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Editorial:

The rather different weather this year resulted in especially miniata flowering early and late and at different times in different areas. As a result, it was decided to hold two displays at Kirstenbosch, in addition to the Show at Bellville. The Overberg Interest Group also held its first show.

The Editors apologise for the poor graphic design of this edition which arises from their own amateur efforts with no designer being available. They would appreciate all Club members who can offer these skills putting their hands up.

DISPLAY OF HABITAT PLANTS AT KIRSTENBOSCH

Warm weather in June caused many of the habitat plants in the Living Collection at Kirstenbosch to flower early this year. Most Club members had never seen these in flower and a display was therefore arranged at Kirstenbosch for the weekend 27/8 August with those habitat plants the centre of attraction. There was also a good variety of interspecifics and early flowering cultivated miniata. It attracted a lot of interest.

THREE MINIATA FROM THE HABITAT



Appleblossom seedling



Umtamvuna Light Apricot



Leguan Rock



Ian Brown's Interspecific



Jim Holme's 'Goliath'



Cameron Peach

2005 CAPE SHOW

The changeable weather this year presented its own challenges for the Show, with cool/cold weather during the weeks running up to the Show and then a blistering hot day or two during the last week.

All this resulted in fewer entries and a loss of quality but with stronger classes of Pastels, Peaches and Apricots. The big increase in entries by Novices was particularly encouraging. Attendance by the public was a little disappointing but plant sales were brisk.

The Show was opened by Sean Chubb, the Chairman of the KwaZulu-Natal Club.

John Winter won Best On Show, with Felicity Weeden First Runner-up and Riel Lotter Second Runner-up.



Sean Chubb opening the Show






John Winter and Felicity Weeden with the best exhibits



Aletta van der Merwe, the Show Secretary and Claude Felbert's daughter Nicky, who helped him with the photography, at the display at the Show entrance

2005 SHOW WINNERS

CLASS	WINNERS	AWARDS
1. Orange/Red	1 st I&J Clivias 2 nd John van der Linde 3 rd Gerrit van Wyk	 <p style="text-align: center;">Best Orange/Red</p>
2. Bronze	1 st Felicity Weeden 2 nd Gert Wiese (posthumous) 3 rd I&J Clivias	
3. Orange	1 st Riel Lotter 2 nd Eric Heine 3 rd Eric Heine	 <p style="text-align: center;">BEST ORANGE and SECOND RUNNER-UP TO BEST ON SHOW</p>
4. Orange – Green Throat	1 st Felicity Weeden 2 nd Tony True 3 rd I&J Clivias	 <p style="text-align: center;">Best Orange – green throat</p>
5. Tulip shape	1 st Gerrit van Wyk 2 nd Jim Holmes 3 rd I&J Clivias	

6. Yellow – narrow petal	1 st I&J Clivias 2 nd I&J Clivias 3 rd I&J Clivias
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Best Yellow – narrow tepal

7. Yellow – broad tepal	1 st Gerrit van Wyk 2 nd Felicity Weeden 3 rd Ian Vermaak
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Best Yellow – broad tepal

8. Deep Yellow	1 st Jim Holmes 2 nd Jim Holmes 3 rd Jim Holmes
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Best Deep Yellow

9. Peach/Apricot	1 st Felicity Weeden 2 nd Felicity Weeden 3 rd Ian Brown
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BEST PEACH/APRICOT, 1ST RUNNER-UP TO BEST ON SHOW and WINNER BLASER CENTENARY TROPHY

10. Pastels	1 st John Winter 2 nd Gerrit van Wyk 3 rd John van der Linde
12. Multipetal	1 st Gert Wiese (posthumous) 2 nd Piet Theron 3 rd Eric Heine
13. Unusual Flowers	1 st Gideon van Zyl 2 nd Gideon van Zyl
14. Broad Leaf in flower	1 st Gideon van Zyl 2 nd Eric Heine 3 rd Gideon van Zyl
15. Compact in flower	1 st Arno Engelbrecht 2 nd Cassie Carstens 3 rd I&J Clivias
16. Dwarf in flower	1 st Gerrit van Wyk 2 nd Eric Heine
17. Dwarf pinstripe variegated	1 st Andre van Rhyn 2 nd Malan Brothers
19. Compact pinstripe variegated	1 st Andre van Rhyn 2 nd Gerrit van Wyk 3 rd Gerrit van Wyk
21. Broad leaf pinstripe variegated	2 nd I&J Clivias
22. Broad leaf broad variegated	1 st Andre van Rhyn 1 st Jim Holmes
23. Narrow leaf pinstripe	1 st Eric Heine
24. Narrow leaf broad variegated	2 nd Eric Heine 3 rd I&J Clivias
25. Unusual leaves	1 st John Winter 2 nd Eric Heine 3 rd Andre van Rhyn
26. Miniature clivia in flower	1 st John Winter
27. Miniature clivia	1 st Mick Dower





BEST PASTEL and BEST ON SHOW



Winner Own Breeding



Best Novice

not in flower	2 nd Eric Heine 3 rd Mick Dower	 <p>Winner Class 34</p>  <p>Winner Class 35</p>
29. Interspecifics	1 st Anton Doubell 2 nd Eric Heine 3 rd Jim Holmes	
31. Own Breeding	1 st Felicity Weeden 2 nd Felicity Weeden 3 rd Ian Brown	
32. Novice	1 st Stefanie Engelbrecht 2 nd Bernard Engelbrecht 3 rd Eddie Mathewson	
33. First time in flower(1,2,3,4 or5)	1 st Ian Brown 2 nd Eric Heine 3 rd Riel Lotter	
34. First time in flower (6,7,8 or 9)	1 st Jim Holmes 2 nd Jim Holmes 3 rd John van der Linde	
35. First time in flower (10,11 or 12)	1 st Ian Brown 2 nd Gideon van Zyl 3 rd Ian Brown	
36. Ideal Pot Plant	1 st Ian Brown 2 nd Arnold Barnardo 3 rd John van der Linde	
37. Specimen Plant	1 st Stefanie Engelbrecht 2 nd Margherita Blaser 3 rd Jim Holmes	

OVERBERG CLIVIA INTEREST GROUP

The Overberg Interest Group held its own Clivia Display at the Peregrine Nursery, Grabouw over the weekend 24to 25 September.

Jessie Walton kindly opened her nursery to us, and provided very nice stands to display the plants on. Between , Andre van Rhyn, Jessie and myself, we mounted a quite respectable display, which met with a remarkable amount of acclaim. We may even have a few new members as a result.

Our Clivia Club Table was manned by Gert Venter, Caroline Phipps and myself.

The nursery was packed with Clivia for sale, which added to the lovely show of colour and attracted a lot of attention

John and Beth van de Linde were our only guests from the Cape and their interest was very much appreciated.

It was a learning experience but all in all in was quite a success. As Jessie is keen to make this a yearly event, we will surely be able to do a much better job next year.

FELICITY WEEDEN

SECOND CLIVIA DISPLAY AT KIRSTENBOSCH

In past years miniata have tended to flower later in the Southern suburbs than in the Northern suburbs. To accommodate this and to give clivia a wider public exposure and remembering that at the Show we see only those clivia which are at their very best over that one weekend, the Committee decided to hold a display of clivia at Kirstenbosch over four days two weeks after the Show.

It was very well supported by the public and Margie Brown ensured that their many questions about clivia were properly attended to at the information table. Her success resulted in an unusually large number of publications being sold. Some of the plants shown are pictured below. There are now plans to arrange similar Displays also at Stellenbosch and Durbanville next year.



MULTIPETAL



PINKY PEACH



AUTUMN SPLENDOUR

CLIVIA SHOOTS 8

(compiled by Coen Calitz)

Bounce Back

One of our fellow members, Daniel van Vuuren, who works for Neutrog, the company involved in the manufacture and distribution of Bounce Back, reports they have decided to make Bounce Back available to Cape Clivia Club members at R60 per bag of 40 kgs. This is a considerable saving on the cost per kilogram compared to smaller bags or purchases at nurseries or co-ops. Cape Clivia Club members can call Peter Runkel at 021 945 2281 to arrange for sales and delivery. He may charge you R5 per bag for delivery within reasonable distances, but will probably deliver free at Clivia Club meetings in Durbanville. He also prepares liquid inorganic fertilisers, which also has carbon as one of its basic substances. This is available in small quantities for the smaller growers.

At the June meeting, Daniel also distributed samples of a new product called Rapid Raiser. This consists of Bounce Back plus added natural rock phosphate, which has been imported. I am sure members will remember that fertilizer for Clivia should be low in P (the middle of the usual NPK). Apparently, our indigenous bulbs, including Clivia, have evolved and adapted over the centuries and millennia to a growing medium low in

Phosphates. But all plants need it, especially for healthy root growth. Some growers use bone meal, but as far as I know, all avoid Superphosphate.

By the way, it has been reported on the e-mail enthusiasts group that Calcium is absolutely essential for vigour and strong cell walls in Clivia. I use CaNO_3 once or twice a year. But I read in one of the older Clivia Newsletters that we should never mix the Nitrates and the Ammonium. So I only apply the Calcium Nitrate after the other fertilizers have probably washed or leached out. From its main components, being chicken manure and battery sweepings, I would assume that Bounce Back would be high in both Calcium and Ammonium. So I should not combine the Calcium Nitrate with the Bounce Back?

Would some knowledgeable member versed in plants chemistry or plant physiology explain to us whether we have it right or wrong and especially WHY? *Oh, we know so little about our beloved specie!! The more I learn, the less I know!*

Mini-shows at meetings?

Daniel van Vuuren also tells me that he recently attended a meeting of the Easter Province Clivia Club. (He was stranded for several days courtesy of SAA.) They have an informal show at each meeting. Members bring their best plants for display, numbers are assigned, voting papers are distributed and those present are asked to vote for the plants they like best (*In different classes? Eds*). Discussions follow. This seems to be very popular with members and there are lively competitions.

More meetings?

Several members have mentioned to me that the times elapsed between Club meetings are too long. If you miss a meeting, six months go by and we lose contact. They also say our meetings are so busy and full that there is rarely time to discuss individual plants or raise questions. This is by no means criticism of the committee, who spend a lot of time and effort to organise the meetings. Rather, meetings are so enjoyable and informative that they want more of it!

Would bi-monthly meetings not be possible? Let us hear your opinions!

Pollinators

At the last meeting the question about Clivia pollinators again surfaced, as it does at almost every discussion. The answer from the experts was again vague. Probably insects, but definitely sunbirds for the pendulous types. I wish to disagree. I recently had a Gardenii in a vase in the house. It snapped long before opening and our house does not harbour insects nor sunbirds or butterflies. But when the flowers dropped, I discovered that each and every flower had been pollinated. HOW? The only possibility is wind.

So what pollinates *miniata* in nature? Given the sparse seed heads, I should like to again nominate the wind. When next you have a shaft of sunlight near a flowering Clivia *Miniata*, gently shake the flower stem. You will see a cloud of pollen up to 50 cm wide.

Of course, our brushes, ear buds and even fingers do a much better job. That is why we have such large berries and so many seeds.

Clivia in Retirement Homes

Have you placed those nice plants that you want to keep, but not show or breed, in the entrance lobby of your local retirement home? Eric Heine and I have had an overwhelming emotional response from not only the residents but also the staff and many visitors. I put a little note with the name and a red-letter warning not to water the plants. At each visit I was collared for a talk by several of the residents, all exclaiming about the beauty and telling about the Clivia they used to have. We certainly did not contribute the plants to receive accolades, but to see so many people enjoy the flowers is really gratifying. "You have no idea of the pleasure you have given such a large number of people", said the Chairperson of the management council of one of the homes.

You can call me for advice. Come on, just do it!!!

Disappointing Victorian Peaches

It has been obvious that the new "in thing" in Clivia is to own a brand name Peach. (But, as was warned in Cape News 7, all plants sold under a "name" are not equal.) As we mentioned before, the competition for the Margherita Blaser Cup is high and promises to be a highlight at at least the next few Cape Clivia Shows

However, several members have had severely disappointing, if not traumatic, experiences) with the very expensive imported Victorian Peaches they bought and are feeling a little sore (they were unfortunately damaged by freezing in transit. We all feel for you and hope that members who have healthy Victorian Peaches, will make the shoots available to other, less fortunate souls.

Hirao Green Clivia Miniata

Rumour has it that a Cape grower procured an original clone of the magnificent green Miniata shown on the back cover of the Yearbook 7 (the development of which is discussed on pages 86 and 87). When asked about the price, he said, "don't even ask". The similar green plant showed at the George show in 2004, was an interspecific and therefore somewhat lanky and drooping and probably less suitable for breeding.

We look forward to seeing the Hirao at a show or Club Meeting.

Yearbook 7

I am sure we all agree that the latest yearbook is absolutely superb. After reading Yearbook 6 last year, I remarked that it would be extremely difficult to equal this in future. Well, they have equalled and exceeded the standard. I am proud to show the book to non-Clivia visitors. Our heartiest congratulations go to John van der Linde, Peter Dixon, Claude Felbert and all the authors. Well done!! How on earth will you equal this standard next year?

Confidor

In an earlier Cape News the advent of a much cheaper Confidor generic to combat mealy bug was referred to. John Winter reports that Kirstenbosch acquired it but he noticed that it is only effective for 3 months, compared with a year for Confidor itself. Consequently he still uses Confidor despite its higher price. It is distributed by Wenkem which has branches in Durbanville and Stellenbosch and we have found that its price has now come down to R750 per litre, plus VAT. Get a group together to share a litre! Eds.