

# CLIVIA SOCIETY

newsletter



Volume 13 No 2

Winter 2004

## **CLIVIA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

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

## **REPRESENTATIVES OF CONSTITUENT CLIVIA CLUBS**

Cape:	Claude Felbert, Felicity Weeden, Gert Wiese
Eastern Province:	Willie le Roux, Charl Coetzee
Northern:	Lena van der Merwe, Peter Lambert, Bossie de Kock
KwaZulu-Natal:	Sean Chubb

## **REPRESENTATIVES OF OVERSEAS MEMBERS**

Keith Hammett. 488C Don Buck Rd, Massey, Auckland 8,  
New Zealand. Tel +64 9 833-9453. E-mail: 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	Dr Hamish Sloan, 40 Wendan Road, Newbury, Berkshire RG14 7AF, England, UK. Tel: 044 1635 47417; e-mail: Hamish.sloan@virgin.net
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Views expressed in the newsletter are not necessarily those of the Committee and the Clivia Society.

The present newsletter has a great variety of articles which should satisfy the tastes of our many and varied readers and enthusiasts. The Annual General Meeting news always features prominently at this time of the year and members are enlightened as to what took place on 5 June 2004. John Winter was awarded honorary status of the Society at the AGM and the citation bears testimony to his contribution to the conservation of the genus *Clivia*. *Clivia* Clubs and Societies from other parts of the world grow from strength to strength and domestically a similar pattern is evident.

The fanfare given to *Clivia mirabilis* two years ago has been taken a step further and these developments are described by John Winter. At one stage the editor thought the present newsletter would be a rather thin contribution so it was most gratifying when Roger Fisher and Jennifer du Plessis supplied letters. John van der Linde makes his usual interesting contributions on the 'Stories

behind the cover photographs' and gives insight into the contributions of the North Coast Saunders family. The former introduces us to many of our successful show growers and tells us how they obtained their plants and what breeding methods they use to establish better varieties.

Clubs and interest groups have also been busy and report their feedback. Jim Shields, a prominent grower of *clivia* from Indiana visited South Africa and gave a talk to the Northern *Clivia* Club about growing *clivia* in some areas of the United States. Show dates are repeated in this issue. For those prepared to travel to the USA, Harold Koopowitz offers a general invitation to attend the *Clivia* Symposium at the Huntington Botanic gardens next year.

May there be no severe frosts this winter and may the flowering season bring many beautiful and exciting blooms

**Editor.**

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*2004 Annual General  
Meeting of the Clivia Society*

**A. Synopsis of proceedings of the Annual General Meeting held on 5 June 2004.**

- 1 Matters arising from the minutes. John Winter assured the meeting that the *Clivia* Society will be informed as to when *Clivia mirabilis* plants will become available. Plants will be allocated on a percentage basis to local and overseas applicants. Names will be selected ran-

domly. There will be approximately 1500 saleable seedlings available. Plants will be sold bare-rooted. It is planned to advertise the seedlings by August 2004 and this will be done through the *Clivia* Society Newsletter and the web page of the NBI. So far there is no response (from Northern Cape Nature Conservation) on the request to make seed available to over-

seas people. John Winter will take up the possibility of making pollen available with the authorities.

At the meeting it was suggested that the price should be in the order of R200,00 per seedling, R25,00 per seed and pollen at R400,00 per five pollen sacs.

The meeting agreed that the Clivia Society should send a letter to NCNC regarding co-operation with the distribution of *Clivia mirabilis* plant material and informing them about the activities of the Clivia Society and affiliated clubs.

- 2 Honorary membership. Mr. Sean Chubb's proposal that Mr. John Winter be awarded honorary membership of the Clivia Society was unanimously accepted at the meeting. The Chairman congratulated John and presented him with a framed certificate. John expressed his sincere gratitude for the honour bestowed on him by the Clivia Society.
- 3 Financial report: Bossie de Kock
  - The Society had a net operating income of R33 312,00
  - " Membership numbers showed an increase of 109.
  - Income received from publications exceeded the budget figure with R31 183,00

The following proposals were put forward and approved:

- To establish a special account (starting balance of R15 000) for the future publication of the list of registered *Clivia* cultivars.
- To reprint 1,000 copies of Yearbook 3 and to also make Yearbooks 1 to 5 available on CD.
- To include in the budget for 2005 an amount of R10 500 as a provision to publish a booklet - Guide to *Clivia*

Standards and Judging.

- To maintain the existing membership fees for 2005.

#### 4 Other reports

- 2006 *Clivia* Conference in Pretoria: Peter Lambert enlightened the meeting on the activities of the organizing committee. The conference will be preceded by a conference (in Cape Town South Africa) of the International Bulb Society. The prospects are promising to get stamps depicting *Clivias* issued in 2006.
- Yearbook: John van der Linde. An effort is required from all to sell Yearbooks. Willie le Roux thanked John van der Linde and his committee on behalf of all members and Clubs for their efforts in producing the annual showcase of the Society.
- *Clivia* Society Photographic competition. John van der Linde pointed out that few members took part in this competition compared to the number of photographs published on the E-group. The Chairperson requested John to thank Claude Felbert on behalf of the *Clivia* Society for the initiative shown.
- Newsletter: In her report Meg Hart has indicated that 2004/2005 will be her last term as editor of the newsletter. Gert Wiese said that Meg Hart has done an excellent job and propose that she should be thanked for a job well done.
- Research Committee: H Robbertse. The committee received five applications for research funding. It was decided to support the application (Disease causing organisms associated with *Clivia* species in South Africa and their control.) of Prof. Swart of Free State University. The Cape *Clivia* Club propose that the

Clivia Society should pay for research initiated by clubs should it appear that the research is to the benefit of the broader Clivia community. The meeting decided that the Clivia Society couldn't commit itself to paying for such research. However, such requests and new research proposals should be submitted to the Research Committee via the Clivia Society for consideration.

- Public Relations: Cobus Roos. A committee of three plus Cobus as convenor has been established for the "Finding Oprah" project. Details regarding ownership of plants will not be made available to the other committee members before the final decision has been made. This will ensure that the selection process is done in a fair manner. The closing date for entries is September 29th, 2004, at 12h00. The final decision will be taken at a meeting in Cape Town (offices of "O Magazine") on October 1st, 2004.
- Registration of genus Clivia: K Smith. The Cape Clivia Club expressed concern about the possible proliferation of Clivia names. Roger Dixon, supported by Willie le Roux, pointed out that plants should be evaluated against standards and only then be put up for registration. Cobus Roos mentioned that we should not forget that beauty is in the eye of the beholder.
- Web Site: Chris Vlok (See chairman's report). An appeal is made to clubs to appoint people to upload photographs of club shows onto the Clivia Society website.
- Standards and Judging: Roger Dixon - see full report elsewhere in this newsletter. One of the problems Roger encounters is in getting basic information such as the range of colour of the flowers of Clivia and how to describe Clivia plants. The guidelines document

is still in its embryonic stage - please submit your comments/contributions to him. The aim is to produce a pocket sized guide. John van der Linde thanked Roger and pointed out that what he has done is really exciting stuff. He pointed out that it is the responsibility of the Clubs/members to make this project work.

- Chairman's report: C Vlok. See full report elsewhere in this newsletter.

- 5 Election/Appointment of office bearers. The following nominations have been received and approved:

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

- 6 Election/Appointment of members for sub-committees

Newsletter: Meg Hart and Roger Dixon  
 Web Site: Roger Dixon, Chris Vlok, Willie le Roux, Riel Lötter, Johan Schoombée and Cobus Roos  
 Yearbook: John van der Linde, Roger Dixon, Claude Felbert and Dr. Dave McDonald  
 Research: Mick Dower, Hannes Robbertse, Aart van Voorst  
 Registration of genus Clivia: Ken Smith, Joan Sadie, Peter Lambert and Willie le Roux  
 Public Relations: Cobus Roos, Gideon Botha and Marleen Bilas  
 Standards and Judging committee: Roger Dixon, Keith Hammett, Ken Smith, Ian Coates, Jim Shields, Charl Coetzee, Felicity Weeden, Mick Dower, Ammie Grobler and Koos Geldenhuys.

- 7 Honoraria. The meeting approved honoraria of R 2 000,00 to both the secretary

and treasurer.

8 The Clivia Society in a changing arena - future strategies

The chairman outlined the background to this point. From the following discussion it became clear that some delegates are in favour of maintaining the status quo while others support a rethinking of the function and structure of the Clivia Society. The chairman is of the opinion that:

- the Clivia Society should always have an address located in South Africa.
- a bottom up approach is essential. Clubs/societies should remain autonomous and be allowed to develop or maintain a unique character.
- any change should be done with circumspection. Should changes be required, overseas clubs/societies should be part of the process from day one.
- provision should always be made for individual Clivia enthusiasts not affiliated to a particular local or national club or society.

The meeting approved the proposal namely that the Clivia Society should draw up a discussion document that can be circulated for comments

9 A letter was received from the Northern Clivia Club in which they offer to host the 2005 Annual General meeting.

## B. Chairman's Report

Dear members of the Clivia Society,

Thank you for attending this meeting. Some of you have traveled more than a 1 000 km to be here today. Some of you were, in a way perhaps, not supposed to be here today. Oom Gert, it is a privilege to have you with

us. Your fighting spirit and dedication to Clivia is a lesson for all of us. Although Oom Pat Gore does not serve on the Clivia Society I think he is the only person present today who has attended all Clivia Club or Clivia Society AGM's. Welcome to new delegates who have been nominated by their clubs to serve on the Clivia Society and thank you to the KwaZulu/Natal Clivia Club for hosting this meeting.

We are indeed privileged to say, "It was a very good year" when reflecting on the activities of the Society over the past thirteen months. Credit should go to those at club and interest group level who through their enthusiasm and unselfish dedication create a milieu in which the Society and affiliated clubs can thrive.

There were several highlights. Yes, the Clivia Society cannot be credited with all the achievements and initiatives, but please allow me to boast about what our Clivia family has achieved.

1. During 2003 Clivia Clubs and individuals in South Africa staged 10 shows and exhibitions visited by literally thousands of visitors. Our overseas Clivia enthusiasts were also instrumental in organising Clivia exhibitions in New Zealand, Australia and the USA. Diffusing Clivia organisations are steadily making their mark on the world and South African maps (Yes, I'm a Geographer).
2. We thanked 'Mr. Yearbook' at the 2003 AGM for his huge contribution in producing a series of Yearbooks that are sought after internationally. At that stage Clivia 5 was still in production. A year later we can reiterate that Mick Dower retired from the editorial committee on a high - Yearbook 5 was indeed the proverbial cherry on the top. Thanks Mick.



3. The newsletters were again of a high standard and published in time. Thank you to all who have contributed to the newsletters by submitting articles and photographs for the cover. We owe Meg Hart (and I think Graeme) a salute for cherishing this baby of ours for 10 years. In her report tabled at the 2003 AGM Meg wrote “the Society should consider finding new blood as my tenure approaches ten years”. As chairperson I accept full responsibility for (conveniently) forgetting this request.
4. The Cape Clivia Club gave us the “Clivia Colour Chart” — a long overdue cheap and easy-to-use reference tool to describe Clivia colours. They also took initiative by starting Cape News/Kaapse Nuus, a club newsletter which is also published on the Clivia Society website. It is great reading and I hope other Clubs will soon follow their example.
5. We are all looking forward to Yearbook 6. It seems that John van der Linde, the new chairman of the editorial committee, has everything under control and we can expect the yearbook to be published well in advance of the annual shows. A new and apparently very successful initiative that the editorial committee introduced was a photographic competition in order to attract photographs for the yearbook and newsletter covers. Thank you John, Claude and Roger for nurturing this important window of the Clivia Society.
6. The research committee received four proposals from South African universities in response to the invitation to submit proposals on the topics identified by the committee. It was decided to support the proposal of Prof W Swart (Free State University). The topic to be researched is Disease-causing organisms associated with Clivia species in South Africa and their control.
7. In collaboration with the Northern Clivia Club the Society prepared and submitted a portfolio and application to commemorate Clivia on South African stamps in 2006, the year of our next conference. The initial response was very positive.
8. The Clivia Society website went online in December 2003. A lot of hard work and many late night hours went into the project. A word of thanks and appreciation to Roger Dixon. I do not know how I would have managed without his keen and capable assistance. Yes, the website is “complete”, but it is only the start. We still need to activate the search facility and make it possible for a wider group of dedicated people to place photographs in the photo gallery. In 2003 it was rather embarrassing that very few photographs of our shows were posted via the electronic forums. I trust that in 2004 the Clivia Society and the Clivia Clubs, will cooperate so that photographs can be uploaded within 24 hours of judging. Thank you to Cobus Roos who is taking care of updating the events page.
9. At the 2003 Annual General Meeting concern was expressed regarding the lack of progress on the development of Show and Judging Standards. Roger Dixon, the chairperson of this committee operated in a vacuum since very little cooperation was received from appointed club representatives. I was somewhat concerned at one stage. Fortunately, Roger had to read a paper in New Zealand during March 2004.





*Brom-'n-Nel*  
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**Contacts**

**Bertie and Erda: +27 15 517-7162**

**Celia: 082 804 9650**

**Fax: +27 15 517-7038**

**bertie@cliviaworld.com**

**www.cliviaworld.com**

Over the Easter weekend Roger and Keith Hammett brainstormed the concept and produced a document that has already been described as a “monumental” effort. On behalf of the Clivia Society, I urge clubs and especially their judges, to critically evaluate and comment in a constructive manner on the content of the draft.

10. At the 2003 Annual General Meeting the Society was requested to reach out to other Clivia organisations, especially those in Japan and China. Because of the language barrier this appeared to be a rather tall order. However, a very positive development was the subsequent establishment of the International Clivia Group. This group consists of spokespersons of the Clivia Society (and constituent clubs), the New Zealand Clivia Club, the North American Clivia Society as well as the Clivia Society of Australia. We meet bi-monthly in cyber space and discuss Clivia matters of mutual interest in a frank and open manner.
11. We were approached by Ms. Jane Raphaely, the editor in chief of “O: The Oprah Winfrey Magazine”, to name a Clivia after Ms. Winfrey who turned 50 earlier this year. Fortunately we had a Public Relations Officer to whom we could delegate this request. Cobus Roos is making good progress putting structures and procedures in place regarding the evaluation of entries.
12. There was re-affirmation by the International Society for Horticultural Science of the Clivia Society as the International Cultivar Registration Authority for the genus Clivia with Ken Smith as Registrar.

We had our “ups” but we also had our “downs”.

- Some members in the United Kingdom indicated that they did not receive all four newsletters of 2003. We corrected the situation by posting (in March) replacement copies together with Newsletter 1 of 2004. Guess what? After seven weeks the posted newsletters had not reached their destinations. It also appeared that members in other countries did not receive newsletter 1/2004. We depleted our entire stock by reposting during the last week of May. Two days later we began receiving e-mails indicating that the newsletters posted in March had eventually reached our members. The reason I am saying this, is because we have reached a stage whereby electronic distribution to our overseas members should be seriously considered.
- In January 2004 I posted a draft copy of a letter addressed to the Northern Cape Department of Nature Conservation to members of the Clivia Society. The main objective of the letter was to enquire about the future release of Clivia mirabilis material. The letter also hinted/suggested that the Clivia Society could play a role in an advisory capacity as well as promoting the community project associated with Clivia mirabilis. The letter triggered an emotionally fierce debate. A small minority was totally against the idea of approaching Northern Cape Nature Conservation (NCNC). I referred the matter to the Management Committee. The latter body was of the opinion that the wish of the majority should be honoured. The Management committee also recommended (as was the opinion of the group of delegates in favour of approaching NCNC) that the letter should be rephrased.

This has been done but the letter has not yet been posted.

It would not have been possible to efficiently manage the Clivia Society without the assistance of a team of dedicated individuals. The following persons were invaluable in servicing our overseas members:

- Michael Jeans. For many years Mike has played an important role in collecting UK membership fees on our behalf. He was also instrumental in creating a permanent market for our yearbooks at Botanical Gardens in the United Kingdom. Mike has sadly decided to call it a day. However, being loyal to the Clivia Society, Mike also assisted us in finding a successor in Dr. Hamish Sloan.
- Mike Morri, who collects membership fees in the USA.
- Ken Smith, our Australian representative, not only collects membership fees, but is also responsible for the printing and distribution of our newsletters in Australia.

Thank you to John van der Linde and Ken Smith for the support you have given me. The big guns doing the dirty work are Lena van der Merwe and Bossie de Kock. They walk the proverbial extra mile for the Society and its members. We are grateful for the impressive sales figures of Clivia Society publications as shown in the financial statements. Without their dedicated efforts to promote sales, it would not have been possible. Mick Dower and Ian Brown have been prominent members of the Clivia Society since day one. Both of them have decided to make room for new blood. I hope we can still tap into their vast expertise when a yearbook, a constitutional or a financial crisis arises.

We look forward to the coming year and

hope that it will be as successful and productive as 2003/04 has been. We wish you the best of luck with your annual shows and your club activities. And finally, today we are going to exchange ideas and opinions on The Clivia Society in a changing arena - future strategies. Allow me to subtly influence you. When suggesting and debating future strategies or changes we should ask ourselves the simple question: Is it good for Clivia?

Chris Vlok

### **C. Report of the Standards and Judging Committee**

At the last AGM in Port Elizabeth a request was made that a preliminary guide on standards and judging criteria be ready for the September (southern hemisphere) flowering season. For various reasons, this was not reached, not least being the fact that a point of departure had to be defined first.

Initially all available show schedules were circulated for comment and suggestions. No response was received. I then compiled a hefty document that was circulated to all members of the committee in which the entire spectrum of judging, judging training, standards and showing was covered, and requested input. This time I received some input, and as a result we went back to basics. I enlisted the help of additional people to consider the basics of Clivia, such as colour, size and leaf shape. Over a period of some months measurements were made and discussions took place via email. As a result of this we finally came to agreement as to what we should cover first, which was basic definitions of terms and the definition of standards.

In April 2004 I spent the Easter weekend with Keith Hammett and we compiled the basis of a guide to standards and judging, using the discussions and inputs over the

past year. The introduction to this guide gives a good summary of what has been achieved:

“Cultural differences have resulted in two main directions in the breeding of *Clivia*. One direction focuses on the foliage of plants, while the other focuses on the plant and its inflorescences. Within these different breeding directions a large diversity of characteristics and their combinations has been achieved already. It is the aim of this booklet to document, define and quantify this variation. This will facilitate communication and understanding between *Clivia* enthusiasts worldwide, which, in turn, will lead to further development of the plant in cultivation.

The booklet also presents guidelines for the exhibition of *Clivia* plants so that both enthusiasts and the general public alike can enjoy the beauty offered by the genus. In this guide, *Clivia* is defined as being inclusive of

all its species and hybrids. *Clivia* will be exhibited primarily as whole plants grown in containers with the objective of show judging being to determine that which is most aesthetically pleasing. It is recognized that plants vary in both dimension and proportion, and for this reason a set of categories has been established to enable the compilation of show schedules.”

It is my hope that once this guide has been finalised, which should be in the near future, it will be published and distributed to all members.

In conclusion, I would particularly like to thank those members of the committee and those who were co-opted by me for their input, especially Keith Hammett, Ian Coates, Jim Shields, Ken Smith, John van der Linde and Ammie Grobler.

Roger Dixon

24th May 2004

*John Winter — citation for honorary  
membership of the Clivia Society*

John Winter has had a long and successful career promoting indigenous plants in general and *Clivia* in particular.

John was Curator of Kirstenbosch from 1978 to 1998. Apart from all his other tasks, he was also personally responsible for collecting and breeding a number of plant genera, including Proteaceae, *Erica*, *Disa*, *Agapanthus*, *Asparagus* Fern and *Clivia*. An *Erica*, an *Aloe* and a *Leucospermum* have been named after him and he bred the *Disa* hybrid 'Kirstenbosch Pride'.

In 1998 he was promoted to Deputy Director of the National Botanical Institute and

became responsible for the management of all the National Botanical Gardens in South Africa until he retired in 2001.

Nick Primich founded the *Clivia* Club in Johannesburg in 1991. Although not formally involved with the Club at the time, he worked together with Graham Duncan, Gert Wiese and Christo Lötter in the Cape on improving the forms of *C. miniata* which were available to them. In so doing they became well known to the other *Clivia* breeders throughout the country.

In 1994 John attended the first International Conference of the *Clivia* Club in Pretoria,

joined the Club and in September 1995 he arranged an informal meeting of Clivia enthusiasts at Kirstenbosch. This led to the formation of a Cape Province Branch of the Clivia Club, which became a constituent Club of the Clivia Society.

John has been the Cape Clivia Club's Chairman since its inception.

In 2001/2002 he became the first Chairman of the Clivia Society and had the difficult task of watching over the transition from a centralised management of Clivia affairs under the Clivia Club, to the individual Clubs getting used to managing their own affairs under the umbrella of the Clivia Society. He completed that task very professionally and successfully.

John was aware that there were very few Clivia clones at Kirstenbosch, that virtually none of them had been collected in the habitat and that there were very few specimens in any of the Herbaria in South Africa - this despite it's being endemic to South Africa.

Therefore, in 1995 he went to the Eastern Cape and the Transkei to locate Clivia in the habitat and access them for a living collection at Kirstenbosch.

As expected, *C. nobilis* were found at a number of locations from near Port Alfred up to the Kei River. Some of those locations were already in Herbarium records. However, John was especially interested in following up verbal reports that *C. miniata* grew, not only in Kwazulu-Natal, but also in the Transkei.

John searched for and found them near the Kei River and then ventured into the Transkei itself, which was considered by many at that time to be foolhardy. There he found new *C. miniata* forms, such as 'Apple Blossom', which are now secured at Kirstenbosch.

John has returned to the Eastern Cape and Transkei and extended his searches into

KwaZulu-Natal, Swaziland and Mpumalanga. These searches have established the boundaries of all the Clivia species in the wild, which he updates as new colonies are discovered.

He has reported on these in papers, which he read at the 1998 and 2002 International Clivia Conferences, and in various articles that he has written for the Yearbooks.

Dr John Rourke later joined John on his trips, with the result that many of the Clivia gaps in the Compton Herbarium have now been filled.

Despite his retirement as Curator of Kirstenbosch and later as Deputy Director of the National Botanical Institute, John remained responsible for the habitat collection of Clivia at Kirstenbosch. He has built up that collection to be the most comprehensive in the country. As the plants have multiplied, he has distributed them among the other National Botanical Gardens so that they can be shared and enjoyed by all.

This has become more important as Clivia in the wild become increasingly threatened by agriculture and by ethno medicine and use as good-luck charms. To combat this John also set up a scheme to encourage the donation of Clivia seed to Kirstenbosch where it has been grown on and made available to the public and nurseries at give away prices.

Previously the development of new Clivia clones, especially of *C. miniata*, had been restricted by a very limited gene pool from KwaZulu-Natal. John's accession of these new forms from the wild has expanded that gene pool phenomenally. He has ensured that all Clivia lovers will benefit from this by making seed and seedlings of these plants publicly available through the National Botanical Institute.

Oorlogskloof, where *C. mirabilis* was found, falls under the jurisdiction of the Northern

Conservation Department. When the National Botanical Institute at Kirstenbosch identified this new clivia species, the NBI agreed to germinate and grow the first seed collected by the Department and to train people at Nieuwoudtville to grow these plants as a community project. John was entrusted with implementing this agreement. He is also responsible to the Department for the marketing of those first seedlings.

Alongside all these official responsibilities, John has continued to look after the well being and success of the Clivia Society by ensuring that the Cape Clivia Club has thrived and nurtured the development of the Eastern

Cape Clivia Club and the Border and Garden Route Interest Groups.

As if that was not enough, John has continued his own successful breeding of new and prize-winning cultivars (including Show Champions and Reserve Champions), and has always helped other members at workshops and individually, and by his generosity, to grow and breed better Clivia.

Sean Chubb.

Citation received from KwaZulu-Natal Clivia Club, Seconded by Eastern Province Clivia Club.

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## *Research grant award*

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the Clivia Society for the award of funding for conducting research in accordance with the research proposal I submitted to the society in August 2003. I trust that this will lay the foundation for further and more goal directed research pertaining to health management of cultivated Clivia species.

As stated in my proposal it is crucial that growers/members of the Clivia Society are aware of the opportunity that has now arisen for a detailed survey of Clivia diseases. It is therefore vital that they participate by sending samples to our laboratory for diagnostic evaluation and inclusion into the national database which will now be developed.

I look forward to working with the Clivia Society in what promises to be an enlightening and rewarding learning experience for all parties concerned.

Sincerely,

Prof. Wijnand J. Swart  
New Crop Pathology Programme  
Department of Plant Sciences :  
Faculty of Natural and Agricultural Sciences  
Free State University  
PO Box 339, BLOEMFONTEIN 9300, SOUTH AFRICA  
swartwj.sci@mail.uovs.ac.za  
051-401-2383 (office)  
072-460-3415 (mobile)

*Progress report on the production and  
development of Clivia mirabilis seedlings for  
sale to the general public*

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A new species of *Clivia*, named *Clivia mirabilis* by Dr John Rourke, was discovered in the Oorlogskloof Nature Reserve in February 2001. The then Northern Cape Department of Agriculture, Land Reform, Environment and Conservation (i.e. The Departments of Agriculture and Nature Conservation), established a project which would provide employment and contribute towards the upliftment of the local community as well as conserving this new species of *Clivia*.

The project aims at producing seedlings of *Clivia mirabilis* and making these available to the general public, thus discouraging *Clivia* enthusiasts from attempting to obtain plants from the natural population in the Oorlogskloof Nature Reserve.

Kirstenbosch Botanic Garden agreed to support this project by germinating seed and growing on seedlings of *Clivia mirabilis* to a saleable size, and training staff of the Nieuwoudtville Bulk Project of Conservation in germinating seed, growing seedlings and finally marketing and despatching the seedlings.

Seed was harvested in February 2003 and Kirstenbosch germinated the seed and is growing the seedlings on. The growing medium used consists of two parts of milled pine bark and one part of milled pine nee-

dles. An organic fertilizer (Bounce Back) is added to the mixture. As pine needles are not always readily available, compost may be substituted. The seedlings have been grown in seed trays and have progressed well. Since germination the seedlings have been fed monthly with Biogrow. Some seedlings have been slower growing than others, but by and large the bulk of the plants will be of a saleable size by January 2005.

To provide greater depth for root development, the seedlings are presently being repotted into 18cm pots, planting three to a pot. Fresh growing medium will stimulate further growth and root development.

The price for the seedlings has not yet been finalised by the Department of Finance of the Northern Cape. It is anticipated that the selling price will be in the region of R150,00 per seedling.

The Northern Cape Department applied for Plant Breeders Rights (PBR) with a view to providing additional protection for *Clivia mirabilis* as well as generating royalties for plants sold which will contribute to the development of the community. However the application was not successful.

John Winter  
for Kirstenbosch Botanic Garden  
June 2004



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## *Tribute to Frans Gerber*

To most South African members of the Clivia Society, and especially the members of the Northern Clivia Club, this will be a very familiar name. I was spurred on by someone who had a close relationship with Oom Frans on a professional level, and from their shared love for the genus Clivia, Oom Ammie Grobler, to write this piece.

It was with a great deal of sadness that we all learned about Oom Frans' passing. Even though the sword of his disease was always present, he remained joyful and content with whatever the Father had in stall for him. There is a saying - "There is no greater gift than when you give of yourself". This was the man Frans Gerber. To him it came naturally to give of himself. He had time for everyone, and everyone was equal in his eyes. Yesterday is but a memory, tomorrow

we might never see, that is why they call today the present, for it is a gift we must all live to the fullest. Frans Gerber lived his life like this. Every new day was a gift to him, and he shared his joy of living with everyone.

Although our hearts are filled with sorrow about his passing, we can all live in anticipation of the day we will meet with Oom Frans in the life beyond our brief stay on earth.

With this we say goodbye to a respected, trusted and loved friend. To his family, our sincere condolences. And our gratitude for his sharing of himself with us.

Cobus Roos

*'Oom' means 'Uncle' in Afrikaans and is commonly used as a term of respect to elders in Afrikaans culture. Editor.*

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## *Stories behind the cover photographs*

Erratum: Photograph no 3 on the back cover of the Autumn 2004 Newsletter (Vol 13 No 1) is NOT "Vico Yellow"! This was pointed out to us very quickly by Sir Peter Smithers, writing from Switzerland, where he bred his "Vico Yellow". He has kindly agreed to send the Society a recent photograph of "Vico Gold" for this year's Yearbook. Mick Dower has been asked to consider writing an article, to be published later, which will cover both the Vico plants and the plant we pictured in error. Apologies to Sir Peter and to the readers we confused!

### **Winter 2004 - Cover Photographs**

#### **Photo No 1: Front Cover**

This magnificent plant was awarded first place in the 'Yellow Miniata (narrow petal)' class at the 2002 Cape Show. The proud owner is Riel Lötter who has written as follows: "I first saw this plant in flower in 1994, when visiting my father, Christo Lötter. It is one of a selection from a cross that he had done in 1989, between a plant from Jim Holmes (C1) and one from his brother, Wessel Lötter (C2). One must remember

that back then, 15 years ago, yellows were still as scarce as hen's teeth. Christo was then making every attempt to widen his gene pool, and Jim only parted with his special plant on condition that Christo shared the resulting seeds with him.

C1 has pale yellow flowers which open wide, whilst C2 is a darker yellow, with petals that recurve more, creating a nice full umbel. Christo sowed the seed from this cross and grew the seedlings on to maturity, before selecting out those with both the darkest yellow and most open flowers. For the very first time I saw plants with round full heads on sturdy stems.

My father gave me this plant in 1994 - what a present and what a privilege! The day Christo gives you a seedling, and tells you not to part with it, you know you are getting a very special plant, for he has the ability to choose parent plants that produce winners. All the plants, which my son Jaco and I now use in our breeding, originally came from my father. In September 2002, for the first time in the years that I had owned my C1/2, it cooperated by flowering at just the right time for the Show. Not only did it flower in time, but it also produced two umbels. I could at last display it at a Show, as a tribute to my father. Christo has produced many plants with similar characteristics, from this C1 x C2 cross. They now feature in the collections of enthusiasts far and wide!

### **Photo No 2 (Back Cover)**

This plant came first in the 'Yellow Miniata (Broad petal)' class at the 2002 Cape Show. It is one of the yellows that have emerged from Jim Holmes' breeding programme, which dates back to 1976. Nearly all of Jim's genetic material is descended from two plants. One plant is an offshoot from a yellow collected in the Karkloof in the early 1900's, handed down in the Tod family. It flowers in August and is self-sterile, so Jim

had to search around for suitable pollen - in an era when yellows were still rare.

He found the solution by collecting its pollen, and then using it on a yellow belonging to the late Willie Olivier, when that plant flowered in September. He was able to collect the seeds and went forward from there, repeatedly inter-crossing and selecting, to develop his 'New Dawn' strain. The best plants have large round umbels with well over 30 florets. Some produce two umbels at a time (see this photo). Jim does not know the origin of the Olivier plant, which was brought to the Cape from Natal around 30 years ago. I wonder what happened to it after Willie's death?

Jim's plant that we picture here could well be related to Riel's plant described above (photo 1). Note Riel's reference to unusual flowering time and a tendency to produce two umbels at the same time.

### **Photo No 3**

Sean Chubb writes: "The plant pictured won the best 'First flowering seedling any colour' at the first South African Championship show hosted by the KZN Clivia Club in Pietermaritzburg in 2002. It is a seedling grown from seed from a cross between two very well known Group 2 Yellow clones, namely 'Natal Yellow' and 'Pat's Gold'. This particular plant is a good example of what is produced by this cross. The plant was not named, as I felt at the time that it did not match up to a previously named clone of Group 2 Yellow, 'First Born' which flowered in 2001. The cross between 'Natal Yellow' and 'Pat's Gold' has produced many bright and bold yellows with good rich yellow colouration.

Some years ago I was inspired by Wessel Lötter to try to get to the bottom of Group 2 Yellow breeding. Cynthia Giddy distributed the well-known 'Natal Yellow' which was found to produce only orange flowering

seedlings when crossed with almost all other yellows. This led to the belief that one could not produce yellow flowering offspring from 'Natal Yellow'. Even when 'selfed' it seemed to produce only orange seedlings. This was subsequently found to be because 'Natal Yellow' is very receptive to foreign pollen but does not self-pollinate. This was discovered only by self-pollination in a controlled environment.

Some named clones of Group 2 Yellows are:

**Natal Yellow** — distributed by Cynthia Giddy. Thought to be wild collected. Offsets very rapidly, flowers late in the season, florets open lime green but fade to yellow. Formerly misnamed 'Natal Yellow B'. This is a fairly common clone and photos can be found in Yearbook '98 pg.35 no.25, as well as in The Clivia Review '98.

**Cynthia's Best** — grown by Cynthia Giddy but not widely distributed since it does not offset readily. Cynthia's second clone and is thought to be wild collected. Formerly misnamed 'Natal Yellow A'. It is a rare clone, pictured in The Clivia Review '98.

**Dwesa Yellow** — Distributed initially by Eric Dodds of Pioneer nursery in Gonubie. Wild collected in the Dwesa forest of the Transkei. Has a fairly low floret count on the umbel. Has well shaped florets with light yellow flowers. Offsets fairly well.

**Smith's Yellow** — Owned by Brian Tarr of the National Botanical Gardens in Pietermaritzburg. Thought to be wild collected. Formerly misnamed 'Transkei Yellow' and 'Tsolo Yellow'. Very similar to 'Dwesa Yellow' as far as the flower goes but seems to have a different growth habit.

**Pat's Gold** — Owned by Pat Gore. Originally bought from Kirstenbosch as an unpigmented yellow seedling. Probably the best of all the Group 2 Yellows. A large robust plant which does not offset readily.

Group 2 Yellows may produce red spots or smudges on the flower as they mature, are damaged or become wet. This is the give away sign of a Group 2 Yellow. The misconception that Group 2 Yellows only produce orange flowering seedlings when selfed is also not true as 'Dwesa Yellow' does produce a few unpigmented seedlings when selfed. The crossing of two Group 2 yellows will result in 100% unpigmented yellow-flowering seedlings.

Of the Group 2 Yellows, 'Natal Yellow' and 'Pat's Gold' have the richest colour and have been used extensively by myself to breed rich yellow colored Clivia. 'Natal Yellow' opens with a green hue but fades to yellow as the flower matures. This attribute is being concentrated on in my breeding. I am trying to produce yellows which will retain the green hue in the mature flower [as opposed to a green centre]. Group 2 Yellows are still a rarity and only make up a very small percentage of the total Yellow population. In my opinion Group 2 Yellows are well worth growing and have many good qualities about them.

'Natal Yellow' was used as the pod parent for a cross with 'Naude's Peach'. All seedlings produced were pigmented ; a disappointment initially ... until these began to flower. The results were the most interesting pastels with large white, yellow or green throats, which develop a pink blush throughout each flower as it matures."

Our comment on 'Pat's Gold': his plant sounds as though it could be descended from one of two plants found flowering in 1988 at "The Wilds", in Johannesburg by Rod Saunders, then of the NBI and now of "Silverhill Seeds". He sent them down to Cape Town where they now form part of the Clivia collection at Kirstenbosch. Graham Duncan described them as Butter Yellow. Seedlings were subsequently made available

to the public - and Pat Gore was at the right place at the right time to get one.

**Photo no. 4**

This attractive plant grown and owned by Norman Weitz of the Northern Clivia Club is a cross between a nobilis and a yellow miniata. He tells us that the leaves have the characteristics of a nobilis, with the grey central streak on the leaves. He has self pollinated some flowers and put pollen from a yellow miniata onto the rest. Interestingly, all the seedlings have unpigmented stems.

Norman is a keen collector and breeder of interspecifics.

**Photo no. 5**

This is a photo of THE famous 'Noyce's Sunburst', a magnificent plant, I think all will agree. John Winter writes:

"Michael Noyce was a member of the Board of Trustees of the NBI who lived in Kloof, not far inland from Durban. He donated five *C. miniata* var. *citrina* plants to Kirstenbosch. When they flowered, Graham Duncan, the horticulturalist in charge of the bulb collection named one of them 'Noyce's Sunburst'. Its inflorescens is very similar to that of 'Kirstenbosch Yellow', but it is a more vigor-

ous plant. It also produces a much larger crop of seed. The objective in breeding with 'Noyce's Sunburst' is to produce offspring which will resemble it when in flower, be more vigorous, and also be good seed producers."

I wonder how much money has been raised for the NBI over the years from the sale of, for example, seedlings from the cross 'Kirstenbosch Supreme' x 'Noyce's Sunburst'?

**Photo No 6**

Ian Brown, the owner of this plant, writes, "Not much is known about the history of this plant. It came second in the 'Narrow petal yellow' class at the Cape Show in 2002. Gert Wiese gave me a sucker a few years back and he tells me he obtained it as a fairly large plant from someone who had bought it in Hermanus. Christo Lötter or Les Brown probably bred it. The flower is fairly ordinary but has a good shape and the overall balance of the plant gives it a certain charm. It also produces twins as in this photo."

Could this plant, with its twinning tendency, be related to the plants in photos 1 and 2?

John van der Linde

**U.S. Clivia Nursery**  
**[www.cliviacreations.com](http://www.cliviacreations.com)**

### **Pollination by moths?**

I have recently joined the Northern Clivia Club although I have had contact with clivia enthusiasts for some years. The destruction wrought by last year's frost refocused my attention on my "ordinary" - to quote a friend - clivias I'd grown from seed but neglected to the extent that they have not yet bloomed. Hopefully they'll do so this year after some intensive TLC.

I recently visited the nurseries of Bertie Guillaume and Arthri Wessels and bought some twenty plants in bloom. I arrived back in the late evening in Pretoria and carried them indoors. I noticed the strong azalea-like perfume as I moved them, the first time I'd been aware of the phenomenon although I'd read about it with regard to yellows. These clivia are all in the broad leaf, orange-red range although most have clear deep yellow throats.

Later the same night I noticed a large moth on them and, having by now developed a

pathological horror of the creatures near my plants' after the blight of this years amaryllis caterpillars, I was determined to catch and remove it. However I noticed it flying into the flowers and not under the leaves. I realized it was after the nectar, having a feeding frenzy.

I passed on the information to two of my colleagues and here are their comments:

Prof Hannes Robbertse wrote: "Dankie vir die inligting. Ek het lankal vermoed dat clivias deur motte bestuif word omdat hulle veral in die aand 'n sagte geur het - selfs die gewone oranje." [Thanks for the information. I have long suspected that moths pollinate clivias, particularly in the evening when they have a gentle fragrance - even the ordinary oranges].

Prof Clarke Scholtz (entomologist) wrote: "Its a common species of *Trichoplusia* (Noctuidae). No known records feeding on Clivia. Adults attracted to flowers but it sounds as if the Clivias have a special attrac-



tion, perhaps some pheromone-like chemical."

Of course many questions now arise:

- These Clivia were blooming out of season and out of habitat. Which then are the seasonal moths that are the pollinators?
- Is the flower shape and perfume a specific evolutionary adaptation for moth pollination?
- What are the pheromones associated with the azalea-like perfume?
- Do moths also pollinate azaleas?
- Does the yellow colouring help attract moths?
- Is the yellow associated with the perfume?
- Does anybody know?

Roger Fisher.

### 'Window shopping'

Few people, I think, upon reaching the age of 60 are left without regrets about past decisions made.

Dr. John Rourke's contribution about The Bearded Man's clivia population (Clivia 5, page 78) revived not only good memories, but also a sincere regret at not having started my clivia collection years ago.

When my husband was forest manager at Shannon quite a few years back, he took me 'window shopping' at both sightings on The Bearded Man. He was not only a dedicated forester, but an ardent conservationist as well, so I was allowed to take only a few plants of each species for my garden. He did, however, collect a few of each species for the Botanical Gardens at Nelspruit, as did Mr. D Jackson, manager prior to him.

I had at that stage a very large collection of azaleas but have as recently as four years ago become an ardent clivia admirer and am trying to extend my very meagre collection.

To think, after our marriage when we were stationed in the then Transkei, at Wilo, that we must have been "surrounded" by clivias and, later, stationed in Swaziland, when agility posed no problems, we once came upon this most spectacular beautiful view - clivias in full bloom.

Today I am still 'window shopping' what with all the beautiful pictures of clivias appearing in the Clivia Yearbook. I can still dream though, can't I?

Jennifer du Plessis  
Box 803  
Umtentweni  
4235

*"The Bearded Man is a 1445m high peak on the Swaziland-Mpumalanga border, capped by a patch of Afromontane evergreen forest ...". (Rourke, J 2003. Natural interspecific hybrids in C. miniata x C. caulescens hybrids from Mpumalanga, Clivia 5, p78)*

*I think most of us who have passed the first flush of youth wish we had started our clivia collections when we were younger. However, some opportunities may have been missed, but we must make the most of the time which lies ahead and enjoy our plants. How very privileged you were to observe when you did so many clivia growing in the wild. If you have access to a computer and e-mail it is well worthwhile joining the Clivia E-group where, almost daily, collectors all over the world display their best blooms. There are also several websites with magnificent pictures on them. Editor.*

### Saunders 'flava'

When I joined the Northern Clivia Club I bought a set of back copies of the Clivia Club newsletters. If I recall correctly it was in the July 1998 edition that Cynthia Giddy's yellows were discussed. Koopowitz writes in his book Clivia that a description of a yellow clivia was published in The Gardeners'



Chronicle (p235) in 1899, which, because the description does not match Katherine Saunders' painting, might point to a second yellow variety having reached England at the same time.

I have recently acquired a copy of *The Paintings of Katherine Saunders. Botanical and Biographical Notes and Explanations* by Emeritus Prof. A. Bayer published by the Tongaat Group in 1979. Plate 20 is of the 'Clivia miniata var. flava' and her note says, "Yellow Imantophyllum from Eshowe, flower withering after being two days in a post bag. Most lovely, delicate, peculiar shade of yellow, not orange, but like straw colour mixed with pink, quite inimitable by me. October 8th 1893. This drawing has been sent to

Kew with the bulb by Maud". Her painting certainly doesn't show the subtleties of colour she describes. The representation alone should therefore not be used for drawing conclusions.

I read that amongst Giddy's yellows were offsets of both the Saunders' plants and an ancestor of Vico yellow. Are these not then related?

Roger Fisher.

*Yes, these may well be related. Cynthia Giddy had several yellow varieties in her collection. Have our members any comments to make? See article below for other interesting anecdotes about the Saunders' family. Editor.*

## *Some early names associated with Clivia: (7) the Saunders family*

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The story of the early discovery of a yellow Clivia miniata has become part of clivia folklore; one or two plants were found, around 1888, in the Entumeni Forest, Eshowe, and grown by Sir Michael Osborne and Charles Saunders, then resident magistrate. He sent a plant, with a flower, to his mother Katharine Saunders, a sugar farmer's wife cum botanical collector and artist, living at Tongaat. She did a watercolour painting, which was sent, with a plant, to Kew in England, where it was duly named Clivia Miniata var.citrina. But she can be remembered for much more.

The 30-year-old Katharine Saunders arrived in Durban from England in 1854 with her husband James - and her grand piano. They settled at Tongaat Estate, north of Durban, where he was first manager and then proprietor. Within a year of her arrival, she had begun painting wild flowers. Her interest in plants led to correspondence with the pow-

ers-that-be at Kew, to whom she sent paintings and dried plant specimens. She believed that the naming of a plant in ones honour was the finest accolade a collector could attain.

As early as 1877 this strong-willed and pushy little Victorian lady persuaded the Curator of the Durban Botanic Gardens to approach Kew and do this for her - hence Haemanthus katherinae! [now known as Scadoxus multiflorus subspecies katherinae] Having her (misspelled!) first name recognized like this was not enough for her, so she later wrote directly to Kew asking that a plant be "named in such a manner as to immortalize myself and my son by giving the genus our surname". Today no less than five plants bear the species name 'Saundersiae' to commemorate her and her son. She died in 1901.



Charles Saunders worked his way up the ladder in the Natal Civil Service, becoming Resident Commissioner and Chief Magistrate of Zululand before retiring in 1909, with a knighthood, to his farm at Melmoth. The botanist who wrote a description of the yellow clivia in *Flowering Plants of Southern Africa*, 1931 edition, interviewed him. He said that a number of offshoots had been distributed from his original plant, and also that plants had been grown from seed. "The fact that all plants raised from seed have yellow flowers indicates that we are dealing with a pure strain", said the writer in F.P.S.A.

Brian Tarr has written (Clivia 2) that Sir Charles Saunders' daughter, Mrs. M.M.K Robinson, inherited his plants on his death in 1935 and grew them in Pietermaritzburg until at least the mid-1960's.

What of the father, James Saunders: Should we remember him for anything to do with Clivias? Well, he was known as the "Tongaat

Slasher". Significantly, his wife Katharine did not seek to have his name commemorated botanically! He was one of those pioneering settlers who cleared away the natural vegetation (including clivia habitat?) to make way for sugarcane plantations. So let us clivia people rather remember his plant-minded wife and son. James Saunders is of course otherwise remembered for the heritage he has left in Tongaat Sugar, one of South Africa's premier sugar companies, and for the contributions that he and his descendants have made to so many other aspects of life in South Africa.

## References

*Natal, the Garden Colony*, by Donald McCracken  
*Botanical Exploration of Southern Africa*, by Gunn and Codd  
*Flowering Plants of Southern Africa* (1931)

John van der Linde

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## *Clivia clubs and interest groups*

### **EASTERN PROVINCE CLIVIA CLUB**

#### **Donation of Clivia plants**

During the course of 2003 our Committee decided to launch an ongoing donation project to promote Clivia in our province. Our members were requested to identify a suitable institution, retirement village, or organization to which we could donate Clivias to be planted in their garden.

At our AGM in February 2004, Elize Larson told us that the Aurora Institution for handicapped persons in Port Elizabeth had opened an additional complex on a property with lots of shady trees on it and that the Governing Body was very eager to establish

a garden underneath the trees. Thus on the morning of 9 March, Charl Coetzee and I went on our way to the Aurora Centre with a 'bakkie' [lorry] load of adult Clivia plants generously donated by Dennis Todkill, Welland Cowley, Charl Coetzee, André Calitz and Gideon Botha. Paddy, the lady in charge of the centre was completely in the clouds. With hands waving and expressions of gratitude she took us to where she wanted to plant the Clivia. With the able assistance of Marietjie, Aurora inmates and Charl, and with ample compost donated by Danie Lategan of C.S.M. Organics, the forty plants were soon transferred into the garden. We hope to have at least two of these donations per year.

We were treated to freshly baked sausage

rolls and tea and were invited to see the Clivia when they are in flower.

### **Willie Le Roux**

### **Oom Fred Relocates**

Oom Fred Gibello, founder member of the Eastern Province Clivia Club has decided to move to Melkbosstrand in the Western Cape. His attendance at our meetings and shows, willingness to share his experience of many years with all, regular donations of plants (not only to the Club but also to many members) and of course his friendly smile, will surely be missed by us all.

Thank you very much Oom Fred for your contribution in building our Club. We wish you and Hilda the best of health and happy years ahead in your new home and may the Good Lord watch over you.

Willie and the E.P Committee.

### **New secretary**

Cynthia Le Roux is our new Secretary. Her contact particulars are Tel / Fax 041 - 360 3480 e-mail [girly@absamail.co.za](mailto:girly@absamail.co.za).

## **NORTHERN CLIVIA CLUB**

### **Some Clivia breeding in North America**

During their visit to South Africa, Mr. & Mrs. Jim Shields attended a luncheon at the Dros restaurant in Menlo Park, Pretoria on 16 May 2004, and Jim delivered a presentation to about 50 members of the Northern Clivia Club.

He described the conditions under which he grows clivias in Indiana and those of three other big growers in the United States whom he visited in March 2004. He showed pictures of some of the trophy plants from their collections. He first tended to his own 'lovelies' for the summer season before flying out to South Africa with his wife for a month's holiday.

### **Jim Shields' clivias in Indiana on Lake Michigan**

In summer in Indiana there are normally warm humid days as well as nights. The afternoon temperatures are around 30° C and nights are at about 18° C. There are occasional thunderstorms but very rarely droughts.

Clivias are moved outdoors in May when the danger of frost is past. The plants are kept under high or dappled shade, because sometimes the temperature may reach 40° C in summer. Mr. Shields prefers using dark green shade netting with 70 % sun block but thinks that 50 % may work well. Keeping the plants too dark may substantially hinder their growth.

In winter temperatures drop well below 0° C and although very rarely, even to minus 28° C! During February temperatures range between -15 and -25° C. Weeks may pass with the temperature below 0° C. Because it is likely to become extremely cold in the green house clivias need to be protected. Some grower's only solution is to bring the plants into their homes where it is probably too warm and too dark! The ambient light levels are very low in winter with very dim winter sunlight.

During the winter plants in the greenhouse are kept in cool temperatures ranging from 5° C to 15° C. They are also kept bone dry for four weeks (one month). After a month of thirst starvation they start watering very cautiously and sparingly. A month later growers add liquid feeding to the water.

The Amaryllis Lily borer is non-existent in the USA and they suffer mostly at the hands (mouths) of the mealy bug!

### **Visit to David Jay Conway of Santa Barbara in California**

Santa Barbara (on the Pacific ocean) is north of Los Angeles on the west coast of the

United States.

David is now retired but when younger used to be a landscape architect and the Director of Parks for Santa Barbara. He is a premier grower of named clivias and probably owns the reddest 'reds' in the world. His breeds of Sabrina Delphine and Ramona (particolored) may be seen in Koopovitz's book on Clivia. ['Particolored' is a term used by David Conway for plants where flowers open pale, then darken. It often happens with pinks and creams and the flowers are sometimes blotched with another colour.] David only grows and breeds with the miniata species of clivias.

**Doris** - A dark orange-red.

**Sabrina Delphine** - Magnificent -flower vir-

tually completely red with a little white spot at the tips of petals.

**Jean Delphine** - Completely dark red, only anther and stigma is yellow, not as deep a red as Sabrina Delphine.

**Tessa** - Peach pastel - quite beautiful with smallish tulip type flowers.

**Ellexa** - An apricot-coloured clivia, very similar to Tessa but flowers are bigger. Both excellent plants and flowers.

**Gillian** - A new one and much lighter version of the previous two. Very light transparent yellow. Nice big round full posy of flowers.

**Ramona** - One of David's particolored plants. Ramona was made famous by Koopovitz's Clivia book. Top half of the

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• **Email:** [erniehobbs@lantic.net](mailto:erniehobbs@lantic.net)

• **Physical Address:**

157 Bosveld Avenue, Wonderboom, Pretoria, 0182  
Republic of South Africa

flower is orange, bottom half is yellow. Tips of flowers are white.

**Isabella** is a magnificent flower of pink yellow light orange pastel. To say that this plant stands out in the greenhouse when in flower puts it mildly! The bi-tone (two or more tints per petal) affect on each petal when the new flower opens is wonderful. As the USA has no Clivia judges or shows one can appreciate that they struggle with all the particoloreds, subtle pastels and color variations. However, they do use the Cape Clivia Club colour chart. Mr. Shields stressed yet again the point of how difficult it sometimes is to obtain true colours in pictures.

**Hannah** - A beautiful delicate subtle particolored clivia

**Free love** - Three red flowers -three white flowers and two still closed white flowers all on the same stem, buds almost white before opening .The 'white' open flowers have a light lemon- lime colour. It definitely looks as if "something might have mixed in" with this plant and it will be very interesting to see if the second flowers will be the same.

### **Visit to James Comstock of Los Angeles**

James is a much younger man than David Conway and being a landscape architect practices as a professional landscaper. As a bachelor he has saved himself many family brawls about a certain clivia plant and all it's offspring! His interest in clivias is purely a hobby. He never sells or trades for love or money so be warned! James might be willing to trade, but then definitely on the basis of "what you have" and not on the basis of "what you want"!

Comstock Red Seedling - the real McCoy as far as red is concerned! This is the best red version I have laid my eyes on. The camera does not lie because the photo with the color chart shows that the flower quality is between the last two reds on the chart.

**Peach** - A very nice quality flower.

**Proteus** - A very unique plant in James's collection - highlighted spots on the flower, almost white.

**Peach and Picotee** - Bright dark yellow from Proteus.

**Peach Seedling** - A lovely peach from Proteus.

**Painted nails** -Very, very pretty highly patterned flowers.

### **Visit to Joe Solomone of Monterey, south of San Francisco on the Pacific Ocean**

Mr. Solomone is 80 years young and keeps his plants under 1.2 hectares (3 acres) of plastic glass. He owns a broad leaf plant with 16 cm wide leaves.

Joe founded the Monterey Bay Nursery and sold it 15 years ago. He is a very charming man and his wife Barbara and daughter help to make his hobby of growing the most beautiful flower in the world a truly rewarding experience. The following are some special clivias in his collection:

**Salmon peach Seedling** - Quite a beautiful pastel.

**Peach Seedling 1** - Golden deep yellow - lovely.

**Peach Seedling 2** - A bright sunlight peach.

### **New directions for Clivia in the USA**

- The general excitement about pastel colors is really hotting up.
- The broader meaning of the color peach.
- Multi-colored or patterned flowers.
- Future possibilities include Multipetals, Polytepals and all the Chinese specialties.

### **Sakkie Nel**

Member of the Northern Clivia Club  
Lynnwood, Pretoria  
May 30, 2004

## LOWVELD CLIVIA INTEREST GROUP

The Lowveld Clivia Interest Group was established in November 2003 at the inaugural meeting held at the Lowveld Botanical Gardens in Nelspruit. The formation of the Interest Group would not have been possible without the valued support and guidance of Mr. Tino Ferrero and Dr. Peter Lambert of the Northern Clivia Club with whom we are affiliated.

Nineteen members joined the group in November 2003 and membership steadily increased to thirty-six members by April 2004. A few well-known long time clivia growers in the Lowveld have also joined the group. Our first show is being planned with much enthusiasm and some trepidation for 11 and 12 September 2004. A Lowveld Clivia emblem is currently in the planning stage and should be launched within the next few months.

A decision was taken at the last general meeting to draw up a code of conduct for the group with respect to upholding standards and the good name of all clivia growers. All members will be expected to sign and acknowledge the code. Please forward comments and suggestions on this topic to either Ian Radmore or Daan Dekker. Should you visit the Lowveld or Mpumalanga please do not hesitate to pay us a visit.

Clivia greetings to all.

Daan Dekker (Chairperson) Tel (013) 750-2774 Cell 084 581 0368

Ian Radmore (Secretary) Tel (013) 751-2051 Cell 082 379 0405

E-mail address:- [ian@nelvet1.agric.za](mailto:ian@nelvet1.agric.za)

Postal address: P O Box 1146, White River, 1240

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## *2004 Clivia shows in South Africa*

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

9 to 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

## 2005 Clivia symposium at Huntington

Hello to all the Clivia enthusiasts out there: Good News and Bad News. The Good news is that we will be holding the next Huntington Symposium at the world famous Huntington Botanic Gardens on the last weekend in March 2005. Bad news is that this falls on an Easter weekend. Sorry, but the weekend prior is already taken by the Bonsai society and their show. Doing it earlier or later than those two weekends means missing the peak of the flowering season.

The Huntington, the North American Clivia Society and possibly one of the local Bulb Societies will sponsor the meeting. We would like to hold a judged Clivia show and I invite judges from other regions of the world to come and judge here. At this time we are

trying to guesstimate the number of attendees.

1. If you would like to present a paper or poster also let me know together with the title of your presentation.
2. If you plan on attending please also let me know and estimate the number in your party.
3. If you are prepared to judge the show let me know too.
4. If you want to reserve space to sell seeds or plants I need to know that also

E-mail the above information back to me at the following address [paph@pcmagic.net](mailto:paph@pcmagic.net)

Cheers

**Harold Koopowitz**

## For Sale

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

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

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

### From the Clivia Society:

Overseas members can order back volume copies of the yearbooks and newsletters (since 1992) via the society. South African members should approach their local branches. We must

point out that it is difficult to quote a fixed price without knowing the method of payment and delivery. We suggest you contact Bossie de Kock (the treasurer) via e-mail at: [bossiedekock@absamail.co.za](mailto:bossiedekock@absamail.co.za) or by fax at +27 12 804 8892 and list the items you are interested in as well as the name of the 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, Dr Hamish Sloan and Michael Morri respectively see covers for contact detail. Also note that further discounts can be negotiated with Bossie for orders exceeding 10 of a specific item. The following items are available:

Item	Approximate price (US \$)
Yearbook 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 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 packing. 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*

With the shows approaching in the Southern Hemisphere it is time for those enthusiasts who plan to show their clivias to start preparing. Lower leaves which are damaged should be discarded now so that the whitish area exposed on the leaf bases has time to turn green before showing.

If scapes start growing in one direction towards light, turn plants in pots regularly so that the scape grows upright. This will also prevent flowers from facing in one direction.

Water should be meagre at this time with light applications of fertilizer a little later on.

Meg Hart.





Lily Borer reports from the editor's study where strange things have been happening. While doing the proofreading and spelling check Lily Borer and Mealy Bug (Graeme

Hart) were horrified when funny names started appearing. A number of these could be reported but Lily Borer was horrified when the names Bessie Guillotine, Anthrax Weasels, Cobs Roast, Bossier de Kick, Apart Worst and Both Balas inadvertently appeared! Knowing no members with these names, the spell check programme was rerun to find that they were intended for Bertie Guillaume, Arthri Wessels, Cobus Roos, Bossie de Kock, Aart van Voorst and Botha Bilas. If any others have been misspelled, sincere apologies are offered.

Lily Borer (*Brithys pancratii*).



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## CONTACT DETAILS FOR CLIVIA CLUBS AND INTEREST GROUPS

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

### EDITOR OF NEWSLETTER

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

### PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER

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



## Clivia Society

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

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R.S.A. R80.00 per annum

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