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Let the reeds pander
to the wayward wind,
I am the mountain
range
That determines the
course of the wind.

Let the seaweed
flatter the
inconstant tide,
I am the moon
That controls the
tide's ebb and flow.

Let the magnet
succumb to the
unbending north and
south,
I am the great earth
Only I have
directions.

Huang Guobin

Dear members of the Botanical Society and all other plant lovers,

The month of October, to me, is “tree month”; and with many of our trees (indigenous and exotic) in their gorgeous “apparel”, it is quite fitting to celebrate Arbor Day. It is also heartening to learn, that, all over the globe, the importance of planting trees is encouraged, particularly around Arbor Day.

Should we not, however, show as much enthusiasm in preserving and saving existing, mature trees and forests? It seems so easy to remove a tree, which happens to be in the “wrong place”, by just planting a new one! Forests that are cut down and pillaged will not grow back in our lifetime, and trees take, at least, decades to benefit those that planted them. Please think twice before chopping down an old, beautiful, mature tree; let alone our “forests”!

However, if you have “sinned” you may “redeem your sins by planting many acacias . . . in which the sparrow will nest and sing your praise” (with courtesy of FB).

Thankfully, Covid-19 circumstances are such that our Society is again able to offer our usual events. Two talks in October and the usual guided walk in the Botanic Garden are testimony to that. Even the NBC television service conducted an interview on alien invasive plants with some CAPP members.

Many citizens seem to appreciate our beautiful flora more than yesteryear.

In horror and dismay we watched the cruel devastation caused by the many wild fires in this country. May the rains come soon! Our thoughts are with those who suffer untold hardship.

Please take responsibility in helping to conquer the pandemic, by vaccination and/or other means (masks, regular sanitizing etc), that we, as a nation, may soon enjoy some normality of a life we once knew.

Enjoy this edition of “Green Ink” and please stay safe.

With kind regards

Ellen Gudde

*One of the miniature bowls at the
entrance to the NBRI
Photo: Hele Vale*



Of interest . . . another site, more information

Mondoñedo 1594: in this small Spanish village, the first documented tree planting festival took place, organised by the mayor of the village. The plantation is known as Alameda de los Remedios and is still planted with lime and horse-chestnut trees. A simple granite marker and bronze plaque recall the event.

Villanueva de la Sierra 1805: while Napoleon was ravaging Europe with his military conquests, there are records that the local priest of this village, Don Ramón Vacas Roxo, being “convinced of the importance of trees for health, hygiene, decoration, nature, environment and customs, decides to plant trees and give a festive air”. He organised a festival that began on Carnival Tuesday with the ringing of two of the major bells of the church. After the Mass, Don Ramón, accompanied by other clerics, teachers and villagers, planted the first tree, a poplar, in the place known as Valley of Ejido. The ceremony was followed by a feast and dancing with the celebrations lasting three days. Our hero, Don Ramón, drafted a manifesto on the importance of trees, which was sent to surrounding towns, urging them to spread the love and respect for nature. It also advised that tree plantations be started in their respective localities.

The monument on the right commemorates the two hundred year anniversary of what is regarded as the first modern day Arbor Day.

(I came across different names of the priest, have chosen to use Don Ramón. dt)

Windhoek 2021: 8 October



St George’s Preparatory School: *Left*
Grade 1 learners plant a garden of indigenous succulents as their contribution towards Arbor Day. (There was no room for a tree.)
Photo: Lesley Crawford

City of Windhoek: *Below Right*

Under the direction of Jaco Fourie, employees planted 6 x *Acacia hereroensis* – mountain acacia, 8 x *Croton gratissimus* – lavender croton, 2 x *Ziziphus mucronata* – buffalo thorn and 3 x *Albizia anthelmintica* – aru. The photo shows the planting on the island of the intersection of David Hosea Meroro Street and Hosea Kutako Drive above the Pioneers Park cemetery

Photo: Jaco Fourie



NUST: *Left*

Students of the Natural Resources Management Faculty planted a Natal Mahogany, *Trichilia emetica*, that grows in the eastern tip of the Zambezi region at their Biodiversity Centre, in memory of one of their classmates, Gonzales Goaseb, who was tragically killed in a road accident. HOD Dr Jonathan Kamwi spoke on the importance of Arbor Day and Dr Vera De Cauwer spoke on the difficulty of germinating Kiaat seeds in a nursery.

Text & photo: Shirley Bethune



Spring has sprung! All over the subcontinent spring is bursting forth.

Enjoy Spring!

Herewith a selection of lovely flowers from Khaudum/Kavango to Windhoek to the Eastern Cape.

Combretum mossambicense, Knobbly combretum. Started flowering in the Kavango last month.
Photo: Windhoek, Shirley Bethune



Combretum platypetalum, red platypetalum, a splash of scarlet in the yellow grass of the Khaudum. Photo: Barb Curtis



White Bauhinia, another Kavango beauty.
Photo: Barb Curtis



Left: In the hills of Windhoek, Angola nettle, *Obetia carruthersiana*

Photo: Manda Steynberg



Above: *Combretum apiculatum*, Kudu bush
Photo: Manda Steynberg

Below left to right:
Maerua caffra
Grewia occidentalis
Osteospermum moniliferum
Tickberry
Phtos: Barb Curtis



Left: In the Eastern Cape the beautiful Coral tree, *Erythrina caffra*
Photo: Barb Curtis



Coming up . . .

Saturday	November 13	08h00	Guided Walk in the Botanic Garden
Thursday	18	19h00	To be advised
Saturday	December 4	08h00	Guided Walk in the Botanic Garden

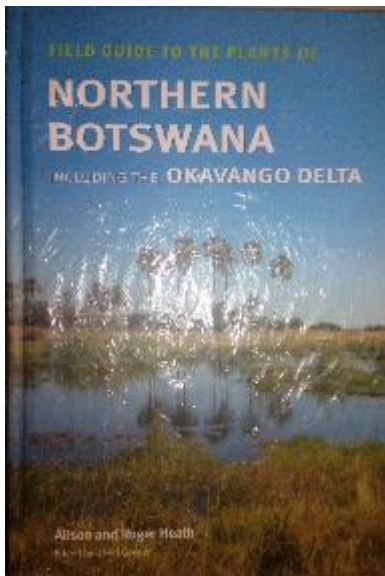
Special Membership Categories

Welwitschia	. . .
Moringa	Nina Maritz Architects
Lithops	Erika Benz
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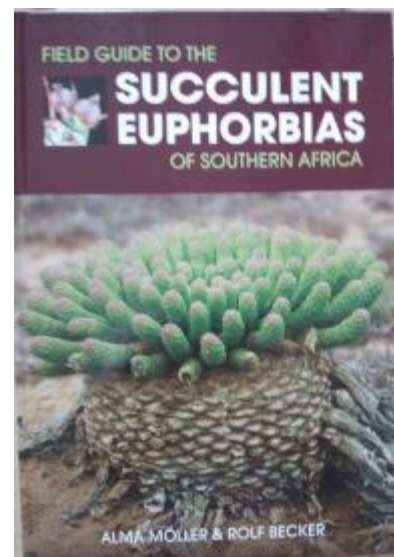
Worthwhile Gifts . . .

at special prices . . .

N\$435.00 Retails at N\$465.00



Field Guide to the Succulent Euphorbias of Southern Africa came to fruition after many years of travel and research by this husband and wife team. The sharp photographs of Alma Möller show each plant to advantage and the text by Rolf Becker gives clear guidelines in identifying each plant shown.



N\$455.00 Retails at N\$520,00

Field Guide to the plants of Northern Botswana including the Okavango Delta by Alison and Roger Heath is based on a systematic botanical survey of some 530 flowering herbs, trees, shrubs, ferns, grasses and sedges. This authoritative work has accessible and concise text and more than 2,400 specially produced photographs.
Available at the NBRI or Braam Harris 081 585 6047

Botanical Society of Namibia P O Box 5635 Ausspannplatz 12001 Mobile 081 248 7362
E-mail: nambotsoc@gmail.com Website: www.botanicsociety.biodiversity.org.na

THE CORE OF ACTIVE PLANT PEOPLE (CAPP)

Chairperson	Ellen Gudde	081 248 7362	gudde.er@iway.na
Vice-Chair	Barb Curtis	081 228 8686	curtis.namibia@gmail.com
Treasurer	Manda Steynberg	081 611 2254	2mandast@gmail.com
NBRI Liaison	Leevi Nanyeni	061 202 1111	lnanyeni@gmail.com
Coastal Representative	Koos Barkhuizen	081 146 6216	koos@seenalegal.com
Books & Sales	Braam Harris	081 585 6047	braamha@gmail.com
Refreshments	Christiane Maluche	081 168 7585	christiane.maluche@gmail.com
Green Ink & PR	Diana Thompson	081 128 9031	raffthom@afol.com.na
Members	Frances Chase	081 254 2861	frances.nbri@gmail.com
	Jaco Fourie	081127 9579	JacoFourie@windhoekcc.org.na
	Gerry Hill	081 128 2558	gerry@nbcooper.com
	Luise Hoffmann	081 256 0183	luisehof@iway.na
	Silke Rügheimer	081220 6994	silke2207@gmail.com
	Christo Snyman	081 129 2090	snymanpc@gmail.com

