Dear Member

NEWS FROM THE KIRSTENBOSCH BRANCH OFFICE AT THE STONE COTTAGES:

Kirstenbosch Garden Fair: the one weekend a year to obtain a wonderful selection of indigenous and rare plants at the 32nd annual Kirstenbosch Garden Fair which will take place on Saturday 17 and Sunday 18 March 2007 from 09h00 to 16h00 at the Stone Cottage grounds, corner Kirstenbosch & Rhodes Drives, diagonally opposite the main entrance to Kirstenbosch Botanical Garden.

The Demonstration Garden will feature Threatened Plants and will be built by Kirstenbosch horticulturists and students. Kirstenbosch horticulturists will be on hand throughout the Fair to offer advice and assistance. Exhibitors will offer garden-related products and services.

The catalogue/handbook (R8) listing plants on sale is available from the Botanical Society bookshops at Kirstenbosch as well as from the Kirstenbosch Branch office at Stone Cottage no 1, Kirstenbosch Drive. It will also be on sale during the Fair at the entrance gate.

NB.: BRING YOUR OWN WHEELBARROW AND CARRIER BAGS!!

Enquiries to Kirstenbosch Branch Secretary at tel. 021-671 5468 fax 021-671 7146 email: kbranch@botanicalsociety.org.za.

Kirstenbosch Branch Volunteer Programmes:

WATERWISE GARDEN VOLUNTEERS

A group of six dedicated Kirstenbosch Branch volunteers work in pairs in the Waterwise Garden in Kirstenbosch which has recently been revamped with about 60% of the area having been replanted. The garden is well worth a visit – it features mostly herbaceous plants as well as succulents and will give you a very good idea of the kinds of plants that do not require lots of watering to use in your own garden.

The volunteers, under the guidance of Kirstenbosch horticulturist Liesl van der Walt, keep the area neat and tidy and help with planting and watering.

Tours: The Kirstenbosch Branch is planning a tour to the southern Namaqualand area from 16 to 20 September 2007 led by Dr John Almond (PhDm Cantab.) of Natura Viva cc, who has led two very successful previous tours for the Branch. (see advertisement in this [March 2007] Veld & Flora).

The Bookshops at the Visitors Centre and Garden Centre, Kirstenbosch: Thank you to all our loyal members who have supported the Bookshops over the past year. Being situated at Kirstenbosch we have no ‘passing trade’ as such, and your patronage goes a long way in helping us to support the Garden.

New titles to look out for the coming season are Proteas by Colin Patterson Jones. You know you’re in for a treat when you see Colin’s name on a book – selling price R139,95. Grow Diasas by Hildegard Crous and Graham Duncan – we have all marvelled at this beautiful plant in the wild, now learn how to grow your own – selling price R89,95. And then there is the book with the wonderful title of Slingsby’s - Walks with a fat dog and more walks without’ – contents include 60 walks, 50 maps and day drives in the Western Cape. This is a very comprehensive book well worth having on your bookshelf – selling price R146,75. Don’t forget to ask for your 10% membership discount!

Tel.021-762 1621 /762 6466 fax 021-762 0923 email:kbranch@botanicalsociety.org.za.
Kirstenbosch Craft Market: the market takes place on Sundays from 09:00 to 15:00 at the Stone Cottage grounds, corner Kirstenbosch/Rhodes Drives, Newlands, diagonally opposite the main entrance to Kirstenbosch Botanical Garden. Dates: 25 March; 29 April; 27 May; 30 September; 28 October; 25 November; 9 and 16 December 2007. Credit and debit card facilities available. Proceeds from stall rentals go to the Kirstenbosch Development Fund.

NEWS FROM KIRSTENBOSCH BOTANICAL GARDEN:

The Appletiser Summer Sunset Concerts at Kirstenbosch: Every Sunday 17:30 – 18:30

4 March: Ike Moritz. International indie pop star and actor Ike Moriz's songs are played in 17 countries worldwide and he has also recently appeared in the popular local TV series 'Backstage' performing his brand of edgy, yet melodic pop/rock. Price: Adults: R40 (BotSoc members: R30), SA students: R30, Scholars: R15.


25 March: Flat Stanley. Acoustic rockers Flat Stanley will be performing songs off their new album, due for release in early 2007, as well as old favourites from their chart-topping debut album Of Secrets and Wine. The band’s lead singer, Andrew Mac, was recently voted the country’s best vocalist by entertainment industry website zaZone.com. Price: Adults: R40 (BotSoc Members R30), SA students: R30, Scholars: R15.

INFORMATION: Appletiser Summer Sunset Concert tickets will be on sale on the Friday and Saturday preceding each concert, from the Visitors’ Centre Ticket Office only. On Sundays concert tickets will be available at all the entrances.

General Information: (021) 799 8783 or 799 8620 or 799 8773
Ticket Information: (021) 799 8782 or 799 8602

Wednesday Talks at Kirstenbosch presented by Room to Grow at the Sanlam Hall, Kirstenbosch (Gate 2) at 10:30.
7 March: Kirstenbosch Threatened Plant Programme (the return of Erica verticillata) by Anthony Hitchcock, Botanist, Kirstenbosch
28 March: Structuring Your Existing Garden by Fiona Holder, Landscaper: Grand West.
11 April: The History and Features of Kirstenbosch Botanical Garden by Augustine Morkel, Estate Manager, Kirstenbosch.
Phone Cathy Abbott for details 021-465 6440 / 072-201 2535 email: cathya@wol.co.za.

Oyama Bonsai Kai will hold their annual Easter show from 6 to 9 April 2007 at the Sanlam Lecture Hall, Kirstenbosch from 9 am to 5 pm. Entrance fee to hall: Adults R5, Pensioners R2, children under 12 free. There will be a large exhibition of indigenous and exotic bonsai trees, educational display, daily demonstrations of pruning, wiring, potting. Large range of bonsai trees as well as tools, pots, soil etc. on sale.

Kirstenbosch Eco-Art Holiday Workshops for children will be held in the Gold Fields Environmental Education Centre. Activities on the theme ‘Fynbos and its creatures in autumn’ include guided walks, video-microscope investigation and collages using art media as well as coloured beeswax, dried seedpods and other plant material. Grades 1-3: Wednesday 11 or Thursday 12 April, 9.30 am – 12.30 pm. Cost: R60.
Grades 4-7: Friday 13 April, 9.00 am – 1 pm. Cost: R70.
Presented by Sue Nepgen, art and environmental educator. There are limited number of partial or full bursaries available. Contact Marian or Sue at 021-794 6609 or sneppgen@xsinet.co.za for more details.

Plant ID Courses: All workshops are practically orientated where participants will have their own flowering plant material to dissect, draw and record information.

Venue: Gold Fields Environmental Education Centre, Kirstenbosch.

Autumn Workshop: Intermediary course in fynbos identification 26 – 30 March 2007 Time: 13h00-16h00. Course requirement: Introduction to identifying fynbos plants

Cost: R550 per person (2 half price bursaries available – apply with written motivation to be considered for a bursary)

There will be two more courses in September and December – watch this newsletter for details or contact Wendy Hitchcock tel 021-712 3966 or hitchcock@mweb.co.za for more information or to book.

Kind regards

Tessa van Rooyen
Kirstenbosch Branch Secretary