

Succulent Karoo

Chronicles

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

May 2016 - Volume 2, Number 5



We saw this pair of klipspringers in cliffs near our house. Only about four feet high, they clamber up and down the rocks on dainty, sharp-pointed hooves. This pair seemed curious about us and watched as we searched for succulents below them.

Upcoming Events in and near Calitzdorp

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

August 6-14 – Art on Track 2016. Art competition and exhibition.

August 27-28 – Bloelseffees (Blossom Festival) at De Krans Winery.

Material in the **SUCCULENT KAROO CHRONICLE** publication may be reprinted by nonprofit organizations (unless such permission is expressly denied in a note accompanying the material) provided proper credit is given to the SKC and the author, and that one copy of the publication containing the reprinted material is sent to the editor. Reproduction in whole or part by any other organization or publication without the permission of the publisher is prohibited.

Editors' Message

Calitzdorp is having a lovely Indian Summer this month with warm days and chilly nights. Perfect for planting and hiking and we took advantage of the great fall weather by doing both.

Buck and I started May off with a bang when we hosted a Cinco de Mayo party. We had to explain to everyone what 'Cinco de Mayo' meant but everyone understood the great mexican food and my famous margaritas!

The Redstone Hills Mountain Bike and Trail Running weekend was a lot of fun, even though Buck did neither ride nor run. There were lots of activities for everyone starting with a braai dinner on Friday night, pancake breakfast Saturday morning followed by a local farmer's market where we bought the most delicious kudu sausage. Saturday was the mountain bike ride (unfortunately after it poured the previous night) but all the riders returned with big smiles even though they were covered in mud. Saturday night was the three-course dinner (with plenty of local wine) and barn dance. People know how to have a good time in our little valley.

The Calitzdorp museum hosts an event 4-5 time a year called 'What's New'. For May, Buck offered to lead a tour of three succulents gardens (including ours) and talk about how to garden with succulents. It was a very popular event. We had over forty attendees and it was a great fund-raiser for the museum.

Buck and I spent three days in Stellenbosch meeting with staff at Babylonstoren to discuss the possibility of hosting a succulent conference at their fabulous facility. While there we spent a lovely evening with Ernst and Erma van Jaarlsveld and were luck enough to be serenaded by their talented songwriter daughter, Zaria.

We were invited to lunch at a charming historical home in the hills south of town. While there we hiked on nearby hills and in addition to finding interesting plants, we were spied upon by a pair of klipspringers, those shy antelope that live on the steep cliffs throughout South Africa. After a hike and a gourmet lunch we were ready for a nap.

Buck and Yvonne Hemenway

MUSEUM GARDEN TOUR

All pictures courtesy of Jako Voges



Buck giving the group some words of succulent gardening wisdom before touring the gardens.

Succulent gardening is becoming very popular in South Africa with the looming threat of drought and the ease of maintenance. All these folks are converts.



An Aloe ferox in bloom is always a show stopper.



Irma is another Calitzdorper who is an avid succulent gardener.



Jako's wall of flame. Crassula capitella in full afternoon sun exposure.



This lovely Echeveria has been adopted by the South Africans and is known locally as the Rose of the Karoo.