

About the SABG

- [Our activities](#)

The objective of the Southern African Bulb Group is to further the understanding of the cultivation of Southern African bulbs, where “bulbs” is used in the broad sense to encompass bulb-, corm- and tuber-possessing plants (which botanists call geophytes) from South Africa, including “dicots” such as *Oxalis*.

We are a small informal non-for-profit club or society, run entirely by and for the benefit of our members. Our aims and principles are set out further in our [Constitution](#). Guidelines for our operating procedures, which might be updated more frequently, will be set out separately.

The Group was initiated by an informal group of enthusiasts including Stefan Rau and Terry Smale on April 4th 2004 ¹⁾, to provide a forum for the exchange of information between members about these plants and their cultivation. This is by means of meetings in meeting halls and members’ gardens, by distribution of a newsletter electronically or by conventional mail, by a web site and an online forum. In late summer we run a [Bulb & Seed Exchanges](#) to allow members to share their plants and increase their collections.

The SABG is based in the United Kingdom and is for anyone interested in growing the beautiful and diverse bulbous plants of South Africa and neighbouring countries. You do not need to be an expert (I’m not!) or live in the UK, but our meetings have all been in England so far.

Conservation

We have been delighted to be able to support the South African National Biodiversity Institute’s conservation project for the Cape Lowlands Renosterveld, one of the most threatened habitats in the Cape Floristic Region. More information can be found on the [SANBI BGIS CLR](#) project web site, which explains: *“The most spectacular feature of Renosterveld is its phenomenal richness in bulb species and other geophytes (e.g. belonging to the Iridaceae, Amaryllidaceae, Hyacinthaceae plant families). These plants have underground storage organs and are often characterised by showy flowers, aimed at attracting pollinators such as birds or insects, monkey beetles and long-tongued flies. The Iridaceae is one family that is very well represented in the Lowlands: of the approximately 353 endemic and rare species known to occur in the Lowlands, almost a quarter belong to the Iridaceae. Of these, around 160 are listed as rare or threatened plants and nearly 250 are endemic, meaning that they are restricted to Renosterveld vegetation and cannot be found anywhere else on Earth. They flower mostly in spring and are known to persist in even very small pieces of remnant natural habitat.”*

Members

Many members also grow other non-hardy bulbs from other parts of the world, and some are also members of the [Nerine & Amaryllid Society \(NAAS\)](#), the [Fritillaria Group](#) and other organisations.

Our former Chairman, Bill Squire, was approved by the [NCCPG](#) (National Council for the Conservation of Plants and Gardens) for the custodianship of the [National Collection](#) of *Lachenalia*, including *Polyxena*.



See [How to join the SABG](#), or to enquire about joining, visit the [Contacts](#) page.

Information about our compliance with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) can be found in our [Privacy Policy](#).

About the SABG web site

- [Recently changed web pages and documents](#)

The SABG web-site started in October 2006. In April 2018, a new version of the SABG web site was established, which is intended to contain all the information from the [original SABG web site](#) (which will remain available for a while, but will not be updated). The URL (location, address) at which the web site can be found has not changed. It is www.sabg.uk or just sabg.uk. The software used to manage the web site is [DokuWiki](#). It is a secure web-site. If your web browser says it isn't, go to <https://sabg.uk>. Information about our compliance with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) can be found in our [Privacy Policy](#).

[→ Read more...](#)

¹⁾ [Copy of an announcement](#) about the formation of the Group in the [The African Garden](#) web site

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