



The Chairman's Notes

Dear Member,

In my last Chairman's Notes I took up my allotted space to urge our North Coast Members to sit back and put pen to paper, or more likely finger to keyboard, and let me know what subjects or events you would like to see and hear over the coming months. Sadly this did not generate a single reply! Please do give the request a little active thought and give me and/or another Committee member your thoughts and wishes! We really would appreciate it!

Since the last edition of The Shamba Times at the end of March I think all the North Coast areas have really been blessed with some well spread out and kindly rain which makes gardening so very

worth while - indeed however much one can afford to use ones hose pipe, it never seems to be so effective as some real rain! In the middle section, WATAMU, we had 2.5" in March, 3" in April and a very nice 7" in May. This totalled 15.5" for the first five months of the year as compared for the same period in 2014 of 11.25". Let us pray each of the future months of 2015 will be similarly bountiful!

Indeed for the first time I really felt that my expenditure in constructing 50,000 gallons of under-ground water tanks and the companion water collection areas over the previous two or three years, which has enabled my gardener to actively water and spray (most appreciated by the bromeliads and orchids)

those areas most in need when ever there was two or three days without rain (this meant the whole of December, January and February!) had really paid off!

Finally again since our last edition we have had our AGM and as the last word of these Notes I would like to thank our members for re-electing the whole Committee with one new member - Jonathan Baya - who I know will be a valuable new addition to our team.

With my best regards and please, as a final plea, do re-read my opening paragraph and maybe put pen to paper?

John.

Jonathan Baya

**A WELCOME
ADDITION TO
YOUR
COMMITTEE**



Our new Committee Member, is a local man, through and through. Born in 1962 in the North West part of the Arabuko Sokoke Forest and a member of the Mugiriama tribe, Jonathan Baya Karisa (Maglasi) now lives in Turtle Bay Village and earns his living as a freelance bird watching guide. (www.tracktours.weebly.com)

Jonathan's interest in gardening stems from his early employment by the late Barbara Simpson who encouraged his involvement in nature and horticulture and even sent him on a parataxonomy course at Kakamega Forest. From there he worked for nine years as a bird ringer with A Rocha Kenya, before branching out into business on his own.

Jonathan is married and has five children and 4 grand children. He is a Committee member on the Watamu Association and has been a member of the KHS since 1990. We very much welcome him to the team.

Know your Committee



**A LITTLE BIT
ABOUT THE
CHAIRMAN**

To try and summarise John Golds c.v. here would be an impossible task. His adventures and achievements in Wajir and the Caribbean are the stuff of legend. Let's just talk about gardening.

John's interest in gardening was kindled in the Caribbean when he started growing orchids on his small patio. From there he moved to Virginia, USA, where, as Chairman of a Company Group building luxury retirement homes, he found himself having to provide gardens aimed at the elderly. In the process, he developed a prize winning garden for his own house .

Returning to Kenya, he started on the 7 acre seaside scrubland that was Bilgewater. Ten years later he has a mixed garden where flowering shrubs, succulents, bromeliads, orchids, and ponds predominate and untidily intermingle. In addition there is an area of indigenous and imported trees and bushes and 2 acres of untouched original coastal forest.

North Coast AGM. Vanessa Aniere reports.

The sun shone brightly on the beautiful garden and the dining room buzzed with excitement on the 1st April 2015. The Driftwood, as usual, turned out to be a perfect setting for the AGM of our newly named branch of KHS North

Coast District and everyone was looking forward to attending Dr. Lucy Kings' Power Point talk on Elephants and Bees. It turned out to be a record attendance with around 105 who came to listen to Lucy giving a wonderful and enthralling



Retiring Secretary, Pauline Balletto, receives thanks from the Chairman

talk on how small hold farmers can benefit from using bee hives to deter the elephants from raiding their precious crops. The project is very convincing and beneficial with a by-product of delicious honey produced by the farmers from their fences. We were happy to

auctioning some very precious jars that Lucy was able to spare – such is the demand for this nectar.

Our Chairman gave his usual, to the point speech, reminding us all as to how active the North Coast branch is and presenting the accounts from our treasurer Rupert. The sad point was the confirmation that our long standing secretary, Pauline, is stepping down after 25 years of devoted service. A book on bromeliads was presented to her in small appreciation for a tremendous job done. All other members of the committee were re-elected, with some new blood injected from Jonathan Baya Karisa, a well-known ornithologist from the Arabuko Sokoke Forest. We look forward to having him on the committee.

A delicious lunch was served to 52 people ending a very pleasant day for all KHS members and their guests.

raise 9,000/- by

Taking a stand at Chelsea. Some ^{do not} like it hot

In 1998, my son's nursery held probably the largest collection of Violas in the world. The collection had belonged to Richard Cawthorne whose name is preserved in many of the varieties he had bred, and as well as over 500 cultivars, there was a good number of species. Richard was a wild character – a Commando in the war and a tremendous lady's man. All the varieties bred by him had girls' names, and we used to speculate that when he wished to bring an affair to an end, he would tell the discarded lover that he would never forget her because he had named this beautiful new plant after her: there were over 200 such names.

About three days before the Chelsea Flower Show opened, an exhibitor pulled out leaving an empty space outside the marquees, exactly opposite the main gate on the Embankment, and my son was asked to fill it without paying the usual fee. Luckily we had a good selection of plants in show condition and plenty of catalogues to distribute, so without quite realising what we had

achieved, we agreed. One cannot deliver to the site except at night so 4 am saw us setting up our stand. Then breakfast in the exhibitors' tent and back to the stand to await the arrival of the VIPs on the first day of the show (they ignored us). On the first public day, I was in charge and awaited the crowds nervously. I needn't have worried: like a herd of lemmings, the crowd came through the

NIGEL MAY REVEALS THAT SHOWING AT CHELSEA IS HARD GRAFT AND THAT NOT EVERYTHING SMELLS OF ROSES

were lucky not to be indoors, as the Violas on a rival's indoor stand all 'stretched' and had to be replaced every night.



Victorian Violas stand at Chelsea 2015 (Photo © RHS)

Gradually people came to visit the stand including some existing customers. You are not allowed to sell plants until the last afternoon of the show, but you can take orders for later delivery. I handed out most of our catalogues and if we didn't make many sales, we met some interesting people. But my main memory is of being overheated in a smart suit and of a very sore back.

gates and, without exception and for no reason that anyone could give, turned to the right and vanished. It began to be very hot, and remained so all week. We

That was the only time we showed at Chelsea—and frankly it was enough.

Nigel May

RHS Chelsea 2015 Overview

**YET AGAIN, OUR INTREPID
REPORTER, BELLE NANTON,
BRAVES
THE MAELSTROM OF PRESS
PREVIEW DAY**

(Photos courtesy of the RHS)

The Royal Horticultural Society Chelsea Flower show never fails to deliver, this year again showcasing what one social commentator calls “a great piece of theatre, a fantastically British thing, both grand and ordinary.”

Usually, the site is a place where one Chelsea Pensioner I met, walks his dog on the long lawn. Three weeks of a “build” and that lawn is transformed into a grand collection of Show gardens, smaller Fresh and Artisan gardens and a



The Brewin Dolphin Garden

Grand Pavilion oozing its heady mix of scent and blossom perfection.

After a cold start to our Press Preview day, the sun emerged in the afternoon to illuminate such treasures as Brewin Dolphin’s heritage-themed Show garden complete with artful daisies growing out of chinks in a stone wall. Designer Don Pearson, coaxed back to Chelsea after a 15-year absence, clinched best in show with his Laurent Perrier-sponsored triangular Chatsworth Garden whose buttercups and other native species emerged delicately from leaf mulch. Flowering aquilegias were ubiquitous,



The Chatsworth Garden



The ‘lances’ of the Living Legacy Garden

including a stunner called “Ruby Port” blooming in the Living Legacy Garden commemorating the 200th anniversary of the Battle of Waterloo.

Singapore-based duo John Tan and Raymond Toh gave us a tropical Hidden Beauty of Kranji multi-level waterfall plunging into an oasis surrounded with thick foliage and ferns. Fresh Gardens included the gorgeous World Vision garden inspired by Cambodia. Here, translucent orange rods in the pond



The Hidden Beauty of Kranji

represented rice paddies, alongside mirrored boxes sunken into the pond containing delicate cacti and other plants, symbolizing nurture for children.

Likewise, the People’s choice favorite Fresh Garden, Breakthrough Breast Cancer drew on the inspiration of genetic research with a DNA helix shape stone pathway over water pools, planted alongside in hopeful soft, ethereal pinks, greens and whites.

Now, for those potatoes. RHS Chelsea Garden product of the year is a potato

planter that allows you to check the development of the potatoes and pick them week after week without digging up the plant (www.agralan.co.uk). Potato pot beat out a revolutionary light-weight (9 kg) swish wheelbarrow built from recyclable plastic and some dashing lightweight tri blade shears with fibreglass handles.

Once inside the Grand Pavilion, I was drawn past new David Austin rose species, double-flowered clematis and the National Collections of lupins and dahlias to Morrice and Ann Innes’ gold-medal winning collection of potato varieties, the first gold ever to be awarded to a tuber-only exhibit. Jazzy, a high-yielding salad potato sat alongside blight-resistant Sarpo Axona, just two of the biggest private potato collection in Europe of over 300 species.

I said hello to our perennial favorites:



‘Spuds Galore’

Sergeant Johnson Beharry VC at the Grenada stand and the young folk on Miracle Gro, before spending time with the man on the RHS Answer Desk. In 2011, he said, someone brought in a mystery caterpillar for identification, later recorded as the first Box Tree caterpillar in the UK. “It putated into a moth,” he said, adding that this was a unique ask. Year after year, the most popular question he fields is “Why doesn’t my wisteria flower?”



The Bank of Canada’s Garden

Flower Photography - Part 3. Composition. Peter Derry continues

No matter what camera you use, composition is the first requirement for a great image. Rule one. Ignore all rules. Take lots of photos from lots of angles. Throw most of them away. The more photos you take the more you will understand what works and the better you will get. And now the tips (not rules) that may help.

Rule of thirds (Tip of thirds doesn't sound quite right)

A lot of cameras allow a grid to be displayed on the viewer. This will normally be two horizontal and two vertical lines. These will divide the frame into thirds. The idea is to have points of central interest aligned with one or more of the lines, and in particular at intersections. It was dreamed up a few thousand years ago by some clever Greek as the golden



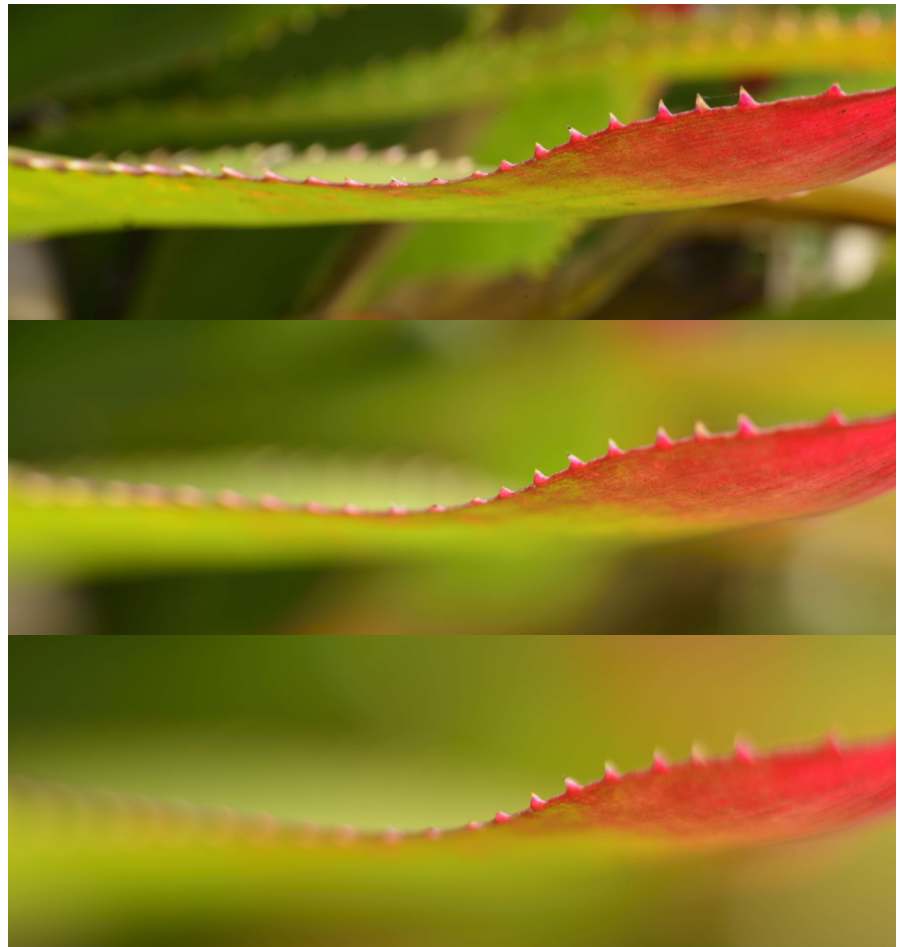
ratio and still used by us today so there must be merit in there. As a point of interest you'll notice Shamba Times has three columns. It gets everywhere! Don't be a slave to it, but give it a go. It really helps to produce a well-balanced image. Flowers often demand to be taken in a certain way, but it's worth experimenting with different angles. The results can be surprising. And try this technique on garden shots. There can be a lot going on and this can help simplify the position and balance the image.



Depth of field

This is where things get a bit technical, but it's an important concept to understand from the beginning. Roughly speaking when a camera focuses on a point other areas in front and behind will also be in focus. The distance between the closest and furthest objects in focus

flexibility the DSLR wins. Set the aperture wider (lower number) to reduce the amount in focus. Be warned though, the lower the focal point of the lens the wider the depth of field. A 100mm macro lens will give a narrow field so the problem is to get enough in focus. A 24mm lens will give a huge field so the



is known as the depth of field. Roughly one third of the distance will be in front of the point of focus and two thirds behind. This is creativity important as you want the areas of attention in focus and background nice and fuzzy. Current fashion is for a very shallow depth of field, perhaps no more than a millimetre or two. I like pin sharp uncluttered images for flowers. For depth of field

problem is to clear the clutter from the background.

The point and shoot users can also use this tip. The flower mode will be a nice balance and if you make sure the background is clean, and preferably far away, your shots should be great. To reduce the depth of field, turn to sports mode. Here speed is king so the camera will increase the aperture to let more light in to get motion freezing speed. Landscape mode (the little mountains) will give a wide focus range so won't really help for close up flowers.

Have a look at last year's RHS photo competition, details section, (<https://www.rhs.org.uk/Promotions/rhs-photo-competition/Photo-galleries>) – there are some lovely examples of this being used beautifully

Now we Know. John Golds Vanda

Dear Ingeborg,

Sorry to bother you but Katana has been asked the name of our original Vanda. When it arrived ten years ago it did not flower. Then about 5 years ago Katana sought your advice and you said needs more sun. We moved it and since then it has never stopped flowering! Katana thinks it is *Vandaenopsis* "Frank Atherton", a hybrid *Phalaenopsis* x *Vanda*? But has asked me to check with you!

Best regards and again apologies

John



Dear John,

While it is difficult – or impossible – to guess hybrid names (there are over 150,000 registered hybrids) – in this case I can give you an educated guess, since I am pretty sure that I have several plants of the same hybrid which flowers freely in Nairobi and in Kilifi – as long as it gets a lot of direct sun.

It is a cross between *Vanda Josephine van Brero* x *Vanda Tatzeri*, made in the late 1950ies. The registered name of this cross is *Vanda Howell Mundell*. There have been several taxonomic changes and this is why it is also called by its new generic name *Papilionanda Howell Mundell* but I would not bother. At the last World Orchid Conference held in Sandton, South Africa, old and new names were acceptable.

Katana's guess is totally wrong! A cross between a *Phalaenopsis* and a *Vanda* would have broad leaves while your plant has semi-terete leaves, V-shaped in cross section; This is due to one of the parents in this hybrid's background, *Vanda* or *Papilionanthe teres*, having pencil-like leaves, round in cross section.

Furthermore a *Vandaenopsis* would have softer and broader leaves which would burn pretty fast in direct sunlight.

Tell Katana not to guess names based on photos with similar-looking flowers.

Always a pleasure to help!

Best wishes

Ingeborg

Term starts Again

This year's Gardeners Course, the fifth in the series, was on the subject of Growing from Seed and was designed to be in two parts. Part I was held at three venues on consecutive days, starting at Kilifi on 14th May 2015. A crowd of 42 gardeners crammed into Marion Langham's house to hear her and Katana May deliver their well proven format of combined PowerPoint presentation and Swahili translation on how to plant seeds and care for the seedlings. Clearly the

representative range of vegetables. Afterwards, each gardener was given a selection of seeds and told to go away and put theory into practice. In due time they would be visited to measure their success.

The following day, the exercise was repeated in Watamu where some 15 gardeners gathered at the Ocean Turtle Trust. This was a new venue for the organizers and it proved to be ideal, with a warm welcome being extended by the

MARION LANGHAM RINGS THE BELL FOR A FIFTH COURSE— "GROWING FROM SEED".

Part II of the course will be held in the Autumn. The intention is that the Gardeners will report on and discuss the results of their planting before moving on to more advanced planting. It is also intended to hold another general garden



The Kilifi contingent



Watamu at The Ocean Turtle Trust

subject is far too varied and complex to be covered in one morning so the presentation concentrated on a small

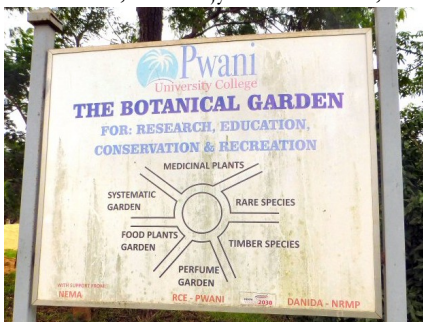
staff. The final session was held in Malindi at the Driftwood Club and that attracted 20 attendees.

knowledge test, which was enjoyed so much last year.

Chris Betts

The Botanical Gardens at Pwani University, Kilifi

Whilst Pwani University, Kilifi is fairly young as Universities go, it is not short of ideas and ambition. Amongst its current projects is the creation of a Botanical Garden with the stated objectives of fostering Research, Education, Conservation and Recreation. Guided by the Chair of the Garden Committee, Dr Najya Muhammed, and



with financial support from the National Environment Management Authority (NEMA), a plot of some five acres has been laid out and landscaped with walkways and seating areas leading the visitor through a number of different themed gardens. Fruiting trees and shrubs give way to perfumed plants to grass species. Other parts feature medicinal plants, value timber, endangered species, and succulents. In



the centre, yet to be constructed, will be a wetland area with a small lake.

Of course the project is still very much work in progress. It takes time for plants to get established and mature. NEMA's contribution is pretty much exhausted now and, like everyone else, funding is tight so the small core of employed gardeners is supplemented by students and other volunteers under the able tutelage of Mr Tuva Muinde, the horticulturist and Deputy Chair of the Garden Committee, who is in charge of the day to day running of the garden.

Mr Tuva Muinde & Dr Najya Muhammed standing with Dr Subaila Hashim (Chair of Chemistry & Biochemistry Dept) in the recently planted 'Colourful' garden, which should, in time, develop into a fine display of flowering and foliage plants.

At the moment the garden is primarily a University facility. Much remains to be done but the University welcomes interested visitors and is grateful for any help or contributions to its stock.

Anyone interested in visiting the Garden is welcome to contact Dr Muhammed on 0722 562 276 to arrange things.

Care and propagation of Citrus Fruits—The Green way

Growing citrus fruits is clearly a subject our KHS members wanted to learn about and, apparently, John Munga, David Green's head man at the coast, was the man to teach us.. Originally the plan was to arrange a talk for earlier in the year, before the 'swallows' departed for the UK, but we were advised that the trees would be in poor condition at that time and that it would be better to hold the event after the start of the rains. In spite of that, some 35 people gathered at David's shamba on 28th May to hear



John demonstrates grafting



An attentive audience listens to John Munga explain about grafting.

John deliver a well constructed talk and demonstration on the care and propagation of citrus trees.

David had kindly allowed us the use his house and so the morning started with coffee on the verandah whilst we waited for the stragglers and professional navigators to show up. Then John started his talk, opening with some general information on the care of the trees before giving an excellent demonstration of the two best methods of grafting. The morning concluded

with a walk around the orchard, where John showed us how to prune and shape a tree.

Everyone enjoyed John's lecture and we all left full of enthusiasm to either take more care of our established citrus plants or place orders with John for grafted plants (John handed out notes on his talk at the meeting, copies of which can be obtained from Marion Langham)

Marion Langham

A Roundup of the Others

SATURDAY 7TH. MARCH.
**LOBSTER LUNCH
ON THE
TURTLE BAY DHOW**

before enjoying the excellent food, drinks, and service on board. Lobster, prawns, and succulent filet, all washed down with never ending supplies of free drinks kept one and all fully occupied until it was time to head for home.

FRIDAY 29TH MARCH.
**SUSIE ALLEN
ON
SUCCULENTS**

This was one of our regular and deservedly very popular lunch trips on the Turtle Bay dhow. Guided by Jonathan Baya, our newly elected Committee Member, the 24 people who attended admired the many different birds on Mida Creek, before enjoying the excellent food, drinks, and service on board. Lobster, prawns, and succulent filet, all washed down with never ending supplies of free drinks kept one and all fully occupied until it was time to head for home.

Susie Allan is a KHS judge and an acknowledged expert on the growing of succulents, which she cultivates in her fine garden at Langata. Her talk on 'Succulents and their definition', attracted an impressive turnout of 63 members, which rather overwhelmed the space available at John Golds house in Watamu. Never the less everyone squeezed in and watched her interesting PowerPoint presentation.



Photo courtesy of Turtle Bay Beach Club

Afterwards people had the opportunity to browse through her book "Letilet Tales - The Vanishing World of a Hunter Gatherer" which describes, with supporting pictures, over 300 indigenous plants of use to tribal groups in Kenya, before moving on to enjoy their picnic lunches in John's many featured garden.

New to Orchids? So am I.



Phalaenopsis

This is not an in-depth treatise on Orchids; it is a mixed assortment of advice, gained from my experiences and trawled from the net, on how to get the best from your orchids here at the coast.

First, if like me you are new to growing orchids, don't be afraid. They will test your patience and it is important to be just that. The Orchid family is one of the largest families of flowering plants and can be found in almost every habitat around the world apart from glaciers. Some do well at the coast; others are completely unsuited or can be very difficult. Concentrate on the easy ones first.



Dendrobium. One of the easier orchids to grow at the coast—and one of the most showy.

Getting the watering right is one of the most difficult aspects of growing them successfully. More are killed by overwatering than thirst. If in doubt, wait a day. There are exceptions but, for the moment, the general rule is a good one.

Orchids do not like 'wet feet' but they do very much like humidity.

Movement of air is important. It prevents fungal problems and helps the plant dry out faster. The roots are covered with velamen which is a white spongy layer and absorbs large quantities of water fast but the velamen needs to dry out before being watered again.



One of John Golds' beautiful Cattleyas

Flush the pots regularly. This prevents the build up of salts from fertiliser.

Avoid growing the orchids in dense shade. If they are placed in too much shade the plant will look healthy and green but I can hear a plaintive cry of "My orchids never flower."

It can be difficult to get the right balance of light/shade but it is worth the effort. If you grow the orchid on a tree make sure it does not have a dense canopy. The sun should be able to give the plants dappled light. Alternatively they can be mounted on pieces of wood and then hung in the appropriate place. The beauty of this is that when the plants are in flower they can be moved closer to the house.

Don't move your orchid in one step from a shady place to more sun. Take it in stages and let the plant get acclimatised to the change. Always watch out for sun burn.

So long as they are still green, don't remove damaged leaves because they will still nourish the plant



A mixed bag. Dendrobium at the front with Phalaenopsis in the background.

Try to sterilise your cutting tools

Fertilise once a week using a weak solution 20-20-20. Add 3/4 of an aspirin to 1 gallon of water to help prevent fungal infection.

Use Epsom salts once a fortnight. 1 tablespoon of Epsom Salts to 1 ltr water. Epsom salts is high in magnesium.

Listerine (gold colour) is effective against dudus and prevents fungal infections. Spray full strength if you find you have a problem.

Leaves that are bent like an accordion are caused by uneven levels of humidity around the roots with intense growth of new shoots. These cannot escape the older leaves and become crinkled.

Black spots on blossoms are a fungal infection. Try not to spray flowers when spraying the plant.

Use cinnamon spice as a disinfectant when pruning

Marion Langham



Another Cattleya from John Golds garden

Bromeliads—Part 4 Graeme Barclay continues his series

Following on from Part 3, where we covered removing pups, watering and fertilizing, we now finish by looking at the basics of controlling common diseases and pests – and also protecting your broms from the elements.

Disease Control

Thankfully, bromeliads are relatively hardy and generally not susceptible to a wide range of problems, though there are a few common ones you are certainly likely to strike. The “disease” or “rot” we normally see, is actually fungal growth that thrives on high humidity and poor air circulation around the plant. Therefore as a general rule, firstly ensure plants are not planted or kept jammed too close together -and they always have a good air flow around them. Broms in the garden normally do not suffer from this problem as much as those indoors



*Typical “cold spotting”, not a disease – very common on foliage *Vriesea*.*

or in greenhouses, where the air circulation can be vastly reduced.

The most common fungal disease (normally phytophthora) will often attack a weak spot in the plant where damage to the leaf has occurred from such things as sun scorch, cold spotting or heavy metal poisoning.

As mentioned in part two, bromeliads do not like ANY contact with treated timber or exposure to copper and zinc, where the smallest doses can cause severe burning to leaves.

Secondly, always ensure any water runoff from treated timber, galvanized shelving and nails etc, does not land on plants below. After damage occurs, that part of the leaf will die and quickly start to rot, which is where the fungus can attack, enter the leaf and quickly spread. This is very common in the vase (cup) of the tank forming broms, near the base of the outer leaves and sometimes in the very base of the plant at or below the soil surface (known as “Footrot”). The diseased tissue looks brown, grey-bluish, black or transparent in colour and often has a bad smell (see photo).

For more widespread infestations of scale and mealy bug on leaves, mix a little Sunlight dishwashing detergent or baby shampoo with water and thoroughly spray the infected areas. The soap coats and suffocates the insects. After a while, rinse the plants off with clean water so pores on the leaves open, allowing the plant to breathe. DO NOT use heavy oil based insecticides, as these can often clog and choke the plant.

Slugs, snails, earwigs and weta do not normally cause major damage but will often use the leaves for a place to hide and breed. However, they have been known to gain “appetites for destruction” all of a sudden, especially on new leaf growth, flower spikes and pups that are forming. So, the best precaution is to simply get rid of them when they are seen. Slug bait does the trick and being brave to find a new home for your weta is the best idea.

For treatment, tip all the water from the plant, cut out any rot and completely remove all loose and rotted leaves. Thoroughly clean and rinse the plant



Here fungal disease has attacked leaf damage, likely caused by treated timber poisoning or hot water from the hose in summer.

with clean water a few times so no rotted tissue is left behind, then generously spray with a fungicide such as Yates Bravo or Fongarid 25WP at the recommended mix rate for ornamental plants. Allow it to dry out for a few days before watering, then monitor for further attacks and to ensure new undamaged growth is occurring.

If you have bad earwig infestation, insecticide spray again is probably the only cure.

Mosquitoes are the other major pest associated with broms, and are common in the large open tank forming genera, where they have plenty of warmth and stagnant water for the larvae to develop. In summer, check for dark wriggling larvae and flush out the cups regularly with a hose if they are present. You can also make up a spray using 500ml Sunlight dishwashing liquid; 200ml household cloudy ammonia; 100ml Citronella or Pine-o-Clean disinfectant. Mix and pour the contents into 5 litres of cold water and keep it in sealed bottles. Then use 3 tablespoons per litre of water for spraying the plants every week until no larvae are seen. The mixture kills all wriggles and will not harm the broms. Alternatively you can liberally sprinkle spent coffee grounds over the affected plants, the caffeine soaking into the water will eventually kill the larvae too.

Pest Control

Scale sucking insects will attach themselves to any part of a leaf, often on the sheltered underside. They can be fluffy white, grey or small and black and cause yellow/brown spots, which permanently damages the leaf and can look very unsightly. Scale can be physically scraped and wiped off with a cotton ball soaked in methylated spirits, which will kill the eggs and microscopic “crawler babies” that are hard to see.

Mealy bug can also attack the leaves and is sometimes also seen around the roots if a brom is removed from a pot or the garden. This is also fluffy white in appearance and can be treated as for scale above if on a leaf. For root attacks, it can only be treated by spraying with a suitable insecticide, or alternatively cutting the roots almost completely off and starting the plant again as if it were a pup. Ensure the any infested potting mix and root material is carefully discarded, so it is not spread to other plants.

Gallery



Hylocereus undatus by Marion Langham



Tillandsia ionantha by Rupert Partridge



Vriesea splendens by Rupert Partridge



Cordaline terminalis by Juma James Kalana

Notice Board

How to make Good Soil

Developing good fertile soil is always a challenge here at the coast. Marion's courses never stop stressing the need for gardeners to do something about it. Members may find the following link a useful source of information on how to improve your soil.

<http://greenharvest.com.au/GreenGardenNotes/OrganicSoilImprovement.html>

Six of the Best Tropical Plants

Rupert Partridge has pointed me to this article in South African Garden and Home. Marianne Alexander has picked six plants to make your garden lush, colourful and exciting. All are available and grow well here. Follow http://www.gardenandhome.co.za/article_t2.aspx?id=46205

You may also be interested to look at Marianne's Facebook page for information on gardens to visit in South Africa: <https://www.facebook.com/opengardensconstantia>

For sale at your District Shop

Black Poly Bags

14 x 14 inch, each	15/-
6 x 10 inch, each	6/-
5 x 9 inch, each	5/-

Various

The Nature Trail in Gede	300/-
KHS Gardening in East Africa Book	1500/--
Coast Gardening Course Notes	500/--
Notelets (Pkt of 4)	200/--
Bridge Score Notepads	50/--
Secateurs	1500/--
Rooting Powder	500/--
Garden Gloves (sizes M and S)	750/--
EM-1	350/--
Molasses (1 ltr)	150/--
Oasis Blocks	150/--
Cedar wood Orchid Baskets, made to order	
Large	1000/-
Medium	800/-

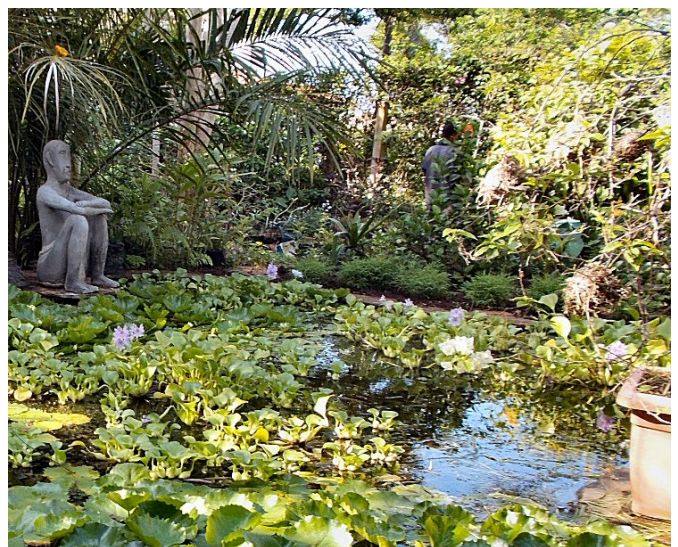
Call Elfried on 0733 - 839267 (Absum 8/7 to 4/9)

The Lost Island of Socotra

Giovanni Parazzi has found an fascinating story about this most astonishing place. The article is published on a number of different sites but go to <http://www.binscorner.com/pages/s/strange-plants-of-socotra-island.html?z=10> and be prepared to be amazed by the weird and beautiful flora and fauna of this unique environment.



Clerodendron paniculatum by Juma James Kalama



'Contemplation' by Juma James Kalama



Aster 'Michaelmas Daisy' by Marion Langham

Ask Maude

Q. I had this for Christmas last, and do not know how to plant in it.. It has no drain holes or anything, and I have never seen anything like it.



A. What a beautiful present. I think it was probably meant to be a lampshade but you could turn this into a miniature bottle garden.

To do this you need to find small plants and carefully place them in the planter. This can be very attractive, although I find them a lot of work and, because of our climate, things tend to grow rather fast in the bottle and so you have to keep replacing the plants or pruning them down. As there is no drainage, watering has to be done very carefully – not too little; not too much.

Plant of the Month

—The Coconut Palm

RATHER TAKEN FOR GRANTED, THE COCONUT PALM ADDS GRACE TO YOUR GARDEN



If you live at the coast, you are almost certain to have palm trees growing in your garden. They abound here and come in so many different shapes and sizes. Marion has complete books given over to nothing but palms. Flipping through one of these tomes, I see that palms are indigenous to every continent except Antarctica; that their full grown height can be as little as six inches to as much as 150 feet; that there are climbing palms; that a leaf can grow to 70 feet in length; and that the seed of one species, *Lodoicea*, is the largest in the world.

Be that as it may, and we seem to have a profusion of different species in our garden, my favourite is the simple coconut palm, *Cocos nucifera*, and the best of those is the 'Golden Palm', which we understand comes from Malaysia. Short and stubby, quick growing, and heavy fruiting, it is a most attractive addition to any garden.

Ours were acquired, almost by chance, from one of the masons building our house, who turned up one day with some nuts. Gardeners, it seems, are universal!

Chris Betts.



OCTOBER

SATURDAY/SUNDAY, 17TH/18TH OCTOBER

FLOWERS FOR EVERYONE

Last year's popular Flower Festival is to be repeated, this time over two days, at the same venue, The Mnarani Club, Kilifi. The format will be much the same as last year with the emphasis on having an enjoyable day out amongst the best horticultural displays at the Coast.

Most of last year's attractions like the Gala Dinner, orchid display, district shop, and planting display will be repeated. In addition, it is hoped to arrange for a guest speaker to give us a talk on Sunday, AM.

Full details and entry forms will be distributed to all members shortly. In the meantime, to give you all a chance to start preparing entries, a provisional list of the classes for the Show is posted below.

- Class 1** – Cut Foliage 50 cu cm
A display of specimen foliage from one or more species.
- Class 2** – Single Large Plant 1 cu M
A large specimen plant growing in a container
- Class 3** – Single Medium Plant 75 cu cm
A medium sized specimen plant growing in a container
- Class 4** – Single Small Plant 50 cu cm
A small specimen plant growing in a container
- Class 5** – Display of Plants 1 cu M
A displayed collection of three or more growing plants in one or more containers.
- Class 6** – Display of cut flowers 50 cu cm
A display of three or more specimen blooms/sprays in one or more containers.
- Class 7** – A Display of Succulents 1 cu M
A displayed collection of growing succulents in one or more containers
- Class 8** – Table Flower Arrangement 75 cu cm
Flower arrangement suitable for a domestic dining table. This may be arranged at home and brought to the show
- Class 9** – 'On the Spot' Arrangement 75 cu cm
Exhibitors will be supplied with a basic pack of a stand, some Oasis, and a core of the same three display items. Then, with access to as much greenery as they want, they will be asked to construct an arrangement on the spot.
- Class 10** – Photograph Max Size 21 x 30 cm
A flower portrait (a dominant single bloom/spray) taken by the exhibitor at the coast
- Class 11** – Photograph Max Size 21 x 30 cm
A photograph of horticultural interest taken by the exhibitor at the coast.
- Class 12** – A 'Pulitzer'
An short article of not more than 500 words, illustrated by photographs and/or living specimens, on a matter of horticultural interest at the Coast.



For your Diary**JULY****SATURDAY, 11TH JULY, AT 10.30 AM****CARBON CREDITS AND OUR FORESTS**

At the Turtle Bay Beach Club, Watamu, presented by Cara Braund, Conservation Manager of the Wildlife Works Trust. This should be a hugely interesting talk, well supported by pictures, covering the work of the Wildlife Works Trust, how Carbon Credits work, and why they are so relevant to climate change. This will include information on their Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation (REDD) Project. Cara will also talk a bit about the history of the Kasigau Game Corridor, the creation of community benefits and sustainable livelihoods, and close with a look at the future of REDD and the Wildlife Works Trust.

On sale in the Conference room will be our normal KHS gardening items plus a table of goods prepared by the Wildlife Works project, including soaps and many other items of a high quality.

After the talk members are invited stay on to chat and enjoy a fixed priced lunch in the TBBC Pizza Restaurant. The price will be 1,000/- (paid on the day) and the menu will be soup, salad bar, a prawn/lobster pizza (or one of your choice) followed by ice-cream and coffee. Soft drinks will be complimentary and a reasonably priced cash bar will be available for wines etc. It would be helpful if those wishing to take advantage of this offer could send their names to John Golds (jmgolds@me.com) or Rupert Partridge (rupert.partridge@kenyahs.com) by Thursday 9th. July.

(Immediately after lunch, anyone interested in the the Yakuti 6 luxury home scheme adjacent to the TBBC entrance may view the houses and landscaping being completed by one of our members, Colleen Street.)

AUGUST**THURSDAY 27TH AUGUST AT 6 FOR 6.30 AM****ARABUKO SOKOKE FOREST SAFARI**

A guided stroll in the forest to see the birds and small mammals in this beautiful environment. Fees:- Adult 500/= (Citizen 200/=); Car 300/= . Bucks Fizz will be served and members are invited to bring a suitable breakfast to go with it. RV at main gate.

The Shamba Times is published quarterly for the benefit of it's Members by the North Coast District of The Kenya Horticultural Society. Articles for publication are welcome and should be addressed to the Editorial Office, as should any comments, suggestions, or corrections.

The Kenya Horticultural Society was established in 1923 for the purpose of stimulating and increasing interest and knowledge of gardens and plants in Kenya. The North Coast District extends from Vipingo in the South to Malindi in the North. Annual membership is Ksh 1000 per person (Ksh 1300 per couple). Corporate Membership is offered at Ksh 2000. Members gardeners are accepted for limited membership at a fee of Ksh 500 per annum.

M-Pesa payments can be made on 0702 767177

Editorial

Well , the rains have come and the place is looking green and fertile—a treat for anyone with an eye for beauty and a camera. I am pleased to say that our request for photos has not been entirely fruitless and some of those contributions are shown in the foregoing pages. I think they are very creditable. I hope that one or two other members will now be encouraged to send in their efforts as well—and, whilst on the subject, may I remind people that the closing date for entries into the KHS Calender Photo Competition is 30th June. Details were sent out by Rupert on 17th April. I dare say the organisers will accept something a day or so late. Fame (if not fortune) awaits anyone with the ambition and a 'Box Brownie'.

I am also pleased to report that we are at last getting the odd bit of correspondence. One member asked for more information on the strange fruits we featured last issue. Sadly, it would seem that nearly all are native to SE Asia or South America but the Sugar Apple is certainly available here (probably mis-named as it's cousin, the Custard Apple); I think you may occasionally find a Horned Melon in Nakumatt; and Marion has a Breadfruit tree in her garden. Keep it coming and let us have your suggestions and contributions. It is your paper!

You will have seen that we have listed a few websites on our notice board. May I recommend that you follow them up. There are some interesting articles there which were too long to reprint here but which you may enjoy reading.

Lastly, we thought you would like to know a bit more about some of your Committee Members. A very brief profile of the newest and of the eldest are on the front page. In the next issue we hope to tell you a little about one or two more.

cb

SEPTEMBER**THURSDAY, 24TH SEPTEMBER, AT 10 FO 10.30AM****THREE MOMBASA GARDENS**

A visit to three different Mombasa Gardens, guided by members of the Mombasa District. Further details to follow.

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