



## Chairman's Notes

Dear Member,

Rain continues to be below average in Watamu but I believe elsewhere in the District our gardeners have been a little more fortunate. Here, the total rainfall for the year was disappointing with June at 3.25", July, 2.25" and August, 1.65" making a total of 7.15" rain for the quarter, so we will have had a total for the year of 19.9". Bearable but not good and along most of the Coastal Belt the maize crops, on which our neighbours so depend to feed their families, will this year provide a minimal, if indeed any, crop!

However let us now turn to our Festival of Flowers on the 22nd/23rd. October, which is getting closer and closer and looks like being a really great event. Plans feature, not only exciting show classes, but some excellent side stalls, full of interesting items for either yourself or your garden: our own KHS shop; plant nurseries; Browns Cheeses; Wines; Motor Mowers; etc.; etc. Then we

are to have many side lectures and demonstrations on: grafting; medicinal plants; creation of ponds; creating a bee hotel; making a mini garden; etc, - lots of differing projects and subjects to benefit every gardener and provide great interest to all visitors. Last but not least, we will yet again have Dino Martins as our feature speaker on the Sunday morning!

**BUT** it will only be a real success if our members attend in large numbers and encourage their neighbours to visit on at least one of the two days the event is open. Above all else, the majority of our members and or their gardeners need to enter into at least two or three of the show classes. By the time you read these notes you will have received through the post full details of our Festival and a firm request to enter many exhibits into the show. Please do not put the event details on one side to be dealt with later. Do it now and enter the date in your diary. It will be no excuse to say, " but how do we get

our plants to Kilifi?". Simple - if you cannot deliver them yourselves, get them to your local gathering place on the Friday 21st. Details are in the show information papers. If you have any questions, email Chris Betts or Rupert Partridge or ask any member of your KHS committee.

Most important of all, actively support your committee, who are already working so hard to create our third Festival of Flowers, by entering items into the show, attending the event, and volunteering to help. Let me leave you with this repeated plea. Please give the greatest support to Chris Betts and his seriously hard working committee to make this forthcoming event the best ever! We, the North Coast District Committee, are relying on you all! Indeed, a closing question -why not come to our KHS annual dinner on the Saturday evening at the Mnarani Club? See you there!

With best regards, John.

## Flower of the Month

This is the time of year when *Beaumontia*, that extravagant, showy, climber with large trusses of pearly white blooms, bursts into flower. A small genus of evergreen woody vines in the Apocynaceae family, it is native to [China](#), the Indian Subcontinent, and Southeast Asia but is readily available here at the coast. There are some nine species of the plant of which *B. grandiflora* is the best known. Common names include Herald's Trumpet, Easter Lily Vine, and Nepal Trumpet Flower.

The plants are rampant evergreen climbers and, after three years, ours were reaching to the sky from the tops of the nearby trees. The clusters of large white fragrant flowers are borne on the woody stem and positively glow in the morning sunlight.

They like good soil, plenty of water (though not bog), and full to half sun. Propagation is from seed or heel cuttings.

cb



*Beaumontia grandiflora*

**Kilifi Gardens Tour, 28th July - Carissa Nightingale reports**



*Assembly at Rupert's*

**C**ongratulations to those, who arranged the visit on July 28th, to four Kilifi gardens. Further congratulations to those, who designed and created the gardens. Members and guests of the KHS North Coast District were warmly welcomed by Rupert Partridge, standing in the shade of a long-established Mbambakofi tree, at the entrance to his family's rambling "old Kenya" home. The visit started with coffee and delicious home-made biscuits, on the veranda overlooking, through the branches of indigenous trees below, the north shore of Kilifi creek. The tour of Rupert's garden revealed, nestling at the feet of magnificent old trees, a spectacular display of cherished, shiny-leaved bromeliads. Their leaves can be striped, speckled, plain green, purple, pink, or orange, while their flowers are equally varied in colour, pattern and shape. Rupert and his gardeners have found the optimum conditions for luxuriant growth of these strange plants.

The link between Rupert's house and the next site was bromeliads - not surprisingly, since our next host was Rupert's gardener. He lives, with his extended family, further up the creek, on the edge of the cliff, where he has set up, with a creative flare, a backpackers' retreat, amidst his family's traditional wattle and daub, makuti-roofed homes. Bromeliads and other attractive flowers cluster between the Kaloleni slate tables and seats, under shady trees. Chess boards are painted on the tables, notices in English adorn the water tank and walls of the "Food Factory". The ground was cleanly swept and there was a cleared patch of land for pitching backpackers' tents. The traditional lunches served here are said to be delicious.



*John Golds and host, Ramadhan Chengo*

Our next visits were south of the creek, first to the home of Celia Evans, where she has developed a garden incorporating, extremely imaginatively, the holes, tunnels and outcrops of the fossilised coral, on which she lives. Steps lead down the steep cliffs to secluded little shelves, where she has built concrete tables and chairs, overlooking the brilliant turquoise and mottled dark green of the mouth of the creek and the deep sea beyond. Again, shade comes from large, established trees, judiciously kept, when designing her garden, with an infinity swimming pool, tennis court and attractive walks. Her two houses are spectacular and very unusual, with barely a right-angle between them. The ground floor of the main house, including curved, concrete sofa, is open towards the swimming pool and sea beyond. A magnificent concrete staircase sweeps and curves up to the floors above. The smaller house, set at the edge of the cliffs, is similarly open plan, designed with the same creative use of sand-coloured concrete. It is said that all this has been accomplished in three years!

Our last stop was to enjoy our picnic lunches in another old Kenya garden on the southern cliffs of Kilifi creek. Liza Long's substantial, double-storey house, with archways and full length veranda, looked down on the lawn, where we were picnicking, near the cliff-edge, and where her son, Richard, has built a smaller, very differently styled house, beside a splendid baobab, around which lies a flower bed of unusual, but complementary plants - such as pink Christthorn.

The final treat of the day was to visit Elfried's "car boot sale", for supplies from the KHS North Coast District's stock of

secateurs, seed packets, soil improvers and other necessities for passionate gardeners.



*Celia Evans' cliff top eyrie*

## Elephants and Bees - Belle Nanton meets Lucy King

Long considered nature's arch multi-taskers, one group of the world's 20,000-odd species of bees is busier than most. In the shadow of the beautiful Sagala Hills bordering Kenya's Tsavo National Park, African Savannah honeybees forage all day, collecting nectar and pollinating before returning to their hives. Meanwhile, crop-raiding elephants in the nearby park sniff the breeze and—lured by the scent of ripening maize and cowpea crops in farmers' fields—head over for a nighttime snack.

Here on the edge of Kenya's largest national park, the **Elephants and Bees Project** is working to stop the marauding elephants. Partially funded by the Disney Conservation Fund, the project is spearheaded by Save the Elephants, Oxford University, and Dr. Lucy King, who received her PhD from Oxford. It is also 80 per cent successful in preventing elephants from crop raiding. As King notes, at the core of the initiative was discovering that African elephants are scared of wild African honeybees.

"[They] will avoid live beehives at all costs to avoid getting stung around the eyes, face, trunk, and mouth," says King,



*Bee Fence in Tsavo National Park*

who, along with Kenyan farmers, has harnessed the power of the African honeybee to speak to pachyderms. Veteran Elephants and Bees Project farmers Charity Mwangome and Nzumu Wabongo surround their *shambas* (crop fields) with beehives strung on wires. When elephants wander toward their land by dark and try to push through the shoulder-high wire, it causes the attached beehives to swing violently, disturbing and releasing bees that irritate the elephants. Mounted infrared cameras take photos at night, and the team has compiled ID sheets of the 12 most notorious elephant crop raiders.

"The project is providing a sense of empowerment to these farmers," says King, explaining that one night of crop

raiding can, in effect, wipe out a family's school fees for a year. "It's also giving them another income stream in the form of selling their honey and beeswax for profit." Last year, Taita-Taveta County farmers made 480 jars of honey. The farmers, in turn, protect their workers' well-being by covering the hives with thatched roofs to ensure the insects don't overheat, become aggressive, and leave.

Kenya's breathtaking biodiversity is enthralling. King and a new, young

cadre of Kenyan conservationists are honouring that diversity, working collaboratively to dissuade elephants from putting themselves in harm's way. Once home to 45,000 elephants, Tsavo National Park saw those numbers crash to a low of 6,000 during the seventies' ivory crisis.

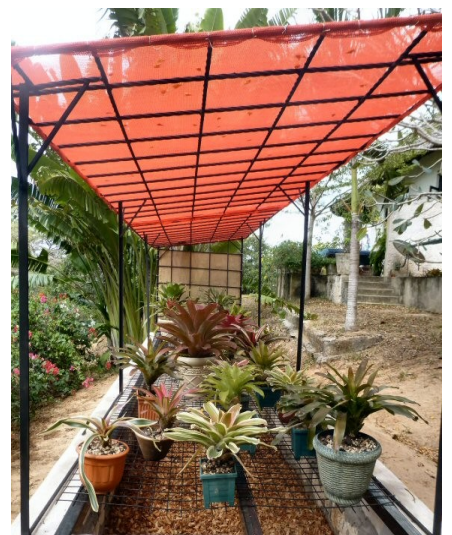
"That number has now recovered to 14,000," says King. She recalls her first *ab-ba* moment with Elephants and Bees while travelling in the Samburu National Reserve. Within seconds of a thrown stone hitting a hive, it erupted with buzzing bees. "An alarmed elephant family immediately took off at a run along the riverbank, kicking up dust until they were out of sight."



*Aechmea chantinii*



*Bromeliad Guzmania hybrid*



*Rupert's latest brometharium*

**A KAREN GARDEN, THEN AND NOW - Belle Nanton recalls**

THE  
RESURRECTION  
GARDENS  
RE-VISITED

For a couple of years in the Seventies, I lived with my Aunts, “the Carr sisters”, and their peripatetic brother, Uncle Robert, at Rhino Cottage, Karen. They had bought the thirty lush acres from Mr. Wanjigi, after leaving their stud farm in what was then Thomson’s Falls. Keen gardeners three, the Aunts, Sonia and Catney, and Robert transformed the shamba South of the horse stables into elaborate, rolling flower beds while Robert, a Heath Robinson inventor, concocted a magnificent irrigated veg. garden, where fraises de bois and asparagus flourished under extensive netting to deter the mouse birds. This project was so successful, their niece was co-opted before work into delivering their produce from her VW Beetle to select Nairobi Hotel kitchens.

Fig trees flourished near the Rhino Cottage kitchen: their fruit delicious when paired with thick Jersey cream from Aunt Sonia’s Jersey cows. Meanwhile, Aunt Catney planted slopes of agapanthus. These, I recall pale under the moonlight, when arriving at 3 a.m. on a Saturday morning after a Hard



Day’s Night working as a disc jockey at The Golf Range (now the Carnivore).

While the Aunts and Uncle Robert are long gone, their gardens have blossomed further into the wonderful Resurrection Gardens, developed by the Fathers of Consolota Mission who bought Rhino Cottage from them at the end of the Eighties. Open to pilgrims and secular visitors alike, The Gardens are a place of deep beauty where many Kenyans come for peace, quiet, and contemplation in gorgeous shady surroundings, particularly around Easter time.

When Rupert and I last visited, we thrilled at how the Aunts’ gardens have grown into such lovely maturity. Absolute silence is observed. Photography is not encouraged. Birdsong melody prevails, though I listened in vain for the hearty shriek of the Hadada Ibis who used to greet my departure for work. Maybe their hours in the Garden of Eden are limited? Aunt Catney’s agapanthus still bloom, while her Bombax tree has reached a mighty height, as have other acacias and trees she propagated.

A low wall, inscribed with The Lord’s prayer in all the Kenyan local languages, wends its way up one path. Where we used to take tea in the enclosed verandah sitting room, awaiting the return of roosting swallows who nested inside – a huge 600 person plus round chapel has arisen. A dove of peace is etched into its roof: saints, including black St. Charles Mlwana, are recessed in the wall. At the entrance to the garden is the tomb of former Nairobi Archbishop Maurice Cardinal Otunga (d. September 2003) whose beatification process is ongoing. Pope John Paul consecrated the gardens in June of 1995.

Although nothing remains of Robert’s vegetable shamba, there are no weeds there; just lush grass where cattle graze, framed by the Ngong Hills, a deep, meditative blanket of silence enveloping the land.



## *The Other Side of the Pond - How Vanessa changed her outlook*

It all started when I got tired of looking at a dead lawn and water wells were running dry, coupled with the fact that I was having to make an alternative entrance to the houses near Che Shalé and the new way in was going to be right over my existing small pond. I was not going to let my little fish have nowhere to go so I decided to build a bigger and better pond for them.

The year before my daughter had purchased a tilapia fish pond tarpaulin that had been given to the Timboni fishermen behind us by some generous European government for Tilapia farming. I asked my daughter if I could "borrow" it to make a new home for my fish. Work began and I soon realised it would be much bigger than I thought but, what the hell, I might as well use the whole tarpaulin and have happy fish! I could even use the corners for a 'bog garden' for cannas!

I had learnt a few golden rules before I started and tried to put them into practice;-

- A pond should be a minimum of three feet deep especially for the more hybrid water lilies (Nymphaea) as they prefer cold water and need sunshine. Easy for me as I was in sand.
- There should be a ledge for your marginal plants to go around the edge just below the water as these need shallow water. This was impossible for me as being sand nothing would stay where it should. There was no way I was able to get a vertical side or a ledge so I gave up!
- DO make a shallow beach area for the birds to enable them to walk into the water and drink with ease. Great fun doing this and I used black bin liners filled with sand to stop the stones falling away. Watching the wildlife is the enjoyment of the pond so do what you can to encourage it and give them little rock puddles to refresh themselves in.
- I decided to have an island in the middle and took a hint from Dee Raymer's book (bless her) by wetting the sand and placing wet newspaper

on top to hold it in place. I measured carefully as I wanted a basin in the middle to protect the tarpaulin and, of course, when the time came it would not fit. Size does matter in this case! Leave plenty of room for the folds as it was a nightmare getting under the huge tarpaulin to dig out the excess sand. There was sweat and tears of frustration at this stage but glasses of wine did the trick to calm a screaming Memsahib!



- In kindness to my water situation I went to the expense of a bowser not only for the sake of the water table but because I know my water to be very alkaline and this is not good for certain plants. Your Ph has to be correct and although mine is getting better my water hyacinth and Nile cabbage soon die off despite the fact I have added loads of acid and vinegar.
- Another Dee Raymer hint is - do not waste your money on expensive fish flakes when commercial cat food biscuits in the grinder will do. My white molee fish are fat and happy and breeding like mad on cat food and they rush to greet me in the morning. I have enough fish to share with my beautiful Grey Headed Kingfisher who, in turn, gives me a stunning flash of blue as he dives for his lunch.
- I thought I would be clever and put in lots of compost in the water - big mistake I'm told, as this is what brings in the dreaded blanket weed and is a nightmare to get rid of. Your blanket weed will go in time once your pond is well balanced i.e.

two thirds covered with aquatic plants and a Ph of around 7 although a high acid content is preferable, I'm told.

- The books tell you to plant your water lilies in special pots and I used Black bags with holes in. The reason for this is that you can move the plants if they are in the wrong place and you can add that essential ingredient of bone meal to the pot to keep them blooming. My lilies are very hungry for this ingredient and go into a sulk when they have run out by not showing their pretty faces.
- Putting a cost on the pond is very difficult as I think the tarpaulin cost about 30,000/- (black market price) and the Galana stone used on only part of the pool edge cost me 10,000/- two years ago. I used two casuals to do the digging, paying them on a daily basis, and the whole process took about 8 weeks from start to finish. The water bowser was 4,000/- a trip and I needed two. I once used a donkey cart for 1000/- water supply. The topping up water comes from my own water-well so that is generator petrol money which I can't calculate. The pond, although not square, is about 8m by 8m.
- Many people ask about frogs, but I don't have any yet. I did inherit a few lovely tree frogs from our Chairman but when they get too noisy I have a well trained askari who removes them to the wetlands at the back of Tiamboni. Trick is to get the first frog out before the whole neighborhood arrives!
- Last but not least, make friends with other pond (ers) so that you can share, steal and discuss all the merits of a beautiful garden feature. Some even bring you pressies of Mbilikimo (gnomes)!

Not only is a pond peaceful to look at, it gives special joy to life around it and, the essential part is, it will give your garden a micro climate which is essential in this day and age. All I can say is - Just do it! Enjoy the pleasure of nature. VA,

## ***Fertilisers - Trawls from the net by Rupert Partridge***

**Here at the Coast, nature needs a little help from time to time. By and large the soil is poor, usually coral or sand, and lacking in humus and body. An active compost regime is undoubtedly your best policy but sometimes you need to do a bit more.**

**Effective microorganisms (EM)** is a generic term for a concept developed in Japan by Professor Teruo Higa in the 1980's. For our purposes however it refers to the various blends of common microorganisms in a molasses nutrient solution marketed by *Em Research Organization, Inc.*, and its commercial licensees and manufacturers. The concept has been challenged and no scientific studies support its main claims. None the less, it has many believers and is widely used in Kenya, with some people regarding it as the only foliar feed worth using out here. We sell it in the district shop so why not try some? The extract below is reprinted from their site and is self explanatory.

The microorganisms that are present in EM•1® are in a latent state that must be activated before use.

**TO ACTIVATE:** One (1) part of EM•1® at 5% to one (1) part of sugar cane molasses or brown sugar at 5% to eighteen (18) parts of clean water (without chlorine) \* at 90%

\*To treat chlorinated water it is necessary to expose in sunlight in an open container for a minimum of 24 hours. For the activation of EM•1® use only clean plastic containers with a hermetic seal that will not permit air to enter. Independent of the total volume of the container do the following steps:

**A.** Full the container with nine (9) parts of water or half full.

**B.** Place one (1) part of EM•1® and mix with one (1) part of sugar cane molasses or brown sugar.

**C.** Stir well to dissolve the molasses or sugar until it forms a homogenous solution.

**D.** Place another nine (9) parts of water and close container well to keep air out.

**E.** Maintain activated EM•1® in an area of moderate temperature between 25 – 40°C during a period of 4-7 days for fermentation. During the fermentation stage starting from the second day gas will be produce. It will be necessary to eliminate the excess gas by opening the containers. Realize the gas extraction every time it's necessary.

**G.** Activated EM•1® is ready for use after 4 - 7 days when the pH of the solution is below 4 or when the solution presents a sweet to sour smell and the existence of a color change from coffee brown to coffee orange.

**H.** Activated EM•1® should be used within the next 35 days after which; it begins to lose its efficiency.

**I.** Store activated EM•1® always in a cool and ventilated area and away from the reach of children and domestic animals.

**J.** ATTENTION: For the activation of EM•1® do not use containers where the product can be confused as drinkable material.

**NOTE:**  
If the odor or EM•1® is similar to a rotten smell, is not with sweet and sour odor, or the pH is above 4 then there has been contamination and the solution must be discarded.

**Epsom Salts MgSO<sub>4</sub>** To many people Epsom salts has rather vague Dickensian associations with health or perhaps digestion - something you've heard of but never actually tried. It is in fact a form of magnesium sulphate and whilst widely used in the pharmaceutical industry, it's main use is in agriculture.

In gardening and other agriculture, magnesium sulphate is used to correct a magnesium or sulphur deficiency in soil; magnesium is an essential element in the chlorophyll molecule, and sulphur is another important micronutrient. It is most commonly applied to potted plants, or to magnesium-hungry crops, such as potatoes, roses, tomatoes, lemon trees, carrots, and peppers. Epsom salt helps seeds germinate, makes plants grow bushier, produces more flowers, increases chlorophyll production and deters pests, such as slugs and voles. It also provides vital nutrients to supplement your regular fertilizer. The advantage of magnesium sulphate over other magnesium soil amendments is its high solubility, which also allows for the option of foliar feeding.

Cornell University Assistant Professor Neil Mattson says plants will show visual cues if they are starved for a particular nutrient. If a plant's leaves turn yellow all over the plant, it can be a sign they need more sulphate. If lower leaves turn yellow between the veins (that is the veins stay green), they may need more magnesium.

Although magnesium and sulphur occur naturally in soil, they can be depleted by various conditions, including heavy agricultural use. But unlike most commercial fertilizers, which build up in the soil over time, Epsom Salt is not persistent so you can't overuse it.

Mattson says gardeners can proactively mix Epsom salt with fertilizer and add it to their soil monthly, or they can mix one tablespoon with a gallon of water and spray leaves directly every two weeks.

Here are some other tips for using Epsom salt in the garden:

- Houseplants: 2 tablespoons per gallon of water; feed plants monthly.
- Roses: 1 tablespoon per foot of plant height per plant; apply every two weeks. Also scratch 1/2 cup into soil at base to encourage flowering canes and healthy new basal cane growth. Soak unplanted bushes in 1 cup of Epsom Salt per gallon of water to help roots recover. Add a tablespoon of Epsom Salt to each hole at planting time.
- Shrubs (evergreens, azaleas, rhododendron): 1 tablespoon per 9 square feet. Apply over root zone every 2-4 weeks.
- Lawns: Apply 3 pounds for every 1,250 square feet with a spreader, or dilute in water and apply with a sprayer.
- Trees: Apply 2 tablespoons per 9 square feet. Apply over the root zone 3 times annually.
- Garden Startup: Sprinkle 1 cup per 100 square feet. Mix into soil before planting.

Visit [www.epsomsaltcouncil.org](http://www.epsomsaltcouncil.org)

***A trip to New Zealand - also known as God's own country by a number of Kiwis***

**MARGARET AND JOHN  
TOOK A LONG TRIP**

Emirates office in Mombasa was no longer working so we used North Coast Travel in Malindi, who were excellent and booked us KQ and Singapore Airlines.

We flew from Malindi to Nairobi on KQ on 30 July 2015, spent time in the KQ lounge, and were then taken off in wheelchairs, put on a fork lift, and hoisted straight into a beautiful Dreamliner for the overnight trip to Bangkok. The following day (wheelchair service again) we took off for Singapore. Both Bangkok and Singapore airports had great floral displays, especially Singapore with lovely displays of orchids. Changing aircraft at Singapore, we left on the long haul down to Christchurch, arriving at 0945 on August 1<sup>st</sup>. Finally the last leg with Air New Zealand at noon to Dunedin, where Margaret's youngest son, Matthew, collected us and took us to his small farm overlooking the Pacific.

Over the next period of time we got my car licensed so were able to move about in the area. One day we woke to find the farm and surroundings covered in snow. The hills often had snow and we had a number of frosts, but it warmed up quite fast. Spring flowers were soon to be seen in profusion and, with it, lambing started but, due to the rain, it was not a good



*New Zealand roses*

season and the farmers experienced poor lambing all over South Island.

In mid September we flew to Auckland to stay with my nephew and attended a Kenya Regiment lunch. Plants and flowers were much more advanced than in South Island. We had never seen many of the plants before and some came from parts of Australia. Auckland was wet and windy as was Dunedin on our return. We spent quite a lot of time helping on the farm, hand rearing lambs, hanging gates, etc.

In Mid November we left early to drive



*TSS Earnslaw -*

*sole surviving coal fired ship in use in the Southern Hemisphere*

through lovely country for Stewart Island, off the Southern tip of the mainland. The ferry crossing to the island was a trip of one hour. We were lucky in that it was a perfect day and Stewart Island is magical with coves and bays and many lovely flowers. Great white sharks are to be seen around the outer islands, but we did not see them. It was a glorious trip and a day to remember.

At the end of November we were lucky enough to see "Swan Lake" by the Imperial Russian Ballet company in Dunedin, a cultural delight.



*The snowy peaks around Queenstown*

In early December we went to Queenstown via Ranfarly and Cromwell. More spectacular farming country but the area was short of rain and parts were very dry. One day after watching a rowing regatta, we stopped at Jones fruit stall on the way back to Queenstown and noticed a sign saying 'To rose garden' - so we went to have a look and were rewarded with a rose garden the likes of which I have never seen. It was pure heaven.

The next day was lovely and sunny and all the hills had fresh snow. We drove up along the side of lake Wakatipu to Glenorchy at its Northern tip.

From our hotel room in Queenstown we watched the TSS Earnslaw, built about 1912, taking tourists across the lake to Walter Peak High Country Farm, a visitor attraction with farm tours, horse treks, barbecue lunches and evening dining at the historic station on the other side. Pat Smith, one of the finest stockman in East Africa, now living in Nairobi, worked on Mt Nicholas Station some 60 years ago and used the Earnslaw if he went to Queenstown.

Our return to Kenya came too quickly. Leaving Christchurch on a Monday at 12:00 noon, travelling via Singapore and Bangkok, we arrived into Nairobi at 6:10am on Tuesday, only to find our flight to Malindi cancelled, meaning we finally made it home in the late afternoon, after six months 'under down under'.

## Yamgambo



Wanashirika wengi wa bustani wangei hudhuria mafunzo yaliyopita agosti. Mwaka huu, tumewavutia zaidi ya wanafunzi 60 kutoka Kilifi, Watamu na Malindi pia tulifanya jambo jipya kwa kuanza mafunzo yetu ya Vipingo, ambapo karibu wanabustani 50 waligeukia baa ya ‘Sundowner’ Vipingo Ridge Golf Resort kusikiliza hekima za Marion na Katana sehemu hii mpya iligeuka kuwa lengo halisi, ni kubwa, tulivu na yenye hewa behewa la makuti lililojaa nafasi ya kila mtu. Tulipoingia, wanabustani wengi tayari walikuwa hapo, tayari wakifurahia chai yao na maandazi huku wakitazama mpira kwenye kioo kikubwa cha runinga ninashuku mmojaau wawili walikuwa pole kwa sababu ya kuizima runinga ili wayatazame mafunzo tuliyowapelekea.

Mafunzo mengi mwaka huu yalikuwa mfumo wa maswali na majibu ya mafunzo yaliyopita madhumuni hasa yakiwa ni kuwafanya wanabustani watumie ufahamu wao waliopewa hivyo, hadithi ilikuwa kuwasihia kutumia macho

yao (walinzi wao wa bustani). Hizi ndizo silaha zao muhimu zilizokuwa dhidi ya uzoroteshaji wa mimea hususan mhalilfu mkuu Mealybug halafu tukasonga kwa mbolea samadi na umwagaji maji – haya mara kwa mara yameshusishwa kwenye mafunzo yaliyopita ila ni vifaa muhimu katika kasha la mwanabustani.

“Kukua tangu mbegu ‘na’ kutia mimea kwenye nyungu’ yalikuwa masomo yaliyotumika kama utangulizi wa sehemu ya mwisho ya mafunzo yaliyoundwa kuwatia moyo wanabustani kuingia kwenye tamasha la maua la oktoba kati ya kila madarasa kumi na mawali walizungumiza makosa ya kila mara kutokana na thibitisho lililoonyeshwa kwenye kioo. Ujumbe wenyewe ni kwamba wanabustani walihitaji kutayarisha na kupanga maonyesho bila kuchelewa waliambiwa wakumbuke kuonyesha thibitisho kamilifu, ikiwemo kumakinika na mmea wa chunguni na mzunguko walitiwa moyo ku kusanyika pamoja kurembesha maingilio ya rukwama au bustani ya maonyesho.

Mwishowe walionyeshwa jinsi ya kupenya kama ilivyo kwa maonyesho ya Chelsea ilivyoonekana ni ya kutumainika kwamba kupitia kwa maonyesho mfumo huu utawapelekea kuvutia sehemu kubwa ya wanabustani kuliko hesabu ya kuridisha yamwake jana.

Mafunzo ya Vipingo kidogo yalikuwa tofauti kwa kuwa hatukuwa tumeendeleza mafunzo hapo mwanzo. Hapa tukaona ni huminu kupitia misiingi ya wanabustani bora – nukta muhimu zilizo funzwa tangu miaka iliyotangulia. Mafunzo yalipokelewa vyema na wengi waliuliza yangefanyika lini tena. Kwa

Wako mtafsiri Stephen Sam.

0736187917



FOR THE ENGLISH VERSION OF THIS PAGE  
PLEASE VISIT  
<http://yellowgardening.com/cms/wp-content/uploads/yamgambo33.pdf>



## Ask Maude

**Q.** Can you tell me what is causing the unsightly damage to my beautiful Golden Palm fronds

**A.** Well, it looks as though you have a number of problems. Obviously the wind is giving the tree a battering and burning the tips of the leaf pinnae. There are also signs of some sort of sucking insect attack - probably scale or mealybug. The most visible damage however looks to be the work of *Oryctes boas*, a member of the Rhinoceros Beetle sub-family, themselves part of the Scarab family. There are over 300 species around the world and, apparently, many make good pets.

The damage is caused by the beetle chewing into the heart of the palm to drink the sap. When the leaf eventually opens, it displays the typical notch in it's pinnae. They don't live in the holes they create and are nocturnal so the best way of dealing with the problem is to sift through any piles of rotting vegetation and manure to search for the large white 'C' shaped grubs.

I understand the grubs of some species are considered a great delicacy in parts of the world and are eaten raw and toasted. Monty tells me they taste of creamy chicken - but I don't believe he is speaking from experience.



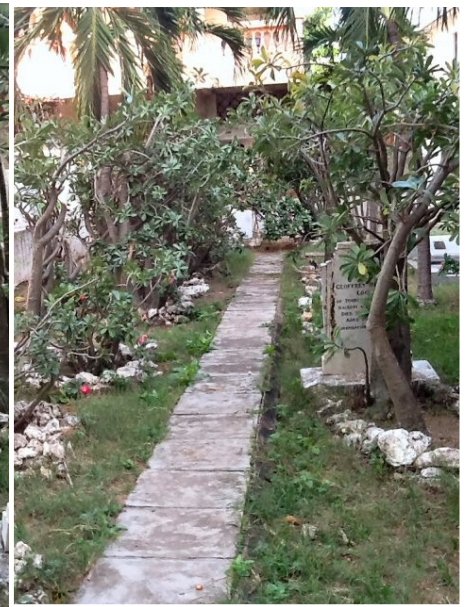
## Community partners. Holly Pritchett



Before ....



.... during ....



... after!

Assisting our local communities is a goal we all need to pursue and KHS North Coast Branch recently linked up with Malindi Museum Society to support the Malindi Museum's effort to upgrade the garden cemetery at the Portuguese Chapel, one of Malindi's historical sites.

Consisting mainly of decades old desert rose, scruffy grass, and long unattended graves, full of weeds and rubble, it was badly in need of a make-over. Accordingly, with the expert advice of Kaingu and Katana, volunteers from the Museum and several casuals set to the task of pruning, pulling, and planting.

In a short five days work, a forest of trimmed desert roses and neat rows of newly planted grass were ready to welcome the rain and encourage visits from locals and visitors alike. Now our only problem will be to ensure the garden is maintained to the same high standard achieved by the makeover.

**Evi Walsh's Tropical Garden - Vanessa Aniere**



*Evi's forest trail*



*Spathoglottis plicata*

A visit to Evi Walsh's garden is always a pleasure. This visit, on 25<sup>th</sup> August, was a short notice arrangement, laid on in place of the scheduled August event of a trip to look at Rolf Lattmann's forest project, but it still attracted about 35 people.

The beauty of Evi's garden is indescribable in its perfection. Set amongst mature trees, galana paths wind between small gardens of bromeliads, ground orchids, and other shade loving plants whilst festoons of orchids cling to the trunks of the trees along the way. Peacocks and Guinea Fowl tiptoe along the paths and between the bushes.

Despite the fact our Mombasa palm expert, Emanuel Masha, Technical Advisor from the Nuts and Oil Crops Directorate, AFA, Mombasa, was unable to make it at the last minute, it did not detract from the meeting as it is always a pleasure to enjoy coffee and cake and chat to fellow gardeners in such a superb place. We still hope to entice Mr. Masha from Mombasa another time and thank you Evi for making it so special.

**A Prayer for the Trees**

*Ye who would pass me by and raise your hand against me  
Hearken ere you harm me.*

*I am the heat of your hearth on cold winter nights,  
The friendly shade screening you from the Summer sun  
And my fruits are refreshing draughts quenching your thirst  
as you journey on*

*I am the beam that holds your house  
The board of your table  
The bed in which you lie  
The timber that builds your boat*

*I am the handle of your hoe  
The door of your homestead  
The wood of your cradle  
And the shell of your coffin.*

*I am the bread of kindness and the flower of beauty  
Ye who pass by listen to my prayer  
And harm me not*

From Timaru Botanical Gardens, South Island,  
New Zealand.

*Contributed by Margaret Cunningham*

**Gallery**



*Vriesea pallidiflora*

*Photo - Rupert Partridge*

**NOTICES**

**Permaculture Design Course, 17th - 29th October 2016**

This 10 day course will be run by Barefoot Solutions, Kenya at Distant Relatives, Kilifi. Syllabus ranges from mapping to homesteading, grey water systems, dry land strategies, pest control, hydroponics, and includes field trips to Kilifi Plantations, Gedi nurseries, and other places. Cost excluding food and accommodation is Ksh 65,000. Full details at [Barefoot Solutions PDC](#)

**Arabuko Sokoke Forest**

1. Would all members please note that the ticketing office at the main gate is no longer able to accept cash. Visitors wishing to enter the forest must now pay their entry fee by mPesa.

Current Entry fees are:-

Non-Resident adult	1,300 ksh
Resident adult	500 ksh
Citizen	200 ksh
Six seater vehicle	300 ksh
More than 6 seater	1,000 ksh

2. The forest guides have started a monthly bird walk which will be free to everyone; and free to any vehicles. You are welcome to bring a picnic breakfast. Donations are welcome; paid to the guides. This will help towards their activities. For more information call the Forester-in -Charge on 0729 295382 or 0724 332207

**THE NAIROBI DISTRICT FLOWER SHOW**

Saturday 12th & Sunday 13th November (NOTE: change of date!)  
At SSG Temple, Lower Kabete Road, Westlands

Anyone visiting Nairobi over these dates is recommended to set aside some time to visit what promises to be a fabulous display of flowers and plants. Please get in touch with Balinder Ahluwalia for full details [jagi.ahluwalia@gmail.com](mailto:jagi.ahluwalia@gmail.com) or telephone: 0721 374 547

**NORTH COAST SCORES AGAIN**

We are delighted to hear that our photo enthusiasts have been successful again in the KHS Calendar Photograph Competition. Katana Baya, Peter Derry, and Santie de Villiers have all had multiple approvals and we look forward to seeing their art when the new calendars become available next month

**CLARIFICATION**

It has been pointed out that our article on the Banyan tree in last months issue is open to misinterpretation. We wish to make it clear that, whilst the article was about *Ficus bengalensis*, the Malindi trees mentioned at the end of the piece are in fact *Ficus bussei*.



*Palm weaver (Ploceus bojeri) by Marion*

***Latest Shop Prices - Elfried Hoogeweegen 0733 839267***

Notelets (Pkt of 4)	200	Bird feeder, bottle	1000	Herb seeds (Suttons)	350
KHS Book - Gardening in EA	1500	Garden wire coated, 50m	400	EM-1	350
Gardening Course Notes	50	Garden wire coated, 100m	750	Molasses 1L	150
Dino Book - Insects of East Africa	1500	Garden string	850	Achook	300
Dino Book - Pollinators	500	Secateurs	2600	Enhancer	550
KHS Handbook	500	Rooting powder	550	Oasis block	150
Black poly bags 8 x 14 x 4	15	Garden gloves M	750	Bonemeal 2Kg	200
Black poly bags 6 x 10 x 12	10	Garden gloves S	750	Bonemeal 50Kg	2500
Black poly bags 5 x 9 x 10	5	Herb seeds (NL)	300	pH soil testing kit	1000

# A Saturday & Sunday 22nd/23rd October Festival of Flowers

10.30am

ENTRANCE  
KHS Members Free  
Non-members 100/=

At the Mnarani Club, Kilifi  
Something for everyone

- The Flower Show - A display of the best, grown by members of the Kenya Horticultural Society
- A Garden Shop - A place to buy your gardening needs: secateurs, fertiliser, books, KHS 2017 calendar, and much, much more
- Gansfort Nurseries - A fine display of pots, lighting, and garden architecture
- Orchid sales - Where else would you be able to buy these exotic and beautiful plants?
- The Mnarani Club vegetable garden - a master class in 'grow-your-own'.
- Other side shows include stands by Browns Cheese, Mia Wines & Spirits, Car & General (Motor mowers and garden machinery), Wild Living, Ocean Trust, Kivukoni School, Sokoke Forest, Greens Vegetables, and many more.

## Make a weekend of it.

The Mnarani Club are offering a fantastic accommodation deal for the weekend. 6000/- per head per night, half board, including the cost of the 'Festival Dinner' on Saturday night. Follow that up by attending Dino Martins' excellent talk and presentation on Sunday morning at 10.00am

## For your Diary

### OCTOBER

**SATURDAY/SUNDAY 22ND,/23RD AT 10.30AM**

**ANNUAL FLOWER FESTIVAL**

See detail opposite

### NOVEMBER

**THURSDAY 24TH AT 10.00AM**

**MTWAPA FOREST DEVELOPMENT**

A talk by Rolf Letterman (rescheduled from August) on his forestry project in Mtwapa. Further details to follow

### DECEMBER

**SUNDAY 25TH AT 10.00AM**

**CHRISTMAS LUNCH ON THE TURTLE BAY DHOW**

The traditional Christmas lunch and Mida Creek cruise aboard the Turtle Bay Dhow. Price confirmed at Ksh 3,500/= plus park fees. Enjoy a slap up BBQ lunch, including turkey, lobster, prawns, beef, pilau, jacket potato and Xmas pudding. There are just six places left on this ever popular event. Call John Golds on 0202 335929 or email [jmgolds@icloud.com](mailto:jmgolds@icloud.com)

### JANUARY 17

**DATE TO BE ADVISED**

**VIPINGO GARDEN TOUR**

A visit to three Vipingo gardens followed by an optional lunch at the Sundowner Bar at Vipingo Ridge.

### FEBRUARY 17

**THURSDAY 23RD AT 10.00AM**

**A DAY AT CHE CHALÉ CRAB FARM**

A talk by Justin Aniere followed by a tour of the crab farm, BBQ lunch, and day on the beach

### JANUARY/FEBRUARY 17

**DATES TO BE ADVISED**

**UP -COUNTRY SAFARI**

A trip for a few days to gardens in Nanuki and other places, Details still fluid.

*The Shamba Times is published quarterly for the benefit of its 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

It has, I think, been a rather odd Summer. Blame it on El Nino or global warming or whatever else takes your fancy, the weather has been atypical and unpredictable. We were told to expect exceptionally heavy long rains but in fact got rather less and shorter rains than usual. The flip side was that temperatures have been cooler and that we've had long periods of overcast and sporadic showers. We are now told that we should expect rain through to December. Is this extended 'long rains' or early 'short rains'?

Our events have continued to be gratifyingly popular. The Kilifi Garden Tour attracted over 40 people who were rewarded with some exceptionally interesting examples of how gardeners 'do their thing'. Everyone knows Rupert is into broms but not many knew the extent to which he has developed his hobby.

Then there were the Gardeners Courses held in August. Like a well oiled machine, Marion and Rupert swung into action and delivered three presentations in five days to an audience of over 60 gardeners. This year the shape of the course was varied to make it more pro-active with the audience. Much of the presentation was in question and answer form with the aim of getting the gardeners involved. The last section however was given over to briefing them on the forthcoming Festival of Flowers. It was hoped that this would encourage larger numbers to enter for the show. As an example of what to aspire to, they were shown a glimpse of Chelsea.

This year, we also held our first course for Vipingo. The venue chosen was the Sundowner Bar on Vipingo Ridge which is a large open sided makuti building near the clubhouse. Initial concerns about light and wind were unfounded and Marion and Katana kicked off to an unexpectedly large audience of 49.

I could not close this piece without adding my exhortations to those of the Chairman and urging you to come to the Festival of Flowers on 22nd/23rd October. It is going to be fun.

cb

## KENYA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

FIND US ON THE WEB

**WWW.KENYAHS.COM**



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