



Dr Ian Player
Bot Soc AGM,
Sunday 25 July

Conservation and the Human Spirit

It is our great honour and privilege to host the legendary Dr Ian Player as guest speaker at our AGM on Sunday, 25 July at the Durban Botanic Gardens Visitors Centre, at 3 p.m. He will talk on *Conservation and the Human Spirit*.

You cannot miss this event! Bring your friends! There is no charge.

RSVP by 18 July to tel: 031 201 5111 or email: botsoc-kzn@mweb.co.za

A gifted writer, speaker and internationally acclaimed conservationist and visionary, Dr Player was influenced by the books of Laurens van der Post and later, Carl Jung. He learnt first hand about nature with his close friend Magqubu Ntombela during his years with the Natal Parks Board and wrote about these experiences in his newspaper column, *Voice From the Wilderness*. During this time he created Operation Rhino in response to fears for the survival of White Rhino. He had the first African wilderness areas set aside in iMfolozi and St. Lucia. Founder of the Wilderness Leadership School and the

Wilderness Trails in South Africa, he also founded the Wilderness Foundation in the United Kingdom and the Wilderness International Leadership Foundation in the USA, as well as the World Wilderness Congress. His many honours include being made a Knight in the Order of the Golden Ark by Prince Bernard of the Netherlands. Through these many ways he has inspired countless people to appreciate wilderness and to experience its spiritual healing.

Read more about Dr Player on <http://ianplayer.com/>.

Indigenous Plant Fair

The focus of the 2010 Fair is Biodiversity – the connection of plants to animals and people.

Dates: 4 & 5 September 2010

Times: 9 am - 4 pm each day

Place: Munies Sports Field, John Zikhali Road (Sydenham Road), Durban, just below the Durban Botanic Gardens.



Euxanthe wakefieldi male. Photo by Steve Woodhall

This popular indigenous plant extravaganza showcases the widest variety of indigenous plants available in Kwazulu-Natal. It is a wonderful opportunity for both beginner and experienced gardeners to learn more about indigenous plants and the wildlife they support in the garden, from the many plant and wildlife experts on duty over that weekend. Exciting displays by various environmental and research groups will also appeal to the public. The *2010 Indigenous Gardening Handbook* featuring

garden layout advice, pictures and plant lists will be on sale at nurseries and other outlets two weeks before the Fair and at the Fair itself.

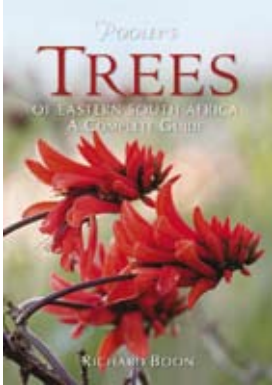
Volunteers wanted - please send your details to botsoc-kzn@mweb.co.za or tel: 031 2015111 on Mondays or Thursdays.

For more information visit the website <http://www.indigenousplantfair.org.za>

'Pooley's TREES OF EASTERN SOUTH AFRICA, a complete guide' by Richard Boon

Article by Elsa Pooley

On 14 & 15 of May 2010 the Flora and Fauna Publications Trust launched the long awaited *Pooley's TREES OF EASTERN SOUTH AFRICA, a complete guide* by Richard Boon. The well attended



functions took place at the Durban Botanic Gardens Visitor Education Centre and at the KwaZulu-Natal Herbarium where sponsors, subscribers and plant people from every walk of life gathered to celebrate.

Not only did we celebrate the long awaited new tree book, but also the

Flora and Fauna Publication Trust's fulfillment of the Trust Deed, to publish books on natural history, keep them in print and revise them from time to time when necessary. The not-for-profit Flora and Fauna Publications Trust, formally established in 1992 (as Natal Flora Publications Trust) chose *A Complete Field Guide to Trees of Natal, Zululand and Transkei* by Elsa Pooley, as the first title and it was launched in November 1993. The Trust books have been real community efforts from fund raising to

sharing knowledge, skills and, most importantly, photographs, which are donated by the photographers.

The highly successful 1993 edition, out of print for five years (after 4 reprints), has been completely revised by Richard Boon. Where we first thought we could just revise the groups which had botanical name changes, it became apparent that, after 18 years, the book needed to be updated from beginning to end. For 5 years, Richard has devoted every spare moment from a demanding job in Ethekwini Municipality's Environment Department to prepare the complete revision of this book.

The new book follows the same layout as the first edition but has been greatly expanded to cover 1 000 species of trees and larger woody plants, a larger area, colour maps, new and improved photographs, flowering and fruiting season bars, a new key and an enlarged introduction to the vegetation types. With ecological information, notes on gardening, plant uses, new text and highlighted diagnostic features as well as common names in all local languages, the field guide was received with great excitement.

The morning launch at SANBI KZN Herbarium was enhanced by guided tours of the herbarium itself by staff members Dr Hugh Glen and Mr Mkipheni Ngwenya. This herbarium is over 100 years old – an historical as well as a botanical treasure. It has been home to the Trust and its authors during the book research.

Place your bid!

A hard cover copy of the book will be auctioned at the AGM to raise funds for the Botanical Education Trust. Hard cover copies are not for sale and were given to sponsors only.

'Pooley's TREES OF EASTERN SOUTH AFRICA, a complete guide' by Richard Boon
Book review by Hugh Glen

What is a field guide for? In the least number of words, to identify plants, or at least to help the user do so. Does Richard Boon's book meet this standard? Yes, arguably better than any other book I know, local or overseas. With the exception of three or four very obscure plants (of some 1100), the key features are shown in photographs on the right-hand page of each opening. On the left-hand page are descriptions of the species, with the key feature picked out in green, and Red-data status in red – what other colour for this? Each account is completed by a colour-coded distribution map and a line drawing of the leaves. Also on the left pages, we find brief descriptions of

families and genera (on a purple ground), with notes on some plants that didn't quite make the criteria for inclusion – useful if you have a rather iffy specimen – and keys to species (on a khaki background) within genera with four or more species. The introductory material includes notes on tree habitats, also with beautiful photographs, a necessary section on how-to-use-this-book, a glossary and the acknowledgements, which cover several pages. Clearly Richard managed to entuse a large circle of friends and rope them in to help. Bringing up the rear are a full index (with purple bar at the top of each page indicating where in the alphabet one is) and, on specially heavy paper, a quick index to genera only. The endpapers are decorated with good overall maps of the area covered.

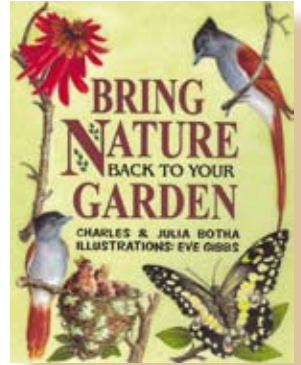
So how does this one compare with the much-loved first Pooley tree guide? Was it worth the wait? Clearly, Richard has taken full

advantage of significant improvements in photographic and printing technology that have happened in the last 17 years. The colour is spectacular and the pictures are much clearer (and there are many more of them). The new book treats about 30% more trees than the old one, and I believe that there is more detail where it matters. Yes, it is more than worth the wait. It is now more than evident that while we users were getting frustrated, Richard was busy gathering information and pictures, examining the world's finest guides, extracting ideas and assembling all this into a book that sets a new and higher standard for those that follow.

And is the bar now so high that potential writers of other guides are discouraged? Curiously, no. I know of two professional botanists who have copies (one week after launch, one week before the books are due in the shops) – yes I am one. Both of us are now planning guides based on “the new Pooley”, to different plants and different provinces. So this one not only does its stated job of identifying plants, but also the very important one of inspiring botanists. Hats off to Richard Boon and the Flora and Fauna Publications Trust!

Bringing More Nature Back

More good news on the book front is that Charles & Julia Botha have nearly finished the revision of their best-seller, *Bring Nature Back to your Garden*. This book has been out of print for some time and is still in much demand as a well-written all-inclusive guide to indigenous gardening. To be published by the Flora & Fauna Publications Trust, this updated version will include some colour pictures and will have many more species to inspire you. Look out for news of the book launch around August 2010.



Tanglewood Outing

Report and photos by Jane Troughton

Tanglewood is a special place - one of the last privately owned nature reserves in our metropolitan area. Walking through the reserve one feels a million miles away from the city and the surrounding industrial Pinetown spread, visible only from the crest of the reserve. The Walker family have resisted many offers from developers to convert this haven to yet another factory or housing estate. May future generations continue to preserve this precious slice of nature.

During our May walk through the reserve, we greeted the pet Blesbok at the stables, and then entered a wooded area, where the *Clivia gardenii* were making an appearance. Given their abundance, they must make a terrific show in full bloom. As we emerged into the grassland the *Dissotis canescens* (Pink Wild Tibouchina), *Kniphofia* sp. (Red-hot Poker) and *Pychnostachys urticiflora* (Blue Boys) provided brilliant splashes



Kniphofia sp.
(Red-hot Poker)



Dissotis canescens
(Pink Wild Tibouchina)



Gladiolus dalenii
(African Gladiolus)



Disa polygonoides
(Honey Disa)

of colour, increasing in intensity in the marshy area by the dam. Also offering rich contrast were the *Gladiolus dalenii* (African Gladiolus) and *Watsonia densiflora* (Natal Watsonia). However, the most exciting find of the day was surely the gorgeous *Disa polygonoides* (Honey Disa).

An energetic climb up the hill was rewarded with tea, biscuits and anecdotes of the Walker family. After a rest the adventurous set out for a further hike to the waterfall. Most sat back for a second cup of tea, watched the butterflies dancing off the verandah and enjoyed the relaxation and view.

Thank you so much Walkers for opening up your beautiful space to us, and giving us a tremendous day in the wild.

Coastal Diary

Join BOTSOC KZN Coastal branch on our exciting outings and events programme. This year we have an ecological slant - plants, as well as birds, bats, butterflies ... something for everyone - young and old, beginner or expert !

Events below are free for Botanical Society members and, unless restricted to members only, non-members are welcome at R10/pp. Attendance at any of our functions is at your own risk and neither the Botanical Society nor this Branch can be held responsible for any injury or loss that may occur. You are required to sign an indemnity form for all outings.

Please confirm attendance and details of outings in case of changes or cancellations:

Except where otherwise mentioned, bookings and enquires:

Tel Jane Troughton: 031 562 9917 / 082 727 2323 or (preferably) email: mjt@vodamail.co.za

BotSoc AGM

Sunday 25 July 15h00

Durban Botanic Gardens Visitors Centre

We are honoured to have legendary Dr Ian Player as guest speaker. RSVP: Tel 031 2015111 / 073 385 9206 or email: botsoc-kzn@mweb.co.za

East Coast Radio House and Garden Show

23 July-1Aug

Durban Exhibition Centre

BotSoc KZN Coastal Branch has been given a generous offer to exhibit on the House and Garden Show at the Durban Exhibition Centre. The Kirstenbosch exhibit at this year's Chelsea Flower Show will also be on display. It is a big opportunity to promote the Society and its mission and to raise funds.

We need volunteers to man our stand during this period and ask if you are able to assist us in this regard. If you are available to help please contact WESSA (sharing the stand with BotSoc) tel: 031 2013126 (Jenny) mornings only, or email: lynne@stopthespread.co.za

For more information about the show please see the website: www.housegardenshow.co.za

Beachwood Mangroves

Sun 15 August 09h00

Dave Henry will guide us around this sensitive eco-system. The 76 hectare reserve has the largest population of mangrove trees (all 3 species) in the Durban area. We should also see the

Mangrove Kingfisher, Curlew and Water Dikkop. We can also expect to encounter the strange mudskippers - fish that use their pectoral fins to either skim over the water or to propel themselves across the mud. There are also thousands of fiddler crabs with their single large claw and an assortment of mollusks. We will meet at the entrance to the reserve just off Riverside Road, right next to the freeway on-ramp.

BotSoc Indigenous Plant Fair

4&5 Sept 09h00 – 16h00

Munies Sports Grounds, John Zikhali (Sydenham) Rd

Don't miss the event of the gardening year. Entrance R5:00. *Indigenous Gardening Handbook* available in advance @R20 each from selected outlets or by post. Theme this year is Biodiversity. For news updates please see: www.indigenousplantfair.org.za. Enquiries: email: botsoc-kzn@mweb.co.za or tel: 031 201 5111 Mondays and Thursdays 10 am – 4 pm.

Roosfontein Nature Reserve

Sun 12 Sept: 09h00

Bird expert Roy Cowgill will guide us through this little known Westville nature reserve to see its plants and birds. It is primarily a grassland reserve with coastal forest in the river valleys. A variety of grassland birds are resident, such as Grassbird, several cisticolas, Redthroated Wryneck and many seed-eaters, including waxbills, canaries and widows. Those who are keen can picnic afterwards at Mamba Rock which has spectacular views.

Members without email who would like to be reminded via text messages on their cellphones about BotSoc events should telephone: 031 201 5111 or SMS 073 385 9206.

Contact details of KZN Coastal Branch

KZN Coastal Branch

Office hours

☎ 031 201 5111 Fax. 086 651 8969
Mon and Thurs 10:00-16:00

Chair

Marilyn Bodasing

Secretary, membership

Sandra Dell

EIAs, Plant Sale

Wally Menne

Outings information

Jane Troughton

Newsletter

Louise Torr

☎ 082 923 0151 or a/h 032 533 2787
☎ 031 465 6179
☎ 082 444 2083
☎ 031 562 9917 / 082 727 2323
☎ 031 206 2216

✉ 30544 Mayville 4058

✉ botsoc-kzn@mweb.co.za

✉ Bodasin8@ukzn.ac.za

✉ botsoc-kzn@mweb.co.za

✉ plantnet@iafrica.com

✉ mjt@vodamail.co.za

✉ writes@iafrica.co.za