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NEWS-LETTER OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN ASSOCIATION OF BOTANISTS
NUUSBRIEF VAN DIE SUID-AFRIKAANSE GENOOTSKAP VAN PLANTKUNDIGES

SOUTH AFRICAN COUNCIL FOR NATURAL SCIENTISTS (SACNAS):

SEPTEMBER 2nd 1982 - an important and significant day in the annals of the Natural Scientists of South Africa. For on that day the S.A. Council for Natural Scientists, created in terms of the Natural Scientists' Act, 1982 (Act 55 of 1982), held its first meeting.

The following persons have been appointed members and alternate members of Council:-

MEMBER

Prof. S. Maske
Dr. R.R. Arndt
Prof. J.D. Skinner
Dr. D. Reitmann
Dr. B.W. Strydom
Prof. N. Grobbelaar
Prof. H.S.P. Grässer
Dr. H.S. Hofmeyr
Prof. V. Pretorius
Dr. G. Heymann
Prof. G.N. Louw
Prof. W.J. van Biljon
Prof. J.P.F. Sellschop
Dr. D.J.J. van Rensburg
Dr. C.G. Coetzee
Dr. W.L. van Wyk
Dr. R.E. Robinson
Mr. D.L. Kyle

ALTERNATE

Dr. C.T. Potgieter
Dr. R.O. Perry
Prof. T. Erasmus
Prof. P.H. Stoker
Dr. G.C.A. van der Westhuizen
Prof. C.F. Cresswell
Prof. N. Sauer
Dr. J.H. Hofmeyr

Prof. W. Gevers
Prof. A.J. Erlank
Prof. C.J.H. Schutte
Prof. M.A. Raath
Prof. D. Veldsman
Dr. H.v.H. van der Watt
Dr. D.C. Neethling

Dr. P.J. Ryan

Prof. V. Pretorius and Dr. G. Heymann were unanimously elected President and Vice-President of Council respectively and will so serve for the next 3 years.

To assist Council in attending to its business in the most efficient and expeditious manner possible, the following Sub-committees have been appointed -

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Prof. V. Pretorius - Chairman
Dr. G. Heymann
Dr. R.R. Arndt
Prof. W.J. van Biljon
Dr. C.G. Coetzee
Mr. D. Kyle
Dr. D. Reitmann

REGISTRATION COMMITTEE

Dr. R.R. Arndt - Chairman
Dr. H.S. Hofmeyr - Vice-Chairman
Prof. H.S.P. Grässer
Prof. S. Maske
Prof. N. Grobbelaar
Dr. D.J.J. van Rensburg
Prof. J.D. Skinner
Dr. B.W. Strydom
Prof. J.P.F. Sellschop

PUBLICITY COMMITTEE

Prof. W.J. van Biljon - Chairman
Prof. G.N. Louw
Dr. R.E. Robinson
Dr. W.L. van Wyk
Dr. R.O. Perry

Council attended to a number of important matters during its first meeting inter alia

- The General Regulations concerning the code of professional conduct, disciplinary matters and the modus operandi regarding visits to educational institutions to evaluate examinations.
- Requirements for the recognition of associations of natural scientists for purposes of the Act.
- Registration and annual fees. It was decided to prescribe the following fees -

Registration Fees

- of
- Annual Fees - In respect of a person who is a member of a recognised natural scientists' association: R40-00
- In respect of a person who is not a member of a recognised natural scientists' association: R75,00

The Council's offices are temporarily housed on the campus of the University of Pretoria and it is hoped that permanent accommodation will become available towards the end of June 1983. The postal address and telephone number are as follows: Private Bag 111303 and Telephone: (012) 435103
BROOKLYN, 0011

Mr. G.S. Pool has been appointed Registrar to the Council. He is being assisted by Mrs. M.C. Marais (Administrative) and Mrs. J.E.E. Bornman (typist/receptionist).

Since its inception in 1982, Council has taken or is in the process of taking steps -

- (a) towards obtaining an improved dispensation for natural scientists in the employ of Government i.e. at least on a par to that obtaining for professional engineers. Council has reason to believe that Government is in the process of investigating the matter and natural scientists will in due course be advised of developments as they eventuate;

- (b) with a view to the better utilization of the services of natural scientists whilst doing their compulsory military service and to obtaining for them a dispensation at least on par with that obtaining for the other recognized professions. Information to hand would have it that the representations of Council are already the subject of an investigation presently being undertaken by the S.A.D.F; and
- (c) to ally itself with the investigations being undertaken by the President's Council and the H.S.R.C. into matters relating to the natural scientists' profession and the teaching of the natural sciences and mathematics at tertiary and secondary education levels.

Scientists who have not as yet decided to apply for registration could do no better than to follow the example set by an 83 year old natural scientist who typed his application on a 1929-model typewriter and felt most gratified that his profession now enjoys statutory recognition.

"To be or not to be

registered as a natural scientist

that is the question"

presented no problems in the year of the aged to the venerable Dr. J.F.V. Phillips who has submitted the most complete and informative application to date!

Die nuwe jaar bied geweldige uitdagings aan die natuurwetenskaplike beroep, in die algemeen en aan die Raad in die besonder. Die Raad, as statutêre spreekbuis van die georganiseerde natuurwetenskaplike beroep, sal met al groter gesag kan praat namate die aantal geregistreerde natuurwetenskaplikes toeneem. 'n Beroep word derhalwe gedoen op almal wat vir registrasie kwalifiseer, om hul aansoeke so spoedig moontlik in te dien. Diegene wat nog nie oor 'n aansoekvorm beskik nie, kan by bogenoemde adres daarom vra.

It is some considerable significance to note that Council is by law obliged to take any steps which it may consider expedient for the protection of the public in dealings with natural scientists and for the maintenance of the integrity, the enhancement of the status and the improvement of the standards of qualifications of natural scientists. One must ineluctably conclude that the lawmakers felt the need for a constant upgrading of the standards of training in the natural sciences and mathematics at both tertiary and secondary educational levels. The Education Advisory Committee, in coöperation with the various Professional Advisory Committees, will as a matter of urgency be required to investigate the present state of affairs and to advise Council on the remedial steps to be taken to ensure a continuing enhancement in the quality of natural scientists graduating in the R.S.A.

SABBATICAL LEAVE: During the second half of 1982, Prof. E.J. Moll, Dept. of Botany, University of Cape Town, spent six months sabbatical leave in the U.S.A., mainly at San Diego State University (SDSU). The important things he hoped to gain from this were first-hand experience and knowledge of as many plant communities as possible in continental U.S.A., get some assessment of the American undergraduate and post-graduate programmes, as well as doing some research in another mediterranean-type climate area.

To enable him to see as many vegetation types as possible he flew in to the east coast and travelled by road across the U.S.A. visiting Universities and Research Stations along the way as well as studying the major vegetation zones through which he passed. He ultimately travelled some 20 000 miles in six weeks and highlights were seeing Heath-Balds in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, attending the poster session at the Eighth International Symposium on Remote Sensing at Purdue, spending a day at Tucker Prairie in Missouri (one of the best known tall-grass prairie preserves in the U.S.A.), seeing the Rocky Mountain vegetation with real alpine tree lines and tundra, and spending a week with a Ph.D. student of his at the Fire Laboratory in Missoula, Montana. Later when he was at SDSU he travelled to Death Valley, southern Utah and central Arizona to see Sagebush, Creosote Bush, Sonoran Desert, Juniper and Pinyon Pine woodlands and summer rainfall Chapparal. He has a much expanded collection of colour slides to illustrate lectures on major vegetation types of the world!

At SDSU he joined the Botany Department for the Fall Semester. Strangely enough SDSU has a Botany, Zoology and Biology Department and is particularly strong in ecology, notably on the ecology of Chapparal, an allied Mediterranean-type vegetation similar in some respects to our own Fynbos types. Also at SDSU there is a Systems Ecology Research Group (SERG) that has some \$2 000 000 p.a. of research funding; mainly from the National Science Foundation, the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture and the Dept. of Energy. The Director of SERG, Professor P.C. Miller, spent six months sabbatical at Jonkershoek in 1981/81 and the Fynbos Biome Group participated in a modelling exercise that he was involved with. It was mainly to become involved with Prof. Miller he went to SDSU - but tragically Prof. Miller died two weeks before Prof. Moll arrived.

While at SDSU Prof. Moll was involved in both undergraduate and post-graduate teaching programmes as he wanted to gain first-hand information on these. He was not at all impressed by the undergraduates who expected to be spoon-fed. The competition to get in to post-graduate programmes, however, is such that the post-graduates are good and work extremely hard. At the post-graduate level he ran an evening seminar discussion group for 14 weeks on the ecology of

mediterranean-type ecosystems. In addition he was asked to give six formal seminars on aspects of plant ecology of the Fynbos Biome, as well as formal seminars to Biology graduates at SDSU and UCLA, as well as talks to the Californian Nature Plant Society and a group at the Natural History Museum in San Diego.

Prof. Moll was also able to complete a small research project on Myrmecochory in Torrey Pines National Park, collected more data on mediterranean vegetation structural/functional characteristics, and got involved in a fire research programme at Sky Oaks (SDSU's field station). Unfortunately after weeks of preparation there were heavy rains and the planned control burn could not take place.

S.A.G.P. - NOORD-TRANSCVAAL TAK. JAARVERSLAG VIR 1982 :

<u>KOMITEE:</u>	Voorsitter:	Dr. W.F. Reyneke
	Onder-voorsitter:	Mnr. P. Herman
	Sekretaresse:	Mej. A. Winterboer
	Penningmeester	Mnr. R.G. Westfall
	Lede:	Dr. J.V. van Greuning Dr. G.E. Gibbs Russell
	Gekoöpteer	Mnr. C.F. van der Merwe Mnr. T.H. Arnold

LIDMAATSKAP: Ledetal het gestyg vanaf 161 in 1981 tot die huidige 215.

S.A.G.P.-KONGRES - 1982: Een van die hoogtepunte van vanjaar se verrigtinge was die S.A.G.P.-kongres wat die AETFAT-kongres in Pretoria op 16-17 Januarie 1982 voorafgegaan het. Hierdie kongres was aangebied om persone die geleentheid te gee om referate te lewer wat nie deur AETFAT gedek word nie.

As gevolg van die langdurige organisasie is mnr. T.H. Arnold, S. de Meillon en mej. C. Liengme gevra om as bestuurslede van 1981 aan te bly om kontinuïteit te behou. Ons dank gaan aan hierdie persone wat grotendeels die kongres georganiseer het.

Tydens die kongres is 54 voordragte gelewer en 16 plakkaatsessies aangebied. Akkommodasie is aan kongresgangers voorsien in Tankotie. Die kongres het 'n wins van R200,00 getoon wat aan die S.A.G.P.-raad oorbetal is.

LESINGS. Die volgende vyf lesings is gedurende die jaar gehou:

25 Februarie: Dr. W.F. Reyneke - Die identifisering van Cussonia spp.

26 Mei: Mnr. Mark Theron - Die probleme van stedelike natuurbewaring.

9 Augustus: Prof. E. Hecker - Chemical structures and biological activities of polyfunctional diterpenes.

8 September: Prof. F. Wightman - Growth regulators.

6 Oktober: Mr. W.E. Mulhan - Riverine vegetation.

Drie van die lesings is in samewerking met die Biologiese Vereniging gehou.

KURSUS OOR KLADISTIEK. Hierdie kursus is op 29 Maart 1982 deur dr. H.P. Linder by die Navorsingsinstituut vir Plantkunde aangebied. Dertig persone vanaf Wits, NIP, UP en die Transvaal museum het die kursus bygewoon.

UITSTAPPIE NA SOUTPAN: Die uitstappie het onder leiding van mnr. Simon Zagt (Dept. Geologie, U.P.) en prof. G.K. Theron plaasgevind. Ongelukkig is dit net deur 17 persone meegemaak.

BYWONING VAN LESINGS. Die afname wat in 1981 ondervind is, is in 1982 voortgesit en het ons 'n uiteindelijke bywoningsgemiddeld van 26 gehad.

<u>Datum</u>	<u>Spreker/Uitstappie</u>	<u>Lede</u>	<u>Besoekers</u>	<u>Totaal</u>
*25/2	dr. W.F. Reyneke	30	19	49
20/3	Soutpan	12	5	17
29/3	Kladistiek	19	11	30
*26/5	mnr. M. Theron	13	8	21
9/8	dr. E. Hecker	16	4	20
* 8/9	prof. F. Wightman	16	8	22
6/10	Mr. W.E. Mulhan	12	1	13
	Totaal	118	56	182
	Gem. 1982	17	8	26
	Gem. 1981	25	8	33
	Gem. 1980	27	13	40

KOMITEEVERGADERINGS. Die komitee het sewe keer gedurende die jaar vergader om lesings en uitstappies te reël. Daarbenewens is ook twee spesiale vergaderings gehou om die S.A.G.P.-kongres te reël.

VERTEENWOORDIGERS. Na aanleiding van 'n voorstel by die A.J.V. 1981 is dr. B. Gibbs Russell aangewys as N-Tvl. se verteenwoordiger op die raad.

Verder is mnr. A.E. van Wyk genomineer as streeksverteenwoordiger op die komitee vir omgewingsbewing van die S.A.G.P.

DANKBETUIGINGS. Dank gaan aan die volgende persone en instansies vir hulle hulp gedurende die jaar verleen:-

1. Alle bestuurslede van die N.-Tvl. tak van die S.A.G.P. vir die wyse waarop hulle hul plig nagekom het. In besonder mej. Adri Winterboer wat as sekretaresse altyd getrou op haar pos was.
2. Almal wat as sprekers gedurende die jaar opgetree het of behulpsaam was met die organisering van uitstappies of kursusse.
3. Die bestuur van die Biologiese Vereniging vir samewerking verleen tydens gekombineerde lesings.

4. Die Navorsingsinstituut vir Plantkunde wat fasiliteite voorsien het vir duplisering van kennisgewings.
5. Die departement Boukunde van die Universiteit van Pretoria wie se lesingsale ons gebruik het.
6. Die hoof van die departement Plantkunde van die Universiteit van Pretoria wie toestemming verleen het dat omsendbriewe daar getik en gedupliseer word, asook dat daar van die teekoppies gebruik gemaak kon word na lesings.

BESTUUR VIR 1983 : Mnr. P. Herman, dr. W.F. Reyneke, mej. C. Huyser, mnr. R. Westfall, dr. J.V. van Greuning, dr. Beth Gibbs-Russell, mnr. C.F. van der Merwe. Koöpteer: mej. A. Winterboer.

FYNBOS BIOME PROJECT: The Fifth Annual Research Meeting will be held at the University of Cape Town on Tuesday 28 June 1983. The proposed programme is scheduled to comprise: Introduction by Mr. B.J. Huntley of C.S.I.R.; Review of Biogeography and Palaeoecology by Mr. Anton Scholtz (University of Stellenbosch); Mapping and classification studies by Mrs. M.L. Jarman, C.S.I.R.; Nutrient cycling by Prof. D.R. Mitchell (University of Cape Town); Hydrology and hydrobiology by Dr. B. Davies (University of Cape Town) & Mr. J. Bosch (Jonkershoek Forestry Research Station); Community ecology and fire by Mr. G.J. Breytenbach (Saasveld Forestry Research Station) & Mr. B. van Wilgen (Jonkershoek Forestry Research Station); Alien studies by Mr. I.A.W. McDonald (University of Cape Town); Conservation working groups by Mrs. M.L. Jarman, C.S.I.R.; Fynbos Model by Mr. J. Miller (Jonkershoek Forestry Research Station).

S.A.A.B. N. TVL. BRANCH: The first official meeting this year of S.A.A.B. Northern Transvaal branch was held on 24 March at the University of Pretoria. Dr. B. Gibbs-Russel of the Botanical Research Institute, addressed members on "Botany and the Computer". She gave a short introduction on the need for a computer in a herbarium and described two systems namely a taxon-based and a specimen-based system that can be used.

Dr. Gibbs-Russell outlined the history of PRECIS I or Pretoria Computerized Information System with its drawbacks and went on to describe a much more simple and reduced PRECIS II system which is currently in operation at the Institute. She described briefly how data is being put into the system and the format in which it may be retrieved. She outlined the problems associated with inaccurate data.

The current contents of PRECIS are: 329 Families, 2448 Genera, 24 242 Species, 576 390 Specimens, 9006 Collectors.

Among the results obtainable from the system at the moment are distribution maps and checklists for a specific area.

The talk was illustrated by slides and overhead projections. Time was given for questions which were answered by both Dr. Gibbs-Russell and Mr. P. Gonsalves.

MEDECOS: The Fourth International Conference on Mediterranean Ecosystems will be held in Perth, Western Australia from 13-17 August 1984. The main theme of the conference will be "Resilience in mediterranean ecosystems". Contributions from delegates will cover such subjects as: effects of man - induced perturbations on natural ecosystems, fire, climatic change, etc., nutrient - cycling and the effect of disturbance (logging, clearing, minin) on this; invasion of natural ecosystems by weeds, alien animals and micro-organisms; the maintenance of artificial (agricultural) ecosystems; plant/animal interactions; diversity and stability in ecosystems.

There will be a pre- and postconference tours with the theme "Mediterranean-type Vegetation on Old Soils and Senile Landscapes". The preconference tour will be a two-day visit to the sandplains north of Perth, whilst the second of 1 week will make a transect across the south-west along the rainfall gradient from humid to semi-arid.

There will also be a local tour of the jarrah forests and of the Kings Park and Botanic Gardens. An exhibition of vegetation maps of mediterranean regions arranged by Prof. A.W. Kohler in conjunction with the International Cartographic Congress held earlier in August in Perth will be on display. Contract address: MEDECOS, Conference Office, University of Western Australia, Nedlands 6009, Western Australia.

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