



Succulent Karoo

Chronicles

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

October 2015 - Volume 1, Number 1

Gibbaeum heathii tucked into the rocks on a local koppie (hill). This genus is a winter-grower and is just coming into flower in mid-September

Upcoming Events in and near Calitzdorp

October 17, 10:30 – Hello Summer Wine and Snack Pairing, Fun and Hot Summer Sun at the Calitzdorp Cellar.

October 31, 9:15 – Calitzdorp Museum’s Outing to Groenefontein at the foot of the Rooiberg Pass. Our host will be Tom Barry, Warden of the Gamka Nature Reserve. (See next issue of Succulent Karoo Chronicles for a report.)

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Editors’ Message

My husband Buck and I are recent newcomers to the village of Calitzdorp, smack in the middle of the internationally recognized Succulent Karoo biodiversity hotspot. We arrived here in August of this year from Southern California and are in fact the only North American residents in Calitzdorp. We are instantly recognizable the second we speak to anyone and they often respond, “Oh, you are the American couple”. (Yes, the ones with the funny accent.)

We have immersed ourselves in the local happenings and have met many very interesting Calitzdorpers. Alex (pub owner and nurseryman), George (butcher and nature reserve warden), Louis (4x4 trail operator and succulent nut), among many others.

The friendly and generous people living in and around Calitzdorp have invariably invited us to share their favorite plants, wine and food experiences. After only 2 months we feel right at home.

Speaking of home, our 100-year plus house is in the process of being restored to its former glory. The next *Chronicle* will bring you pictures of our house, along with more plants - there can never be too many plants.

Or wine. We are very fortunate to be living in the heart of the Klein Karoo Winelands with three award-winning cellars within walking distance of our home. These cellars offer outstanding port as well as many varieties of wine. There are also three more cellars within easy driving distance.

Of course you can’t mention wine without mentioning cheese. There are many farms producing exceptional cheese from cow, goat and buffalo milk. We will be trying new brands for many years. The people here are into organic farming in a big way. All of the restaurants, big and small, feature organic ingredients. I guess we’ll have to try all of the local establishments and give a review each month of our faves. That will be such a chore!

Or plan a trip to our idyllic area and we’ll be happy to show you around.

Buck and Yvonne Hemenway

Spring in the Veld



Freesia



Notice all the succulents in this picture: *Crassula pyramidalis* in flower, 4 little *Conophytums* just bursting out of their sheaths, and a *Tylecodon wallichii* leafing out.

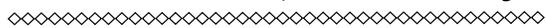


These spring flowers are so cute! Can't wait to unpack all the reference books and find out what it is.

The veld is aglow with brilliant purple ruschia in the early spring.



Pretty in pink. *Crassula rupestris* takes on fabulous color under the clear, intense Karoo sunlight.



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Euphorbia heptagona displaying new red spines and yellow flowers.