

CLIVIA SOCIETY

newsletter



Volume 13 No 1

Autumn 2004

CLIVIA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chairman:	Chris Vlok, PO Box 99583, Garsfontein 0060, Tel H +27 12998 5942, e-mail: vlokac@wol.co.za
Secretary:	Lena van der Merwe, PO Box 74868, Lynnwood Ridge, 0040, Tel & Fax +27 12 804 8892, e-mail: cliviasoc@mweb.co.za
Vice-Chairman:	John van der Linde, 1 Wheelan Str., Newlands, 7700 Tel & Fax +27 21 671 4535. e-mail: vandal@iafrica.com
Treasurer:	Bossie de Kock, PO Box 38539, Garsfontein, 0042, Tel +27 12 998 3620, e-mail: bossiedekock@absamail.co.za
Office Bearer:	Ken Smith, 593 Hawkesbury Rd., Winmalee, NSW 2777, Australia. Tel +61 2 47543287. E- mail: cliviasmith@hotmail.com

REPRESENTATIVES OF CONSTITUENT CLIVIA CLUBS

Cape:	Mick Dower, Ian Brown, Gert Wiese Eastern Province: Willie le Roux, Charl Coetzee
Northern:	Lena van der Merwe, Glynn Middlewick, Bossie de Kock
KwaZulu-Natal:	Sean Chubb

REPRESENTATIVES OF OVERSEAS MEMBERS

Keith Hammett. 488C Don Buck Rd, Massey, Auckland 8,
New Zealand. Tel +64 9 833-9453. E-mail: khammett@clear.net.nz
Michael Morri, PO. Box 192, Union City, Michigan 49094 USA.
Direct enquiries to Michael at either tel. (517) 741-4769 or
E-mail: MorriGardens@cbpu.com
Ken Smith. 593 Hawkesbury Rd., Winmalee, NSW 2777, Australia. Tel
+61 2 47543287. E-mail: cliviasmith@hotmail.com
Aart van Voorst. Frederick Hendriklaan 49, Hillegom, TE 2181,
Netherlands. Tel: +31 252529679; email: a.v.voorst@freeler.nl

OTHER OVERSEAS CONTACT PERSONS FOR MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

United Kingdom	Michael Jeans. Hugletts Farm, Hugletts Lane, Heathfield, E. Sussex TN 21 9 BY. Tel +44 143 5 862 318. E-mail: mjeans@saqnet.co.uk.
----------------	---

(Continued on inside back cover)

Contents

CLIVIA SOCIETY COMMITTEE MEMBERS	Inside front cover
EDITORIAL – Meg Hart	2
FROM THE CHAIRMAN – Chris Vlok	3
CLIVIA 2006 – Roger Dixon	4
STORIES BEHIND THE COVER PHOTOGRAPHS – John van der Linde	7
CORRESPONDENCE	11
A Clivia called Oprah? – Cobus Roos	11
Notes on photographing clivia – Hannes van Rooyen	12
Squirrels in the Clivia - Anonymous	16
FROM THE CLIVIA ENTHUSIAST E-MAIL GROUP	19
Virus symptoms and particles – Keith Hammett	19
INTERNET CLIVIA CHAT – Denise Wilshire	22
PERSONALITY PROFILE – SIR PETER SMITHERS – John van der Linde	24
GARDEN ROUTE/TUINROETE INTEREST GROUP – Gerrie Brits	26
FOR SALE	26
BEGINNER'S LUCK – FLOWER STRUCTURE – Jim Shields	28
ON THE COMPOST HEAP – Meg Hart	28

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

Here we are in 2004 and planning for the 4th International Clivia Conference in South Africa is under way. Hopefully this will give overseas visitors sufficient time to organize their schedules for September 2006 and to save for their fares and expenses. Judging from the quality of the plants on shows in recent years it would be well worth the while for any clivia fan coming to see our superb clivia and our beautiful country. We look forward to seeing old and new faces of clivia enthusiasts for this occasion.

John van der Linde continues to research interesting stories behind the cover photographs. Getting some people to submit their stories is not as simple as it looks. Remember that some growers and exhibitors have hundreds of plants and to get them to remember exactly which one is depicted is not at all easy. The names of famous growers like Les Hannibal, Gordon McNeil, Bill Morris, Sir Peter Smithers, Dr. Hariao, Yoshikazu Nakamura are reflected in the plants they have bred. One thing the Editor has learnt in her 10 years of membership that good plants or seeds should be sought at an early stage in one's collection. Later one discards the 'ordinary' clivia in favour of 'good cultivars'. If only one followed this advice at the start! However, when establishing a large clivia garden one initially looks for quantity rather than quality.

An interesting idea has come from Jane Raphaely (Editor of *The Oprah Winfrey Magazine* in South Africa) that the Clivia Society selects a clivia to be

named after the famous American television personality, Oprah Winfrey. Many suggestions have been received and much discussion will have to be done before a decision can be taken.

Hannes van Rooyen provides his expertise as a photographer in an article on photographing clivia. After reading this one looks at the pictures in the Newsletters and the Yearbooks in a different light. On a lighter note an anonymous person writes of an ingenious way of scaring off squirrels which caused chaos in his clivia seed boxes.

If readers have wondered what those paler coloured stripes and spots are on the leaves of clivia, they are probably due to viruses. Jim Shields wondered what viruses were causing streaks on some of his clivia and Keith Hammett describes the trouble he went to to discover what viruses were present on plants imported into New Zealand. Denise Wilshire makes her debut and writes about the activities of the 'chat group' and her experiences on Internet communication.

John van der Linde has temporarily run out of people to discuss in his series 'Early names associated with clivia', so as *C. miniata* x *kewensis* 'Vico Yellow' is depicted on the back cover of this newsletter he has chosen a 'Personality Profile' on Sir Peter Smithers.

We now enter the thirteenth year of the Clivia Society and hope it goes from strength to strength.

Editor.

From the chairman

The following points may be of interest to members:

Annual General Meeting: The KwaZulu-Natal Clivia Club will host the Annual General Meeting. The meeting is scheduled for Saturday 5 June at the National Botanical Gardens in Pietermaritzburg. It coincides with a *Clivia gardenii* exhibition organised by the host club. Clivia enthusiasts (our overseas members) are reminded that 5 April is the last date to nominate persons to represent this group of members on the Clivia Society. Detailed information has been posted. Please contact the Clivia Society secretary should you have any questions.

Public Relations: Cobus Roos (Pretoria) has been appointed as Public Relations Officer of the Clivia Society. Cobus can be contacted at +27 72 272 3328. His e-mail address is cobusroos@telkomsa.net. Cobus will be assisted by Denise Wilshire (Johannesburg) and Colin Wood (Australia). The primary duties of Denise and Colin will be to represent the Clivia Society on the Yahoo Chat group.

Society website: The address of the Clivia Society website is www.cliviasociety.org. Clubs/Interest Groups are invited to make use of this facility. Please appoint a person to liaise with Cobus Roos regarding Club news to be put on the web. We also need a contact person in each club who will take the responsibility to post photo-

graphs of their annual show for publishing on the website.

Clivia Research: The Society has decided to financially support a research proposal submitted by Prof W Swart of the Free State University. The study will focus on disease-causing organisms associated with *Clivia* species in South Africa and their control.

Membership Lists and Results of 2003 Shows: Combined international and South African membership lists as well as a list containing the results of the various Clivia shows held in South Africa during 2003 were posted to Club secretaries and representatives during December 2003. Please approach your secretary or representative should you require these lists – if required in electronic format, it is free of charge.

Clivia mirabilis: John Winter reported to the Clivia Society that *Clivia mirabilis* seedlings would not be ready for marketing before the end of 2004. He also reported that the National Botanical Institute (NBI) has sought the approval of the Northern Cape Department of Nature Conservation for the detailed marketing arrangements proposed by the NBI. The NBI has subsequently been advised that no instructions will be given before the middle of 2004. When approval is received, seedlings will be offered for sale via the NBI website. John Winter has undertaken to forward the information to the Clivia Society as soon

as it is published on the NBI's website.

2004 Shows

5 June: Gardenii exhibition - KwaZulu-Natal Clivia Club

12 June: Mini Interspecific Show – Northern Clivia Club

29 May: Gardenii Exhibition – New Zealand Clivia Club

17 July: Waterberg Boslelieklub

24 July: Mini Interspecific Show – Eastern Province Clivia Club

28 August: Annual Exhibition/Show – Waterberg Boslelieklub

4 & 5 September: Annual Show – Northern Clivia Club

4 & 5 **OR** 11 & 12 September: Annual show - KwaZulu-Natal Clivia Club

10, 11 & 12 September: Annual Show/Exhibition – Soutpansberg Interest Group

11 September: Annual Clivia Show – Northern KwaZulu-Natal

11 September: Annual Show/Exhibition – Free State Interest Group

18 September: Mini show at Kloof - KwaZulu-Natal Clivia Club

18 & 19 September: Annual Show – Metro Interest Group

18 & 19 September: Annual Show – Cape Clivia Club

25 & 26 September: Annual Show – Eastern Province Clivia Club

2 & 3 October: Annual Show – Garden Route Clivia Interest Group

9 & 10 October: Annual Exhibition - New Zealand Clivia Club

Clivia greetings,

Chris Vlok

Clivia 2006

4TH INTERNATIONAL CLIVIA CONFERENCE

PRETORIA, SOUTH AFRICA

5TH & 6TH SEPTEMBER 2006

On behalf of the Clivia Society and the Northern Clivia Club, we would like to welcome you to experience the world of the Clivia and meet with other Clivia enthusiasts in September 2006 at the 4th International Clivia Conference. This will be the highlight of our botanical calendar and a showcase for developments in our knowledge of the

genus Clivia and the strides that we have made in its ennoblement and popularisation. A magnificent show will accompany and complement the conference, which will be addressed by speakers from all over the Clivia world.

Three major themes have been identified for this conference:

Which way for Clivia future perspectives: what do we need to do?

Recording Clivia: the why, the what &

the how Nature's gift: diversity, habitat & evolution.

In addition to invited keynote speakers, prospective speakers are invited to submit a brief summary of their proposed presentation so that the preliminary program can be drawn up. Abstracts will be invited and the deadline for their submission will be December 2005, with notification of acceptance by 28 February 2006. The full paper to be published in the conference proceedings must be received by 30 May 2006. Only papers received by this date will be included in the conference proceedings.

SHOW

In conjunction with the conference, the National Clivia Show will be held as a showcase of the Clivia Growers art where the very best of Clivia will be on display. In addition to the many plants on show, top growers will offer a wide variety of plants for sale. Start now to prepare your plants!

AUCTION

An auction is planned as one of the highlights of Clivia 2006 where a selection of the best Clivias available will be up for grabs. Closer to the time, all the accepted plants will be illustrated on the website as the catalogue is finalised.

2006 Conference, Shows & Tours Program

A number of pre- and post-conference tours have been planned to take the Clivia enthusiast around all the *Clivia*

habitats in South Africa as well as visits to as many regional shows as possible in the areas. For many, time is limited so we have tried to compress activities into the minimum period. The conference is timed for the normal flowering period of *C. miniata*, which starts in the north, followed by the east and then the south coast (from west to east). This has determined the timing of the regional shows so we have planned the habitat tours in between them. The show and tour program covers most of South Africa's scenic and botanic areas and is planned to be unforgettable. This program is provisional and may change as planning progresses.

Mon Aug 28 – Fri Sep 1. A tour from Cape Town up the West Coast, enjoying the spring wildflowers of Namaqualand, including the bulbs and culminating in *C. mirabilis* country.

Sat Sep 2 – Sun 3. At leisure and transfer to Pretoria.

Mon Sep 4. At leisure **.

Tue Sep 5 – Wed 6. Conference. Registration will be on Tuesday morning. The conference dinner will be held on the Tuesday evening and there will be a social program for the Wednesday evening.

Thu Sep 7. At leisure **.

Fri Sep 8 – Sun Sep 10. Pretoria Clivia Show, with a highlight being the auction on Friday evening of selected clivias from around the world.

Sat Sep 9 – Sun Sep 10. At leisure **.

Mon Sep 11 – Thu Sep 14. Tour to the scenic eastern escarpment to see *C. caulescens* habitats as well as the renowned McNeil collection.

Fri Sep 15. At leisure ** and transfer to the next clivia show.

Sat Sep 16 – Sun Sep 17. Visit the Clivia Shows in Pietermaritzburg, Johannesburg or George.

Sun Sep 17. At leisure ** or transfer to Pietermaritzburg.

Mon Sep 18 – Tue Sep 19. Day tours to *C. miniata* and *C. gardenii* (including Swamp) habitats.

Wed Sep 20 – Thu 21. Transfer (air) to the Eastern Cape followed by 1½ days of *C. nobilis* habitat tours.

Fri Sep 22. Transfer to Cape Town by car or bus via the coastal Garden Route.

Sat Sep 23 – Sun Sep 24. Cape Town Clivia Show.

Sun Sep 24 – Fri 29. At leisure ** or transfer to Port Elizabeth.

Sat Sep 30 – Sun Oct 1. Port Elizabeth Clivia Show.

At Leisure **. Delegates will be welcome to make their own arrangements or to participate in a variety of organ-

ised evening social and 1 to 2 day tour events, including visiting clivia collections.

Accommodation will be available in the homes of local enthusiasts or in B&Bs and hotels. We anticipate a keen interest in the proposed program, so if you are interested in participating please contact the Conference Secretary. This will help us with planning. Full details with costs will be made available in due course.

Roger Dixon.

Contact Details

For further information or to have your name added to the mailing list for Clivia 2006, please contact the Conference Secretary and provide the following information:

Name, postal address, email address, area of interest or participation (conference attendance, tour(s), etc.)

Clivia 2006
P O Box 74868
Lynnwood Ridge
0040
South Africa
Fax: +27 8048892
Email: cliviasoc@mweb.co.z
Website: www.cliviasociety.org

U.S. Clivia Nursery
www.cliviacreations.com

Stories behind the cover photographs

Photo No. 1 – Front cover

Ian Brown has provided the following information:

This three-year-old plant was placed second in the 'own breeding' category of the Cape Clivia Club Show in 2002. It comes from a cross of an orange plant grown from seed from Michael Willetts in California and a yellow plant bred by Bill Morris. Their histories are similar in some ways.

In 1994 a Rotary exchange student from Cape Town stayed with the Willetts while in the USA. Michael had met me a year previously when he was in Cape Town, and sent me back some clivia seed with the student. He described the seeds as "having tetraploid parents". Two seeds thrived and produced the most vigorous plants I've known. One was judged the best orange in the 1998 Cape Show. It is shown in the 1998 Yearbook (photo 51). The flowers are large with wide petals and a touch of green in the centre.

I crossed seed from these two plants and was surprised when two out of the large batch had unpigmented bases. I queried this with Michael and got the following details regarding their breeding:

"All of our plants are always crossed with our better yellows, so the resultant offspring will produce a certain number of yellows. Our yellows originated from a number of clones. Many

of the original crosses were done using Gordon McNeil's 'Citrinus', who sent the plant to Les Hannibal, a dear and elderly friend who lived in Sacramento. Other clones were as follows:

Hummels Hybrid – an early poor yellow from Southern California.

Seedlings from Willi Olivier who lived near Betty's Bay. These were all orange, with F2's yellow.

Vico Yellow, which came originally from Sir Peter Smithers.

Kewensis type from Edinburgh Botanical Gardens.

An additional Kewensis type from Australia – I was told that the seeds were stolen from Kew many years ago, presumably by a visitor.

Var. 'Aurea' – from a western Australia cross."

In 1999 I pollinated the two plants with pollen from a yellow plant I'd acquired from Fred Gibello. One plant produced about a third yellow seedlings and the other none. The yellow plant had been grown by Fred from seed from Bill Morris. This plant has very large flowers with wide petals. Its photograph appeared on the cover of the winter newsletter in 2003 and its full history is given in that publication. It's interesting to note the similar backgrounds of this plant and the orange one from Michael Willetts. Bill Morris' plant also originates from a yellow from Les Hannibal bred from "a wild

collected yellow sent to him by Gordon McNeil". Further information is given by Bill Morris in the article on page 21 of the 2003 winter newsletter.

Both plants used in my cross have good broad leaves of about 70mm and large well-shaped flowers with broad petals. Since 1999 I've repeated the crossing and one plant always produces about one-third yellow seedlings. A few flowered in 2002 and looked promising. In 2003 a few more flowered and the results were spectacular. The flower on one yellow was 105mm across with petals 40mm broad. Mike Jeans in England had a very good flower on the yellow seedling I'd sent him and Ian Vermaak in George reported green in the centre of the yellow plant he'd been given. An orange flower from the same batch also had some green in the flower.

The plants grow rapidly and the parents sucker well. I'm now eagerly looking forward to this year's flowering. This cross and others have convinced me that the best yellow flowering plants come from plants bred from strong orange flowers with recessive yellow and not necessarily from crossing two true-bred yellows".

The names mentioned above - Mike Willetts and Les Hannibal (USA), Sir Peter Smithers (Switzerland), Fred Gibello and Willie Olivier (South Africa), and Bill Morris (Australia) - may bring back memories. Some of them were among the earliest members of the very first international group of Clivia lovers (many of them keen breeders of all kinds of bulbous flowering plants), who joined the origi-

nal Clivia Club founded by Nick Primich way back in 1992 and swapped their seeds - John van der Linde

Photo No. 2

Chris Vlok sent us this picture of Pikkie Strumpher's 'Rumplestiltskin'.

Pikkie is today a very experienced clivia breeder in Pretoria and a regular prizewinner at NCC shows. The origin of this plant dates back to the early days when he first became interested in clivias, when he, like so many others, was dead keen on yellows, to the exclusion of other plants.

His very first plant was a Jim Holmes yellow, soon followed by another yellow from Anna Meyer's nursery in Pretoria. When these plants flowered Pikkie put pollen from the Meyer plant on to his Holmes yellow. He eventually harvested and planted the seeds, hoping to raise a crop of yellow seedlings for sale to recoup his investment. To his disappointment, many of the seedlings had pigmented stems, so when potting-up time came, they were promptly composted! In due course he sold most of the remaining seedlings - all with unpigmented stems - as yellows, keeping only a few because, by now, with his collection growing, space was becoming a problem. (This is a familiar story so far, isn't it?)

Eventually the plants he kept flowered, all were yellows except one, which was different. It had some light orange on the outside of the petals, which otherwise were cream, just like

the inside of the flower, which however had a small much darker throat. Next thing, the throat had lightened and a lovely light orange flush developed towards the tips of the petals, as pictured in the photo. As you can see, the petals are nicely rounded and have a good overlap. The flowers are 7 to 8 cms across.

'Rumplestiltskin' was placed first in the 'Any other colour' category at the 2002 Metro Show. Pikkie then selfed it, but the plant proved self-sterile. So, in 2003 he backcrossed it to the mother plant, the Holmes yellow. He would also have liked to cross it back to the pollen parent, the yellow from Anna Meyer, but he had sold that, long before 'Rumplestiltskin' had flowered, when he was still focused on yellows, because he wasn't happy with the pigmented stem seedlings it bred. He had in fact also wanted to get rid of the Holmes yellow, for the same reason, but had kept it for old times sake, as it was his very first yellow.

Will Pikkie be keeping all the seedlings from this latest cross of his? I understand Rumplestiltskin was a little man in a fairy tale who turned straw into gold. Will he again work his magic this time?

Photo No. 3

This is a picture of the **original** 'Vico Yellow', bred by Sir Peter Smithers, an early member of the old Clivia Club, who is the subject of our 'Personality Profile' in this issue. The story of its breeding was told by Sir Peter in his article on page 13 of Clivia 2, published in 2000. Harold Koopowitz

gives a detailed description on pages 252 to 254 of his book 'Clivias'. 'Vico Yellow' is such a well-known name that its story is worth repeating briefly, with a few comments:

In November 1970 Sir Peter, at his home in Vico Morcote, Switzerland, acquired a 'Kewensis Cream' pale yellow clivia, and two orange clones from the same 'Kewensis' group. These plants had been bred at Kew, England, in the process of selecting back to recover a lost South African yellow. When they flowered he pollinated the two oranges with pollen from his yellow. Seeds were set, harvested and planted out. Some of the seedlings were discarded under the greenhouse stage. One grew on there and subsequently flowered, a yellow which seemed to be an improvement on 'Kewensis Cream'. He rescued it, potted it, and in due course sent off an offset to his friend Dr Hirao in Japan.

Dr Hirao died and Mr. Y Nakamura of the 'Clivia Breeding Plantation' acquired his collection and amongst the plants was the 'Vico Yellow'. Mr. Nakamura described it as the "world's best clivia, the one to beat". This was back in the mid 1980s. Subsequently *C. miniata x kewensis* 'Vico Yellow' was registered in Japan and micro-propagated by Miyoshi and Co. for mass distribution. As Harold Koopowitz says, "This clone has been so widely distributed all over the world that we can expect it to play an important role in the future breeding of yellow clivias."

Mr. Nakamura used his offset from the original 'Vico' plant in his breeding

programme because of its special genetic qualities (See 'Clivias in Japan' by Shigetaka Sasaki in Clivia 3): 'Vico Yellow' hybrids produce large flowers with good forms and with well-reflexed petals, though the plants tend to be a bit large for Japanese tastes. He says that 'Vico Yellow' pollen is very fertile and produces a good seed set. Because each seed tends to be large the total seed crop may be small. "When you use 'Vico Yellow' pollen only once (e.g., (orange x yellow) x Vico Yellow) it is possible to get a high percentage of good flowers with twice the size of the usual *C. miniata* and also with good rolled and waved petals".

Are the tissue-cultured plants available today any different from the original? I am told that the process of micro-propagation can lead to some genetic mutation, though the effects may not be visible. What can possibly also have an effect is the selection of plants for growing on, out of the many plantlets produced. For example, maybe only the stronger-growing ones are chosen. Maybe readers who know about the subject can tell us more?

Do such differences, if any, make 'Vico Yellow' meristems any less suitable for use in a breeding programme? There are today many superb plants with 'Vico Yellow' – whether original or micro-cultured – in their backgrounds, which I would consider to be improvements on the original. What do you think?

Photo No. 4

Chris Viljoen has been growing clivias since 1991, though he only joined the Northern Clivia Club in 1996. During that period he accumulated over 40 000 plants, which he grows under netting at his home in Waverley, Pretoria. He has yellows but specializes in oranges, pinks and other pastel colours. He says he is always on the lookout for plants with green throats and other 'oddities', which he selects when he sees his plants in flower.

He entered the plant seen in the photograph from his vast collection in the 2002 NCC show, where it was placed first in the section for pinks (one umbel). It is similar to the well-known 'Ella van Zijl' - though paler and with a different-shaped and smaller umbel - in that it also has a lovely dusty sheen to its well-shaped petals. Petals, which 'sparkle' as much as this, seem to be quite a rare feature in clivias. In the case of 'Ella' the sparkling sheen does not appear to be inherited by its offspring. It will be interesting to see Chris's results from breeding with this plant.

Coincidentally, Chris has a very similar pink-flowering plant, which was featured on the front cover of the Autumn 2003 Newsletter. The two plants are totally unrelated.

Photo No. 5

Tino Ferero tells us about this beauty of his:

The variegated broad leaf with flower pictured here was the class and section winner in 'class 16B' at the NCC

show in September 2002. Some of the florets are multipetal and the number of multipetals varies from year to year.

While visiting Dr. Bing Wiese about five years ago, I was admiring some of his daruma-type variegateds with very attractive striations on the leaves. They were by then about four years old, and had not flowered yet. He explained that they had been grown from seed imported by the Clivia Club from Mr. Yoshi Nakamura. He also went on to tell me that he was not really interested in the variegateds and then asked me whether I would like some of them. When I replied that I would love to have some, he said that I could choose any two of them. When I asked him what he was going to charge me he said that they were a present that he was giving me. I was humbly grateful for his very kind gesture.

It was a difficult choice. There were about 10 very beautiful plants from

which to choose, and I managed eventually to pick two real beauties. Both have already flowered three times for me.

When Shigetaka Sasaki from Japan visited me in 2002, he was also very impressed by the two plants and remarked that they should do well for me in my breeding programme. They do not self very well, but I have for the last two years been pollinating them with pollen from other multipetal variegated darumas in my collection. Good heads of seed have set and some of the seedlings already look promising.

In closing I would like to report that in the past Dr. Bing Wiese was not really interested in the variegateds and usually gave away all the variegateds that spontaneously grew from his own lines. This has now changed, and he has become interested in the variegateds. At present he has a very attractive collection.

John van der Linde.

Correspondence

A Clivia called 'Oprah'?

Dear John Winter

Further to our telephone conversation today I have pleasure in confirming the details of our query. Associated Magazines publishes: The Oprah Winfrey Magazine in South Africa.

Oprah Winfrey has just turned 50 and

we have decided that the most appropriate way to celebrate that here is to name a new strain of one of South Africa's most beautiful flowers after her. We are unanimous that this should be a clivia. We wondered whether any of the members of The Clivia Society might have a suitable new strain which they would like to

have used in this way?

We will publicise this in the magazine and though we are not sure whether US regulations will permit us to send her any plants, or whether they would grow in Santa Monica which is where she lives when she is not working, we would be able to send her photographs. Perhaps Kirstenbosch would be prepared to have some of them in their nursery garden.

We would be very grateful to have further input from you and your members and please come back to me if you need further information.

Best Wishes,

Jane Raphaely
Editor in Chief: The Oprah Winfrey Magazine
CEO Associated Magazines.

Reply from the Clivia Society Public Relations Officer

This has created a great opportunity in three main respects.

1. To promote clivia globally
2. To honour one of the great philanthropists of our time
3. Give international recognition to the plant/strain chosen.

We call on our members to submit, via photographs, plants that they have which could be used in this manner. It is not necessary that a strain already exists, but a strain should be developed from the initial mother plant in due course. The mother plant will obviously be called 'Oprah', and the

strain developed from it will then be referred to as the 'Oprah strain'. The owner must be willing to donate an off-set/sucker of the plant, which will be presented to Oprah Winfrey. The name will be registered with Ken Smith, the Registrar of Clivia Names for the Society.

Anyone interested can submit their photos to cobusroos@telkomsa.net, or post it to Clivia Society PRO, P O Box 276, Rayton, 1001. It is requested that you also furnish us with some detail regarding the plant's origin, as well as its features such as leaf width & length etc.

A selection process will determine which plant will carry the name 'Oprah'. Please get your submissions in as early as possible.

Cobus Roos
PRO Clivia Society

Notes on photographing Clivia

Prologue

Michael Jeans has written a very good article on photography in Clivia 3, as also James Comstock in the Autumn 1999 Newsletter (Vol. 8, No. 1 page 5). I recommend that you refer to them again to comply with their publishing needs.

In this attempt I hope to help you 'how to D.I.Y.' and apply basic principles to produce photos for your joy and for possible publication.

1 Camera

1.1 Both film and digital cameras are suitable. Digital units have the advantage of correcting unwanted details

through computer programmes. (2002 Vol. 11 No. 3).

1.2 A 'zoom' lens is very valuable to help you fill your negative/frame with subject matter.

1.3 Studio lighting (any other will also do), or built-in flash can be used when natural light is inadequate.

2 Equipment

2.1 A tripod is essential when the zoom is used because it stabilises the shot to give needle sharp photos which are so necessary for reproduction.

2.2 When using lighting, flash or alternative, it is advisable to use 'bounce', diffused or reflected light to soften the shadows. Modern flash units have blades that may be adjusted for bounce flash. Round white car heat reflected placed in the windshield are excellent aids for reflected light, not the shining ones. They may be hung on an extra lightweight tripod.

2.3 Studio lighting (tungsten or mercury vapour) give a red/orange cast on the film. This can be eliminated by using a tungsten filter, light blue in colour, fitted to the front of the lens. Fluorescent tubes give a green cast on the film and may be corrected by a pale pink/orange filter.

2.4 Generally flash is inclined to give very hard shadows in photographs. Bounce flash or a diffuser may soften this. The advantage of flash is that it gives true colour corrections on film. Newer types of flashes automatically read camera/subject distance, light value and expose correctly according to camera settings, however they are

very expensive. When two or three flashes are used a flash meter is required to determine light values at the subject. From these readings, the camera is then set for correct exposure.

By using backlighting which is not visible in the shot, amazing effects can be achieved. A 'small' flash is very suitable for this purpose – long flash release cables can be used but one is inclined to trip over them. Flashes with slave units (automatic triggering) are very useful. It is still best to use diffusers in front of the flashes to reduce harshness of light.

2.5 Polarising filters. Experience of flower shots over many years has shown that flowers have a 'sheen' which reflects light to such an extent that the results on film and digital show as white patches on the perianths (petals) and leaves, and a loss of colour (See Clivia Four, page 46, photograph nos. 69 & 71; Clivia Five, page 55, photograph nos. 69, 70 & 72). By using polarizing filters in front of film and digital cameras the sheen is removed and the correct colours and detail revealed. There are two types of polarizing filters:

2.5.1 'Linear' type as used on older cameras which do not auto focus. You rotate the filters until glare is removed and then shoot. You may also need to compensate by slower shutter of longer aperture due to loss of light.

2.5.2 'Circular'-type used on auto focus and digital cameras – they do not need adjustment but still remove the glare. Often salesmen of digital cameras may tell you that a 'polarizing

filter' is built in, but it is not effective – do trials and experiment if it is effective.

3 Set-up

A brick wall with mortar joints, or wood paneling, or other plants can be very disturbing backgrounds. See Clivia Four, page 28, photo. 30).

3.1 By having coloured paper to place behind the subject matter, such disturbances would be eliminated. It is strange how such detail can distract one's attention from the subject, and let one's eyes wander about. The paper can be stiffened by a dowel across the top, and supported by a light tripod – it now becomes the 'backdrop'. Use a contrasting colour to that of the umbel, leaves or berries (see 5.2). Coloured paper/boards may be obtained from artist supply shops or photographic dealers.

3.2 It is important to eliminate hard shadows on the backdrop by using diffused secondary lighting or flashes, or by using reflectors with natural light to soften shadows and bring out details of the subject. Alternatively move the subject away from the backdrop until

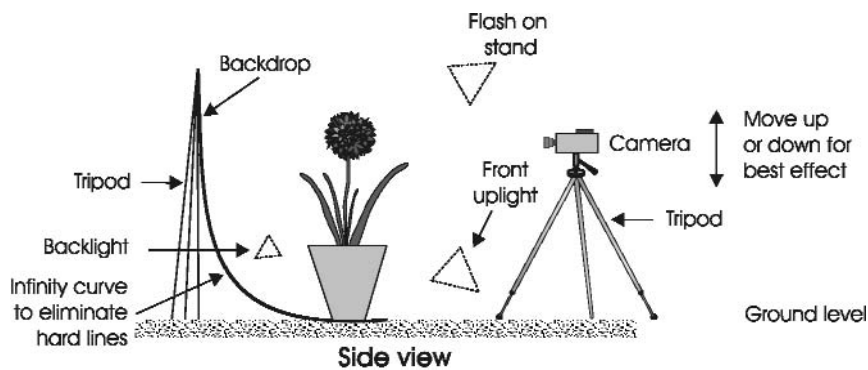
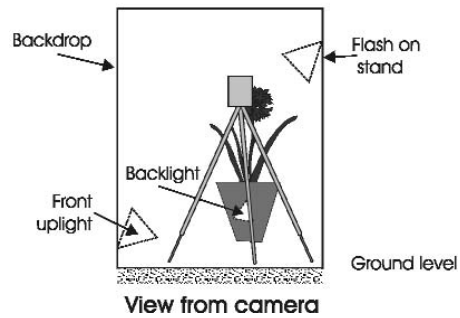
shadows disappear.

3.3 Photographing Clivias in the wild can be a problem. Other plants create that unwanted disturbing background. A cloth with dowel across the top and suspended by strings may serve the purpose as backdrop. Try to eliminate the folds in the cloth.

4 Important points

You need to decide 'what' you want to photograph:

- 4.1 A single flower or perianth - ± use $f4.5 - f5.6$
- 4.2 The whole umbel - ± use $f8 - f11$
- 4.3 The whole plant - ± use $f11 - f22$
- 4.3.1 Take care not to crop-off (cut off



with the frame of the camera) part of the subject (see Clivia Five, page 88, photos. 131 & 132, page 108; page 108, photo 152).

4.4 Select a suitable contrasting backdrop (see 5.2).

4.5 Decide on lighting:

4.5.1 Natural with reflectors to soften shadows and highlight detail.

4.5.2 Flash or studio-type lighting with diffusers or brollies (reflectors).

4.6 When photographing a single flower (perianth) a large aperture seems to enhance the isolation and often gives a '3-D' effect. Focusing is very critical at this stage, and should focus on the stamens.

4.6.1 Depth of field (D.O.F.) is the focus ability of the lens to render the subject sharp in focus, in direct relation to the *f* stop (or lens opening). A *f*3.5 or lower aperture has a very shallow depth of sharp focus field e.g. photo of a single flower: focus on stamens and the front and back rim of the flower may be out of focus. A small *f*11, 16, 22 may give everything sharp in focus from 1cm in front of the camera to $\pm 100\frac{1}{4}$ which is the principle of point and shoot cameras.

4.6.2 Shutter speeds vary with the lens opening and available light:

Large apertures may have fast shutter speeds and shallow D.O.F.

Small apertures may have slow shutter speeds and great D.O.F.

4.6.3 'Close-up' shots: There are very expensive 'close-focus' lenses but experience has taught that they do not give good results. They reduce the D.O.F. to almost flat-type work. It was found that the 'zoom' lens moved ± 2 cm from the subject and then 'zoomed-in' to fill the frame gives

greater D.O.F. and fills the frame far easier than 'close-up' lenses. Try your zoom and see what good results you get.

5 Remarks

Modern auto focus cameras are all programmed to shoot at the *f*5.6. You may need to go into 'manual' mode to select your aperture of choice.

5.1 When you preselect your working aperture, the camera meters the light and sets the shutter speed for correct exposure. The camera automatically compensates for 'polarizing filters'.

5.2 Compare the following shots from your 'Clivia Five' yearbook to understand the principles outlined above, and see which shots you like best. The whole exercise is intended as a learning experience and not criticism of the photos present.

5.2.1 Page 8 No. 7 – light grey background, lovely shot

5.2.2 Page 12 No. 13 – used a large aperture to throw the background out of focus

5.2.3 Page 22 No. 21 - the light blue background enhances the orange umbel.

Page 22 No. 20 & page 77 No. 119 – the light blue background does not seem to let the plants stand out. Compare these with Page 40 No. 33 – medium blue backdrop which seems to enhance the yellow blooms.

5.2.4 Page 25 Nos. 24 & 25 – the dark backdrop shows up the umbels beautifully.

5.2.5 Page 25 No. 35 – Almost in 3-D effect, shadows on the backdrop indicate that the plant was too close to the backdrop, and this usually happens in cramped show conditions which can-

not be helped.

5.6.6 Pages 40 & 41 Nos. 32, 33, 36 – various backdrops which enhance the flowers.

5.6.7 Page 46, No. 41 – Good photo of a winner plant with no cut-off leaves or flowers and a good choice of backdrop.

5.6.8 Page 48, No. 44 – Lovely shot of 'Lovely Rita', with another backdrop much of the detail could have been lost.

5.6.9 Page 49, No. 49 – To me the umbel has been cropped too severely, but this may have been done by the editors

5.6.10 Page 105, No. 152 – Here the berries are cut off at the top and the background is very disturbing. A smaller aperture could have been more successful.

5.6.11 *Page 109, No. 154 - There is a good contrast between flower and backdrop, but a pity about the lighting casting shadows in the perianths (flowers).

5.7 With the above features under your control you should be confident to take good photos of your 'children' which you enjoy so much. Remember circumstances may not be controllable – but 'go for it', do your best and 'enjoy'.

Hannes van Rooyen.

Hannes van Rooyen was a Lecturer in photography in the Department of Interior Design at the Technikon Witwatersrand from 1982 to 1993 in all aspects of photography. Editor.

Squirrels in the Clivia

Some time ago the issue of squirrels in the garden and specifically in the Clivia was raised in this Newsletter. Well, we have a serious problem with legions of squirrels descending from the lofty heights onto our house and into the garden. Every seed box with young Clivia and other seedlings was dug up and the plants buried or left outside to die. All the big pots were replanted with pecan nuts. The young nuts were tasted in bunches and strewn everywhere. Hundreds of the young brown figs were picked, tasted and dropped.

We tried almost everything – covering the trays with thorn branches; tying plastic bags to sticks and planting this amongst the pots; shouting at the little critters; even catapulting them with litchi pips and later hard ammunition. Our neighbour's dog learned of our invasion and tried to help, but overturned and trampled dozens of pots and trays in his yelping chase.

Numerous experts had no solution. An elderly friend with the same problem prayed at a Bible Study group: "Lord, we know that you have made everything and all the little animals are dear to You, but please Lord, can't you find a place for the squirrels far from us?" Apparently that helped for her, but perhaps I am one of those with too little faith, for neither my prayers nor my curses were effective.

One day, while looking at the trays full of freshly dug holes, I wondered how Nature keeps the animal species out of each other's territory (or plants). At

the same time the morning coffee and a large glass of juice made me feel the urge to urinate. Then I realized: in nature the larger, more dominant and aggressive animals mark their territory clearly and abundantly. This is smelled and the message obeyed by the smaller, pesky ones. So, being larger and very aggressive even if not dominant, I clearly and abundantly marked the boundaries of my trays and small pots.

A few days later, my wife said: "You know, it is strange, the squirrels are not into the seed trays anymore. I wonder why, because they are still in

the trees and over the roof?" And some time afterwards: "That new fertilizer has a strong smell, haven't you used too much?" From me, a sly smile, but no comment.

Now, some two months later, the squirrels are still keeping away from the seedling trays and I am considering patenting my organic solution to the problem.

But now my next problem is: how to get up high enough into the branches of the pecan nut and fig trees?

Anonymous.

Clivia Database

Version 2.1b

Are you fed-up of forgetting or losing valuable information regarding the history of your Clivia??

THEN THIS IS FOR YOU

By far the most modern and detailed computer based plant recording system available anywhere in the world. Very user friendly, even a ninety year old child can use it.

Keep track of all your Clivia seeds, seedlings and plants with over sixty elements of recorded information, including photo's of your favourite plants.

The system also automatically generates a genealogy (family-tree) table of all the plants entered into the database for up to seven generations (as much as 35 years).

CONTACT

Viv Elliott: +27 11 4406063

Mobile: +27 83 4472203

e-mail: vegro@iafrica.com

THE PRICE WILL ASTOUND YOU

Added from the Clivia Enthusiast E-Group.

Hi All

There has been interest in contributions on the dispersal of clivia seed, and the menagerie has grown by two.

During a recent visit, Nakkie and Phillip Theron of Johannesburg told us that in the Eastern Cape dassies (photo) take clivia berries. Dassies (the South African name) or hyrax or rock rabbit, are wide spread in southern Africa. They are a bit bigger than an ordinary rabbit.



During the same visit, Graham Goodwin, who lives about 40 km west of Pretoria, told us that he has had problems with tree squirrels (photo) stealing his clivia berries, eating off the peel and leaving the seed in neat little heaps, as has been reported previously for rodents.

Dassies' habitats in some cases overlap with clivia, but that is not the case with tree squirrels which are found in the drier bushveld areas, where we guesstimate an annual rainfall of 650 mm or less compared to our guessti-

mate of 800 mm or more for clivia.

For overseas enthusiasts in particular, tours during the September 2006 Conference programme will give an opportunity to learn more about the origin of our favourite genus, and we hope that you are starting to plan your visits. Preliminary details will soon be posted on www.cliviasociety.org

With best wishes

Connie and James Abel

Graham Goodwin is not the contributor of the 'Anonymous' letter. Editor.



— *From the Clivia enthusiasts e-mail group*

Virus symptoms and particles

4 February 2003

I have recently been involved in a lengthy investigation comparing a virus infection of Clivia identified in imported plants held in quarantine with virus-infected plants already in New Zealand. This work has been carried out in association with scientists of the New Zealand Ministry of Agriculture and Forests [MAF], plus overseas laboratories. I have also taken photos of virus symptoms.

I intend to write a brief report on this work as time permits. Not this week - North Island National Dahlia Show this coming weekend. Yes, there are other genera with six letters that end in 'ia' besides Clivia.

Do not expect too much, far more time and resources are required for research in many areas concerning the Clivia, in addition to viruses and other pathogens.

Clivia Clubs around the world could well consider helping to fund research in areas such as virus infection. A well directed MSc or PhD student can achieve a great deal relatively cheaply. Talk to your local University to explore opportunities.

Keith Hammett, Auckland, New Zealand.

15 September 2003

I just had some clivias tested at an

Indiana laboratory (Agdia, Elkhart, IN) for apparent virus infection. They did not find any of their usual list of agriculturally significant viruses, but I would like to know what viruses have been confirmed in Clivia in the past, and where these might be tested for.

Can anyone help me? I don't have access to the plant pathology literature, but I can forward any literary references on to the nursery inspectors.

Viruses tested for, and their abbreviations:

Alfalfa Mosaic Virus	AMV
Arabis Mosaic Virus	ArMV
Broad Bean Wilt Virus	BBWV
Chrysanthemum Virus B	CVB
Cucumber Mosaic Virus	CMV
Impatiens Necrotic Spot Virus	INSV
Prunus Necrotic Ringspot Virus	PNRSV
Tobacco Mosaic Virus	TMV
Tobacco Ringspot Virus	TRSV
Tobacco Streak Virus	TSV
Tomato Aspermy Virus	TAV
Tomato Mosaic Virus	ToMV
Tomato Ringspot Virus	ToRSV
Tomato Spotted Wilt Virus	TSWV
Potyvirus Group	POTV

Jim Shields.

20 September 2003

Here are two images of plants that I suspect are virus infected, but which did not test positive for that panel of known plant viruses of agricultural significance. It certainly does not have to be a known agricultural virus to be in



clivia, of course. What does everyone think?

If these are virus infected, I cannot risk keeping them in my greenhouses this winter with all the other plants.

Jim Shields in a quandary in Indiana

22 September 2003

Hello Jim,

I have very similar streaking on the leaves of 3 of 5 cyrtanthiflora plants



which I purchased bare-rooted from a weekend market. I believe these plants have been around for umpteen years and have vegetatively propagated themselves and some would quite likely have acquired perhaps a virus. Two of the plants showed symptoms not long after I potted them. The third only showed streaking on the young leaves when it started sending up a flower stem. The streaking is particularly prominent on the flower stem. Fairly certain the streaking is not the result of insect attacks, at least not above ground.

The symptoms remind me of streaking on the leaves of Liliiums affected by one of the mosaic viruses. The Liliium plants would appear disease-free until they are split up and transplanted or when they start to flower.

Regards,

Ling (Hobart).

28 September 2003

A few years ago James Abel went to a lot of trouble to bring together a collection of different Clivia plants that I wanted to test. I am very grateful to

James for doing this and for the generosity of several people in South Africa who provided the plants. New Zealand has some of the strictest biosecurity regulations in the world, which makes the importation of plants ever more difficult and expensive. As a consequence one needs plenty of justification to import plants rather than seed.

A requirement of importation for Clivia is that plants be held in approved closed post entry quarantine facilities for a specified period of time, so that they may be regularly inspected to ensure that they are free of pests and diseases.

During the quarantine period one plant showed symptoms which suggested that it might be infected with a virus. Specimens were taken for tests. Serological tests were inconclusive, but examination under an electron microscope revealed virus particles.

As the whole importation was at risk of being destroyed, I paid to have every plant examined. Two further plants of different species showed low levels of virus particles, although neither showed any symptoms.

I had long suspected that virus infection of Clivia already existed in New Zealand as well as elsewhere. I provided leaves showing the symptoms as displayed in the attached image. These showed high levels of virus particles.

My argument was that if it could be shown that the virus in the imported South African plants was the same as

that which already existed here in New Zealand, there was no reason to deny entry.

A range of tests was carried out here in New Zealand and transmission to some herbaceous indicator plants was accomplished with the recovery of virus particles.

Particles were variously described as flexuous rod shaped or rod shaped and these ranged in size from 300 - 1200 nm in length and were observed from both the imported and local plants.

Material was sent to laboratories in both the USA and UK for amplification in order to more specifically identify the virus(es). It was determined that the particles from both long established New Zealand plants and the imported plants held in quarantine were infected with a Potexvirus, but existing technology was not sufficiently sensitive to establish beyond reasonable doubt whether we were dealing with one, or more than one strain of the Potexvirus.

The appended illustration is of value in as much as we have a clear linkage between a symptom and an infective particle. As always much more research needs to be carried out.

I have to acknowledge the cooperation of scientists and other staff associated with the New Zealand biosecurity service. They have released the surviving plants which showed no symptoms or virus particles, albeit after more than two years. Further they have allowed me to make prison visits and take root tip samples of Pat

Gore's suspected Swamp Clivia to check out the karyotype. This has indeed shown the diagnostic Swamp Clivia karyotype.

Hope this is of some help Jim Shields.

You started it.

Kind regards,

Keith Hammett, Auckland, New Zealand.

Internet Clivia chat

Let me introduce myself. I have always known the genus *Clivia*. When I was a small girl, my grandmother had a tub of clivia on her stoep [verandah] in Cape Town. They seemed to thrive on the dregs of the teapot. A relative of this plant now grows freely in my garden. It has traveled the length and breadth of South Africa - from the hot dusty Karoo town of Victoria West, over to Beaufort West and then from suburb to suburb around Cape Town, back to the Eastern Cape and now finally to Gauteng. I assume that the original plant was harvested from the wild in the early 1930's. Long before my birth you understand!!! Apart from the pretty blooms, its hardiness is probably what attracted me to the genus.

I have only recently had the time to indulge myself as the pressures of work, family and life in general did not permit me to become involved with a plant collection. And what an indulgence that has become! Five years ago, there was a couple of store-bought Belgians and Grandma's clivia in my possession. Now I shudder to think of the hundreds of plants that cram every corner of my life. In doors and outside my home. Even my fridge has been involved in clivia care.

How did this happen? The Internet. Yes blame it all on the Internet. I am part of a wonderful group of 'clivaholics', who chat on a daily basis. We swap seeds and sometimes buy plants from each other. We share photos of our latest blooms and discuss at length the merits of certain products and plants. This group is made up of scientists and lay folk; the magic bond we share is our love of clivia. Our aim is to improve and expand our growing experience by sharing tips and hints. Sometimes the chat is very technical and I have to write down all 'complicated' stuff and research it later on. Generally there is someone out there who can explain it to me in everyday language and this gets me up to speed. This is not a general situation though.

Recently our Northern Hemisphere friends were debating the merits of using a gel to germinate their seeds. In warmer climates, we don't usually have to resort to fancy methods to get our seeds started, but growers in colder areas often have a slower germination rate, which can cause a few costly losses. They report that as it is a sterile medium, fewer seeds are lost and the 'Swellgel' method protects against seedlings drying out due to neglect or indoor heating. I will prob-



Shields Gardens Ltd.

P.O. Box 92

Westfield, IN 46074, U.S.A.

We now export

Conway's Clivias

to the whole world.

Already well-known among American connoisseurs of fine clivias, David Conway's wonderful cultivars of *Clivia miniata* from Santa Barbara, California, are now being introduced by us to the rest of the World. See them on the web at

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

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

Shields Gardens Ltd.

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

E-mail: <jim@shieldsgardens.com>

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

Fax ++1-317-896-5126



ably give this a try as and when my seeds arrive from overseas during our winter months. The product goes under the name of 'Terrasorb' in South Africa. Frequently found in potting soil for tubs.

One of the advantages of our Internet Group is that I can chat individually with folk from other countries. And I do!

Just recently, I have been enjoying photos from New Zealand and taking peek into the gardens of Keith Hammett and Di Smith. "Sorry about the floods folks". On the same day, I was able to view some beauties from Toy Jennings and Dickie Gunston both in the Cape. Dickie posted images of his prolific bloomer 'Rabbit. "Love that plant Dickie!"

I observed some root problems, which

Bryan Paten of the Australian Clivia Society had posted and viewed some off-season bloomers from John Craigie also of Australia. I had a one on one chat with Tom Wells in California and learned of their impending show and conference. "Wish that I could be there". All this without leaving my seat.

I sure have come a long way from that single clivia plant to where I am now. But I do realize, that even though the Internet has given me a fast track to greater knowledge and an ever-growing collection of my favourite plants, I still have a long way to go to catch up with the 'fundis' out there.

From my luxury chair in front of the computer, till next time.

Denise Wilshire

Personality profile – Sir Peter Smithers

I have written elsewhere in this Newsletter about *C. miniata x kewensis* 'Vico Yellow' (more commonly known as 'Vico Yellow) pictured on the back cover, so it seems a good time also to write about its breeder, Sir Peter Smithers, a member of the Clivia Society living in Vico Morcote, in Switzerland.

He is a man of many parts: a gardener throughout his life, and also scholar, historian, barrister, naval officer, diplomat, member of Parliament, cabinet minister, delegate to the United Nations, international civil servant, linguist, senior research fellow, author of

two books, renowned plant hybridiser and an award-winning photographer. In his 80's Sir Peter also began 'gardening on the Internet' through his membership of various discussion e-groups.

Peter Henry Berry Otway Smithers was born in Yorkshire in 1913, educated at Harrow School, the alma mater of Winston Churchill, and Oxford University, where he also became a very young Fellow of the Royal Horticultural Society. He graduated in 1934 with first class honours in modern history before training to be a barrister.

During the Second World War, after service at sea he worked in Naval Intelligence in Paris, London, Washington and Central America, where he collected and grew orchid species, palms and aroids. He describes the latter appointment as a gardener's idea of heaven. He met his future wife, an American, in Mexico in 1943.

After the war he began gardening again at his home in England, while developing his political and diplomatic career, until, in 1964, he was elected Secretary General of the Council of Europe, based in Strasbourg, France. He retired from this post five years later and was knighted in 1970. By now he and his wife had moved to the village of Vico Morcote above Lake Lugano in Switzerland, where they built a house and laid out a garden. This area has one of the best gardening climates in Europe, and a very wide range of plants can be grown successfully there. So that is where the name 'Vico' in 'Vico Yellow' comes from.

Sir Peter's specialties were magnolias, tree peonies and lilies and he registered a number of hybrids. The garden was also "stuffed full of bulbous plants of every kind" (his words). His ambitious 30-year breeding programme in *Nerine sarniensis* ended in 1995 with the sale of the entire collection to Exbury Gardens in the UK. By then Sir Peter had produced many cultivars, notably in the purple colour range. You can see some of these stunning flowers on pages 56 and 57 of Graham Duncan's booklet 'Grow

Nerines' in the Kirstenbosch Gardening Series ('Grow *Clivias*' is also found in this series).

By the way, did you know that there is more than one 'Vico Yellow'? Sir Peter visited Burma, obtained bulbs of *Lilium sulphureum* and, you guessed it, began a breeding programme. Talk to any lily fan and they will tell you about his famous 'Vico Yellow' lily!

Wait; there is more to come. Some time in his late 50's Sir Peter began taking amateur photographs of his plants. This casual interest developed into a more serious activity. Eight RHS photography gold medals and 23 one-man international exhibitions later...! The President of the RHS has written: "Sir Peter may have some equals around the world as a gardener, but probably none as a plant photographer".

Maybe you own a 'Vico Yellow' clivia, or a Nakamura 'Yellow x Vico Yellow'. I hope that reading about this amazing man – now in his 90's and still a member of the Clivia Society, having been an early member of its predecessor, the Clivia Club – who bred so many beautiful plants, will inspire you in your own breeding (and photography?) efforts and will add to your enjoyment of your plants.

John van der Linde.

Information obtained from 'International Who is Who', and Sir Peter Smithers' acceptance speech of the Herbert Medal in 'Herbertia'.

John van der Linde.

Garden Route/Tuinroete interest group

At a recent meeting in January there was a unanimous decision to change our name from 'The Southern Cape Interest Group' to 'The Garden Route/Tuinroete Clivia Interest Group'. We felt that the name is a friendly garden orientated name which is also a very familiar environment to everybody in South Africa. Our area will cover more or less the coastal region from Plettenberg Bay in the east to Heidelberg in the south. Oudtshoorn will be an undefined northern boarder for us as there are no members further north. Anybody outside these undefined/imaginary boarders will naturally be very welcome to be included as a member of our group and participate in our activities.

We have about 50 paid up members in the Garden Route environs and hope to increase our membership to become an independent club in future, which will then be known as The Garden Route/Tuinroete Clivia Club. Forty members, indicating the enthusiasm for the clivia plant in the Garden Route, attended our first meeting this year in January. Hopefully we will

keep going strong! Our first Show last year was attended by about 1300 people and turned out to be a huge success. This year we plan to have our show over the weekend of 2/3 October. Needless to say, anybody is welcome to participate in the show.

I want to invite anybody visiting our region to let us know and pop in for a cup of tea, a clivia stroll and maybe sell, buy or exchange interesting plants and experiences. My contact numbers are 044 8746233 or 0827385842 and if I am not available I will make sure that at least one of our committee members will be available. We are looking forward to visitors from the other regions. I wish everybody a very vigorous clivia season!

Regards

Gerrie Brits(Chairman)

GERRIE BRITS Hop Breeder SAB Hop Farms Tel: +27 044 8028420 Fax: +27 044 8707550 Cell: 0827385842
Gerrie.Brits@za.sabmiller.com

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:

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, UK and USA members are reminded that they can order via Ken Smith, Michael Jeans and Michael Morri respectively see covers for contact detail. Also note that further discounts can be negotiated with Bossie for orders exceeding 10 of a specific item. The following items are available:

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 poly-

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	3*
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.	

Private advertisements:

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

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

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

chromes. 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

Flower structure

I was recently asked a question: "Why do we call clivia with extra petals 'multipetals' whereas daylilies with extra petals are classified as 'double' and 'polytepal'?"

For want of a better definition -- I only looked in Stearn's 'Botanical Latin' - It gave the following answer:

'Tepal' is a collective term for petals plus sepals.

'Polytepal' is more of a botanical term, while 'multipetal' is probably a layman's neologism. I believe that they mean, in practice, the same thing. In both cases, they seem to mean having more than the usual number of normal petals and sepals, while a double flower has petaloid stamens. I.e., 'polytepal' means having all the extra petals where the normal petals would be, and any extra sepals where the normal sepals would be. 'Double' means having extra petals where they would not occur in a normal flower, at least if it is used in con-

trast to 'polytepalous'. Otherwise, 'double' can be a general case of which 'polytepalous' is a specific instance. We need a good definition of 'multipetal' in clivia classifications. The pictures I've seen look polytepalous, not having just extra petals.

'Polypetalous' means something a bit different - it means having the petals unconnected at the base. Daylilies and all amaryllids have petals and sepals formed as extensions of a single structure, the perianth tube. They are not 'polypetalous' regardless of how many petals they have.

This seems at the moment to be a reasonable explanation, but I think it is a matter that ought to be addressed specifically in reference to Clivia. I have actually seen, once, a clivia plant in flower with all the florets truly double - having petaloid stamens. It was stolen a year later from the owner's locked greenhouse.

Jim Shields



The Editor has been reading a delightful book by Charles and Julia Botha called 'Bring nature back to your garden'. Eve Gibbs has cleverly illustrated it with line drawings. The book is full of useful information about how to create an ecologically friendly garden with indigenous plantings.

As an Amaryllis caterpillar I was surprised to see I also featured in it in the chapter

about 'Imported garden pests'. The first line of this chapter reads: "These are REAL pests - know your enemy"! Evidently my ancestors were introduced from South America and therefore there is no natural enemy to the Amaryllis caterpillar here in South Africa. The authors suggest that only humans can keep us in check and suggest many horrible ways of getting rid of us. One of them not already mentioned in previous correspondence (handpicking and insecticides) is to feed larvae to the Tilapia in the garden pond! Ugh!! Please don't buy this book! You may get some terrible ideas from it.

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

CONTACT DETAILS FOR CLIVIA CLUBS AND INTEREST GROUPS

Cape Clivia Club:	Joy Woodward (Secretary). PO Box 53219, Kenilworth, 7745. Tel (h) +27 21 671 7384, Tel (w) +27 21 799 8768, Fax +27 21 797 0002. E-mail: capeclivia@ibox.co.za or woodward@nbict.nbi.ac.za
Eastern Province Clivia Club:	Willie le Roux (Chairperson) PO Box 19292, Linton Grange, Port Elizabeth, 6015. Tel & Fax: +27 41-360 3480. E-mail: girly@absamail.co.za
KwaZulu-Natal Clivia Club:	Sean Chubb (Chairperson). Thurlow Farm, PO Box 126, Eston, 3740. Tel & Fax: +27 31 781 1978. E-mail: terric@iafrica.com
Northern Clivia Club:	Lena van der Merwe (Secretary). PO Box 74868, Lynnwood Ridge, 0040. Tel & Fax: +27 12 804 8892. E-mail: nclivia@mweb.co.za
Border Interest Group:	Stella van Gass (Chairperson). 16 Greenan Street, Berea, East London, 5241. Tel +27 43 721 2964
Free State Clivia:	Hennie van der Mescht, 18 Mettam Street, Fichardt Park, Bloemfontein, 9322. Tel. +27 51 522 9530. Fax: +27 51 436 4340. E-mail: vandermescht@absamail.co.za
Garden Route Clivia Interest Group:	Gerrie Brits (Chairperson). Tel: +27 44 8028420. Fax: +27 44 8707550. Cell: 0827385842. E-mail Gerrie.Brits@za.sabmiller.com
Metro Group:	Glynn Middlewick (Chairperson). 2 Willow Road, Northcliff, 2195. Tel +27 11 476 1463. E-mail: gcmidd@mweb.co.za
Northern KZN:	Dries Olivier. PO Box 8783, Newcastle, 2940. Tel +27 83 264 6230. Fax: +27 34 318 6667. E-mail: dries@sawa.co.za
Southern Cape Interest Group:	Ian Vermaak (Chairperson). PO Box 4802, George East, 6539. Tel & Fax +27 44 873 4122. E-mail: ver.fam@absamail.co.za
Waterberg Boslelieklub:	An Jacobs. PO Box 3893, Nylstroom, 0510. Tel & Fax: +27 14 717 2674. E-mail: johanan@pop.co.za
Zoutpansberg:	Anneke Stroebel (Secretary). PO Box 1712, Louis Trichardt, 0920. Tel +27 83 326 6073. Fax +27 15 516 5710. E-mail: alstroebel@lantic.co.za

EDITOR OF NEWSLETTER

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

PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER

Cobu Roos. Tel 072 2723 328, E-mail: cobus@telkomsa.net



Clivia Society

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

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