

Pearly Beach Bewarea Conservancy

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NUUSBRIEF/NEWS LETTER: NOVEMBER 2011

**'n Geseënde Kersfees en
voorspoed vir 2012!!
A blessed Christmas and a
prosperous 2012!!**

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING/ALGEMENE JAARVERGADERING

Date/Datum:

**Donderdag 22 Desember
2011**

Thursday 22 December 2011

Time/Tyd: 10:00

**Where/Waar: Dutch
Reformed Church Hall/
NG Kerkzaal**

**Guest Speaker/
Gasspreker:
Chris Barnes - Snakes!**

HERBARIUM

Aan al die dames wat so getrou deur die jaar gehelp het om die Herbarium netjies te hou en gereeld vars plantmonsters te versamel, baie, baie dankie! Almal wat belangstel om by die Herbarium betrokke te raak, kan gerus vir HEILIE MOSTERT by tel 028 – 381 9888 of 082 392 1178 kontak – hulp is altyd welkom en baie nodig!

AIMS OF THE CONSERVANCY

The aims of the Pearly Beach Conservancy are to promote the conservation, protection and restoration of all natural systems and resources of the Pearly Beach area with particular attention to indigenous plant and animal life. The rapid development of the area places a huge burden on the remaining fynbos veld and fauna. The Conservancy plays an active role in promoting the importance of eco sensitive planning and development, the establishing of water sensitive indigenous gardens, the conservation of the green belt of natural fynbos veld and the eradication of alien species, eg. Rooikrans, Port Jackson and Manatoka.

PLAASLIKE STRAND SKOON- MAAKAKSIE

Warren Rutherford (tel 028 381 9596) is die plaaslike koördineerder van die strand skoonmaakaksie. Die hele kuslyn van Pearly Beach is in 5 seksies verdeel en vrywilligers word benodig om die vullis langs die strand in 'n spesifieke seksie op te tel. Vullissakke word voorsien. Indien jy belangstel om by hierdie aksie betrokke te raak, kontak asseblief vir Warren Rutherford.

CONSERVANCY/BEWAREA

Pearly Beach has been declared a conservancy and registered as a conservation village with Cape Nature. A Conservancy is established by a voluntary agreement between landowners to co-operatively manage their properties in a responsible,

environmentally friendly way in order to keep the environment in as pristine a condition as possible. Conservation objectives are achieved by co-operation and commitment to the conservation of the environment on private property.

Advantages of a Conservancy include:

- The community's awareness and knowledge of its environment is increased;
- The community shares in the management of the environment;
- Natural vegetation and wildlife is sustained;
- Aesthetics and economic values increase;
- Community based activities increase;
- Security improves.

Membership is voluntary and each member can decide to what extent he/she would like to be involved, eg:

- Keep parts of his/her property natural;
- Avoid planting invasive alien plants (especially kikuyu grass, rooikrans and manatokas);
- Adopt a street or open space to keep it clean and report problem builders, etc;
- Join the hack group;
- Responsible disposal of refuse and to recycle.

A management plan on how this Conservancy should be run has been drafted, but we need the inputs and ideas from all residents. How do you see the future of Pearly Beach??

BE A SASSI CONSUMER

Here are some simple tips to help you become a 'greener' seafood consumer:

- Keep informed about which fish is OK to eat and which fish is not;
- Increase the variety of fish you eat- move away from a dependence on one favourite;

- Don't eat undersized or juvenile fish. Choose fish caught in sustainable ways- consult your SASSI guide for recommendations or ask your fishmonger;
- Local is lekker - buy locally where possible (e.g. from the green list) rather than imported species - especially if they are from our neighbouring countries like Mozambique, Tanzania, Seychelles. www.wwf.org.za

WEB SITE

Great news for the Pearly Beach Conservancy is that with the kind assistance of the Pearly Beach Ratepayers Association, we now also have a web page!

www.pearlybeachratepayers.co.za

BATS

Bats are fast and agile animals. They have an insatiable hunger for insects, and can consume hundreds of bugs in a single night. Doesn't that sound like something that most people would appreciate? Surprisingly, they are often feared, hated and even eradicated. Perhaps it's the unknown and secret world of these amazing animals that makes people uneasy; this lack of knowledge perpetuates imaginative myths and negative perceptions.

The majority of bat species prey on insects. The effect of insect pests on crops is a major problem in agriculture. An estimated 13 per cent of the potential world crop yield is annually lost to pests, with insects being the main culprits. De Hoop Guano Cave in the Cape Province of South Africa is home to the largest aggregation of bats in South Africa, with a calculated 300 000 bats roosting there. This colony consumes an estimated 100 tons of insects annually, making an invaluable contribution to the pest control on farms in the Bredasdorp area.

Bat houses

Bat houses are a cost-effective initiative that increases the prevalence of bats on your property, and thereby decreases the number of insects in your area. Urban residents, lodge or recreational venue owners, and farmers, can all benefit greatly from having inhabited bat houses on their properties. It is a cheaper and environmentally friendlier way of helping to keep insect populations under control as opposed to the continual use of poisonous chemicals that, apart from being illegal, do not provide an effective long-term solution. If bats that have been living in your house roof are poisoned and die, new bats will simply take their place. It is preferable rather to bat-proof the roof and provide alternative housing for the bats. EcoSolutions have a wealth of knowledge in the supplying and installation of bat houses, and are committed to the continuous improvement of the success and cost-effectiveness of these bat houses. Furthermore, EcoSolutions can also deal with bat problems in roofs of houses and buildings by excluding the bats and then offering them an alternative home in the form of a bat house. In addition, nature lovers might enjoy the spectacle of watching bats emerge from a bat house, swooping around them to catch insects with unmatched agility.

Information obtained from the web page of EcoSolutions: www.ecosolution.co.za

Author of About bats: Werner C. Marais (2009)

MONTHLY PRESS REPORTS

During 2011 regular monthly press reports were published in the Gansbaai Courant and the following topics were covered:

AfriCanis, Earth Hour, Meat free Mondays, Sustainable Harvesting, Environmental Awareness Month, Fire Watch, Adopt a Pet, and Climate Changes.

FIRE WATCH

The Pearly Beach Conservancy, together with the Pearly Beach Ratepayers' Association, have expressed their concerns over the past few years regarding the readiness of the fire brigade stationed in either Gansbaai or Hermanus to attend to fires in the Pearly Beach area. Recent discussions between these two organizations and Mr Riaan Jacobs, Fire Chief of Overstrand Municipality, have resulted into the possibility of establishing a group of volunteers in Pearly Beach under the name Fire Watch. These volunteers will be registered as reservists, will receive basic training, as well as the necessary protective clothing, and a trailer equipped with a water tank and pump. The idea is that this group will first respond to any calls regarding a fire in the area, they will assess the damage, call for further help if necessary, and ensure that the occupants are safe, etc. To be able to have an active Fire Watch in Pearly Beach, we need the names and contact details of volunteers, preferably permanent residents, as we need at least 10 names before this project can get the go ahead.

ONTHOU ASB!!!

Om jou lidmaatskap te hernu – dis baie belangrik. Please remember to renew your subscription!

BAIE DANKIE!!!

Aan al die Komiteelede, baie dankie vir 'n uiters suksesvolle jaar se harde werk en baie dankie vir julle bereidwilligheid om vergaderings op Saterdag by te woon – dit word opreg waardeer.

Elrina Versfeld
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