



Quisqualis indica

Halgolla Plantation Home

Accommodation of a different kind

- September 2013 -

Quisqualis indica, colorfully called the “Drunken Sailor”, which appears at the top of this page, not only has a very pretty flower, but grows on a very hardy vine and provides a wonderful (night) fragrance to which Arlene and I are privy by virtue of it sprawling across the entry verandah roof outside our bedroom window. This is truly one of the pleasant surprises that we have from time to time because it seems to be quite arbitrary about when it chooses to fill the night air with its fragrance. That opening paragraph should serve as appropriate to the announcement that we are in the process of compiling a list, replete with a few pictures, of the plant flora of HPH to go with the “Flavours of HPH” which is already on our website.

down the hill where it could continue to help nature’s balance by consuming more of the vermin that are its normal prey. Every year or two, someone nooses one of these (harmless to humans) reptiles and brings it along for our inspection and it does lighten our day!



Small python – note midriff bulge!

The wild-life pictures appearing in this newsletter are of a small, harmless, python which some of our neighbours brought to us inside an empty flour sack. They’d noosed it quite easily with a jungle vine since the bulge in its mid-section indicated it had only recently gorged on prey of some description and was not, therefore, particularly quick in its getaway efforts. After we’d inspected it, its captors were persuaded to release it into the secondary growth farther



Coaxing python back into flour sack for safe release

The Red-vented bulbul that kept attacking any reflective surface available to it seems to have come to terms with the fact that it was engaged in a losing battle and we’ve been able to uncover our van’s and hat stand’s mirrors without fear of damage to them or the bird’s beak!

As we await the end of the dry season (the rains are expected in September), the arrival of the migrant birds at HPH and all over Sri Lanka is imminent. Sri Lanka has 439 species of birds of which 203 are migrants and 236 are residents including 33 endemics, several of which can be seen at HPH.

September and October are great months to visit HPH. Join us for rest, relaxation, great food, fabulous nature and warm conversation.

Our “Special” for bookings in September is a discount of 20% on food and beverages for all visitors including their drivers and guides who, in any event, are provided accommodation at HPH at no additional charge. The “Greening of HPH” that I have referred to in previous newsletters has not ceased and the luxuriance of the vegetation around our home continues apace. And we are NOT complaining!

Warm wishes!
Arlene & Emil

**For the month of September,
each visiting group receives a complimentary
“Surprise Basket” of HPH “goodies”**

AND

**we are offering 20% off meals for ALL
visitors and their drivers or guides.**



TripAdvisor Mobile and Tablet Apps

**HPH is highly recommended on Trip Advisor.
See what our previous guests have had to say!**

www.tripadvisor.com/Hotel_Review-g304138-d2057765-Reviews-Halgolla_Plantation_Home-Kandy_District_Central_Province.html

We are also on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/HalgollaPlantationHome>

& Airbnb

<https://www.airbnb.com/rooms/906073>



Sunset over the Alagalla hills

Sri Lanka – rated as a top tourist destination for 2011, 2012 & 2013.

The Lonely Planet

<http://www.lonelyplanet.com/sri-lanka>

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/>

Upcoming events in Sri Lanka

October

September 5: TedX Colombo: Success, Endurance, Discovery at the Lakshman Kadirgamar Institute

The Elephant gathering at Minneriya National Park continues through September.

October

The migrant birds start to arrive!



Forest wagtail – one of the migrant birds seen at HPH

Surfing at Arugam Bay, one of the top ten spots in the world, continues to November

Kitesurfing at Kalpitiya continues through to November

November

The whale and dolphin watching season starts at Kalpitiya on the west coast