



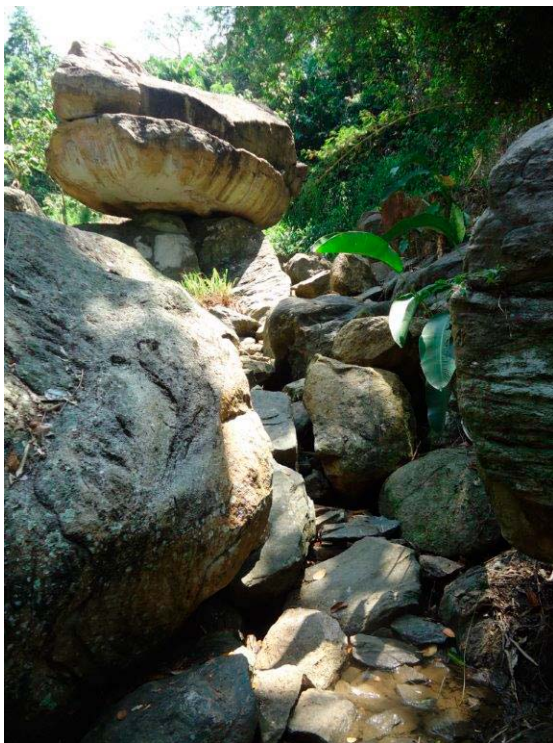
Jasmine creeper in bloom

Halgolla Plantation Home

Accommodation of a different kind

- April 2013 -

Glancing back at what we encountered in April 2012, the law of averages seems to dictate that what is ahead of us this year has to be closer to peace and tranquility personified than anything else. We had some freak weather last April, including unprecedented rain and electric-storms that hit us and took out our giant *Tabebuia Rosea* and some of our electrical equipment. So we hope that the National New Year* period is going to be calm and quiet in comparison this year, except for the New Year celebrations themselves, of course! These, we know, despite whatever economic vicissitudes beset the universe, will be something to remember, as they always are and we hope that some, at least, of the readers of this newsletter will be with us to experience the season of celebration!



We've recently completed the basic clearance of the Boulder Path—this photo of its lower reaches proves it is aptly named! While one doesn't have to be a professional rock climber or something of that kind to negotiate this new path, it is more than the simple stroll

that our other walks provide. However, the clambering over the

boulders on the lower reaches of our water-supplying spring above the Soaking Pool will certainly prove a real joy, even if you happen to be approaching the three-quarter century mark that the author of this newsletter is! Yes, it is a delight and while we've made passage along it possible to those beyond the peak of physical fitness, we've maintained its environmental integrity, as is our primary goal in every endeavour of this kind at HPH. Try it when you visit us and you'll see that we do not exaggerate. Another simple pleasure awaits those negotiating this Path and that is a couple of rustic benches in the Nutmeg Grove at its start for those who'd like to read or just ruminate under the dense foliage of some of these beautiful trees.



Red passion flower

The pronounced drought, followed by heavy rain, has done one thing for sure: produced above-average crops on our Mangosteen, Uguessa (*Flacourtia indica*) and other fruit trees. While those fruits will be gone by the time any of the readers of this newsletter begin to contemplate them, there will be others to take their place as the weeks and months roll by.

Check the *Flavours of HPH* piece on our website, <http://www.halgollaplantationhome.com> and you'll share the surprise that awaited us when we began listing the fruit in and around our home. We had never imagined we had such a variety of great tropical fruit around our residence until we began making that list!

Also, for those who miss the fruit that our garden produces in its fresh form, Arlene has proved more than adept at converting the excess into jams, jellies and preserves that can only be described as "delectable" and which our visitors, without exception, have thoroughly enjoyed.

We've said it before and we'll say it again: April is the time for celebration and even though we don't have a Spring, per se, in the tropics, Sri Lankans never miss this opportunity to celebrate like there's no tomorrow! If you don't believe us, come visit and you'll join us in the refrain that goes, (with apologies to Bill Forbes) "O to be in Sri Lanka, now that Spring is here!"

Warm wishes, Emil & Arlene

For the month of April we continue to provide each visiting group with a complimentary "Surprise Basket" of HPH "goodies" AND we are offering 50% off food and drinks for children under 12.

Upcoming events in the country

April

Whale and dolphin watching in Mirissa.

Apr. 13 & 14: National New Year. Perhaps the biggest holiday of the year! *often called Sinhala and Tamil New Year or Buddhist & Hindu New Year. It is a harvest festival of thanks as well as the start of a new year, when the sun moves from the House of Pisces to the House of Aries. Various ceremonies are performed at set times to ensure good luck for the coming 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.

May

The surfing season at Arugam Bay begins! Rated as one of the top ten surfing destinations in the world.

Whale and dolphin watching in Trinco begins.

May 5 & 6: Vesak Full Moon Holiday commemorating the birth, enlightenment and death of the Buddha.

HPH is highly recommended on Trip Advisor



TripAdvisor Mobile and Tablet Apps

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>



The Boulder Path from above

Sri Lanka

"Best in travel 2013"

from The Lonely Planet

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

... and Sri Lanka was 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/>