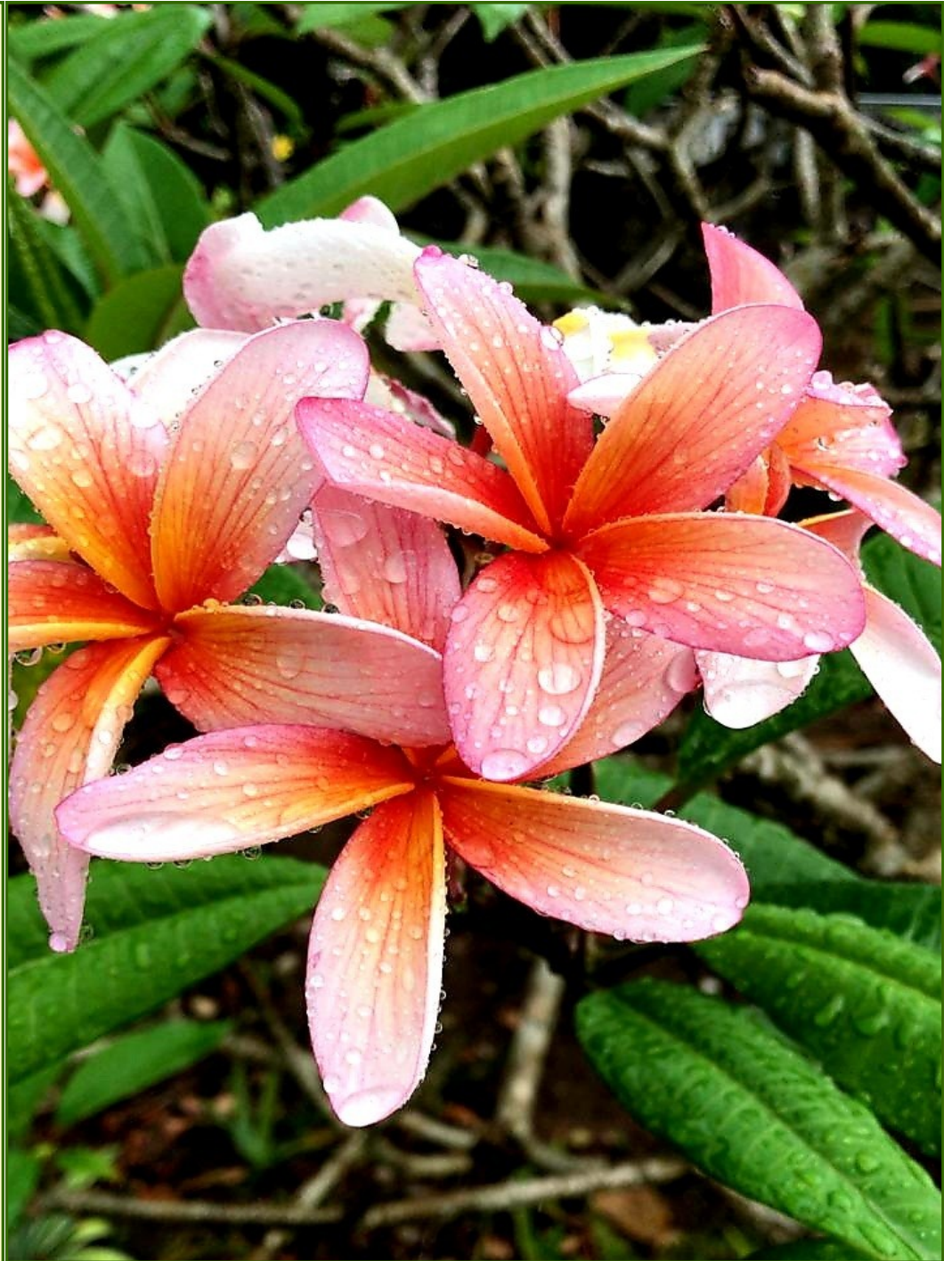


January
2021

The Shamba Times

Kenya Horticultural Society North Coast District



**Tribute to the
Violet Queen,
Silva Mather.**

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North Coast District News



Chairman's Notes

Welcome to the first edition of the Shamba Times in 2021. A new year, and with it renewed hope that we can return to some sort of normality. 2020 was hard on all of us. Covid-19 spread throughout the world, and many innocent lives, and those of health workers, carers, and other key workers were lost. Economies were put to the sword. Whole sectors of Kenya's economy have been deeply impacted including, of course, tourism in our coastal region where thousands of jobs and livelihoods have been lost.

In 2020 our district was able to hold only five meetings. Our AGM was postponed, and for six months our members met only online and within our new NCD WhatsApp group.

But 2021 has all the signs of a new spring following a harsh winter. Vaccination against the virus offers hope that in the course of this new year we shall begin to get a global grip on this dreadful pandemic. Once populations are protected, travel can start again. Tourism can return to Kenya and hopefully jobs can be created once again, schools can be reopened, and life can return to some sort of normality.



KHS North Coast District is planning a full year of garden visits, talks, meetings, events and other activities in 2021. We hope to hold our postponed AGM in March at Driftwood Club in Malindi, and on the back page of this edition of the ST, we outline our plans for the first three months of the year.

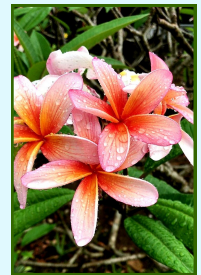
In 2021 we need to rebuild our membership, which effectively halved in 2020. We hope all our former and current members will support our efforts by paying their subscriptions for 2021, and in return we promise you a year of interesting, relevant, stimulating and fun-filled monthly meetings, along with access to our WhatsApp group and to 2021's four editions of the Shamba Times.

Let's hope that the shoots of spring that we see today are followed by a new year of hope, of improved prosperity, of reunion with friends and family, and of a return to the normality that we all crave. I wish all our members a very Happy New Year

.Crispin Sharp.

Plumeria rubra

Our cover picture in this edition is of *Plumeria rubra* 'flor de mayo' and was posted to our WhatsApp group by Gail Outram who photographed the beautiful flower heads in her creek-side garden in Kilifi after the rain.



Plumeria is more commonly known as frangipani. The white variety (*P. alba*) originates from the West Indies and is named after the Frenchman Plumier, who was a pioneer of West Indian botany. The pink-flowered Frangipani (*P. rubra*) comes from Central America and now has a wide range of allied colours.

The name Frangipani may originate from the French frangipanier, meaning coagulated milk; but a more attractive hypothesis refers to a perfume developed from its flowers in the 12th century by an Italian nobleman named Frangipani.



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?

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Hon Sec	Mrs Wendy Taylor wendy.elizabethkenya@gmail.com
Hon Treasurer	Mr Rupert Partridge rdbpartridge@gmail.com
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What's up on WhatsApp?

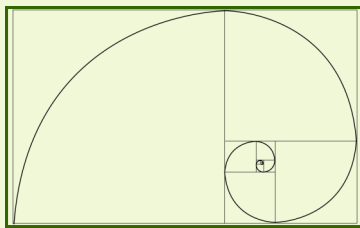


A collection of items and stories which started life from members' postings on the KHS NCD WhatsApp over the last few months.

One item which aroused some discussion was Ursula Brenneisen's posting of a *Gloriosa superba* with "8 of everything" rather than the usual 6. Peter Derry responded saying this was not perhaps unusual referring us to the *Fibonacci Sequence* (described as such around 1202 by the Italian mathematician, Leonardo of Pisa, better known as Fibonacci). Here, he elaborates...



Mathematics is the language of life. It has been developed over thousands of years in an attempt to understand the forces of nature around us, each new insight standing on the shoulders of the lexicon that comes before. And the essence, if not the proof, is usually quite simple. The *Golden Ratio* is a wonderful part of the lexicon that has been with us for a while: it was about 2,500 years ago that it was realised this gave rise to numbers that were neither whole nor fractions (irrational numbers). The ratio has an equation to make the eyes glaze over but the *Fibonacci sequence* is very close and wonderfully simple.



On a simple sum, $1+1=2$ take the answer and add it to the previous number, so $1+2=3$, $2+3=5$, $3+5=8$ and so on. The resulting curve is a delightful snail shell (better without the snail in the garden) that can be seen everywhere in nature. Have a look at the spirals in a sunflower seed

head, for instance. So why do we see this repeated time and again? Remember that maths is just a way of describing what's there, and every creature alive today is there because all its ancestors survived long enough, so it works. For plants, one of the most important factors is the efficient collection of light. Any creature that is more efficient than its neighbours will, when the chips are down, be more likely to survive. Stand over a short simple plant like an aloe and you can see the spiral of the leaves, and you can see this everywhere when you get your eye in. Look at a bottlebrush flower (and remember that petals are modified leaves so follow a similar code) and you can see the rows go up in spirals. This spiral allows for the maximum amount of leaf area to be in the sunshine for the minimum amount of resources used. Just like us, the plant needs instructions to make sure the right bits go in the right place and one of those instructions is how far to turn the next leaf. Commonly found is a half rotation $1/2$ followed by $3/5$ (can you see *Fibonacci* starting to appear?) and then, would you believe it? $5/8$ all creeping closer to the *golden ratio*.



One of the key aspects of nature is that there's lots of different ways of solving a problem (biodiversity) so don't expect everything to fit the same pattern, but this pattern is amazingly common, it works, and it is why the same numbers recur over and over. The vital importance of having lots of solutions in the environmental mix is that, when things change, there's a very good chance of plenty surviving unless, of course, the change is too rapid. This is why the loss of biodiversity and the rapidity of the change in warming is the greatest threat to our existence.

Back to Ursula's *Gloriosa superba*, the conclusion reached? To go from a 6- to an 8-petalled one is "very special indeed!"



Tribute to the Violet Queen

My mother, Silva Mather, grew up during the British pioneering days in Kenya when getting to Nairobi 26 miles away was a full day's adventure in a Model T Ford (not far from where *Out of Africa* was filmed and about the same period as depicted in the film). She spent many years bringing up four "only" children - another arrived every 6 or 7 years - and, for much of the time, we lived an isolated life on a coffee farm in Kenya. So her gardening life started a little late and she knew almost nothing about plants before she was 50.



Her interest was piqued after a cousin gifted her six *Saintpaulias*, commonly called African Violets (although they are not closely related to true violets), though eventually her collection grew to encompass several greenhouses, not to mention much of her house. Her bathroom was usually festooned with little brown bottles containing the latest treasured leaves she was trying



to strike, and her living room always had a stunning display. She said they were food for her soul and she would often disappear to a greenhouse with her little dog and two cats in tow. She regularly won Best in Show at the Kenya Horticultural Show and people said there was no point trying anymore because she was bound to win anyway - I still use some of the silver spoons she received as mementos.

Saintpaulias are native to Kenya and Tanzania. My brother went to a Catholic school in the latter country so, when my mother became friendly with Brother Paddy MacNamara who lived at a mission near the Usambara Mountains in Tanzania, a half-term adventure was on the cards. This included a muddy trek through deep jungle to get to "World's End" which overlooked a 2000 ft. sheer cliff, where yet another treasured new species plant was acquired at great peril. We also had some fun times gathering "elephant poo" for the violets, sometimes from very close to large herds of elephants, but this game soon wore off as the resulting compost was deemed to be too rich.

by Vivien Wallis



Silva was well aware of the precarious situation of *Saintpaulia* in their own natural environment. At a meeting in Tanzania in 1986, scientists expressed the opinion that, unless deforestation could immediately be checked - with particular emphasis on the Usambara mountains, the *Saintpaulia* species in this region might well become extinct. Here the drastic clearing of trees and shrubs, which once shaded the cliffs towering above the caves, had led to the few remaining species being totally exposed to the full blast of the midday sun. The International Union for the Conservation of Nature & Natural Resources (IUCN) subsequently placed the *Saintpaulia* on their list of endangered species and among the 12 most endangered plant species in the world.

Our mother became so well known in the *Saintpaulia* world that she used to be sent leaves of all sorts of exotic new hybrids from across the globe. However, the species plants were always her special love and she gradually accumulated a large collection of rare species plants. She was passionate and determined about saving the species and believed that every person who kept even a few African Violets on their windowsills across the world were contributing to doing so.



The definitive *Saintpaulia* reference book, "Saintpaulia: The History and Origins of the African Violet" by Francine Pilon, is dedicated to her.

When she passed on, none of us sadly had inherited her special interest and we were at our wits end to know what to do with these valuable treasures. They ended up at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, named after her as "The Mather Collection" and we know that this is what she would have wished.

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Botanical Information

According to the findings of a study published as 'Globally Threatened Biodiversity of the Eastern Arc Mountains and Coastal Forests of Kenya and Tanzania (2016). By Gereau, Roy. E. et al., Northern Michigan University, Journal Articles, the African Violet found in Kilifi, *Saintpaulia ionantha* subsp. *Rupicola*, of the Gesneriaceae family, is only located in three areas. They appear on the 2015 IUCN Red List of Threatened Species as *Critically Endangered*.

Rewilding ...

This article on the concept of *rewilding* has been inspired by the visit to Checkie Wood's shamba of indigenous plants and trees and her talk on her 'Wilding' project and builds on what we learnt from that KHS NCD event.

What do we mean by rewilding? Sifting through the burgeoning amount of literature on the concept, which was first academically applied in 1998 by American conservation biologists, the following working definition emerges: ***a form of environmental conservation and ecological restoration that has significant potential to increase biodiversity, create self-sustainable environments and mitigate climate change.***

For some experts, such a definition would need to take on board the concept of *passive rewilding*, which aims: ***to reduce human intervention in ecosystems, giving human cultivated land back to nature and restoring nature, with the goal of letting nature develop and flourish on its own***

(sources: True Nature Foundation webpage)

Why rewilding? There is general consensus about the adverse effects of climate change and global warming on the physical environment, ecosystems and human societies. From the physical impacts such as extreme weather events, glacier retreat, changes in the timing of seasonal events (for example, earlier flowering of plants) and sea level rise to those on the ecosystem such as habitat loss and a rapid decline in biodiversity. Climate change and variability have made food insecurity worse for humans in many places in the world and have put pressure on fresh water supply. This, in combination with extreme weather events, leads to negative effects on human health and well-being. That human activity has, in turn, caused climate change is not generally disputed either, with the largest driver being the emission of greenhouse gases. (Sources: Wikipedia Effects of Climate Change; Wikipedia Climate Change.)



Approaches to addressing climate change fall into two categories - mitigation and adaptation. Mitigation addresses the causes, whereas adaptation deals with the impacts. Rewilding is primarily a mitigation strategy.

The future scale of global warming depends on the extent to which nations implement mitigation efforts and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. An interesting perspective on this comes from *The Conversation's Imagine* newsletter of July, 2019, as follows: "many scientists believe that halting global warming at 1.5°C will require us to invent negative emission technologies - machines that can suck climate warming gases like carbon dioxide (CO₂) from the air. But such technology already exists and has done for over two billion years. From the trees outside your window to the microscopic algae in the ocean, nature is working hard to absorb the atmospheric carbon that is heating our world." Hence the call for natural solutions - rewilding approaches - to climate change: let "nature do much of the hard work in removing the CO₂ that is already in the atmosphere saving the time and money needed to develop artificial methods of capturing carbon."



The impact on the local ecosystem through habitat loss and decline in biodiversity is well-captured in Norbert Rottcher's article in *The Shamba Times*, Spring 2018. Little more than a hundred years ago, the narrow coastal stretch was part of a great mosaic of forests and woodland extending along the African coast from Mozambique to Somalia. Today only tiny patches of the original diverse habitat remain. Sisal and other plantations have been created, areas have been cleared as shambas for growing maize using unsustainable farming practices, and charcoal burning persists. Much of the original diversity is now severely depleted, some species have even become extinct.

The soil has become degraded or eroded. Despite this, the area is still home to a third of the country's entire plant diversity but this is under severe threat. Now is the time to rewild!

A nature-based approach to address global warming

How to rewild? One well-publicised approach to rewilding in Europe particularly is by reintroducing lost animal species to natural environments. Isabella Tree maintains that the key to the success of her rewilding project, Knepp Wildland Project in Sussex, England, were the free-roaming herbivores which she introduced. English longhorn cattle, Exmoor ponies and Tamworth pigs, proxies of the megafauna that would have once roamed the land, did battle with the emerging scrub, creating messy margins and opening niches on the former arable fields of her family farm. Together with roe, fallow and red deer, “their disturbance stimulates vegetation complexity and generates a dynamic, ever-shifting kaleidoscope of habitats - rocket-fuel for biodiversity.”



Here, in our own local environment, the focus of the rewilding projects of four of our members has been planting indigenous trees and shrubs. When Checkie bought her plot adjacent to the Mida Creek five years ago, her vision was to re-create a little piece of the enchantment that she believed the thick Sokoke forest, which used to ring the creek right down to the sea's edge, once offered: trees and bees, chirping birds and fluttering butterflies. At the time, though, the plot really could not have offered a harsher, more hostile, and less enchanted environment. The whole area was bare, brown earth on coral; all its vegetation razed to plant maize; only three trees, two baobabs and one mango tree; and the wind racing unfettered across the plot.

Learning as she went along but drawing on her knowledge of Permaculture methods, she has gradually been re-creating a forest. Saplings were planted in washed cement bags and cosseted in their nursery for at least one year before planting out. They were planted in “pairs of siblings” based on her observation that trees are like people, they want and need family, and “cry and pine” if they are on their own. To encourage strong growth in a hostile environment like this, each sapling was planted with a “nurse” tree. This is a tree that grows very fast on any terrain, provides shade and shelter, is evergreen and nitrogen-fixing, and does not mind being hacked back as its charge develops. They belong to the pea family, *Fabaceae*. Take heed, though, they are mostly all alien, invasive species so need to be managed!

The aim of Rolf Lattman’s rewilding project was also to create an indigenous coastal forest - on 28 acres of land at Ngamani, Mtwapa. Acquired in 2006, the land had been used previously for maize planting and as a source of firewood and was then largely denuded of vegetation and topsoil. The first step was to plant hundreds of fast-growing trees - *Casuarina* and later, *Leucaena* (another member of the *Fabaceae* family) - to create shade and organic material in the form of leaves and small branches which, after dropping to the ground, would over time help build up the topsoil. Most of the former planted died in the first, very dry year because the underlying hard rock (blue shale) did not allow their roots to reach the water table. The *Leucaena* did not have that problem and grew very fast, multiplying vigorously from seed. However, they need strong management and have had to be “eliminated” from time to time.



Most of the trees and bushes planted are from the seedlings of indigenous trees such as Mbambakofi and Mvule. On the slopes, the trees are planted in lines across the fall-line to reduce erosion. Another method of propagation has also been used: after one or two seasons had elapsed after the ending of the local maize planting practices, quite a few trees were found to be growing again from the roots which had remained in the ground. The regrowth was pruned back to one stem only to ensure the growth of a single-trunked, “proper” tree while new root suckers growing too close to one another were transplanted to other suitable areas. The fledging coastal forest now contains some 150 Mpingo trees propagated in this way, as described in *The Shamba Times* of October, 2020. They make up the estimated 230 different types of trees and shrubs currently hosted by Ngamani together with various forms of wildlife and 109 different types of birds, which have been spotted.

Rewilding ... continued.

Belinda and Patrick Walker's rewilding has involved the creation of a bush garden. In the past, their plot located on the south side of Kilifi Creek had been covered in low-lying indigenous bush; following the use of slash-and-burn, there had been one season of maize growing, which was unproductive; and then the neem, an invasive species so evident in Kilifi, took over. After the purchase of the land in 2008, the first major task was thus the removal of thousands of neem trees. After many of years of hard work and dealing with periods of drought, the outcome is an intriguing garden containing some 120 species of trees and shrubs - for the most part, indigenous species...just waiting for a visit by KHS NCD members later next year, it is hoped!



Nobert Rottcher's approach to rewilding is based on his contention that ecological restoration should be via indigenous trees and shrubs since the latter fit better into our local environment and its evolutionary jigsaw puzzle than exotics. They are more useful and attractive to birds, butterflies and other creatures that together form the wonderful diversity of life that the coastal vegetation once supported in abundance. His project which includes the establishment of the Kivukoni Indigenous Tree Nursery and a reforestation initiative on land that had previously been part of the sisal plantations on the south side of Kilifi Creek where once the coastal forest grew, puts his beliefs into practice. (For a full account of this story, refer to *Norbert is Indigenous*, The Shamba Times, Spring 2018.)

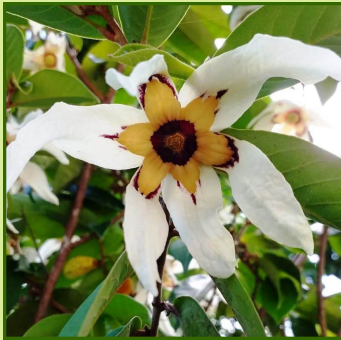


When it comes down to it, though, a rewilding project need not be quite as ambitious as the examples above. Adding a pond in your garden can help fight climate change - ponds act as a carbon sink burying carbon as sediment and will soon be home to various invertebrates and plants quickly followed by frogs and toads. And, let that patch of weeds remain since it might sustain a pollinator, provide a host plant for a particular butterfly or a favoured food plant for a particular bird. Next, plant an indigenous tree or two and then you have it, your own rewilding project, a nature-based approach to address global warming!

This article was written by Wendy Taylor and Checkie Woods. Pollinator photographs are those of Norman Rottcher.

North Coast District in bloom.

A gallery of members' recent photographs



Asteranthe asterias
Nicky Morrell, Kilifi.



Ipomea arborescens
Naseeb, Che Shale. Malindi.



Gardenia posoqueria
Shakira Kassamali, Malindi.



Tecomaria capensis
Peter Derry, Watamu.



Bromelia balansae
Gail Outram. Kilifi.



Delonix regia
Peter Derry, Watamu.



Tecomanthe dendrophila
Marion Langham. Kilifi.



Bougainvillea
Colleen Street, Vipingo Ridge.



Petrea volubilis
Janine Angell, Vipingo Beach.



Sterculia africana
Norbert Rottcher. Kilifi.



Ochna...
Nicky Morrell, Kilifi.



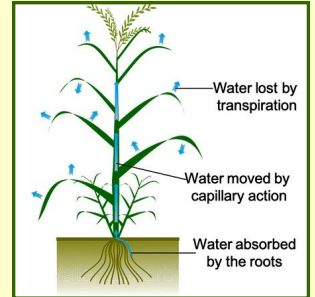
Markhamia zanzibarica
Norbert Rottcher. Kilifi.



Towards a Shamba Times glossary of botanical terms Part 6.

Explanatory Note

In the sixth part of our glossary in-the-making, we focus on terms which describe three interconnected processes that plants use to absorb and circulate water, and to get rid of excess water. First, one introductory term to help in our understanding - **Plant Tissue**: *a collection of similar cells performing an organised function for the plant*. Each plant tissue is specialised for a unique purpose: **xylem** is a plant tissue specially designed for transporting water and nutrients.



Osmosis: *a type of diffusion that enables plants to absorb water from the soil*.

Osmosis occurs when a substance such as water crosses a *semipermeable membrane* in order to balance the concentrations of another substance. Since the roots of the plant have a higher solute concentration than the surrounding soil, water then flows into the roots. Osmosis happens spontaneously and without any energy consumption on the part of the plant's cells.

Capillary Action: *the ability of a liquid to flow in narrow spaces without the assistance of, or even in opposition to, external forces such as gravity*.

The effect can be seen, for example, in the drawing up of liquids between the hairs of a paint-brush, in a thin tube, in porous materials such as paper - use the edge of a tissue to mop up some spilled coffee and watch it being drawn up oblivious to the wishes of gravity, or in a biological cell. To illustrate further, if the diameter of the tube is sufficiently small, then the combination of surface tension (which is caused by cohesion within the liquid) and adhesive forces between the liquid and container wall act to propel the liquid.

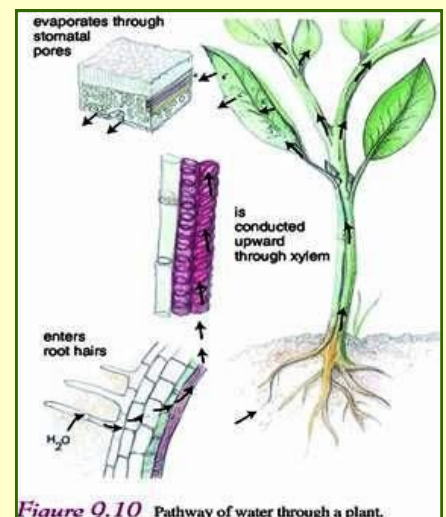


Figure 9.10 Pathway of water through a plant.

In plants, capillary action helps bring water further up into the roots but this action can only "pull" water up a small distance, after which it cannot overcome gravity. To get water up to all the branches and leaves, then as illustrated above, the forces of adhesion and cohesion go to work in the plant's *xylem* tissue to move water to its furthest reaches.

Osmosis, Capillary Action, and Transpiration

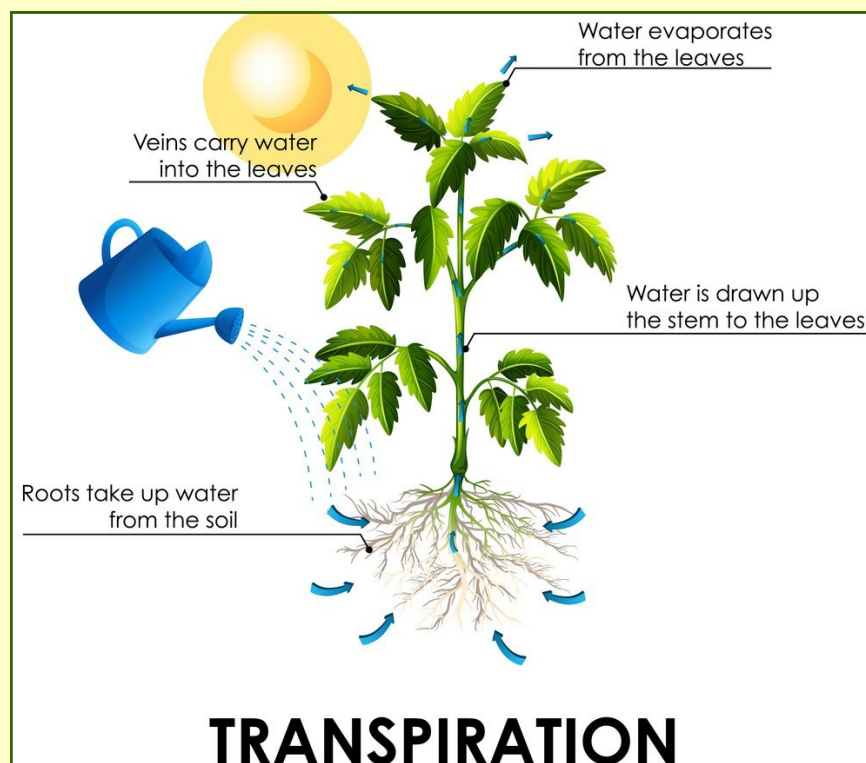


Transpiration: *the process whereby plants give off water vapor through pores or stomata in their leaves.*

When water reaches the stomata, it evaporates due to *diffusion*: the moisture content of the air is lower than the moisture in the leaf, so water naturally flows out into the surrounding air in order to equalise the concentrations. Transpiration occurs because plants take in more water than they actually need at a given time: it is a way of getting rid of the excess. When water is removed from the plant, it can more easily access the carbon dioxide that it needs for *photosynthesis*.

Plants can also use transpiration as a method of cooling themselves and to help maintain moisture conditions in the surrounding environment, depending on the number and types of plants therein. As much as 10 percent of the moisture in the Earth's atmosphere is from transpiration of water by plants.

Sources: Wikipedia and Biology Dictionary



NCD monthly meetings



A GARDEN VISIT TO THE HANGING GARDENS, MALINDI, 22 SEPTEMBER 2020.

After six months in which we were unable to hold any garden visits or meetings for our NCD members, we were delighted to visit The Hanging Gardens in Malindi in September 2020. 39 members attended a very interesting morning event very kindly hosted by Nick Conway at his home and nursery at Mtangani outside Malindi. The



Hanging Gardens is home to a collection of orchids that Nick has imported from Thailand. These plants are nurtured, and then sold on to collectors in Nairobi and all over Kenya. We saw the new orchid quarantine centre that Nick has built in which plants arriving from outside Kenya will be quarantined for three months before they can be moved to other areas of the nursery and begin their growth and development. We also saw a fascinating example of a

wormery where Nick is producing concentrated liquid compost, alongside his mammoth composting pit which dwarfs the size of any regular garden composting area. The Hanging Gardens is also a nursery for salad leaves and members were interested to see how leaves can be grown at scale with little or no more effort than we can grow them in our own gardens. Many thanks are due to Nick for getting us back into our monthly garden visits in such a positive and welcoming way.

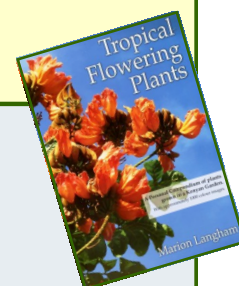
CHECKIE WOOD'S WILDING EVENT, 27 OCTOBER 2020.

On 27 October 2020, 43 members and gardener members gathered together at Checkie Wood's 'Wilding' shamba for an extremely enjoyable and informative meeting. Fortified by madafu and carrot cake, we then listened to Checkie talk about how the idea of her 'Enchanted Forest' of indigenous trees developed and came into fruition (see the main feature of the current issue of Shamba Times for her account). Other speakers were Jonathan Baya, who spoke about the birdlife in the area mentioning two particular visitors, the Terek Sandpiper and the Crab-Plover, and Kahindi from the local Ocean Trust, who described the mangroves growing along the Mida Creek and the community mangrove conservation project. A large group of us then ventured through the mangroves down to the creek to see what they had learnt about during the talks. Later a number of members enjoyed a tasty lunch at the Crab Shack. Thanks are extended to Checkie for hosting the event and all the other members who helped in the organisation of this very successful event.



A NEWLY CREATED GARDEN IN KILIFI, 24 NOVEMBER 2020.

More than 50 North Coast District members and their guests attended an excellent 'open garden' event at Langham Place in Kilifi, the home of Marion, Lady Langham, former Chair of the District. Held in a garden only one year and one month old, the event had everything that a gardening enthusiast could wish for; a newly planted garden rich in variety and design filled with plants shrubs and trees of every kind. The garden is quite literally a living exhibition of what can grow on the Kenya coast and how to plant and nurture it. Everywhere one looked were plants, ponds, pots, and perfect vistas. The NCD pop-up shop did a roaring trade with 2021 calendars flying off the shelves, Marion Langham's excellent new book deservedly sold like hot cakes, and every clay pot that had been carefully transported from Mombasa was gone before lunch.



Marion led a guided walk around her newly created garden, and explained to members what she had planted, how and why, explaining the vital importance of feeding the soil with aid from the garden wormery and a vast composting area which have been the key to the amazingly rapid development of the garden. And after the walk, drinks from the

Dion Wines pop-up bar, and a delicious lunch served to members in the shade of the garden. We owe huge thanks to Marion for the meticulous planning and preparation of the event, and to her assistants and staff for delivering a wonderfully happy and most interesting garden visit.

Our plans for the start of 2021...



26 January 2021 - A garden visit to the Goodhart house in Malindi.

Members are invited to visit the garden created by Joan Goodhart in Neem Road, Malindi and now occupied by her daughter Deborah. There will be the usual coffee and tea socializing, and a walk around the garden led by gardening expert Kaiungu XXXX, who has been leading the development of the garden.

23 February 2021 - A garden visit to Sandra Riches' home in Watamu.

Members are invited to visit Sandra Riches' garden near Mida Creek in Watamu. Sandra describes her garden as 'honest but modest', and in addition to seeing the planting Sandra has done since she moved to Watamu, members will also be able to learn about the raised vegetable planters featured in the Whats up on WhatsApp piece in the Shamba Times October 2020 edition.

March 2021 - KHS North Coast District 2020/21 AGM and Raffle.

All members are strongly encouraged to attend the NCD AGM, Lunch and 2020/21 Raffle Draw, following the postponement of our 2020 AGM. The AGM will take place at Driftwood Beach Club at a date to be announced, and will include the NCD Pop-up Shop, a Plant Sale, a subscription renewal desk, a light lunch, and the draw for the 2020/21 Raffle.

January 2021 - Subscriptions to KHS North Coast District are now due.

We gently request that all members pay their 2021 subscriptions promptly, please. Single membership is 1,000. Couple's membership is 1500, Gardeners' membership is 500 and KHS corporate membership is 2000. You can Mpesa Rupert Partridge, our Hon Treasurer, on **0702767177** direct but please be sure to send your name and email address too. Thank you for your support.

Odds and Ends

Kenya's 10 Percent Tree Cover commitment

Kenya continues to lose about 12,000 hectares of forest each year. Accordingly, about 12 percent of the land area which was originally covered by closed canopy forests has been reduced to some 1.7 percent of its original size due to demand for fuelwood, charcoal and wood products, population pressure for settlements, infrastructure development, and conversion of forests to farmlands.

To avert a crisis, the Government, through the Ministry of Environment and Forestry and with support from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Kenya, has adopted a coordinated approach to manage, conserve and expand forests sustainably to attain a minimum 10 percent forest cover nationally by 2022. This is also expected to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

The 10 Percent Tree Cover Strategy involves partnerships with both state and non-state actors towards implementing tree planting and growing initiatives that are ultimately aimed at inculcating a countrywide culture of nurturing trees.

This infographic simplifies this commitment.



THE TARGETS

5.1 million ha

The Government has committed to restore 5.1 million ha of degraded landscapes as a contribution to the Africa Forest Landscape Initiative (AFLI).

50%

The Government has committed to reduce greenhouse gases through the forest sector by 50 percent by 2030 as part of its Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) to climate change.

Land Degradation Neutrality

The Government has committed to achieve land degradation neutrality by 2030 as a commitment to United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)

10% by 2022

The year by which Kenya aspires to have attained the 10 percent national tree cover. Towards this, the Government has set a target to have produced 1.8 billion quality tree seedling by then.



