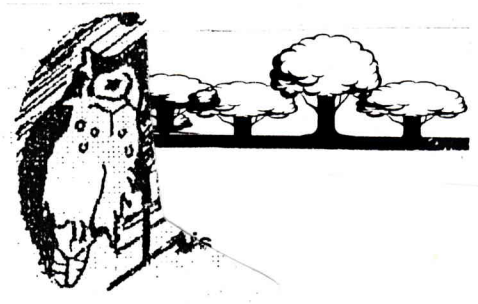


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FRIENDS OF TOKAI FOREST

NEWSLETTER NO: 6
AUGUST 1997

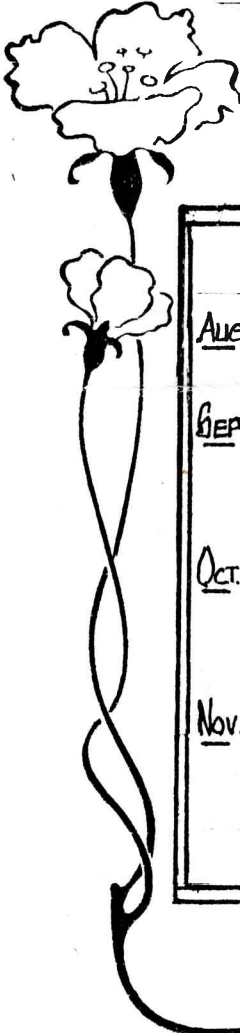
P.O. BOX 442
BERGVLIJT 7864

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUERIES PLEASE PHONE THE
PERSON RESPONSIBLE FOR THE PORTFOLIO IN
QUESTION

committee

Chairman/Arboretum: John Green (home) 72.1341
 Secretary/Education: Lesley Skarzynski (home) 72.2282
 Treasurer: Rudi Skibbe (home) 72.7653 (work) 407.2367 (fax) 4622.400
 Natural Habitat & Species: Sibyl Morris (home) 72.4150
 Alien Invaders: Bob Lee (home) 72.7522 (work) 788.1171 (fax) 788.2999 (e-mail) baycc@iafrica.com LES RE ITH/DOUG CHAD
 Walks/Membership: Gerry Higgs (home) 72.4176 (work) 61.7076 (fax) 615.667 (e-mail) scala@iafrica.com
 MEMBERSHIP: SYLVIA SMITH.

A SHORT FROM THE EDITOR: Thanks to the above members who contributed to this newsletter. We would like to see mail, letters and information coming in from you the member. Please address anything that you think might be of interest, we can share, to the above address.



DATES TO DIARISE

AUG. 31st (SUN) WALK : 9.00 a.m.: Bus to Vlakkenberg
Walk to Hout Bay - Bus
back to Arboretum.

SEPT. 6th (SAT) GET TOGETHER : 3.00 p.m.: Arboretum Info Centre

20th (SAT) WORK PARTY : 8.30 a.m.: Arboretum & L. Forest

28th (SUN) WALK : 2.00 p.m.: Spring Flowers with
Sibyl Morris

OCT. 18th (SAT) WORK PARTY : 8.30 a.m.: Arboretum & L. Forest

26th (SUN) WALK : 7.00 a.m.: Note early start. Bus
to Lourensvord - Somerset
West. (Return 3.00 p.m.)

NOV. 16th (SAT) WORK PARTY : 8.30 a.m.: Arboretum & L. Forest.

30th (SUN) WALK : 9.00 a.m.: Champagne Breakfast
Elephant's Eye.





have not yet
for the kid

We have

FROM THE TOADSTOOL - CHAIRMAN JOHN GREEN

Our mission: To promote public participation in caring for Tokai Forest - is starting to happen.

Community groups from churches, schools and youth leadership initiative clubs, as well as individuals, botanists, birders and horticulturists, are actively caring. Our own awareness of the varied habitats that survive among the pine plantation is improving all the time. This enables us to work with SAFCOL to improve and conserve the natural resources and heritage of this area.

Although we hear of serious dissonance amongst horseriders, dog walkers and property owners elsewhere in the Valley, we have a remarkable degree of resonance amongst the various users of our own wonderful community asset. There are burgeoning people-pressures. Changes that will stem from the new National Park, planning-processes for the Porter Trust lands and privatisation of previously-owned State plantations. We will need to be constructively involved in ensuring that inevitable changes are guided. This for the benefit of future generations.

Together with the new vision and theme for our historic Arboretum (see attached article from the Constantiaberg Bulletin), what can be achieved is limited only by the input of THOSE WHO CARE for Tokai Forest. We are all on a major learning curve. Even if your experience is very limited, YOUR FOREST NEEDS YOU. Get involved in making the future happen!

The activities of the past week include:

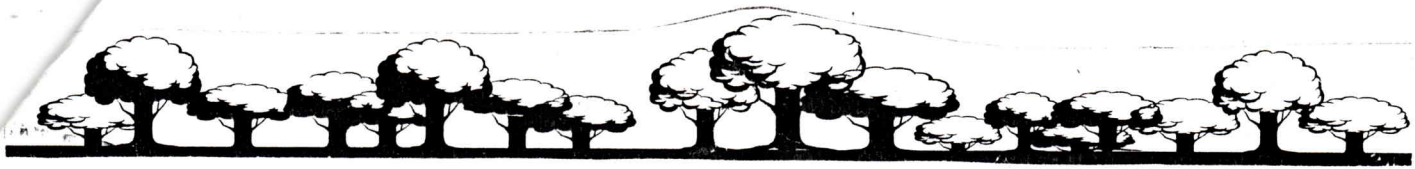
- Guiding Botanists to interesting fynbos habitats
- Finding Guinea Fowl and Squirrel bones at Sparrowhawk nests
- Selecting pines together with SAFCOL for culling in the Diastellas area
- Choosing trees at Kirstenbosch for the Arboretum
- Working with 30 volunteers to plant trees in the Arboretum
- Arranging tree planting for school children during Arbor week
- Writing newsletter and publicity articles etc.

Additionally, we now need volunteers to work with experts at Kirstenbosch and the Wild Life Society. Also with SAFCOL to develop labelling and information displays in the Arboretum. Someone to handle the membership portfolio. Someone to pot seedlings for planting next year. Someone to monitor water quality and habitat.

We would like you all to get involved with caring for our forest in any other way you want to. Please refer to the front of the newsletter for names and telephone numbers.

A good way to start would be by joining our get-together on Sat. 6. Sept. at 3.00 p.m. in the Arboretum for slides on the flowers of the forest and the new Arboretum/Gondwanaland theme. We will also discuss the future of the plantation under SAFCOL'S commercial management followed by snax and wine.

DID YOU KNOW?.....94% of the world's forests are unprotected. Only 6% of the 3 300 million hectares of forests left in the world today are formally protected. -WWF in GENEVA. (A simplified version of the WWF World Forests Map can be seen on the Internet on the WWF website at <http://www.panda.org>.)



ABOUT THE ARBORETUM – JOHN GREEN

Late last year we facilitated a workshop which formulated a new mission for this historic collection of trees. It was founded in 1885 to research trees suitable for commercial purposes in our dry climate. We are now planning to “Maintain the Tokai Arboretum as a National Monument and to provide an education and recreational resource by preserving, growing and displaying forest trees”.

On Saturday 16 August we joined forces with ANTHONY HITCHCOCK, chief horticulturist at NBE Kirstenbosch and some 40 eager helpers from a Meadowridge church and Steenberg Primary School. We planted the first trees to start the new GONDWANALAND theme (covered in the attached article). These included 5 Monkey Puzzles from Australia and Chile; 16 Yellowwoods (Henkelii and Elongatus) from South Africa and 5 each rare Banksias and Cypress trees from Australia. ROS CERF’S school group also pulled out a mound of surplus pine and gum saplings to make more space for the new species.

At our get-together on Saturday 6 September in the Arboretum we will be planting some Cape Beech or Boekenhout (Rapanea Melanophloeos). This lovely medium sized tree grows naturally in coastal, swamp and and mountain forests from the Cape right the way up to Zambia. Bees, birds and animals love its flowers and fruit. It is also used medicinally for respiratory, stomach and heart complaints as an inTelezi – a charm to ward off evil. Its lovely hard pinkish-brown wood is used for furniture and violin making. (The ones which I have planted in my garden over the past few years are growing remarkably fast and already fruiting and attracting birds such as the Batis).

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EDUCATION – LESLEY SKARZYNSKI

The Steenberg Schools Environmental Forum has been the most active participant in our activities. We are expecting forty pupils from Steenberg to help us plant Gondwanaland trees during Arbor week in September.

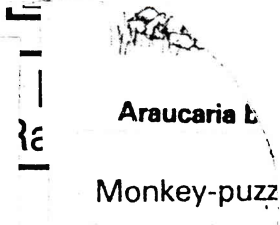
SAFCOL are very keen to get an Education programme operating. A number of suggestions have been made; one being a booth in the picnic forest, manned on weekends by an interested and knowledgeable person who would run environmental activities for children. The incumbent would be paid.

It might also be feasible to have a full time Education Officer based at the Arboretum Centre. However, as no-one is lobbying for this, or coming up with any plan, nothing is getting done. SAFCOL will provide the person if there is a demand.

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ALIEN VEGETATION CONTROL – BOB LEE

With the advent of Autumn our last three work parties have not focused on removal but on replacement, and the late winter rains gave us the opportunity of extending our planting period. Our efforts have again concentrated in the lower forest in the area immediately west of the old farm bridge which we have previously cleared of alien plants. In May we planted 36 indigenous tree seedlings which had been rescued from the upper forest. We soon



New Vision for Historic Tokai Arboretum

The Tokai Arboretum, founded in 1885, has successfully accomplished its original mission. This was to research and develop trees suitable for our dry commercial forest and farming areas. The cradle of our forest industry has left us a living heritage collection of over 1500 trees, dominated by Southern Hemisphere species. This lofty forest is not only valuable for education, it is food for the soul and a unique environment for low impact recreation.

Late last year a workshop formulated a new vision for this tranquil gateway to the future Table Mountain National Park "To maintain the Tokai Arboretum as a National Monument and to provide an education and recreational resource by preserving, growing and displaying forest trees."

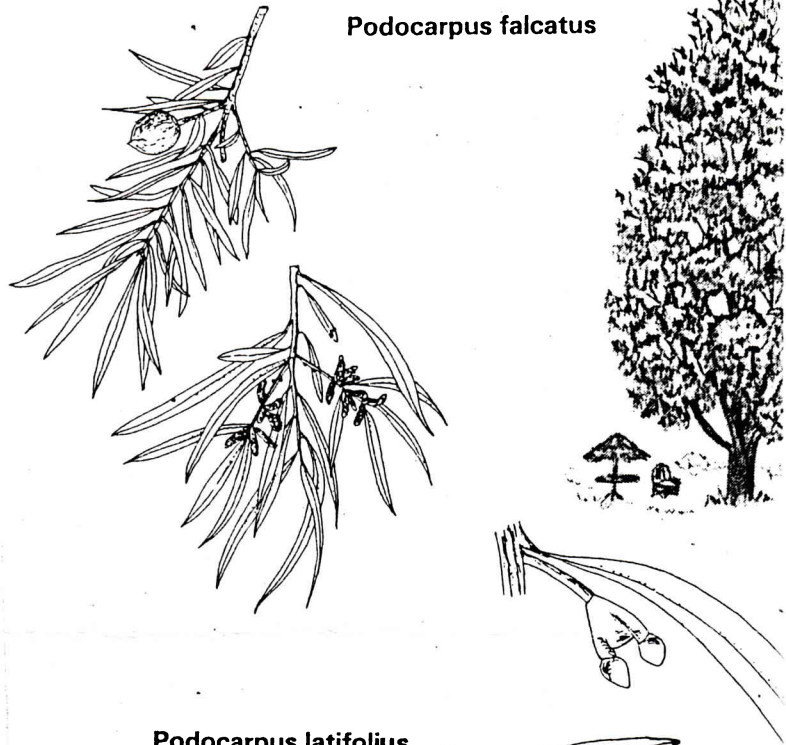
This new vision has been given a wonderful kickstart. The principle horticulturist at the Kirstenbosch National Botanic Institute, Anthony Hitchcock, has proposed a theme of a Tokai collection of trees representing the ancient Southern super-continent called Gondwana. Before it started to break up about 180 million years ago, Gondwana comprised South America, Africa, Antarctica, Madagascar, Australia and New Zealand, as well as some northern lands including India, Turkey, and Arabia. The historic Southern theme, already so well represented in the Tokai Arboretum, will have great educational value. Most other non-indigenous gardens have a strong bias towards plants important to the colonisers such as roses, oaks, pines and plane trees. The collection will therefore be a relatively new and refreshing addition to horticulture.

There is no intention to eliminate healthy non-Gondwanan species from the Arboretum. However, the southern hemisphere is endowed with a very rich and diverse flora, and the new theme will enable new activity to be concentrated. The existing collection will be expanded by planting a limited range of more ancient Gondwanan species. These include primitive elements of the protea and yellowwood families as well as rooibos, gums, monkey puzzles, southern beeches, stinkwoods and bayleaves, cedars, cycads, and tree ferns. Additional development work will have to include interpretive labels, displays in the information centre, signs and pamphlets for visitors.

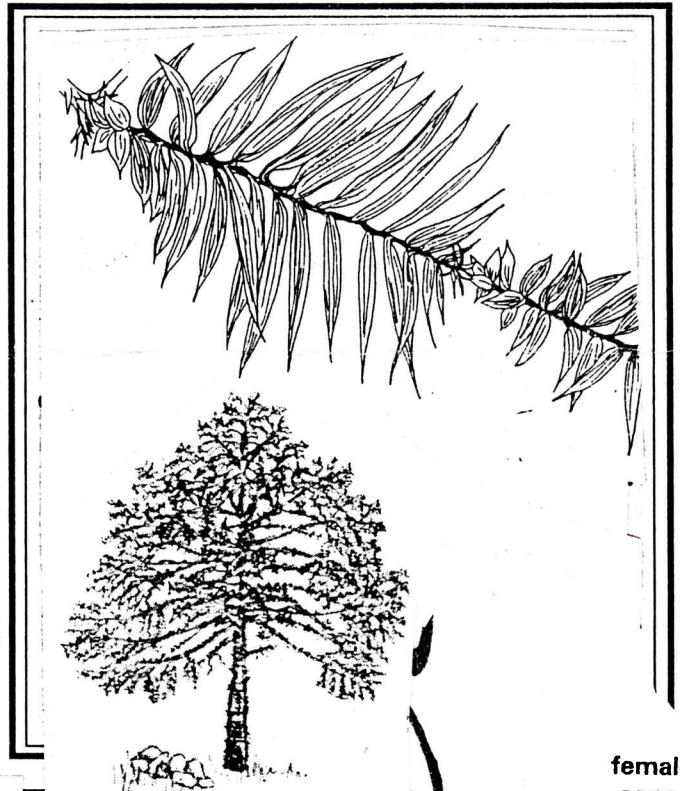
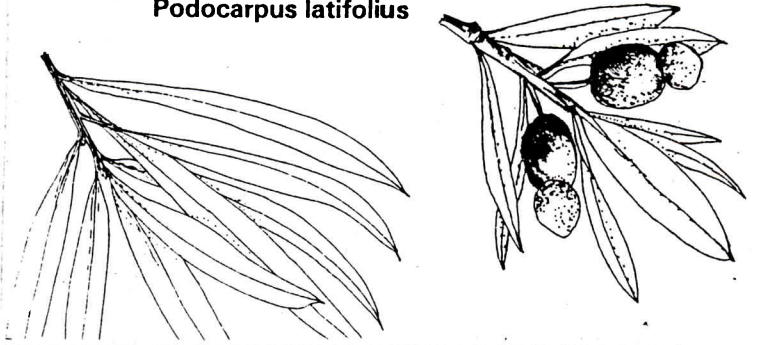
The Friends of Tokai Forest's mission is to promote public participation in caring for this wonderful community asset. They sincerely encourage those who share this vision, even if their experience may be very limited, to become actively involved in building on our heritage. What can be achieved is limited only by the amount of willing input from the Constantiaberg community. **Your forest needs you!**

The Friends of Tokai Forest, under the auspices of the Wildlife and Environment Society, have over the past year, already identified over 150 types of flowers in the unique acid sandveld habitat of the lower forest. They have built bridges and stabilised corroding river banks, eradicated thousands of alien wattles and planted over a hundred indigenous trees. Steenberg schools, a church group, youth leadership and other groups are beginning to get actively involved in caring for the unique Tokai Forest heritage.

Podocarpus falcatus



Podocarpus latifolius



female cone

Araucaria bidwillii

Monkey-puzzle family



have not yet tried it. We will be doing another one next year. This is a must for the kids.

We have had just enough sunshine with the rain to produce some spectacular flowers and there should be lots to see on the balance of this year's walks. Particularly to LOURENSFORD in Somerset West, which promises to be an exciting and enjoyable excursion. The SAFCOL bus can seat 15 only - so do book early if you wish to go by bus, otherwise it will be your own transport.

Our last walk will be the last Sunday (always) of November and you are invited to join us for a Champagne Breakfast up at Elephant's Eye. We meet (invariably) at 9.00 a.m. at the Arboretum. Bring your own snacks, and a champagne glass - Champagne and Orange Juice will be supplied.

Always remember on these walks to come prepared: Binoculars, Camera and (some have been caught out) a light wet-mac with hood for protection and warmth. A cup of tee or coffee is nice and a light snack.



Don't forget that the children are most welcome. We do try and make it as educational as possible. Members are free. Non-members R5.00

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FROM THE FOREST FLOOR

A request has been made for the loan of a digital video camera by an individual who spends a lot of time observing the Sparrowhawks and could pick up some delightful footageif only..... Is there anyone out there who can oblige?

A suggestion was made with regard to the Deaf and Dumb School in Wittebome. As well as the School for the Blind. To bring them up to the Arboretum to feel and explore the various textures of the trees. Is there someone who is willing to spare a few hours once or twice a year to do this for us?



Dear Ed,

Thank you for the informative newsletter you send out. Do you have lectures on what can be seen in the forest?

Mrs. Jodie McTavish - Berguliet.

.....
McTavish.

basis, no. But if you join us at our AGM (date obtainable from the Diary) you will be treated to a slide show and talk of what has been seen and what is to be seen. We would love someone to be an "Education Officer" and help us

WALKS & TALKS

Due to the circumstances such as these. If there are any of you who feel strongly about this please

Dates to send us - hopefully in the near future we can organise something.

We have had many enquiries as to RAT POISON that is relatively safe to use. No poisons are safe to use, but there is on the market one RACONIM that is ultimately the best. Should the owls or birds of prey digest the rat or mouse who has been killed by this poison, that bird will not be affected nor die as has been the case with the other poisons on the