

Succulent Karoo

Chronicles

A Newsy Letter from Calitzdorp, South Africa
for Succulent Plant Enthusiasts Everywhere

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Another example of South African humor. This picture was taken by the swimming pool at the Tsitsikama Lodge. It is situated in the only logging community in the country and is quite unlike any other place we have been here.

Upcoming Events in and near Calitzdorp

May 6-8 – Redstone Hills Mountain Bike and Trail Running weekend at Buffelskloof, Kruisrivier.

May 8 – Mothers' Day Brunch at the Queen of Calitzdorp.

June 16-19 – Calitzdorp Winter Festival (formerly Calitzdorp Port Festival).

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Editors' Message

Our big adventure last month was a trip to the Addo Elephant Park. A huge reserve has been set aside for these gentle giants. More than 500 elephants go about their business here and pay no attention to the crazy tourists who cross their paths.

Our first morning at the park we saw lots of animals, but no elephants. We were thinking that maybe an elephant sighting was rare in the park, but right after lunch we caught sight of a herd in the thickets. We drove past, turned around and waited for the elephants to walk past, but they decided to walk down the road and cross over near our car. Three BIG elephants and one juvenile sauntered directly toward us, taking up the whole road! Wow, what do you do when tons of wild pachyderm wants your road space? Sit there and see what happens or get out of the way? Buck and I did not have the nerves to play chicken with elephants - we backed up! It took several minutes for our pulse to slow down after that introduction.

After Addo, we visited the town of Graff-Reinet where we toured the Camdeboo National Park and visited an amazing nursery where we bought enough plants to fill up the back of the SUV. We'll be returning for more plants soon.

We attended an auction to benefit the local pre-school for colored children, and bought a couple of interesting antiques. My best buy was a set of 12 framed prints of South African birds by two well-known ornithologists, Geoff Lockwood and K.B. Newman. I stole them for R160 (about \$10).

I attended the April meeting of the local ladies group where a pomegranate farmer gave us a presentation on everything pomegranate. He spoke in Afrikaans and I understood a lot so I guess my lessons are paying off. I came home with pomegranate juice and pomegranate reduction (yummy over ice cream).

A lot of our time has been spent on landscaping and the results are beautiful. Still lots to be done but it keeps us in good shape.

Buck and Yvonne Hemenway



Fall and winter blooming bulbs are popping up now. Saw this beautiful Brunsvigia striata in the velt at Addo.



The garden is taking shape nicely. We will need lots more plants.



On the way to Addo, Buck and I stopped overnight at Tsitsikama and spent the morning at the Stormsrivier National Park. We enjoyed the beautiful rugged coastline and the amazing 77 meter suspension bridge crossing the mouth of the Storms River. We are already planning to return here during the heat of summer in February.



Birding is a popular pasttime in South Africa. I can see why when you spot unusual birds like this Secretary bird in your travels.



Another charmer is the black-headed Heron



A couple of examples of the South African bird prints I picked up at an auction this month.

Greater Doublecollared Sunbird



Redshouldered Widow