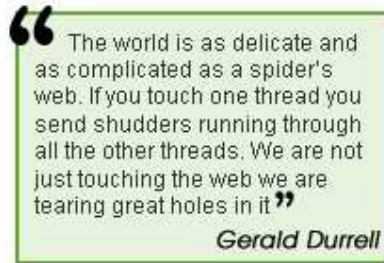


GC&SA Ear to the Ground

Gauteng Conservancy & Stewardship Association Newsletter – No 31 -
October

www.conservancies.org / www.nacsa.org.za www.nacsa.co.za



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Notices:

A promotional banner for the NACSSA AGM. The background is a scenic view of a valley with hills and a river. The text is overlaid on the image. At the top left is the NACSSA logo, which includes a map of North West and a bird. At the top right is the Peglerae Conservancy logo, which includes a bird and the text "PEGLERAE BEWAREA CONSERVANCY". The main text reads: "NACSSA AGM 11-13 November 2011 Graceland Lodge Peglerae Conservancy Magaliesberg Gauteng\North West". Below this, a list of speakers is provided: "Speakers: Ernest Seamark - Bats and Conservancies, Olaff Bekker - Alternative Energy, Mercia Komen- EIA Legislation an update, John Wesson- Birds and Conservancies, Regional report back- Regional reps".

With the NACSSA meeting in the Gauteng area this year it gives all interested GCSA conservancies an opportunity to come and participate in the meeting, listen to the interesting talks and discuss conservancy issues with like minded people from around South Africa. Everyone is welcome at anytime during the three days – for further details regarding the costs of

meals etc and the detailed program please contact either John Wesson
jwesson@wessanorth.co.za or Kathy Oliver on 079 497 9395.

Thorntree Conservancy Country Fair:

Walkerville Show Grounds

Sunday 6th November

Environmental stalls:

Snakes Spiders Conservancies

Recycled Products

Owl Boxes Bee Display Honey Products

STATIONARY ANTIQUE ENGINES

Hand crafts

Christmas gifts candles soaps jewelry

herbs pottery environmental books plants

Jumping Castles Camel and Clydesdale Rides

RIDE THE MECHANICAL BULL

Tea and beer garden, lots of food

AND MUCH MORE !!!!!!!!!!!

www.thorntree.co.za

Yebo Goggo 2011

What a wonderful experience!! Tiring as it may be, it is an honour to be given the opportunity to interact with such a wide spectrum of the youth in this country and to be inspired by their knowledge and understanding.

A lot of time and effort went into the putting together of the stand and I would like to thank all those involved, especially the members of the various conservancies that volunteered to help out during the 5 days that Yebo runs, we could not manage without them, I hope they benefited as much from the experience as I did. A big well done to GCSA's own Cheryl Dehning (Smuts House Conservancy) who was the main organiser this year.



As usual the traps were a huge draw card, the boys find them fascinating, the girls repulsive, but they open the communication channels. The theme of the stand was **“Exploring ways Man is Destroying Nature”** we did this by having two tables, one with a clean pond with fish swimming in it, (I was taken to task on several occasions by bright little sparks that asked me why the pond was lined with plastic!) happy healthy plants, frogs, a little bokkie and other insects etc the other table was covered with litter, the pond had used oil in it and alien invasive weeds. Between the tables were the traps – it certainly had an impact – hopefully the right one.

Our thanks go to Motorola and Plastics Federation SA, for their continued generous support of the South African Conservancy movement.



Snippets from around the province

Below is a Press statement prepared by Intercontinental Hotels OR Tambo – as you will read they worked with Korsman’s Conservancy – situated in Benoni – for a week, assisting the Conservancy with several environmental issues experienced in the Conservancy.



PRESS STATEMENT

RESPONSIBLE BUSINESS WEEK

Research has told us that our guests want guilt-free luxury. They want to minimize their impact on the planet, without compromising the standard of luxury they receive when they stay with us. Which is why InterContinental Hotels & Resorts want to lead the way in preserving and protecting resources and destinations around the world.

As part of a global initiative, InterContinental Johannesburg O.R. Tambo Airport celebrates 'Responsible Business Week', 3rd – 9th October 2011, which highlights the work that InterContinental Hotels & Resorts around the world is doing to sustain and enhance their local destination.

In partnership with National Geographic's Center for Sustainable Destinations, InterContinental Hotels & Resorts properties regularly take part in activities that ensure their location remains an appealing place to visit for future generations.

To celebrate this noble initiative, InterContinental Johannesburg O.R. Tambo Airport is carrying out various activities to help make a difference including the rehabilitation of the **Korsman's Bird Sanctuary Conservancy** eg. Removal of Alien Exotic Trees, Picking up of litter, Repairing vandalized benches and general maintenance.

InterContinental Johannesburg O.R. Tambo Airport will also be showcasing Traditional Crafts and Beadwork in the hotel lobby which will represent our cultural talent whilst supporting the less privileged in our community.

Notes to Editors:

IHG (InterContinental Hotels Group) [LON:IHG, NYSE:IHG (ADRs)] is a global company operating seven hotel brands including InterContinental® Hotels & Resorts, Hotel Indigo®, Crowne Plaza® Hotels & Resorts, Holiday Inn® Hotels and Resorts, Holiday Inn Express®, Staybridge Suites® and Candlewood Suites®. IHG also manages Priority Club® Rewards, the world's first and largest hotel loyalty program with almost 60 million members worldwide. IHG is the world's largest hotel group by number of rooms and franchises, leases, manages or owns over 4,400 hotels and more than 656,000 guest rooms in 100 countries and territories, and has more than 1,100 hotels in its development pipeline.

IHG expects to recruit around 160,000 people worldwide over the next few years and is committed to gender balance throughout its business. We aspire to continue retaining a minimum of 25% female representation on the Board.

InterContinental Hotels Group PLC is the Group's holding company and is incorporated in Great Britain and registered in England and Wales.

In addition to this work, the following is also in Progress within the Conservancy:

- Our DA Councillor Mary Gobi has arranged for a tree felling contractor to remove some of the large Alien Invasive trees such as Poplars, Saringa and Robinias Pseudoaccasias. This will be paid for by her Ekurhuleni discretionary fund. (R 30 000)
- Ekurhuleni has now completed the new fence at a cost of about R3m
- The Korsman Conservancy Team is continuing with the removal of small alien Invasive trees, Cleaning, Maintenance and finding sponsors for benches, dust bins, bird hides, etc.
- In the last two years more than 100 indigenous trees were planted.

Well done to the Korsman's Team this is remarkable!



Interesting Websites

www.earth911.org

www.read-the-truth.com – Al Gore's Theory on Global warming

www.trees.co.za - Food & Trees for Africa: The first and only national, public benefit, civil society greening and food gardening organisation in SA addressing climate change

www.climateark.org - Climate Change and Global Warming Portal; The Original Biocentric Climate Science, Policy & Advocacy Search Engine

www.go-organic.co.za

www.mycarbondebt.com

www.treehugger.com

www.scienceinafrica.co.za – Africa's first on-line science magazine

www.greenbuilding.com – Everything you want to know and more about green building

<http://environment.newscientist.com>

www.time.com

Please send us your news and notices of events for inclusion in *“Ear to the Ground”*. This e-newsletter goes to all the Gauteng conservancies and to a long list of “friends of conservancies” plus other interested people. The list grows by the day. If you would like to contact any of the conservancies or people mentioned in this “Ear”, let us know.