

“Friends of Kirstenbosch”

Newsletter

September 2010

KIRSTENBOSCH BRANCH OF THE BOTANICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTH AFRICA

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Dear Member

News from the Kirstenbosch Branch Office at the Stone Cottages:

Kirstenbosch Branch awarded a Molteno Gold Medal

The Kirstenbosch Branch of the Botanical Society of South Africa has been awarded a Molteno Gold Medal by The Cape Tercentenary Foundation, which aims to preserve, promote and encourage literature, the visual and performing arts and the natural and cultural environment within the Western, Eastern and Northern Cape Provinces. The Cape Tercentenary Foundation invites nominations for its annual Awards of Excellence and Merit, which recognise the contributions made by individuals or organisations that further the aims and objectives of the Foundation. Kirstenbosch Branch is one of five organisations to be awarded the Molteno Medal this year out of over 90 nominations. The award will be presented by the Premier at a ceremony in the CTICC in November.

Volunteer Gold Badge Awards

Volunteers who have given two years continuous service were awarded gold name badges in recognition of their dedication to, and support of Kirstenbosch and the branch at a lunchtime event in the Middle Stone Cottage on 17 August 2010. The five volunteers who received their badges this year donate their time to the plant propagation nursery, bulbs section, waterwise garden and garden guides and they are Olwen Gibson, Frances Hills, Helen Mitchell, Ruth Prescott and Barbara Young. Congratulations!

Dried Materials Volunteers

For various reasons the volunteer group working with dried materials, which has been in existence for over 20 years, have closed up shop and the group has disbanded. This hard working innovative group, originally known as “the compost ladies” because they would walk in the forest collecting whatever plant material they could find lying about, came up with some wonderfully creative items which they sold at the Kirstenbosch Craft Markets, including beautiful indigenous Christmas trees and wreaths. They will continue to sell their wares at craft markets from October to December this year as they still have dried materials suitable for crafters and florists that need to be cleared. We thank them for their hard work over the years and trust they will continue to volunteer at Kirstenbosch.

Kew Garden Guides visiting Kirstenbosch

Correspondence between Kirstenbosch Volunteer Garden Guides and the Volunteer Garden Guides at Kew Botanical Gardens has continued. At the end of August a party of ten Kew Garden Guides arrived for a ten day visit. The Kirstenbosch Garden Guides accompanied the visitors on a visit to Kirstenbosch and Cape Point, as well as a four day tour up the west coast which included a stop in the Cedarberg, the Clanwilliam Flower Show and the Hantam Botanical Garden. They also enjoyed a visit to Betty's Bay Botanical Gardens, a visit to Stellenbosch and the winelands, and finally a trip up Table Mountain. We feel we can safely call this Kew visit a great success, and thank our superb Kirstenbosch Guides for flying the flag of our BotSoc Volunteers and our beautiful Garden high!

Kirstenbosch Branch AGM

The Kirstenbosch Branch Annual General Meeting took place on 24 August 2010 in the Middle Stone Cottage. Dr Bruce McKenzie, former Director of Operations of BotSoc gave a thought-provoking talk on the past achievements of BotSoc and the need to ensure that these achievements are built upon in the future. Committee member Mrs Janette Yeats was re-elected, and we welcome a new committee member, Mr Rupert Koopman.

Rupert Koopman has been a CREW (Custodians of Rare and Endangered Wildflowers) volunteer since 2003 and was an Environmental Consultant from 2004 to 2007. From 2007 to 2008 he was contracted as a Botanist based in SANBI's Custodians of Rare and Endangered Wildflowers (CREW) programme to support CapeNature. Currently he is a Conservation Scientist/Field Botanist in CapeNature's Scientific Services unit.

Kirstenbosch Craft Market

The Kirstenbosch Craft Market resumes again this month after a three month winter recess. The next market is on Sunday 26 September from 09h00 to 15h00 in the grounds of the Stone Cottages. The Kirstenbosch Branch administers the craft market and income from stall rentals goes to the Kirstenbosch Partnership Fund. Dates for the remainder of 2010 are 31 October; 28 November; and 12 and 19 December 2010. Our grateful thanks to Nedbank for sponsoring the printing of the Kirstenbosch Craft Market 2011 calendar bookmarks once again.

Firefly walks

Special night walks to experience the fireflies will take place during the period 22 October to 22 November 2010. Meet at Gate 1, Visitors' Centre at 18h45. The cost is R30 for adults, R10 for children. It is essential to phone Andrew Jacobs on 021 799-8783 after 14h00 each day to confirm if the walk is taking place. Please wear walking shoes and bring a torch and plastic bag.

Join the Kirstenbosch Plant Production Nursery Volunteers

We are looking for new volunteers to join our Tuesday morning group in the plant propagation nursery. Our volunteers contribute enormously to growing plants for the display areas in Kirstenbosch and the Branch's annual Kirstenbosch Garden Fair. If you are interested contact Catherine at the Kirstenbosch Branch office on 021 671-5468.

In Memoriam

Neil MacGregor passed away in June 2010. He was a farmer and a pioneer for more sustainable land use practices and was committed to conserving the extraordinary diversity on his farm, Glen Lyon and the remarkable landscapes of the Bokkeveld and Namaqualand. He was instrumental in the establishment of the Nieuwoudtville Flower Reserve, Skilpad Nature Reserve, and finally Glen Lyon became the Hantam National Botanic Garden.

The Botanical Society Bookshops at Kirstenbosch

The following books are available at the Botanical Society bookshops at the Visitors Centre (Gate 1) and the Garden Centre (Gate 2):

Mountains in the Sea: a Celebration of the Table Mountain National Park by John Yeld & Martine Barker

Table Mountain is one of the great natural wonders of the world, an instantly recognisable and much loved local and international icon, its natural splendour and scientific importance globally acknowledged through its inclusion as a key component of the Cape floristic region world heritage site declared in 2004. It also has a powerful cultural and historical significance. This book explores all these aspects of the Table Mountain National Park through a rich assemblage of evocative images and illustrations, and a concise but highly informative text. **Price: R295.00**

Pocket Guide: Rocks & Minerals of Southern Africa by Bruce Cairncross

This handy pocket guide presents a selection of the most common, fascinating and important rock and mineral species to be found here. It includes full-colour photographs, a concise description, both historic and current, and detailed information on where in the region species are found. A comprehensive glossary explains difficult technical terms. It will be invaluable both to amateur geologist and budding collectors. **Price: R100.00**

The Raptor Guide of Southern Africa by Ulrich Oberprieler & Bruger Cillié

A guide to all southern African raptors in a user friendly system of 11 groups which are colour-coded and cross-referenced. The comprehensive text emphasizes field recognition, behaviour, feeding methods, breeding and the origin of the name. This guide contains over 600 excellent colour photographs to indicate males, females, juveniles, other colour variations and flight patterns. **Price: R245.00**

San Rock Engravings Marking the Karoo Landscape by Neil Rusch & John Parkington

“Rock engravings” were created in the pre-colonial period by San hunter-gatherers who roamed this land in search of sustenance and water. This book explores the visual legacy of these artists, the signs they left on the land and the meanings that could be attached to them. Neil Rusch’s superb photographs complemented by John Parkington’s thought-provoking text, bring to life these enigmatic markings and the way of life of their creators. **Price: R210.00**

Botanical Exploration of Southern Africa: Edition 2- Compiled by H.F Glen & G. Germishuizen

This book surveys the history of plant collection at the southern end of Africa from the earliest records to about the 1750s. It is illustrated with some 80 reproductions of title

pages, old illustrations and maps and contains a wealth of information on the adventurous collectors who have assembled the material on which our knowledge of plants and vegetation of our region rests. **Price: R345.00**

Now available: 2011 Botanical Society of South Africa Calendars – artist, gold award winner, Lynda de Wet.

Bookshop enquiries: tel 021 762-1621/021 762- 6466; fax 021 762-0923

email: kbranch@botanicalsociety.org.za or website www.botanicalsociety.org.za

Events at Kirstenbosch Botanical Garden:

Biennale

This established botanical art exhibition has become a well loved and well attended show, drawing diverse and enthusiastic crowds to the garden bursting with the promise of spring. The 2010 biennale which features botanical art from artists all over the country is supported by Old Mutual and focuses on rare, endangered and narrow endemic species to Southern Africa. This event takes place from 5 to 26 September 2010 from 09h00 to 17h00 in the Old Mutual Conference Centre at Kirstenbosch.

Silvertree Restaurant, Kirstenbosch

There are four remaining concerts in the Silvertree Restaurant Winter Concert Series:

19 September	: McCully Workshop	19h00 to 20h30
26 September	: Folk Rock Heroes	19h00 to 20h30
3 October	: Louise Carver	19h00 to 20h30
10 October	: Flat Stanley	19h00 to 20h30

Kirstenbosch Comedy Show: presented by Jou Ma Se Comedy Club in Association with the Silvertree Restaurant – 29 September, 20h00 to 22h00

Dave Levinsohn will be the host of the evening and Kurt Schoonraad will be headlining the show. The show will also feature guest artist Siv Ngesi.

Contact the Silvertree Restaurant for more information on 021 762-9585. A 10% discount applies to all Botanical Society Members.

Wednesday Talks at Kirstenbosch

Presented by Room to Grow in the Sanlam Hall at 10h30

29 Sep	: Wisley through the years	- Linda Dolan, Plant Lover & RHS Retiree
13 Oct	: The New Garden Aloes	- Jaap Viljoen
27 Oct	: The Birds of Kirstenbosch	- Otto Schmidt
10 Nov	: Autumn in France	- Sue Hillyard

Enquiries: Cathy Abbott 021 465-6440/072 2012535; cathya@wol.co.za

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

The Kirstenbosch Branch “Friends” Newsletter will no longer be circulated as an insert in the *Veld & Flora*. We are exploring alternative methods of distribution, including electronic. We welcome any feedback from our members on our new format!

Yours sincerely

Catherine Gribble
Kirstenbosch Branch Secretary