

Succulent Karoo

Chronicles

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

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Oxalis is often a swear word for many gardeners and nurserymen as North American species are all weedy. But in South Africa *Oxalis* is so beautiful you have to love it. The one above is *O. obtusa*.

Upcoming Events in and near Calitzdorp

October 2 to 17 – Hemenway trip to central Namibia scouting for plants and beer.

October 23 – Next meeting of the Calitzdorp succulent club.

November 26 – Apricot Harvest Festival at The Station.

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Editors' Message

September and springtime brought Buck and I many visitors from the U.S. in addition to the blooming wonders in the veld. We were privileged to host Ken Altman, Matt Altman, and Kelly Griffin from Altman Nurseries in San Diego County and Brian Kemble and Walker Young from the Ruth Bancroft Gardens near San Francisco.

We then had a surprise drop in by Lee Brownson and Pat Isaacson from Phoenix, Arizona. Next were some familiar faces from Tuscon, Arizona - Greg and Carol Starr, Mark Dimmitt, Kevin Barber, and Jan Emming who were accompanied by Jesse Byrd.

Next was a return visit from Kelly, Brian and Walker together with Ernst and Erma van Jaarsveld from Stellenbosch. Ernst was in Calitzdorp to research a possible new *Gasteria* species nearby, and he confirmed that it was indeed something new. He will now describe and name the plant. Unfortunately this important discovery will delay the publication of Ernst's new *Gasteria* book for several months.

These visitors gave Buck and I an excellent reason to have many delicious braais and cheer the good health of all our old and new friends.

In September, Buck chaired the first meeting to begin a new succulent club in Calitzdorp. Over 40 succulent plant enthusiasts attended and committees are forming up to get things underway. We plan on being a very active club and several projects are already on the table.



Our (almost) last garden area is supposed to represent the local veld. It looks pretty sparse now, but wait til next spring!

Buck and Yvonne
Hemenway



A snippet of *Pelargonium peltatum* has adapted well to the garden. This trailing *Pelargonium* is abundant in local Calitzdorp hills.



Tritonia securigera grows abundantly in the hills north of Oudtshoorn.

Albuca concordiana has a charming green and white flower. We collected a handful of seeds to sprinkle in the garden next winter.



This is a fine example of *Gasteria brachyphylla*

The views in the Klein Karoo are often breathtaking and difficult to capture in a photo.



The botanists (L to R): Brian Kemble, Matt Altman, Ken Altman (crouching), Buck Hemenway, Jan Vlok (author of *Plants of the Klein Karoo*), and Kelly Griffin.



Pachypodium bispinosum is one of two *Pachypodium* species growing in our local hills. This particular old plant has a very large caudex.