



Adopt Moreletaspruit/ Neem Moreletaspruit Aan

Newsletter/Nuusbrief 8, Aug 2013

Book on the Moreletaspruit to be published



The Adopt Moreletaspruit Facilitation Team is working on a comprehensive book on the Moreletaspruit. We hope that this will be a useful resource for students and professionals but also for members of the general public who are interested in the river. The book will include the history and heritage; physical and biological characteristics such as geology, climate, rainfall, surface hydrology, geohydrology and water chemistry; the ecology including aquatic plants and organisms, vegetation, animals, birds and wetlands. We also plan

to include as many interesting maps, photographs and illustrations as possible. The book will be available on disc and, if we can get a sponsor for the publication, as a coffee table book as well.

COMPETITION for a catchy sub-title, cover photo and other photos for the book:

We invite you to send entries for the following three categories:

1. **The Title** of the book will be **The Moreletaspruit:**
- but we need a catchy sub-title so put your creative thinking caps on!
2. **Cover Photograph:** we want a really attractive photo of the river, showing clean water and only indigenous vegetation (no willow trees). You may already have some good photos but spring is almost here and the vegetation will be turning green really soon so go out with your cameras! Size: 1 MB – 5 MB.
3. **Most Interesting Photograph:** here we are looking for photos of the olden days (perhaps scanned from your family album) or of major events such as the great floods which have occurred along the river or any other really interesting pictures – these could be of the river itself, birds, animals or historic or unusual happenings along the river.

Conditions:

Please state where and when photos were taken and give all relevant information. Adopt Moreletaspruit reserves the right to use any of the photographs submitted in this book or future publications whether they are the prize winners or not.

The senders of the photographs will be credited in the publication/s.

Closing date: entries must be received **by 16 October 2013**.

Address for entries: please email to: anneli.kuhn@gmail.com

Prize: The winner of each of the three categories plus a partner will win a **Game Drive at Rietvlei Nature Reserve**. This prize was kindly donated by Nature Conservation, City of Tshwane, and it must be taken before the end of the year. The three winners will go on the game drive together and we will liaise with them to arrange a date and time which will suit all of them. It will be hosted by one of the Adopt Moreletaspruit team.

Research and Education along the River and its Tributaries

One of Adopt Moreletaspruit's aims is to encourage the use of the river as a resource for education and research which will add to our knowledge and also the health and good management of the river. All projects must, of course, have permission from Nature Conservation, City of Tshwane, which is the land-owner. Here are three examples:

About 200 First Year Civil Engineering Students from the University of Pretoria will be doing practical work along the Moreletaspruit at the end of November which will include removal of alien vegetation, clearing of blocked drainage structures and rehabilitation of protection works. Friends Groups have submitted proposals for work to be done and these will be evaluated by a committee which will include Marco van Dijk, Water Engineering, Dept of Civil Engineering, UP; Adelene Marais, Functional Head: Nature Conservation and Gawie van Vuuren, Stormwater Planning from the CoT.

Dr Janine Kelly of the Agricultural Research Council carried out a 12 month study of flying insects together with the Friends of Serene Valley. The results reveal that "the number of species and the number of individuals collected was high and showed a good diversity". This study forms a good baseline for further research and the CoT has given permission for the ARC to sample in all the Tshwane Reserves including sampling of spiders, mites, nematodes and insects. The nematode research has already started.

Matthys Dippenaar, Engineering Geology and Hydrogeology, Geology Department, UP has been in talks with the CoT regarding expanding his current work on the wetlands along the Hartbeesspruit to include the whole of the Moreletaspruit and eventually all the wetlands in Tshwane. He will be working on classification of the wetlands and compiling a "wetland indicator screen". A standard rating procedure will be devised for the delineation, characterisation, protection, monitoring and rehabilitation of wetlands.

Die Water Instituut van UP onder leiding van Prof Hannes Rautenbach het aangebied om 'n **Inligtings Seminaar** oor die **Waterbronne van Pretoria en die groter Tshwane Gebied** op 28 en 29 Oktober te hou. Die **Adopt Moreletaspruit** inisiatief sal op dag 2 van die seminar as 'n gevallestudie bespreek word. Hou asb die datum oop. Meer inligting oor die seminaar sal in ons volgende nuusbriëf verskaf word

Involvement by Business

Friends of Brookside Meander invited **Ford Motor Company of Southern Africa** to become involved in caring for the river last year. Now three departments of Ford have committed to ongoing work along the river.

We would like to invite other companies to follow their example.

Friends Groups/Vriendegroep



Vriende van Faerie Glen Natuurreservaat is in Mei deur twee NG Kerkgroepes gehelp om rommel op te tel en om jong bloekoms af te saag en in Junie het lede hard gewerk om groot en houtagtige indringer lantanastruik uit te roei. Hulle sal 'n opvolg aksie teen indringer lantanas op 17 Augustus hou.

'n Lid en ekoloog, Tessa Joubert, is besig om al die uitheemse plante by die ingang te verwyder en te vervang met inheemse plante en grassoorte.

Vriende van Skuilkrans Kopje het die rivier noord van die N4 en Meyerspark Voëlreservaat amptelik by hul groep ingelyf tydens hulle Algemene Jaarvergadering en het goed gevorder met die verwydering van indringerbome langs die rivier.

Friends of Brookside Meander are also doing splendid work on the ongoing task of removing invasive alien vegetation. They held a Bird Walk at the end of July led by Rihann Geysler during which fifty one different birds were spotted, including an Ovambo Sparrowhawk and a Purple Heron. They have successfully encouraged local schools to take part in activities along the river.



Friends of Serene Valley held a Land Art Morning for World Environment Day to encourage members to enjoy and appreciate the environment in a different way. At left is a large “Spiral of Life” made of mown grass placed next to a path to encourage people to walk along the spiral. On Mandela Day the Friends collected 24 bags of litter out of the Constantia and Moreleta Spruits.

Trees Available for Planting: The Environmental Management Services Dept of the CoT has been given a directive to plant 14 000 trees in the city during this financial year. To make use of this opportunity, email Adelene Marais: AdeleneL@TSHWANE.GOV.ZA and give a) the area or suburb and b) species and quantity of trees.

Note: we want to retain the grassland along the river and, to avoid creating a forest, Adelene suggested that for every ten alien trees removed, we plant one indigenous tree.

Environmental Special Days and Weeks

September 1 – 7 National Arbour Week. The whole of September is Arbour Month.

September 1 – 6 World Water Week.

September 16 – 21 National Cleanup Week.

September 18 World Water Monitoring Day.

October 7 – 13 National Weedbuster Week.

Know your Invasive Alien Vegetation



Ricinus communis – Category 2

Castor-oil plant, Kasterolieboom (tropical Africa)

Annual shrub or small tree up to 4m high. Shiny dark green or reddish leaves, star-shaped with serrated margins. Upper flowers are reddish and lower flowers are cream. Green, brown or reddish three-lobed capsules covered with soft spines.

The whole plant is toxic and seeds can be fatal if swallowed.

Cut and apply herbicide to stump and destroy the seed capsules.

Contact Details/ Kontak-besonderhede

DWA: Gauteng Region – Tel 012 392 1362. Email: RakgothoT@dwa.gov.za

CoT: Nature Conservation – Tel: 012 358 1510. Email: AdeleneL@TSHWANE.GOV.ZA

Facilitation Team – Email: anneli.kuhn@gmail.com - Tel 012 361 3190, or 083 750 2873

Facebook Group – **Adopt-a-River Moreleta**

The Facilitation Team/Die Fasiliteringspan