



# Halgolla Plantation Home

Accommodation of a different kind

- October 2011 -

The fruit we spoke of last month—ambarella (*Spondias dulcis*), Lovi (*Flacourtia inermis*), star fruit or carambola (*Averrhoa carambola*), pomegranate, grapefruit, olive and passion fruit – continue in season and we should soon be harvesting more of our home-grown veggies and a crop of fresh ginger as well.

The vanilla plantation immediately adjacent to the front garden of HPH is really beginning to take shape and Emil says he views this development with some trepidation. The reason? There might be an expectation that he matches his grandfather's achievement of winning a medal for a sample of this "bean" at the Paris Exposition of 1900!



**Nutmeg (*Myristica fragrans*)**

Our production of spices has taken a new turn with a nursery in the district contracting to buy our entire crop of nutmeg for use as planting material and we look forward to this even more productive use of the seed of this wonderful spice.

The cinnamon plantation down a slope from the HPH is beginning to show signs of real establishment after weathering several droughts and we expect, before too, too long to contribute to Sri Lanka's better than 90% share of the world's cinnamon production.

We will be taking a few days in Wasgamuwa National Park in early October and our next newsletter will provide information about what a visitor may encounter in one of Sri Lanka's lesser known game parks. For those of you who wish to pre-empt our account, here's a link to a website that will give you a preview:

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wasgamuwa\\_National\\_Park](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wasgamuwa_National_Park)

Something that can easily be combined with a trip to Wasgamuwa is a drive through the Knuckles Range, one of Sri Lanka's premier National Heritage Sites with a unique climate and topography, fauna and flora which, even on a flying visit of that kind, cannot but impress. Again, here's a link: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Knuckles\\_mountain\\_range](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Knuckles_mountain_range)

More events around the country are listed on the next page.

As I type this in the gathering dusk a Black Eagle swishes by with its call matching its swift flight to its nightly roosting place and a palm squirrel provides its alarm-chatter just in case the eagle intended him to be an evening snack!

There are certainly many pleasures to a life up on our hill away from the "madding crowd" and evening, looking down the valley as the sun dips below the horizon, is certainly one of them!

Come join us soon and watch the sunset from the Halgolla Plantation Home!

With warm wishes, Emil & Arlene

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**For information or to book your accommodation, contact us at:**

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## Upcoming events in the country

### October

October 2<sup>nd</sup> – the Colombo Marathon

October 11<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup> – Bangladesh Women's Cricket Team Tour at Dambulla and Welagedara Stadium, Kurunegala



October 22<sup>nd</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup> – Galle Children's Festival

October 26<sup>th</sup> – Celebration of the Hindu Festival of Lights (Deepavali)



October – Sri Lankan Airlines Golf Classic at the world-renowned Victoria Golf Course near Kandy.

### November

World Spice Festival in Colombo



*“Taking a roll of cinnamon sticks to the market”*

Hot Air Balloon Rides at Dambulla and Sigiriya

Sri Lanka Design Festival in Colombo featuring traditional crafts, contemporary fashion, graphic, jewellery and interior design

Whale and Dolphin-Watching at Kalpitiya and Mirissa

Bird watching – the “migrants” return



*Halcyon pileata* Black capped Kingfisher

White-water rafting at Kitulgala

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