



Sunset over Alagalla

Halgolla Plantation Home

Accommodation of a different kind

- March 2013 -

The Ides of March!

This is not an auspicious phrase with which to start a newsletter, least of all one that features what Sri Lanka's unique paying guest accommodation has to offer!

No matter. The month just past has been a relatively uneventful one without withering drought, torrential rain or thunderbolts destroying any of the beautiful trees at HPH and we don't believe there is any prospect of this state of affairs changing come the 15th of March!

We've continued with our efforts to enhance and consolidate our spring water supply and to make the Look-out Point more accessible and clear it of intruding heavy grass growth while maintaining its natural integrity and I think we've succeeded. The primary effort is to make each little niche of HPH that much more pleasant and welcoming, while maintaining its natural beauty and charm. Even if we do say so ourselves, I believe we are succeeding in this endeavour.



For the slightly more adventurous, a new short "scrambling" trail!

Light at the end of the tunnel

The 1.5 Km approach road to Halgolla Plantation Home has, for many years, been a bit of a challenge to anyone seeking to negotiate it. While this has been a simple inconvenience to visitors, it has been a greater impediment to us who have to deal with it on a regular basis. The good news, though, is that, thanks to much pressure being applied on the local authority - the Tumpane Pradeshiya Sabhawa - major work on this is to commence later this year and we are really looking forward to that prospect while continuing to exert whatever pressure possible on "the powers that be" for this to happen as soon as possible.



Aechmea gamosepala flowers

The bird life around HPH has grown both in numbers and in the volume of mating cries and whistles as is customary at this time of year. The predatory Crow Pheasants (Ceylon Coucal) and White Breasted Kingfishers who attack birds' nests have also made their presence felt. As unfortunate as that might seem, it is also a part of nature's larger scheme of things and we do not think it appropriate for us to intervene in those arrangements. The sinister (and magnificent) Black Eagles are back as well, silently gliding through

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Mobile: 94-77-347-0702 or 94-72-284-9770 or by email at emil@halgollaplantationhome.com

the skies above us, unlike their fellow raptors, the Ceylon Serpent Eagles, who circle seemingly endlessly, uttering their melodious calls.

There have been no day-time sightings of any of our terrestrial mammal populations recently, though their diggings – in the case of the Scaly Ant-Eater (Pangolin) and wild pigs – are evident enough and we certainly expect our porcine friends to return to their efforts in cousin (Dr.) George van der Poorten's recently-planted expansion to our new butterfly garden as soon as we get our next showers!

Well, friends, that's all for now and we hope to be able to join you soon over a *kurumba* or a cup of tea on HPH's verandah as you experience the peace and tranquility of our Home.

Warm wishes, Emil & Arlene

For the month of March we will continue to provide each visiting group with a complimentary "Surprise Basket" of HPH "goodies"!

For March and April, 50% off food and beverage for children under 12.

Sri Lanka has been rated as a top tourist destination for 2011, 2012 and 2013.

Sri Lanka

"Best in travel 2013"

from The Lonely Planet

[Hhttp://www.lonelyplanet.com/sri-lankaH](http://www.lonelyplanet.com/sri-lanka)

Condé Nast Traveller

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

The New York Times

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/01/10/travel/10places.html>

National Geographic

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

And is Sri Lanka the "best all-round wildlife destination in the world"? Gehan de Silva Wijeyeratne says 'Yes'!

See his article at:

<http://www.sundaytimes.lk/130113/plus/a-winner-in-the-wilds-28039.html>

tripadvisor®

TripAdvisor Mobile and Tablet Apps

Did you know that HPH is on Trip Advisor?

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

Upcoming events in the country

March

Mar 1–2: Jaffna Music Festival offers a variety of musical talent from 9 am to noon and 5–10:30 pm both days.

Mar. 3–5: Cricket: Bangladesh tour of Sri Lanka starts in Matara and continues at various venues throughout March.

Mar. 15–17: WMC Women's Photography Exhibition 2013 at the Lionel Wendt Gallery in Colombo

Mar. 23 at 8:30PM- **Earth Hour** will be observed in Sri Lanka by many companies and individuals.

Mar. 23–24: Colombo Scope - a literary extravaganza that offers an affordable and varied series of events, bringing together artists of every stripe.

Butterfly season is usually at a peak in March and April



The Clipper: a specialty at HPH

April

April – "The season" in Nuwara Eliya – to escape the heat and humidity of Colombo, people flock to Nuwara Eliya in April where a number of events take place including horse races, motocross rallies, flower exhibitions, concerts and golf tournaments.

April 13–14: Sinhala and Tamil New Year

The biggest celebration of the year that usually extends well beyond the two-day period. Traditionally a harvest festival, it is also a time to observe traditional and religious rituals in thanks and to bring good luck for the new year.

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