

“Friends of Kirstenbosch” Newsletter



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Greetings from the Stone Cottages at Kirstenbosch, home of the Kirstenbosch Branch of the Botanical Society.

We are well into 2012 and in the throes of organising the annual Kirstenbosch Garden Fair which is happening later than usual this year, on 5 and 6 May.

Planning has also begun for the Centenary in 2013 of both Kirstenbosch Botanical Garden and the Botanical Society itself. Professor Brian Huntley, former Curator of Kirstenbosch, is heading up the Centenary Planning Committee and 2013 promises to be a year of exciting activities, events and exhibitions at Kirstenbosch.

The Kirstenbosch Branch now has a facebook page on which you can follow our activities and be notified of events – please like us and invite your friends to do the same! 

We would like to thank our members for their patience in signing in at the entrance gates to Kirstenbosch. We are collecting valuable data in respect of how our members use the Gardens on a daily basis.

The Branch held its annual Moonlight Walk in Kirstenbosch on Friday 10 February, led by Dirk Muller. The weather did not co-operate and the moon was hidden behind the cloud cover, but it was nevertheless a lovely opportunity to experience the Garden and picnic on the lawn at night. We plan to host similar events in the Garden on a more frequent basis.



Carol retired at the end of January 2012 after 22 years of dedicated service to the Kirstenbosch Branch of the Botanical Society.

Carol joined the Branch as Shop Manager when it operated a small bookshop and nursery from a timber structure located just inside what was at that time the main entrance to the Gardens and which is now the Garden Centre Gate.

From its small beginnings, Carol saw the Branch through its developmental stage of moving the administrative office to the renovated Stone Cottages and taking

occupation of the bookshop at the new Visitors' Centre when she became Branch Manager. The Branch had by then become a thriving entity that required overall day-to-day management of its bookshop operations, as well as fundraising.

She was a tower of strength throughout her years with the Branch – professional and highly efficient and extremely caring of her staff and the large team of Volunteers who were close to her heart.

We will miss Carol tremendously and wish her all the best in her well-earned retirement.



We are delighted to introduce Kate Steyn, our new Branch Manager. Kate has worked in environmental consulting for the last 14 years. She has an MSc in Botany, which focussed on the conservation of rare and endemic plant species. Having been a Botanical Society member for many years and a frequent visitor to Kirstenbosch, she is delighted to be directly part of it all now and to work in such a magnificent space with such worthwhile objectives.

Kate brings new ideas and plenty of enthusiasm for existing projects and for the new challenges facing the Branch and Society as we approach our Centenary year in 2013.

The Kirstenbosch Branch of the Botanical Society's 37th annual Garden Fair and plant sale is on _____ at the Stone Cottages, on the corner of Rhodes and Kirstenbosch Drives.

This annual fundraising event is a showcase for South Africa's indigenous flora and offers gardeners a unique opportunity to acquire a wide range of trees, proteas, shrubs, buchus, herbaceous perennials, succulents, ericas, restios, bulbs, cycads, and rare and unusual plants for enthusiasts.

_____ is the theme of the Demonstration Garden which will be designed and set up by Kirstenbosch horticulturists Ernst van Jaarsveld and Graham Duncan.

Sandy Munro, well known horticulturist, popular speaker at many horticultural forums and radio presenter on Fine Music Radio and Cape Talk, will be at the Garden Fair. He will be making the public address announcements and will be available at the Information Desk for any queries.



Kirstenbosch horticulturists will be on hand throughout the Garden Fair to offer advice and assistance.



Exhibitors will offer garden-related products and services, refreshments will be available at the Tea Garden under the oak trees, and there will be musical performances.

The catalogue of plants on sale will be available to purchase from 20 April from the Botanical Society Bookshops at the Visitors' and Garden Centres in Kirstenbosch Garden, and from the Kirstenbosch Branch office in Stone Cottage 1 in Kirstenbosch Drive.

If you cannot wait until then to plan your purchases, see the Garden Fair 2012 plant availability list on the Branch website kirstenbosch-branch.org.za/events.

Entrance is R5, children under 12 are free. All proceeds go to the Kirstenbosch Partnership Fund. For information please contact the Branch Office on 021 671-5468.

We need you, our members, to help us with this major fundraising event. You do not need any experience or specialist knowledge, just a willing pair of hands. It is a lot of fun and a great opportunity to meet other Botanical Society members, so please join us for a few hours on either Saturday 5 or Sunday 6 May! Contact Catherine Gribble on 021 671-5468 to find out how you can help.

The A-Team consists of approximately 35 Botanical Society members who are passionate about indigenous plants and their conservation. They participate in training walks once a month and meet every month at the Stone Cottage. All Botanical Society walk leaders are selected from this group.

Any member of the Botanical Society is most welcome to join and can contact the convener, Dirk Muller, through the Branch office on 021 671-5468.



Photos from an A-Team outing at Silvermine led by Dirk Muller on 17 March 2012 by Melissa Stander. From left to right: *Gladiolus brevifolius*, *Erica mammosa*, *Struthiola cilata*

The Branch extends condolences to Mr Ted Harman on the passing of his wife.

Who's who at Kirstenbosch Branch

Meet Moira Powell, Botanical Society Bookshop Manager, looking particularly jaunty at our 2011 Christmas lunch.

Moira has been with the Botanical Society since 1987, and worked with Carol in the original bookshop and nursery. She and Carol have wonderful memories of happy years together, full of laughs. Moira has seen the bookshops transform and grow over the years, and is instrumental in maintaining the high quality of stock for which our bookshops are renowned. Always cheery, Moira is one of our great stalwarts whom customers know and love.



On the 3rd of February, on a routine monitoring trip to the Briers Louw Stewardship Nature Reserve, the Friends of the Tygerberg Hills (FOTH) came across a shrub nearly identical to *Metalasia* (blombos). After close inspection and submitting a specimen to the Compton Herbarium, confirmation was received that this plant was not a *Metalasia muricata* but in fact *Planea schlechteri*, which is a very close relative of *M. muricata* and was thought to be extinct.

The species was listed in the South African Red List as Critically Endangered Possibly Extinct (CRPE), bringing the number of CRPE species rediscovered since 2009 to 14.

CREW

If you wish to learn more about our threatened plants and want to help monitor them in the wild, join CREW, which stands for Custodians of Rare and Endangered Wildflowers, a programme that involves volunteers from the public in the monitoring and conservation of South Africa's threatened plants. The programme is funded by the Botanical Society of South Africa and the KZN Biodiversity Stewardship Programme.

For more information see www.sanbi.org/programmes/threats/custodians-rare-and-endangered-wildflowers-crew-programme or their facebook page.



The Compton Herbarium forms part of the research complex at the Kirstenbosch National Botanical Garden. The collection houses approximately 750 000 specimens covering mainly the winter rainfall region of southern Africa.

The Kirstenbosch Branch of the Botanical Society, through its Volunteer Programme, provides the Herbarium with volunteers. These volunteers assist in the painstaking work of specimen mounting for the purpose of preserving and displaying plant specimens.

The Herbarium is in need of more volunteers who are willing to commit to a few hours each week. Volunteers will be fully trained.

If you are interested in volunteering in the Herbarium please contact Catherine in the Branch office on 021 671-5468.

Congratulations to Ernst van Jaarsveld for being awarded his Doctorate from the University of Pretoria. The topic of his dissertation is Cremnophytes, plants which grow on sheer cliff faces or cliff ledges.

Ernst, a renowned horticulturist, has been employed at Kirstenbosch since 1974 and is currently the curator of the Kirstenbosch Conservatory. He has written numerous books including *Succulents of South Africa*, *Waterwise Gardening*, *Cotyledon and Tylecodon Handbook* and *Gasterias of South Africa*, and numerous articles in local publications such as *Veld & Flora* and *SA Garden*. He has columns in *Die Burger* and *Beeld*.

Denise Moody, a stalwart member of the Kirstenbosch Branch of the Botanical Society passed away on 2 March 2012 aged 72, after a fight with cancer. She left behind a legacy of loving nature, plants and mountains, as well as a house full of botanical books and many, many seeds packets!

Denise first joined the Mountain Club of South Africa over 45 years ago, and she joined the Botanical Society soon thereafter to feed her love of learning and nature. Her 35 year old daughter, Tam, says one of her earliest memories is excitedly realising she had learned what a *Drosera* was while out on a flower-hunting hike, aged 5.

Denise was part of BotSoc's A-Team lead by Professor Jackson in the 1980s. She thoroughly enjoyed these trips and, having studied Latin and Greek, loved learning plant names and discovering their etymology. However, she wasn't so fond of how Prof. Jackson and Jim McGregor liked to "bundu bash" through scratchy fynbos. She also used to sigh over how there were times the A-team got so involved in plant identification in a small area that they ended up not leaving the parking area.

She grew fynbos gardens wherever she lived, often focusing on particular species for a while and her present garden is full of young trees, orchids, pelargoniums and aloes. She hiked almost every Sunday morning, calling it her church.

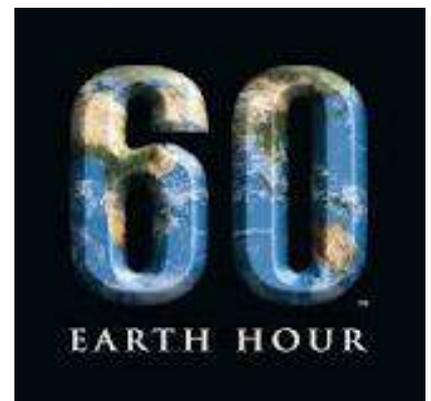
For the last six years Denise had been working for Silverhill Seeds with Rod and Rachel Saunders and been an active member of IBSA (Indigenous Bulb Association of South Africa).

Denise carried on hiking weekly until early this year, taking her beloved dogs to Silvermine, Rhodes Memorial and Newlands forest, always with her favourite Mary Matham-Kidd flower book in her backpack, and sharing her encyclopaedic knowledge with many people she met along the way. Her cheerful and mischievous disposition will be missed by the many friends she had.

By turning off your lights for an hour at 20h30 on 31 March 2012, you can show your commitment to change as part of a global interconnected community.

People, businesses, and governments around the world unite each year to support the largest environmental event in history – Earth Hour. More than 5,200 cities and towns in 135 countries worldwide switched off their lights for Earth Hour 2011, sending a powerful message for action on climate change. Earth Hour is on the last Saturday of every March, closely coinciding with the equinox to ensure most cities are in darkness as it rolls out around the Earth.

Earth Hour is organised by the World Wildlife Fund (WWF), one of the world's largest and most respected independent conservation organisations. WWF's mission is to stop the degradation of the Earth's natural environment and build a future where people live in harmony with nature.



Kids Corner

Print and colour-in the picture and drop it in the **Colouring-in Competition Box** at the BotSoc Bookshop in the Visitors' Centre at Kirstenbosch by 1 May.

The winner will receive a Gift Voucher to spend in the Bookshop!
Don't forget to write your name, age and telephone number on your entry.



Illustration from the **Wildlife Colouring-in Book** by **Claire Sadie**,
now available in the Botanical Society Bookshops at Kirstenbosch.

Kirstenbosch Branch Walks

The ever popular walks programme continues with regular half and full day walks of varying intensity led by members. Always take wind and waterproof clothing, adequate water and sunscreen, particularly in summer, when participating in walks.

. Please contact walk leaders for details: Jenny and Peter Ryan 021 783-2868 or Liz Barnett 021 531-8605.

Walk to the summit of Vlakkenberg then across the bridge at the bottom of the valley onto Constantiaberg and across to the summit of Skoorsteenskop overlooking Hout Bay. This is an interesting and unusual route. Fairly strenuous. Duration 5 hours. Meet at the top of Price Drive at 09h00. Leaders: Dirk Muller 021 762-2473, Pat & Tony Rebelo 021 712-7816, Margaret Kahle 021 762-3170, Moiragh Girdwood 021 671-6890, Margaret Herron 021 685-5579, Frans Viljoen 021 531-4596, Teresa Raposo 021 674-2874, Marius Dreyer 083 9939797, Alison James 021 786-4142, Catherine Burnett 021 788-1778, Jill Blignaut 021 794-4836.

Moderately strenuous morning walk. Meet under the gum trees at last parking area along Tafelberg Road at 08h30. Leaders: Gisela Mittendorf 021 422-1394, Jenny Mountain 021 794-7129, Margaret Herron 021 685-5579, Cathy Cavvadis 021 434-4242.

Please contact walk leaders for details: Jenny and Peter Ryan 021 783-2868 or Liz Barnett 021 531-8605.

Meet at the parking area in Theresa Drive at 09h00. Easy walk up to the Pipe Track and then along the Pipe Track past Woody Ravine to Corridor Ravine and up to the summit. The cracks are one of the favourite places to visit on the mountain. The descent will be down Kasteelspoort to the Pipe Track.

Reasonably strenuous. Duration 7 hours. Leaders: Ivor Jardine 021 689-9031, Liz Barnett 021 531-8605, Di Franklin 021 712-9830, Karin Frehse 021 557-7308, Bruce Mackenzie 021 531-1777, Gisela Mittendorf 021 422-1394.

Bertie's Balcony. Moderately strenuous morning walk. Meet at Silvermine parking area (Waterfall side) at 09h00. Leaders: Margaret Kahle 021 762-3170, Liz Barnett 021 531-8605, Teresa Raposo 021 674-2874, Jean Stephenson 021 531-7468.

Please contact walk leaders for details: Jenny and Peter Ryan 021 783-2868 or Liz Barnett 021 531-8605.

Meet at 09h00 at the Jonkersdam parking spot midway between Sun Valley and Glencairn. Easy walk. Duration 3 hours. Leaders: Ann MacGregor 021 785-7276, Adre Marshall 021 762-1943, Glenda Moore 021 674-1891, Jenny Mountain 021 794-7129, Jean Stephenson 021 531-7468, Jennetta Tilney 021 788-7061, Heidi Timm 021 671-0726, Jane von Witt 021 683-9822, Ray Green 021 683-5249, Rory Gilmore 021 712-1516, Jenny Hawkins 072 2340220, Lucille Krige 021 671-9555.

Kalk Bay Mountains. Moderately strenuous morning walk. Meet at the Boyes Drive turn-off at Lakeside at 08h45. Leaders: Jennetta Tilney 021 788-7061, Sheila Robinson 021 782-0773, Gill Adlard 021 531-5896.

Please contact walk leaders for details: Jenny and Peter Ryan 021 783-2868 or Liz Barnett 021 531-8605.

Events at Kirstenbosch

1 April 2012: Hot Water, Wrestlerish 17h30-19h00

8 April 2012: Two Oceans Marathon Concert: The Parlotones, Ice Project 17h00-19h00

Tickets can be purchased telephonically on 021 761-2866 or 021 799-8782, at the venue, or online via Webtickets at <http://www.webtickets.co.za>.

Kirstenbosch: Easter Turnfest

6-9 April 2012

Cape Town Woodturners will once again be demonstrating their skills and artistry over the Easter weekend at Kirstenbosch National Botanical Garden.

Selected exhibition items will be for sale.

Open daily: 09h00-17h00

Oyami Bonsai Kai Easter Show

6-9 April 2012

The artists displaying their work have cultivated their bonsai trees over many years, and have created magnificent specimens of a large variety of tree species and styles.

Open daily: 08h30-16h30



roomtogrow

4 April 2012:

Mary van Blommestein, Curator, Irma Stern Museum & UCT Art Collection
– *19th Century Women Floral Artists*.

18 April 2012:

Ernst van Jaarsveld, Kirstenbosch Horticulturist – *Waterwise gardening in SA and Namibia*.

2 May 2012:

Alan Liebenberg/Jarrood Lyon, Environment Manager – *Intaka Island, Century City*.

16 May 2012:

Hester v.d. Westhuizen, Entomologist, Butterfly World – *Spiders and more*

30 May 2012:

Helen Manson-Cullen, Legacy Landscaping – *History of Landscaping (the last 3000 years)*.

13 June 2012:

Sue Hillyard, Landscaper/Gardener – *Jardin – le fleur du Monet*.

27 June 2012:

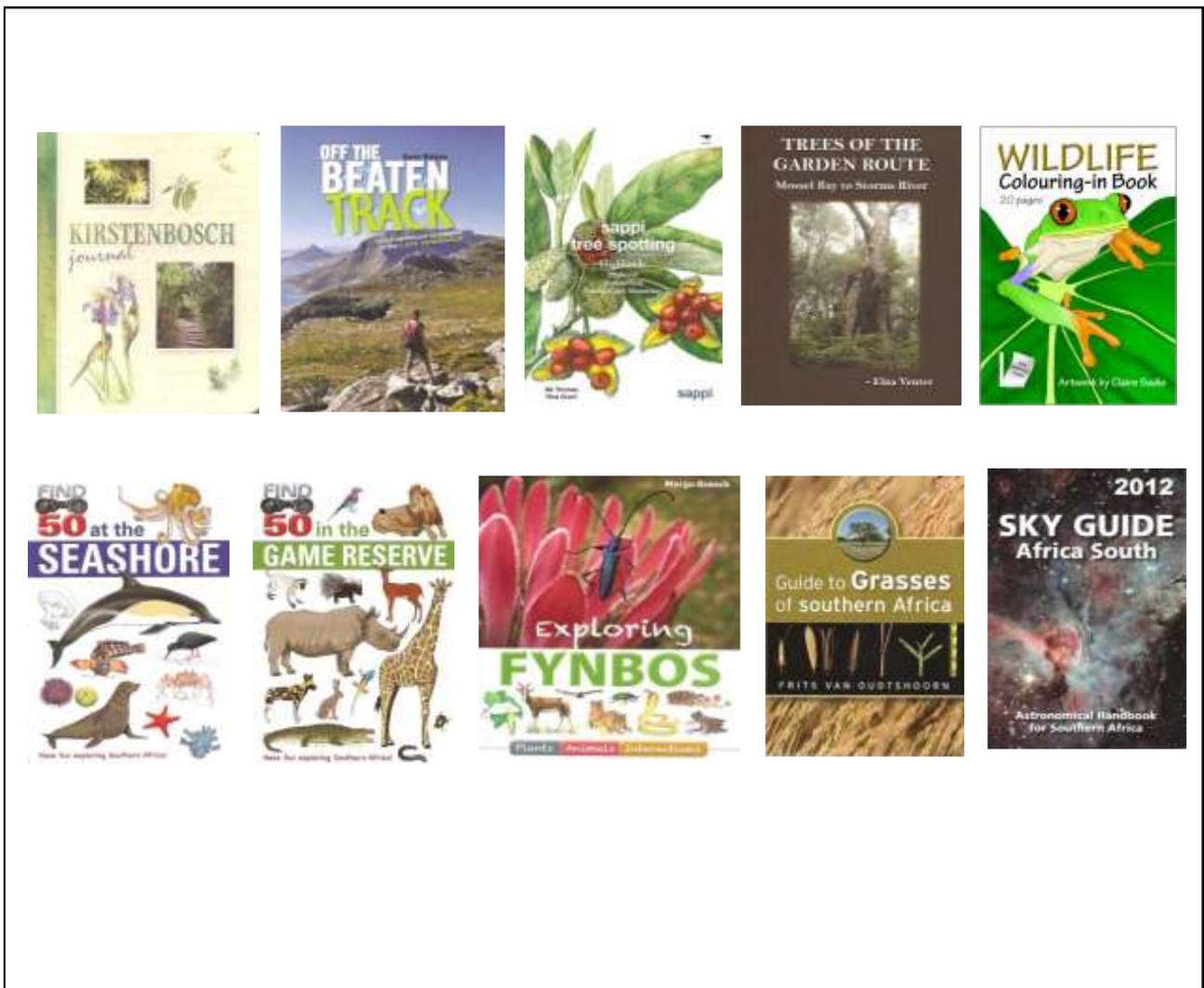
David Davidson, Kirstenbosch Horticulturist – *Chelsea 2012*.

All talks are from 10h30-11h30 in the Sanlam Hall.

Special interest tours and group bookings can be arranged in advance via the Information Desk at a fee of R35 per person, additional to garden entry fee, with a minimum of R245 per tour. To book or enquire further, contact the Information Desk at 021 799-8783 or fax 021 797-6570.

The MyGuide self-guiding audio system is available in English or German from the Information Desk, Visitors' Centre (Gate 1). Tickets for the MyGuide handsets cost R40 per handset, additional to Garden entry fee. Tickets are purchased from the Ticket Office along with the Garden entry ticket.

Shuttle car tours of the Garden leave from the Visitors' Centre (Gate 1), on the hour, daily, from 09h00 to 15h00, on fair-weather days. The shuttle car can accommodate a maximum of 7 passengers. Tickets for the Shuttle Car Tours cost R45 per person, additional to Garden entry fee. Tickets are purchased from the Ticket Office along with the Garden entry ticket. To book, call the Kirstenbosch Ticket Office on 021 799-8782 between 08h00 and 17h00.



Rupert Koopman, Chairman
Peter Ryan, Treasurer
Dirk Muller
Melissa Stander
Janette Yeats



Contributions to the quarterly newsletter are welcome. Please contact Catherine Gribble in the Branch office:
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