

Greater Simonsberg Conservancy Newsletter

June 2009



Winter has arrived and you should now make some time to enjoy that wine you worked for in front of your fire place...



There have been some **caracal**/rooikat sightings at various conservancy farms, including Quoin Rock and Thelema, over the last few months.

A Rooikat was found dead on the Klapmutskop last year, and has been stuffed by a local taxi dermatist and can be seen in the Conservation Office at DelVera. We will be using this cat in our **Environmental Education** classes for the schools in the area.

We are trying to make the children in the area aware of the value of nature which surrounds them and that we should all take responsibility in preserving it. We take the kids on a day outing up Klapmutskop and give them information on different aspects of the environment.



The **Conservancy's Greenhouse** on DelVera is now in operation. We are starting to introduce a few propagated plants into the Greenhouse and record their growth. We will be visiting the Klapmutskop monthly to get new samples and also take fixed point photographs of the change in vegetation on the Klapmutskop. We hope that these propagated plants could be used for rehabilitation purposes in future.

The Greater Simonsberg Conservancy has appointed a new **Conservation officer** – Anne du Plessis. This photo was taken, while attending a C.A.P.E and SKEP marketplace at Kirstenbosch for two days, to look for funding for projects within the conservancy.



Fire Management Plan - Grevile Ruddock will be compiling a Fire Management Plan for the Conservancy. This plan will be ready by September, so that we can implement it before the next fire season.

Alien Clearing After quite an intense application process, most farms within the conservancy have received free herbicides from DWAF to assist them in their alien clearing efforts. We are glad to see more and more alien trees disappearing from within the conservancy and it would be nice to see indigenous plants returning at these farms.

Conservation issues



Be on the lookout for Porcupine snares – these snares are placed over porcupine burrows, and when the animal rushes in, they get stuck and cannot reverse because of their quills. Quite a few of them are found every month on the surrounding farms.

Hayley from Easthill also made us aware of people with their dogs hunting in the Koppie. There also seem to be fewer buck in the area, than there used to be. Please inform us at conservancy@delvera.co.za, of your observations over time, that we can record these and try to prevent further loss of biodiversity in this area.



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MEMBERS: De Goede Success; • Delheim • DelVera • Dirtopia • East Hill • Elsenburg • Kanonkop • Knorhoek • Laibach • Le Bonheur • Muratie • Quoin Rock • Remhoogte • Rustenberg • Thelema • Tokara • Uitkyk • Warwick