

ISSN 1819-1460

CLIVIA NEWS

Newsletter
of the Clivia Society

VOLUME 24 | NUMBER 2 | JULY - SEPTEMBER 2015



CLIVIA NEWS



NPO no. 139-860

SARS PBO Tax Exemption no. 930036393

The Clivia Society www.cliviasociety.org

The Clivia Society caters for Clivia enthusiasts throughout the world. It is the umbrella body for a number of constituent Clivia Clubs and Interest Groups which meet regularly in South Africa and elsewhere around the world. In addition, the Society has individual members in many countries, some of which also have their own Clivia Clubs. An annual yearbook and three newsletters are published by the Society. For information on becoming a member and / or for details of Clivia Clubs and Interest Groups contact the Clivia Society secretary or where appropriate, the International Contacts, at the addresses listed on the inside of the back cover.

The objectives of the Clivia Society

1. To coordinate the interests, activities and objectives of constituent Clivia Clubs and associate members;
2. To participate in activities for the protection and conservation of the genus Clivia in its natural habitat, thereby advancing the protection of the natural habitats and naturally occurring populations of the genus Clivia in accordance with the laws and practices of conservation;
3. To promote the cultivation, conservation and improvement of the genus Clivia by:
 - 3.1 The exchange and mutual dissemination of information amongst Constituent Clivia Clubs and associate members;
 - 3.2 Where possible, the mutual exchange of plants, seed and pollen amongst Constituent Clivia Clubs and associate members; and
 - 3.3 The mutual distribution of specialised knowledge and expertise amongst Constituent Clivia Clubs and associate members;
4. To promote the progress of and increase in knowledge of the genus Clivia and to advance it by enabling research to be done and by the accumulation of data and dissemination thereof amongst constituent Clivia Clubs and associate members;
5. To promote interest in and knowledge of the genus Clivia amongst the general public; and
6. To do all such things as may be necessary and appropriate for the promotion of the abovementioned objectives.

More information on the Clivia Society available on
www.cliviasociety.org

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ADVERTISEMENTS

WILL ANYONE WISHING TO ADVERTISE OR WHO KNOWS OF POTENTIAL SPONSORS OR ADVERTISERS FOR THIS PUBLICATION PLEASE COMMUNICATE WITH SAKKIE NEL IN THIS REGARD.
SEE INSIDE BACK FOR CONTACT DETAILS.

The Clivia Society Newsletter started as a black and white news-sheet dated July 1992, numbered Volume 1 Number 1, called 'Clivia Club'. It formed a means of communication for people interested in the plant genus *Clivia*. It was edited/written by the late Nick Primich with issues respectively 3, 5, 8 & 5 during the first 4 years dated with the month of publication.

The frequency was fixed on four annually issues with Vol. 5 No 1 of March 1996.

The date changed to the southern hemisphere seasons with Vol. 8 No 1 of Autumn 1999. The name changed to 'CLIVIA CLUB NEWSLETTER' with Vol. 9 No 1 Autumn 2000 with full colour photos on the cover pages. Another name change to 'CLIVIA SOCIETY NEWSLETTER' came with Vol. 10 No 4 Summer 2000, and in 2005 monthly dating was reinstated.

CLIVIA NEWS is the continuation of this series.



EDITORIAL

It is with great sadness that we heard of the passing of Hennie Koekemoer. Our sincere condolences go out to Jurie Swart and his family.

Ownership is an interesting concept created by mankind. The different views people hold about ownership and the extent of such is fascinating to observe. For instance “am I my body” or “does my body belong to me” are rather fundamental philosophical questions. “Ownership” relating to *Clivia* has reminded me of such questions. For instance, why are some people happy to give away plants, pollen and seeds but they become very upset when seeds or pollen are taken by a visitor without consultation? My general observation is that we are quite casual about the genetic material we have in our collections in South Africa. Rarely would a South African breeder say one could not have pollen from a particular plant that was fancied during a visit. Maybe it is because *Clivia* are endemic to South Africa? On my trip to China last year I noticed that collectors of, and breeders with, valuable plants would guard the genetic material owned by them. In China, valuable or prized material was not freely available and came at a high price. Globally *Clivia* “investors” may pay high prices to obtain rare genetic material from various breeders and they make such investments with a clear picture of the returns they are seeking, even if the return is only of an ego nature. Whether a person asking for an offset, seeds or pollen, derives any form of income, or is a pure hobbyist, probably influences South African breeders’ responses and reactions. At times my desire to own, and the equally compelling responsibility as a momentary caretaker of the specific *Clivia* genetic material I have collected creates tension in me – more opportunity to know myself.

This is all quite different from the people who steal plants, pollen and pots from others. Their greed is out of control and they appease their conscience with warped stories. Theft is abhorrent and should never be tolerated – it is an extreme insult to the *Clivia* community. *Please keep those contributions coming, for without your articles we will have no ideas and little news to share.*

Joubert van Wyk

Editor

P.S. Cut-off dates for submissions: Next Clivia News is 15 January 2016 and 15 February 2016 for Yearbook 17.



Cover Photo: ‘Purely Pink’.
Photo by Felicity Weeden



Back cover: Photo by
Helen Marriott

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CLIVIA PERSONALITIES

Clivia People: Pierre de Coster

By Sakkie Nel

Pierre de Coster is the fifth generation of a gardener's (horticultural) family located in Melle, Belgium. It is a place near Gent, the famous city and region well known for its decorative plant production. In this very same Gent, Charles Rae cross pollinated a *C. nobilis* x *C. miniata* in the late 1850s to grow his first *C. cyrtanthiflora* hybrid, which we today refer to as an interspecific.

After Pierre's studies at the College of Melle and his technical horticultural experience at the Rijkstuinbouw school, also in Melle, his father asked him to help in the nursery. His father was near retirement age but still fully involved with the nursery and with all the workers. In spite of the first oil crisis, the business was flourishing with the production of Anthurium, Bromeliads, Guzmania and last but not least, the *Clivia* production.

From the late 1800s *Clivia* must have been one of the plants his grandparents grew as it was

a very popular plant. *Clivia* was grown as an additional culture to their major production of Kentia, Hortensia, Azalea, etc.

In the 1960s *Clivia* lost their popularity in Europe as people believed it took too long to grow. Pierre's father Ernest, however, was the only grower who still believed in *Clivia* and improved a selection of a young flowering compact-type of *C. miniata*. Most of his young plant production was sold to Italian growers.

In the eighties when Pierre took over the nursery, he modernized the business with new energy-saving glasshouses and chose the monoculture way for his *Clivia*. It later proved to be a very good choice and at just the right time. Suddenly *Clivia* were again very popular with the general public and other growers started to grow the beauties or increased their production of *Clivia* considerably.

In the nineties Pierre was the first president of a '*Clivia* Working Group'. Such groups were



Isabelle and Pierre de Coster with two plants. Isabelle holds a Panapale, the only variety Pierre gave a name in his collection. It has equal light green leaves. Pierre has in his hands a broad leaved Akebono that appeared spontaneously in his production.



Pierre with four plants in flower which are examples of his collection plants remaining in the 400 m² greenhouses left after demolition of the nursery.



'Lot of White' is Pierre's own line from his own crosses which resulted in flowers with a lot of white.



C. *mirabilis* touring group in 2010 at Klein-koebee farm. Front left to right: John van der Linde, Anke & Aart van Voorst, The Netherlands. Back row: Lena van der Merwe, Pierre & Isabelle de Coster, Belgium, the late Mias & Erica Vollgraaff and Heidi Nerurkar of Germany.

formed by the Research Station of the Ministry of Agriculture so that in various regions *Clivia* growers could join groups to exchange experiences in growing *Clivia* successfully, and to try to iron out problems that existed. With various test cases, the group tried to improve the quality of flowers and shorten the growth time to flowering.

Dirk Lootens was one of the nurserymen who was very good at the development of commercial growing. Pierre's commercial activities went very well until about 2008 when there was an overproduction of *Clivia* plants and growers started to feel that the general consumption as house plants dropped. This overproduction of plants led to plummeting prices for plants. Today two big companies dominate the production of *Clivia* in Europe, which are ID'Flor and Dynaplant.

James and Connie Abel visited Pierre in 1995

after he became a member of the *Clivia* Society. Pierre told me that he has the best souvenirs as well as fond memories of the Society. The late John Winter visited Pierre in 1998 and invited him to present a paper at the conference in Cape Town in 1998. John was very curious how *Clivia* became so popular in Europe and how they succeeded in cultivating such a strain of broad leaved compact plants.

Pierre presented a paper in Cape Town in 1998 about "The history of *Clivia* in Europe" and "The commercial production and selection of *Clivia* in Europe". This conference opened a whole new world to Pierre and he never missed a conference subsequently. In 2010 Pierre presented more documents and some pictures and catalogues of *Clivia* growers in Europe over the past 100 years.

He found the *Clivia* tours with Connie and James Abel unforgettable as well as the *mirabilis*



Pierre's best yellows are from Pen Henry and Bill Morris origin.

The beauty of the windswept mountains of South Africa also brought visitors from all over the world to Belgium. Once the much loved late Dries Olivier asked Pierre to decorate his stand at the South African Wire Association Show in Dusseldorf. *Clivia* and *Wire* were on the same show.

tour with John van der Linde and myself.

It was a wonderful time for Pierre to meet all the world authorities involved with *Clivia* breeding at conferences and he admires them all.

Ken Smith visited from Australia, and was so very interested in how they managed the production of commercial *Clivia* and he also enjoyed visiting other *Clivia* growers in



Pink flower of Pierre de Coster which resulted from his own cross of Nakamura and Belgian pink flowering plants.



Pierre's favourite variegated plant of 40 years. This offset is about 30 years old. It has a nice mix of gray and yellow/white stripes. That's what you have with variegated, they vary!

Belgium. All the Southern African members who have had the good fortune to visit Pierre and Isabelle in Melle, paid tribute to their warm hospitality and friendliness.

Pierre and Isabelle retired in 2014 and Pierre enjoys his *Clivia* collection in a 400 m² greenhouse.

In Europe Pierre has contact with his friends, Heidi Nerurkar of Germany (who visits almost every year to share about her expeditions in *Clivia*-land (South Africa)), and Aart and Anke van Voorst of The Netherlands.

Pierre joined the *Clivia* Society in 1994. Over the years he has developed an interest in multicolor or bicolor flowers which he obtained via seed from Mr. Yoshikazu Nakamura.

Pierre also cherishes some nice interspecifics from Mr. Nakamura which the latter calls 'Christmas Candles'. His very best yellow is a stunning plant and flower from Bill Morris origin which he got from Pen Henry of Australia. His 'Four Marys' plant, coming from Lady Margot McNeil's farm, Cyprus in the Legalameetse Nature Reserve in the Wolkberge at Tzaneen, is also getting special care. Pierre cross-pollinated this 'Four Marys' plant with his own selection of plants with a lot of white in the flower, and the result obtained is quite beautiful.

Pierre's favourite plant that he cultivated himself is a nice variegated plant that he grew more than 40 years ago. The 40% variegated leaves with a grey stripe in the middle of the leaf, is especially pleasing. Pinks and pastels are also stunning and amongst his favourites. Red is also great but so difficult to reproduce from seeds. Mr. Yoshikazu Nakamura once wrote to Pierre that "red X red is (most) not red at all!" Pierre said to me that if he was allowed to have just one *Clivia* plant, it will be a good shaped brilliant deep orange *C. miniata* (Belgium hybrid) that burns your eyes when you look at it.

Pierre told me that when he has an occasional sleepless night, his memories take him along the *Clivia* habitats of Wonder View, God's Window, Pinnacle, Mariepskop, Bearded Man, Karkloof, Ndwedwe, Oribi Gorge, Boskraal, Klein-koebee and Oorlogskloof Nature Reserve.

Having seen all the beautiful new flowers of the past 20 years in the Society publications and also on Facebook and the Net in general, Pierre thinks that we tend to think and believe that everything is already found! But then the next moment we see a photo of something completely different that we have not seen before. Pierre truly hopes it will never end. ▼

CLIVIA PEOPLE

Clivia People: Aart van Voorst

By Sakkie Nel

Aart was born in Ede in 1955, and raised in one of the forest regions of the Netherlands, the Veluwe. With a father working at a breeding station as a gardener and a mother also with a keen interest in plants and animals, love for the environment came naturally. Studying Biology at the famous Agricultural University of Wageningen, plants became more important than animals, although his first breeding exercises were with dwarf chickens. After graduating in 1984 he set up a tissue culture breeding laboratory for Royal Van Zanten and bred the first pure white *Alstroemeria Virginia* which is still the leading white cut flower variety in *Alstroemeria*.

An article Aart read in 1987 about Gordon McNeil in which it was stated that Gordon made a cross between *Clivia* and *Hippeastrum* raised his interest and he tried to repeat this cross. The



'4Tissimo' flower head

claim of an intergeneric hybrid proved to be a hoax, but the interest in *Clivia* was founded. From his professional work ploidy manipulation





'4Tune' flower head

proved to be a major possibility to get different forms, colours and sizes in all major plant species used in horticulture.

As a hobby, Aart started in 1995 to try to double the chromosome number in *Clivia*. Some years later he was able to make contact with other *Clivia* enthusiasts through the

internet. On a visit to Stockholm he found a *C. cyrtanthiflora* but mistakenly identified it as *C. gardenii* at the time. This was later corrected by Sean Chubb, and Sean followed up with a surprise of some seeds of real *C. gardenii* in the post. This was a pleasant surprise and demonstrated the generosity that many *Clivia* lovers show to their fellow enthusiasts, and it is surely one of the foundations of great *Clivia* friendships with people all over the world. This has provided stimulation for his research on ploidy manipulation, with some articles having been published about his work in this field (*Clivia* 5, 6 and 8). His goal is to increase the number of polyploidy *Clivia*, as such plants have the potential to change the future of *Clivia* like in other crops, where almost all the modern varieties are polyploids.

Clivia breeding has evolved enormously during the last decade and to get the broad range of *Clivia* types into tetraploid form, the colchicine treatments continue even today. There are more than 100 tetraploids in his collection, but it takes time to spread this material among *Clivia* lovers



4Tune (94001-09) original plant



4Tune
offset
flowering
in 2014



4Tune
detail
flower



Aart and Anke in *C. mirabilis* country.
Photo: Heidi Nerurkar

Aart and Anke in *C. mirabilis* country.
Photo: Sakkie Nel

because of the slow growth of the material after the colchicine treatment. Although not the aim of the polyploidy project, a giant tetraploid *C. robusta* form is one of his most loved plants, because this one shows the possibility of polyploidy the best to outsiders and laymen. Two other favourite ones are the first tetraploid interspecific '4Tissimo' and the tetraploid *C. miniata* '4Tune', both fertile.

One of his favourite *Clivia* is 'Vico Yellow' because of its enormous



'Vico Yellow'. Photo: Sakkie Nel

impact on *Clivia* breeding. It is now newly in his collection now, but the genes are in many of the plants which he has used to date for his polyploidy research.

The influence of 'Vico Yellow' will be visible in tetraploids in the coming years. It is his belief that polyploidy in *Clivia* will be the future and he hopes that especially young *Clivia* breeders will see the possibilities and pick up the challenge. Besides *Clivia*, *Haemanthus* and *Cyrtanthus* are genera that hold his interest and in *Haemanthus*, tetraploid plants are bred with orange and



Clivia robusta SCU16 with 2 tetraploid
C. miniata × *C. nobilis* hybrids

pink colours that have evergreen leaves like the white *H. albiflos*. In *Cyrtanthus*, tetraploid progeny of *C. elatus* × *C. sanguineus* will flower this year or next year.

In May 2003 at the AGM of the *Clivia* Society Aart was elected as the representative for Europe to look after the affairs of the International Group of *Clivia* enthusiasts. He has occupied this position for the past 11 years. Since 2003 Aart has delivered a number of papers at different Quadrennial Conferences in South Africa. In 2010 Anke and Aart enjoyed a trip to Boskraal, Klein Koebee and Oorlogskloof Nature Reserve in the Koue Bokkeveldsberge to see *C. mirabilis* in its habitat. ▼

'Robusta SCU16'



CLIVIA SOCIETY

From the Chair: September 2015

Glynn Middlewick

By the time you receive this Clivia News edition, all of the *Clivia miniata* shows will be over for the year 2015. I was fortunate to attend three shows this September and was impressed by the number of show plants entered and the variety and quality of plants on the show benches. If all the other shows were as impressive as the ones I attended, the future for *Clivia* growing and breeding is sound.

I'd like to thank all the entrants who had plants entered in the show classes. I appreciate the amount of time necessary to prepare the plants for the show and then the effort to transport them to the show venue. The organisers and helpers, without which no show would function, are not to be forgotten for the time and effort taken by them to successfully run their respective shows.

Judging: Plant judging remains an interesting topic. Entrants must learn to accept the decision of the judges. We should also accept that not everyone thinks of our own plants as positively as we do. At least two clubs used the services of outside judges only for plant assessment this year. This method does ensure the most objective way of assessing the show plants. There is of course the problem of the local club not necessarily using the services of all their judges for that year. The feedback

after using this method was positive and the exchange allowed for improvement at future shows.

Plant sales: The shows provide an ideal opportunity for the selling of *Clivia* plants to the show visitors and to fellow members. The success of the show depends on the contribution of the members to all aspects of running the show. I appeal to sellers to become involved in other activities at the show and not limit themselves to sales only.

Advertising: The excellent article in the Garden and Home in July and the inclusion of show dates in the Gardener/Tuinier and Go Platteland, ensured a constant stream of enquiries about Clivia show dates and general Clivia enquiries. The Beeld Newspaper also provided good national coverage of the show dates. As you know, not all show dates can be included in the magazines, so a single e-mail address and phone number contacts has proved a useful alternative to promote the shows.

Going forward, show photographs will be requested for inclusion in the 2016 Yearbook and articles for the Yearbook and Clivia News are always welcome, so go out and network with fellow growers and breeders and be prepared to share your knowledge to encourage the success of the *Clivia* interest. ▼

Clivia Photographic Competition for Yearbook 17

The *Clivia* Society announces the 2016 *Clivia* Society Photographic Competition. It is open to members of Society, affiliated clubs and interest groups. The object is to encourage *Clivia* enthusiasts to submit photographs from around the world. Please submit entries of photographs of attractive as well as some unusual *Clivia* flowers and plants. The principal focus of judging will be on the quality of photography with a fine balance being struck with the quality of the flower, flower head and/or plant.

Prominent space will be allocated in the Yearbook to winners in all categories as well as other entries of merit. The name of the Photographer and Grower will be publicised with each relevant photograph. The best photograph in each category will be selected from all entries in such category and will then not be eligible to win any other categories. The Habitat section, by definition, is only open to photographs taken in the *Clivia* endemic areas of Southern Africa.

CATEGORIES ARE AS FOLLOWS:

1. *Miniata*
2. Pendulous species
3. Interspecifics
4. Habitat (Photographs of habitat plants can only be photographs of plants taken in Southern Africa in their natural surroundings.)
5. *Clivia* in a garden setting (not in pots)
6. Single flower – any species
7. Other *Clivia* photos e.g. buds, berries, foliage, floral art.

THE CONDITIONS AND RULES OF ENTRY ARE:

1. The completed attached entry form must accompany submissions.
2. Entries must be submitted by Sunday, 15 February 2016 to participate in the competition. No extension of the deadline will be possible as this deadline is based on the publishing deadlines for the Yearbook.
3. Entries are limited to three per category per person.
4. Photographs may be mailed to Clivia Photographic Competition, P O Box 1820, Houghton 2041, Johannesburg, Gauteng, South Africa (Flash drive or CD-R) or emailed to: myclivia@iafrica.com
5. Photos must be submitted in the following format:
 - a. All photographs must be recorded in jpeg format, but digital files must be a minimum 1.5MB but not larger than 2MB per photo (using programmes like www.picsize.com) and in SRGB colour. No scanned or printed photos are to be submitted.
 - b. The resolution of the image must be saved on at least 300 dpi.
 - c. The pixel size should be a minimum of 1024 x 768 pixels.
 - d. Photographs must be on their own and not embedded in another program e.g. MS Word.
 - e. Names, dates or watermarks are not permitted to be included on an image. If any photographs are submitted with such annotations they will be disqualified.
6. The decisions by the panel of judges on the winners of the competition in the respective categories is final and no correspondence will be entered into, and neither CD-Rs nor flash drives will be returned after the competition.

The decisions of the Panel of Judges on the winners of the competition by way of the respective categories are final and no correspondence will be entered into in relation to the competition or any aspect relating to such.

Remember to take aspects such as the following into account when capturing, editing and selecting your competition entries: Beauty of the flower, uniqueness of the flower, sharpness of the image, colour trueness, absence of distractions, good or unique composition, unique angles, framing and cropping, lighting (backlit, side lit, diffused, hard, flash, natural), background (contrast, tidiness and complementing colour), correct white balance etc.

An entrant must be the photographer and the copyright holder. The Clivia Society and its affiliates reserve the right to free reproduction and use of any of the images entered in this photographic competition to promote or advertise *Clivia* through whatever medium they deem fit. In other respects copyright will remain with the photographer. With any publication of a photograph, credit will be given to the photographer. The submission of an entry form (either by email by way of scanned copy or by post) will constitute the granting of such aforementioned permission by the photographer, and that the entrant agrees to abide by the rules of the competition. ▼

CLIVIA SOCIETY PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION ENTRY FORM

ESSENTIAL ENTRY DETAILS

NAME OF ENTRANT:

ADDRESS & CONTACT DETAILS:

PHONE:

EMAIL:

NAME OF PHOTOGRAPHER:

DATE PHOTO TAKEN:

NAME OF GROWER:

ENTRY NUMBER (1 to 3):

CATEGORY ENTERED: X relevant box	Miniata		Pendulous species	
Interspecifics	Habitat		Garden	
Single flower	Other			
Flash drive	CD-R		Email	

OPTIONAL ENTRY DETAILS:

PLANT OR CULTIVAR NAME:

PHOTOGRAPHIC DETAILS:

CLIVIA BREEDING

The story of 'Foxy Lady'

By Felicity Weeden

In 2000 I made a *Clivia* trip to Levubu and Louis Trichardt. Among the growers I visited was Athrie Wessels at her beautiful farm.

From the flowering *Clivia* I selected three plants. Two of these were robust oranges with very large broad tepal flowers, and one was a soft pinky orange with a green throat. While visiting the late Bing Wiese, he inspected my proud acquisitions and commented that he did not like the one plant because the pedicels were too short. The following year the plants did not bloom, but in 2002, having settled into their new climatic conditions, things changed. After attending the Natal *Clivia* Conference, I arrived home after dark and armed with a torch, made a beeline for the *Clivia*! Imagine my excitement when I found this enormous peduncle with a really fat bud on top! It duly opened and WOW! Here was this magnificent umbel of enormous blooms.

I decided that this plant was worth sharing with the *Clivia* group. I set about preparing the plant and two others for showing at the 2002 *Clivia*



'Foxy Lady'

Club Show in the Cape. With much effort and many phone calls to Tannie Toy Jennings, I had my plants ready to show, despite the fact that I had to use a vacuum cleaner to remove the profusion of birdseed husks that had settled between the leaves! It is an hour and a half drive to Cape Town from Hermanus and great pains were taken to get the plants there in good shape. Each plant was placed in a crate. Stakes were inserted on four sides of the umbel which was then carefully secured with pantyhose. Then of course the long and painstaking drive to Belville, where the show was held at that time. Imagine my surprise and joy when my plant won Best on Show, and duly became known as 'Foxy Lady', because this plant foxed Bing Wiese, despite his vast experience. But this is the nature of *Clivia*.

Breeding with 'Foxy Lady' has produced some outstanding results for me. Johan Conradie of Stilbaai commented that any crosses he made with 'Foxy Lady' always produced excellent results. He received an offset of this plant when it was still unknown and called it 'Athrie 2'. Crossing 'Foxy Lady' with Christo Lotter's 'Mine' produced 'Foxy Lady Awesome', an outstanding



'Foxy Lady'



'Foxy Lady Awesome'



'Dream Maker Again'



'Foxy Lady's Magnificent'



'Foxy Lady Supreme'



'Foxy Lady Charmer'

orange/red with an enormous umbel and huge flowers with a touch of green. Using pollen from a very large dark red/orange ex habitat plant from Ian Brown, the exceptional 'Foxy Lady's Magnificent' resulted. This plant produced the loveliest large recurved blooms, but with a ghosting

effect. This is an outstanding result.

In the early days I crossed 'Foxy Lady' onto the other wide petal plant I had procured from

'Foxy Lady Delight'



Athrie. A number of really good plants resulted, including green throats, i.e. 'Foxy Lady Charmer', 'Foxy Lady's Dream Maker', 'Foxy Lady Supreme' and 'Foxy Delight', a green throat that won Runner up to Best on Show.

In 2013 'Foxy Lady Charmer' and 'Foxy Lady Best' produced the most outstanding umbels with enormous perfect flowers. These umbels were not fully open for the show, but absolute show stoppers. Crossed with 'Lotter's Peach' a reasonably good pastel emerged. During the flowering season of 2014, a really lovely pink ghost 'Foxy Lady's Pink Petticoats' flowered. Quite



'Leprechaun'

outstanding but as it matured, the ghosting effect disappeared and a rich pastel emerged. This is interesting as it appears that 'Foxy Lady' will produce quality ghosts if partnered with a suitable pollen donor. There are many crosses



'Foxy Lady Pink Petticoats' early stage



'Foxy Lady' summer flower 2007



'Pink Petticoats' later



'Foxy Lady Giant'



C1016 x FL 1

that still need to flower, including a cross featuring Mick Dower's stunning interspecific 'Leprechaun', and also 'Hirao'. Pastels were

produced by crossing an orange split for yellow.

'Foxy Lady' sometimes flowers during the summer and when this happens, she exhibits a green throat! 'Foxy Lady' is orange. Despite the current trend towards pinks, pastels, splashes, versicolours etc. which are all very lovely, I feel we should not lose sight of the fact that *Clivia* are basically orange and that orange should still hold pride of place and not become the ugly sister!

Some other special 'Foxy Lady' seedlings are: 'Foxy Lady Giant', C1016 x 'Foxy

Lady', 'Foxy Lady Green Throat', 'Foxy Lady Niven's Apricot' (Cameron Peach breeding), 'Foxy Lady Best' x 'Green Swan'. ▼



'Foxy Lady Best' x 'Green Swan 2'



'Foxy Lady Green Throat'



'Foxy Lady Nivens'

Interspecific enjoyment

By Willie Le Roux, Eastern Province Clivia Club

I found the article and stunning photos and graphs by Felicity Weeden on the hybridisation of *Clivia* and the way forward in Clivia News No 2 of 2014 most enjoyable. As far as the breeding of interspecific *Clivia* is concerned, I agree with

her that there is plenty of scope in this field and I feel that we need to give more exposure to these plants and promote them amongst our members.

The EPCC introduced an Annual Interspecific



Pastel *C. miniata* X Orange *C. gardenii*



Peach *C. miniata* X Orange *C. gardenii*



Orange
C. gardenii
X Peach
C. miniata



'Victorian Peach' X 'Gem's Golden Renaissance' *C. gardenii* (3)



'Victorian Peach' X 'Gem's Golden Renaissance' *C. gardenii* (2)



'Victorian Peach' X 'Gem's Golden Renaissance'
C. gardenii

Yellow *C. miniata* X
Orange *C. gardenii*



Yellow *C. miniata* X
Yellow *C. gardenii*



Show quite a few years ago with only a few plants on display, but this has increased steadily over the years. The large variety of flower shades and shapes amongst the interspecific flowers not only display a different beauty but also attracts the attention of those not familiar with these out-of-the-ordinary flower shapes. I am sure that there is still a large percentage of members who have not tried their hand at interspecific breeding and we should encourage them to explore this avenue. ▼

REGULARS

Just for the record – number 4 From pollination to propagation

By Sakkie Nel

A delicate pink *C. miniata* was pollinated on 12 September 2014 as the berry plant with 'André' (Coromandel yellow x yellow Nakamura = 2001 NCC Show winner of the late Oom Bertie Guillaume) as the pollen parent. The berry plant is sterile to its own pollen but the pollen of 'André' worked well for this experiment. Pollination of the stigmas were performed at 10h00 on one occasion only. If pollination were to be repeated twice daily (10:00 & 16:00) for 14 days the fruits would have been much bigger with more seeds. The other 10 photographs show the development of the fruit as the photos were taken with a one-month interval between each time.

The last photo shows the fruit of 'Maggi' x 'Esmé' which was also a once-off pollination that day. ▼



'André' (Coromandel yellow X yellow Nakamura = 2001 NCC Show winner of the late Bertie Guillaume. - Pollen parent



Berry plant
'Pink'



Month 1



Month 2



Month 3



Month 4



Month 5



Month 6



Month 7



Month 8



Month 9



'Maggi' x Esmé
(yielded 45 seeds)



Month 10 (yielded 45 seeds)



Avalon's 'Raspberry Ripple A' ('Chameleon' x 'Two Tone') bred by Ian Radmore

RELATED

Clivias good, odd & ugly #2

By James Abel

Previously, #1 in Clivia News 24.1 presented two rather attractive spiral umbels. To follow up, this photo of berries with their ultra-long pedicels was posted by Ian Coates on the e-group in 2013. The scape must have been very short, leaving the umbel axis close to the stem, with the flowers showing above the leaf sheaths, perhaps in spirals. Then as the sheaths fell away the length of pedicels would have been evident. We first saw a similar example when Des Anderson of Pietermaritzburg (later Australia), brought such a *C. miniata* to a Pretoria show in the late 1990s, and then Harry Erasmus posted a photo in April 2006.

Our second photo is of a growth on the side of a *C. miniata* which developed in our collection around 2000. It appeared to be a mass of small offset growths, some showing small leaves. It appeared to be similar to the intense grain patterns of burls in wood. The "offsets" grew no larger and eventually the callus reduced in size. Some visitors speculated that it was due to bacterial activity. An enthusiast friend from the Far East asked for the plant, hoping perhaps to use it as a base for laboratory culture, but we

are not aware of any further developments. A while later we saw a similar specimen in the collection of Ans and Johan Jacobs in the then Nylstroom, Limpopo province.

We have sufficient photos for several more editions of this feature, but will then be dependent on contributions from current members for its continuation. Regrettably we have not received any as a result of #1 in the last Clivia News and we do request that enthusiasts email two or three photos, each with a brief description, to jcabel@absamail.co.za. ▼



Odd - pedicels 2013
(Ian Coates)



Odd - Bacterial growth

Talking *Clivia* in the valley of citrus fruits

By Willie le Roux Eastern Province *Clivia* Club

I was invited to deliver a talk on cultivating *Clivia* at a meeting of the Sundays River Valley Garden Club with headquarters in Kirkwood some 70 km from Port Elizabeth in the Eastern Province of South Africa. The valley runs for a distance of 30 km between the towns of Addo and Kirkwood. I had a peep into the history of the Sundays River Valley and would like to share the following with our readers (with acknowledgement to the Sunday River Valley website).

After the First World War some 50 families arrived in South Africa from England with the hope of starting a new life in the Eastern Cape's Sunday River Valley. They were, however, met with a dust bowl rather than the fertile meadowlands they expected. Like the 1820 settlers who came to the valley a century before them, they also believed themselves to have been lured to a foreign country under

false pretences.

Thanks to the vision of men like Sir Percy Fitzpatrick, Dr Mac Donald, John White and James Kirkwood who foresaw the potential of the Valley and the much later support of the Orange River Irrigation Scheme, the Valley with its 180 citrus farmers is today one of the largest producers of citrus fruits in the country with an export of \pm 11 million cartons of 15 kg each per season to 70 countries around the world. Indeed a Valley Of Plenty.

The Sundays River Valley Garden Club was founded on 27 January 1988 by a few keen gardeners and has flourished over the years to some 50 members that are representative of the whole Valley. They are very active with regular meetings and visits to gardens and other garden clubs throughout the Province.

The meeting was held on the farm of Boetie and Boy Whittle some 20 km from the town of





Kirkwood. On arrival we were met by 32 smiling faces and shade houses full of *Clivia* plants. Boy explained that she was given a plant with

lily-shaped flowers many years ago and only found out much later that it was a *Clivia*. Luck came her way when a friend gave her quite a





few *Clivia* plants. Pollination by bees during the flowering seasons produced many seeds which she germinated, resulting in her now being the proud owner of shade houses full of *Clivia* plants.

Those present at the meeting found the talk on cultivating *Clivia* and the display showing the development of *Clivia* from seed to flowering plant as well as the attractive posters depicting a variety of *Clivia* flower colours, very interesting and informative. During the discussion after the talk, it became clear that the majority of those present have *Clivia* growing in their gardens.

At the close of the meeting we donated some *Clivia* seeds, yellow as well as peach seedlings and copies of past *Clivia* News booklets to



those present. We were rewarded with four members joining the EP *Clivia* Club as well as the understanding that they will promote the cultivation of *Clivia* in the Valley in order to preserve the plant for future generations. I wish to thank all for the arrangements made and delicious refreshments served. ▼



Christian Young-Muller is on Centre Stage

By Kobus and Ida Esterhuizen

Christian, the seven-year-old grandson of former chairman of the Garden Route Clivia Club Randolph Young, became a member of the club during 2013. Randolph tells the story as follows.

"Christian was always interested in being involved when I was busy with odd jobs around the house as well as in the *Clivia* house. He enjoyed helping with the watering of the plants and planting seeds. He came to realise that "Oupa's" soft spot was *Clivia* and went out of his way to please him by helping whenever he could. Christian soon wanted to plant his own seeds and his own offset. I cannot imagine any grandfather refusing such a request and shortly thereafter he was the proud owner of his own seed tray and an offset or two.

He helped me to prepare for the show by cleaning pots and plants as well as assisting, where possible, in the preparation of the hall. It became obvious to me that there were signs

that he had been bitten by the *Clivia* bug, but more about that later.

When Christian became aware that prizes were given for the best plants on show, it was clear that the bug had bitten deep. Malan brothers of Stellenbosch very kindly gave him a few good quality plants which he diligently cared for. At our 2014 Clivia Show he received a second prize in the Novice Class for a beautiful pastel for which he received many requests for offsets.

With Oupa's help, he does his own cross pollinations and is looking forward to seeing the results. His dream is to have in his collection a 'Hirao', a 'TK' and a 'Charl's Green'. He keeps an eye on Oupa's to see if they are perhaps making babies. Christian is keen on being able to distinguish between, and learning the names of the different species and will no doubt follow in his Oupa's footsteps into the *Clivia* world." The Garden Route Clivia Club is indeed proud to have such an enthusiastic young member. ▼



Christian Young-Muller

When do you stop planting seed?

By Dawie van Heerden

After I reached the youthful age of 70 years, the thought suddenly came to me: "How many years do I have left to plant seed?" I already own thousands of *Clivia* plants and space becomes less. On the other hand, my neighbour is a welder and has no interest in any plants at all. This gave me food for thought.

I remember well how I tried to give good advice to my mentor, the late Oom Ammie Grobler, after a long sickness which he endured. I encouraged him to sell all his *Clivia*, except for 20–30 plants. Needless to say, this former teacher of mine refused to pay any attention to the advice of ninnies, and to my great surprise he kept on buying some more *Clivia*.

Another big man I'm not fit to hold a candle to is Oom Frans Gerber. At the age of 70, he said that he was busy buying some time – meaning that he concentrated on full-grown plants. But the utmost was when Uncle Keith Rose said that he does not even buy green bananas anymore.



Well, I can tell you the enthusiasm of these battle axes inspired me not to stop planting seed, although I plant more selectively now, concentrating on the best plants in my collection. "Indeed we plough with another man's heifer and carry a feather in a hat from a peacock which doesn't belong to us".



I'm mostly grateful for all my predecessors who persevered to the end. Oom Gert Esterhuyzen paid me a visit recently. When he saw one of his own plants which is now one of my prized possessions, he, to my astonishment, asked me for seeds. Fortunately I was able to give him some of the seedlings. Oom Gert is about 90 years of age. There is a saying: "one plants a tree and another man sits in the shade of it".

At one of the *Clivia* meetings, a friend, LeRoy, said that it is remarkable how many elderly people were present. In his opinion the

planting of seed and the great expectations they have is a motivation for keeping on living. Now isn't that precious!

This year I also set a record in buying seeds. If I don't have the privilege to see these plants flower, I will gladly leave this heritage behind for the next generation of *Clivia* enthusiasts. So

please keep on planting seed, even if it one of your last joyful tasks on earth.

May the following be an inspiration to you: "I have already lived past the age of one hundred and have no plans for a quick exit" – Robin Sharma, author of "The monk who sold his Ferrari". ▼

CLIVIA SHOWS

The North American Clivia Society (NACS) show dates for 2016

- The NACS Clivia show on March 12-13 at Longwood Gardens, Kennet Square, Pennsylvania. Longwood Gardens is one of America's premier horticultural institutions. One of the highlights of the show will be the introduction of a new bronze clivia with a green throat from Longwood's breeding program. Visit Longwood at <http://longwoodgardens.org> or contact NACS President Alan Petrovich at apetravich@longwoodgardens.org
- Concurrently there will be a NACS Clivia show on the west coast, March 12-13 at the Huntington Gardens and Library, in San Marino, California. The Huntington is also one of America's more prestigious botanical gardens. For more, visit the Huntington at <http://www.huntington.org/>

For more information about NACS, visit <http://www.northamericancliviasociety.org/home.php> ▼

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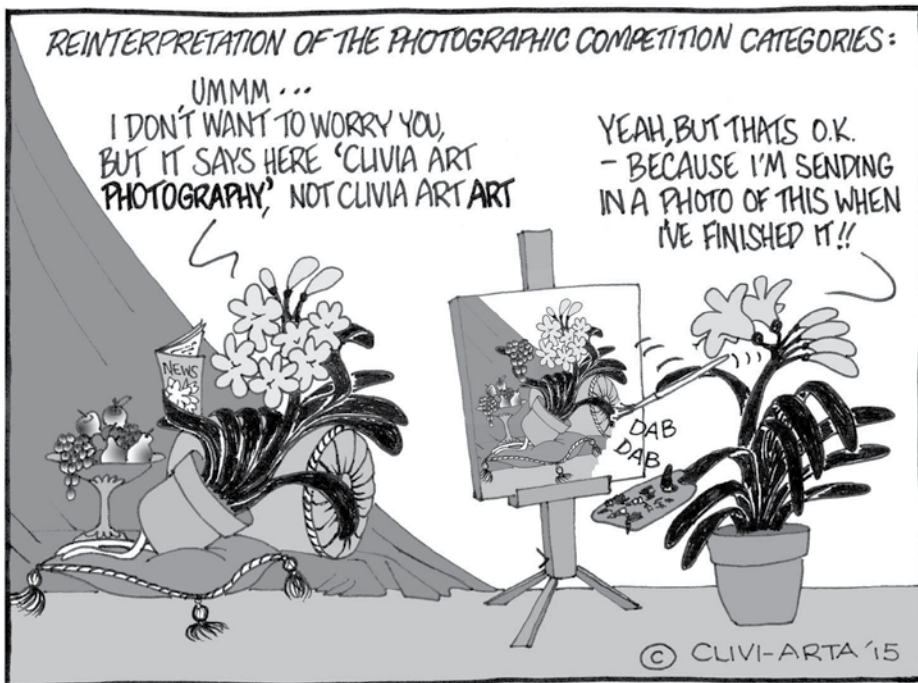
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CLIVI-ARTA BY HELEN SANDERS



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