



Bisomenike and Senevi with the fruits of our first substantial vanilla harvest!

HALGOLLA PLANTATION HOME - A SRI LANKAN DESTINATION - AUGUST 2017

To start this newsletter on a personal note: we are looking forward to the arrival of Alain and Gabriel van der Poorten, son and grandson of the author of this newsletter, in early August. Alain will be returning to the land of his birth which he left at thirteen months of age. 44 years ago, and the humid tropics are going to be an eye-opener for his 17-year old son who has not been outside the northern climes of Saskatchewan, Canada.



3rd, 4th & 5th generations of the van der Poorten family of HPH

We had our first vanilla harvest of any consequence at the beginning of July but, for lack of experience and because of the relatively small quantity of green beans harvested, had to dispose of it to a growers' group for curing and sale by them. It was as good a compromise as any because the organization is a non-profit one of which we are now the

For August, as in month's past, we'll continue our very popular "Sampler pack" of HPH-grown and -roasted coffee and a "Surprise Basket" of HPH "goodies" that appears to delight visitors as they take their leave of us and HPH!

- **Certificate of Excellence 2015 from Trip Advisor**
- **rated as [Best Home Stay](#) in Sri Lanka 2013**
- **recommended by [Bradt Travel Guide for Sri Lanka](#) 5th edition, 2014**

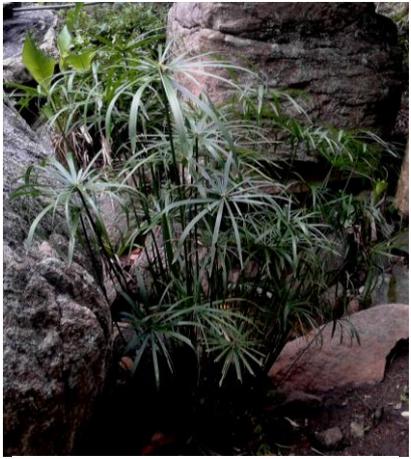
newest members! We do, however, expect to cure some of the (main) December crop so that our visitors may have the opportunity of buying small quantities when they are here. As the fruit season draws to a close, we are in the process of converting into storable form – jams, jellies, preserves etc. – the *Pini Jambu* (*Syzygium samaragense*), *Nelli* (*Phyllanthus acidus*), *Lovi-Lovi* (*Flacourtia inermis*) and Avocado pears (*Persea Americana*) off our trees. With any luck, we'll be able to convert this supply of nature's bounty into a "value addition" to the operation of HPH. An interesting fact that has emerged from



Arlene labeling jams and preserves grown at HPH our

efforts in this direction has been that many (middle-class, urban) Sri Lankans need to be educated with regard to relatively common and delectable local fruit in preserved form!

The Garden Cafe, a most interesting and off-beat little place opposite the 9th kilometre marker on the Kurunegala side of



Tiger Nut (Cyperus esculentus)

Dambadeniya, a road that most of our visitors take from the International Airport to HPH, has begun to retail our products with a significant level of success. Mr. Attanayake runs a unique little operation which deserves greater patronage, so look out for his sign on the right hand side of the road after you pass Dambadeniya.

The recent discovery of Yellow Nutsedge, also known as Tiger Nut (Cyperus esculentus) growing wild at HPH has presented us with a new challenge – how we can best utilise the tiny tubers of this plant/herb which is alleged to have many wonderful qualities, apart from being a delectable snack. Will keep readers posted.



A background of traditional dancer's accoutrements from the Paul Indian Band, west of Edmonton, Canada



Champak (Champaca indica) flower from which a perfume is Distilled (in India)

As the preceding part of this of this newsletter shows, we have placed more than the usual number of pictures as a small indication of what awaits visitors to HPH. We hope you like this little change in our monthly bulletin to friends.

Remember, we are on [Facebook](#) and bookings can be made on [freetobook](#), [Airbnb](#), [Agoda](#) and [Booking.com](#) or, preferably, by calling us at 0094 773470702 or 0094 0722849770 or at our email address, emil@halgollaplantationhome.com 0094 773470702, or 0094 722849770. For regular updates of what is happening at Halgolla Plantation Home, please "like" us on [Facebook](#)



What HPH has in store for guests



Panama rubber (Castilla elastica) fruit