

"FRIENDS OF KIRSTENBOSCH"

NEWSLETTER – MARCH 2010

THE BOTANICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTH AFRICA KIRSTENBOSCH BRANCH

PO Box 53445, Kenilworth, 7745 Tel: (021) 671-5468

Fax (021) 671-7146

E-mail: t.rosier@botanicalsociety.org.za

Website: www.botanicalsociety.org.za

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!

Why not come and join us and **volunteer for a few hours** on the weekend of Garden Fair? We have lots of fun and you will be contributing immensely to our fundraising aims. Phone branch secretary Tessa at 021-671 5468 for further details.

VISIT BY SENIOR KEW GARDEN GUIDE: Over the past year a mutually beneficial working relationship has been established between Kirstenbosch and Kew Garden Guides. Kirstenbosch Garden Guide Jack Dunwoody subsequently invited Mr Jack Andrews, senior Garden Guide at Kew to come and enjoy the splendours of Kirstenbosch. On 29 November 2009 the Kirstenbosch Garden Guides hosted a brunch in the middle stone cottage which was attended by the Kirstenbosch Curator in honour of Mr Andrews. Mr Andrews gave a much appreciated talk on the history of Kew, took us through a plant orientation tour of Kew and presented the Guides with a publication entitled *The Plant Hunters, the adventures of the world's greatest botanical explorers* by Carolyn Fry. This book marks Kew's 250th anniversary.

**DAY TOUR TO VERGELEGEN ESTATE, SOMERSET WEST AND HAROLD PORTER
NATIONAL BOTANICAL GARDEN, BETTY'S BAY
THURSDAY 15 APRIL 2010**

BotSoc members are invited to participate in a day tour to visit Vergelegen Estate and Harold Porter National Botanical Garden on Thursday 15 April 2010. We will be taken around Vergelegen Estate by Gerald Wright, previous Park Manager at the then Cape of Good Hope Nature Reserve, to observe his very successful method of clearing alien invasive plants. At Harold Porter NBG we will walk around the garden and enjoy a picnic lunch (bring your own).

Transport is by comfortable coach with a very experienced driver and the trip will be led by Liz Ashton.

Bring a picnic lunch, wear comfortable walking shoes, hat and warm anorak or jacket.

The tour price is R200 per person.

Should the tour be oversubscribed, a lucky draw will take place.

We will depart from and return to Kirstenbosch Garden.

Please apply to the branch secretary Tessa van Rooyen at 021-671 5468 or email t.rosier@botanicalsociety.org.za.

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 on presentation of a valid membership card):

Clivia Nature and Nurture by Dirk Swanevelder & Roger Fisher, R349.00.

This book has been written with the layman in mind and clearly identifies and characterizes all the species in one volume, describing all varieties, habitats, distribution, ecology and endemism. It introduces growers to the principles and practices specific to the genus, as well as aspects of pests and diseases and their control. It will be an invaluable reference for the Clivia enthusiast and a source of joy and inspiration for those not yet familiar with these beautiful plants.

How On Earth - Answers To The Puzzles Of Our Planet by Terence McCarthy. R169.95

This book sets out to answer puzzles in nature and the environment. For each 73 questions there is an explanation, be it geological, mineralogical, astronomical – whatever the field, the evidence is carefully presented and explained, supported by explanatory diagrams, photographs and graphs, so that even those with little knowledge in these fields can understand the processes that have been at work.

East Of The Cape -Conserving Eden by Richard Cowling & Shirley Pierce, R295.00

This book is a story about nature and people. The drama takes place in a region located on the south-eastern coast of Africa where nature's diversity is manifest: rainforests, karoo, fynbos, grassland and the savanna are juxtaposed in complex and intriguing ways. Aptly called Eden, this region is also home to thicket, a Lilliputian forest of great antiquity that harbours the ancient stock of many plant lineages found in southern Africa's contemporary ecosystems.

Organic Kitchen Garden by Juliet Roberts, R220.00.

This book makes successful gardening easy. It explains how to set up your vegetable path, how to prepare soil, choose and care for your crops and stagger your harvest across the season. You'll find helpful monthly lists to remind you which jobs need doing and tips on everything from composting to pest and weed control, plant health care and even watering.

Gardening In South Africa Throughout The Year by Marianne Alexander, R179.95.

This book explains what needs to be done each month to keep your garden in tip top condition. Each month also features a list of plants (including annuals, perennials, bulbs, shrubs and trees) to indicate what will be in flower at that particular time of year and make it easier to choose plants to match your garden's colour scheme.

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

Kirstenbosch Craft Market: Situated at the stone cottage grounds, corner Kirstenbosch/Rhodes Drives Newlands, diagonally opposite the main entrance to Kirstenbosch Botanical Garden, the market will take place on Sundays 28 March, 25 April, 30 May, 26 September, 31 October and 12 and 19 December 2010 from 9 am to 3pm. Do support this very popular market administered by Kirstenbosch Branch of BotSoc - proceeds from stall rentals go to the Kirstenbosch Partnership Fund for improvements to Kirstenbosch.

NEWS FROM KIRSTENBOSCH BOTANICAL GARDEN:

KIRSTENBOSCH BIODIVERSITY EXPO: This year is the International Year of Biodiversity and Conservation and the Kirstenbosch Biodiversity Expo will take place over 4 days from Thursday 25 March to Sunday 28 March 2010 at Old Mutual Conference Centre, Kirstenbosch National Botanical Garden. The expo was designed to recognise the true value of biodiversity, to educate current and future generations of South Africans and to open up the world of biodiversity conservation.

Last year Kirstenbosch Branch sponsored R20 000 for the transport of school children from previously disadvantaged areas so that they could experience the Biodiversity Expo at Kirstenbosch, and this year Branch will again sponsor the transport of learners from about 60 schools in the amount of R60 000. In addition, in conjunction with a Kirstenbosch student, a crossword puzzle using relevant words has been compiled for learners to complete before visiting the Expo. The winning school will receive a hamper of books from our bookshops for their school library.

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.

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.

14 April: Working as a Landscape Architect by Claire Burgess

28 April: Colourful Concepts/Alternatives by Sandy Michell of San Michell Nursery

12 May: Gardening Into the Future by Sandy Munro, Horticulture consultant, AB Munro

26 May: Trees-Trees-Trees by Adam Harrower, Kirstenbosch horticulturist

12 June: Chelsea 2010 by David Davidson, award-winning designer/creator
Kirstenbosch Exhibit

23 June: Colour in the Garden by Monique McQuillan, Kirstenbosch horticulturist

7 July: Water Working Wonderfully by Donovan Gillman, Room to Grow

21 July: An Artist in the Garden by Angela Lloyd, speaker and author.

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

Please note that this is the last printed newsletter to be inserted in the *Veld & Flora*. The quarterly "Friends of Kirstenbosch" newsletter will in future be posted on the Kirstenbosch Branch page of the Botanical Society website: www.botanicalsociety.org.za. Should you require a hard copy of the newsletter, please contact me at 021-671 5468 or email me at t.rosier@botanicalsociety.org.za. The next newsletter is due in June 2010.

Kind regards
Tessa van Rooyen

Kirstenbosch Branch Secretary

