (this is a must for every beginner) from which I gained a great deal of knowledge regarding clivias. Later I joined the Judging Committee to gain more insight into what was important for showing clivias. I also found that when approached the “old hands” at clivias were eager to share their knowledge and experience. This all formed the basis of my knowledge and I applied my mind to adapt to my specific circumstances and needs of clivia growing.

In 2001 I exhibited clivia for the first time and was pleasantly surprised to win the ‘Runner-up’ prize on the Pretoria Show. In 2002 at the Metro Show I was blessed to have the ‘Best on Show’ as well as ‘Second Runner-up’. I grew the ‘Second Runner-up’ from seed. The ‘Best on Show’ is a different story. During the flowering season my wife and I frequently visit nurseries in and around Pretoria and even spend a week or two in Mpumalanga (Eastern Transvaal) each year looking for special or rare clivia. On one occasion when we visited a nursery in Pretoria, Elize told me to buy a certain plant. I however, kept on looking at the other plants and didn’t really give much notice to the specific plant she pointed out. After about the third prompt from her to me to buy **that clivia**, and with me still not being interested, she bought it. It was only when I was back home and compared it to my other reds, that I realized the quality of the plant. After an “I told you!” she gave the plant to me. This plant was the ‘Best On Show’ at the Metro Show! I think it is appropriate to call this plant “I told you”. The moral of this story – you must sometimes listen to your wife!

It is nice to win prizes, but to me, the most joyous moment of clivia breeding and growing is when they flower for the first time. I am like a child again - each morning I can’t wait for the sun to rise and in the afternoon I rush back from work to see if a new flower has opened. It’s Christmas for three months!

Pikkie Strumpher

Cape Clivia Club Show

I have never entered a competition or exhibited a plant in my life, so imagine the amazement when my plant won 'Best on Show' at the Cape Clivia Club Show. I didn’t come down off Cloud Nine for days!! For those who would like to know, the plant came from Athrie Wessels in Louis Trichardt.

I joined the Clivia Club three years ago, when I had few plants and less knowledge, although I have had clivia growing in my garden for years. What a lot of surprises were in store for me. So many colours, forms, leaf shapes, variegations etc. But, where to get them?

The first person to help me was Toy Jennings. Bless her. She was also quick to tell me that she didn’t like my potting mix. And she was right.

Les Brown generously gave me my first yellow seed about 10 years ago, some of which are quite lovely and actually grow in pure sea sand. Christo Lötter filled in a lot of gaps in my knowledge, supplied different plants and generous supplies of pollen and much kindness.

A word to beginners: don't be dismayed if you hit a few problems. Just keep trying. I changed my potting mix three times before I hit the right one. That meant potting up ALL the plants each time, or risking losing them.

A valuable hint from Johan Botha in this regard is: if you pour a cup of water onto your mix, it should immediately run out at the bottom.

I have enjoyed my association with the Clivia Society and its members very much and I would like to say to new members, DO attend the meetings and shows. Not only do you learn constantly but you also see beautiful plants and meet lots of interesting people.

Space prohibits naming all the kind folk that have given me advice and encouragement, plants and seed. To all of them a BIG "THANK YOU"

Felicity Weedon.

CORRESPONDENCE

Growing clivias in a cold climate. II. Growing seedlings on

As clivia seedlings in containers grow, they produce more and more roots. When the roots begin to fill the pot or to grow out through the drainage holes in the bottom of the pot, it is time to move the plant into a larger pot. It is critical to the development of the young plant that it be able to produce as many healthy roots as possible.

When the seedling is moved to a larger container, it is also time to change from the sandy, peat, starting medium to a more sharply draining mix. Some growers recommend using orchid potting mixes for growing Clivia plants, but I have not tried that yet. I have been using a gritty mix with reasonable success. The composition is roughly Promix™, plus sand, plus granite chick starter grit (about 1/8 in mesh, or 3 mm) in a ratio of 2 parts Promix to 1 part sand to 1 part granite grit by volume. The components are mixed dry in a small concrete mixer until well mixed, or up to an hour. Promix is a commercial soil-less peat-based potting mixture, produced in Canada.

The seedling is removed from its original pot and as much as possible of the original growing medium is shaken gently off the roots. Be careful not to damage the roots. The next step is to re-pot in a slightly larger container. If the seedling had been growing in a 5 ½ inch (about 14 cm) square pot, you can plant it in a 1-gallon container about 6 ½ inches (16 or 17 cm) in diameter and 6 ½ inches deep. Plug the drainage holes loosely with a bit of sphagnum moss, and work the gritty mix carefully in among the roots. At this point, I usually pot the crown of the seedling slightly above the surface of the potting mix in the new pot.

Until the young clivia plants reach a size such that they are capable of blooming, they have no need for a dry or cool rest period in winter. I try to keep the one- and the two-year old plants growing actively through the entire winter. The two-year olds are all in the

greenhouse, while some of the one-year old plants are still under lights and the rest in the greenhouse. Keep the greenhouse warm, at about 60°F, at least, and use supplemental lighting if necessary. I have two 400-watt high intensity metal halide lamps hung above one bench in my lean-to greenhouse, but I am not currently using them. Except during the coldest periods (cold inside the greenhouse, that is), water and feed the young plants regularly with a very dilute solution of soluble plant food. I recommend using Peters 20-20-20 soluble with trace elements, at about ¼ to ½ level teaspoonful (about 5 ml) per gallon (about 1.5 to 3 grams in 4 liters.)

When using a continuous feeding regimen such as this, it is necessary to water to excess at each watering, so the accumulating salts are regularly flushed out the bottom of the pot. This is another reason that a quick-draining growing medium is advisable.

My aim is to grow large, healthy seedlings to blooming size in 30 months. I do not always achieve this, but a significant fraction of the seedling plants I have grown so far have bloomed in 30 to 36 months. I do this in a relatively harsh climate, using my own home, a lath house, and a glass and aluminum lean-to home greenhouse. I am not ever going to keep the Belgian clivia growers awake at night with worry!

Jim Shields, PO Box 92, Westfield, IN 46074, USA

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Quo Vadis 2002

Dear Keith and Ken

In the early/mid 90s there was a feeling here that South Africa was way behind with regard to clivia breeding.

On Oct 12 there is a meeting where the discussion will be on the direction SA breeding should take in the future.

Both of you on your visits have been positive on the selection/breeding that has already taken place over here and on the available gene pool.

It would start the meeting off well if we could quote a brief statement from each of you regarding your impressions of where we are and where we should go.

With best wishes
Connie and James
September 27, 2002

Dear James and Connie

I am very happy that you have posed this question. I think the idea that more had been done overseas than within South Africa arose from a senior Club member. I recall vividly that this view was expressed several times during my first visit in 1994.

Although I had travelled to South Africa that year via USA and Europe and if you recall I showed slides of Joe Solomone's operation in the USA taken earlier in my trip at the first

conference, I did not feel that I had an adequate overview to comment authoritatively at that time.

Subsequently I have traveled much more extensively and have in fact pondered your very question constantly. For me, by 1998 I was sure that the work done in South Africa was and is second to none. Having said that there needs to be a codicil. Breeding does not nor should not have a single direction. Rather it is a series of separate explorations.

In general overseas collections have had a narrow genetic base. Joe Solomone has generated a lot of variation within *C. miniata* from a very limited starting point. Similarly the developments in Europe have been based on fragments. In Australia there are some very good show type *C. miniata*. You are aware of the direction followed in China.

More recently (decades) people like myself, Nakamura and Ken Smith have set out to establish as wide a genetic base to work from as is possible. There is no doubt in my mind that people like the Lötters are ahead of the pack with interspecifics simply because they are reaching F3 and later generations having started earlier.

The quality of South African show plants is superb and, judging from the images on the Clivia e-Group, this has advanced substantially since 1994 and 1998. However, I am sure that the Australians have comparable show material.

To sum up: You have the genetic diversity both in the wild and in collections: McNeil, Grobler, Abels, Kirstenbosch et al, ad nauseum. You have people who can both breed and show superior plants: Anna Meyer, John Winter etc. etc. You are developing interesting inter-specific combinations.

Word of caution: Breeding ornamental plants is an aesthetic activity and breeders are essentially artists. Artists do not take readily to instruction by governments, committees whatever, Nazi art, Communist art. In a commercial framework individual companies instruct breeders to produce items that management considers will be saleable. Often this is at the expense of aesthetics i.e. a congenital dwarf that will flower precociously for impulse purchases at point of sale. In this context breeders become either mercenaries or prostitutes depending on viewpoint. Setting standards for exhibition plants can be beneficial in "improving" plants for exhibition purposes. Exhibiting involves classification, judging standards and scheduling. Unless these three components are constantly monitored great harm can be done.

An exhibition plant may become a bad or inappropriate garden plant. When a plant approaches the perceived levels of perfection there is nowhere for breeders to go and interest wanes. Dahlias are the classic example of this phenomenon.

Maintain diversity at all costs. Most of this generation may not appreciate your 'Frats', but who knows what might appeal to generations yet unborn. Beginning to sound like Moses, so had better get back to my Dahlia book which is what I am supposed to be writing right now.

Best wishes to you all.
Keith Hammett.
October 2, 2002

Dear James & Connie, and Keith

I concur with Keith's comments and observations. As Keith told me before I left for my RSA trip, "seeing the *Clivia* in the wild will open your eyes", this it did. There is a great diversity being grown in South Africa, and Australia/rest of the world. This we know from communications of many forms.

The gene pool in South African collections is amazing, with each collector following their ideals. All well and good. Maintaining the variation and searching for new forms must continue if the enthusiasm is to be maintained at a local and a worldwide level. I was particularly "impressed" with seeing the *miniata*, *gardenii* and *caulescens* in habitat. Puts a perspective on all the other material that I see and read about (and think I "know").

I feel that the best approach is to encourage the members developing lines to share information and material. Each will be striving for something different, as it should be. Perhaps it will be worthwhile to set some "goals" for those interested parties in the various clubs, as a guide if required for the new person (as you probably won't change the "old breeders").

Some ideas I have right now are: -

- A. Maintain stock of the wild accessions in a "pure" form...that is, don't use every piece of material to outcross in the hope of getting something better. What is better? Is anybody maintaining clean stock of the species?
- B. Continue developing the known lines, i.e. Wessel Lötter material, Bing Wiese material, Coromandel strain, etc, etc (you will know the list of material available to you better than me).
- C. Encourage members to research the history of lines/clones/cultivars, and to search out the correct stock so that we can all benefit in the long run, i.e. Natal Yellows, Howick Yellows, etc etc...
- D. Get everybody involved in the breeding of *clivias* to gain an understanding of naming conventions, so that misinformation is not carried on from seller to grower to buyer. I came across instances of material being called something because somebody bought it..., was told about it..., thinks it should be...(do you know what I mean here?)
- E. Tread cautiously yet quickly on the "show plant" issue. The shows were very impressive and inspirational. I rethought things that I am doing, but there needs to be clear direction regarding the exhibition plants, and the garden plants. They are different. I will be forwarding my thoughts on the judging to the committee set up at the Conference.

I hope these thoughts are of some help, although I suppose individuals will see things differently to me. Please ask if you want me to clarify any points.

Enthusiasts are also encouraged to read Koopowitz H, "*Clivias*", 2002, Timber Press, pages 339-348, for his ideas, which are very briefly summarised as:

- 1) Deeper and brighter yellows, golds & ambers, picotees, green throats, reds and all pastels including pure pink.
- 2) Better flower colour variations in broad-leaf, variegated and inconsistent multipetals and doubles.
- 3) New forms, such as Capellini and Frats types, as a base for unknown dimensions.
- 4) Resistance to sunburn.

- 5) Out-of-season flowering.
- 6) Improved peduncles on dwarf types.
- 7) Use of the interspecific gene pool for a broader range of flower colour and shape.

Kind regards
Ken Smith.
October 2, 2002

At the meeting of the Northern Clivia Club there was an open discussion on 'Clivias - where to?' Ammie Grobler summed up the discussion that will be given in a future newsletter. Editor.

A short peduncle

I'm not a dedicated clivia grower, but do enjoy it as a hobby. The following happened and I might be sharing old knowledge with you.

A few years ago, I bought a yellow clivia seedling, and this year I thought it should be big enough to flower. All my other plants flowered as usual, but the yellow just didn't do anything. I even moved it into more sun, as it is in a pot. Still nothing happened. Then one sunny November morning, I saw it was pushing out a flower head, right at the bottom between the leaves, and one poor yellow flower was trying to open. I've seen other plants doing this, and of course, nothing really comes of the flower, usually it just rots.

Not being the slightly bit impressed with this plant, I took 3 big cups full of well rotted sheep manure and mixed it with water. I poured everything in one go over the plant. One week later, the flower was on a stem of about 30 centimetres.

Did I meet the plants nutritional requirements, or did I give it a shock of its life?

Johan Lubbe
White River.

I think we can gain from your experience. The kind of flower you start off with is referred to as a clipped flower and tends to form when adverse conditions are experienced when the plant starts pushing its flower. Lena van der Merwe.

A clivia database

One of the many problems we are all faced with sooner or later (especially in the autumn of our lives) is loss of memory. How often have you been through your nursery and said to yourself "Aish! Now what pollen did I use last year to cross this plant with" or, "Where did I get this one from" or, "Whatever happened to these labels?" Somewhere along the line we all lose, misplace, damage or destroy those pieces of paper shoved into our archaic little record books, well meaning to get down to sorting them all out some time in the future when we get the time. Fatal error. It seldom happens, resulting in vital information being lost forever.

At the meeting of the Metro Clivia Interest Group, held at Meg and Graeme Hart's home on Saturday 15 February, a computer based program was introduced to the group. This can be

used for recording all the information required to keep an accurate and comprehensive record of clivia plants, seedlings and seeds.

At the present time it is known as the “Clivia Database”, and is used to store ALL information relating to your beloved plants. It is an easy to use program and is very user friendly. If you can read and write and have access to a computer operating on Windows version '98 or later you'll be flying in no time at all.

It consists of only four basic functions, namely:

Add a Record, Edit a Record, View a Record and Sort All Records.

The first and paramount function will be to add a record. This you will initialize by giving the plant or seedling a record number of your own choice, for example XX 1127. Subsequently there is a list of 44 fields of information you can add into the database for this particular plant such as (to name but a few):

Species, Colour, Other Name, Acquired From, Date Acquired, Breeder, Pollen Parent, Plant Parent, No. of Florets , No. of Berries, Length of Petals, Sowing Date, etc., etc., etc. In addition to all this information, a facility is included to add a digital photograph of the plant, any of which can be ignored and left blank, should you so desire.

The second function, “Edit a Record”, is self-explanatory. You have the ability to edit or change any of the previously entered fields of information.

The third function, “View a Record”, will enable you to view any one entire selected record entry and print it out on your printer.

The fourth function, “Sort All Records”, will enable you to sort your entire database in any of four different alpha-numeric sequences namely: Record Number, Species, Colour or Breeder and print it out on your printer to place into your “Brag Book” or album together with photos, to show to your friends or customers.

The user will have to keep in mind that no matter how hard the programmer tries it is beyond him to secure the number markers or tabs to you plants. Secure them in such a way that they will not come away without some effort. Staple them to the plant pots or trays or nail them to your plants! The beauty is you only need a small tab with a simple number or letter on it and not a complete history book label stuck over 80% of the pot or tray!

And, as some of us have learned the hard way, please make a back-up copy of your database after every recording session lest you or your computer get struck by lightening!

Space does not permit a more detailed description of the database nor its innovative functions in this short communication. However, within the next four to six weeks the database will be posted on the Internet and the author will gladly inform those of you interested of the website address. You will be able to view the entire database on your computer, thereby convincing yourself that you can now, for the first time, throw away that tatty old notebook of yours!

For more information please contact Viv Elliott by e-mail at vegro@iafrica.com or mobile/cell phone no. +27 83 447 2203 (international) or 083 447 2203 (national).

Viv Elliot.

16 February 2003

SNIPPETS FROM THE CLIVIA-ENTHUSIAST E-MAIL GROUP

Cross pollination of Group 1 and Group 2 Yellows

Hi

My first yellow is flowering from seed harvested in 1998. The seedlings had 2 leaves when I swapped them for cycads at Rudo's (they are Group 1 yellows). My problem is that only one of the twenty + plants is going to flower and the only other plant that is yellow and also flowering for the first time is a Group 2 yellow. It is from an offset that I got from my grandfather who stayed in Port Alfred, but I remember that the seedlings produced were not yellow, meaning it must be a Group 2 yellow. How successful is self pollination? I would assume that selfing the Group 1 yellow would be best. Can I use some of the Group 1 yellow pollen on the Group. 2 plant? And what will I have then?

Marius Helm.

12 August 2002

Hallo Marius, when you mix Group 1 yellow with Group 2 yellow, the result is always orange, this is because both groups have a mutated gene, but the genes are on different places.

Let me explain, lets say gene x is responsible for the yellow flower colour, and gene N produces a normal orange flower, and N is dominant over x, therefore NN will be normal, Nx orange split for yellow and xx Yellow. Now in the case of group 1 Yellow (xxNN) the mutated gene comes first and in group 2 yellow (NNxx) the gene comes second. Both are yellow because xx blocks all pigments. If we cross pollinate xxNN with NNxx the result will be NxNx. You need two mutated genes on the same position for the colour to form, so NxNx will be orange. To produce a pure yellow strain it is important to use parents with the same mutation on the same locus or position.

Rudo Lötter.

15 August 2002

Berries falling off the umbel prematurely

I am a new member with some trouble. Last year two of my Yellow *Clivia miniata* flowered with about 35 flowers. I thought I'd have all these seeds to plant but they all fell off, bar one. I had them under shade cloth but in the sun. Could this have been the cause of them falling off? I have them in the shade now. I have a clear onion bag over them to stop the insects eating them. (Used this with great success for my Stanhopea Orchids). Can somebody tell me why they fell off? They are in bud again this year and I don't want to loose them again.

Regards

Fred.

13 August 2002

Hallo Fred, the only reason for berries to fall off after pollination is because the berry did not contain any developing seed. The reason for this is either because the mother is sterile or the pollen from the father was not compatible with the mother. Next time try to use pollen from another yellow on your plants.

Rudo Lötter.
15 August 2002

Optimum pH level for clivia

I am happy to say that I have also now had a chance to read Clivia 4 and I will probably continue to read it over and over until it is falling apart or Clivia 5 arrives. One thing that I was surprised by is the low Ph that has been recommended in this edition. I was wondering if anyone else has tested the optimum Ph level for clivias and the range that they have found works the best.

Kind Regards,
Ron Redding
16 August 2002

Clarification on breeding for multipetals

In the last issue of the Newsletter, Vol. 11 No. 4 Summer 2002, under 'Beginner's Luck', Shige Sasaki suggested that when breeding for multipetals, seed should be selected from those flowers in the umbel that had a four-lobed stigma. Editor.

Hi All:

Regarding seed from a double flower as opposed to a single flower from the same umbel to get a better chance at double flowers, I think is wishful thinking. If a plant has a disposition toward double flowers and it is a genetically transmissible trait, that genetic information will be the same in every flower. Each individual flower does not have its own unique genetic info.

Similarly, when someone has one double flower in an umbel (I think some people are calling these Siamese flowers) it should not make any difference if you use that flower or any other flower in the umbel. The genetic info is throughout the plant. You might be able to encourage this trait by crossing with another plant that does the same thing, but you should be able to use any flower on either umbel. Unlike striped variegation which, being chimeric in nature, can give you different results from flower to flower depending on the amount or type of variegated tissue that reaches the seed; the propensity of a plant to produce 'Siamese' flowers or double flowers does not appear to be chimeric in nature. My opinion.

James Comstock, Southern California, USA.
26 November 2002

Couldn't agree more, thank you and best wishes. In the different peduncles, phenotype differs, genotype not.

Charl Coetzee, Port Elizabeth, RSA.
27 November 2002

Oh dear - there go our wishful thoughts. However, thanks for the clarification - does anyone have any ideas as to how one can improve ones multipetal batting average?

Regards all around

Connie and James Abel, 89 Brampton Road, Lynnwood Manor,
27 November 2002

Severed seedling

Firstly, as a new initiate into the clivia fraternity, I wish to extend my sincere appreciation to all the members for their most wonderful and informative contributions to the chat group. In a matter of two months I have learnt more about clivias than I could ever have imagined. Thank you one and all.

I have a little problem; in fact I have a 30mm problem. Yesterday evening whilst inspecting my first attempt at growing seed (proud dad), I noticed that one of the seedlings (Nakamura Variegated) had become detached from the seed. The little critter measures about 15mm root and 15mm double leaf. Is it possible to save this fella or is he headed to the great compost heap in the sky? I would appreciate any input.

Peter Mitchell, Benoni - South Africa.
7 January 2003

If it has two leaves already, it should be fine.

Harold Koopowitz, Southern California, USA.
7 January 2003

Exciting find

I visited a nursery the other day, and couldn't resist having a look at the clivia. There was only one in flower - a picotee! I was really excited about that find. I'll include a picture of it. It's a fairly broad leafed plant. There are only going to be three flowers in the umbel, but this seems to be the first time it's flowered, so hopefully that will improve. I'm very much a beginner when it comes to clivia and was wondering what the experts thought of it?

Keri
9 January 2003

*** PLEASE ADD A SMALL BLACK AND WHITE PHOTO OF THE PICOTEE HERE IF YOU CAN - SEE ATTACHMENT**

Hallo Keri, with picotees one must be careful not to be too excited at first. Clivia flowers that are produced out of season or in the crown tends to look like picotees, and when they flower at the normal time revert back to orange. However yours looks very promising.

Rudo Lötter.
9 January 2003

Dear Rudo,

I'm so glad to hear someone confirm this observation. A year or two ago, I asked if anyone had made the observation that those flowers that bloom down in the crown fairly often look like picotees. No one ever responded. I've also noticed many of these flowers that bloom in the crown are often very large. In both cases, in subsequent years, the plants bloomed normally.

James Comstock
10 January 2003

SOME EARLY NAMES ASSOCIATED WITH CLIVIA (3): WILLIAM JOHN BURCHELL

Many lovers of South African flora and fauna are familiar with Burchell's name. You know of Burchell's Zebra, and his Coucal, but what do you know about him and his clivia?

He was born in Fulham, London, in 1781, the son of a nurseryman. Having worked for a time at Kew, he was employed on the island of St Helena as a 'schoolmaster and acting botanist'. His fiancée sailed from England to marry him there but went off with the ship's captain instead. Burchell, who never married after that experience, left for Cape Town in 1810. There he had a wagon specially built for him, and in June 1811 he trekked off into the interior on a journey lasting four years, accompanied only by six Hottentot servants and his span of oxen. His wagon and equipment cost £600 (around £40000 in today's money, i.e. R550000, or US\$64000), all apparently financed by the 30 year-old Burchell himself.

He collected over 40000 plants on his 4500 mile (7200 km) trip; most now dried specimens in the Kew Herbarium. Many were described as new species and several were named in his honour. He returned to England in 1815, laden with all manner of specimens and data collected on his remarkable trek. He had also made many drawings, including landscapes, portraits, and costumes, zoological, botanical and other features. "Probably no such collection gathered by one man ever left Africa before or since", wrote the author of "A botanist in Southern Africa" (Hutchinson 1946: 625).

Burchell spent the next decade back in Fulham, arranging his specimens and writing up his results. These record the locations and dates of observation of about 8700 plants, taking up 14 volumes of neat manuscript, now stored in the library at Kew. One of his specimens (there were two others collected later) is the earliest scientific record of a *Clivia nobilis*, collected on 28/9 September 1813 at "Kaffir Drift / Date Tree Station", in the Bathurst district. This spot lies south-west of where Bowie is recorded by Hooker as having found plants near the mouth of the Great Fish River, probably in 1823, ten years later. According to Dr Robert Archer of the National Botanical Institute in Pretoria, it appears that Burchell may have intended to publish his specimen as *Cyrtanthus sylvatica*, i.e. the forest cyrtanthus, but he never got around to doing so. This would probably have preceded Lindley's name of *Clivia nobilis*.

During his time at Fulham many enthusiasts visited Burchell to see his collections, and one of those who saw "Burchell's Clivia" was instrumental in locating and importing living specimens to Britain, some time in the 1820's. More of that in the forthcoming Clivia 5 Yearbook...

* Chris, I'm not sure what the latest fashion is with the 'list of sources', please change if necessary

List of sources.

Hutchinson, J. 1946. *A botanist in Southern Africa*. London: Garthorn.

John van der Linde.

THE CAULESCENS TOUR SEPTEMBER 2002

During my trip to South Africa for the Conference at Pietermaritzburg, I had the opportunity to be part of the *Caulescens* Tour organised by Connie and James Abel. It was a valuable experience.

I had been in South Africa for a week visiting the Cape and had seen a lot of *Clivia*s and had met many of my *Clivia* friends. The tour was set to depart from the Abel's residence early on Monday morning, September 2nd. The trailer was loaded with the luggage and the bus was loaded with the group of *Clivia* enthusiasts from around the world. The bus headed off from Pretoria at approximately 8am on its way to Magoebaskloof. We traveled through some very dry country and to me the scenery was not unlike Australia, except for the *Aloes*. We reached the Motel at 2.30pm so that the trailer could be left and we were on our way again through some Afro-Montaine forest vegetation on route to the first *caulescens* habitat. I was intrigued to see some very mature specimens of *Quercus*, *Fagus* and *Malus*, and a large stand of *Sasa palmata*. Upon reaching the site the bus was parked and we had a walk of several kilometres to view the *Clivia* in habitat. What we saw was *Clivia caulescens* carpeting the forest floor as well as the odd specimen growing epiphytically on the moss covered tree branches. The view of the valleys was spectacular. Illie and myself ventured into the forest to photograph some flowering specimens, and then it was back along the track to the bus. The drive out of the forest as the light faded was a very interesting one. Well done Justin. Once back at the Magoebaskloof Motel we were able to rest and revive ourselves with pre-dinner drinks. The meal was fantastic.

Day two was a planned trip to see the McNeil Collection at Ofcolaco. It was a warm, sunny day that became warmer as the morning progressed. Margot McNeil met the bus at the entrance to the Legalameetse Nature Reserve. Several four-wheel drive vehicles had been organised to take the tour party through the scrub to the *Clivia* planting, almost all *Clivia miniata*. For me, this part of the tour was extremely satisfying. I had researched the McNeil collection when I was doing my university studies and now to actually be in the midst of this important *Clivia* collection was special indeed. The whole party had a guided tour of the collection. We listened intently to Margot and soaked up the spectacle of the mass planted *Clivia* that changed with every turn of the pathway. While some took refreshments, those that wanted to purchase plants were able to select out the plant in flower, negotiate a price, and providing a suitable piece could be dug, ended up with some choice *Clivia*s. For those readers that have enjoyed the images of the 'Four Mary' *Clivia*, you should see it *in situ*! I am so glad I was part of this tour. I know some of us stayed too long with Margot, but the time wasn't enough for me. James had a schedule to keep so it was time to go back down the rutted track through the thick scrub. We joined the others on the bus and headed for * **check spelling** Mariepskop, our next *caulescens* habitat site.

By mid afternoon we had arrived at the offices of the Mpumalanga Reserve where the trailer was to stay while we took the bus up to the top of the area. Our host for this visit, Mr. Winners Mashego, joined the bus and explained about the redevelopment of this pine and eucalypt forest back to indigenous forest trees. He also helped in getting clearance through the Air Force site on our way up. The drive to the top was steep but well worth it for the view once there. *Clivia caulescens* was seen growing under vegetation along either side of the roadway. I was surprised to see it growing in fairly exposed conditions, under shrubs and

on rocky outcrops, at the top of the site. Cleaned seeds of *Clivia caulescens* were scattered all along the concrete roadway and the group discussed at length as to how they got there. It was a very relaxing time. After a slow descent to pick up the trailer, it was off to Graskop, which was to be the starting point for day three of the tour.

We set out for God's Window after breakfast, stopping along the way at several places to see more *caulescens*. The Pinnacle was amazing. Fantastic scenery was to be the order of the day. The *caulescens* habitat was different here to that of the forest on day one. The habitat was most surprising and to see the *caulescens* growing in the leaf mould on top of the rocks was an eye opener indeed. Huge plants with long stems. We also ventured into the thicker vegetation to view *caulescens*, still with the large stems, growing under the shrubbery. Lunch was at Bourke's Luck Potholes, on the Blyde River, where we were able to marvel at nature's handiwork. Quite a bit of shopping was done at the various stops during the day, as well as at the curio shops back at Graskop.

Day four, the day we were to leave Graskop for Pretoria, started out cool and overcast. We stopped at several scenic viewing points during the return trip. Our stop at Sabie gave me a chance to compare the horticultural planting at an old church with those that I am familiar with in Australia. I was aware of a lot of similarities. After the drive back to Pretoria the tour finished at the Abel's where we all had a meal and viewed the clivia collection of Connie and James. A great way to finish the tour.

I was pleased I had joined the Caulescens Tour. So many things to see and learn: the *Clivia caulescens* in habitat of course, but also the countryside and the places we visited. A special part of being on the tour was the opportunity to interact with the other participants and to learn a little more about each of them. Even helped celebrate a wedding anniversary! James discussed suggestions for improving future tours, so if any of you were planning a trip to South Africa for the 2006 Conference, I would recommend you consider being part of a habitat tour like the Caulescens Tour.

Ken Smith, NSW Australia

TOURS

Although there will not be a conference in 2003, everything else will be here shows, gardens, habitats and the opportunity of meeting other enthusiasts and exchanging ideas/seed/plants. A Caulescens Tour will be arranged if there are sufficient participants. If interested, contact (without commitment) Connie and James Abel, 89 Brampton Road, Lynnwood Manor, 0081 Pretoria, South Africa, Tel/Fax: +27-12-3616406, jcabel@freemail.absa.co.za

NORTHERN CLIVIA CLUB

Connie and James Abel have distinguished themselves through their contribution to the Clivia Society in general and in particular to the Northern Clivia Club. In recognition of these services and following a motivation they were awarded Honorary Membership of the Northern Clivia Club. Others members join me in congratulating them on this well deserved honour. Editor

Motivation for Honorary Membership of the Northern Clivia Club: 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 organised the first habitat visit to see *C. 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 Club 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 Society, 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, Renée and Michael Stevenson and Nick Primich, 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 organised 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 KwaZulu Natal Branch, 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 Clivia Club. Connie and James have continued to make contributions to the Clivia Society and the Northern Clivia Club in various areas, including 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.

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 that they should be suitably honoured for this. I therefore wish to propose Connie and James for honorary membership of the Northern Clivia Club.

Proposer: Lena van der Merwe Seconder: Bossie de Kock.

Approved by the Northern Clivia Club Managing Committee Meeting on the 13 November 2002.

EASTERN PROVINCE CLIVIA CLUB

Abbreviated minutes of the Annual General Meeting

The First Annual General Meeting of the Eastern Province Clivia Club was held on 22 February 2003 at Verkenner Primary School Hall, Salvia Avenue, Linton Grange in Port Elizabeth. There were 29 members and visitors present.

Highlights of the past year were the approval of Club status for the region in April 2002 followed by the annual show in September. There were twice as many visitors to the Show than there were in 2001, following which membership increased from 80 to 125 members.

Founder members of the first Clivia Club in South Africa (1992) were honoured with striking Certificates issued by the Society. Fred Gibello and Mary-lynn Lubke of the Eastern Province Clivia Club were recipients of such certificates. Fred Gibello was also made honorary life member of the Clivia Society for his service and dedication over many years. Well done and congratulations.

The following persons were elected to the committee: Willie le Roux (Chairman), Charl Coetzee (Vice Chairman), Len Stratford (Secretary), Barry Green (Treasurer), Gideon Botha (PRO), Mark Joubert, Wim Bothma, Fred Gibello, Bobby Webber, André Calitz, Jan Blumenthal as Committee members and Pine and Yvonne van der Watt as Auditors. Willie le Roux and Charl Coetzee were elected Clivia Society Representatives and Len Stratford and Gideon Botha as alternatives.

The Club will host the Clivia Society Annual General Meeting to be held on 17 May 2003 at the Kabega Park School Hall in Brabant Street, Kabega Park. It is anticipated that approximately 40 Clivia Society members from around the country will attend the meeting. Members are welcome to be present at the AGM as observers and to meet the delegates afterwards and may attend the finger supper, which will follow the meeting

Gideon Botha had been appointed to act as Liaison Office for accommodation for 'out of town' visitors and should anyone be prepared to assist with accommodation in their private homes they are requested to advise him as soon as possible.

Mark Joubert of 'Mark Joubert Landscaping' addressed the meeting on "Clivias in the Garden".

Willie le Roux.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Annual General Meeting of the Clivia Society

Date: Saturday, 17 May.2003 Time: 14:00
Venue: Kabega Park School Hall, Brabant Street, Kabega Park, Port Elizabeth

KwaZulu Natal Clivia Club

Mini Gardenii Show	Saturday 10 May 2003
KZN Show	Saturday/Sunday 13/14 September 2003
Newcastle Show	Saturday/Sunday 20/21 September 2003
Mini One-day Kloof Show	Saturday 4 October 2003

Val Thurston.

2003 Show dates

Metro Group	30-31 August 2003
Northern Clivia Club	6-7 September 2003
KwaZulu Natal Clivia Club	6-7 or 13-14 September
Cape Clivia Club	13-14 September
Eastern Province Clivia Club	27-28 September 2003

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: R400.00
A4 separate page insert: R800.00
(You will be sent an account from the treasurer for the appropriate amount.)

From the Clivia Society:

Back volume copies of the yearbooks and newsletters (since 1992) are now available at reduced prices to overseas members. 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@freemail.absa.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 and UK members are reminded that they can order via Ken Smith and Michael Jeans respectively. Members in the USA can contact Sebrina Heroux at 860 923 2964 (Tel), 860 923 1184 (Fax) or xrh234@netzero.com (e-mail). 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 4	10
Yearbook 3	6*
Yearbook 2	3*
Yearbook 1	3*
Volumes 1(1992) to 11 (2002) of newsletters	10 per volume*
Hints on growing Clivia – hard copy	5*
Hints on growing Clivia – electronic PDF format	3*
International membership list – hard copy	3*
International membership list – electronic format	2*

* Excluding banking charges

***Clivia miniata*, pendulous species, hybrids and other specialties available** - seed, seedlings and mature plants. Visitors welcome. Connie Abel, Pretoria, tel/fax +27-12-361.6406 or e-mail jcabel@freemail.absa.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 F1 (yellow x orange), “pinks” and pastels, flowering size @ R12. *Clivia miniata* yellows, flowering size @ R150. *C. miniata* ‘Stef’s Perfume’ @ R18,00. Extra for postage and packaging. Dries Bester, PO Box 75, Levubu 0929. Tel/Fax (015) 583 0299.

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.

***Clivia* hybrids imported from China**. 1 year old seedlings (2-4 leaves) @ R60.00; 8 to 12 leaves @R150.00; Variegated plants also available from R120.00 to R150.00 (3 to 8 leaves). Contact Chris du Raan at +27-12-654 5597 (h), 083 310 6336 or chrixanda@mweb.co.za

Clivia for sale: www.cliviacreations.com

BEGINNER'S LUCK

Germination of clivia seed

Each clivia grower has his/her own growing methods, which work best for their nursery, and the following is an example of my procedure.

The life of a healthy seedling starts after the pollination takes place on the plant and the seed sets and starts to develop. The seed will grow to maturity over a period of 7 months to one year on the plant and must be fed constantly during this time to create a viable fertile seed. The food supply for seed is exendospermous, which means that it is a separate food supply for the embryo plant and is stored outside the cotyledon. The seed will need a lot of energy to shoot the radical and to develop the embryo plant to the first leaf in its first few weeks and later months. It is therefore important to feed the plant with the basic fertilisers and the necessary trace elements in this period at least once a month. If the seeds do not have an ample supply of sugars, trace elements and mineral salts they will develop slowly and could possibly not be viable.

To start, you have to remove the seed from the berry coating and the inner membrane of the fruit-wall. This membrane must be removed to prevent the seeds becoming infected with bacteria or fungi. Wash the seeds with dilute, 1 ml to 1 litre, dishwasher detergent, and rinse with clean water. Please note this operation mechanically removes spore, fungi and bacteria but does not actually kill the organisms. After this operation the seeds should be dried for at least 7 - 10 days in a clean open container before germination. Dust them lightly with fungicide or rinse with Sporekill (1 ml in 5 litres of water). After the drying period, rinse the seeds with clean water and place the moist seeds in ziplock bags to stimulate germination. Place the bags in a dark, temperature-controlled area between 18 - 23 ° C, and wait for them to germinate. The ziplock bags must be sealed to keep the moisture in and fungal spores out. If you see any problems in the bag, e.g. rotting seeds or fungus, remove the seeds with these problems and put a knifepoint of fungicide in the bag. In general I do not like to germinate my seeds with fungicides but use it as a precautionary measure if problems occur. Receiving seeds from sources other than your own is always a risk because you do not know the quality of the food supply during seed-set and growing, or even details of other hygiene criteria in use by the supplier. This is one of the main reasons why I stick to seed suppliers I know and only cross the line for very special seed. I will add photos of seeds that I received from my dear friend Keith Rose where you can still see healthy seeds on seedlings in their third leaf stage. When you receive seeds from other sources treat them with the same procedure as you would for your own seeds but give them at least one additional mechanical wash and rinse with Sporekill, after which place them directly in the Ziplock bags for germination. Ask the supplier, before ordering seeds, for the history regarding feeding during seed-set to maturity. This will guide you to determine whether to purchase from that supplier or not.

Once the seeds show a reasonable growth of root - 25 mm/1 inch - plant them into containers using a good friable seedling mix with enough space to grow on for at least one year to 18 months before transplanting them into individual pots of 10 to 12.5 cms in size, i.e. 4 to 5 inches. Even in warmer and more humid areas of the world you can successfully use this method. It will adequately handle bacteria and fungi but requires regular inspection of the seed during the germination period. When trouble arises prompt action is what will possibly save your seeds. Please remember: wash your hands very thoroughly before handling seeds and after they have been sanitised. It is preferable to put them onto a paper towel in your

hands and not onto your bare palm. Obviously if you can work with latex gloves it's always better. Also, never cough or sneeze over your seeds as, like it or not, your breath contains horrors beyond belief! Be very careful of the root sprouting from the seed since any mechanical damage to it will sound its death knell.

I know this method will help you achieve very high percentages of germination and seedling maturity and although it does seem rather long and complicated it's well worth the effort.

Good luck with your germination.

Harry Erasmus <harryerasmus@hotmail.com>

ON THE COMPOST HEAP

Harold Koopowitz's book 'Clivias' arrived just in time for Christmas. I was so engrossed reading it that I forgot my chief business in the garden. (This was also held up due to the lateness of the rains on the highveld.) I made up for this in January. The Editor is now having a total onslaught on my relatives in her garden. Some of them were found in some very precious seed she was guarding in her shade house! I hate to think of their fate. Is there a Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Worms? I'm also wondering whether there is space for my activities on the new database?

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

*** NB – EXTRAS TO BE ADDED BY YOU**

***Advertisement – ONE PAGE - Suzy's Clivias 2003 calendar - See e-mail attachment.**

***Advertisement – ONE PAGE - Bertie Guillaume - You have this one.**

All the copies of "Clivias" by Harold Koopowitz imported by the Clivia Society, which arrived late last year, have been sold out. The Clivia Society is taking orders for a new batch. Interested persons should contact Bossie de Kock.

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