FORUM BOTANICUM

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

JAARVERSLAG VAN DIE PRESIDENT : Dit is met genoë dat ek oor die werksaamhede van die SAGP gedurende die afgelope jaar verslag kan doen. Hierdie jaar is veral daaraan gekenmerk dat die hoofkwartier na die Suidwes-Kaap verskuif het, wat natuurlik meegebring het dat aansienlike administratiewe aanpassings gemaak moes word, en het aanvanklik vertraging in die gladde verloop van sake veroorsaak, maar is gou reggestel sodat ons met reg kan terugblik op 'n jaar wat in velerlei aspekte 'n besondere jaar vir die SAGP was.

1. VERGADERINGS VAN DIE RAAD EN UITVOERENDE KOMITEE

1.1 Raadsvergaderings

Die Raad het dit goed geag om, veral uit hoofde van finansiële oorwegings, die aantal raadsvergaderings te beperk, maar terselfdertyd meer vryheid aan die uitvoerende komitee te gee. Drie raadsvergaderings is gedurende die afgelope jaar gehou, tewete op 21 Januarie 1983 direk na afloop van die kongres aan die Universiteit van die Witwatersrand; 29 Julie 1983 te Stellenbosch en 23 Januarie 1984 tydens die Kongres aan die Universiteit van Kaapstad. By die eerste vergadering was twee raadslede met verskoning afwesig, by die tweede vergadering was een lid afwesig en vier ander deur plaasvervangers verteenwoordig, terwyl by die derde vergadering twee raadslede deur plaasvervangers verteenwoordig was.

1.2 Vergaderings van die Uitvoerende Komitee

Die ses lede van die uitvoerende komitee het vier maal gedurende die afgelope jaar vergader, nl 12 Maart 1983 met alle lede teenwoordig; 28 Mei 1983 met een verskoning; 27 Augustus 1983 met twee verskonings. Die laaste vergadering is op versoek ook deur proff J N Eloff en A V Hall, die voorsitter van die 1984-kongreskomitee, bygewoon. Die vergaderings van die uitvoerende komitee is in die Botaniese Tuin van die Universiteit van Stellenbosch gehou.

2. LEDETAL

Vir die eerste maal in die bestaan van die SAGP het die ledetal die 500-merk

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oorskrei en staan tans op 534 nadat 60 nuwe lede gedurende die afgelope jaar toegetree het, en twee uit die SAGP bedank het. Van die 60 nuwe lede is 29 studentelede en daar word vertrou dat hierdie studentelede almal tot volle lede toegelaat sal word na die suksesvolle voltooiing van hulle studies. Die feit dat so 'n groot getal lede toegetree het, weerspieël die hoë status wat die SAGP onder plantkundiges beklee asook die daadwerklike belangstelling van lede in die algemeen om nuwe lede te werf. Dit alles voorspel 'n rooskleurige toekoms vir die SAGP.

3. MEDALS

3.1 The SAAB Senior Medal was awarded to Prof P J Botha, retired, from the University of Potchefstroom for CHE, for his substantial contribution towards Botany in this country. Many of his students have senior positions and are leading figures in the field of Botany.

3.2 The SAAB Junior Medal was awarded to Dr P J Ashton for his research under Prof Seagrief on "The autecology of Azolla filiculoides Lamarck with special reference to its occurrence in the Hendrik Verwoerd Dam catchment area".

3.3 Honorary Membership was awarded to Prof E M van Zinderen-Bakker in acknowledgement of his contribution to Botany.

4. CONGRESS MATTERS

The 1984 Congress is indeed memorable in many respects with a record number of contributions by members. No less than 141 papers and 47 poster-papers have been presented. The Congress organizing Committee of the University of Cape Town is to be congratulated on their excellent arrangements.

The 1985 Congress is to be held at the University of Potchefstroom during January.

5. SUID-AFRIKAANSE TYDSKRIF VIR PLANTKUNDE

Die hoë standaard van die Suid-Afrikaanse Tydskrif vir Plantkunde is in die tweede bestaansjaar van hierdie Tydskrif volgehou; hoofsaaklik deur die ywer en toewyding van die redakteur, prof N Grobbelaar saam met sy redaksiekomitee aan wie die opregte waardering en dank van die SAGP gaan. Vanaf 1984 sal die tydskrif tweemaandeliks verskyn.

Die moontlike samesmelting van die SA Tydskrif vir Plantkunde en Journal of SA Botany word tans ondersoek, en onderhandelings het reeds ver gevorder.

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6. SOUTH AFRICAN COUNCIL FOR NATURAL SCIENTISTS

The registration of natural scientists has progressed well with 185 botanists at present registered with this body. Moreover, SAAB is recognised as a natural scientific association as published in the Government Gazette Notice No 2429 of 4 November 1983. Requirements for membership to this body are presently being revised.

SAAB is represented on SACNAS by Prof G K Theron with Dr J C Scheepers as alternate.

7. NATUURBEWARING

Op die gebied van natuurbewaring neem die SAGP nog steeds 'n leidende rol in deur die onvermoeide ywer van die Natuurbewaringskomitee onder voorsitterskap van prof G K Theron. Verskeie aspekte van natuurbewaring is gedurende die verslagjaar hanteer, en die belangrikste word hieronder kortliks genoem :

7.1 Kogelberg-Palmiet Dam

'n Omgewingsimpakstudie word tans onderneem waarby prof G K Theron behulpsaam is. SAGP word deur prof A V Hall verteenwoordig.

7.2 Paarlberg

Die poging van die Munisipaliteit van Paarl om die bestaande reservaat, soos oorspronklik omgrens is, te behou, is sterk deur SAGP ondersteun. Die Natuurbewaringskomitee word deur prof E Moll verteenwoordig.

7.3 De Hoop

Na onderhandeling met die Minister van Verdediging is die SAGP na die Hey-kommissie verwys en onderhandelinge is tans met hierdie kommissie aan die gang. In bepaalde opsigte baat Natuurbewaring by die aanvaarde beleid in hierdie saak.

7.4 Florabewaringskomitee

SAGP word deur mev Anne Bean op die Florabewaringskomitee van die Botaniese Vereniging verteenwoordig.

7.5 Natuurbewaring in SWA

Kommer is uitgespreek deur SAGP-lede in SWA oor die grootskaalse vernietiging van plantegroei langs hoofroetes deur militêre instansies. Die SAGP Natuurbewaringskomitee is tans in noue skakeling met die Hoof van die Leër oor hierdie aangeleentheid.

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8. PUBLICITY

It is indeed regretted that Prof Kristo Pienaar is no longer able to serve on the Publicity Committee. SAAB is deeply indebted to him for his continued contributions towards this aim in the past and trusts that he will take every opportunity that might present itself to further the interests of SAAB.

Council has approved a Liaison Committee to be appointed with its main function to be to enable SAAB to issue official statements on matters pertaining to Botany in South Africa. This is an aspect that has been sadly neglected in the past, with the result that SAAB has not always been recognised as that body that represents Botany in this country.

The Liaison Committee presently consists of representatives from various regions namely Prof G K Theron (N Tvl), Prof R Pienaar (Natal), Dr R Lubke (E Cape), Dr H J T Venter (OFS) under the chairmanship of the President who simultaneously represents W Cape. All statements are to be issued by the President or his representative.

Members are urgently requested to bring any matter upon which, in their opinion, SAAB should make official comment, to the attention of this Committee. It is only in this way that SAAB can gain its rightful recognition as the only official body representing botanists in South Africa.

At long last the brochure on "Careers in Botany" has been completed and will appear shortly. The poster is being finalized at present.

9. TRUSTFONDS

Die trustees het onlangs vergader en ondersoek tans moontlikhede om die Trustfonds te styf alvorens aandag geskenk kan word aan die beskikbaarstelling van fondse soos in die trustakte in die vooruitsig gestel. Die trustfonds bedra tans R5011-78 met R2000 nog uitstaande van SAGP.

10. ASSOCIATED SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL SOCIETIES AND THE JOINT COUNCIL OF SCIENTIFIC SOCIETIES

Participation in the activities of both these bodies is continued through our representatives.

11. ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON BOTANICAL MATTERS OF THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE

Contribution to this Committe by SAAB is maintained by our representatives, Proff C F Cresswell, N Grobbelaar, O A M Lewis, E A Schelpe, H P van der Schijff, J J A van der Walt and B H Walker.

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12. SINTAKSONOMIESE NOMENKLATUURKOMITEE

Die voorgestelde konstitusie van hierdie komitee word tans onder lede versprei. Dr J C Scheepers tree op as sameroeper.

13. FINANSIES

Die verandering in die termyn van die boekjaar van SAGP het meegebring dat die finansiële staat miskien 'n meer rooskleurige situasie skilder as wat werklik die geval is. In die lig van stygende bedryfskoste van die SAGP is 'n verhoging in die ledegelde, feitlik die enigste bron van inkomste, onafwendbaar. Die onbenydenswaardige taak van tesourier word deur dr J H Jooste met ywer en nougesetheid vervul soos dan ook sal blyk uit die finansiële staat. Ons opregte dank en waardering.

14. FORUM BOTANICUM

Under the most able editorship of Mr Ted Oliver, Forum Botanicum continues to communicate on botanical matters, thereby fulfilling a very important function, that is greatly appreciated by all of us. Members are urgently requested to make Forum Botanicum a real forum for botanical matters. As a result of cost increases Council has decided to reduce the format of Forum Botanicum the new format to commence with the beginning of 1984.

15. SAMESTELLING VAN DIE RAAD

15.1 Die bestuur van die Raad is vir die tweede jaar in die hande van

President	:	Prof J H Visser
Uitgetrede President	:	Prof J G C Small
Sekretaris	:	Mnr C Boucher
Tesourier	:	Dr J H Jooste
Gewone lede	:	(twee vise-presidente sal uit raadsgeledere aangewys word)
In tweede diensjaar	:	Proff C F Cresswell, N Grobbelaar, R N Pienaar en dr J C Scheepers. Prof J N Eloff (OVS streeksverteenwoordigers) het verhuis na die SW-Kaap en moet ook vervang word.
In eerste diensjaar (nuut aangewys)	:	Proff J N Eloff, G K Theron, drr B de Winter, O T de Villiers (SW-Kaap), G E Gibbs Russell(N Tvl), R Lubke (O-Kaap) R Verhoeven (OVS).
Uitgetrede lede	:	Proff O A M Lewis en J J A van der Walt.

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Dit is vir my 'n genoeë om die nuutverkose en herverkose lede hartlik in die Raad te verwelkom in die vertroue dat hulle 'n waardevolle bydrae sal maak. Aan die raadslede wat uittree, hartlike dank vir wat hulle vir SAGP gedoen het.

15.2 Gedurende die afgelope jaar het die Raad aandag gegee aan die verkleining van die Raad, 'n saak wat alreeds vroeër aangevoor is. Verskillende opinies is ingewin en die voorstelle is gekonsolideer, deur die Raad aanvaar en word by die Algemene Jaarvergadering voorgelê.

16. BEDANKINGS

Ons kan inderdaad terugkyk op 'n jaar wat veranderinge, en beslis ook verbeteringe meegebring het, maar veral op 'n jaar wat aansienlike groei in aktiwiteite sowel as in ledetal ondervind het. Dit is veral die voortgesette ywer van die sekretaris en die tesourier wat alles moontlik gemaak het, en aan wie ons groot dank verskuldig is. Hulle het 'n ondankbare taak met blymoedigheid afgehandel.

Sonder die samewerking en belangstelling van die lede sou die SAGP nie so 'n goeie jaar kon beleef nie, en ek wil, namens die Raad, een en almal baie hartlik bedank en vertrou dat in die jaar wat voorlê, SAGP groot hoogtes sal bereik.

PUBLICATIONS

A REVISION OF THE GENUS HAEMANTHUS L. (AMARYLLIDACEAE) by Deirdré Snijman of the Compton Herbarium, Kirstenbosch.

The first comprehensive, fully illustrated taxonomic revision of the genus Haemanthus published since 1896. Based on extensive field work and herbarium studies over the past five years, this monograph recognises 21 species and is enchanced by 24 full colour plates by Ellaphie

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Ward-Hilhorst and Fay Anderson. It should appeal to botanists, horticulturists, conservationists and laymen interested in the bulbous family Amaryllidaceae. Keys to the species and subspecies are provided. Descriptions of all taxa are accompanied by an enumeration of the diagnostic characters, notes on ecology and maps of geographic distribution. Additional historical notes are given for some old species and four new species and three new subspecies are described for the first time.

Publication will be as Supplementary Vol 12 of the Journal of South African Botany on 1 April 1984 at R18,00 all inclusive within the Republic, R20 overseas. Order forms from National Botanic Gardens, P Bag X7, Claremont 7735.

VEGETATION MAP OF AFRICA

This publication was announced in the last issue of Forum. The only official supplier for Southern Africa for UNESCO publications was given as Mazenod Book Centre in Lesotho. They have not replied to any correspondence so far. However an advert from a local bookseller has just been received and is repoduced here for members :

Russel Friedman Book Enterprises Ltd, P O Box 73, Halfway House 1685. Price R63.13 incl GST - six weeks for delivery.

INTERNATIONAL CODE OF BOTANICAL NOMENCLATURE

The code adopted by the Thirteenth International Botanical Congress held in Sydney in August 1981 has just been published and supercedes all previous editions of the Code. Costing DM 110 it may be obtained from KOELTZ Scientific Books, P O Box 1360, D-6240 KOENIGSTEIN, West Germany.

A FIELD GUIDE TO THE EASTERN CAPE COAST

The Grahamstown Centre of the Wildlife Society announces the production of this guide which will be edited by RA Lubbe, M N Bruton and F W Gess. The book will be of a pocket-book size of approximately 300 pages and will include many illustrations and colour photographs.

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The field guide is divided into sections according to habitat - salt marshes and estuaries, rocky shores, subtidal and open seas, sandy beaches and the coastal bush. Descriptions, illustrations and some colour photographs are given of many of the plant and animal species so that even the amateur should be able to identify most plants and animals in this region. Additional information on the habitats, distribution and characteristics of the organisms are provided in the text.

To finance this publication and help conserve this coastal area, the Wildlife Society of Southern Africa is appealing for sponsors. All profits from the sale of special editions will help to reduce the cost of the standard paperback edition. It is hoped that the price will be in the region of R15.00. Sponsors' editions (R100) and Subscribers' editions (R40) may be purchased by writing to the Society at P O Box 73, GRAHAMSTOWN 6140 before the end of this month.

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