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CLIVIA SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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

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

EDITORIAL

In recent years, the practice has been established of devoting most of the Summer Newsletter to the results and descriptions of the many clivia shows and exhibitions held in South Africa and in other Southern Hemisphere countries during the flowering period. The present volume records details of shows from the Soutpansberg in the north, to Cape Town at the southern tip of South Africa, and from Australia and New Zealand.

Unusual weather conditions in South Africa, with an especially cold episode in mid-August retarded the flowering of plants in some locations. Unfortunately those shows that were held early in the spring, such as the Metro Show in Johannesburg, found many growers and exhibitors struggling to find flowering specimens. Had growers from further north not contributed, the show of plants would have been very thin. The Northern Clivia Club was more fortunate, and Pretoria being warmer and with the show coming a week later, had quite spectacular displays. In fact, the plants were so exotic that many of the experts observed that the blooms would have competed with the best anywhere in the world. The plummet in temperatures in August also adversely affected the Cape Clivia Club show and this was exacerbated by the fact that their show was a week earlier than usual.

One observes that most clivia specimens on shows are 'good cultivars', for example, 'Belgian hybrids', broad-leafed varieties, multipetals and variegated types and not ordinary 'wild type' clivia. As is well known, the shows are also the scene of marketing operations to the public. This also establishes a new trend and buyers now seek excellent specimens for their gardens or collections and disregard the common varieties. Unfortunately the market for clivias is becoming saturated in South Africa as the number of grower's increases and prices are negatively affected. They remain high for good cultivars and unusual specimens, but the only buyers of the common oranges are parks or institutions that buy in quantity and therefore cannot afford to be selective.

Interesting articles in this newsletter have come from Willie le Roux from Port Elizabeth on the rescue of a precious 'Peach' and Ian Vermaak from George who relates the story behind 'Bronze Green Boy' (cover picture on yearbook CLIVIA FIVE). From the Clivia-enthusiast e-mail Group is an article and discussion on the importance of accurate record keeping which will be of interest to growers wishing to proceed systematically and scientifically with their work. This last document and the discussions following include other relevant issues concerned with clivia cultivation.

John van der Linde, who is responsible for describing the background behind the cover photographs and researches about people connected with clivia, contributes again to this edition. He describes the origins of *Clivia cyrtanthiflora*, the people involved in these origins and early attitudes towards hybridization.

All good wishes for the festive season. We look forward to another good clivia year in 2004.

Editor.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

What a year this has been for clivia! South Africa had eleven clivia shows and exhibitions in spring and in the past year the indications are that at least three new areas have the potential to become interest groups. The effort that went into the organisation of shows and exhibitions is appreciated as also the work of the members who displayed their plants. Congratulations to those members in the Soutpansberg area, the Free State and in the Southern Cape who organized their first shows.

Successful exhibitions were put on in New Zealand and in Australia. The New Zealand Clivia Club is going from strength to strength, and independent Societies have also been established in Australia and the USA. Some South African members have asked why they are not affiliates of the Clivia Society? One doesn't know the answer but it is certainly not a sign of any disaffection towards the Clivia Society.

All the Clivia bodies (including Clivia Clubs in South Africa) have been linked on the Internet since July 2003 and once a month have discussed matters of mutual interest and shared experience and advice. This group is now called the International Clivia Group. There is a splendid spirit of goodwill and cooperation among members.

During these discussions it was apparent that not everyone understood the function of the Clivia Society. It was suggested that the newsletter be used to inform overseas enthusiasts and Club members of the Clivia Society's functions and objectives. The Clivia Clubs are not branches of the Clivia Society. Each is an independent body which is not subject to any control by the Society. The Society exists to foster the common interests of these Clubs through, amongst others, the publication of quarterly newsletters and a Yearbook, the registration of named cultivars, the development of judging criteria and encouraging research on clivia. The aim of the Clivia Society is to be an umbrella body that facilitates cooperation between Clivia Clubs sharing common interests that go beyond national and language boundaries. In this way all clivia groups are accommodated with their mutual and individual interests while retaining their independence.

It is hoped that the long awaited Clivia Society website (<http://www.cliviasociety.org>) will be up and running by mid December. The website has enormous potential to serve the Clivia community. However, to realise the potential, support is needed. Perhaps clubs should consider appointing people to feed the Webmaster with club news, articles and photographs? This will make the website "live" and not be simply an administrative tool.

The Northern Clivia Club has established a Conference Committee to organise the 2006 Clivia Conference. The proposed dates and activities are tabled below. The organising committee wants to have *Clivia* declared 'Plant of the Year' in 2006 and is negotiating with the South African Philatelic Services to issue a set of clivia stamps for the occasion.

At this stage it appears that the conference venue will be the Safari Garden Centre (the home of the well-known ‘Anna Meyer Peach’) in Lynnwood, Pretoria.

Dates in September	Activity		
Mon 4	Day trips - clivia collections, NBI, Gold Reef City, Lion Park, etc		
Tues 5	Conference	Evening conference dinner	
Wed 6		Evening social	
Thu 7	Day trips - Soweto, de Wildt and Rietvlei Nature Reserves, etc		
Friday 8	Pretoria Show	Evening auction	
Sat 9-Sun 10		Trips - 2 day – Pilanesberg Game Reserve, etc	
Mon 11 to Thu 14	Caulescens tour	? Mirabilis tour	
Fri 15			
Sat 16 to Sun 17	? KZN Show in Pietermaritzburg	Metro show in Johannesburg	Show in George (Southern Cape)
Mon 18 to Thu 21	? Miniata & Gardenii tours		Nobilis tour - 18-19
22/23rd – Sun 24th	Cape Town Show		
Sat 30 to Sun 1 Oct	Eastern Province Clivia Club show in Port Elizabeth		

The management committee thanks all who contributed to making 2003 a clivia year to remember, at both Society and Club levels. I want to share an incident with you that happened at one of the shows. A grandfather allowed his grandson to sell some clivia plants that the child had grown himself. The grandfather then went to a friend, gave him money and asked the friend to buy the child’s plants.

Thanks to the Editor for the Newsletters. Also to Mick Dower, John Winter, John van der Linde and Claude Felbert for producing the yearbook ‘CLIVIA FIVE’. Thank you to the members of sub-committees and our overseas representatives and contact people for their time and efforts and to Lena van der Merwe and Bossie de Kock for administration and finance respectively.

May you and your loved ones be blessed with a peaceful festive season.

Chris Vlok
Chairman

STORIES BEHIND THE COVER PHOTOGRAPHS

Front cover

This plant, owned by Sheila de Bruyn, was exhibited by Norman Weitz, at the 2002 Show of the Northern Clivia Club in Pretoria. It was entered in Section 8 ‘Peach, apricot or salmon miniata’ together with a sibling, both outstanding tulip-flowered peaches. It was awarded first place, with the sibling in second place.

Sheila lives about 400 kms from Pretoria near Karino, beyond Nelspruit in the sub-tropical Lowveld region of South Africa. She bought a batch of two-year old seedlings from Rory Niven at a nursery at Tipperary, on a farm some way further down the warm Crocodile River valley towards Mozambique. This nursery was later sold to new owners, Clivias Unlimited, who now have some 200 000 clivias in cultivation. Most of the clivias are Belgian-type miniatas, and include the ‘Tipperary Peaches’, pictured in the clivia selection in the photo on page 64 of CLIVIA 4. The plant on this front cover is probably one from that peach complex.

How were these peaches bred? A large number of plants, perhaps 500, were growing under trees on the farm. When the plants were in flower, amongst the typical range of colours found in Belgian hybrids, there were magnificent peaches. The mother plants had not been pollinated by hand, but a beehive stood (and still does to this day?) near the plants, under the same trees. What will the bees come up with next? Or maybe the birds did it!

Back cover, photograph no. 2.

Bertie Guillaume is in the news once again with this good-looking plant, winner of the section for ‘Broad-petaled orange miniatas’ at the 2002 Northern Clivia Club Show. The judges recognized its quality by awarding it ‘Third Best on Show’.

Bertie named this plant ‘Gypsy’. It is a good cultivar that just ‘happened’. He thinks it may have been grown from seed obtained years ago from either Nick Primich or Joe Solomone, or it may be from a crossing from both these sources.

‘Gypsy’ is about 6 years old. The first flowering was in ? 2001 and was not spectacular enough for Bertie to keep the seed. This seed was sold with ‘Bertie’s Mix’, so perhaps someone has offspring from ‘Gypsy’? Its second flowering was in 2002 when it won the prizes. ‘Gypsy’ produced two magnificent heads of flowers this year, but both were too early for the 2003 shows.

Back cover, photograph no.3

The National Botanical Institute entered this plant at the Championship Show held in Pietermaritzburg in September 2002 to coincide with the 3rd International Clivia Conference. It is an offshoot (clone) of the well-known ‘Wittig’s Pink’, and not surprisingly, was awarded first place in its section. Harold Koopowitz, in his book “*Clivias*”, describes the clone of this plant as “the clearest and truest pink I have ever seen”.

Clones of the original plant – the only pink amongst a batch of orange flowered seedlings grown from seed from an orange-flowered miniata given to Emmie Wittig some years back – have done well at shows throughout South Africa. When selfed, ‘Wittig’s Pink’ produces orange-flowered seedlings. Some growers have crossed their plants with their

best miniatas, with a view to doing F1 x F1 crosses to recover some pink flowers in the F2 generation (25%?).

Several clones of 'Wittig's Pink' were put up for sale at the auction held after the Conference cocktail party- what better time to hold an auction? Bidding was keen and, as one recalls, some prices of over R1000 a plant were fetched. People attending came from Australia, Japan, Europe and the USA, as well as from South Africa. By now 'Wittig's Pink' clones are probably spread far and wide across the world.

Back cover, photograph no. 4

This plant has been a Newsletter 'Cover Girl' before, but this picture shows its beautiful multi-tone flowers off to greater advantage. It is Emmie Wittig's 'One House', exhibited by her at last year's KwaZulu Natal Championship Show, and much admired winner of the 'Any other colour miniata' class.

It is an offshoot of a plant taken from the wild and one contemplates it in awe and is humbled by what nature produces. Interested readers can refer to the Newsletter Volume 12, No. 1 Autumn 2003, for the details.

Emmie Wittig does not yet know what its breeding characteristics are, but the seedlings from self-pollinating the plant should flower in a year or two.

Back cover, photograph no. 5

This plant is one of the selection of Cowlshaw hybrids in Ken Smith's collection in Australia. He lives in the Blue Mountains, inland from Sydney, and is one of the founder members of the original Clivia Club, the forerunner of the Clivia Society.

Cowlshaw hybrids are large-growing miniata forms, generally with dark orange, full flowers. The petals recurve. They make an excellent display in the garden with their full hemispherical heads of bloom. There are several paler plants as well as the normal darker colours.

The plants have resulted from the breeding efforts of the late G. Keith Cowlshaw during the period 1920 to 1950. Ken Smith was fortunate in obtaining offsets from many of the plants in the Cowlshaw garden, and will keep the line by intercrossing the plants.

John van der Linde.

CORRESPONDENCE

A 'Peach' of a gift

It was a beautiful September morning in George when the revamped branch of a well-known chain store opened its doors to the public. In the foyer stood the Branch Manager and a colleague from Port Elizabeth smiling at the stream of customers entering the store.

In the foyer was a beautiful display of flowering clivia plants, a promotion for the Southern Cape Clivia Interest Group. A member of the club, Edgar Fevrier, was responsible for the display and had used some of his most treasured orange, yellow, pastel and peach clivia plants for the display.

Sometime later the two officials turned their attention to the beautiful display of plants and whilst admiring them a customer joined them and expressed a wish to have a particular plant, pointing to a beautiful peach clivia. When asked what she would do with it if she could have it, she said she would give it to her dear mother. Not knowing the value of the plant and feeling sympathetic to her request, she was told to fetch her mother. She said this was impossible for reasons beyond her control. This prompted the good Samaritans to give her the plant of her choice. She left the store smiling happily clutching her gift.

While traveling back to Port Elizabeth the managers had a call from the Assistant Manager of the store in George explaining that he had a very upset gentleman, Edgar Fevrier, in the store maintaining that they had given away one of his most precious and very expensive plants, a 'Chubb's Peach'. To make matters worse the flowers had already been pollinated.

Realising their mistake, and wishing to rectify it as soon as possible, they asked a member of the staff at the store, who might identify the lucky customer, to stand in the foyer for the next couple of days and apprehend her should she return to the store. The customer in question never returned to the store.

While traveling, and getting more worried by the day, the manager and colleague decided to call on a friend in the import/export plant business about their dilemma. He told them not to worry as clivias grew wild in the Eastern Cape and suggested they could simply dig some out. Still scheming as to where they would be able to find a locality to 'dig some out', they entered the City of Port Elizabeth. To their amazement they saw street boards advertising the Eastern Province Clivia show on the 27 - 28 September. Realising that there might be persons preparing the hall on the Friday morning prior to the show, they decided to visit it and call for help. It so happened that they approached me and asked to speak to someone familiar with clivias. I offered to help and was told this 'peach of a story'. As I was positive that no 'Chubb's Peach' clivias would be on sale at the show I provided them with Sean Chubb's telephone number.

Being unsure as to whether Edgar Fevrier would be provided with the correct replacement if they did the negotiations, one of the gentleman returned to the show the next day to find someone knowledgeable about clivia to act as a negotiator between themselves, Edgar and Sean. I agreed to do this and after arranging with Sean to provide

Edgar with a pollinated 'Chubb's Peach' against payment from the managers, all parties were satisfied with the outcome.

These gentlemen should be commended for correcting their mistake quickly and effectively.

Willie le Roux

The story behind 'Bronze Green Boy'

In September 1998 my wife Geraldine and I were walking our dog and passed a home where a number of clivias were flowering in the garden. We were looking over the fence admiring them and were invited in by the owners, Mr. & Mrs. Hannes Slabbert. They were not overly keen clivia growers but enjoyed the display of orange clivia in their garden.

While looking at the clivias we spotted one with an unusual brickish colour. Hannes told us that he had bought three orange Clivias at a nursery in Johannesburg before moving down to George and one of them turned out to be the clivia with the unusually dark colour. We were offered a shoot, whereupon I took the smallest shoot, and suggested that Hannes place the rest of the plant in a pot in his atrium. This he did, and I promised to give him a shoot of my Red 'Geraldine'. I did not realise the potential of the plant we were dealing with at the time.

After our introduction to Hannes he became interested in clivias and paid a visit to Hennie Koch to purchase a few plants. Hennie went out to the house and saw the potential of the plant. In exchange for a larger shoot Hennie gave Hannes some of his good plants. Hennie then sold this plant for R6 000 while he was in Johannesburg.

During September 2000 the shoot I had taken in 1998 flowered for the first time, and I took it down to Cape Town for their show. This set the cat amongst the pigeons. It was a hit from the time it was first seen. On my return to George I had a phone call from Louis Swanepoel offering me R3000 for the plant, but it was not for sale. At the same time I gave him details of where I had obtained the plant. He contacted Hannes and exchanged a number of his good plants for a very large shoot. I received a phone call from Louis to decide on a name for the plant. I was keen to name it 'Chardenay' but after discussion with Hannes and Louis the more descriptive name of 'Bronze Green Boy' was given. The shoot shown by Louis won the 'Best on Show' at the Championship Show in Pietermaritzburg in 2002. I believe an offer of R25000 was turned down. Louis has arranged to have a portrait of this show winner painted.

Thus the demand and value of 'Bronze Green Boy' was established. The plant that Hannes kept had a problem but sent up four shoots to counter the problem, as we all know clivias do. Hennie sold the four shoots to different growers at R10 000 each.

'Bronze Green Boy' is a plant deserving of all the praise that it gets. The plant that Geraldine and I have, won the 'Best on Show' at the Port Elizabeth show this year.

It is with deep regret that I inform Clivia Society members reading this article about the death of Hannes Slabbert. Quite soon after making contact with him he was diagnosed as having cancer. He passed away in August. With the help of his interest in clivias he, with the support of his charming wife Rica, showed great strength in fighting this dreaded disease. Our deepest sympathies are extended to Rica and family. We look back at the last three years of his life knowing that he enjoyed every minute of his interest in clivia.

The above information is the history of 'Bronze Green Boy', which I trust is of interest to clivia growers.

Ian Vermaak.

SNIPPETS FROM THE CLIVIA ENTHUSIAST E-MAIL GROUP

Tuesday, July 22, 2003 11:51 AM

The importance of accurate record keeping in your clivia collection:

A number of people often ask why it is important to keep accurate records of their clivia collection? "Its not so important" they say, "I can remember the plants in my collection. I remember where I collected what, and who gave me which plants". But in ten years will you still remember where you collected that beautiful pink *C. nobilis*, who gave you that caramel-peach coloured *C. miniata* and who the parents of the pink *C. min-gard* you created were???? Trust me, you won't remember. If you only have a few plants, or don't hybridize much, then granted, you most probably will remember most items, but if you are like me, then you collect interesting forms of the various species and you are constantly acquiring/swopping new plants. And if the allure of that one special hybrid beckons you, as it does me, and you hybridize as much as you can handle (and more than you can't handle), then accurate records are an absolute necessity.

Initially, it is a major task to begin the whole process, but once you have all items catalogued, from then on its easier, only adding new items to your list. First, you need a small black book, for your ACQUISITION NUMBERS. On each page, draw a narrow margin against the left-hand side. Start with the number 1. Next to it write the pedigree of your latest clivia, and the source. For example:

1. *Clivia gardenii* (peach-coloured form). Ngome Forest-----F. Markham.
2. *C. miniata* var. *citrina* "Dweza Yellow". Dweza Forest-----B. Chambers.
3. *C. miniata* var. *miniata* "Transkei Peach".-----Egossa Escarpment. Transkei.

That acquisition number stays with that plant forever. You don't use it for any other plant. Even if the plant dies, or if you swap it, its not used again. Whether its number 4 or 5009, you have an accurate record of your plant and it's source.

What about hybrids?? It is VITALLY IMPORTANT to keep accurate records of your various attempts at hybridising. Not only can you repeat any success in the future with the same clones of particular parents, but you will soon learn which plants are good parents, and which are not. You can use a unique hybrid number, and then when the seed is collected, apply an acquisition number to it. For example, you could use the current year as a good source of hybrid numbers, i.e. 03-45, or 03-234. If the 03-45 crosses did not take, simply remove the label of the berryless pedicel, and reuse for another hybrid. If the 03-234 **did** take, and nine months later, you harvest the berries, place the record in your acquisition book. For example:

4456 *C. miniata* var. *miniata*. Lebombo Mts.No. 2345 x *C. caulescens* 'Albert's Yellow' No. 2333 (hybrid no.03-234) ----- My hybrid.

From then on this unique hybrid will be number 4456 in your collection.

The second important consideration is to have accurate information on your plant labels. In the top right-hand corner the acquisition number appears. Next, the botanical name, followed by any other special details relating to the plant, for example, variegated leaf form, or pink flowered form, etc. Below this write your source, whether original, locality collected, or the surname of the person from whom you've obtained the plant. Lastly, below this, write the date of acquisition. Trust me, the more plants you have, the less likely you are to remember all these details. It is very handy to pick up a pot, look at the label, and have the complete pedigree at your fingertips.

What about hybridizing? I shudder when I hear of people talking about their hybridizing efforts...they basically take pollen and just brush it against as many receptive stigmas as possible. Horror of horrors, what will this achieve? Just masses of garden-variety plants! NO, don't do it that way. Formulate specific goals, strive to achieve particular types, e.g. variegated *C. miniata* var. *citrina*, Group 2 Yellows, variegated interspecifics, bronze *C. miniata* broad-leaves, deep reds, the complexities of peach-breeding, etc, etc. There are a lot of very interesting goals to strive for. Do Group 1 and 2 Yellows exist for the pendulous species, what about peach clones?? Are there other Group 3/4/5 yellows, or even more with *C. miniata* var. *citrina*, and how do their breeding mechanisms work???? BE SPECIFIC IN WHAT YOU DO. Okay, what record keeping is involved here? Buy a large A-4 size book for HYBRID RECORDS. On page 1, right at the top, write in the date, for example 2003-07-18. Below this, your unique hybrid number, and the hybrid combination, remembering that the label should be tied to the berry parent pedicel. When you write the hybrid combination down, write the berry parent details down first, followed by the pollen parent, an example: 03-234 = no.231 x 1234.

What about the hybrid label? This is just as important. The easiest method is to take a piece of hard, thin plastic (such as a file divider), and with a ruler divide it into parallel lines, eventually making squares, of a couple of centimetres. Cut these out, and make a small hole on the one side. Take a roll of green tie-on (plastic covered thin wire), and cut small sections off. Thread through your new hybrid label, and with a black indelible pen, write your new hybrid number on each one. As mentioned before, use the current year as a good starting point, e.g. 03/01, 03/02, 03/03, etc. At the back of your small acquisition book, keep a record of your hybrid numbers. This is important, so that duplication of

numbers is avoided. This really is an easy method and when you've finished with that particular number, a quick wipe with some acetone, and you have a new label for use again. As with your acquisition number, a specific hybrid number is only used for one potential hybrid at a time. After you have placed the hybrid label around the fertilized ovary/pedicel, and have recorded the new hybrid in your hybrid records book, then waiting is the name of the game. Usually by the end of the first or second month after fertilizing, you will know whether your new hybrid has taken. The ovary will swell noticeably, and it will be obvious that it has been fertilised. If the ovary changes to a lighter colour it is busy aborting, and if touched, will readily fall off. If this happens, remove the hybrid label, and draw a line through the record in your record book. Write the words "NOT TAKEN", against the side, so that later you can make a list of a particular parent's hybrids, or lack thereof. If the hybrid takes, and when it eventually ripens off and you pick it, make a note in your record book against that particular entry, as "COLLECTED 2003/08/08"

What about collecting pollen? This is understandably important, because its seldom that your two potential parents are flowering at the same time, affording you the easy opportunity of cross-pollinating at your ease. I use the following system. It may be of value to you, if not, just adapt it to your particular needs or situation. Buy a lot of matchboxes, throw out the matches, and number them, keeping a record in another small black book called "POLLEN COLLECTION". Collect fresh flowers, break off the tepals, revealing the pollen. Break off the pollen threads at their bases, and place in a matchbox. In your book, write the number on the matchbox, and the full pedigree of the plant, i.e. name, special details, and its unique acquisition number. A number of matchboxes can be tied or glued together, and placed in your fridge. The beauty of collecting the pollen this way is that you need not touch the actual pollen head, but only the pollen thread. Holding the pollen thread, its easy to then brush it against the receptive stigmatic surfaces, which in the case of the genus *Clivia*, is tri-lobed and only receptive at the extremities.

Another book/file you can open is a "MY HYBRIDS" file, so you can keep track of which parents are producing all the hybrids. It is very important to list which potential hybrids are not being produced, so that duplication of dud hybrids is not repeated. Each page lists the ovary parent at the top of the page, with its acquisition number, and then the list of pollen parents used that season, and whether they took or not. At the end of the season, you can see at a glance what hybrids were produced, for each of your special treasures.

Jaco Truter
ecoplas@iafrica.com

Tuesday, July 22, 2003 3:44 PM

What do I mean when I say, that one should stick to a "clivia-routine"? This is refers to the fact that your plants need fertilizer, insecticide, fungicide applications at specific times of the month/year, plus regular records of flowering, hybridizing, etc.

Now this sounds easy enough, we all know this must be done, but unless you discipline yourself, a lot of these will not be done. Of the above, the application of fertilizer, insecticide and fungicide, are the most important. They have to be done at specific times, especially during spring, summer and autumn. Take a calendar and check how many weekends there are in a specific month. For example, there are 4. On the calendar mark off on which Saturday of that month what item will be applied. Plus, when you want to check your collection, cutting off dead or diseased leaves. Also, when you plan to transplant seedlings, compost plants, and pollinate to make those urgent hybrids before the flowers are over their prime.

Does this sound like a lot of hard work...well it is!!!! The upkeep of any plant collection, whether clivia, orchids, bulbs, Streptocarpus, or whatever else, demands a lot of effort to get the BEST out of the collection. Certainly, you could try and get by with the minimum of effort, but don't be surprised if your most expensive plant is suddenly reduced to the clivia-equivalent of soggy lettuce due to Amaryllis worm or Pythium rot. Don't complain if your flowers are not at their best, or that the seed-set is less than last year's, or most of your seedlings rotted off, being pot-bound, etc., it does pay dividends to make the effort!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Jaco Truter
ecoplas@iafrica.com

Clivia-enthusiast eGroup discussions on the above

Wednesday, July 23, 2003 10:22 AM

You are so, so right. Don't rely on your memory for anything. Sometimes I can't even remember why I have gone to the bathroom and as for my wife's birthday!!!! It is a good job that clivias thrive on neglect - until something goes wrong! I have fourth generation crosses here going back 40 years and, although I kept records, upon reflection they are totally inadequate - but then I never thought I would produce anything interesting. One of my biggest mistakes was sticking labels into the soil. They come out for all sorts of reasons and I now tie them firmly, but loosely, round the stem.

Ian Coates
Cheshire, England

Thursday, July 24, 2003 2.31AM

If you want something durable with which to label your crosses, try the thin piece of aluminium that is used to provide a seal just underneath the lid on new tins of Milo, Ovaltine, coffee, etc. Cut the aluminium into strips about 3/4 of a cm. in width and a few cm. long. Write on it with a spent or working ballpoint pen, pressing down slightly. The strip can then be rolled around the pedicel. I've used the strips on Lilium flowers in full sun and because the strips are reflective they do not heat up enough to cause a problem.

Cheers,
Hau Ling (Hobart).

Thursday, July 24, 2003 11.11 AM

I wanted to thank the writer of this amazing treatise on managing and recording clivia 'histories'. I appreciate the many ideas and most instructive and learned words they have sent to the Robin [Clivia-enthusiast eGroup].

One other thought on the tag's situation, is an idea that many orchid growers use...namely a freshly written tag dropped into the base of a pot before it has a new lot of medium and a plant put into it...then it does not matter if the writing on the tag in the top of the pot fades--or the neighbour's cats or kids knock the tags out--all is saved with a quick upturn of the pot.

Best wishes to all Yvonne Hargreaves.
Gold Coast, Australia.

Thursday, July 24, 2003 7:29 PM

With regards to the labeling "issue". I normally make a hole through the side of the pot and tie the label to the side of the pot with a piece of thin plastic coated copper wire, it looks neat and tidy. I also write the Species/Cultivar name underneath the pot with a permanent marker as well as a reference number on the side of the pot. So I am "backed up" should I loose the label or should the number smudge!

Regards,
Craig Gibbon

Friday, July 25, 2003 11:55 PM

I also agree that record keeping is truly essential in having an accurate breeding program. I personally keep notes on everything I do to my clivia with evaluations every time I go into the field and take notes on how my plants are doing. From the liners to the breeding parents, to plants we have for sale. Endless hours of note taking, data taking, and taking pictures will truly pay off when you see the results of the certain cross you've been waiting to see for 3 years.

I like to use blank stick labels and punch holes on both sides of the label. It leaves me enough room in the middle to use a permanent marker and write down any info I need to identify both parents. I then use a zip tie and tie the actual label either around the individual flower or the entire stalk. The label seems to stay intact for the amount of time I need to harvest my berries.

Talk to you guys later...

Victor Murillo.

Sunday, July 27, 2003 2.10AM

When harvesting seed I sometimes label berries and stems with a marker pen so that I don't mix them up. I have noticed that some growers label leaves and flower stems in this way when crosses are made or even for plant identification. Does the ink last for 9-12 months until harvest or longer and does it affect the plant in any way?

Regards, Mark Cant.

I always carry marker pens with me when tending to my clivias and label the peduncles prior to using a permanent method. One can immediately describe the flower, RHS colour and other details of the mother plant (berry parent) on one side of the peduncle and on the other side the details of the pollen parent. The smaller pedicels can also be marked to show what flower has been pollinated with what. A white marker indicates one thing, a black pen another. It is much quicker than tying on labels or wool. The labeling on the pedicels lasts well over a year and it is only when the peduncles dry up that the writing becomes indecipherable. The permanent ink does not appear to harm the plant. Editor.

SOME EARLY NAMES ASSOCIATED WITH CLIVIA NO. (6) – CHARLES RAES AND LOUIS VAN HOUTTE

It must have been very soon after 1864, the year in which Regel pronounced that *C. miniata* and the pendulous clivia were members of the same genus, that Charles Raes, one of the section heads in van Houtte's nursery near Ghent in Belgium, had the idea of putting pollen from a *miniata* onto a *nobilis* to make the first known interspecific cross. By then *C. nobilis* had been grown in Europe for about 40 years, and *C. miniata* for 10 years. The idea was still quite daring for the times: there was still a strong prejudice against hybridization. "It was said that by cross-breeding plants, people were flying in the face of Providence and that the process was wicked ... an impious interference with the laws of nature." (1)

Louis van Houtte, Raes' boss, not only owned the nursery, but he was the publisher of a richly illustrated horticultural magazine, "*Flore des Serres et Jardins de l'Europe*". Van Houtte lost no time, in 1869, describing and picturing Raes' plant, which must therefore have flowered within 4 years from seed, or else Raes did the cross before 1864.

The cross was named "*Imantophyllum cyrtanthiflorum*", the Greek words meaning 'straplike leaves' and 'flowers like a cyrtanthus', or 'curved-flowered' respectively. Van Houtte says that its stems rose one after the other, with large multiflower heads, with a resultant long overall flowering period. He tells of an excited botanist, who did not know of the plant's origin, who thought he had hit on a new species! As a matter of interest, until the end of the 1800's, many nurserymen were hesitant to exhibit their hybrids at

shows “because they might injure the feelings of some over-sensitive religious persons; and they therefore exhibited them as wild species from abroad” (1)

Van Houtte was both a brilliant plantsman and a successful businessman. Born in 1810, he studied at the Brussels Botanical Garden, where he became Director, probably in his mid-20s. He left in 1839 to start his own nursery. His business mushroomed and soon covered 75 acres, with over 50 glasshouses and many thousands of frames, with many new and rare plants he obtained from hybridizing, or from the collectors he sent overseas looking for plants. He was also the founder of the Royal Horticultural Institute, which soon became world-famous.

I see from Harold Koopowitz’s book “*Clivias*”(which also shows a picture of that first known interspecific cross, which today is known as *C. cyrtanthiflora*) that there was a *C. miniata* “van Houtte”, named for him. I wonder whether there is a plant of any kind by which to remember the brave hybridizer, Charles Raes?

I am indebted to Pierre de Coster for giving me the background information I needed, and to John Rourke who told me the meaning of the Greek words that van Houtte used.

The quotations (1) above are from a speech by the Chairman at the first RHS conference on hybridization and crossbreeding, held in 1899, as repeated in the book “*The ingenious Mr. Fairchild*”, by Michael Lipman.

John van der Linde

2003 SHOW REPORTS

SOUTPANSBERG CLIVIA BELANGEGROEP – 23 AUGUST

Die Soutpansberg Cliviabelangegroep (onder leiding van Marike du Preez as eerste voorsitter) het saam met die Soutpansberg N.G. Gemeente (Louis Trichardt) op Saterdag 23 Augustus 2003 ons eerste Cliviafees gehou. Hopelik gaan dit 'n instelling raak, want mense het omtrent van heinde en verre gery om te kom kyk (ons afstande is in elk geval groot hier tussen dorpe!)

Vorbereidings vir die fees het reeds weke vooruit begin o.a. met 'n inkleurkompetisie vir kleuters van 'n kabouter tussen clivias. Op Vrydag 22 Augustus word daar toe begin, op baie kreatiewe manier, om ruikers "te bou" vir die blommerangskikafdeling. Die tema was "Cliviaverrassing/Clivia surprise" en die 12 dames en 1 man het hulself oortref met van miniatuur skinkbordrangskikkings tot massas met soveel as 30 blomme! 'n Kinder rangskikkingskompetisie is ook op 'n informele en speelse wyse die Saterdag gehou.

Ook Vrydag die 22ste, het die pragtige clivias begin arriveer vir die plantafdeling. Dit is verdeel in 2 afdelings nl. professioneel/klublede/kwekerye en dan Tuiniers/beginners. Voorts is die plante in verdeel in 9 afdelings vir beoordeling deur mnr. Ernie Hobbs: Die prys vir ‘Beste op Skou’ het gegaan aan mev. Olive Brummer (klublid en nr. 1 op die

Cliviaroete) vir 'n 'Multipetal: buitengewone plant kategorie' - voorwaar 'n pragtige plant.

Die dag is verder ingekleur met die bekendstel van die **Soutpansberg Cliviaroete** met 7 besoekpunte (1 in Louis Trichardt, 3 net buite die dorp en 4 op Levubu), plantverkope, heerlike eetgoed (ontbyt, pannekoek, hamburgers, teetuin, kerrie en rys, koeldrank, kinderlekkergoed), stalletjies met allerlei, speletjies vir die kinders (skattejag, skyfskiet, springkasteel, tombola,...), outydse foto's, vliegtuigritte oor die Soutpansberge, prysuitdelings, lekker musiek en saamkuier tussen die blomme!!

Twee baie interessante praatjies is ook gelewer: mnr. Ernie Hobbs oor die beoordeling van plante (waarna kyk hy) en Prof. Dries Bester oor die siektes en kwale wat clivias het.

Die beplanning het reeds begin vir Fees nr. 2!! Eers moes ons net nabetrugting hou oor die pyne en skete van die eerste. Daar is reeds besluit om 2004 se fees uit te brei na 'n naweek-affere om veral ons besoekers wat ver ry te kan akkommodeer en geleentheid te gee om ook die plase en kwekerie op die cliviaroete te besoek. 'n Tuinkompetisie en werkswinkels word ook beoog vir 2004.

Soos Ernie Hobbs tereg gesê het: Elkeen in hierdie Soutpansberg wereld behoort clivias in hulle tuine te hê...die klimaat is ideaal en die clivias floreer.

Soutpansberg is cliviawereld!!

Anneke Stroebel

This report arrived too late for translation and would also lose a lot of its flavour if translated. Editor.

WATERBERG BOSLELIE GROEP – 30 AUGUST

The Waterberg Clivia Group held a very successful exhibition in Nylstroom on the 30 August. The venue at the Susan Strydom School Hall attracted 270 visitors. The members of the club exhibited 119 specimens of very high standard, much admired by Mr. and Mrs. Wesselman and Peter Lambert of the Northern Clivia Club. Mr. Wesselman picked his group and section winners as a guideline for the enthusiasts. The group wishes to thank everyone involved for their support and positive comments.

The proceeds from the entrance fees were distributed to charity as follows:

The local newspaper "Die Pos"	R135.00
Waterberg Old Age Home	R400.00
Waterberg Service Centre for the Aged	R400.00
Naboom Home for the Aged.	R400.00.

In 2004 we plan to have an early expo on the 24 July to show the interspecifics and a second one on the 29 August.

Contact persons An Jacobs 0823 720 765 and Johan Jacobs 082 963 9338.

An Jacobs

METRO INTEREST GROUP – 30-31 AUGUST

The show was held at the Sisulu Hall for the second time. The show plants were again exhibited on 30 centimetre high tables and this received favourable comment from the public and fellow clivia growers alike. Two weeks prior to the show a black frost hit the Gauteng region and delayed the flowering time and also damaged many plants. Despite this setback, the number of plants exhibited and the quality of plants on display was of a high standard.

Koos Geldenhuys and his fellow judges from the Northern Clivia Club judged the plants on display. The ‘Broad tepal orange miniata group’ was best represented on the show and a worthy winner was the plant exhibited by Johannes Smith. This plant also received the ‘Best on Show’ award. The runner up to the ‘Best on Show’ was also an orange, with broad tepals, exhibited by Dawie van Heerden. Bertie Guillaume received the “Third Best on Show’ award with a delightful pink umbel.

There were fifteen different stalls, selling items such as, clivia plants, seeds, pots and potting soil. Owing to the black frost many sellers were compromised and there was a shortage of flowering plants for sale. The Rotary organization was invited to provide tea and light refreshments and they managed this with style and efficiency.

The prize giving was held on the Saturday evening and after a tasty finger supper, certificates were handed out by Tino Ferero, the Chairman of the Northern Clivia Club.

Glynn Middlewick

NORTHERN CLIVIA CLUB – 6-7 SEPTEMBER

The Northern Clivia Club held their annual show on the 6 and 7 of September 2003 at the Wilgers High School.

The quality of the show entries was better this year than in any previous year. The number of entries also exceeded those of any previous year. The exhibits were so numerous that the size of the hall was not adequate to accommodate the show plants. The colour and form variation of the clivia was so great that one wonders whether it is possible to improve on this display.

* How many plants were on show? How many stalls?

The number of visitors was down from last year and this can be seen as a challenge for the next show committee to improve upon. The venue may also have to be changed to allow more space for the show entries.

The activities of the club draw to a close this year with the Annual General Meeting in November, the last meeting of the year.

The possibilities and challenges for the club make this an exciting time for the members and committee alike.

Drawn up by G Middlewick.

KWAZULU NATAL CLIVIA CLUB – 13-14 SEPTEMBER

With the usual pre-show preparations and judging completed and the anxiety of wondering whether a plant will peak on the day or not, our show opened with a large number of eager clivia exhibitors and enthusiasts. Competition was stiff with good specimens taking the main prizes. All classes were well supported and the judges had a difficult task in choosing the final winners in each section and then the overall winner and runner-up. Well done to all those winners - your time and effort in preparation and presentation was well rewarded.

The sales area was well supported with all making a fair profit with plant and seed sales. Thank you all for your support and help. The weather was rather chilly and drizzly but failed to keep the crowds away, making attendance over the two-day show exceed that of previous shows.

The display area this year concentrated on indigenous "MUTI" plants used extensively by the indigenous people for various remedies and magical purposes. Many of these plants are becoming scarce in the wild, especially clivia and other bulbous species.

Val Thurston

CAPE CLIVIA CLUB – 13-14 SEPTEMBER

The Cape Clivia Club Show was held at Belville Civic Centre on 13 & 14 September 2003.

Each year as show time approaches anxiety seems to prevail amongst exhibitors as to whether there will be sufficient plants in flower to make up a show. This has always proved to be an unnecessary concern. However this year the concern was justified due to the late winter and the fact that we had decided to hold the show a week earlier than usual.

Members rallied with enthusiasm and not only did we have a successful show, but we managed to have a stand concurrently at the Cape Town Flower Show, a prestigious

event held in the International Convention Centre. So, thanks to the support from members, we were able to cope admirably.

There were 18 exhibitors which was an improvement on last year's show. However entries were down to 169 as compared to 206 entries last year. Our show schedule listed 26 classes. Two classes had only one entry each and one class had no entries at all, while four classes had three or fewer entries. This is all due to the fact that we had our show a week earlier than usual and there were not sufficient clivia in flower.

Attendance at the show was as good as last year. The sale of plants was down compared with last year's sales, probably because of the shortage of flowering plants. 48 new members joined the club which was most encouraging. Two raffles were held and on both occasions all tickets were sold.

For the second year the Indigenous Bulb Growers Association (IBSA) put on a display by their members in a corner of the show hall. This provided additional interest for the public.

From a financial point of view we were within budget according to Ian Brown, our Treasurer, which does help to keep the home fires burning!

JOHN WINTER

Show Chairman – 2003

NORTHERN KWAZULU NATAL INTEREST GROUP – 13-14 SEPTEMBER

Due to the extremely unseasonable cold weather in August, there were very few clivia entries as not many members had plants in flower. Larry Mulligan came to the rescue with a large number of entries and was also the main prizewinner. 'The Best on Show' was a Nakamura pink and the 'Runner-up' was a 'Chubb's Peach', both owned by Larry Mulligan.

Hottie Human

SOUTHERN CAPE CLIVIA CLUB – 21-22 SEPTEMBER

The Southern Cape Clivia Club held its first ever show over the weekend 20 & 21 September. It turned out to be an outstanding success. Thanks to exhibitors from Cape Town and Port Elizabeth plus our own members we had a large selection of plants to show to the 1500 people who turned up to see the spectacle.

Ten growers booked stalls and sold plants and all were satisfied with the sales. They also felt that it was worthwhile coming and being an important part of the show. Without the sellers there could be no show.

John Winter came up from Cape Town and together with Geraldine Vermaak, judged the high standard of blooms and plants on display. We appreciated John coming such a long way to be part of our show. He has had many years of experience with clivias and contributed to the success of the show. John donated 12 clivias for us to raffle and his generosity was greatly appreciated.

The St Augustine Hall which we felt might be too big for us proved to be just right, any smaller would have been too small

Our sincere thanks to the Cape Clivia Club for everything that we borrowed. It made our work prior to the show that much easier. What a difference the tablecloths made to the show, they gave a touch of class.

The Southern Cape Clivia Club is now a fully fledged club affiliated to the Cape Clivia Club. We were previously known as the Southern Cape Interest Group.

Ian Vermaak

* These reports are in chronological order. Please move if necessary and adjust in the contents

FREE STATE INTEREST GROUP – * ? date SEPTEMBER

A Clivia Exhibition held during September 2003 at the Bloemfontein Waterfront was a great success. Eight clivia enthusiasts showed about 100 plants. There were many visitors and members of the group answered questions on cultivation of clivia, on soils required and on the different species and varieties of clivia. We believe that this exhibition will lead to further interest in clivia in the Free State.

The exhibition was followed by a workshop on the handling and planting of seed at the home of Dr. Jan Stemmet. The workshop was presented by Piet Laubscher and Hennie v d Mescht and was attended by fifteen clivia lovers.

The appearance of our first newsletter compiled by Ina Leamy and Pearl Snowdown was a source of great excitement to our members. The website developed by Johan Spies, Jurie Swart and Neil Nathan, is as yet in its infancy, but we believe that it will grow in strength in due course.

The foundations have been laid and we look forward to 2004 with confidence.

Seasons Greetings,

Hennie v d Mescht

EASTERN PROVINCE CLIVIA CLUB – 27-28 SEPTEMBER

Visitors to the Port Elizabeth show were drawn as if by a magnetic force along a ‘V’ shaped arrangement of clivia filled tables towards a pedestal in the centre of the hall where the ‘Best on Show’ flanked by the ‘Runner Up’ and ‘Best Beginner’ awarded

plants greeted them with a breathtaking display of beautiful blooms. The overall winner, the magnificent highly sought after 'Bronze Green Boy' of Ian Vermaak from George, stood proudly displaying its 35 bronze red with green centre blooms nestled amongst dark green leaves. The 'Runner Up' to the 'Best on Show', Charl Coetzee's large variegated clivia with yellow flowers and striking yellow bands on tall variegated green leaves (as well as a bunch of matching fruit), stood proudly towering over the beautiful orange plant which earned Pine van der Watt the 'Best Beginner' award.

The history of 'Bronze Green Boy' as told by its proud owner, appears elsewhere in this newsletter. Well done Ian, it is indeed a superb specimen. Charl Coetzee explains that the variegated clivia with its prominent markings, and flowering for the first time this year, was grown from mixed seeds he bought from Nakamura. Congratulations Charl, a fantastic plant you can be very proud of. The plant that won the 'Best Beginner' shield for Pine Van Der Watt, was a clivia flowering for the first time with an outstanding head of beautiful bright orange flowers with white centres flowing high up onto the petals. According to Pine it is a Daruma which he originally obtained from Pat Gore. Congratulations Pine, it is quite an achievement for a beginner.

The 1503 visitors to our show were dazzled by 203 excellent quality blooming plants displayed on specially arranged maroon-coloured tablecloths. The plant and seed sale tables were very well supported. so much so, that some of them were sold out by early Saturday afternoon.

We are very happy to announce that we have broken all previous records by enrolling 33 new members with the youngest being only 10 years old.

The success of the show can only be attributed to the hard work by committee members, excellent advertising by our newspapers and radio stations, as well as all the volunteers who assisted in the kitchen and helped with various other duties.

A BIG THANK YOU to all, as well as those who donated plants for our raffle table and seeds for our starter packs.

Thank you all for an excellent show.

Willie Le Roux
Show Chairman

KWAZULU-NATAL CLIVIA CLUB – 4 OCTOBER

This show was held at Kloof, the first Miniata show held outside the environs of Pietermaritzburg. Attendance was good, and despite inclement weather and the worry that many of the better plants would be over or past their best, members had sufficient clivia and enough good quality specimens for the public to view. Sales of seeds and plants were brisk and many local people were able to see the variety of colours of this

wonderful plant. A number of new members joined at both the Pietermaritzburg and Kloof shows.

The Show Committee would like to thank ALL members and friends for their assistance and time which made the shows successful.

Val Thurston

AUSTRALIA

TOOWOOMBA CLIVIA SHOW – 19-21 SEPTEMBER

This year's Clivia Show, held from the 19–21 September, under the auspices of the Toowoomba Carnival of Flowers, Australia's longest running floral festival, was part of the Ergon Flower, Food and Wine Festival in Toowoomba's down town park - Queens Park.

The 18th was set up day, with plants arriving from mid-morning till very late in the afternoon, at which time there were approximately 90 plants displayed in our 3m x 6m Clivia "booth" in the big marquee. Exhibitors were Brian Stevens, Crystal Stark, Bruce Newton, Kevin & Coral Larsen, Jeanne & Lionel Marten and myself. Nick Powell and Bruce Newton ably assisted with the transport of plants.

Clivias which seemed to create the most interest were tulip-flowered reds shown by Brian Stevens, and a flamboyant Vico Yellow seedling exhibited by Crystal Stark. Variegates, in and out of flower, and citrinas were popular, while *C. nobilis* was inevitably a curiosity. The booth walls held a selection of clivia posters, mainly from Yoshikazu Nakamura, complemented by a framed copy of David Conway's 'Tea Party'. Thanks to Jeanne and Lionel for providing the shelving and hessian.

One drawback was the lighting in the marquee which seemed to give a greenish tinge to the citrinas on display. One of my favourites at the show was *C. miniata* '**James Dearing**' (is this considered a pastel?) sent up by Irene Broadbent in the autumn and which obviously settled in well here to bloom at show time. At times I felt too many people were coming through the marquee, as, with the crush, a conga-line seemed to form with viewers not pausing to take a good look at the displays.

In 1904 Toowoomba was gazetted a city and, to mark the centenary, plant enthusiasts/breeders have been asked to name a plant in honour of the occasion. Does anyone have a clivia grand enough to bear the cultivar name 'Toowoomba Centenary'? I have been skirting around the edges with some new cultivars:

'**Toowoomba Tinkerbelle**' - a *miniata* x *caulescens*. Breeder: Yoshikazu Nakamura.

'**Toowoomba Taffy-Tot**' – background unknown. Breeder: Nick Primich.

'**Toowoomba Triplet**' – background unknown, a selection from the Triplet strain. (Is there a "Toowoomba Twins" out there?)

‘**Toowoomba Temptress**’ – a pinkish/pastel miniata type. One of my ‘**Sakura**’ seedlings.

‘**Toowoomba Tawriffic**’ – a very large spidery citrina. Breeder: Yoshikazu Nakamura.

One disappointment this season was the flowering of reds with the ‘Golden Harvest’ label costing \$65 each. These turned out like light orange *Clivia desiderata* of 40 years ago.

Greetings from the Clivia Capital of Oz.
Kevin Walters

CLIVIA DISPLAY AT WARRAGUL – 11-12 OCTOBER

Three years ago one of the local service clubs decided to stage a Garden Expo at Lardner Park, Warragul, which is an hour and a half’s drive from Melbourne. Each year has seen more exhibitors and visitors, so I thought it was a good opportunity to have a display of clivias. This year there were 74 exhibitors and 4,500 visitors paid entry to the Expo. There were also the non-paying people such as the food and drink’s vendors.

I had only 15 different plants to display, as some of my pots are just too big and heavy to move from home, plus lots of photographs from Toowoomba and New Zealand, as well as catalogues from a Melbourne book company that advertises the Harold Koopowitz book “*Clivias*”. Ken Smith very kindly printed copies of an information paper on “*The Genus Clivia*”, “*Clivia Cultural Notes*”, and some Clivia Society membership application forms. I felt the display had quite a lot to interest the public.

My daughter and a friend helped me and for the two days of the show, held on the weekend of 11 and 12 October, we were kept busy answering lots of questions and offering general advice on the growing of clivias. By mid Sunday morning all of Ken’s notes had gone and I wished we had a lot more. From the response we had I feel it was a very successful promotion for clivia and I would certainly do it again.

Jane Edmonson and Kevin Heinz, two well known gardening personalities in Australia attended, and as a result I will be doing a talkback segment with Jane on her Melbourne radio show. I also have two bookings as a speaker at Garden Clubs and four bookings for me to open my garden to some interested Garden Clubs, all before Christmas!

Irene Broadbent.

REPORT FROM THE AUSTRALIAN MEMBERSHIP – KEN SMITH

It has been a late season but a great season - lots of things happening, especially the two clivia displays organised by members. The first was the Clivia Show organised by Kevin Walters and Jeanne Martin, held from the 19–21 September, under the auspices of the Toowoomba Carnival of Flowers. Irene Broadbent organised a Clivia Display on the weekend of 11 and 12 October, as part of a Garden Expo at Warragul in Victoria. She

called to tell me that it was a great weekend and the questions about clivia were never-ending. I hope to have a more detailed account for the newsletter.

Enquiries about membership from these events are already coming in. Membership is now at 153 paid-up members.

I have sold 81 Cape Clivia Colour Charts to members so far. They have been well received and the feedback is that they are easy to use and a valuable tool at flowering time. Everyone is on the lookout for a watermelon coloured bloom.

There are certainly lots of clivia seeds moving around the world at the moment, and the offer to co-ordinate a bulk order for Chinese seeds brought in a great response from the members, who are now anxiously awaiting the arrival of their chosen seeds.

For those of you with flowers still showing, enjoy them while you can as the season comes and goes too quickly!

Ken Smith

REPORT FROM THE NEW ZEALAND CLIVIA CLUB

The *Clivia miniata* flowering season is now past its peak, although we still have plenty of colour to enjoy. It is interesting to note how long flowers will remain in good condition on a plant if they are not pollinated. If you are interested in having a long display and do not want seed, you might consider cutting off the stigmas as the flowers open to prevent pollination.

Similarly I am surprised at just how long individual flowers will last when removed from an inflorescence. Over a week ago I removed individual flowers to photograph. Despite being left lying on a bench without water, albeit with the ovary intact, they are still looking as good as they did when picked. This augurs well for the use of clivia as a cut flower.

Our second show season is behind us and we approach our second year as a club. We have achieved a great deal in a short time and it is rewarding to be involved in an activity with so much grass roots enthusiasm. Broad based involvement is important as it is your club collectively and the more that everyone contributes individually the better. The management team actively solicits feedback and suggestions as we move forward.

The main show and garden visits in Auckland were a success, despite adverse weather and consequent last minute changes. A good range of plants was displayed and we are particularly grateful to members who traveled some distance to show their plants. The whole point of holding shows is that it enables plants to be compared side by side and engenders discussion. Thank you also to those of you who contributed photos and staged floral displays, these add to the depth and texture of a show.

The foray north to Whangarei was especially successful as it brought clivia enthusiasts out of the woodwork and introduced other experienced gardeners to the modern clivia. It is important that we are a truly New Zealand Club and not one centered only on Auckland. For this reason we must take clivia to the people and have therefore planned a *Clivia gardenii* show in May 2004 and four other shows in October during *Clivia miniata* flowering season, including the main one in Auckland.

The Summer NewZLetter was released last week with comprehensive information for members. The Chairman, editor and secretary will have a brainstorming session in the New Year and set directions and goals for the NewZLetter. Input, support and encouragement from various overseas people throughout the year has been greatly appreciated, including John van der Linde, Mick Dower, Mr. Nakamura, Chris Vlok, to name just a few. We look forward to the time that we too will be in a position to input into other overseas new clubs/societies.

The NZCC Committee wishes to thank you all for your support during our inaugural year, and wish you and your families a wonderful and blessed Christmas and a very prosperous New Year.

Di Smith

FOR SALE

Advertisements. Tariffs for advertising in the Clivia Society Newsletter:

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

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

From the Clivia Society:

*** Private ads should not be listed here as in the last newsletter! The Clivia Society ads must come under this heading.**

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:

*** Where do you want to advertise the Clivia Colour Chart?**

Item	Approximate price (US \$)
Yearbook 5	15
Yearbook 4	10
Yearbook 3	Out of stock
Yearbook 2	6*
Yearbook 1	6*
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	Not yet available*
International membership list – hard copy	3
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.

NB ‘made’ spelt incorrectly in last newsletter. . International membership lists- hyphens in the wrong place, last one not inside table.

Private ads to come in here.

***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@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.

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.

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

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

THURLOW FLORA We have on offer a large variety of carefully bred seedlings and mature plants for sale. We specialize in pastel colours, oddities, species and original wild

collected and named clones of clivia. Mail order and visitors welcome. For our latest plant list please contact Sean and Terri Chubb. Tel: 031 7811978 e-mail: terric@iafrica.com We also have available a few hundred different named daylily clones.

BEGINNER'S LUCK

*** Omit this first one if space is required – remember to change Contents page if you do.**

Getting clivia clumps out of tubs

If you are thinking about dividing a large clump of clivias growing in a tub, try the following. Tip the tub over onto its side and hose out with water as much of the potting mix as possible from around the roots. Then get your fingers amongst the roots and grasp firmly just beyond and around the base of the largest plants and get someone to wriggle the tub away, or hang on to the tub while you wriggle the clump out.

Hau Ling.

Winter watering

Question: So during winter clivia's don't need watering ?
Melinda Hills, Washington State, MHills2485@aol.com

Answer: Not much. Clivia are very efficient with the water they do get, and have several mechanisms which greatly reduce water loss, so their total water needs are quite low. Watering during the winter can be greatly reduced without causing problems because the plant takes less water from the soil, and evaporative losses are minimal.

In spite of this, they do like some moisture year-round. Particularly if they are container grown. Container potting mixes which become too dry can often be difficult to re-wet, resulting in water resistant 'holidays' in the container. Around here, Argentinean ants, which always pack along their pals - mealy bugs, scale and aphids - will quickly colonize such 'holidays'.

Ken K. East S.F. Bay Area, Ca. USDA Zone 9 (Mediterranean) -2°C to 38°C.

ON THE COMPOST HEAP

“Gardening helps happiness bloom like a flower” was the title of a recent article in the *Sunday Times*. Scientists in America have proved that gardening is good for one and that gardening activities can “lower blood pressure, increase brain activity and produce a generally upbeat feeling.” Gardening gives one hope and purpose and helps one to deal with stress and gardening therapy is being used with patients in hospitals and rehabilitation centers across the US.

You would have thought that this would work in the Editor's garden. However she saw some of my relatives in her baby seedlings and her blood pressure shot up as she sent out

a volley of expletives! Not much happiness here as a result. I think I will have to write to those American Scientists and refute their findings.

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

ADVERTS - Summer 2003

- * Bertie's ad to be repeated in this newsletter(Summer 2003)
- *? One page for Clivia brothers advert (Gerhardt & Antoinette Malan)
- * Small advert for US Clivia Nursery (Michael Morri)
- * One page advert for Shields Gardens Ltd. (Jim Shields)
- *? Ammie Grobler