



Clivia News

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From the Editor

his is our second publication of the year. The digital form of the publication seems to be acceptable to most members. Very few complaints. Either that or many members are not reading the publications! I suspect it may be the latter. The USA continues to provide their members with a hard copy version – but they have the advantage of having a functioning postal service.

The cover and back page have been dedicated to a pollinator of Clivia flowers, in this case the hover fly. Thank you to Francois for the images. Pollination with natural insects is essential for the Agricultural industry. Europe has the keen interest of the survival of bee colonies at heart and limits the use of certain pesticides in the European Union. Consider the pollinators when spraying your clivia flowers with toxic chemicals!

The Clivia Society Annual General Meeting takes place on the 20th of May at 14h00 via the Zoom platform. With load shedding, some participants may have to use their cell phones to log on to the meeting. (ID is 836 845 1331 with the password – clivia).

The Conference takes place at the end of September and the beginning of October and is hosted by the Cape Clivia Club. The opening is on the evening of Friday the 29th September. The Cape Clivia Club Show follows on the Saturday and Sunday. The Conference then takes place from the 2nd to the 4th of October at the Milnerton High School. Details may be found on the links below: The Conference program, the Auction invitation and a suggestion of suitable accommodation available are included below?

There is a post for the auction invitation - https:// cliviasociety.com/clivia-auction-invitation/

The starting page for the conference is this page - https:// cliviasociety.com/conference/

The link to accommodation is - https://cliviasociety.com/ conference/visits/accommodation/

Please support our advertisers. Interesting articles in this issue include the clivia populations found in Tenerife by Ian Coates and on the island of Majorca by Meg Hart. Glynn raises the awareness of the use of toxic insecticides on our plants and to encourage members to consider alternatives to the inorganic pesticides. Lisa Fox introduces the amazing floral creations of Australian member Michael Barrett.

Helen Sanders, our faithful Cartoonist, has her contribution included. We wish her well with her recovery from a fractured wrist. .

Glynn Middlewick



FRONT COVER: Marilyn Paskert, winner of the 'People Choice Award' at the NACS Sherman Show 2023 with a blush Akebona flower.



BACK COVER: Image of a fly on the back page has been submitted by Francois van Rooven. Thank you to

Ian Coates for the fine tuning of the image. These hover or Syrphid flies are second only to the bees, in importance for pollination in nature.

These images are taken on clivia flower anthers and may explain why some of your crosses aren't what you expected them to be. We accept that moths are important pollinators of clivia flowers, bees are not often seen on clivia flowers, perhaps the hover fly is more important in habitat than what we realise?

In Memoria: In Memory of James Abel

Glynn Middlewick

n the 23rd February 2023 I learned of the passing of James Abel. He was born on the 27th February 1938 in the West Rand area of Klerksdorp. He subsequently grew up in Ofcolaco in theTzaneen district of Limpopo.

He completed his schooling at Michaelhouse in KwaZulu-Natal. James then enrolled at the Cedara Agricultural College and completed his diploma there. Following on from this he enrolled at the University of Natal and completed a BSc in agriculture and majored in Agronomy.

While studying at Cedara, James was involved a car accident and was admitted to Greys Hospital in Pietermaritzburg. Nursing him there was Connie van Niekerk. In 1964 he married Connie and they celebrated 58 years of marriage, two daughters and two sons and eight grandchildren.

In his career he worked at several places. After his marriage in 1964, he travelled to Zimbabwe for a year. He then returned to South Africa and spent time in Nelspruit and Komatipoort. He was involved with Tongaat-Huletts sugar and farm managing in the early 1970's time period.

In 1974 he joined Rainbow chickens in Pietermaritzburg. 1975 saw him transferred to Pretoria where is joined Festive Chickens.

In 1980, James joined the Omnia fertilizer group and remained with them until 1998. On behalf of the Omnia company he opened their Zimbabwean office and spent a year there establishing their extension.

At their Lynnwood Manor home in 1994. the first meeting of the Clivia Enthusiasts took place and elected James Abel as the Chairman of the Clivia Club. The Clivia Club represented both national and international members. James remained as the Chairman of the Clivia Club until 1997. The Clivia Club developed in time, with the Northern Clivia Club, KwaZulu-Natal and the Cape Clivia Club forming their own branches. In 2001 the Clivia Club was renamed the 'Clivia Society'.

James and Connie were awarded Honorary Life Memberships of the Clivia Society on the 21st March 2005.

James was an active participant in local club



meetings and club shows. He and Connie aften had stalls at both the Northern and Joburg Clivia Club shows.

He presented several talks at the Clivia Clubs in South Africa. James contributed articles to the Clivia Society publications and headed the column the 'The Good, the Odd and the Ugly'.

For several years, on the occasion of the Clivia Society Congresses, James organised the highly successful 'Caulescens' tours to the Eastern Transvaal.

James was privileged to present a lecture at the North American Clivia Society Conference in California. He was fortunate to develop many contacts on his visits and hosted many international visitors at his home.

James satisfied the demand of local growers by organising the importation of clivia plants from China and from the USA.

James and Connie formed a well-known couple in our clivia community, Connie the plantsman and James the organiser with so much knowledge.

With their advancing ages, James and Connie moved to a retirement village in 2016 and kept only a few plants at their new home.

They continued attending meetings and shows until relatively recently, before his health deteriorated and limited his mobility.

We offer our condolences to Connie, his sons, daughters and grandchildren. 🜻

In Memory of Dr Jan Stemmet

André du Toit

t is with sadness that the Free State Clivia Club learns of the passing of Dr Jan Stemmet. He passed away on 21 January 2023 at the age of 85 after being treated for concussion following a fall in his retirement home.

Dr Stemmet was headmaster at the Sand du Plessis High school in Bloemfontein from 1974 to 1985 and later served as a senior manager in the Free State Department of Education in various leadership capacities. He retired as a Chief Director. At one stage he was a member of the Bloemfontein City Council.



Dr Stemmet handing over a prize to Stef de Swardt after the 2017 show, with Hennie van der Mescht looking on.

membership of our Club.

He was a remarkable person and we will miss him and his wife Annette's contributions to the activities of our Club. •



This beautiful peach flower of Piet Theron was awarded the position of First Runnerup at the Cape Clivia Club Show in 2022. Apologies for including the incorrect image in a previous edition.

Originally a member of an Orchid club in Bloemfontein, Dr Stemmet's interest switched to Clivia and he then joined the Free State Clivia Club in 2005.

He was appointed chairperson of the show committee in 2012 and negotiated with the management of Fleurdal Mall to host the annual Clivia show at that time. This venue remains the venue for our annual Clivia show. He managed our shows for a number of years and compiled several documents and guidelines with regards to the organising and running of the shows. These are still in use today.

For an extended period, he was part of the management team of our Club. Management meetings were frequently held at his home. It was quite a special experience to enter his book lined study. A historian of note and a keen student of literature, he held a Doctorate in History from the University of the Free State. He was also a student of all *Clivia* matters and appreciated all reading material concerning *Clivia*.

Dr Stemmet was a very enthusiastic and precise grower of clivia. After moving to a retirement village he chose to keep only eight Clivia from his collection. These he maintained in a pristine condition. During 2018 he was awarded honorary

Clivia Floral Art Displays created by Michael Barrett

Lisa Fox

he Melbourne Clivia Group are fortunate to have the services of Michael Barrett for creating the incredible floral art displays each year for the Clivia Expo, with a focus on *Clivia* plants. The displays use the *Clivia* flowers, *Clivia* berries, *Clivia* leaves and even bare-rooted *Clivia* seedlings. Each year heralds a totally different colour scheme, theme, accessories and accompanying plants. I never fail to be amazed by the creativity and ingenuity that goes into the vision, planning and construction of the arrangements. In the early years Michael created all this without any money from the club. Luckily, with



Figure 1 2015 Floral Art Display

good friends and resources who were happy to supply a good selection of props and plants, he was able to build the display without cost. In the past few years Michael has been allocated a small budget from the club to assist with the purchase of what he felt was necessary.

Not only was Michael Barrett the President of the Melbourne Clivia Group for a number of years, but he was an orchid collector. He worked on and off as a florist for the next fifteen years including at the department store, David Jones, where there are huge annual spring shows. With a different theme each year and sponsored by a major cosmetic firm, Michael gained skills in large event style displays. More recently he has been freelancing floristry work with a large contract at a private



Figure 2 Floral Art 2016

member's club, as well as working as a garden designer. Knowing Michael had skills in floral arrangements, the Expo Coordinator in 2015 asked him to create a large display for the stage at a large venue.

2015

"I included the Southern Africa native, Strelitzia nicolai and Leucadendron. I also had the palm seeds from *Trachycarpus fortunei*. The container used is a copper kitchen flue (used the other



Figure 3 Floral Art 2017

way around), something that was impulse purchased, in a copper collecting period. The orange and yellow *Clivia* along with the other elements all seemed to work so well together and made the stage, where auction plants were on display, something to draw one's attention." – Michael Barrett.



Figure 4 Floral Art 2018

2016

"For the expo of 2016, I used a pot I had from years before, but I freshly painted it a 'zattar' green. I used buckets to fill the centre and then sourced a pile of foam bricks above the pot line to construct a lemon, yellow and green arrangement. In particular, the majority of yellow *Clivia* came from Ray and Chee Perks, with more from Helen Marriott. I used Phormium 'Yellow Wave' New Zealand flax from my Otway cottage garden, Foxtail asparagus 'fern' Asparagus aethiopicus from Terry Edwards and the large leaves, Tetrapanax from my local



Figure 5 Floral Art 2019 with Michael Barrett

Opportunity Shop's garden." – Michael Barrett.

2017

"For 2017, I took my inspiration from a Christian Lacroix fabric 'Canopy'. I sprayed an expanding bamboo lattice pink and sprayed an old cane basket an emerald green. The main colour theme was around hot pinks and orange. I used Rhododendrons, and masses of orange *Clivia* and Strelitzia reginae from Gerard van Buuren. To all this busy-ness I had seedling *Clivia* and small orchids attached to the lattice, and branches of Magnolia, bromeliad and *Ficus japonica* (kumquats), *Ficus elastica* (burgundy



Figure 6 Floral Art 2022

rubber plant.)" – Michael Barrett.

2018

"The following year, 2018, I chose to do something different from previous years and

use a number of glass demijohns, and fewer types of flowers. Orange Clivia, the bulk coming from Gerard van Buuren, were matched with Anthurium and mixed foliages and apples for a simple display." – Michael Barrett.

2019

"In 2019 the floral art display was on a regular table at the end of the room. I used a variety of different size and shape baskets to make a display that had orange *Clivia miniata*, and foliage and a mass of Salix matsudana, corkscrew willow and oranges." – Michael Barrett.

2022

(Note: Due to COVID restrictions there were no Expo's in 2020 and 2021.)

"In the lead up to the Expo 2022, I was a bit concerned as to where I'd get *Clivia* flowers for the floral display due to the cold winter Melbourne had experienced and lack of open flowers. Luckily a garden client has a warm microclimate of a brick wall where regular orange *Clivia miniata* grow.

The old olive tub container I chose to use I had found in an Opportunity Shop. I combined the *Clivia* with locally grown (Philip Island) anthuriums from Maxiflora, beautiful Strelitzia reginae from Gerard van Buuren and had faux fan seaweed and a mixture of greenery including a stalwart of mine, phormium yellow wave. It was wonderful to make something to showcase the beautiful *Clivia* as a cut flower." – Michael Barrett.

It is a huge task to source the materials needed to create the floral art display, as well as the time involved and the transporting of materials to and from the venue. Michael has done all this as well as working in a number of different jobs, and often working at the Expo in a variety of roles including auctioneer, MC and organiser. Well done, Michael!

Michael would love to create a floral display featuring green Hirao flowers and hopefully someone will be able to spare a patch of green flowers in the future for this purpose.

The Melbourne Clivia Group has an online photo gallery of the Expo Floral Art which can be viewed at the following link – http://www. melbournecliviagroup.org.au/gallery/gallery-floral-art/



TENERIFE

Ian Coates

bout 200 years ago the world was in a mess. European countries were exercising their power and were trying to conquer the world. Prior to sending any soldiers to the land to be conquered, explorers were sent including botanists. South Africa was one of these countries rich in unknown wonderful plants.

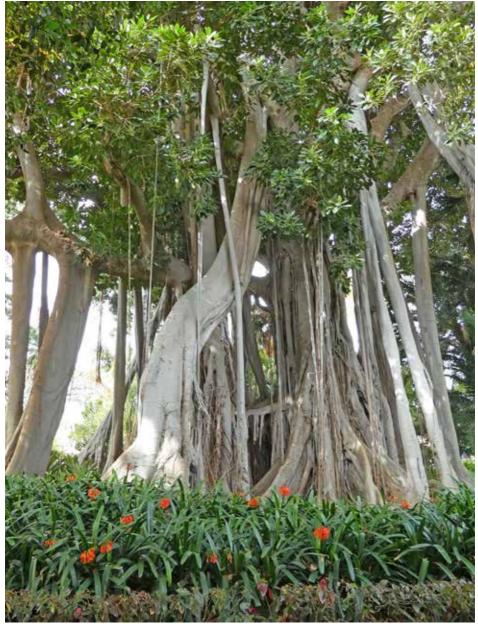
Many of these plants were shipped home to European countries. Many were unsuitable for the local climates. Spain was innovative when realising this and created a 'garden of acclimatization' in Tenerife. The climate in Tenerife was milder and would help the plants adapt having left their native land. At Puerto de la Cruz, in the north of the island of Tenerife, the climate was more stable. Exotic plants could be grown here and studied and perhaps at a later date, grown in Europe, Spain in particular. The 'Garden of Acclimatization' was agreed upon 1788 and planting began in 1792. This garden is now part of the Department of Agriculture of the Canary Islands. The garden is so important for research and for tourism and so has grown a lot in size.

Supposedly, in the mid 19th century, a Spanish ship docked in Tenerife to drop off a few plants. The curious curator asked to see the rest of the plants on board. Permission was granted and he noticed the magnificent clivia blooms. Both nobilis and miniate were present. He requested a plant of each species and his wish was granted.

Since that event, the miniate and nobilis crosses have flourishing in the garden as well on the rest



A group of mainly miniata forms.



Pendulous varieties under a fig tree.

of the island. An upright and pendulous group of plants are the two distinctive forms on the island. There has been so much interbreeding over such a long period of time that I doubt that any pure species exists. After looking closely at the plants over the last 50 years of visiting the island, I accept that nobilis look fairly similar to the native species with pendant flowers and



A typical pendulous variety.



A possible miniata variety.



The pendulous forms with some having green tips.



A clump of two plants with different forms.

rough edged leaves. However, I have never seen one with any notched leaf.

The plants are almost rampant in parts of the garden in Puerto de la Cruz and also in a smaller

garden in La Orotava. I have only seen one variegated plant during my visits. The number of plants in the town itself have decreased in number.

Is there a Place for Cinnamon?

Glynn Middlewick

atural products are used by 70% of the World Population. Obviously, this figure may not apply equally in all countries. The usage varies with beliefs, traditions and education.

Awareness of the harm of inorganic pesticides has gained a lot of attention in 'First World Countries'. The unwanted side effects of inorganic pesticides, such as being present in your foods, in rivers, affecting the bee population, would encourage horticulturalists to consider a trial of organic pest control.

Why are essential oils playing a larger role in agriculture? All insecticides used on fresh fruit and vegetables has a safe withholding period, usually about 30 days before harvesting. Thus, at the time of harvesting, the fresh produce has no effective pesticide present and is now susceptible to pests. Organic methods of pest control, include the use of biodegradable nets covering the produce. These nets are impregnated with essential oils of various plants to prevent the pesticide problem as there is no withholding period necessary.

Clivia Pests: The main culprit for the destruction of clivia plants is the amaryllis caterpillar. Not only do the larvae destroy the leaves, but they burrow into the meristem of the plant and may kill the plant.

The other pests affecting clivia, disfigure the plants without causing the death of the plant. These include: mealie bug, leaf miner, scale, rust and other fungi.

The control of pests on Clivia may be by either organic or inorganic control.

The best management of pests is by prevention. Once the prevention fails, the choice of how to treat the pest is up to the gardener.

When we consider pesticides, what makes us



decide which product to use? Why not try cinnamon?

The active active ingredients in cinnamon oil are cinnamaldehyde and eugenols. These oils have been around since 2000 BC. Their use has been included in the treatment of common ailments of the lungs, gastro-intestinal tract, diabetes and as an anti-inflammatory agent. Like many natural products the claims are many and diverse.

The essential oils of many herbs and spices have been tested for their effectiveness as pesticides. Examples that have been tested are from plants such as Aloe vera, cloves, lemon, basil, cinnamon, mustard, orange, nutmeg, vanilla, thyme, spearmint and marigolds.

Cinnamon is one of the frequently tested essential oils. Is there more to cinnamon than its fragrance? Claims, because of the antioxidant action, antifungal, antibacterial action may be used to treat diabetes, help prevent malignancies and many other claims.

Two types of cinnamon are commonly available in supermarkets. The commonly available one is Cassia cinnamon. This product comes from Asia. The true cinnamon is Ceylon cinnamon from Sri-Lanka. Woolworths has the Ceylon cinnamon available in larger packs.

Fungal infections in young clivia seedlings that are transplanted, are a big threat. Damping off is common in young seedlings, so you should not be attempted to buy seedlings until the plants are at least two years old. Fungal spores are present in all soils and are present in the atmosphere. When you purchase 'two-year' old clivia seedlings, do you take any precautions to prevent fungal problems? Do you use a fungicide? Do you sterilise your seedling soil in the oven?

The essential oils with the best antifungal effects are those of cinnamon and thyme. In addition to the antifungal effects of cinnamon, auxins – root stimulants – are also present in the essential oils.

The method for root stimulation suggested is to soak the plant in water for five minutes, roll in cinnamon and then plant. The powder may also be used via a 'spice shaker' on to the roots and cut surfaces of divided offsets. The powder may be used to cover clivia seeds and for fungus gnats. As a spray: 2 teaspoons of cinnamon in 500 ml of water, steep for 20 minutes, then



sieve with a fine cloth before spraying on to your plants.

The negative side effects of neonicotinoids – 'Confidor' / 'Kohinor' – have led to this product banned in Europe. It has been blamed for the decrease in bee populations. Acetamiprid –

another neonicotinoid is used in Europe as it is less toxic to bees.

Acetamiprid is available locally in South Africa in products like 'Plant Care' and 'Allice'.

Is there a place for 'Ceylon cinnamon'? Try it and let us know! •



Clivias in Majorca

Meg Hart

n the northeast corner of Majorca, one of the Balearic Islands belonging to Spain, lies the ancient town of Capdepera. It has buildings, old narrow cobbled streets with a castle on the hill. The surrounding countryside is farmed land and the main crops are olives, almonds, carob, figs and grapes. Nearby are beautiful beaches and resorts, where tourism is the mainstay of the economy.

I was recently there on holiday and was amazed to see clivias growing in pots, window

Right: Image of Majorca, home in the foreground – thanks to Getty images.

> Below: Flower example Majorca.







Variation if flower form in Majorca.

boxes and gardens in full sun in the town and vicinity. The flowers are pendulous and flower in the wet, cold winters from December to March. The leaves are tough and serrated but are not

notched. The berries, that are self-pollinated, are small and red. The plants have numerous offsets. In every aspect they look like *Clivia nobilis* except for the absence of notched leaves. They grow

best on the north side of the buildings and survive despite the hot dry summers.

Clivia nobilis was the first Clivia species to be described in 1828 (*C. miniata* only appeared 30 years later). *C. nobilis* plants were probably purloined by explorers and collectors from the Eastern Cape in the 1800's, taken to England and the onward to Europe.





Leaf pattern of clivia plants in Majorca.

These clivia in Majorca, although they strongly resemble the nobilis species, may well be hvbrids. I saw no evidence of miniata - like blooms on the island. One wonders how many other clivia species have found their way to Europe and other continents and have adapted to the local growing conditions? I know that the Botanical Gardens in Sydney have large beds of pendulous hybrids, possibly C. miniata X C. gardenii? 🌻

Majorca garden bed.

Examples of the Clivia gardenii Complex Plants

The following images are examples of the *Clivia gardenii* complex plants. Photos supplied by Pieter Saayman and Michael Holt.



Figure 1





Figure 2





Left: Figure 4 Below: Figure 5





Figure 6



Figure 7



Figure 8





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Photos above all by Francois van Rooyen

Left: Vikus Theron – 'Cherise'



Hilton Atherstone - '#28 By Half-Moon'



Hilton Atherstone - 'Ouboet By Self'





Above: Corra van Heerden - 'Poorman's Peach'

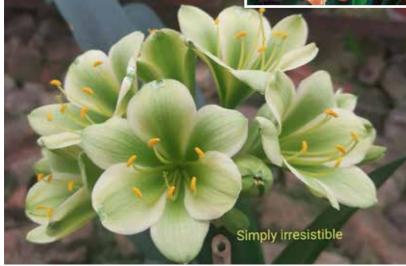
Right: Francois van Rooyen – 'Belgian Bronze' X 'Gems Happy Kids' – 'Gems Crimson Lady'

Below: Joan Holt - 'Simply Irresistible'



Daan Dekker - Yellow Caulescens - Eshowe







Mags Webster – 'Tanchoo' X 'Pencil Pastel'





Above: Vikus Theron – 'Conqueror'

Left: Karel Stanz – Miniata



- 27 29 SEPTEMBER 2023 Guided tour to the last of the Namaqualand spring flowers and succulents
- 30 SEPTEMBER & 1 OCTOBER 2023
 Cape Clivia Club Show and visits to growers and tourist attractions
- 4 6 October 2023 Guided Clivia mirabilis habitat tour (a little early for flower spikes to open)

Photographic Competition of the Clivia Society 2023

All members of the Clivia Society are invited to submit entries into the six categories of the Photographic competition. The photographs you enter may be published in the Yearbook 23 of 2023. The closing dates for entries is the 30th September 2023.

CONDITIONS FOR ENTRY OF IMAGES INTO THE COMPETITION

- Complete the entry form. An entry form should be included with each submission of photographs. One form is sufficient if several photographs are submitted at the same time.
- 2. Submit entries by the 30th September 2023.
- 3. There are six categories. The number of entries per category is limited to three.
- 4. Photographs should be submitted to Clivia Society Photographic competition, gcmidd@ mweb.co.za If the size of the images is large use 'WeTransfer' – free of charge!
- 5. Format of photographs: jpeg file not larger than 2Mb per photograph. The resolution to be 300 dpi. The images should be submitted without being embedded in another programme. No evidence should be present that may identify the image as belonging to a specific person.
- 6. If you submit photos for entry into the Society competition you accept that your photograph may be used in Society publications with full recognition of you as photographer.
- 7. The decision of the judges is final and must be accepted by all entrants.

Hints: The photographs are judged on their

photographic quality. The prettiest photograph may not be the best in quality in terms of photographic assessment. Aspects such as sharpness of the image, true colour, absence of distractions in the photograph, composition, lighting, cropping, background choice and white balance are all important considerations for the photographer.

CATEGORIES FOR THE COMPETITION – maximum of three entries per category

- 1. Any photograph of a Clivia miniata umbel.
- 2. Any photograph of any pendulous species.
- Any photograph of any interspecific clivia plant. Owing to the ongoing problem of separating some of the interspecific flowers from the miniata flowers, consider carefully into which class you wish to enter the flower image.
- 4. Any photograph of any habitat plants. These must be photographed in their natural state in habitat.
- 5. Any photograph of any single flower of any Clivia species. This class refers to a single flower, so you should have a single flower as the main feature.
- 6. Any photograph of Clivia related subjects such as buds, berries, foliage and floral art.

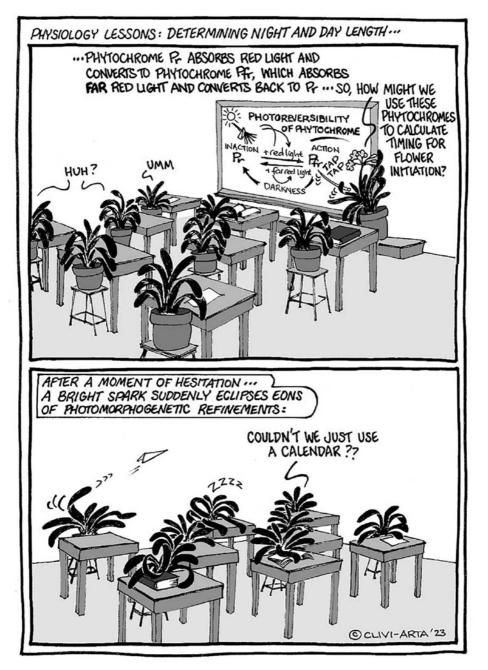
CLIVIA SOCIETY PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION ENTRY FORM 2023

Name of Entrant					
Contact Address or e-ma	il				
Telephone					
Date photographs taken					
Number of Entries					
Indicate number of entries in each class below:					
C. miniata	Pendulous species	Interspecific plants			
Habitat	Single flower	<i>Clivia</i> related: buds, berries, foliage, floral art			
Submission	e-mail	WeTransfer			

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Clivi-Arta

Helen Sanders



2023 Membership Fees of the Clivia Society

Subscriptions are for a single calendar year – January to December. The fees below include postage except where mentioned.

Australia	Pay to Lisa Fox: lisa.fox@gmail.com	\$ USA 30.00		
USA	Pay to North American Clivia Society www.northamericancliviasociety.org	\$ USA 35.00		
New Zealand	Alick McLeman: clivia@xtra.co.nz>	\$ USA 30.00		
United Kingdom	Steve Hickman: hickman.sss@btconnect.com	£ 25.00		
International – China, Europe, Japan				

Only digital copies \$10 US

Pay Clivia Society – Paypal gcmidd@mweb.co.za

South African Members

Pay local club membership fee to the treasurer (Varies)

The club membership, includes R150.00 affiliation fee to be paid to the Society by the club. The postage cost of publications sent to the clubs by the Society is an extra fee, to be paid by the clubs.

Advertisement Costs in Clivia News - 2023

Three Editions per year: Artwork supplied by Advertiser

Half Page: R300.00; Full Page: R600.00



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