

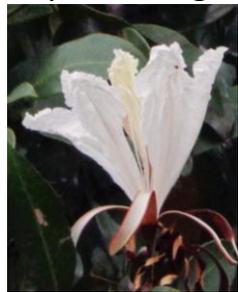


**Canvasses From Druvinka's Exhibition  
at the Barefoot Gallery in Colombo**

**HALGOLLA PLANTATION HOME  
- THE *UNIQUE* SRI LANKAN EXPERIENCE -**

**AUGUST 2018**

The rains continue, unabated, though somewhat sporadic in nature and we are not grumbling given the years of drought that did so much damage! The ground, soaked as it is, affords us the opportunity of putting down as many Gliricidia poles as we are able to harvest, to act as hosts to the denser vanilla planting that is being done as well as for black pepper, the vines of which we are hoping to bring back to the numbers of the "good old days" of Halgolla!



This month's newsletter has a small sample of the many flowers that our environs produces and we hope the pictures bring you as much pleasure as the living, breathing versions bring us.

*Bakeia insignis:*  
Profuse and beautiful flowers with a glorious fragrance!

The durian crop, the trees given out on a seasonal lease, provides an interesting insight into a new cultural element that has begun to take root in Sri Lanka over the past quarter century. It certainly is entertaining as long as the alcohol that seems to attend the consumption of the fruit can be prevented from entering HPH's environs! Our mango crop is finally over with the odd fruit still falling off the Parrot Mango trees.

We also had a bumper crop of passion fruit which has left us with the determination to set about the crop's



*Gloriosa superba*, a beautiful flower with a deadly poisonous corm!

cultivation in a more systematic manner, such as was done in the late 'sixties, hand-pollinating the flowers to ensure the kind of bumper crops we used to have. The primary challenge we expect to face, as with all the delectable preparations that come out

For August, as in past months, we'll continue our "Surprise Basket" of HPH "goodies," which appears to delight our guests as they take their leave of us!

**Some Recognition of HPH**

- Certificate of Excellence 2015 from Trip Advisor
- rated as [Best Home Stay](#) in Sri Lanka
- recommended by [Bradt Travel Guide for Sri Lanka](#)

of Arlene's kitchen, is that of marketing a product that Sri Lankan consumers have seldom, if ever, seen on a grocery store shelf and are therefore totally unfamiliar with! How do we educate potential consumers about the simple pleasure to be had from consuming something that is healthy **and** tastes so great? Oh well, as they used to say, "You're never too old to learn" and these old dogs will have to learn new tricks!



*Michelia champaca*  
This delicate flower from which a perfume can be distilled comes from a very large tree!

Apropos of trying something new, we are embarking on a test of an old village belief that spreading human hair at the base of newly-planted vanilla vines keeps the pigs from digging them up. Await future bulletins on whether our strategy has worked or whether this is only another old wives' tale!

Arlene's daughter Druvi opened a major show and sale at the Barefoot Gallery in Colombo in mid July after being in attendance herself after many years. Her style keeps evolving, no doubt influenced by her 20-years-plus residence in the Himalayan foothills and exposure to Hindu mysticism. For those interested in seeing



Snow-white *Eucharis* lily flowers

examples of her work, simply Google "Druvinka."

August is the month in which the truly unmatched Dalada Perahera traverses the streets of Kandy nightly, for about ten days.

Those fortunate enough to be there, will see scores of beautifully-caparisoned elephants; hundreds of dancers, drummers, jugglers, fire-eaters and whip-crackers as part of this truly unique torch-lit procession. It is an event that simply defies description. If you want to take an evening run into Kandy from HPH we can still try for tickets at a good location on the Perahera route, though they are pretty hard to come by so late in the day.



*Allamanda cathartica*

With all good wishes,  
Arlene & Emil



*Bauhinia* blossoms on re-configured bower

**REMEMBER, WE CAN BE REACHED AT +94 (0) 77 347 0702 and +94 (0) 72 284 9770.  
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**We've decided to leave this image on all our Newsletters because it is so much a "Trademark" of HPH now!**