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FRONT COVER

The Editor and staff wish our Advertisers and Readers very Happy Holidays and a Prosperous and Peaceful 2020.

COMMENT, by Pete Bower

Solution to the mess



If you follow any environmental threads on social media you will have become aware of the remarkable, and ongoing, work done by a group of concerned residents of Irene, Centurion and the

Crocodile River Reserve to clean up the Hennops River.

And, likewise, you will have become aware of the brouhaha surrounding the shameful state of the open sewer named the Vaal River, that flows through Vereeniging, Vanderbijl Park and Parys.

In the case of the Hennops, the clean-up is spearheaded by a riverbank resident, Willem Snyman, who through sheer doggedness and personal effort, has attracted teams of volunteers, as well as support from local businesses in the form of sustenance and protective gear, and who has, weekend after weekend, removed tons ~ literally tons ~ of rubbish from the river.

If ever there was a South African who deserved a Presidential award for service above self, it's Snyman.

But why is the Hennops so chronically polluted? Simple. Its headwaters are to be found in, or flowing through, Tembisa, Ivory Park, the Centurion industrial area and Olievenhoutbosch. In all of these areas rubbish removal services, and street cleaning, are minimal, if they exist at all. As a result, rubbish accumulates, through carelessness, gravity or wind action on what residents may see as wasteland, which is often a watercourse, the very watercourses that, when it rains, form the headwaters of the Hennops.

And what is this waste? Simply every sort of detritus produced by the activities of life. Plastic wrappers, bottles, polystyrene packaging, disposable nappies, rags, personal hygiene items, even broken furniture, discarded supermarket trolleys, car parts, old suitcases, shoes ~ you name it.

And this, accompanied by broken branches and uprooted trees, makes its way down the river until it encounters a weir or a low-lying bridge, where it sticks and consolidates into a solid mass of mess.

Thus, the efforts of Snyman and his teams, while noble and well-meaning, are only as effective as sticking a plaster over a septic wound. Unless an effort is made to stem the flow of rubbish into the headwater streams, Snyman and his teams are doomed to a life of continued and continual clean-ups.

So what's to be done? Fundamentally, consumers (and we mean consumers the world over) must adopt a different mindset to their purchasing and consumption: one that takes ownership of the bought product not only for its useful lifetime but for its "afterlife" as well. In other words, one must be responsible for one's possessions right through their total existence, from the moment of purchase until the item ceases to be, either because one has sold it to somebody else, or because it has been repurposed or refurbished, or until it has been broken up and its components reused in some way. And this includes not only the product itself, but whatever instruction manuals and packaging material it came with as well.

Moreover, a bit of Extinction Rebellion consumer activism wouldn't go amiss. Thus, products sold in non-recyclable or wasteful packaging should be boycotted. We wrote last edition how recycling depots will not pay for coloured cooldrink bottles, for example. If such drinks were boycotted in-store by sufficient numbers of consumers the manufacturers would soon investigate the reason for the drop in sales and make a change.

And there's no doubt that the state could help drive the necessary change in consumer behaviour through the simple economic persuasion of taxing certain packaging material out of existence, for example those that cannot be recycled and for which recyclable alternatives exist. Or by banning them outright.

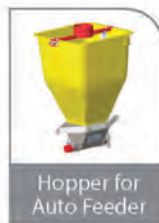
For, unless society curtails the use of plastics and changes its consumption patterns, anything that floats and which doesn't have intrinsic value is headed one way, and that's downhill and downstream, and eventually out to sea, where it floats round and round on the ocean currents until it encounters one of the big (very big) garbage gyres that now fill the centres of every ocean.

And despite the noble but completely futile attempts by various environmental do-gooders to remove the gyres (a totally impossible task seeing that some cover a surface area the size of the Free State) they will only get bigger each year unless nations worldwide (South Africa included) choose to cut off the head of the snake as it were and stop the stuff from entering the environment in the first place.

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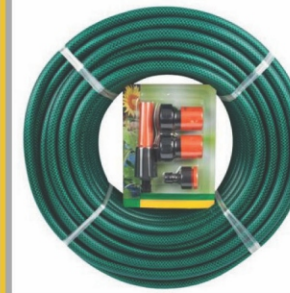
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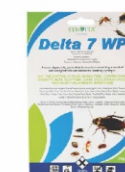
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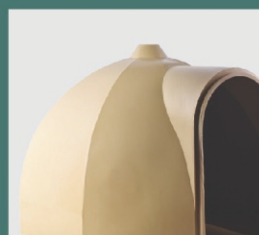
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Luddite calls editor's comment "solidly rational"

Sir ~ Super magazine. The person who selects your front covers is worth double the money. Editorials are thought provoking, sometimes quite irritating, but solidly rational. According to November's

editorial I am a Luddite. My friends agree with you. Would you (could you) change the order of the seventh paragraph to read "a greatly increased world population, which has led

to rampant fossil fuel burning, ocean pollution and degradation....." This makes the environmental problem a physical reality

rather than a moral priority. The Gauteng Luddites salute you!
Ivan Cooper
By email

Old-timer likes Trump (and misses the point entirely)

Sir ~ I am old school, (so) no computer, only SMS. So therefore I can't contact your editor. I like your mag but he wastes ink and paper.

If it were not for TRUMP and the free world, he would be in a shack like me. Please convey message. Thanks.
Fortune Zimba
By SMS

"Trump will be re-elected"

Sir ~ I read your Comment in the *Smallholder* of November. I do not think it is to your business' advantage to be so outspoken against (Donald) Trump! The wheel turns. Trump will be re-elected as president of

the USA. Nobody has ever, in such a short time, done so much for any country!
Leon van der Walt
By email



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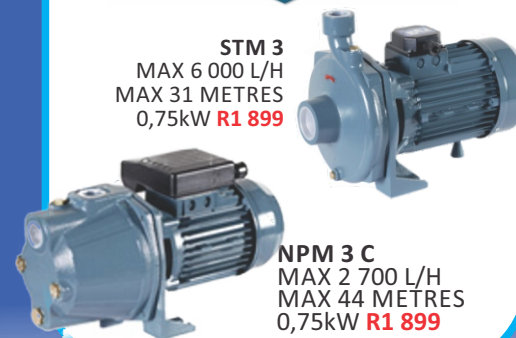
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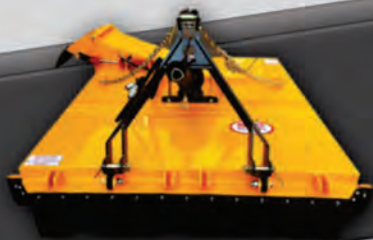
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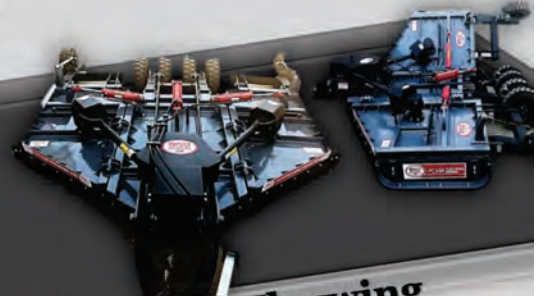


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Waste pickers 'should be regulated'

Sir ~ I agree that the waste pickers are doing a good job, but I believe they must be regulated. They should only be on the streets between 07h00 and 17h00. In the small town of Bronkhorstspuit there is not a single cast iron manhole or hydrant cover. There is hardly a meter box where the residents have not taped a refuse bag over it to keep the rain out as it has had all the sides and top stolen. There is hardly a street light that has a cover on it now.

They steal the cover and pull the copper cable out. There are many streets without lights as the electricians cannot keep up with replacements. Just this Saturday night a church's electricity meter was stolen, six lights on the wall of a residence plus all the tops of a palisade fence were stolen. On the Sunday night an earth wire was pulled out of a conduit and stolen plus the copper earth wire of two electricity poles.

A number of residents get home to their property being flooded as copper pipes have been wrenched off the wall. How can this be prevented? Many residents actually put out sorted refuse for them. Of course not all of them are thieves but the cost of repairs is huge both to municipalities and private citizens. Any suggestion would be gratefully received.
Hilda Weber
Bronkhorstspuit
The last thing this country needs is more regulation,

given the opportunities for graft and corruption that result. And I wonder, in fact, how waste pickers generally can be blamed for the wholesale pinching of municipal infrastructure and private security devices. Rather, I would suggest, this is another class of "economic" activity entirely, carried out or perpetrated by individuals other than waste pickers.
~ Editor

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Industry concerned over auction ban

The Dept of Agriculture, Land Reform & Rural Development has suspended livestock auctions in Limpopo, Mpumalanga and the North West after the outbreak of foot and mouth disease in the Molemole district of Limpopo. At the time of going to press, a ban on auctions in Gauteng was still being discussed.

The news was met with criticism by some agricultural organisations, including TLU SA which argues that the livestock industry has already been dealt a blow by the drought. "The selling of livestock was the only existing solution for farmers who don't have feed for their animals anymore. Now this avenue is also closed off," said Henk van de Graaf, regional chairman of TLU SA North.

While TLU SA acknowledges that action must be taken to

stop the spread of foot and mouth, it believes the government should rather ensure the original preventive measures are strictly implemented and followed. Consumers can expect an increase in meat prices, as well as a potential scarcity of meat in the run up to the festive season, says TLU SA. The body will create a database of buyers and sellers of meat, giving farmers the opportunity to sell their foot and mouth disease-free meat. The organisation is also looking into direct internet sales of healthy animals. Buyers and sellers of meat, as well as farmers who have suffered losses as a result of foot and mouth disease can contact TLU SA by calling Wilma Prinsloo on 082 555-4553 or emailing wilma@ntl.co.za.

Farmers need your help, says TLU SA

Agricultural organisation TLU SA is urging government to offer relief to farmers affected by the drought, without any prejudice, but is also calling on those outside traditional agricultural structures to help as well.

The organisation says it has received messages from farmers in parts of the Karoo begging for feed for cattle,

sheep and goats. "In districts such as Fraserburg in the Karoo (northern Cape), where the drought has been wreaking destruction for three years, the situation has surpassed the critical stage," says TLU SA president Louis Meintjies. Meintjies says the drought has forced farmers to cull their herds to prevent the animals from suffering due to lack of feed.

Continued on page 15

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Plant now to win pumpkin prize

Smallholders looking to enter TLU SA's annual Goliat van Gat Pumpkin Festival 2020 should get planting! TLU SA has announced the dates for the annual festival, as well as a venue change.

The Goliat van Gat Pumpkin Festival will be held on 7 March 2020 at 15h00 at the Pretoria Farmer's Market in

Silverton. Prizes include R15 000 for the heaviest pumpkin, another R5 000 for the heaviest in Gauteng, R25 000 for a new record in South Africa and R100 000 for a world record pumpkin ~ the biggest pumpkin could therefore win the full prize money of R145 000. Don't be lulled into a sense of complacency that these

prizes are easy money, however.

To win the prize for a South African record, for example, you need to grow a whopper weighing more than 613kg which, apart from the sheer size of the vegetable, will require some heavy lifting and logistical planning just to get it out of your pumpkin patch and to the venue for

weighing.

TLU SA is selling seeds for smallholders wishing to take part, available at the organisation's head office in Silverton, Pretoria.

The event will include a night market with various stands and a beer garden. For enquiries, contact Henri Combrink on 082 552 9428 or culliboer@gmail.com.

DROUGHT

From page 13

"Crop farmers have accumulated so much debt following significantly below average yields for up to five years, financiers are foreclosing on their properties. They have had to sell their implements to stay alive," says Meintjies. Despite all this, no district has been declared a disaster area and Meintjies says that drought relief is provided selectively, "mostly to emerging farmers."

TLU SA's campaign urges government to not discriminate when it provides relief. The organisation acts as a middleman to negotiate shared risk management with all members of the value chain. It also provides funds to co-operative stores to supply drought feed directly to farmers to save money otherwise spent on logistics and transport. In mid-November, Meintjies said, "Just this weekend, we witnessed farmers from Williston in the Northern Cape queuing kilometers far to receive feed and food for their families and workers. Big, burly farmers stood there crying from gratitude and despondency."

All South Africans can contribute to TLU SA's Drought Fund by supporting the campaign. To find out how you can make a difference, go to tlu.co.za/en/drought.



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Where to report enviro destruction

The saying goes that the environment is no one's property to destroy ~ it's everyone's responsibility to protect.

But, in practical terms, how does a private citizen go about protecting the environment from damage and degradation by another? Does one confront the degrader, thereby risking bodily harm to oneself? Or does one report the degrader to a competent authority and, if so, to whom? For, at the end of the day, it is up to ordinary concerned citizens to report when we see individuals or companies destroying or polluting the environment.

If one doesn't report it, government will not acknowledge the magnitude of the problem and will continue to invest too few resources in compliance monitoring and enforcement of environmental laws.

The problem does not have to be new or recent ~ one can report violations that have been ongoing for a long time, or that one has reported in the past.

Firstly, gather evidence of the violation. Put everything in writing, stating what you saw. Give exact location details of where it has taken place, giving the street address or the GPS co-ordinates. Make a note of the dates and times. Take photos of the pollution

and where it is coming from. Describe the problems that have arisen, such as dead fish or respiratory health issues. Take a friend with you, as they might see things that you have not noticed and they can corroborate your story. Then decide who you are going to report the incident to. Does the matter fall under

municipal bylaws, provincial or national legislation? Would it be a matter for the Dept of Environment, or Water & Sanitation, or Mineral Resources (DMR)? Do you think you should approach the SA Police Service? Or will you approach the polluter directly?

It helps if you can deal with an individual, such as your ward councillor. If you don't know who your councillor is or how to contact him, phone the municipal call centre. You could also contact the MMC for Environment & Waste Management or for Water, Sanitation & Energy.

Continued on page 21



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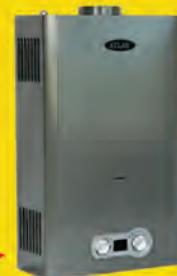


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Trich is a well-documented illness in many bird species, primarily pigeons and doves (commonly known as canker) and raptors (commonly known as frounce), but also in various species of passerine birds, particularly finches. The parasite inhabits the upper digestive tract, mainly the crop and oesophagus, but it may also infect the liver, lungs, air sacs, internal lining of the body, pancreas and

bones and sinuses of the skull. The parasite manifests itself and develops inside a seed, particularly wet or damp seeds which are common during the wetter months of summer. The heat that comes with the summer months helps incubate the parasite inside the seed, which is eventually eaten by a dove, pigeon or another bird, meaning that the bird becomes a new carrier of the Trich infection.

These birds are, in turn, eaten by raptors and they also become infected. So some of the owls, kites, falcons, hawks and eagles that you might be lucky to have on your smallholding are at risk.

Captive poultry and pet birds

Continued on page 23

ENVIRONMENT

From page 19

Gauteng has a provincial department of Agriculture, Environment, Rural Development & Social Development ~ you can contact the head of the department on 011 240-2500/3457.

The national Dept of Environment (DEFF) has a 24-hour, toll-free Environmental Crimes & Incidents Hotline on 0800 205 005.

You can ask for an email address so that you can email your photographs. This hotline is the only reporting mechanism for violations of environmental laws that produce numbers that are published annually ~ in the National Environmental

Compliance & Enforcement Reports produced by the DEFF around November each year.

Matters can be reported anonymously, although it is preferable to give contact details in case of follow-up questions.

Once reported, the matter will either be investigated by the Environmental Management Inspectorate (also called the Green Scorpions) or referred to another department. You should be provided with a reference number for your call.

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Continued on page 23



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From page 21

If your complaint relates to a mining company not complying with its licences or environmental laws and/or committing an environmental crime the DMR has an email address for this purpose: NEMAcomplaints@dmr.gov.z

a. The Dept of Water & Sanitation has a call centre on 0800 200 200 to call if your complaint relates to the pollution of a water resource. According to Section 30 of the National Environmental Management Act (Nema) an

"incident" is "an unexpected, sudden and uncontrolled release of a hazardous substance, including from a major emission, fire or explosion, that causes, has caused or may cause significant harm to the environment, human life or

property.

If you know of an individual or company that has caused such an incident, you may lay criminal charges according to this legislation.

To do this it is best if you go to the police station closest to

Continued on page 25

BIRD LIFE

From page 21

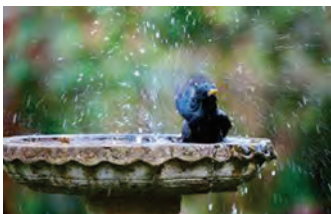
could be infected with the parasite, particularly where wild birds have access to feeders, water containers and bird baths.

Veterinarians urge people not to feed wild birds during the summer months in a bid to reduce the spread of disease. It is not necessary when food is abundant and it creates abnormal behaviour which increases the spread of Trich. We are also encouraged to clean birdbaths on a daily basis as these are another source of contamination. A weak solution of domestic bleach (10% sodium hypochlorite) should be used to disinfect feeders and baths. Feeders should be rinsed well and dried before re-use. Only use bird feeders

that prevent the seed from getting wet. Do not use table feeders. Sick birds sitting directly on bird

seed are more likely to contaminate it with *Trichomonas gallinae*. *Trichomonas gallinae* is a

parasite of birds and does not pose a health threat to humans or other mammals such as dogs and cats. 🍃



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It jumps like a flea, but it bites like a tick

It looks like a flea, in that it has a small flat black body with legs that protrude from the edge and will jump around like a normal flea until it has attached itself to a host, but then it behaves like a tick, in that it attaches itself to the skin and is a difficult critter to pull off. It's the sticktight (or in America stickfast) flea *Echidnophaga gallinacea*, a genus of flea that gets its common name from the fact that the female remains

attached to the host, similar to a tick.

The sticktight flea is found worldwide and in South Africa the only province that it is not found in is the Northern Cape.

It is a small flea, with a body length of 2-3mm. It has a flattened body like other fleas, but it has special mouth parts ~ stileto shaped cutting extensors of the maxilla region, which embed themselves in the host's flesh.

It is also known as poultry or hen flea, because of its habit of clustering on the faces of chickens. It is also found on other birds, dogs, cats, people and other mammals, including wild animals such as warthogs and elephants. On poultry large numbers of the flea may congregate around the eyes, comb, wattles and other naked skin ~ these are difficult to dislodge as their heads are embedded deep below the

host's skin. Young chickens or ducklings are most at risk from sticktight fleas. You will notice that the hens often shake their heads or

Continued on page 27



Sticktight flea enlarged

ENVIRONMENT

Continued on page 33

where the incident took place. Take all your evidence and your ID document.

A tip is to speak directly to the Station Commander, as the officers on the front desk are unlikely to know how to deal with a violation of an environmental law.

You will be interviewed and

then asked to make a written statement. Give as much detail as you can. A docket will then be opened and you will be given the Crime Administration System (CAS) number. Get the contact details of the investigating officer.

If you do not get satisfaction at a police station, there are

environmental law NGOs who will be able to advise you, such as Centre for Environmental Rights: info@cer.org.za or groundWork: team@groundwork.org.za. Follow up on the matter regularly after you have lodged the complaint. 🌿



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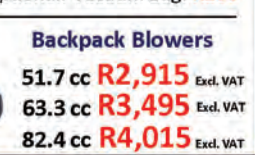
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PESTS

From page 25

scratch at their faces and necks and generally look out of sorts.

If uncontrolled, even amongst adult poultry, they cause anaemia, loss of condition, severe skin irritation and sometimes death.

When feeding, female fleas can remain attached for up to six weeks at a single site on the host, causing ulceration at the attachment site. Males feed intermittently. Eggs are laid in the ulcers that have formed on the host's skin.



Sticktight flea infestation on a chicken.

The larvae drop to the ground and feed on any organic debris that they can find.

When dealing with an infestation on poultry, it is important to clean out the fowl shed, removing all loose items of equipment and the litter. Clean up all debris in the yards and burn this rubbish and the litter. Then sprinkle the whole area with diatomaceous earth or an insecticide dusting powder containing carbaryl (carbamate) or spray with an insecticide designed to kill fleas.

As a preventative measure create a hollow in the

ground and fill it with diatomaceous earth, where the chickens can dust themselves.

Getting rid of the fleas from the heads of your chickens is a challenge. You can use diatomaceous earth, but care must be taken not to allow the birds to inhale the powder, as this will damage their lungs. Sprinkle some in your hand and then rub it on to the face with a finger, trying hard not to get it into the eyes. The same can be done with an insecticide dusting powder that contains carbamate.

There are sprays that are made of natural ingredients such as garlic, lemon and marigold. Again you must prevent inhalation, so you will have to spray it on to your finger and then apply it. Another remedy is smearing the infected parts of the birds with a non-burning greasy substance such as petroleum jelly. Once fleas jump on an area saturated with Vaseline, they get stuck, they can't jump away and will die either due to starvation, or suffocation.

Treatment might need to be repeated until the fleas have all been eliminated.

Medications for dogs with a flea infestation vary in effectiveness. Insecticides that are administered orally work better than topical powders. Ask your veterinarian about a long-lasting pill containing fluralaner.

Cats and dogs can also be powdered with insecticide dusting powder, but it is recommended that cats be combed afterwards with a flea comb. 🌿

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Natural dewormers for your chickens

Generally, healthy chickens with strong immune systems can handle a moderate worm load.

Most backyard flocks, whether they are free roaming or kept in a coop, are likely to encounter worms at some point in their life because of the environment they live in and the amount of time they spend poking around in the sand.

It only becomes a problem when the body can't manage the worms and they become

out of control. Worms are parasites that establish themselves in the chicken's digestive system. They sap chickens of nutrients as well as causing the birds grave discomfort.

Signs that chickens might have worms include:

- ☐ Visible proof of worms in their droppings which may be foamy or extremely watery;
- ☐ Dirty feathers around the vent;
- ☐ Pale yolks in the eggs;
- ☐ Decreased egg production;
- ☐ Weight loss;
- ☐ Increased feed consumption;
- ☐ Fatigue and lack of energy;
- ☐ Pale comb and wattles;
- ☐ Ruffled feathers and overall dishevelled appearance.

There are many types of worms, including hair worms,

round worms, gizzard worms and tape worms.

To combat worms there are chemical dewormers, but smallholders might prefer to use natural deworming remedies.

Diatomaceous earth is said to work wonders. It has already been suggested to powder the chickens with it to get rid of external mites and lice, but it also works in getting rid of internal parasites.

It is a very dense source of essential minerals that will help keep the poultry lively and healthy. Add a cup of it to the chickens' food ~ it does not affect the flavour and the hens happily eat it. Garlic is often suggested as a dewormer. Place crushed garlic pieces in the chickens' waterer for about a week. It is important that the garlic be crushed in order to release

the allicin, which is the ingredient that affects the worms. Garlic in the water is also said to deter external pests such as mites and lice, as they don't like the flavour in the chicken's blood.

Another popular remedy is pumpkin seeds, which are coated with a natural phytochemical called cucurbitacin. Cucurbitacin is very effective in making worms release their hold on the membranes of the digestive system. However, it

Continued on page 33

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From page 29

the hens the seeds to eat. In order to truly call pumpkin seeds a preventative, these medicinal properties must be extracted through a tincture, or through a decoction (boiling the seeds in water for 20 minutes, then offering the flock the water decoction), or through pumpkin seed oil. The hens enjoy eating the raw pumpkin too, so if you have whole ones to spare you can cut one in half and they can spend a pleasant time

eating the seeds and the flesh. Apple cider vinegar is a popular solution for a wide range of chicken ailments. When it comes to its worming capabilities, apple cider vinegar acts as a mild antiseptic and also a mild antibiotic, so it will kill some bacteria and germs, and deter worms from making a home in the chickens. It is not a 100% guaranteed treatment,

but still beneficial to feed to chickens. At this time of year nasturtium plants are coming up in your garden and they too are a great herb for chickens, combining laying stimulant, antiseptic, antibiotic

Natural poultry dewormer: Garlic



and insect repellent qualities. The chickens can eat the nasturtium leaves, flowers and seeds. Other plants that one can give the chickens are dill, grated carrots, cucumber,

mint, plantain, squash and watermelon. Pawpaw seeds are said to be effective in combating worms. The seeds are rich in caricin, which naturally expels roundworms.



Natural poultry dewormers: Above: Pumpkin (at least the seeds of pumpkins) & right: Nasturtiums



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This, in a nutshell, is the requirement of the Performing Animals Protection Act, No 24 of 1935, (Papa) which was recently amended (by Act No 4 of 2016) to move the responsibility for policing the act from animal protection organisations directly into the hands of the state in the form of the Dept of Agriculture's State Veterinary Health Directorate.

Originally introduced in the 1930s to protect circus animals, the wording of the act covers all animals which perform, or which are trained to carry out certain tasks, such as security dogs,

search and rescue animals, sniffer dogs etc. There are exceptions to who needs to comply with the act, however. Specifically excluded are dogs in training or use by the SAPS, military and prison authorities, as well as horses appearing at shows, gymkhanas and competitions. Also excluded are livestock exhibited at agricultural shows, and reptiles. Detractors who have been exposed to the requirements

of the act believe it is no more than a cynical revenue-gathering ploy on the part of government. The act requires owners or trainers of stipulated animals to hold a permit, renewable annually, which must be produced on demand, which those affected complain will greatly increase the cost of training dogs.

Continued on page 37

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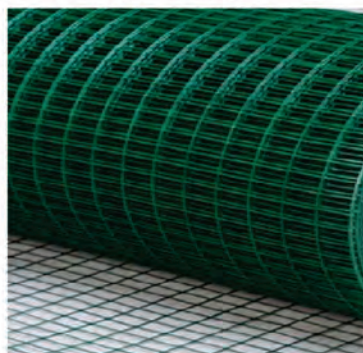
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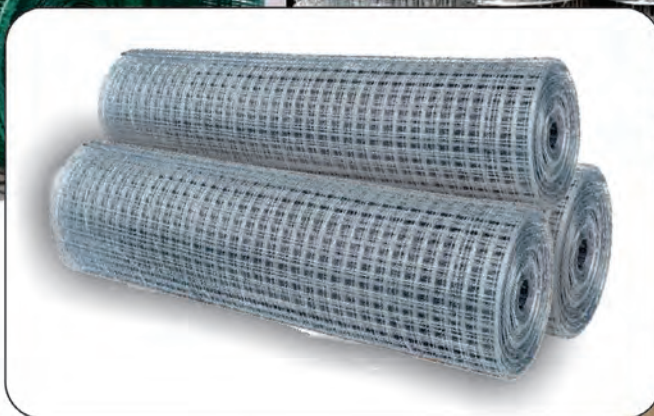
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IN THE KITCHEN

How to make jam like Grandma

With summer upon us, smallholders might have a fruit harvest too bountiful to eat ~ so why not make jam to use

up the fruit and provide something sweet to get you through the winter months? Jam can be made on a stove or in the microwave ~ both

offering pros and cons. It is a time-consuming but highly rewarding process, delivering a final product to impress family and friends, give away

as gifts or sell to make your plot profitable. To make jam, pick your fruit on a dry day and make sure

Continued on page 39

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A holder of a permit must detail how much training and experience he or she has with each species or breed being trained, as well as how much activity the animals will be required to undertake each week.

Moreover, the applicant for a permit must stipulate whether he or she has ever been convicted of animal cruelty in South Africa or elsewhere.

To obtain a permit, an owner or trainer must arrange a visit by a State Veterinarian or appointed official, who will inspect the animal, as well as its housing, feeding arrangements etc.

The permit application also requires the owner or trainer's private veterinarian to certify that he or she will undertake regular visits, and that he or she will notify the State Vet of any suspicious mortalities, injuries or welfare problems to the animals at the facility. The permit itself costs R430, and will increase on 1 April every year. The permit cost does not include the cost of the inspection by the State Vet.

There is an appeal process in

the case of a permit being refused, which currently costs R4 402 per appeal.

Penalties for non-compliance, ie training, exhibiting or using

an animal without a Papa permit, run to 10% of the value of the animal with a minimum of R2 000.

A copy of the act, as well as

the application form and fees for 2019/20 are available at www.sasmallholder.co.za

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IN THE KITCHEN

From page 37

the fruit is under-ripe. Most fruits require the addition of pectin in some form ~ this acts as the thickening agent, giving your final product that jelly-like quality. It is a substance naturally found in fruit, although some fruits are higher in pectin than others. Pectin used to be available in powder form, but can now prove difficult to find. Under-ripe fruit has more pectin than ripe fruit, which is why slightly under-ripe fruit is ideal for jam-making. As some fruits have a higher pectin level than others, you can use these in your jam to thicken it ~ they include apples, cranberries and

grapes. Gelatin works as well. Corn starch (Maizena) apparently also works in very small amounts. Tapioca powder can be used at a measure of one to two tablespoons per one litre of prepared fruit.

The pith of citrus fruit contains high volumes of pectin. Rind is used as the thickening agent in marmalade but the pith can be used

in jams as well. Remove the zest from the fruit, then peel the fruit and chop the peel. Add a little lemon juice to the peel and let stand for at least 30 minutes. Place the mixture in a pot, cover with water and bring to a boil. Let it cook for around 20 minutes. Strain and store for use. This homemade pectin can be stored for approximately one week in the fridge or it can

be frozen. Use one cup of homemade pectin made from pith for each batch of jam. Most recipes use fresh lemon juice ~ use one lemon per kilogram of fruit, including some of the pips.

For a coarse country-style jam, plums and apricots do not need to be peeled, but most other fruits do.

Raspberries, strawberries, blueberries, blackberries, mulberries and figs are all excellent fruit for jam-making.



Weighing the fruit.

Peach jam is also a possibility but tends to be bland and it might need spicing up with ginger or other flavour-enhancers.

Continued on page 41

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IN THE KITCHEN

From page 39

Melons can be made into jam, also made tastier with the addition of ginger (and for many, melon and ginger jam will remind them of boarding school).

Marmalade is traditionally made with citrus fruit and is a clear preserve containing shredded rind, although the term marmalade has been taken over to describe more modern culinary derivatives,

such as onion marmalade, a popular condiment with strong cheeses.

To make the jam, generally speaking one should wash the fruit and cut out the pips. If you want the jam to be smooth, cut up the fruit into smaller pieces, otherwise simply halve or quarter them. Weigh the fruit. Weigh the sugar, usually allocating 750g – 1kg sugar per kilogram of fruit (sugar ratios may vary slightly according to the natural sugar content of the fruit).

If you are making jam in a pot on the stove, rub the bottom of the pot with butter and cook the fruit gently in a little water until it is tender. The water is only necessary to prevent the raw fruit from

burning in the beginning, until it starts to release its own juice, so add as little as possible (because you will only have to boil it away anyway to get the jam to set). Add the sugar gradually, stirring constantly with a wooden spoon, allowing each addition to dissolve before adding more. You'll know the sugar has dissolved when you can't feel grains of sugar scraping the bottom of the

pot as you stir.

Allow the jam to simmer slowly for a couple of hours ~ a large pot full of fruit can take up to three hours. Some fruits result in a brown foam rising to the top of the mixture. Remove this as the jam cooks using a slotted spoon.

Stove-cooking renders the jam down, removing the fluid

Continued on page 42

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IN THE KITCHEN

From page 41

from the fruit. This also increases the chance of the mixture catching or burning. Stir constantly to ensure that it is not burning. The longer it cooks for the more moisture evaporates, making the danger of it catching and burning very much greater as the process progresses.

Microwave-made jam is cooked quicker and the fruit retains its shape and colour better, but microwaving is

only really suited to small quantities, for which the speed of a micro-wave jam is a distinct benefit.

However, it can easily boil over so must be monitored closely.



Rubbing the pot with butter prevents sticking.

In a large microwavable bowl, cook your chosen fruit on high for between seven and ten minutes or until soft. Add

the sugar and stir well, microwaving for a further 20 minutes approximately. With all that sugar the mixture will boil over, so microwave for a minute or two at a time and stir in between.

To test if the jam is done ~ for both cooking methods ~ put a little on a cold saucer. If, when cool, it jellies or it wrinkles when you push it with your thumbnail, the jam is ready for pouring into the bottles. Jam takes a long time to cool and set properly, so the best you can hope for of the drip on your saucer is that it doesn't run thinly. Don't expect the few drops on your plate to set instantly to the consistency you'd like on your toast.

Allow the jam to cool a little before pouring into hot, dry, sterile jars. If the fruit rises in the jars, the jam is too hot to bottle.

Jam must be put into sterilized jars once cooked. Jars can be sterilized by washing the bottles and lids thoroughly.

Proper preserving jars with single-use metal lids and screw rings are best (called Consol jars in South Africa but commonly referred to as Mason jars in overseas recipes) but clean mayonnaise or gherkin jars can also be used.

Use only glass jars.

During washing, ensure you have removed any residual smell or flavour of its previous contents. Place the jars ~ without the lids ~ in the microwave with about 3cm of water in each.

Microwave on full power for five minutes. Wearing oven gloves or holding a towel, slosh the boiling water around the jar and discard. Dry the jars by standing them upside down in a warm oven ~ do not use a cloth to dry as this will just re-contaminate the glass.

Mildew might occur on the

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Continued on page 43

IN THE KITCHEN



Pouring the jam into bottles.
From page 42

jam if the jars are not dry.
Boil the lids in water on the stove ~ even new lids.
Screw the lids on loosely while the jam is still warm,

and tighten as much as you can with one hand while pressing down on the metal lid to "pop" it downwards. As the jam

cools and contracts a small vacuum will form in the void above the jam, depriving any bacteria remaining of

oxygen and preventing mould from forming.
For diabetics, slimmers and people struggling with yeast imbalances, you can make jam with fructose or Xylitol, both of which are available at health shops and supermarkets. These sweeteners have as much as three times the sweetening power of sugar, so use 350-500g per kilo of fruit.



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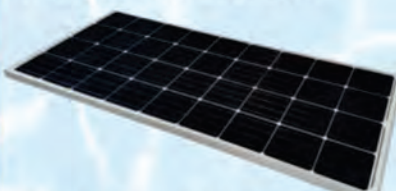
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Some options for irrigating your plot

With South Africans' focus gradually turning to careful water management in the face of ongoing drought, low seasonal rainfall, water wastage and pollution, now is a good time to examine some of the ways we water our gardens, crops and fields ~ especially in terms of efficiency of water use, cost and complexity of the infrastructure involved.

❑ Flood or canal irrigation.

At the top of the list of wasteful water usage practices, and also of low cost of infrastructure is flood irrigation.

But this method presupposes one's terrain is suitably flat, and has access to a bulk water source.

An excellent example of such irrigation can be seen in the Crocodile River valley around

Brits, where the water from the Hartbeespoort Dam is led into a 544km-long network of canals that, like the veins in one's hand, lead off into progressively smaller "leislote" to feed a large number of farms throughout the flat and fertile valley.

Water use by the farmers on the scheme is predetermined by agreement among them so that they open and close sluice gates at certain times only to allow water to flow on to their lands at controlled intervals, or into reservoirs from which they pump using spray systems of various kinds.

While the Crocodile River Valley scheme is a carefully-engineered and robustly constructed

one (originally conceived as a pre-World War 2 white farmer settlement and upliftment scheme), small-scale flood irrigation schemes require little more than trenches to be dug to control the flow of the water.

For those smallholders in the rest of Gauteng, whose terrain may not be suitable for such irrigation, the closest equivalent of flood watering is to allow one's hosepipe to saturate an area so that pools

of standing surface water results.

❑ **Spray irrigation.** At the upper end of the scale of capital cost are centre-pivot ("spilpunt") irrigators. These

Continued on page 47



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Soos ons terugdink aan die afgelope jaar, wil ons graag elkeen erken wat betrokke was by Afriq Water, en gehelp het om die besigheid te groei en te vorm. Dankie aan al ons kliënte, verskaffers, agente en ondersteunings dienste! Baie dankie vir 'n wonderlike jaar, en ons wens julle alles van die beste toe vir 2020.

Ons wil ook hierdie geleentheid gebruik om dankie te sê vir die mense wat sorg dat ons kos op ons borde het.

Aan al die nuwe klein boere wat vir ons fotos stuur van hulle pragtige oeste - volhou! Aan al die boere wat gebuk gaan onder die verskriklike droogte in groot dele van Suid Afrika - julle is in ons gedagtes en harte, ons bid saam met julle dat die droogte binnekort op sy einde sal wees.

As we look back upon the past year, we would like to acknowledge everybody who have helped us grow and shape our business. Thank you to all our clients, suppliers, agents and support services!

Thanks for a great year, and we wish you all the best as you embark on 2020.

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank the people who feed us.

To all the small farmers who are setting out, and sending us photos of their beautiful crops - keep on going!

To the farmers who are experiencing the terrible drought in large parts of South Africa - you are in our thoughts, and we pray with you that we will see the end of the drought soon.

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63	R 294,67	R 45,52	R 76,73	R 20,54
75	R 395,29	R 82,32	R 106,04	R 39,21
90	R 603,74	R 103,40	R 157,20	R 50,41
110	R 736,21	R 132,29	R 201,68	R 77,48



IRRIGATION

From page 45

are movable spray machines that revolve around a central pivot-point on a series of wheels, each wheel of which is driven through a hydraulic

closer to the outer edge of the device revolve faster than those close to the pivot. Likewise, the flow of water through the sprayers is carefully co-ordinated so that

those closer to the edge deliver more water than those closer to the pivot. In this way the device slowly revolves around the pivot point, travelling

faster over the ground towards the edge (and delivering more water as it does) than near the pivot,

thus achieving an even spread of water over the whole surface.

Apart from the capital cost of the pivot itself, and the pump that drives it and its associated pipework, a pivot will only work on a suitably proportioned (ie, round or square), relatively level piece of land, and with a suitably voluminous source of water. Smaller moving irrigators are available, even for large lawn-sized areas, that are also propelled by the water flowing through them, which can be used to water paddocks, sportsfields etc. The water is delivered to the device via a large-diameter hose or dragline and emerges through a large capacity

revolving impact-sprayer which, on bigger versions can resemble a small cannon (hence some are called cannon sprayers). Apart from the relatively-high initial capital cost, the advantage of these devices is that they can be set up to irrigate quite a large area with minimal labour and time. Simply point the thing

Continued on page 49



Travelling irrigator.

pump by the flow of water feeding into the pivot, with the speed of the wheels individually set so that those

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IRRIGATION

From page 47

in the direction you want it to travel in, connect up the delivery hose and switch on the pump and it will set off on its own.

This is not the case with other forms of in-field spray irrigation systems, most of which require lengths of lightweight tubing to be connected up, interspersed with rotating impact sprayers to cover large areas at the same time.

Once the required degree of saturation has been achieved the whole set-up must be dismantled, moved and reassembled to cover the next patch. The same applies when one wishes to plough, harvest or use the field ~ the whole set-up needs to be dismantled and removed from the field.

And there's another disadvantage of multiple rotating sprayers which applies to all of the type regardless of size. While the spread of water under in the circle being

covered can be carefully regulated so that no area gets wetter than the rest and there will be "wet spots" where the circles of two adjacent sprayers overlap, and "dry spots" in the "corners" that the circles don't cover.

In a domestic setting, for example in a vegetable garden, this "wet and dry" problem can be overcome by planting the crop in circular beds, rather than in rectangles, each circular bed measuring exactly the size of the coverage of the sprayer. For domestic lawns and beds, fixed buried irrigation systems are often the most convenient, with microjet networks useful in flower beds and buried pop-up sprayers popular for lawns.

In terms of efficient use of water any device that shoots water into the air, whether it be a centre-pivot, a rotary impact sprayer or a microjet mister, suffers from a loss of efficiency through evaporation and, on windy days,

wind-drift; not to mention that sprayers deliver water over the total area, not only around the plants being

irrigated, meaning that large expanses of bare earth also receive a soaking, with the water thus deposited never reaching the plant's roots, which is wasteful.

Plus, of course, any type of sprayer requires the water to be delivered under pressure, which in turn requires a degree of cost in the form and size of pump used.

☐ **Drip irrigation.** The clear winner in terms of water-use efficiency, and of ease of installation and operation is drip irrigation. Largely developed by water scientists and farmers in Israel and



Drip irrigation.

South Africa, drip irrigation systems deliver precise volumes of water, slowly, precisely to the roots of individual plants. Bare earth between the plants remains dry meaning minimal wastage.

Continued on page 51

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IRRIGATION

From page 49

The equipment required is simple, and can be either movable or fixed. It comprises lengths of lightweight drip-tape, pre-fitted at predetermined intervals (usually 30cm) with drippers that deliver one or two litres per hour.

If the cost of proprietary drip tape appears high one can make one's own using standard 15mm Class 3 irrigation pipe, fitting it with push-in drippers as required, and connecting it up with standard push-in elbows, T-pieces etc.

The tapes or pipes are placed into the planting beds and connected into a feeder network which in turn is fitted with a water filter (to catch particles that may otherwise block the drippers) and a low-pressure pump driven by a timer.

When the bed needs to be dug over or a fresh crop planted the tapes are simply lifted out, and put back once the cultivation has been completed.

Because the water is delivered so precisely, the use of drip irrigation starts before the system is installed, in that one needs to know how much inter-plant space is required by the crop to be planted. Most vegetables can be planted 30cm apart, but some may require spacing of 60cm or 90cm, in which case drip-tape with the drippers at these intervals should be used, unless one is prepared to put up with the wastage of the water

delivered to the empty spaces.

Because drip irrigation works at low pressure the tape itself is thin-walled, flexible and lightweight.

Thus, once the seedlings are planted at the correct spacing, one simply lifts the drip tape into the bed, aligning the drippers to the plants, connects it up and switches it on.


For the most efficient use of

the water, covering the bed, and the tape, with a thick layer of mulch will keep the pipe and soil cool, delay sun-degradation of the pipe and keep the moisture from evaporating.

Drip irrigation systems can be used to deliver precise amounts of liquid nutrients to the plant, simply by dosing the water before it is fed into the system.

Should a dripper become

blocked and cease to deliver water to a plant, a daily inspection will soon reveal a plant that is drying out, so that the dripper can be cleared.

The benefits that can be enjoyed using drip irrigation are remarkable, both in water usage and energy consumption, with some users calculating 80% less water, and a similar figure in electricity usage. 



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BOOKSHELF

Put these books on your Christmas wishlist

Smallholders generally have a chance each December to spend more time on their plots and here are some useful books to read or to have at hand as field guides. They'll also make excellent Christmas presents for the hard-to-buy-for smallholder, and some for kids as well.

Cradle of Life by Vincent Carruthers, (Penguin Random House, 2019) guides readers along a timeline, from the birth of our planet through to developments of the 21st

caves and has a unique geology, history and biodiversity. For decades now, specialists have been combing the area to uncover evidence of our heritage.

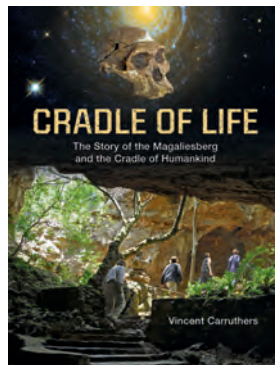
The book documents the formation of our landscapes and the emergence of life, the rise of hominins, the stone and iron ages, early settlement, migrations, wars and modern developments in the Magaliesberg ~ the entire evolution of life up to the present, as we know it.

Vividly illustrated with photographs, maps and diagrams, *Cradle of Life* portrays the intrigue and importance of the site, taking readers on a magical journey of discovery.

Recommended price: R300.00

Scorpions of Southern Africa by Jonathan Leeming, (Penguin Random House, 2019), is the go-to guide for identifying southern Africa's

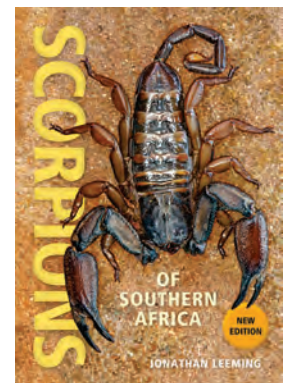
Continued on page 53



century.

The Cradle of Humankind World Heritage Site situated in the heart of the Magaliesberg Biosphere Reserve is the jewel in South Africa's evolutionary crown: an area 'of outstanding universal value', it has attracted world-wide interest and furnished key evidence about where, when and how we came to be.

The greater Magaliesberg area is peppered with some 200



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From page 52

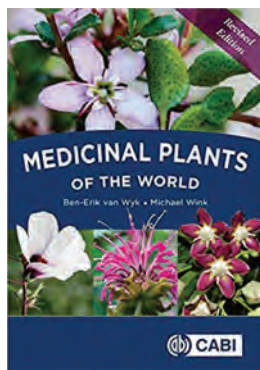
rich scorpion fauna. The new edition has been freshly designed, updated and expanded. It includes twelve additional species, new images and distribution maps, along with a chapter on how to go about identifying scorpions. An invaluable guide for the amateur naturalist and professional alike, this accessible book describes:

- scorpion anatomy and behaviour;
- the strategies that enable scorpions to survive harsh conditions;
- their use of venom, and,
- other aspects of their successful existence over millions of years.

Recommended price: R207.00

Medicinal Plants of the World by Ben-Erik van Wyk and Michael Wink (CABI) is not a new book, but it gives the reader a bird's eye view of more than 350 of the best-

known medicinal plants of the world and their uses, in a compact, colourful and scientifically accurate



reference text.

It provides quick answers to the most obvious questions: Where does this plant originate? What does it look like? What is it used for? Which chemical compounds does it contain? How safe is it? What is known about its pharmacological activity? What evidence is there that it is effective?

As more and more natural remedies are being commer-

cialised, there is a need for a user-friendly reference guide to the plants and their products.

Recommended price: R630.00.

Sky Guide 2020. Compiled by the Astronomical Society of Southern Africa (Penguin Random House, 2019), this is a practical resource for all astronomers, whether they be novice, amateur or professional.

It covers the upcoming year's planetary movements, predicted eclipses, meteor showers ~ any events and facets of the night sky that change annually. Star charts



plot the evening sky for each season, facilitating the identification of stars and constellations.

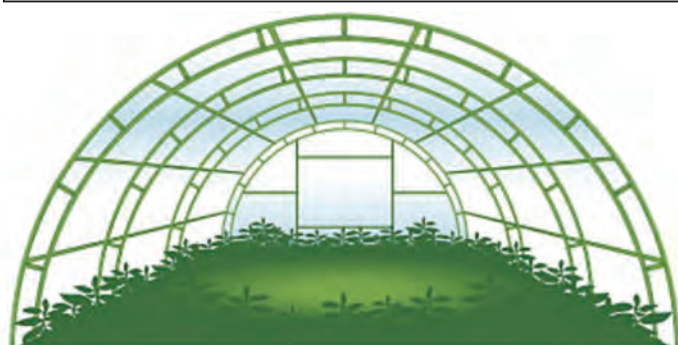
The guide contains a wealth of information about the sun, moon, planets, comets, meteors and bright stars, with photos, diagrams, charts and images. There's also an excellent list of useful websites and a comprehensive glossary.

This annual publication is an invaluable guide for anyone who has even a passing interest in the night skies of southern Africa.

Children's Books

Faansie's Bird Book by Faansie Peacock (Chamberlain) is a field guide for children, with minimal text and "maximum fun". It covers every single bird that occurs regularly in South Africa (722 in all). But it doesn't get caught up with complex and boring technical

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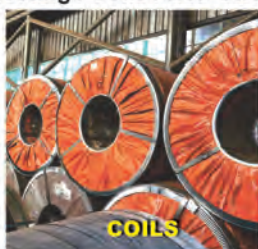
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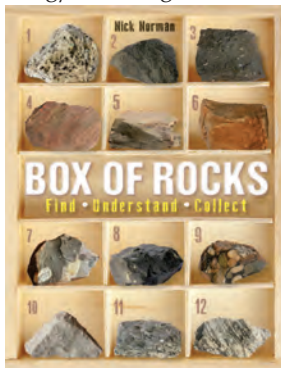
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stuff. Birds are divided into 12 logical groups, such as Swimmers, Flyers, Runners and Perchers.

There are 2 000 illustrations. The book is also available in Afrikaans.

Recommended price : R420.00.

Box of Rocks – Beginners Guide to Geology by Nick Norman leads young readers into the absorbing world of geology. Budding rock



collectors will find out all about the rocks that they'll encounter in southern Africa, with a view to building their

own rock collections.

They'll learn how rocks form, how to identify the different rock types, what rocks are made of, what different rocks are used for and where to go to collect each rock type.

Recommended price: R110.00.

Kid's Snakes of Southern Africa is written by well-known herpetologist Johan Marais and it introduces us to 36 of southern Africa's most common and interesting snakes. Discover the intriguing habits of snakes ~ where they live, how they hunt, what dangers they face, and how they protect themselves, all richly supported by more than 250 captivating photographs.

The book is also available in Afrikaans.

Recommended price: R130.00

African Wildlife Trivia by Dawid van Lill is a book of

amazing records, facts and did-you-knows that cast new light on our extraordinary continent.

From lists of 'largests' and 'smallests' to detailed accounts of exceptional features, we are introduced

to a vast range of facts about the world around us. A fresh design and light-hearted illustrations make the title highly accessible to both young and old.

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DIARY

ATTENTION CRAFT MARKETS, CLUBS ETC: If you would like details of your events included in the Diary, please fax or email your information to the Editor. For non-commercial enterprises this service is FREE.

NOTE: FARMERS' & CRAFT MARKETS. For a listing of REGULARLY HELD markets and fairs please see the separate section on page 51. Only markets that are held infrequently are now listed in this calendar section.

Every Sunday

SA Lipizzaners weekly display at 10h30. SA Lipizzaner Centre, Dahlia Rd, Kyalami. Go to www.lipizzaners.co.za/ call Lizelle on 079 716 4792 for details of special shows.

Cattle drive with City Slickers breakfast, Diamond X Cowboy Ranch, near Rayton. Call Rudan on 082 410 3180 / visit <http://www.diamondxranh.co.za>, R500 per person.

Mnandi Methodist Church, 09:00, Mnandi Centre, cnr Tulip and Short Streets, Jen 083 709 3235 or Gail 072 477 0708, a small community who worship together. We have a Youth and Children's church.

Premier Mine Presbyterian Church, Lower Oak Ave, Cullinan. Garden of Remembrance (Columbarium), 079 060 9990 or 012 734 1640, Worship and Sunday school. Holy Communion for all on the 1st Sunday of every month.

Every Monday

Alcoholics Anonymous. 'Courage to Change' Group meeting, 19:30, NG Kerk, 8 Canadair Ave, Impala Park, Boksburg, call Warren 082 335 0049 or Tony 082 443 4425, if you want to drink – that's your problem! If you want to stop – that's our problem! No fees; no dues; just concerned fellowship.

2019

December

2-6: Introductory Course on Poultry Production. ARC Irene Campus. R3 200. Contact Ms Mpho Makhanya, makhanyam@arc.agric.za / 012 672 9153
7: Bokkie Park Food & Craft Market at the Bokkie Park, Southvale Rd, Parkdene,

Boksburg, 09h00 – 14h30. Crafts and food stalls, live entertainment, tea garden, pony and camel rides. Contact Janine 072 713 3332

8: Tree Owl Community Market at Brandmuller's Garden Pavilion, 5 Dave Nourse St, Unitas Park, Vereeniging. GPS: -26.627823, 27.927976. 09h00 – 14h30. Stalls with hand-crafted goods, home-bakes, olives, honey, food stalls, cash bar, tea garden, live music from 12h00. The market supports the feeding scheme at Laerskool Unitas, members of the public are asked to donate canned food towards this project. Follow us on Facebook: Acorns Coffee Shoppe. Enquiries: Michele 083 378 0715

12: Full Moon

16: Day of Reconciliation

22: Summer Solstice

25: Christmas Day

26: New Moon

26: Day of Goodwill (Boxing Day)

January

1: New Year's Day

10: Full moon

24: New moon

25: Leriba Hotel Farmers Market. Enjoy 13ha of indigenous gardens as well as a variety of fresh produce. Wine farmers offer free wine tasting and you can buy wine at cellar prices. 07h00 – 13h00. Free entrance. 245 End Avenue, Clubview, Centurion.

February

9: Full moon

9: Tree Owl Community Market at Brandmuller's Garden Pavilion, 5 Dave Nourse St, Unitas Park, Vereeniging. GPS: -26.627823, 27.927976. 09h00 – 14h30. Stalls with hand-crafted goods, home-bakes, olives, honey, food stalls, cash bar, tea garden, live music from 12h00. The market supports the feeding scheme at Laerskool Unitas, members of the public are asked to donate canned food towards this project. Follow us on Facebook: Acorns Coffee Shoppe. Enquiries: Michele 083 378 0715

23: New moon

March

4-5: Aquaponics, Hydroponics & Smart Green House Technology Master Class 2020, at the Irene Dairy Farm. Covering all key aspects of aquaponics, indoor farming

and controlled environment agriculture. Uncover sustainable solutions to food security challenges. Contact Connie Mamabolo for more info on 011 886 0941 or connie@empiretraining.co.za.

7: Goliat van Gat Pumpkin Festival at 15h00 at the Pretoria Farmer's Market in Silverton. Prizes include R15 000 for the heaviest pumpkin, another R5 000 for the heaviest in Gauteng, R25 000 for a new record in South Africa and R100 000 for a world record pumpkin – the biggest pumpkin could therefore win the full prize money of R145 000. For enquiries, contact Henri Combrink on 082 552 9428 or culliboer@gmail.com.

8: Tree Owl Community Market at Brandmuller's Garden Pavilion, 5 Dave Nourse St, Unitas Park, Vereeniging. GPS: -26.627823, 27.927976. 09h00 – 14h30. Stalls with hand-crafted goods, home-bakes, olives, honey, food stalls, cash bar, tea garden, live music from 12h00. The market supports the feeding scheme at Laerskool Unitas, members of the public are asked to donate canned food towards this project. Follow us on Facebook: Acorns Coffee Shoppe. Enquiries: Michele 083 378 0715

9: Full moon

14-15: 58th annual Walkerville Agricultural Show, Walkerville Showgrounds, Old Vereeniging Road, Walkerville.

20: Equinox

21: Human Rights Day

24: New moon

April

8: Full moon

10: Good Friday

12: Tree Owl Community Market at Brandmuller's Garden Pavilion, 5 Dave Nourse St, Unitas Park, Vereeniging. GPS: -26.627823, 27.927976. 09h00 – 14h30. Stalls with hand-crafted goods, home-bakes, olives, honey, food stalls, cash bar, tea garden, live music from 12h00. The market supports the feeding scheme at Laerskool Unitas, members of the public are asked to donate canned food towards this project. Follow us on Facebook: Acorns Coffee Shoppe. Enquiries: Michele 083 378 0715

12: Easter Sunday

13: Family Day

23: New moon

27: Freedom Day



May

1: Worker's Day

7: Full moon

8-10: Organic & Natural Expo Africa. The Deck, Wanderers Stadium, Corlett Drive, Illovo. Organic food & beverages, supplements, gardening & farming, cosmetic & beauty products, and much more.

12-15: Nampo Harvest Day Agricultural Show, Nampo Park, R30 between Klerksdorp and Bothaville.

22: New moon

June

5: Full moon

14: Tree Owl Community Market at Brandmuller's Garden Pavilion, 5 Dave Nourse St, Unitas Park, Vereeniging. GPS: -26.627823, 27.927976. 09h00 – 14h30. Stalls with hand-crafted goods, home-bakes, olives, honey, food stalls, cash bar, tea garden, live music from 12h00. The market supports the feeding scheme at Laerskool Unitas, members of the public are asked to donate canned food towards this project. Follow us on Facebook: Acorns Coffee Shoppe. Enquiries: Michele 083 378 0715

16: Youth Day

20: Winter Solstice

21: New moon

July

5: Full moon

12: Tree Owl Community Market at Brandmuller's Garden Pavilion, 5 Dave Nourse St, Unitas Park, Vereeniging. GPS: -26.627823, 27.927976. 09h00 – 14h30. Stalls with hand-crafted goods, home-bakes, olives, honey, food stalls, cash bar, tea garden, live music from 12h00. The market supports the feeding scheme at Laerskool Unitas, members of the public are asked to donate canned food towards this project. Follow us on Facebook: Acorns Coffee Shoppe. Enquiries: Michele 083 378 0715

20: New moon

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Regular Gauteng Farmers' Food Markets

NOTE: This is a listing ONLY of markets held weekly. Markets held less frequently (eg 1st Saturday of each month) are listed in the DIARY section of the magazine and we urge readers to check each month for dates and events of interest. We would like this list of food markets to be as comprehensive as possible. If you know of farmers' food markets that are not listed here, please email us the contact details of the organisers, and details of the market. Only FOOD markets are included. Similarly, if you know of markets in this list that have CLOSED please inform us so that we can delete incorrect or outdated information. We invite you to tell us of your experiences when visiting these markets so that we can better inform our readers. Were they as advertised? Was the produce on sale plentiful, well-priced, well-presented and fresh? Email your comments to gautengsmallholder@gmail.com

DAY	WHAT	WHEN	WHERE	CONTACT	WHAT TO EXPECT
Thursday					
Every Thursday	Bryanston Organic & Natural Market	09:00 – 15:00	40 Culross Road, Bryanston (off Main Road)	011 706 3671 enquiries@bryanstonorganicmarket.co.za	Quality hand crafted goods, unique art and fresh organic and naturally grown produce.
Saturday					
Every Saturday	Pretoria Boeremark	05:30 – 09:30	Moreleta Street entrance, Krige Street ext, Silverton	012 804 8031 or 079 987 1025	Fresh produce, traditional bazaar treats like jaffles, kailings with pap & boerewors rolls.
	The Hazel Food Market	08:00 – 14:00	Greenlyn Village Centre, Cor Thomas Edison & Mackenzie St, Menlo Park, Pretoria	078 593 7716 www.hazelfoodmarket.co.za	Fresh produce straight from the producer, coffee, eats on sale.
	Waenhuiskrans Plaas / Farmers	08:00 – 13:00	Cor of Veda & Enkeldoorn Ave Market opposite Montana Traders and next to Kollonade Centre	Marius 084 505 3393 or office 012 567 6076 to book a stall	Stalls: Food, arts and crafts, fresh produce, eggs, chicken, meat, fruit & veg, kiosk, Maders pies, coffee.
	Glenfresh Farmers Market Midrand	08:00 – 12:30	30 Olifantsfontein Rd (opposite RMM Builders), Glen Austin (Cor Allan & Olifantsfontein Rds)	Stefan: 082 829 0185 market@glenfresh.co.za	Local naturally grown produce, hand crafted goods, home baked treats, raw honey, biltong.
	Bapsfontein Farmers Market	09:00 – 14:00	Edith Street, Bapsfontein	Charlene: 082 892 4304 / Paul: 083 296 8006	Fresh produce, livestock sales, flea market, handicrafts, food stalls, great outdoor vibe that is pet and child friendly & live entertainment.
	Bryanston Organic & Natural Market	09:00 – 15:00	40 Culross Road, Bryanston (off Main Road)	011 706 3671 enquiries@bryanstonorganicmarket.co.za	Quality hand crafted goods, unique art and fresh organic and naturally grown produce.
	Waterfall Estate Farmers Market	09:00 – 15:00	Waterfall Estate, Midrand	Robyn 083 311 4768	Fresh produce, pickles, preserves and home industry & craft, food, etc. Enquire about stall prices.
	Niche Community Market	09:00 – 15:00	Walkerville Country Market Walkerville Showgrounds	Ivan 084 590 2312 market@walkervillesa.co.za	Fresh produce, crafter's market, food court, craft beer, play area, pet friendly.
	Bosheuvel Fresh Produce	08:00 – 14:00	54 Glory Road, Muldersdrift	Mitch 082 553 2846	Outdoor country experience, working farm cattle, sheep and pigs. Free range meat, cheese, eggs, poultry, and craft beer.
	Midrand Circles Market	09:00 - 15:00	118 Allan Road, Glen Austin	Margaret 079 394 5054	Freshly locally grown produce, raw honey, indigenous flowers & trees, food stalls, fresh meat stalls, cheese, eggs, coffee, books, gallery, and paint your own ceramics.
	Pretoria Noord Boeremark	07:00 – 13:00	101 Rooikat Straat, Hestea Park	Githea 081 304 2070	Baked goods, traditional pap & kaaiings, vetkoek, pancakes, jewelry, plants, fresh meat, cheese, woodwork and art.
Sunday					
Every Sunday	Waterfall Market	10:00 – 17:00	Waterfall Park, Magwa Cres, Halfway House, Midrand	064 759 6154	Live entertainment, fresh artisanal tastes & flavours, craft beverages, kid's play area & plastic-free zone.
	Fourways Farmers Market	09:00 – 16:00	Cor Montecasino Boulevard & William Nicol Drive, Fourways	011 465 0877 www.ffmarket.co.za	Get your groceries...in the garden!



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Hazards of plot life

In the 20 years since this magazine was launched there have been huge changes to the smallholding areas of Gauteng. Some plotlands have been taken over as industrial parks, some have been turned into housing estates of various stripes, and some have become informal housing.

In some areas roads have been upgraded and tarred and streetlights installed, and in others, not so much.

These changes and developments are not surprising, really, as smallholding land, being adjacent to the formal suburbs of the "real" city, constitute the next-available land for development and expansion. Thus the rate of change and development in the smallholding areas is expected to be much faster than that of the established suburbs and industrial areas on the one hand, and that of proper farmland further out of town, on the other. But it's not only when one looks around at the plots in one's area and notices more houses being built, more sheds and warehouses going up and improvements to the roads, drains and electrical infrastructure (or not, depending on the competence or otherwise of the local authority concerned).

Fundamental changes in how maplotters live nowadays can also be seen. In our area, for example, the roads weren't tarred and every second plot had a couple (or more) of horses. On Saturdays and Sundays the roads would be full of parties of riders walking or trotting along, either taking their mounts to small local competitions or gymkhanas or heading to and from the mealie fields that bordered the suburb. One year the Rand Hunt held a meet here, with a significant number of Kyalami riders schlepping their mounts over for the day. Does the Rand Hunt still hold occasional meets in other areas?

And it wouldn't only be horses and riders. Carters, too, would head out for a nice trot in their pony-and-traps.

One time this became quite dramatic when a carter's ponies spooked at something on the roadside and bolted. All went well, if somewhat fast, until the cart hit a patch of corrugations in the road and a wheel shook itself to pieces. Whereupon the rest of the cart collapsed and disintegrated under the poor driver and the horses, now doubly spooked, took off into the distance dragging behind them the remnants of their harness and the cart's shaft: the equine equivalent of a Formula 1 wipeout.

But gradually this bucolic scene changed. As the residents of the area aged and the kids grew up and left, many of the horses and riders have gone (my own included). Horses and riders in

this area are now a rarity.

And half of the mealie fields have now been carved up into a secure, upmarket golf estate, while the other half is being developed as a warehousing and distribution complex.

Moreover, as the horses began to disappear an odious, noisy and dangerous little conveyance was invented: the scrambler. What is it about riders of scramblers that they are incapable of riding their contraptions slowly and quietly? They have to roar about at maximum speed, causing maximum noise and maximum dust. As an observation, if any horseman rode his horse as fast and as violently as a scrambler rides his bike he would be condemned for animal cruelty.

To be honest, it could be argued that the reduction in the number of horses and riders on the roads was hastened by the advent of the scramblers. It's no fun riding with nervous children or highly-strung horses and having to keep one ear open for the sound of approaching buzz-bikes, knowing that mayhem (or worse) might ensue as they roar around a corner in a frightening cloud of dust.

More recently, scramblers have been joined by quad bikes. I fully acknowledge that these machines have myriad uses on a smallholding, from towing trailers of feed and manure, to small cultivation tasks, to firefighting and more. But as soon as a teenager (or a testosterone-laden adult) takes one out of his property he becomes more maniacal than a stock car driver. Fast, furious, roary, revvy, dusty and dangerous.

You never see a quad bike on a road being driven sedately. Well, almost never. On a Sunday morning walk recently with our dogs my better half and I noticed a (helmet-less) man on a quad bike approaching us at about 2km per hour, quiet as a mouse.

It was only when he pulled alongside that we noticed that the bike was being driven by his (equally helmet-less) three-year-old daughter who was seated on his lap.

Teach 'em young? Maybe. 'Elf & Safety'? Not so much.



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