

# FORUM BOTANICUM

Vol. 21, No. 8

AUGUSTUS 1983  
AUGUST

ISSN 0015-847X

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

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THE SAAB NATURE CONSERVATION COMMITTEE: This committee is an addition to the working committees of the council and recently sent out a circular to all members. The success of the committee depends upon the co-operation that it is going to get from every SAAB member.

Right at the start the committee would therefore like to ask members the following:

1. Inform it of any endangered plant species that have not been entered in the register of endangered species.
2. If members are aware of any endangered plant community or veld type that is not attended to, they should inform the committee who will take the matter further.
3. Are members aware of any development or planned development occurring to the detriment of the natural environment and endangering specific vegetation or plant species? Do members know of areas where development is taking place or had taken place and where no effort is made to clean up and restore the environment? The committee shall make an effort to involve the authorities concerned.

If there are any other aspects of nature conservation worrying members, contact the committee and it will do its best to attend to the matter.

The committee wants to ask that where members meet in the different regions, nature conservation is put on the agenda as a standing item and that relevant information is sent to it regularly.

DR. RAYMUND MARLOTH a former Director of the Citrus and Subtropical Fruit Research Institute from 1944 to 1964, died recently in Nelspruit at the age of 79. He began work there in 1930 and became an expert on the physiological aspects of the cultivation of citrus and subtropical fruits, producing numerous articles in local and overseas journals. Dr. Marloth was wellknown in  $S_2A_3$  circles. He was one of the three sons of the renowned botanist, Dr. Rudolf Marloth.

ONLY ONE PER CENT OF CAPE CONSERVED: "In the Cape Province, only one per cent of the surface area is being conserved in Provincial nature reserves, national parks and reserves of the Directorate of Forestry. Of the 35 recognized plant communities in the Province, which include the internationally famous Cape fynbos, only three may at present be regarded as adequately conserved".

These facts are given by the Director of the Cape Department of Nature and Environmental Conservation, Mr. W.O. Morsbach, in his Department's 38th Annual Report released recently.

"According to international norms", writes Mr. Morsbach, "each country should set aside at least 10 per cent of its surface area as permanent and long-term nature areas... only about 3,4 per cent of the surface area of our country is being conserved".

He expresses concern at the divided control of South Africa's long coastline due to a large number of acts, ordinances and regulations of numerous state and semi-state departments. Because of the deterioration of estuaries and tidal river mouths, especially on the east coast, he says it is imperative that a single co-ordinating controlling body be established for the coastal zone in order to ensure further orderly development and control.

Mr. Morsbach stresses the need for an overall conservation planning strategy for the country. "All too often we are still confronted with ad hoc local investigations and decision-making which may have long-term adverse effects on a specific environment and its inhabitants or even cause irreparable damage." He says the National Committee for Nature Conservation (NACOR), a co-ordinating body served by all state bodies dealing with nature conservation, is making good progress in preparing such a strategy, which incorporates existing conservation areas as well as envisaged and priority areas in the Cape Province.

He describes the promulgation last year of the Environment Conservation Act as an important milestone. It provides for the co-ordination of all action directed at or liable to have an effect on the environment and for the establishment of an advisory Council for the Environment. The members of this Council were appointed in January this year.

Mr. Morsbach believes it is neither desirable nor essential for the state to buy or possess all land that is worth conserving. He suggests the introduction of tax concessions in the case of bequests as well as of persons and bodies who own land of exceptional natural beauty or historical or scientific interest which they are willing to have supervised on a long-term basis. He adds: "The

creation of a National Trust, similar to the Trust in Britain, to control funds obtained from the private sector for the purchase and management of conservation areas, may also be considered."

Mr. Morsbach describes the new dispensation for nature conservators approved by the Commission for Administration at the beginning of 1983 as "one of the major turning points for nature conservation in our country", offering the Department's field staff "a genuine and rewarding career with the necessary security and promotional opportunities."

FLORA CONSERVATION COMMITTEE OF THE BOTANICAL SOCIETY OF S.A.: The SAAB representative on this Committee, Mr. H.C. Taylor, gives the following report on the Committee's activities during 1982.

1. CONSERVATION

1.1 Lecture Course on Nature Conservation at the Cape Technikon. The transcripts of the Proceedings of the course held in August 1981 have been edited. Regarding the future the University of Cape Town's Department of Extramural Studies was approached to arrange a week of talks and lectures, jointly with the Society, at the time of the "Flora '83" Exhibition.

1.2 Wild Flower Shows: Competition. A year or two ago Mrs. Mary Rand had offered to sponsor a prize for the best country Wild Flower Show run on conservation lines. This had given rise to the idea of the Society running such a competition in 1982 in order to encourage and guide those who would be participating in the "Flora '83" Show, which would replace their own country shows. A leaflet was sent to Show Committees giving details and guidance on the type of exhibits required; the competition was duly held in the spring of 1982 and Clanwilliam won the prize. The publicity occasioned by this event has greatly improved the quality of shows and the understanding by Show Committees of conservation principles - indeed a fine tribute to the late Mary Rand's foresight in initiating the scheme.

1.3 Wild Flower industry. At the end of July a number of Committee members attended an outing arranged by Mr. Middelman, to acquaint them with the details of the wild flower industry. All were agreed that research was desperately needed. It was felt that the Botanical Research Institute was best equipped to undertake this. A letter was therefore addressed to the Director enquiring about progress with the long-overdue questionnaire to wildflower farmers which was seen as the starting-point for research and management planning. This is a matter that could well be taken up by SAAB.

1.4 Other conservation matters. Members of the Committee continue to keep an eye on management policies of various local-authority nature reserves. Letters

were written to the relevant authorities stating the Committee's opinions about such matters as management of the Knysna forests and the proposed Gansbaai-Agulhas road. The March issue of "Veld & Flora", dealing entirely with the Palmiet River Dam scheme, was felt to have greatly increased the understanding, by both layman and the engineering fraternity, of the need to balance utilization with conservation in this critically important natural area.

The Committee has always been in the forefront of appeals to the judiciary to punish wildflower thieves more severely. In a recent case, where the Chairman had written directly to the magistrate, the accused was sentenced to 6 months imprisonment without the option of a fine! Subsequently, the Public Prosecutor wrote expressing his appreciation, saying that he had referred to the Chairman's letter in his address and in this way was able to draw the court's attention to the seriousness of the offence.

These are but a few examples of how the Flora Conservation Committee can work for conservation in ways that cannot be used by official bodies.

2. PEST PLANTS: The Committee continues to keep the spread of invasives under surveillance, particularly in the Steenbras-Kogelbaai area, and has written to the authorities about the incidence of Kikuyu in the Giant's Castle area of the Drakensberg.

3. PUBLICATIONS: The Society's first flora handbook, "Namaqualand and Clanwilliam", had sold so well that a second edition will be needed within two years. The second handbook, "Outeniqua, Tsitsikamma & Eastern Little Karoo", was launched by the Prime Minister at a successful function at George on 21st October 1982. Of the opening stock of 10 000 copies, 1350 had been sold by the end of October. The third book in the series, to be published in 1983, will be a new, completely updated edition of Mary Maytham Kidd's "Wild Flowers of the Cape Peninsula" with a full introduction that will include habitat information.

4. OTHER BUSINESS: In June 1982 the President's Council invited the Botanical Society to submit to its Planning Committee a memorandum on the state of nature conservation in South Africa. As a result of this, and born largely out of discussions in the Flora Conservation Committee, a pithy 9-page document was submitted in September 1982. The memo confined comment to "Certain aspects of conservation, namely, for South Africa today, the education and recreation which is available through our botanic gardens, reserves and national parks, and a practical scheme for ensuring preservation of our natural environment for future generations." The Executive Secretary and Chairman of Council, who together

drafted the memorandum, deserve special praise for a clear and concise statement, supplemented by explanatory footnotes, of the state of affairs today and the urgent needs of the future. I think that it should be read by everyone concerned with the conservation of flora and vegetation.

CYTOLOGY WORKSHOP: A workshop, taught by Dr. Peter Goldblatt of the Missouri Botanical Garden, is tentatively planned at the University of Cape Town for 19-20 October 1983. The purpose of the workshop is to acquaint botanists with the procedures and techniques for preparing plant material for the study of chromosomes. It is hoped that participants will be able to examine their own research plants in acquiring the necessary skills for investigating plant chromosomes. More details will become available later since the workshop has just recently been proposed. Any questions concerning this workshop should be directed to Dr. D.L. Koutnik, Bolus Herbarium, U.C.T., Rondebosch, 7700.

AETFAT 1985 CONGRESS: The next congress will be held at the Missouri Botanical Garden, St. Louis, with the provisional dates 9-13 June. The Hon. Gen. Secretary, Dr. Peter Goldblatt, is open to suggestions for a general theme for the 1985 Congress. He would like to have your ideas, including names of speakers who might be invited. Two mini-symposia will be held, on Lichens & Bryophytes, and Ethnobotany.

An important part of the duties of the Secretariat is to try and arrange for the selection of the next Secretariat, and to put forward a suitable nomination at the Congress. With this in mind and realizing that the members have expressed a strong desire that the Secretariat be located in an African country, he has been working with Dr. John Kokwaro, University of Nairobi, Kenya to try to secure the funding necessary for him to be able to accept the Secretariat in 1985 when Dr. Goldblatt steps down. To date this has not been successful, but Dr. Goldblatt wants members to be aware that these efforts are under way. The main source of funding for an international association like AETFAT are United Nations agencies such as UNESCO, but so far proposals in this direction have been turned down.

NUWE CULTIVARS VAN LEUCOSPERMUM: Die Navorsingsinstituut vir Tuinbou het in April vanjaar twee nuwe cultivars van Leucospermum aan die proteabedryf beskikbaar gestel. Hierdie cultivars is die eerstes wat ontwikkel is uit mnr. Gert Brits se teelprogram by die Protea-navorsingseenheid by Riviersonderend. Dit is ook die eerste doebewus-geteelde cultivars wat vrygestel word, aangesien die voriges almal toevallige kruisings was.

"SCARLET RIBBON" is 'n kruising tussen Leucospermum glabrum and L. tottum, en is

die eerste pastelkleurige Leucospermum wat aan die bedryf beskikbaar gestel is. "SUNRISE" is 'n kruising van L. cordifolium and L. patersonii, en is voortreflik vanweë sy vroeë blomtyd (van Augustus tot middel-September), wat ongeveer 'n maand vroeër is as die vroegste snyblom-cultivars wat tot dusver beskikbaar was.

INHEEMSE SUID-AFRIKAANSE BLOMPLANTE VAN GROOT EKONOMIESE WAARDE:

Relatief tot ander bedrywe is die blom- en siertuinbedryf in Suid-Afrika klein, maar nogtans verdien dit 'n jaarlikse inkomste van bykans R60 miljoen. In vergelyking met die rol wat hulle in die buiteland vervul, speel inheemse plante egter nog 'n baie klein rol in Suid-Afrika.

In Holland, byvoorbeeld, is Freesia tans 'n belangriker blombolgewas vir die produksie van snyblomme as selfs die beroemde tulpe. Freesia is daar die vierde belangrikste snyblomgewas. Gerbera was in 1981 die vyfde belangrikste blom in Holland, en selfs in swak ekonomiese tye het die verkope daarvan 'n groeikoers van ongeveer 7% per jaar getoon. Nerine, wat min in Suid-Afrika verbou word, is ook 'n gewilde snyblom in Europa en in 1981 is meer as 11 miljoen bloeiwyses in Holland alleen verkoop. Ander Suid-Afrikaanse plante wat 'n rooskleurige kommersiële toekomst het, is Lachenalia en Ornithogalum.

Volgens dr. D.I. Ferreira van die Navorsingsinstituut vir Tuinbou op Roodeplaat, het die Suid-Afrikaanse flora nog 'n groot ontginningspotensiaal waaraan meer aandag gegee behoort te word, gesien in die lig van die ekonomiese en wetenskaplike prestigewaarde daarvan. Die Navorsingsinstituut het reeds verskeie jare gelede begin met die veredeling van sommige inheemse bolplante as kommersiële snyblomme of potplante. Gedurende 1982 is 5 nuwe cultivars van Lachenalia aan die bedryf beskikbaar gestel. (Landbounuus).

EXPORT OF INDIGENOUS FRESH FLOWERS: The South African Protea Producers and Exporters Association (SAPPEX) gives the following figures for the export in kilograms of proteas and "Cape Greens" in a comparison of 1981 and 1982:

Area Year	Cape		Transvaal		Eastern	Cape
	1981	1982	1981	1982	1981	1982
January	74 339	106 165	8 426	522	28 584	42 420
February	76 836	106 096	8 614	2 674	31 673	32 261
March	59 160	78 844	8 988	5 932	9 461	4 968
April	56 591	94 843	6 777	3 666	5 669	-
May	62 705	82 005	10 388	4 354	812	1 045
June	32 582	46 792	889	961	-	-
July	42 689	54 920	1 440	-	-	-
August	83 828	148 535	230	-	-	-
September	173 298	218 321	-	-	543	40
TOTAL	662 028	936 521	45 752	18 109	76 742	80 734

Total value of exports for 1981 was R5 518 000

No figures are available for the destination of these exports but SAPPEX believes the figures are: Netherlands 38%, West Germany 30%, Switzerland 10%, France 6%, Italy 6%, Austria 4%, Scandanivia 4%, and Great Britain 2%.

AANSOEKE OM DIE KIRSTENBOSCH-JUBILEUMPRYS: Die prys ter waarde van R1500 word bekostig uit die Kirstenbosch-Jubileumfonds van die Nasionale Botaniese Tuine van Suid-Afrika wat in 1963 uit bydraes van die publiek van Suid-Afrika tot stand gekom het, en nog steeds uitgebou word, met die oogmerk om die doelstellings van die Nasionale Botaniese Tuine, veral navorsing, te bevorder.

Die doel van die Prys is, enersyds, om plantkundige en tuinboukundige bydraes tot die studie van die land se inheemse flora te erken en, andersyds, om verdere studie, navorsing, en publikasie daaroor te bevorder.

Aansoeke moet gerig word aan: Die Direkteur, Nasionale Botaniese Tuine van Suid-Afrika, Kirstenbosch, Privaatsak X7, CLAREMONT 7735, voor 30 September 1983, en moet die ouderdom, nasionaliteit en ander persoonlike besonderhede en die name van twee referente vermeld; en moet vergeselskap word van 'n kort curriculum vitae, gesertifiseerde afskrifte van akademiese en professionele kwalifikasies, 'n lys van publikasies en 'n kort uiteensetting van afgehandelde en beoogde navorsing.

Applikante moet asseblief die referente wat hulle noem, versoek om vertroulike verslae direk aan die Direkteur te stuur om hom nie later as 17 Oktober 1983 te bereik nie.

BOTANICAL SOCIETY SCHOLARSHIP: The Flora Conservation Committee of the Botanical Society of South Africa is offering a scholarship to the value of R1000 p.a. for research in connection with any aspect of conservation of South Africa indigenous flora.

Applicants must hold an honours degree in a biological science, in conservation or in environmental studies (or a degree of comparable academic standing) and be proceeding to a higher degree. Applicants with a background in botany may receive preference.

The Scholarship is tenable for two years with a possible extension for a further year.

Applications must be accompanied by an outline of the proposed project and should be supported by a statement from the Head of the Department concerning the candidate's ability for research.

Half-yearly reports will be required from candidates, and payments in six-monthly instalments will be made on receipt of satisfactory progress reports.

Applications with names of two references should be sent to the Executive Secretary, Botanical Society of S.A., Kirstenbosch, Claremont, 7735, by 31 October 1983.

TRANSKEI HIKING TRAIL OPENED: Transkei officially opened its first hiking trail, the Transkei Hiking Trail: Section Port St. Johns to Coffee Bay, on 11 April 1983.

The opening ceremony took place in the Port St. Johns Nature Reserve at the Sileka hut. The trail is a five day hike and huts accommodate 12 persons per night.

The Transkeian Minister of Forestry, the Honourable Mr. Mbandla opened the hiking trail and Mr. Keith Cooper, Executive Committee member of the Habitat Council and Director of the Wildlife Society of S.A., was guest speaker.

What makes this section of the Transkei coast very special is its well preserved swamp forests such as the one at Mngazana; the prime condition of its large indigenous high forest; and its varied and virtually untouched marine life. High quality nature reserves are being maintained at Hluleka and Port St. Johns.

The Transkeian Directorate of Forestry and Nature Conservation plans to develop additional trails in the north from Port Edward to Port St. Johns, and in the south from Coffee Bay to the Kei River Mouth. These would eventually be linked up with the trails of the S.A. National Hiking Way Board.

The map of this first hiking trail was prepared for Transkei by the Wildlife Society of S.A. and planning of the trail was undertaken by officers of the Transkei Directorate of Forestry and Nature Conservation with the assistance and advice of Mr. T.F.J. van Rensburg of the South African National Hiking Way Board. (Habitat Council).

REDUCED SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR RETIRED MEMBERS : Retired members of SAAB are reminded that they are entitled to a reduced membership fee of R5 or half of the normal fee. The only condition attached is that they must advise the secretary or treasurer that they have retired.

DIE TECHNIKON PRETORIA bevind hom tans in 'n baie sterk ontwikkelingsfase en is vol vertroue dat dit aan die eise van die snel-ontwikkellende ekonomie sal kan voldoen.

Die Technikon bied opleiding oor 'n wye spektrum beroepsrigtings en vanjaar is daar benewens die 160 bestaande sertifikaat- en diplomakursusse weer eens ver-



verskeie nuwe kursusse wat vir die eerste keer aangebied word. Ten einde maklik in die behoeftes van ons nagenoeg 11 000 studente te kan voorsien wat betref die beskikbaarheid van opvoedkundige boeke, het die aankoop van boeke dringend noodsaaklik geword.

In die lig hiervan wil ons lede nader om 'n skenking van boeke of kontant vir die aankoop van boeke vir die Kunsskool om sodoende die vakliteratuur tot die voordeel van alle studente en dosente uit te brei. Met hierdie skenking kan hierdie inrigting vinniger konsolideer tot 'n hoëvlak-opvoedkundige inrigting wat maklik by veranderde omstandighede kan aanpas.

Ons vestig ook graag u aandag op Artikel 18 A van Inkomstebelastingwet nommer 58 van 1962 wat voorsiening maak vir belastingtoegewings ten opsigte van donasies, beurse en skenkings "in natura" aan teknikons. Dit sluit allerlei skenkings in soos toerusting, masjinerie, kunswerkeiendom, boeke, voertuie en meubels.

REQUEST FOR TAXONOMIC REPRINTS: The Biosystematics Research Institute, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada is initiating the development of a permanent collection of taxonomically significant reprints on vascular plants. For this purpose they should be most grateful if you were to forward reprints of those of your publications which are appropriate to their needs.

They are primarily concerned with reprints of papers where there is a clear concern with classification, as opposed to theoretical investigations of evolution and taxonomic concepts. Of course, one cannot draw a sharp distinction between papers which emphasize genecology and evolution at the populational level and those which actually draw conclusions of practical interest to classification, and they point out the distinction merely to emphasize that the collection is intended as a practical taxonomic reference system.

Since the collection is permanent, it should have considerable historical value, and age of reprints should not prevent them from being forwarded. Where a scientist has specialized on a genus or family, a bibliography of published papers would be most useful for their files.

We should like to emphasize the value of such a collection, which is without counterpart in Canada, to taxonomy. By depositing reprints in this collection, your work will be more readily available to future students than otherwise would be the case.

All materials forwarded should be addressed to: Curator, Vascular Plant Reprint

Collection, Biosystematics Research Institute, Saunders Building, Agriculture  
Canada, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1A 0C6.

NEW MEMBERS OF SAAB: The following have been elected to membership of the  
Association since the full membership list was circulated a year ago:-

Dr. D.L. Koutnik	Mr. A.M. Avis
Mr. W.J. Botha	Mrs. G.R. Richardson
Mr. J.J. Midgeley,	Mr. I.G. Twaddle
Mnr. J.H. Briers,	Mr. I. Garland
Mej. E. Nel	Mr. S.S. Bridglall
Mnr. G. Potgieter	Mr. R. Crawford
Dr. J.A. Thornton	Mej. A. de Bruyn
Mej. A. Uys	Mrs. M. Heideman
Mev. H.E. Uys	Dr. N. Hendry
Mnr. E.J. van Jaarsveld	Mej. M.R. Holtzhauzen
Mej. J.G. Janse van Rensburg	Miss K.M. Kelly
Mej. H.E. Vorster	Mr. J.C. Manning
Mnr. E.C. Geduld	Miss C.M.L. Martin
Mej. H.H. Botha	Mej. D. Momberg
Miss P.A. Landby	Mej. A. Muller
Mej. L. van der Walt	Miss J. Pearce
Mnr. R.J.P. Hufkie	Mr. G.H. Ross
Miss B.J.S. Crook	Mej. M. Steenkamp
Mnr. D.G.C. du Plessis	Mr. E.C. Swart
Mev. W.C. du Plessis	Mej. E. Terblanche
Mr. C.S. Everson	Mej. C. van Jaarsveldt
Mrs. T.M. Everson	Mnr. A.J. van Schalkwyk
Mnr. J.L.F. Kock	Mej. P.A. van Zyl
Mr. N. Lewack	Mnr. P.W. Vorster
Mnr. H.B. Lombard	Mnr. J.C. Pretorius
Dr. R.E. Norris	Mr. L.H. du Preez.

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