

"FRIENDS OF KIRSTENBOSCH"

NEWSLETTER – DECEMBER 2009

THE BOTANICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTH AFRICA KIRSTENBOSCH BRANCH

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Dear Member

NEWS FROM THE KIRSTENBOSCH BRANCH OFFICE AT THE STONE COTTAGES:

KIRSTENBOSCH GARDEN FAIR: The 35th Kirstenbosch Garden Fair and indigenous plant sale will take place on Saturday 20 and Sunday 21 March 2010 from 09.00 to 16.00 at the Stone Cottage grounds, corner Kirstenbosch/Rhodes Drives, Newlands, diagonally opposite the main entrance to Kirstenbosch Garden.

The Demonstration Garden theme, 'Gardening for Pleasure' is sure to give you lots of ideas for making your garden look beautiful.

Kirstenbosch horticulturists will be on hand on both Saturday and Sunday of Garden Fair to give their expert advice – look out for them, they will be wearing orange peak caps.

Remember to bring your own carrier bags and/or wheelbarrow.

PLEASE VOLUNTEER FOR GARDEN FAIR! This issue of Veld & Flora contains a Reply Slip for volunteer assistance and we really would appreciate help from our members at this major fundraising event of the year. Proceeds go to the Kirstenbosch Partnership Fund for improvements to Kirstenbosch Garden. You do not need any experience, just a pair of willing hands to assist for a couple of hours. You will receive explanatory notes about the duty you have chosen and we have great fun, so please join us for a few hours on either Saturday 20 or Sunday 21 March!

Enquiries: Tessa van Rooyen tel. 021-671 5468.

PIC

Two of our volunteers having a breather and a bit of fun at Garden Fair!

The Botanical Society Bookshops at Kirstenbosch:

The following books are available at the Botanical Society bookshops at the Visitors Centre and the Garden Centre (BotSoc members receive 10% discount) and would make super festive season presents:

Transient Caretakers-Making Life on Earth Sustainable, Mervyn King with Teodorina Lessidrenska. R189.00. This book is a highly informative exploration of the current state of the Earth - from climate change to the ongoing water and energy crises. It charts how government, companies and individuals all need to contribute to ensure that the Earth's assets of land, air and water are passed on to future generations in a sustainable state.

The Fire Dogs of Climate Change-An Inspirational Call to Action, Sally Andrews, R135.00. This book inspires our hearts, minds and hands to join the fire dogs (guardians and watchdogs of the earth) in their quest to cool the planet. It interweaves hard facts and soft prose.

Boiling Point – People in a changing climate, Leonie Joubert, R190.00
This book embarks on a journey into the lives of some South Africans affected by this phenomenon, people who contribute little to the pollution responsible for global warming, but are most vulnerable to its fallout: a rooibos tea farmer in the Northern Cape, a traditional fisherman in Lambert's Bay, a farmer in the Free State's maize belt.

Do It! – Every South African's Guide to Making a Difference, James Motlatsi & Bobby Godsell, R110.00. Using personal stories about themselves and one another, the authors look into our homes, schools, workplaces and our communities and in the public market place of ideas to extract and propose practical ways in which we can become active citizens, taking responsibility for change, and intervening where government has either chosen not to, or where it has not succeeded.

Bending the curve-Your guide to tackling climate change in South Africa, edited by Robert Zipplies, foreword by Marthinus van Schalkwyk, R195.00. Climate change is now accepted as a global emergency that poses a very real threat to our lives and livelihoods. Co-authored by 24 South African experts, this book will help you move from deliberation to action. Whether you are a parent, farmer, a government or corporate employee, you will find wealth of ideas for making profound changes at work and in your personal life that will improve the lives of everyone and help to tackle this scourge.

Enquiries: Bookshops Tel. 021-762 1621/762 6466 fax 021-762 0923 email: kbranch@botanicalsociety.org.za.

Botanical Society Tour Report Back: the tour arranged by Kirstenbosch Branch led by Dr John Almond and Madelon Tusenius to the Swellendam region from 20 to 24 September 2009 was a great success and feedback from participants was very positive. The accommodation, activities and transport were all excellent.

Kirstenbosch Craft Market: Be sure to visit the market which takes place from 9 am to 3 pm on Sunday 13 and Sunday 20 December. First time visitors are usually taken aback by the wonderful variety of excellent quality crafts on sale, and our many regular customers keep coming back because each market has an approximately 30% ratio of guest crafters, so that there is always something new to see. And best of all, proceeds from stall rentals go to the Kirstenbosch Partnership Fund! The market will also take place on 31 January, 28 February, 28 March, 25 April, 30 May, 26 September, 31 October and 12 and 19 December 2010.

Your valid BotSoc membership card will entitle you to free entry to three beautiful SANBI gardens a bit further afield. Betty's Bay offers a stunning coastline with sandy beaches and is steeped in fynbos-rich mountains. It is a quaint and quirky village with the **Harold Porter Botanical Garden** at its heart. Set within the garden is the newly built Leopards Kloof restaurant which is host to luscious green forests, cascading waterfalls and picture-perfect views. The restaurant is open daily from 8 am to 5 pm and evenings on reservations. On presentation of valid Botanical Society membership card you will receive 10% discount on your bill.

The Karoo Desert National Botanical Garden is situated just outside of the bustling town of Worcester and is the only truly succulent garden in the southern hemisphere and on the African continent. The garden features an array of plants found in the drier regions of the country. Set at the foothills of the Hex River and Brandwacht mountains is the Kokerboom restaurant which is also open daily from 8 am. BotSoc members receive 10% discount on presentation of a valid membership card.

The Hantam National Botanical Garden was established in 2007 and is just outside the town of Nieuwoudtville. It will serve as a centre for biodiversity research in the Bokkeveld Plateau and Succulent Karoo region. It comprises over 6 200 ha of land and is world renowned for its bulbous plants.

For more info about these gardens, see www.sanbi.org.

NEWS FROM KIRSTENBOSCH BOTANICAL GARDEN:

Kirstenbosch Old Mutual Summer Sunset Concerts season kicked off on Sunday 22 November with the wonderful Johnny Clegg. 29 Nov: Claire Phillips & Neo Muyanga; 6 Dec: Jesse Clegg; 13 Dec: Jonny Cooper Orchestra; (17 to 20 Dec: Carols by Candlelight); 27 Dec: Ashtray Electric & Pretty Blue Guns; (31 Dec: New Years Eve concert with Flat Stanley, Loyiso, Loading Zone, Chad Saaiman); 3 Jan: A Fish Full of Diamonds with Josie Field, Farryl Purkiss and Dan Patlansky; 10 Jan: Freshlyground; 17 Jan: Zebra & Giraffe; 24 Jan: Fokopolisiekar; 31 Jan: Lira & friends: HHP & RJ Benjamin; 7 Feb: aKING; 14 Feb: Jamali & friends: Jody, Sasha-Lee, Soulstone; 21 Feb: Just Jinger; 28 Feb: Prime Circle; 7 March: Goldfish; (9 March: Cliff Richard & The Shadows); 14 March: The Dirty Skirts; 21 March: Cape Philharmonic Orchestra; 28 March: Watershed; 4 April: Old Mutual Two Oceans Marathon Encounter: Gang of Instrumentals, Tidal Waves, Tumi Molekane.

Concerts in brackets are not part of the Old Mutual Summer Concerts.

Tickets go on sale on the Tuesday preceding each concert, from the Visitors Centre Ticket Office only. On Sundays tickets will be available at all three entrances. Telephonic bookings: 021-761 2866 can be made from the Tuesday before each concert, with an admin fee of R10 per ticket applicable. Online bookings can be made at www.webtickets.co.za. Redeem your e-ticket at the Kirstenbosch Ticket Office from the Tuesday before, or on concert day.

Concert Times: Gates open at 15h30. Concerts are held between 17h30 and 18h45 and go ahead irrespective of the weather. Refunds are not issued. For more info, see www.sanbi.org.

Wednesday Talks at Kirstenbosch presented by Room to Grow, Sanlam Hall, Kirstenbosch at 10:30

Please note that this programme is subject to change or cancellation without prior notice.

20 January: David Austen Roses and Delphiniums by Edwin Rye, BBC Gardener award winner

3 February: Finding Gold and Silver in the Garden by Clayton Laue, Paarman Landscapers

17 February: Propagation of Fynbos Plants by Trevor Adams, Kirstenbosch Chief Propagator

3 March: A Spring Visit to North Island, New Zealand by John van der Linde, plant lover and botanical tourist

17 March: Aloes, Know them and Grow them by Ernst van Jaarsveld, Kirstenbosch

31 March: TP Stokoe – The Man, the Myths and the Flowers by Peter Slingsby, author and cartographer.

Enquiries: Cathy Abbott, tel. 021-465 6440/072-201 2535 cathya@wol.co.za.

Cape Bonsai Kai Show: Please don't forget - Cape Bonsai Kai is holding its annual show at Kirstenbosch from **Friday December 11 to Sunday December 13 2009**. This year the show will be displaying well over 100 trees of the highest standard – with the concentration being on exciting indigenous trees.

There will also be an education table and demonstrations on how to design bonsai and how to maintain and care for them. There will also be many trees, pots, tools, starter kits and equipment for sale. At 3pm on Sunday December 13 there will be an auction sale of trees.

The show will be open daily from 9am to 5pm. Although a small donation would be appreciated, there is no charge to see this magnificent show, other than the obligatory fee to enter Kirstenbosch Gardens.

For further details please phone Tony Bent 083 2305348 or Dorothy Franz 021 7978972 or email them at tony@nanoson.com or dnfranz@gmail.com

The committee and staff of the Kirstenbosch Branch of BotSoc wish all our Kirstenbosch Branch members and friends a very happy festive season and a healthy, prosperous New Year.

Kind regards

Tessa van Rooyen
Kirstenbosch Branch Secretary

