

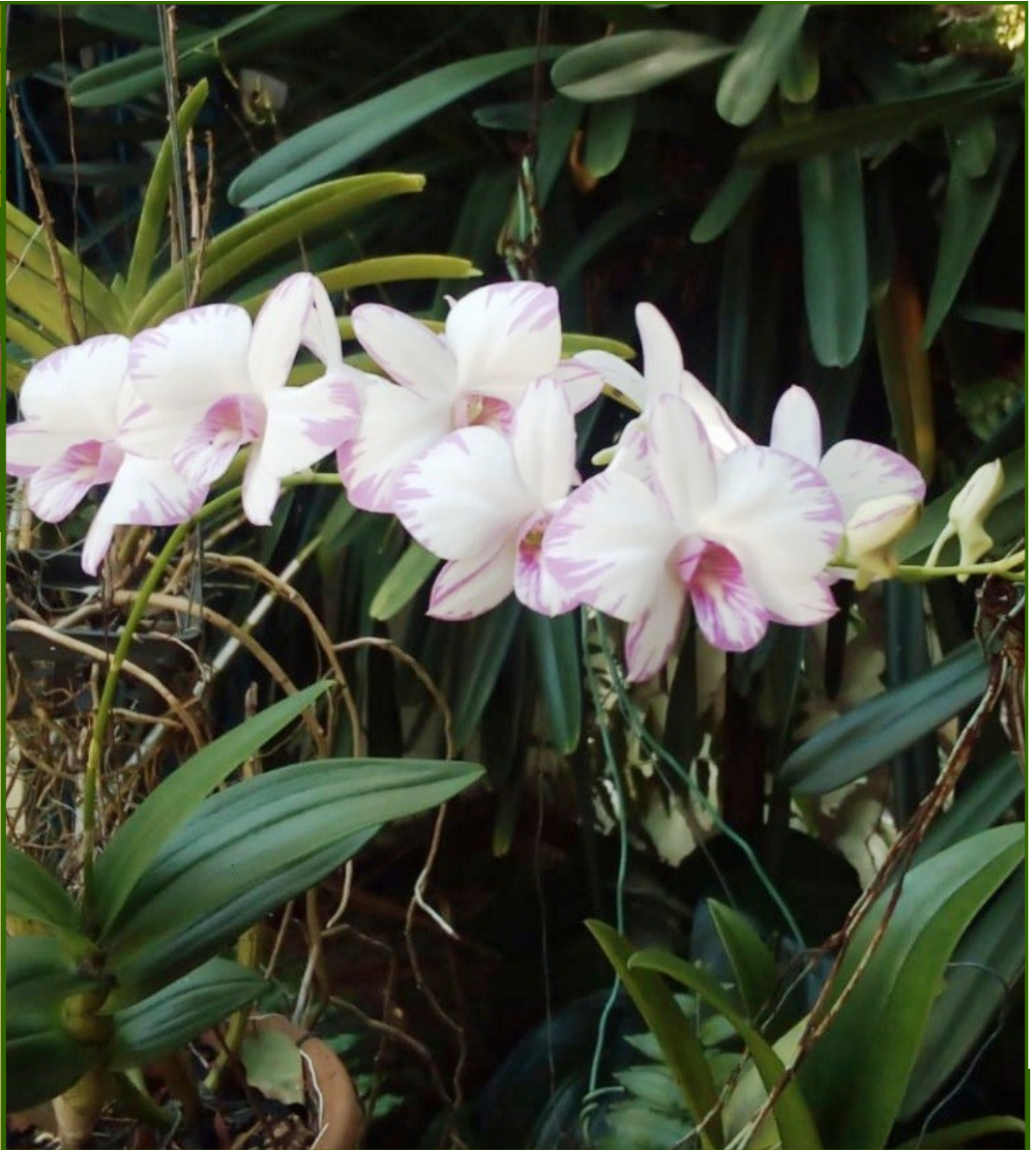
Volume 7 issue 3

July 2020



Kenya Horticultural Society North Coast District

The Shamba Times



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Dear NCD members, in all the turmoil of the early 2020 lock-down, have you remembered to pay your KHS 2020 subscription?

Single membership = KES 1,000 Family membership = KES 1,500

Gardener membership = KES 500 Corporate membership = KES 2,000

If not, please could we ask you to Mpesa our NCD Treasurer on 0702767177.

Thank you. We need and value your support.

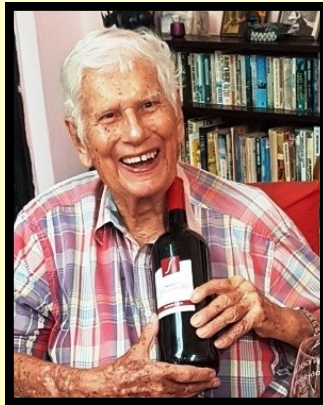
North Coast District News



Chairman's Notes

Welcome to the July edition of The Shamba Times. Although we have not been able to meet together for the last few months, I am very pleased that the district now has its own WhatsApp group, which is up and running and already proving a very vibrant and useful forum in which members can share news and ideas about gardening.

But our district has also suffered an enormous loss. It was with great sadness that, on Friday June 12th, we learned that John Golds had passed away peacefully at his home in Watamu. John was Chairman of the KHS North Coast District for more than 12 years, and had stepped down from the role in 2017 at the age of 89, saying it was time for somebody else to take over and to move the district forward. He was persuaded to remain on the committee and he continued to host committee meetings at his home, including the last meeting we were able to hold, in February this year.



Tributes to John from many NCD members, along with UK national newspaper obituaries of his life appeared on our NCD WhatsApp group in the days following his death, and in this edition of the Shamba Times, Vanessa Aniere, former NCD Hon. Secretary, writes her own tribute to John in the form of a recollection of John as Chair of the North Coast District. We are also reproducing a piece that John wrote for the Shamba Times some years ago about building what he declared would be absolutely his last pond in the garden of Bilgewater, his Watamu home. We hope that as you read John's words, perhaps you will hear him speak to you again.

Finally, on page 11 of this edition of the Shamba Times, we feature a gallery of photographs taken by some of our members and/or their gardeners. All of the plants featured have previously appeared on the excellent YellowGardening.com WhatsApp group page. Enjoy the colour and the variety of plants featured, in what may become a regular addition to The Shamba Times.

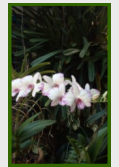
And please, stay safe and well .

Crispin Sharp.

Our Cover Photo

This month's cover photo is of greater significance than usual. It is of the last plant from his own garden that John Golds saw on the morning that he died.

John's Head Gardener, and North Coast District committee member Katana Baya, showed this photo, which he had taken earlier the same morning, to John as he lay, greatly weakened, in bed. At first John said nothing, but then gently smiled in pleasure at what he saw.



Katana tells us that the orchid he showed John is a *Dendrobium* but he is unsure of its species. A beautiful plant, and very poignant too.



KENYA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY
Gardening Kenya

The Kenya Horticultural Society was established in 1923 for the purpose of stimulating and increasing interest in 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. Of course we welcome new members, so why not see if you can introduce a new member to us? this quarter?

Officers of The North Coast District

Chairman	Mr Crispin Sharp sharpcrispin@hotmail.com
Vice Chairman	This post remains open
Hon Sec	Mrs Wendy Taylor wendy.elizabethkenya@gmail.com
Hon Treasurer	Mr Rupert Partridge rdbpartridge@gmail.com
NCD Shop	Mrs Elfried Hoogeweegen hoogeweegen@africaonline.co.ke

Remembering John.

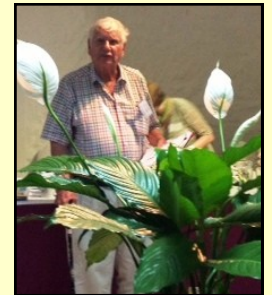


John Golds MBE, Chairman of the KHS North Coast District from 2006—2018, died peacefully at his home in Watamu on Friday 12 June 2020. His long and adventurous life has been recorded in a series of obituaries published in the UK national press, most notably in the Times of Saturday 13 June. They are available to read online, and are a compelling account of John's life in Kenya from 1947—1966 and beyond. John joined the British administration in Kenya during the Mau Mau uprising in 1952, and as a DO in Kiambu he was awarded an MBE for his work on the Land Settlement scheme. John left Kenya in 1966 and subsequently served with the Commonwealth Development Corporation in the Caribbean, before leading a series of commercial enterprises, including in the US, until he retired back to Kenya in 2006.

The following recollection of John which covers the years after his retirement to Kenya has very kindly been written for The Shamba Times by Vanessa Aniere who served the NCD for many years as the district's Hon. Secretary during John's chairmanship, and who was a close friend of his throughout.

In 2006 John retired to Watamu where in the 1950s he and a friend had purchased Plot 47, Bilgewater. John's retirement brought no halt to his administrative capacity. He continued to travel extensively throughout the US as chairman of Morningside Residential Homes, to London where he had become a Lloyds name, and through Europe where he was chairman of a number of companies. At home in Kenya he became Chairman of the Board of Turtle Bay Beach Club, and was involved with the Watamu Residents Association and the Malindi Museum Society.

John became chairman of the KHS NCD at the AGM of February 2006, taking over from Pauline Balletto. Although he said he did not know much about gardening himself, he agreed to 'give it a go', and give it a go he did. John planned a series of monthly meetings filled with enthusiasm and detailed organisation. His committee meetings were a joy to attend and his hospitality was exceptional. John instigated the now very popular Gardeners' Courses, encouraging members to send their gardeners to attend, and he introduced a special membership fee for the gardeners of members. John treated everyone as equals, and had the rare ability to listen patiently to each person's opinion before passing his judgement. He was treated with the loyalty and respect he both earned and deserved, no more so than by his own loyal staff till his last days, and by everyone who had the honour of knowing him.



We are all in a better place because of John, and thanks to his tireless work for our society.

On behalf of all KHS members throughout Kenya, and all our overseas members, I leave John with this thought -

Enjoy that great garden in the sky. We will never forget you.



What are Cycads?

In the last edition of The Shamba Times, April 2020, we ran an article by Dino Martins about the current problem of scale and how it is affecting cycads in our region. Dino gave some very useful tips about how to deal with the problem in order to save the appearance and perhaps life of the plant.

Many of us have cycads in our gardens, but what do we really know about them? This piece on cycads will draw very heavily on information made publicly available at the Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens just outside Cape Town, South Africa, and which contain a remarkable collection of cycads that grow in a small valley on the slopes of Table Mountain.

Cycads certainly look like palms, or perhaps very large ferns, but in fact they are neither. Cycads are remarkably long-lived woody evergreen plants. They produce pollen, and seeds, but they do not flower. They bear cones, but they are not true conifers. And they are old. Cycads have existed for millions of years, and they help us understand what the earliest seed plants may have looked like. Cycads are in fact a group of plants with a unique set of characteristics and, despite their similarity in appearance to palms and ferns, are not closely related to any other group of living plants.

So what family of plants are cycads related to? Well, they are grouped in the gymnosperms, plants with seeds that are naked or uncovered. The most common example of gymnosperms are conifers (pines, cedars, cypresses, yellowwoods, firs and redwoods). Ginkgo and Welwitschia are also gymnosperms.

Cycad plants are either male or female. The botanical term for this is dioecious, and the male and female plants can only be told apart by their cones.



Cycads could teach us humans a thing or two about ageing. They are very slow growing, and very long-lived. Some cycads take 15 - 20 years before they start producing whorls (rings) of large leaves and their first cones. The plants in this photograph are growing in my garden in Malindi and I estimate them to be about 10 years old, growing steadily but very slowly. They have not yet produced whorls or cones.

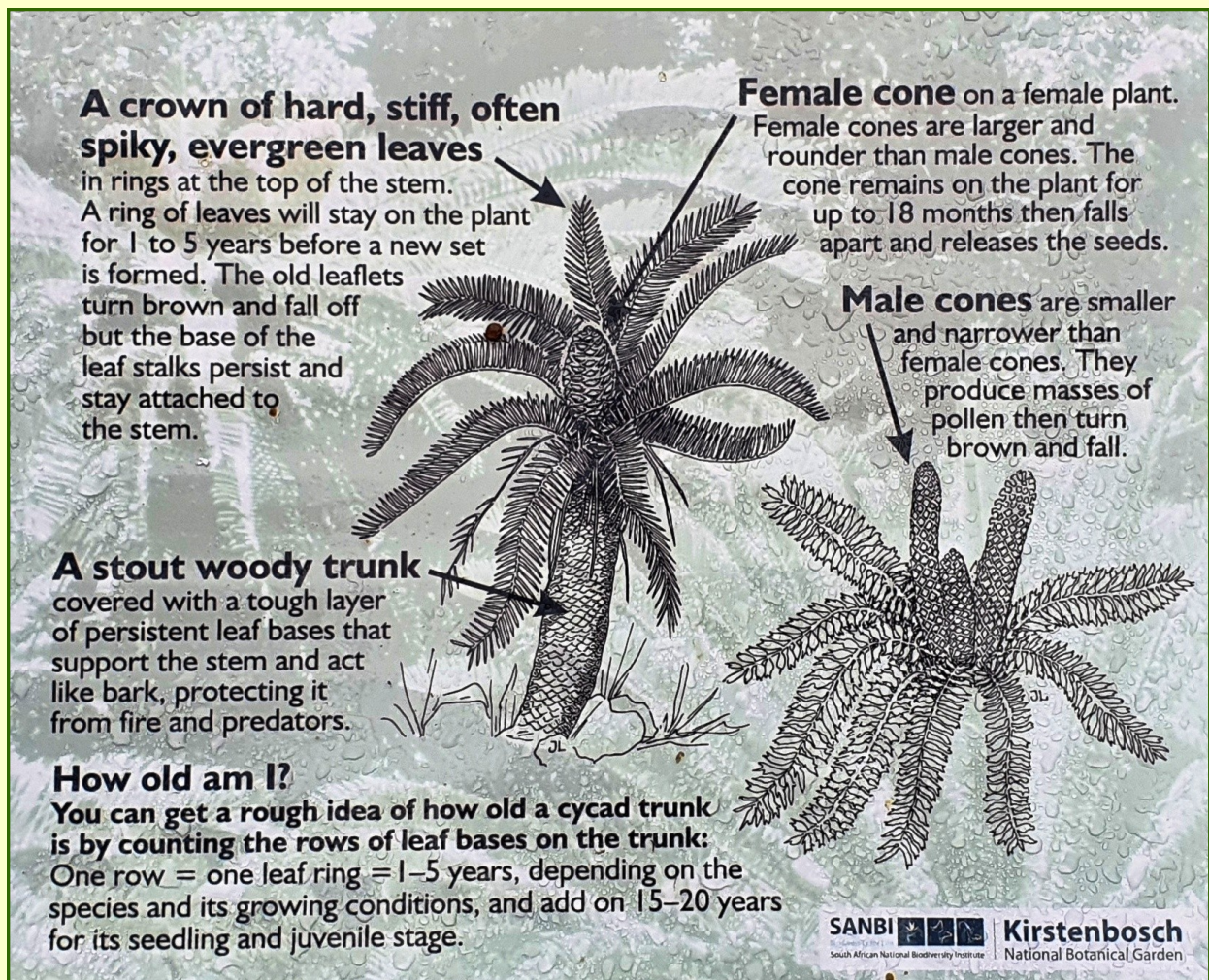
They may grow slowly, but cycads can live for hundreds of years. There is a cycad in the Royal Botanical Gardens at Kew, in London, that was collected in South Africa in 1772. Some of the cycads that you see in the Cycad Amphitheatre at Kirstenbosch have been growing there for more than 100 years, and many of them were already old plants when they were planted into the then new Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens in 1914.



Neither palms nor ferns.



The illustrations and text below are taken directly from an information display at the Cycad Amphitheatre at Kistenbosch, and show in detail the shape and form of a typical cycad. Everything about the plant's growing process is lengthy and slow, with a ring of leaves on the plant remaining in place for 1 - 5 years, and the cone which contains the cycad's seeds staying on the plant for up to 18 months before it falls and disperses its seeds.



But there is one thing cycads do quickly. For those of us fortunate to have a cycad in our garden, one of the great joys is when the plant suddenly and very rapidly produces a vast wave of new leaves that shoot up, usually within the existing leaf circle and almost overnight. The recent rain has produced just that effect in an older cycad in my garden, and it is a thing of beauty to see. I take solace in knowing that, barring scale and other disease, the cycads in my garden may be there for perhaps hundreds of years after I am gone.



This piece borrows heavily from material gathered at Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens in February 2020. Compiled by Crispin Sharp - May 2020.

Growing citrus fruit at the Coast

To compile this article, I have turned to three people who have experience of growing citrus fruit here at the Coast: Katana Baya, John Munga and Belinda Walker. Each provides information and advice on this subject - sufficient, it is hoped, to encourage you to grow your own. First, though, some botanical information about *Citrus rutaceae*, drawn from *Gardening in Eastern Africa*: the true citrus are *Citrus trifoliata*, three-leaved oranges; *Citrus spp.*, orange, lime, lemon, mandarin, pomelo or shaddock, and grapefruit; and *Citrus japonica*, Kumquat. Except for the last, which likes more temperate conditions, citrus fruits prefer a tropical climate, or a frost free sub-tropical one with at least 1,200 mm of rainfall, or year-round irrigation.

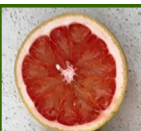
Katana Baya, who lives in Watamu, advises that citrus fruit grow in full sun but do not like strong wind. They like well drained soil - loam is the best, well-rotted manure or good compost. The soil pH should be 6.5 to 6.8 for good quality fruits. Citrus trees require a steady supply of water: in the dry weather perhaps two buckets of water per tree every fourth day, which should be spread over the whole surface of the root system. A good mulch around the tree will reduce evaporation, retain moisture and add essential organic matter to the soil. The best practice is to top dress twice a year just before the rains, with well-rotted manure, good compost or bone meal, spread over but not dug in as the feeding roots lie just below the surface.

Orange, lime and grapefruit need little pruning other than to remove damaged or dead branches and to encourage good shape in the tree development. In the first year, cut back the top of the tree to about 1 metre. Lemons, however, need pruning to keep them in order. The top should be cut back low and all the lateral branches pruned back after the first year. In the following two growing seasons, pinch out new growth to help the tree develop a good framework. Remove all suckers and aim at compact, twiggy growth. Let the tree reach 2.5 m and then remove all growth above this height. This should be done at the start of each rainy season. Finally, Katana says, watch out for whitefly, mealy bug and scales. If you see any sign of them, act fast by spraying with Neem solution mixed with hot chillies - and a few drops of washing-up liquid for a better effect.

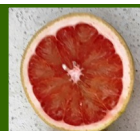
Off the Bofa Road, Kilifi, lies David Green's large citrus tree orchard, which is managed by John Munga, who relates the following. Established in 1991, the orchard produces limes, oranges, tangerines, lemons and grapefruits, grown from grafted fruit stock. The soil here is ideal for citrus. However, since it lies atop the coral, the soil is very shallow. It is enriched by compost with some NPK fertiliser added occasionally. Regular mulching takes place generally using grass cuttings. Irrigation takes place primarily via a drip line. If using a watering can, then it is important to ensure the right amount and frequency of water: it is not necessary to water every day but rather on a regular basis/once or twice a week. The recommended total amount per tree per week is 200 litres. A well-watered tree is able to produce fruit all the year round at the orchard. While most of the produce goes to supply the Nairobi market, the juicy red grapefruits shown in the heading on the next page are most certainly available to buy in Kilifi.



In Munga's experience, shallow soil, insects, scale, with the associated black sooty mould, and saline water are the main challenges faced when growing citrus fruit at the coast. For insects and scale, Munga's recommendations are much the same as Katana's with the added advice: use the solutions for preventive purposes as well as for treatment.



By Wendy Taylor



On the southern side of Kilifi Creek lies the citrus tree orchard in the Salaam garden of Belinda and Patrick Walker. Belinda writes: "The trees have given us enormous pleasure and once the lime, grapefruit and tangerine trees started fruiting, they produce an extraordinary quantity of fruit in a virtually never-ending supply." The following is taken from her account of their achievement...

In 2010, armed with John Wright's informative notes on citrus, taken from a 1980s Know your Garden Course, we planted 13 citrus trees, a mixture of lime, orange, tangerine, lemon and grapefruit. They were 'top-notch' trees obtained from John Munga. Unavoidably, due to our location on solid coral with the odd patch of soil, we broke virtually every rule in John Wright's notes: "*Citrus trees do not tolerate waterlogged and heavy soils, so a well-drained site should be chosen.*" We dug deep, large, minimum 3' x 3' holes to give the trees as good a start as possible. The next piece of advice, "*soil pH should be on the acid side from 6.5 to 6.8*", was no easier to follow as coral is alkaline. Well-rotted manure plus compost in quantity was added to the soil, together with smaller pieces of coral. We continue to feed the trees twice a year before the rains. "*Citrus fruits require a steady supply of water and do not like to go dormant at any time. A water requirement of approximately 25mm of rain or irrigation per week is needed to keep the trees in healthy growth. This means a medium-sized tree, with a spread of 8m sq. would require 200 litres of water per week, spread over the whole surface of the root system.*" This unfortunately is not possible with the limited water available here in Kilifi; the trees are watered thoroughly and deeply whenever possible, and we hope the rains will make up the deficit.

In 2013-14, several of the trees had to be moved. In spite of this, we picked our first limes and grapefruit in 2015 and haven't looked back. The tangerines only came into their strength this year, giving us delicious juice, but are not yet that sweet to eat.

It was a mistake not to keep removing all rootstock suckers - some trees reverted to 'rough lemons' due to our neglect in the early years. However, a rough lemon is extremely useful and makes excellent 'jungle juice'! We have been singularly unsuccessful with orange trees. Only one is bearing fruit after almost 10 years. Our citrus experiment to plant some so-called Malindi Limes turned out to be rather disastrous, too. Having heard that these were available at Malindi Prisons, we drove up to Malindi in 2015, bought four small trees and planted them with great effort and cost. This year all four trees were removed as the fruit was neither an orange, a lime, a lemon, nor a tangerine; it was absolutely revolting and is a salutary lesson to buy grafted citrus trees only from someone you trust. We are planting a second round of citrus trees this year, Mr. Munga's this time round!

On the bright side, Belle Nanton gave us some Malindi lime seeds. One germinated and is healthy but has not yet produced fruit. Marion Langham gave us an ornamental orange/tangerine (*Calamondin*) that thrives in a large pot. The beautiful miniature fruit are excellent in vodka tonics. In 2016, Carol Korschen, in Lamu, gave us a Thai Lime fruit off one of her trees, advising us to wash the seeds and pop them into individual yoghurt pots with good soil. Lo and behold! 46 seeds germinated out of 50. We kept three and have given away all the others. The leaf is essential in Thai cooking - a culinary treat.



On a final note of interest, the Salaam garden has been insecticide- and pesticide-free with only effective micro-organisms (EM), compost, manure and Epsom salts used. To help control the sooty mould on the citrus fruit tree leaves, however, *Jamboclean*, a product of Greenlife Crop Protection Africa, recommended by Munga, is also now utilised with good effect.

Absolutely my last pond!

It is with delight that, with his blessing, we republish a piece that John Golds wrote for The Shamba Times a few years back. Reproducing the article allows us to show you the pond today in 2020, and perhaps to inspire some of you to take the plunge, as it were, and to create a pond yourself.

Having already nine ponds, I felt enough is enough! However I am always being tempted to build just one more pond. They create lovely patches of colour and interest even in the driest garden, plus they entice ever more birds, monitor lizards and Suni to one's garden. In addition, according to Pravin Bowry (a very experienced Kenya gardener), they generate a mono-climate of their own, which he noticed on a recent visit, with plants flourishing that are not normally seen at the coast!

One day, I was sitting in my office, which overlooked a small pond, house entrance pathway and thence across a bed of ever growing hibiscus over my swimming pool and beyond to other ponds and succulents and, finally, out to sea. A lovely view to have from one's desk one would think. However the hibiscus, with minds of their own and encouraged by my gardener, were beginning to block the view! The answer came to me, without a guilty thought - convert the hibiscus bed into an interesting pond reserved for just water lilies, oxygenator plants and a mixture of, white mollies, koi and goldfish. Perfect! The view would be protected, a real centre of interest created, and the sound of water from a simple waterfall and fountain would calm my business nerves! Never a thought you will notice of my absolute resolve, only six months old, that, with nine ponds, I should never build another. This was overcome by convincing myself that, by converting one of my less seen ponds into a bog garden and filling it with cannas, I would not actually be creating an extra pool and so my pond numbers would remain as nine.



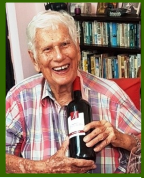
I had to make peace with my gardener, Katana, and counter the threat to his hibiscus and some fine palms growing near the pond site by giving him a second sunny site for the plants and permitting him to design the pond's shape to ensure none of "his" palms were disturbed, - hence the rather informal pond shape we created!

The result of our efforts was a pond 3 feet deep, roughly 156 sq. ft. in surface area and containing 3000 gals. of water. According to USA sources, such a pond will comfortably take an impressive 900" of fish. However, after due consideration and bearing in mind one's fish do grow at a

much faster rate if provided with plenty of room, I decided to follow one of the more conservative advisories and aim at an occupancy of not more than 300" of fish, say 15 mature 12" koi and 30 mature 4" goldfish, (all measurements excluding tails). In addition I would have an ever growing population of white mollies and guppies. These I find are essential to any pond to ensure there are no mosquitoes and, most importantly, to provide a popular fast food source for the multitude of kingfishers who seem to agree that koi and goldfish are not on the menu providing there is a plentiful supply of free molly meals. During the construction of this new fast food outlet, progress was eagerly watched by five or six Pied Kingfishers perched over the site, clearly urging on the mason to ever greater efforts.



By John Golds

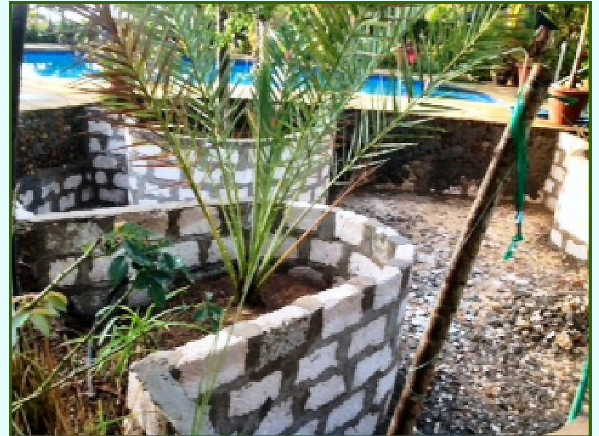


THE CONSTRUCTION AND THE COST!

As always with any pond construction, it started with an argument with my mason, Renison, who has worked on and off for me for many years, about the right specification for the pond, Renison's stand being 'I only build ponds with a minimum life of at least 50 years'. He always wins - hence a high specification of reinforced blocks and three layers of plaster.

The main construction was 4" machine cut coral blocks, with chicken wire as the framework for three layers of plaster, the final layer having a generous addition of water-proof cement. The base consisted of 6" rubble, weld mesh, and again three layers of plaster.

Total cost of materials was 93,500/-. Labour, consisting of one mason and an assistant for 31 days, worked out at 40,300/-. Electrical work for the floodlight, waterfall and fountain amounted to 40,000/- (note - this figure was made up of about 64% materials and remainder labour). The addition of a double outlet solar-powered oxygenator,



one waterfall outlet and fountain plus pump amounted to a further £199- (say 26,000/-) and finally I had a wooden safety barrier made for 5000/-. This borders the house entry path and is proving to be popular as a fence to lean on and enjoy the results of all this expenditure. Total cost of all the construction materials and labour totalled 204,850/-.

Before filling the pond we washed the surfaces several times to rid the walls, base, etc. of any loose cement and alkalinity. We then filled it with 3000 gallons of rainwater and then added small doses of vinegar to obtain a slightly acid ph - this took a week and we used a one pint bottle of vinegar. This was followed by the planting of five water lilies (three day flowering, two night flowering and five differing colours) in large plastic washing bowls, some water cabbages and generous amounts of floating oxygenator plants. The pond water reached clarity and balance within a week (mainly because 25% of the water used to fill the pond came from established ponds which greatly speeds up the process) and our aimed surface coverage of 70% floating plants and water lily leaves was achieved in a very fast two weeks.



The pond has been stocked with 15 small koi and 30 goldfish. The cost of the small koi (who in their first month seem to have almost doubled in size) and 30 near mature goldfish was a very reasonable 2,250/- for the koi and a rather expensive 12,000/- for the goldfish plus a myriad of free white mollies. In addition I have added two local mud fish who help to keep the pond in balance.

It is a rather more expensive pond than my previous efforts but built to a high standard and already giving me much enjoyment. A more detailed material list, construction costs and sources can be accessed on <http://yellowgardening.com/cms/wp-content/uploads/JG-Pond-Costs.pdf>. In addition if I can be of any help to any other pond builder member please email your queries.

JMG. (jmgolds@icloud.com)

Towards a Shamba Times glossary of botanical terms: Part 4.

Explanatory Note

The fourth part of our glossary in-the-making gathers together a few loose ends left over from the three previous parts of this series as well as introducing a few additional, familiar botanical terms.

In Part 2 on terms and definitions relating to **Fruit**, reference was made to the term **Pericarp**, the outer layer or wall of a fruit, with some fruits having **dry** pericarps at maturity, others **fleshy**. **Drupes** such as the fruit of the *Hyphaene compressa*, the doum palm, and the cashew nut, and **berries** such as the grape-sized fruit of the *Lepisanthes senegalensis* were given as examples of the latter. To this should be added:



Hesperidium: a fleshy, many-celled fruit (notably of citrus plants) protected by a separable skin or rind, as illustrated.

Part 3 introduced the term **Angiosperm** which refers to any plant producing flowers and then illustrated the complexity of parts which make up a typical flower. Previously, all angiosperms were divided into two groups, **Dicotyledons**, also known as **dicot**, and **Monocotyledons** or **monocots**. Thus,

Dicotyledonous: descriptive of plants that have two embryonic seed leaves or cotyledons and leaves with net-like veins, with flowers that often have five or a multiple of five petals. A cashew is an example of a dicotyledon. Illustrated is a young castor oil plant showing its prominent two embryonic seed leaves that differ from the adult leaves.



Monocotyledonous: descriptive of plants that have only one embryonic seed leaf or cotyledon, parallel-veined leaves, fibrous root system and flowers with parts in threes or multiples of three. The coconut, *Cocos nucifera*, is a monocotyledon plant, as are orchids such as the local terrestrial orchid, *Eulophia speciosa*, as illustrated.

Scandent: refers to plants that are disposed to climb though they are not strictly climbers - they are actually scramblers. In the wild, they send off long stems in all directions until they find a support they can lean against (a tree, shrub, etc.), then, as they grow, they mingle with branches of their host and therefore manage to climb. In the garden, these plants will rarely climb on their own: they have to be directed to the desired support and tied to it. Bougainvilleas (*Bougainvillea* spp.) are the prime examples of scramblers.



Sources:

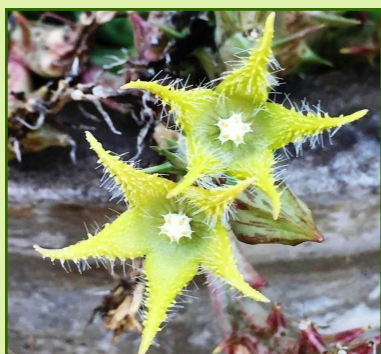
N. Dharani, *Field guide to Common Trees and Shrubs of East Africa*, 2011

Norbert Rottcher, Kivukoni Indigenous Tree Nursery

Kenya Horticultural Society, *Gardening in Eastern Africa*, 2017

Laidback Gardener, May 12, 2015

Gallery



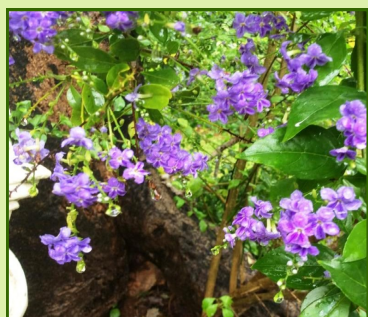
Orbea dummeri Ursula Brenneisen



Yellow Hibiscus Katana Baya



Yellow Ixora Ursula Brenneisen



Duranta erecta Ellen Waterer



Dalbergia melanoxylon Mpingo
Chris Wilson



Millettia usaramensis
Betty Bundotich



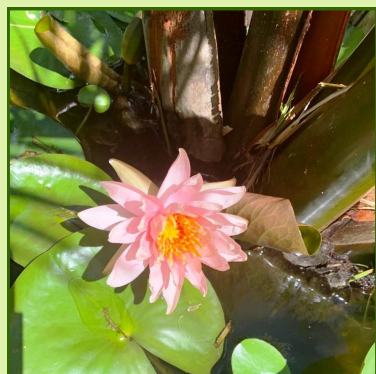
Edithcolea grandis Katana Baya



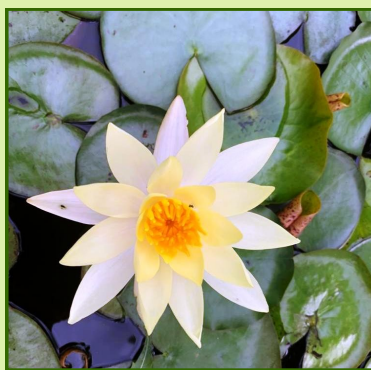
Codiaeum variegatum Croton
Wendy Corroyer



Caralluma speciosa Rita Benoeoy



Day Lily (newly-flowering)
Marion Langham



Day Lily Marion Langham



Night Lily Marion Langham

Odds and Ends

Baobab planting on Kilifi Plantation by Betty Bundotich

Perhaps you did not know that the dairy, sisal and horticulture farm, Kilifi Plantations, is home to over 200 baobabs. The tree disperses its seeds naturally with little or no intervention by us. However, we noticed that few seedlings were reaching maturity, due mostly to cattle grazing. So, in April 2018, we sprang into action to propagate a new generation of baobab trees using seed. At the start of the long rains in April 2020, a small team of us carefully selected a site at the employee quarters (so as to protect the saplings from further grazing), holes were dug at an appropriate distance from one another as these solitary giants typically grow to be over 10 metres in diameter over a period of hundreds of years, and prepared for planting days later. A total of 20 seedlings was planted.

Although we may not see these young baobabs reach maturity in our lifetime, we will continue to plant trees, to the benefit of the environment and subsequent generations. To learn more about the African Baobab, visit the farm and purchase our Kilifi Gold Baobab Powder, please contact info@kilifiplantations.co.ke or call **+254 714 734 790**.

And yet more on the baobab...
from Fabiana Alcojor and Roberto Gerosa

For further information on this and related initiatives, call **+254 724 070940** or **+254 704 055762**.



Familial love in the Time of Corona

We received this brief report from Carissa Nightingale who has a remarkable garden on the ocean's edge in Vipingo. Carissa wrote a piece for The Shamba Times in 2019 recording how her mother May Buxton came to acquire a tract of land on a completely undeveloped part of the coast and, who with the assistance of her husband, built a house and garden there that is lived in by part of the family to this day. Carissa writes ...

Among Coronavirus-related unprecedented experiences, our three stranded grandchildren have spent eleven weeks with their grandparents and still have no idea when they will see their Hong Kong home again. Here they are admiring their first *Amorphophallus maximus*.

This remarkable plant flowers once every six years and the flower lasts 48 hours, during which time industrious pollinators must find the flower, flop down into the bottom of its cup and then take 24 hours to struggle up its sides again and out, thereby pollinating this flower and covering themselves in new pollen to transport to a freshly opened *Amorphophallus maximus*.



Please watch for flashes as to whether these meetings can go ahead as planned.

And finally, for your diary



The KHS National Centenary Celebration 2022/3

What's NCD going to do for the KHS Centenary?

All KHS districts have been invited by the KHS Council to come up with ideas, and with a set of their own plans to help celebrate the first 100 years of KHS in 2022/3.

We invite all our members to make their own suggestions as to what we in the North Coast District can do to mark this centenary. Think inside and outside of the box, and let any of our NCD officers know what you think we could or should do.

We want you, our members, to be a key part of coming up with ideas and making the decision as to which suggestions are achievable, affordable and appropriate to this KHS 2022/3 national celebration.

We very much hope to hear from you.



Some early ideas

NCD to create and plant a civic garden in Malindi, Watamu or Kilifi.

NCD to create and plant a Healing Garden for the use of patients and staff, in the grounds of one or both of Malindi and Kilifi General Hospitals

NCD to make 2022/3 the Year of the Open Garden, with a different garden open to visitors each month.

NCD to host a Centenary Plant and Flower Show along with a Plant Sale.

NCD to run a Centenary Gardeners' Competition, across the whole of 2022/3.

NCD to host a Gala Lunch with invited speakers and guests to mark the KHS Centenary.

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