



This *Haworthia pumila* growing in Gerhard Marx' greenhouse would make a wonderful Christmas decoration.

Upcoming Events

in and near Calitzdorp

December 16-24 – Peach picking at De Krans Wine Cellar.

December 31 – New Years Eve 'Bring and Braai' at the Calitzdorp Country Pub. New Years Party at The Calitzdorp Station.

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Succulent Karoo

Chronicles

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

December 2015 - Volume 1, Number 3

Editors' Message

Christmas in summer! Shorts and flip-flops and afternoons at the beach. This will take a little getting used to. However, Buck and I seem to be adapting well to these upside-down seasons. We get out early to work in the garden during the cool of the morning and escape indoors by 10:00 or so to relax in the relative coolness provided by the two-foot thick walls of our house. Summer is vacation time - the kids are out of school and government and construction is shut down till after the new year. That means lots of visitors to our popular little town taking in the art galleries, wine tasting, fruit picking, and the delicious lunches served at the wine cellars and restaurants around town.

Our friend and fellow succulent enthusiast, Kelly Griffin, returned for a two days early in December and we visited with Gerhard Marx at his nursery nearby. We then drove to a few local sites to see what was blooming. *Cotyledon orbicularis* is the star this time of year and we also came across *Gasteria brachyphylla*, *Haworthia arachnoidea*, *Senecio articulatus*, and several *Crassulas*. Buck and I have promised ourselves we will go on a lengthy hike in the veld on the first cool summer day to see what else is blooming this time of year.

We spent a fun afternoon at the Apricot Festival at the end of November. There was good food, good wine, fun crafts, and live entertainment. There are a couple of pictures on the next page.

Plums are another big crop here in Calitzdorp. Since Buck and I both love ripe plums, we ended up with a LOT of them. So I decided to make plum jam. I have never made preserves before but everyone here in Calitzdorp does so I decided to join the fun. I made the best plum cardamom jam! It goes particularly well with turkey since it is a little tart, as are cranberries.

Since Buck and I are both avid gardeners, one of our new projects is our vegetable and herb garden. We built raised beds under a 20x20 shade structure and two weeks ago I planted pumpkins, cantaloupe, beets, chard, peppers, tomatoes, red onions, horseradish, arugula, and other herbs. Everything is up and growing fast.

Happy New Year!

Buck and Yvonne Hemenway

Happy Holidays



Carriage rides and shopping for crafts under the grape arbor at the Apricot Festival



Potjie cooking in traditional stew pots. (I have got to get one.)



Three experts discussing the finer points of hybridization and propagation. (L to R: Kelly Griffin, Buck Hemenway and Gerhard Marx)



Some of the outstanding plants we admired in Gerhard's greenhouse.



Cotyledon orbicularis is the belle of the ball in late spring/early summer here in the Klein Karoo.



We found a habitat for Gasteria brachyphylla and saw this specimen growing on a rock, nestled among Euphorbia mauritanica.

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Raised beds full of vegetables and herbs. The sprouts here are white pumpkins - seeds planted 12 days ago.

