October
2021
Vol 8 Issue 4

The Shamba Times

Kenya Horticultural Society North Coast District

IN THIS EDITION

North Coast District News

Chairman's Notes

Welcome to the October 2021 edition of The Shamba Times. Along with our very active NCD WhatsApp group, the Shamba Times is our main forum for sharing news and ideas about gardening on the coast with our NCD members, and we hope serves as a forum for increasing knowledge and skills amongst all of us who love gardens.

This month I have written about my own garden for the regular My Garden section of the Shamba Times. However, if you are expecting me to name the plants in my garden or to share with you tips for successful planting, composting, pruning, and propagation, I am afraid I shall fail you. Instead I have chosen to focus on the

shape, the form, the architecture and indeed the very purpose of my garden. What is my garden? Why does it exist at all? And what is its relationship with me the owner of the land, and with my house, which nestles, I hope happily, within the garden.

I might as well come clean and tell you that I think garden plants are somewhat over-rated. Are they not simply components of a greater design? A plant, however rare, regardless of its beauty, and whether indigenous, imported, endangered or rampant is, I think, merely one of the building blocks of a garden. A garden is a whole; a plant merely one of its parts. In my view, a successful garden is by definition greater than the sum of its plants.

I sometimes wonder whether we gardeners spend too much time watching and worrying about our plants, and not enough time reflecting on how our garden makes us feel. What is it like to 'be' in the garden? Why have a garden at all? I hope my piece will answer some of these questions. But you will be the judge of that.

Crispin Sharp.

Vanda Adisak Happiness.

Our cover picture this month is of a hybrid orchid imported into Kenya from Thailand some years ago by Nick Conway at Malindi Hanging Gardens.

Vanda Adisak Happiness is not a botanical name, but merely what the hybrid's creator called it. This hybrid was created by A. Hongsilp in 2010 in Thailand. Its parents, yes they are described as such, were Vanda Siam Spots and Vanda Blitz's Heartthrob.

All very odd, but beautiful nonetheless.

KENYA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY
Gardening Kenya

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. Of course we welcome new members, so why not see if you can introduce a new member to us? this quarter?

Contacts

Chairman	**Mr Crispin Sharp** sharpcrispin@hotmail.com
Hon Sec	This post remains open
Hon Treasurer	**Mr Rupert Partridge** rdbpartridge@gmail.com
NCD MPESA	**0702 767 177**
NCD Shop	**Mrs Elfried Hoogeweegen** hoogeweegen@africaonline.co.ke

What's up on WhatsApp?

A collection of items and stories which started life from members' postings on the KHS NCD and/or yellogardening WhatsApps

A while ago, on 10 May 2021, a posting which began with the words: "Today is a big day for Kilifi's environment!" aroused much interest and received plaudits from many of our subscribers. Its authors, **Norbert Rottcher** and **Harry Williams**, were asked to explain why this was so and to tell us more…

In a partnership created between Kivukoni Indigenous Tree Nursery (KITN) and the Little Environmental Action Foundation (LEAF), we are planting over 1,000 trees and shrubs of over 120 coastal indigenous species, provided by KITN, into Pwani University's grounds. This is the start of an initiative to restore and reforest up to 200 acres of the university grounds over the coming years. Those who felt virtuous or with some hours to spare on 10 May were welcomed to join the planting team (holes had already been prepared!).

Why is an initiative like this so important? In Kenya, approximately 2,400 hectares of primary forest are cut down every year. This is the story around the world - fairly pristine forests that are carrying out any number of "ecosystem services" being cut down in favour of agriculture. With this deforestation, we are losing at an alarming rate all the species that depend upon these habitats. Thanks to human action, we are now considered to be in the sixth mass extinction. Past extinctions have been a product of gigantic volcanoes or asteroid collisions; this current one is the result of a short-sighted and selfish species: *Homo sapiens*. Initiatives like this draw attention to the importance of trees and deliver the strong message: far from cutting trees down, we need to be planting them. But they also give us the opportunity to create safe havens for species of trees struggling in the wild. In the Pwani University grounds, a range of endangered and critically endangered species can now grow and prosper without any risk of being cut down.

Who are the partners in this partnership and how was it initiated? LEAF is a young UK charity comprising environmentalists wanting to combat the two major issues of our time: the climate crisis and mass extinction of plant species. Their choice is to use one simple method, the planting of many trees from diverse indigenous species. The natural partner for such an endeavour on the Kenyan coast is KITN, one of the most diverse native nurseries in Kenya. When Dr. Rose Kigathi, a lecturer at Pwani University, was found to share the same ethos, the conversations started and, before long, we had a memorandum of understanding with Pwani in place allowing us to initiate the ambitious project of turning the university grounds into the most biodiverse-restored forest on the East African coast. The partnership also involves Botanic Gardens Conservation International, which is playing a key role in applying for funding and communicating between all the stakeholders in this highly threatened East African coastal forest region.

What about the sustainability of the project? Currently, the forest is maintained by a small LEAF team based within Pwani University grounds, all of whom are ex-Pwani students who studied botany and are passionate about the success of the project. The newly planted areas are already available to all those within Pwani University and it is hoped that the wider Kilifi community will be able to have access in due course. We also hope that, in time, this site can form the hub from which restoration projects all along the coast are carried out.

My garden

What *is* a garden? Well, until the 4 July 2008, the Oxford English Dictionary defined a garden as 'an enclosed piece of ground devoted to the cultivation of flowers, fruit or vegetables'. It was a definition that hardly describes some gardens these days, and certainly not mine. But everything changed in 2008 when the English High Court ruled that the OED definition was too narrow and that a better description needed to take into account the 'relationship between the owner and the land, and the history and character of the space'. Now we are getting somewhere, though the High Court didn't seem to place much value on what I would describe as the very important 'relationship between the land and the structures upon it'. Not all gardens have any structures on them of course, but it is no accident that one of the UK's best selling magazines is called House and Garden, suggesting that normally one will not find one without the other.

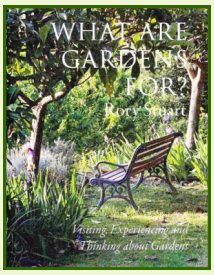
What defines an English garden?

A "garden" is defined in the Oxford English Dictionary as an "enclosed piece of ground devoted to the cultivation of flowers, fruit or vegetables". It is also described as a parcel belonging to a house which passes on with sale.

The Forestry Commission concedes that a garden could include woodland as well.

The High Court ruled yesterday that the OED definition was "too narrow", saying the key was the "relationship between the owner and the land and the history and character of the land and space".

Lord Justice Moses said that even though a previous owner had not used the land as a garden, it did not cease to be one.



A few years ago the KHS North Coast District was privileged to hear a talk given by Rory Stuart, author of a number of books about gardens, best known of which is 'What are Gardens For?'. One review of the book went like this 'An English gardening eccentric (was it one of the Sitwells?), when asked what a garden was for, replied that it was a place to stand. So here, with his new book "What are Gardens For?", we have Rory Stuart, a figure standing in a garden. He's not chattering, and he's not taking photos. He's not even pruning or watering. What he is doing is paying attention to where he is.' In other words a garden is a place to *be*. A place in which to take pleasure, to think, to recognize, to remember, to understand - to discern.

As to my garden, it *is* a place to be. It can influence how I feel. It can calm me, challenge me, inspire me, frustrate me, fill me with joy, and sometimes with sadness. It absolutely fits the High Court's definition of being a key part of a relationship between me the owner and the land I own. And its design reflects what I consider to be an equally important relationship, that of my house and my garden. I see the structures within and around my garden as part of the garden. My garden is not the 'enclosed piece of ground' around my house. My garden is a place to be, within which there is a house, a pool, staff accommodation, parking for cars, stores and so on. The structures are absolutely part of the garden. From my verandah my view is drawn through the doum palms down the garden to a magnificent old baobab. It is, if you like, an anchor. The garden's rock.

by Crispin Sharp

In my garden I have tried to marry the house and the garden together by planting right up to the structure's walls. The whole house is surrounded by foliage, it has in a sense surrendered itself to the garden, and become part of it. Plants soften walls, they can be part of the architecture and, of course, can be architectural themselves. Palms. lilies, ferns and heliconias are my 'go to' plants when it comes to matchmaking between my house and my garden.

Similarly I have planted right to the edge of my swimming pool. The pool is an artifice, it is not natural, it does not belong below doum palms, but it gives pleasure and has a right to find a place within the garden. However it has to work for that right and so is shaped in a natural form and, in places, shaded by palms and bordered by coral and ferns. It is a rigid structure, but one that somehow gives fluidity and peace in the garden.

How does my garden calm me? What makes it tranquil? How is it able to soothe the soul, and banish the cares, the chaos, and the cries of the outside world? I think my garden satisfies me by its patterns and repetitions. I never plant once, but always in a series of repeating images. Colours, textures, shapes repeat throughout the garden and in so doing they create unity, cohesion and a simplicity that I think is good for my mood, for my soul. I have created a long border of fifty metres or more down one entire side of my garden and within the border the planting just repeats again and again until it offers no surprises, just the comfort of the familiar. It is calming to find the expected, reassuring to know what is ahead.

But a garden should not be without its surprises. My garden is entirely walled with just a small wooden gate leading into the main garden from the parking area. I love the surprise and the pleasure it gives visitors when they step from the coral chippings of the parking area through the gate and see how long, how large, and how substantial the garden actually is. The coral wall around the garden and the overhead cover of the doum palms creates a micro-climate. It actually grows cooler as you step through the entrance and into the garden. The galana path from the gate draws the eye in one direction towards the house and pool, while the long vista down the garden competes for the visitor's attention.

My Garden ... Continued.

My garden is not only a garden for the day, but for the night too. Darkness brings new form to a garden. Parts of the garden may disappear into the darkness, whilst a full moon may silhouette trees, palms, garden shapes in a way that is never apparent by the light of day. And a garden may show its character by night. I believe that every garden deserves to be lit. Sympathetic lighting creates romance, beauty, and a remarkable sense of calm and well-being. I use hurricane lamps around the pool area for their softness, yellow bulbs for their warmth, and soft-lensed floodlights that look upwards into the tree canopy and bring the doum palms and the baobab to life after dark. We are fortunate to live in a climate that allows us to use our gardens at night and an investment in garden lighting is one that I think every garden deserves, and that will never disappoint. Lighting your garden is part of lighting your house, and vice versa.

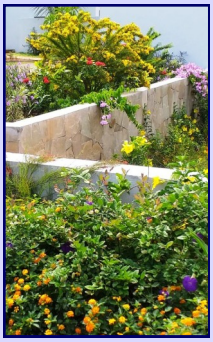
You may be shocked to hear it, but I am not really interested in varieties of plants. Whether they are indigenous or not is of little interest to me. Of course I understand that in my garden, as in most gardens, imported species have forced out indigenous plant varieties and in some cases actually put them in danger of extinction. My garden is built in what was a piece of low lying land, almost a swamp, populated by bush, baobabs, doum palms and little else. But what interests me is what plants *look like*, how big they grow, what colour they are, how they look against other plants, and of course how they make me feel. Planting spiky agaves against the soft foliage of ferns and lilies is what gets me excited. Using plants to build walls with no bricks is my idea of fun.

So, as you see, my garden is not 'devoted to the cultivation of flowers, fruit and vegetables'. It is what I hope Rory Stuart would recognise as 'a place to be'. Stuart tells us that it doesn't matter in which garden we find ourselves. We can be in an old garden, a new garden, a famous garden or *our own garden.* What matters is what we think, what we make, and what we experience when we are there. Stuart quotes from Russell Page when he declares that a garden should have, above all, 'a quality peculiar to itself'. I make no claims whatsoever for my garden save for the fact that it is loved, by me. And I suspect that might just be enough.

North Coast District in bloom.

A gallery of members' recent photographs

Moonlight
Marion Langham, Kilifi.



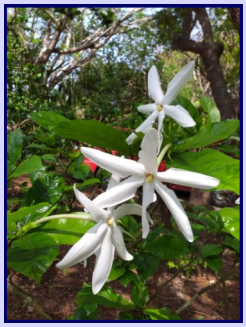
Flowering plants
Nicola Morrell, Vipingo Ridge.

Crinum asiaticum
Jane de Voerst, Che Shale, Malindi.

Eulophia taitensis
Robert Horner. Kilifi..

Beaumontia gradiflora
Shakira Kassimali, Malindi

Hibiscus
Marion Langham, Kilifi.



Gardenia posoquerioides
Nicola Morrell, Vipingo Ridge.

Bougainvillea
Janine Angell, Vipingo Beach.

Mangifera indica
Annelise de la Rosa, Malindi.

Aerangis kotschyana
Rolf Lattmann, Ngamani, Mtwapa.

Mansoa allicea
Veronica Hammond, Vipingo Ridge.

Dracaena conspicua
Jo Harris, Kilifi.

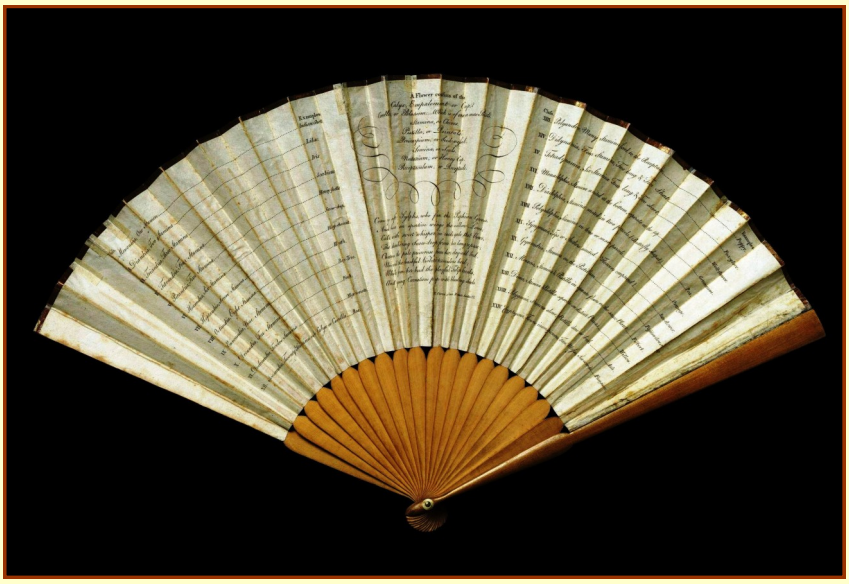
The Botanick Fan

Introduction

As you well know, at every opportunity KHS NCD encourages the use of binomial nomenclature in our identification of plants! This is the formal system of naming plants and other species of living things by giving each a name composed of two parts, both of which use Latin grammatical forms, such as the now familiar *Adenium obesum, Adansonia digitata, Brachystegia spiciformis, Kigelia Africana, Dalbergia melanoxylon, Petrea volubilis* and *Scadoxus multiflorus*. The *formal* introduction of this system is credited to Carl Linnaeus, effectively beginning with his work *Species Plantarum* of 1753 (for further information on this, see Professor Len Newton's article in Shamba Times, Volume 7, Issue 1, January 2020).

The Botanick Fan

You may be interested to know that, back in the late 18th Century, there was also a push to encourage people to become familiar with the works of Linnaeus and to cultivate a knowledge of botany with females particularly being targeted in these respects. According to information available from the Victoria & Albert Museum, London, '*The Botanick Fan'*, the subject of this article, was intended to be an early educational tool for females designed to cultivate an interest in the latter - botany, as well as in chemistry and mineralogy.



So, let's take a close look at this exquisitely produced double paper leaf folding fan of 1792 made by Sarah Ashton, a prominent publisher of fan leaves at that time from her business in Covent Garden, London. Perhaps we can learn some lessons from it? The front leaf is etched with botanical drawings of the anatomy of plants arranged to Linnaeus's classification. On either side of the back of the mount, there is a list of the drawings etched on the front leaf providing botanical descriptions and examples of the plants that fall into this class. Between the two parts of the list, there is an image of a flower and a description of a flower's principal parts, followed by some lines of verse from 'The Botanick Garden', a poem written by Erasmus Darwin (1731-1802) and from which the fan derived its name. The poem was published in two separate parts: Part II, 'The Loves of the Plants' in 1789, and Part I, 'The Economy of Vegetation' in 1792.

By Wendy Taylor

The description of a flower's principal parts runs as follows: 'A Flower consists of the Calyx, Empalement or Cup./Corolla, or Blossom…Which is of one or more Petals./Stamina, or Chieves./Pistilla or Pointals. / Pericarpium, or Seed-vessel./ Semina, or Seeds. /Nectarium, or Honey Cup./ Receptaculum, or Receptable'. Such terms are by and large still in use today.

The Botanick Garden

The stanza quoted from 'The Botanick Garden', written obviously in the English form of the day, reads as follows: 'Come ye soft Sylphs, who fan the Paphian Groves,/ And bear on sportive wings the callow Loves,/ Call with sweet whisper, in each that blows,/ The Slumbering Snow-drop from her long repose; / Charm the pale primrose from he clay-cold bed, / Unveil the bashful Violet's tremulous head; / while from her bud, the playful Tulip breaks, / And young carnations peek with blushing cheeks/ IIStanza 4 Canto Botanic Garden V.1'.

Finally, we learn that it was the stated aim of Erasmus Darwin, an English physician and the grandfather of Charles Darwin, in writing the Botanic Garden to 'inlist the imagination under the banner of Science', 'to induce the ingenious to cultivate the knowledge of Botany' and to introduce them to the 'immortal works of the celebrated Swedish naturalist Linnaeus', whose 'Systema Vegetabilium' and 'Genera Plantarum' he had translated. It is hoped that this article will fan your interest in much the same way!

Source:

The Botanick Fan, V&A Membership Monday Spring 2021, Victoria & Albert Museum, London

Towards a Shamba Times glossary of botanical terms Part 9: Symbiosis.

Explanatory Note

Here we focus on a term with which we are all undoubtedly conversant but, when pressed, our knowledge about it is probably a little fuzzy: '***symbiosis***'.

What is symbiosis?

Symbiosis is any type of a close and long-term *biological interaction* between two different *biological organisms.* The organisms, each termed a ***symbiont***, must be of different species including plants, animals and algae. There are three types of symbiotic relationship: ***mutualistic***, ***commensalistic*** and ***parasitic***. A relationship can, in turn, be either *obligate* or *facultative*, the former meaning that one or more of the symbionts depend on each other/one another for survival, the latter when they can generally live independently.

What is a mutualistic relationship?

When both members of the association benefit, the symbiotic relationship is called *mutualistic*. Organisms live in these relationships for a number of important reasons such as a need for shelter, protection and nutrition, as well as for reproductive purposes. Plant pollinators and plants; fungi and algae; ants and aphids; and, oxpeckers and grazing animals are some examples of mutualistic relationships.

Flowering plants rely heavily on insects for pollination generally on a *facultative* basis. Bees and other insects are lured to plants by the sweet aromas secreted from their flowers. When the insects collect nectar, they become covered in pollen. As the insects travel from plant to plant, they deposit the pollen from one plant to another enabling them to produce more flowers and seeds.

A striking example of *obligate mutualism* between plants and pollinators, in which both depend exclusively on each other, is that between fig trees and their tiny pollinating wasps. Each fig fruit is a flowerhead turned outside-in to form a ball, lined with flowers on the inside, with a hole at one end. Each fruit is pollinated by one or more female wasps. These enter the fruit, pollinate its flowers, and lay eggs in up to half these flowers. Each wasp's larva grows within a single fig seed. When a fruit's adult wasps "hatch", they mate among themselves and the fertilised females fly out in search of new trees to pollinate.

What is a commensalistic relationship?

A *commensalistic* relationship, that is, where one species benefits without harming or helping the other, is best illustrated by the *epiphyte*. **Epiphyte**, also called **air plant**, refers to any plant that grows upon another plant or object merely for physical support and not for a nutrient source. Most epiphytes are found in moist tropical areas where their ability to grow above ground level provides access to sunlight in dense shaded forests and to the nutrients available from leaf and other organic debris that collects high in the tree canopy. Examples include many species of orchids, tillandsias and other members of the pineapple family (*Bromeliaceae*), and ferns.

By Wendy Taylor

Unpacking the definition further, we find that a plant that spends its whole life cycle in the forest canopy without contact with the ground such as the orchid is known as a ***holo-epiphyte***, while a ***hemi-epiphyte*** is one that spends only the first part of its life cycle as an epiphyte and then adapts to another form of symbiosis. This is best illustrated by certain types of figs (*Ficus spp)* known as strangler figs as follows.

Although it can grow from seeds, the strangler fig in tropical rainforests has adapted to start as an epiphyte on another tree instead. At the epiphytic stage, the fig tree's relationship with its host is seemingly innocent. Birds eat the fig's fruit and drop its seeds between the leaf bases or in the nooks between branches of the host tree. The seedling grows there, finding nutrients in decaying leaves and soil, and growing towards the sunlight. At this stage, too, the relationship is indeed *commensalistic.* As the epiphyte grows and sends its roots down along the trunk of the host, their relationship begins to change. When two root tendrils touch, they fuse together in a process called *anastomose*, eventually forming a massive woody mesh that completely encircles the trunk of the host. As the host continues to grow, the roots' grip gets tighter, crushing its bark and constricting the conduction tissues. If the grip is tight enough, the host may no longer be able to transport nutrients throughout its system, dying of strangulation. Though the fig is not directly feeding on its host's resources, it can be argued that their relationship at this point is *parasitic* (see below), as the fig is harming the host tree in the hopes of eliminating competition for rain and sunlight. In most cases though, the host is sooner affected by the shading effects of the fully grown fig tree than by strangulation.

What is a parasitic relationship?

This occurs where one species benefits and the other is harmed. The parasitic plants have modified roots, *haustoria,* which penetrate the host plants, connecting them to the conductive system of their host. This provides them with the ability to extract water and nutrients from the host. Of the two types of parasitic plant, the ***holoparasite***, such as *dodder,* derives all of its nutrients from its host since it has no *chlorophyll* and, therefore, cannot make food for itself by *photosynthesis.* In other words, such plants are always *obligate parasites* depending on their hosts for survival. In comparison, the ***hemiparasite*** or *partial parasite*, such as mistletoe, derives only some of its nutrients from its host.

Some parasitic plants can locate their host plants by detecting chemicals in the air or soil given off by host shoots or roots, respectively. An example of the latter is *Striga asiatica*, a native to Africa (as well as Asia) and invasive in farmlands of Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda. It infects both grasses and grains including corn, rice and sorghum, as well as sugar cane, often causing substantial yield reductions. It is considered to be one of the most economically destructive of all plants.

Sources:

en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symbiotic

www.britannica.com/science/community-ecology

Fig Wasp, Encyclopaedia of Ecology 2008, Science Direct

The Strangler Fig: The Ultimate Tree Hugger, April 10, 2016, *Dawson Environmental Science*

Photo credits:

Pollinator, Norbert Rottcher; *Orchids & Tillandsia*, Nick Conway; *Strangler fig*, Carissa Nightingale; *Dodder,* Wendy Taylor

NCD monthly meetings

TWO GARDENS ON VIPINGO RIDGE

6 July 2021. After a very watery and ominous start to the morning, the sun came out at just the appropriate time and greatly contributed to the enjoyment of over 30 of us who attended this two-garden event, postponed from June. Meeting at Vicki and David Horsey's house, Vicki provided an illuminating talk on the creation of their garden with its fern-bearing wall at the front and its many indigenous trees at the back sloping down the ridge. Then, armed with such information, off we went to explore the garden for ourselves. From a green and serene setting, the second garden, one which Colleen Street, our co-host, had recently created for its owner, provided a complete contrast: a riot of colour. We feasted our eyes upon a myriad of brightly coloured flowers from bedding plants to flowering shrubs and young trees, all of which Colleen talked us through even specifying their binomial names! Many thanks to Vicki and Colleen for making our visit "up the Ridge" a very good one.

EVIE WALSH'S SHOREFRONT GARDEN AT CHE SHALE

27 July 2021. After traversing along a narrow sandy route strewn with coconut husks and palm fronds for the last part of our journey, we finally arrived at Evie's garden at Che Shale - 33 of us including the seven ladies who travelled by minibus from Kilifi. And what a lovely garden it is - an oasis of green, a haven of peace and tranquillity produced in part by the canopy of trees judiciously lopped and pruned to allow the dappled light and breeze to penetrate. As we wandered along the different pathways within and then out onto the white sandy beach, it was hard to believe that the creation of what is now a well-established garden with its lush green vegetation and neatly-edged beds of plants commenced only a mere six years or so ago. There were few plants then - three large trees and some doum palms with water having to be brought in, as it continues to be so, as were the soil and, obviously, the plants. Not just indigenous trees and shrubs but those that Evie knew, from her long experience, to be most tolerant of the ocean-side location, some originally from seeds which she had collected from overseas. Then, sadly, it was time to go…so a big thank you to our host, Evie, for opening her garden to us - and providing us with some delicious bitings. Thanks also to Holly Hamilton and Vicki Hill for all the various tasks they undertook towards making the event a very successful one.

Continued ...

A NEW MARKET GARDEN OUTSIDE MALINDI

24 August 2021. Greenfix was our destination in August. Set outside Ganda off the Tsavo Road on a wonderful site overlooking Lake Chem Chem, this new market garden is the project of Albert and Valerie who have established a small farm growing mainly salad leaves, lettuce, rucola, basil, flat leave parsley, and some herbs. The market garden was established in August 2020 and what has been achieved there in the short space of one year is quite remarkable.

A great deal of the cultivation of the lettuces is done through hydroponics, Greenfix brings a lettuce from seed to market in just 14 days. The challenge is water for irrigation, the salad leaves are watered up to five times a day, and electricity to run the pumps required to push water through the hydroponic tanks and the drip feed systems that irrigate the plants being grown in soil. A borehole has solved the water challenge and a large solar installation provides electricty, which is augmented by petrol driven pumps. 41 NCD members made the journey to Greenfix and we were not disappointed. It is a remarkable horticultural project in a most beautiful location.

Diary of upcoming events

October event yet to be confirmed.

November 16 2021 - A walk in the Arabuko Sokoke Forest

We invite members to join Jonathan Baya on a guided walk in the Arabuko Sokoke Forest. The walk will take place after dawn and will give members an opportunity to learn about the faune and flora of this remarkable piece of coastal forest which is home to more than 200 elephants and many other creatures. Jonathan will also highlight the risks to the forest and the action that Friends of Arabuko Sokoke Forest are taking to protect and preserve this valuable living heritage site.

December 7 2021 - How to arrange flowers from a coastal garden

This month the highly creative Magic Abdullah leads a practical demonstration for our members and their staff to show us how to create stunning flower arrangements using only the plants and flowers available in our coastal gardens. Magic will explain the value of wiring and use of oasis as well as how to cut flowers and greenery to achieve the best results in a vase and longer lasting flower arrangements. Participants will are invited to bring a vase and some flowers and greenery from their gardens and to look, learn and **do**!

25 December 2021 - The annual NCD Christmas Day dhow trip

This is a delightfully informal and relaxing way to spend Christmas Day, cruising up Mida Creek and back, to anchor for an excellent lunch of fish, lobster, prawns and traditional Christmas turkey on board the beautiful Turtle Bay Beach Club hotel dhow. This KHS NCD event is open to all members and their guests but being very popular, booking is on a first come first served basis. Payment is not required until mid-December. If you would like to spend Christmas Day on Mida Creek with the NCD, please contact **Holly Pritchett** on **0722244256** .