

New drapes in Nellie's Suite and Ben's Suite

# Halgolla Plantation Home

Accommodation of a different kind

– November 2013 –

With October drawing to a close, the winds have begun to veer from the Southwest to the occasional gust or stream from the North East and HPH has begun to welcome some of the migrant birds from northern climes. Sri Lanka has also, fortunately, been spared the terrible hurricanes devastating some parts of the Asian region and even Great Britain, though we, on the edge of the hill country, have always been spared the worst excesses of climate (with the singular exception of the last devastating drought)

We hope to complete a long-overdue overhaul of our own living space upstairs, adding a window to the north-facing wall and improving the ventilation in our office space where we seem to spend more and more time on such tasks as putting this Newsletter together. In addition, Ben's and Nellie's Suites have seen, at Arlene's insistence, the installation of new drapes (window curtains) which, I must admit, have 'gussied-up' those spaces quite noticeably!

Arlene has already started the preliminaries in anticipation of our annual Staff Christmas Party, an event looked forward to by both the adults and, particularly, their children, with the numbers growing each year. HPH will not be available to guests for a couple of days in mid-December, though, in fact, this annual event would probably interest guests who are interested in sharing in this little piece of HPH "culture!" This observation comes to mind because, increasingly, our guests appear to be interested in the day-to-day life at HPH, what happens on the land and the lives of those dependent on it. Is this emphasis on wanting to "really get a feel for the country and those who live in it" a recent phenomenon or does the ambience of HPH bring it to the surface? Who knows, though we and those we work with are happy with that state of affairs and don't find its demands in any way an imposition!

With the limited resources – both financial and "other" – at our disposal, the rehabilitation of the plantation element of

HPH continues apace. Interested visitors are welcome to observe the progress of the vanilla and cinnamon plantings as well as the more traditional pepper vines that we are seeking to give a new lease of life to. In addition, the myriad varieties of fruit trees that we care for provide fresh produce in season and the raw material for Arlene's delectable jams, jellies and preserves at other times of the year.

Our staff, such as it is, continues unchanged, each of them playing an important role in the services provided to HPH's guests and, additionally, contributing to the growing and harvesting of agricultural produce that has gone on at HPH for so many years.

Warm wishes!  
Arlene & Emil



*Daphnis nerii*, one of the spectacular moths at HPH

**For the month of November, each visiting group will continue to receive what has become a trademark of HPH hospitality, the complimentary “Surprise Basket” of HPH “goodies”**

**AND**

**there will be NO ACCOMMODATION CHARGE on the last day of any four-day booking for all of November!**



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](http://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>

**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](http://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](http://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**

**November**

**Nov. 3: Deepavali**, the Festival of Lights, one of the most important festivals for Hindus. Small clay lamps are lit to signify the triumph of good over evil.

**Whale and dolphin watching:**

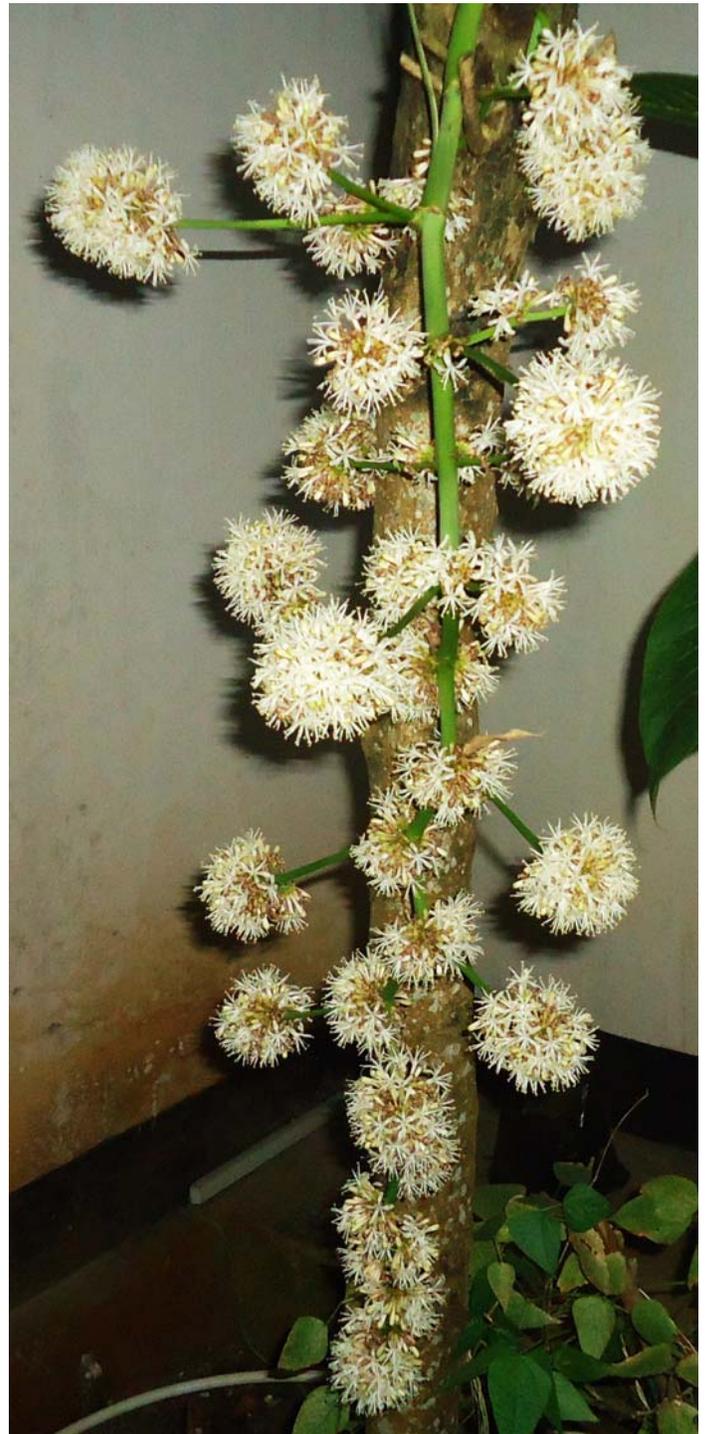
- Mirissa on the south coast from November to April
- Kalpitiya on the west coast from November to March.

**December**

**National Bird Month:** Sri Lanka is home to over 400 species of birds. December is the peak of migration season, and HPH is a great place for birds.

**Christmas** in the tropics! Colombo in particular gets all dolled up for Christmas. Though there’s no snow and no cold, Santa, parties, Christmas shopping and good cheer abound.

**New Year’s Eve** is another event celebrated with great enthusiasm around the country.



**Dracena flowers**

**For information or to book your accommodation, check our website [www.halgollaplantationhome.com](http://www.halgollaplantationhome.com) or contact us at: Cell: 94-77-347-0702 or 94-72-284-9770 or by email at [emil@halgollaplantationhome.com](mailto:emil@halgollaplantationhome.com)**