



BOTSOC NEWS October 2008

Dear Botsoc Members

"Well folks, the **Open Day** has come and gone and it seems to have been a well received event in the calendar". As usual, the sale of indigenous plants was a great draw card but all of the stall holders that I spoke to, (and that was nearly all of them including the Botsoc stall) said they had done very well indeed. We handed out evaluation forms and our man on the spot has intimated that people thought it well worth the visit and had a good time. Once we have done all our analyses and financial things we will let you know the end result. Of course, there were a few hiccups along the way, but not anything to spoil the day itself. We can be truly proud of the support we have given to the NBRI for this event.

Well done, to the so many who pitched in and did a sterling job despite the heat and other activities in town.

"There are T-shirts in new colours for sale". We have managed to keep the price at N\$ 50,00 each. The colours are royal blue and a lovely shade lighter than bottle green but not yet emerald. The popular call has been for the 'Protect our Trees' logo on the back and a small Botsoc logo on the front of the shirt, which is what we have done. Sizes are Large, XL and XXL. By some quirk, Medium was left out but I think we shall place a new order for this size. The cotton, V-necked T-shirts that came in such small sizes have been reduced to clear – colours white and navy. They are available at the NBRI or at the Botsoc Walks and Talks for N\$ 25,00 and N\$ 30,00.

A new addition to our stocks is a green cricket hat, for sale at N\$ 80,00 each.

Unfortunately the show cases that we ordered could not be completed in time for the Open Day because of transport problems but hopefully they will be up before the end of the year.

There will be no talk arranged by Botsoc in October but see below for details of the talk arranged by NEWS.

New members of Botsoc receive 2 and a half months free membership – tell your friends and persuade them to swell our numbers. Thank you all for your support.

Diana Thompson

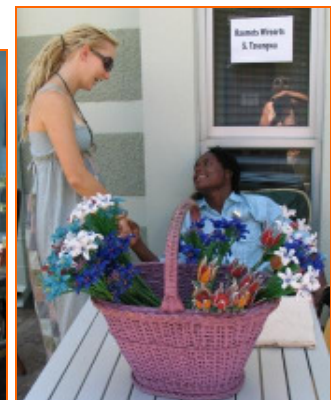
OPEN DAY, 11 October 2008



BotSoc Stall



Sale of Indigenous Plants



Bead Flower Artwork



Craft Work



Face Painting



Book Stall

Photos: Uschi Kirchner

TIP OF THE DAY:

Children who live in tree-lined streets have lower rates of asthma, a New York-based study suggests. Columbia University researchers found that asthma rates among children aged four and five fell by 25% for every extra 343 trees per square kilometre. They believe more trees may aid air quality or simply encourage children to play outside. Therefore, please save and protect existing trees and plant new trees!

We have nothing to fear and a great deal to learn from trees, that vigorous and pacific tribe which without stint produces strengthening essences for us, soothing balms, and in whose gracious company we spend so many cool, silent and intimate hours. – Marcel Proust

REPORTS ON PREVIOUS ACTIVITIES

On Thursday 11 September the 'Tree Award Ceremony' was held in the lecture room of the NBRI. About 40 members and friends were present to see Certificates of Recognition handed out to:

'The Village' – **Leon Barnard & Wouter van Zijl** for their saving so many of the indigenous trees in that project. It was interesting to hear that one tree near the kitchen had a special channel provided for its root system so as not to damage the tree. Messrs Barnard and van Zijl have also agreed to have engraved name plates for a number of the trees, thus fostering a knowledge of names of indigenous trees.

Mr Wilfried Schmidt – Namibia Construction (Pty) Ltd for the concerted effort that Mr Schmidt has made in teaching his construction crews how to move around trees with their heavy earth-moving machinery instead of just bulldozing them down.

Mrs Martha Haufiku of the Namutoni Primary School in Katutura for her efforts in watering, nurturing and fostering the growth of 4 indigenous trees that were planted in the school grounds by Earthlife in 1998. A few pictures were shown of the trees in situ and Mrs Luise Hoffmann, the initiator of the award, handed over the certificates. Mrs Haufiku then gave a short presentation of the craft work that she teaches the learners using different types of recyclable materials.

Guests then socialized while refreshments were served.

Diana Thompson



Botsoc Tree Award 2008

Photos: Uschi Kirchner



Mrs Martha Haufiku presenting her craft

UPCOMING WALKS AND TALKS OF INTEREST

WALKS:

The next guided walk in the National Botanic Garden will take place on **Saturday, 1 November 2008 at 08:00**. Entrance for non-members is N\$10. Muffins and tea/coffee will be on sale.

TALKS:

The Botanical Society is not hosting a talk this month because of the Open Day activities but we recommend the following talk:

"Quartz fields - the blooming desert in the Succulent Karoo"

Dr Ute Schmiedel, University of Hamburg, Germany

Quartz fields represent a unique habitat type in the Succulent Karoo. They are inhabited by small, dwarf highly succulent shrubs many of which are restricted to this habitat type and have a very small range of distribution (local endemics). The talk will give an introduction to the very special ecology of the quartz fields, the flora and vegetation as well as the present state of conservation and will give some insight into the future of this ecosystem under climate change conditions. **Date: Thursday, 30th October 2008 at 19h00**

Venue: Namibia Scientific Society, Robert Mugabe Ave, opposite National Art Gallery. Entrance free.

We also recommend:

Uranium Mining – A blessing or curse?

Open Invitation by Earthlife Namibia and LaRRI

The demand for uranium is on the increase again. Uranium mining and exploration is also on the increase in Namibia. Mining contributes greatly to GDP, but it also has long term implications. Uranium mining is often accompanied by economic, social, environmental and health effects. It is against this background that Earthlife Namibia and the Labour Resource and Research Institute (LaRRI) are encouraging a public debate on the pros and cons of uranium mining.

Over the years, Earthlife Namibia has compiled information on uranium mining in general and LaRRI recently conducted a study on uranium mining in Namibia. The discussions will therefore centre on the information collected by Earthlife and the empirical data from LaRRI.

In addition to having a chance to share your opinion with other participants, you will also benefit from the presentations of experts from different countries. We therefore invite you to a public discussion to be held in Windhoek, Swakopmund and Arandis. See details below:

Windhoek: Day Session, Date: Monday 27 October 2008, Time: 8:30-15:30
Venue: Polytechnic Hotel School, Cnr. Beethoven and Brahms Street, Windhoek West

Windhoek: Evening Session, Date: Monday 27 October 2008, Time: 18:00-20:30
Venue: Polytechnic Hotel School, Cnr. Beethoven and Brahms Street, Windhoek West

Swakopmund: Wednesday 29 October 2008, Time: 8:30-15:30
Venue: Swakopmund Townhall, Franziska van Neel Street, Tamariskia

Arandis: Date: Thursday 30 October 2008, Time: 8:30-13:00
Venue: Arandis Community Hall

Please RSVP on or before October 25th at the contact details below:

Bertchen Kohrs Tel: 061-227 913, Cell: 081-293 8085, E-mail: earthl@iway.na
 Hilma Shindondola-Mote Tel: 061-212 044, Cell: 081-307 6055, E-mail: hilma@larri.com.na

PLANTS FROM THE BONTANIC GARDEN

Albizia anthelmintica, Worm-cure albizia

This tree can reach a height of 8 m. Characteristically without thorns, the bark is smooth, grey to reddish-brown. Resembling *Acacia mellifera* subsp. *detinens*, the leaves are twice divided into leaflets that are almost round with pointed tips. Cream-coloured spherical heads of flowers usually appear before the new leaves in July to November.

Distribution: Fairly widespread in Namibia, but not in the Namib Desert. The tree can be found along the Aloe Walk, towards the "Quiver tree forest" in the National Botanic Garden.

Uses: As indicated from the name, powdered bark of this tree is used as an anthelmintic to treat intestinal parasites. Livestock and game such as elephant browse this plant. Roots and bark are used to relieve fever, rheumatism and haemorrhoids.

Conservation status: Protected by Forestry Legislation.

Salomé Kruger



REGULAR INFORMATION & CONTACT NUMBERS

Botanical Society of Namibia - THE CORE OF ACTIVE PLANT PEOPLE (CAPP)

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National Botanical Research Institute)	Web: www.nbri.org.na
National Herbarium (8 Orban Street, Windhoek, Tel 202 2111
Botanic Garden)	open to visitors Monday – Friday 8h00 – 17h00, no charge

Kind regards

Diana Thompson and CAPP