



Pihilla & soaking pool

Halgolla Plantation Home

Accommodation of a different kind

- March 2012 -

The better part of February has been devoted to a thoughtful development of the *Ela Trail* running from the house down to the stream and along it. “Thoughtful” because every effort has been to make the path one that most visitors can negotiate without too much difficulty while maintaining the integrity of the landscape. What is becoming evident, though, is that this is going to be “a work in progress” for a while yet, though access to the *Pihilla* (spout), under which one can have an al fresco bath, and the soaking pool is now complete. The fairly



Path to *pihilla* & soaking pool

The fact that our garden contains a veritable oasis of fruit trees has not been missed by our feathered friends, many of whom are feeding on fruit that is certainly not traditional to their diet in the wilds! Uguessa (*Flacourtia indica*), for instance, must certainly be “exotic” to the Grey Hornbills who seem to relish it and who seem to be spending a significant amount of time

extended dry spell which we’ve had has helped get the work done with a minimum of interruption. You’ll be able to see what this is all about when **you** visit HPH, won’t you?

February saw Arlene pass another milestone in the journey of life, the celebrations being helped by family and home-stay guests who enjoyed a typical week-end long extended Sri Lankan celebration!

around us, suggesting that they might have found a dead tree large enough to provide them with a nesting hole, we hope! The Pompadour Green Pigeons, too, seem to relish this fruit, while the nectar-seeking birds seem to go into paroxysms of delight during the (unfortunately) very short blossoming of the yellow *Tabebuia* (*Tabebuia serratifolia*).

The practical implications of climate change are most evident in that we have had a continuous, though small, mango crop for months now and there are small fruit and flowers on some of these trees even now! While it is nice to have this fruit available over a relatively long period of time, it does seem that, sometimes, it is at the expense of the fruit quality, which, while more than acceptable, is not optimum. The bad news on the “fruit front” is that we will have very few mangosteens this year, by the looks of it.



Sunbird nest within touching distance of the dishwashing table!

Arlene has made another batch of Nutmeg Jelly and we still have a small supply of Guava and Lovi-Lovi Jelly on hand which we hope will last until those fruits come into season again.

We are increasingly finding HPH to be a calm refuge from the turbulence of the “outside” world and we hope to be able to share its peace and tranquility with you soon.

With warm wishes,
Emil & Arlene

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

Home phone: 94-81-380-8007; Mobile: 94-72-284-9770 or by email at emil@halgollaplantationhome.com

Upcoming events in the country

March

March 3 & 4: Galle Music Festival at the Samanala Grounds, Galle. Free! Folk and contemporary music with local and international performers.

March 26: Cricket! England tour of Sri Lanka in Galle; April 3 in Colombo

Whale and dolphin watching continue through March and April at Kalpitiya.

Bird migrants start to return home in March and April.

Butterfly season is usually at a peak in March and April but is heavily dependent on the weather.



The Great Eggfly (*Hypolimnas bolina*)

April

April 13 & 14: Sinhala and Tamil New Year. Perhaps the biggest holiday of the year!

April is also 'the Season' for Nuwara Eliya as people go up to the hills to escape the heat and humidity of the plains.



Gray hornbill (*Ocyrceros gingalensis*)

Did you know? Sri Lanka has been rated as a top tourist destination for 2011 and 2012.

Condé Nast Traveller

www.cntraveller.com/news/2011/december/destinations-to-watch-in-2012/sri-lanka

The New York Times

www.nytimes.com/2010/01/10/travel/10places.html

National Geographic

<http://travel.nationalgeographic.com/travel/best-trips-2012/sri-lanka-photos/>

Travel & Leisure

www.travelandleisure.com/articles/hottest-travel-destinations-of-2012/2

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