



K N R A

Klipriviersberg Nature Reserve Association



Caring for Biodiversity for Future Generations

NEWSLETTER AUTUMN



Edition 2024

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- ❖ Educational Walks
- ❖ Senior Hikes
- ❖ Bird walks
- ❖ Snares/Alien Species
- ❖ Hiking Trails
- ❖ Did you know?
- ❖ New Members
- ❖ Schools Involvement
- ❖ New Events

Senior Hikes

Relaxed walk in the Klipriviersberg Nature Reserve last Wednesday of every month. Meet with Christine Loukakis 9:00am at the coffee shop entrance. We leave soon after for about an hour walk. Around 10:00/10:30 we have a coffee at the coffee shop (own account) and meet for an informal talk. Topics are randomly chosen by participants... so you could also have a turn to talk!



Hiking trails and recreational activities

For nature lovers and outdoor enthusiasts, Klipriviersberg Nature Reserve offers a network of well maintained hiking trails that crisscross the reserve. Each trail caters to different fitness levels and interests, making it accessible to families, hikers and joggers alike. Whether one chooses a leisurely stroll or a more challenging hike to the top of the hills, breathtaking vistas of the surrounding landscape reward every endeavor.

Bird Walks (Monthly) with Bird specialist

Mr Kevin Lavery
KNR has over 230 bird species to be enjoyed.
Contact Kevin on 083 267 3494 for further information.



DATES TO REMEMBER

Interpretive Nature Walks

Join us on the 2nd Sunday of every month, starting at 07h30. Meet at the Peggy Vera entrance outside the coffee shop. This guided Nature walk, which will be lead by a FGASA qualified guide (Trevor Hulleman) who will open your eyes to the wonders of nature. Klipriviersberg Nature Reserve's biodiversity is alive and Trevor will get you intrigued and 'hands - on'....



Snares / Alien Invasive Species

We kicked off the new year with a new initiative. The snare hunts will be combined with the removal of Alien Invasive Species. On Sunday the 18th February 2024, our first team of 5 led by Trevor Hulleman and Bianca Coetzer tackled this very important task.

Two of the alien species removed were the *Asparagus larycinus* (common name - Cluster-leaf asparagus or bergkatbos) and *Verbena brasiliensis* (common name - Brazilian Vervain)

The two species that were tackled pose a threat to indigenous plants because it takes over and therefore invasive in the reserve.

Restoration Effects – Removing invasive species is often a key component of habit restoration efforts aimed at restoring indigenous plant communities and promoting ecosystem resilience.



Verbena brasilienses



Asparagus larycinus

Dicoma Anomala (Fever Bush)



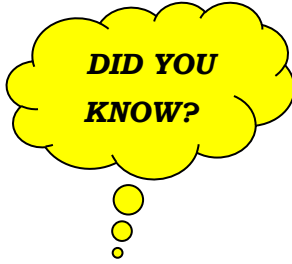
Dicoma anomala is a prostrate, decumbent or erect perennial herb with an underground tuber. Few to many erect stems arise from a woody rootstock. Stems are thinly covered with hairs. Leaves are simple, alternate, stalkless, linear or narrowly lanceolate, the upper surface glabrous, the lower surface white-hairy. Flower heads are terminal, solitary or in small groups and have stiff, narrow, sharply-pointed bracts and slender, white, mauve, purple or pink tubular florets. The pappus consists of numerous barbellate bristles. Flowering occurs from November to July, with peak flowering in February and March.



Verreaux's eagle (Aquila verreauxii)

Have you ever looked up and seen our local Verreaux's eagle's?

There are a pair that nest in Meyers Farm and can often be seen hunting Dassies (rock hyraxes) along the rocky outcrops of the reserve. The Verreaux's eagle is one of the most specialized species of accipitrid in the world, with its distribution and life history revolving around its favourite prey species, the rock hyrax. When hyrax populations decline, the species have been shown to survive with mixed success on other prey, such as small antelopes, gamebirds, hares, monkeys and other assorted vertebrates. Like all eagles, this species belongs to the taxonomic order Accipitriformes order (formerly included in Falconiformes) and the family Accipitridae, which may be referred to colloquially as accipitrids or raptors.



There was a time when there was no bacteria that would decompose a tree.

The trees that existed 300 million years ago do not resemble the trees we have on Earth now. These trees could grow extremely tall, but they had very shallow root systems, so fell over very easily. At the time, no microbes existed that could decompose these trees, so as they fell, they stacked up upon each other, eventually creating what one could consider a blessing or a curse....coal.



Theraphosidae (baboon spiders)



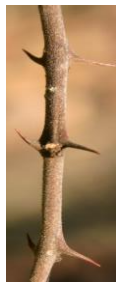
Wasps sting and paralyse the spiders to put it in an unconscious state and then lays eggs in the "live" host. They make silken nests under a rock in a hole. Mostly nocturnal and are ambush hunters. They wait until suitable "goggas" or lizards trigger the strands of the web, then pounces. African species are called baboon spiders due to their hairy appearance and the black scopulae pads on its "feet" resembling the pads on baboon's feet. They are not dangerous to man although they can inflict a painful bite. They are all mildly venomous, the venom being neurotoxic.

Thank you Tanya Nortje, Sue Burger and Mornè for your valued information.

Ziziphus mucronata,

Commonly known as the **buffalo thorn**, is a species of tree in the family Rhamnaceae, indigenous to Southern Africa. Its Zulu name "umLahlankosi" alludes to its use as a grave marker for tribal chiefs, while the Afrikaans name "Blinkblaar-wag-'n-bietjie" alludes to the shiny light green leaves and the hooked thorns.

The roots can be used as a pain killer and the leaves can be crushed to stop bleeding. The leaves can be cooked like spinach and the seeds can be roasted to make coffee. The fruit can be also be used to make beer! Our livestock also love to eat the fruit!



Bloubos spruit

The Bloubos spruit in the reserve can be both magnificent and dangerous at the same time during the rainy season. Crossing the river was impossible on the 29th January 2024. Please be very cautious when you are trying to cross the river. In the dry season it is fairly easy, but is still slippery in some places.

Credit to Mr Julio Carrancho for placing this excellent photo on "The Jewel Of the South" FB page.

Dec. QUARTERLY QUIZ

Which of the following is the only bird species that can fly backwards as well as upside down? A. Hummingbird

What is the only mammal capable of true flight?

Answer will be given in the next edition in June 2024

NEW MEMBERS

A WARM WELCOME TO ALL OUR NEW MEMBERS!
KNRA VALUES YOUR INTEREST.

KNRA invites all interested parties to submit articles, letters and / or photographs for publication. Any suggestions for regular features are welcome. Newsletters will be published quarterly and contributions need to be submitted no later than the 20th of the month for inclusion in the next publication. Late submissions will be considered for the next publication if they are not time sensitive.

KLIPRIVIERSBERG NATURE RESERVE ASSOCIATION

For more information or queries on the following, please email the relevant address

Chairman	chairman-compliance@klipriviersberg.org.za
Secretary	secretary@klipriviersberg.org.za
Treasury	Treasury@klipriviersberg.org.za
Seniors Hikes	Seniorshike@klipriviersberg.org.za
Nature Walks	Naturewalks@klipriviersberg.org.za
School Education	SchoolEducation@klipriviersberg.org.za
Newsletter	Newsletter@klipriviersberg.org.za
Trails Maintenance	TrailsMaintenance@klipriviersberg.org.za
Snares/alien Species	snare-alienspecies@klipriviersberg.org.za
Events	Events@klipriviersberg.org.za
Web Page/Membership	WebMouMembership@klipriviersberg.org.za
Fund Raising	fundraisingdonations@klipriviersberg.org.za
Facebook Page	"Friends of the Jewel of the South"

ADDITIONAL CONTACT NUMBERS

Johannesburg City Parks/ZOO:
General inquiries: 011 943 3578
Animals in distress: 011 943 3578 (O/hrs)
or 079 791 4368 (after hours)
JCPZ Head Office: 011 712 6600

NATURE RESERVE HOURS AND INFORMATION
Monday - Sunday
6:00 am - 6:00 pm
Contact 011 943 3578 /084 804 4073
Helpful links <http://www.footprint.co.za>

KNRA would like to interest hikers into our "Adopt a Trail" program, to encourage our hikers and volunteers to take responsibility for regular trail maintenance on a trail or section of trail.

**All Donations are welcome,
whether it be monetary or physical**

Our Banking Details:
Klipriviersberg Nature Reserve
Standard Bank Southdale 006405
Account Number: 201047284

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

- Support "My School"
- Scout groups welcome
- Club/Trail runners
- Yoga classes
- Kiddies hikes for pre-school
- Schools group programs
- Companies to join our projects
- Become an active Member

• NPO NO: 032 638 - NPO • c/o P.O. Box 770, Mondeor 2110
• PBO NO: 93006602 • www.klipriviersberg.org.za



"The greatest threat to our planet is the belief that someone else will save it."

— Robert Swan