Celtis africana

Sterkfontein Country Estates **December/Desember 2015**

Good day friends of the Celtis!

I am very late with my letter this month, but Santa phoned for some help as those darn reindeer just would not be harnessed, the elves were on strike and so I had to come whip them all into action! Just kidding of course, but I have been very busy so this is just a very short letter with some photos to enjoy and then my very best wishes to all of you! Whether you are a believer or not, may you all be blessed this festive season. If you are lucky enough to go on holiday – do take care when driving and return home safely.

Nick Rosenberg (SCE 154) sent me a lovely photo of our Skye and we often see it riding the wind above our Estate. Our veld is covered with the lovely *Ipomoea crassipes* in different hues from light pink, to a deep magenta. This is our indigenous morning glory, but please do not confuse with the South American purple morning glory, which is an absolute pest and an invader that must be taken out wherever one sees it.

Coming from Lanseria during the week I noticed quite a few of the horrible pom-pom weed, already in full flower along the road in the Cradle! We each really have to do our best to get rid of these pesky invaders whenever we see them on our properties, as they spread like wildfire and are a huge problem all over our country.

Just for fun (I know some of them are lame, but remember the Celtis is X-rated!):

What does Father Christmas suffer from if he gets stuck in a chimney?
Santa Claustrophobia!

What do you call a letter sent up the chimney on Christmas Eve?
Black mail!

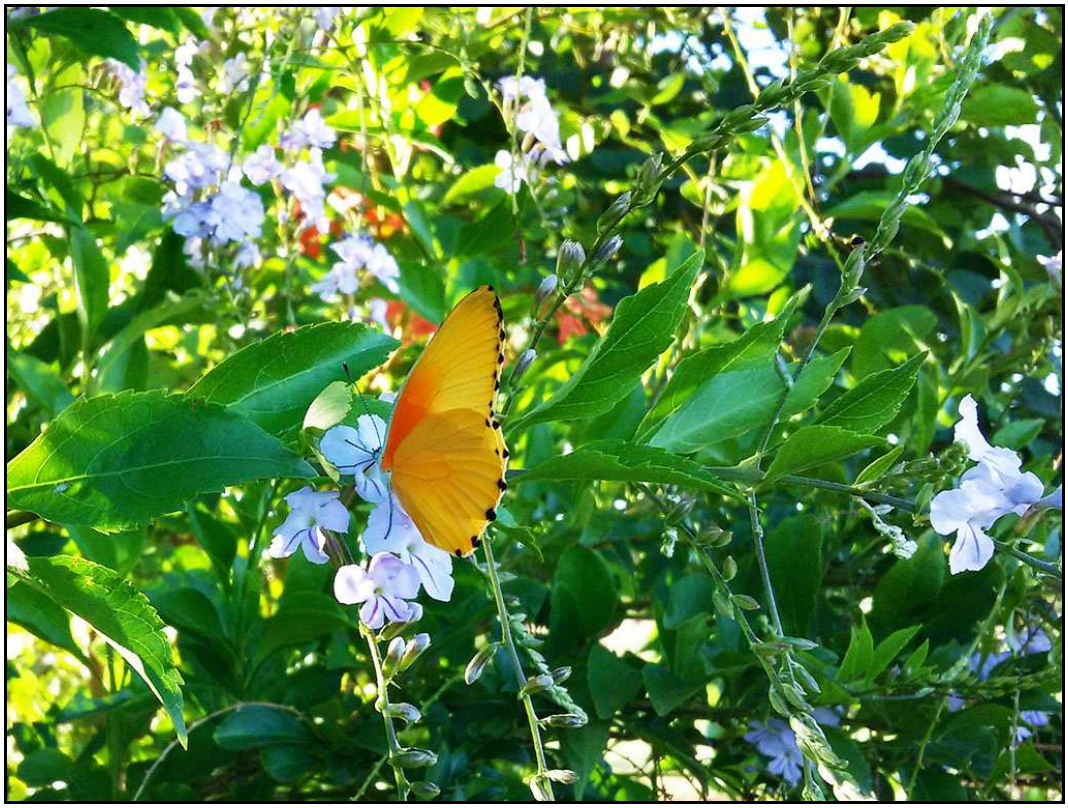
Who delivers a cat's Christmas presents?
Santa Paws!

Friends, this is all from my side for this month, may you enjoy a peaceful and happy Festive season with friends and/or family and until next month, greetings to all.

Ipomoea crassipes (Photos/Foto's: Elmarie Krige)

Our Black-chested Snake eagle juvenile, Skye (Photo/Foto: Nick Rosenberg SCE154)

...ons dag veldbrande kom net in die winter voor, maar hierdie jaar is dit sommer aljaar! / This year veld fires seem to occur right through the year! (Photo/Foto Garfield Krige - 11 November 2015, 21:06)



Despite the drought, there are still butterflies around the garden / Ten spyte van die droogte is daar steeds skoenlappers in die blomtuin (Foto/Photo: Garfield Krige)

Although snakes have been comparatively rare sightings so far this season, we had this visitor basking on our lawn / Alhoewel slange taamlik skaars was hierdie seisoen, het ons hierdie kuiergas gehad wat op ons grasperk lê en sonbak het (Photo/Foto: Garfield Krige)

Another "friendly" visitor to our house one eavening. The Roman Spider is actually closer related to the scorpions than to the spiders and is not poisonous (although it can still give you a painful bite) / Nog 'n "vriendelike" besoeker aan ons huis een aand. Die Roman Spinnekop is eintlik nader aan die skerpioene verwant as aan die spinnekoppe (Foto/Photo: Garfield Krige)

Hierdie foto van 'n Reier is deur Lorinda Hattingh (SCE 169) ingestuur / This photo of a Heron was sent in by Lorinda Hatting (SCE 169)

Goeie dag liewe Celtis vriende!

Ek weet ek is baie laat met my brief, maar arme ou Kersvader het my gekontak en gesê die takbokke wou niks weet van ingespan word nie, die elfies het besluit hulle staak, so ek moes vinnig met my sweep kom en hulle almal regsien! Natuurlik grap ek net, maar ek was so besig die laaste tyd en hierdie is dus eintlik net ‘n paar foto’s en verder goeie wense vir die feestyd vir jul almal! Of julle nou gelowiges is of nie, ek hoop jul is almal baie geseënd gedurende die Kerstyd en die wat gelukkig genoeg is om met vakansie te gaan – ek hoop jul ry baie versigtig en kom weer veilig tuis na die tyd.

Nick Rosenberg het vir my die mooi foto van onse Skye gestuur. Ons sien hom gereeld op die wind ry bokant ons Estate. Ons veld is oortrek met die pragtige *Ipomoea grassipes* ‘n pragtige gesig met kleure wat wissel van sagte pienk tot ‘n baie diep, pers-pienk. Dis natuurlik ons inheemse purperwinde en moet asseblief nie verwar word met die Suid Amerikaanse een wat ‘n indringerspesie is en uitgeroei moet word waar dit gesien word.

Gedurende die week, toe ons van Lanseria afkom, het ek gesien daar is al klaar heelwat van die vieslike pom-pom blomme wat alte lekker blom langs die pad oral in die Wieg. Mense, ons moet regtig almal ons bes doen om hierdie probleemplant uit te roei. Dis ‘n hengse probleem oral in Suid Afrika en elkeen kan regtig probeer om ten minste sy/haar eie plot skoon te hou van die goed.

Net vir die grap:

Klein Koos kom tuis met ‘n “F” op sy rapport vir Geskiedenis. Groot Koos, heel ontsteld gaan skool toe om die onderwyser te sien.
“Meneer, wat se nonsens is dit dat jy my kind ‘n “F” gee vir Geskiedenis?
Onnie: Mnr van der Merwe, wat sou ***jy*** hom gegee het as hy nie eers weet Jan van Riebeeck wat aan die Kaap geland het is lankal dood nie?”
Groot Koos: “Meneer, ons bly in Brakpan, ons het nie eers geweet die man is siek nie!”

Nou-ja van my kant is dit al hierdie maand, mag julle ‘n heerlike en vredige feestyd hê saam met vriende en/of familie, en tot ons weer gesels volgende maand, groetnis aan almal.