Celtis africana

Sterkfontein Country Estates March/Maart 2017

Good day country folk,

This is a very late and very short Celtis. Autumn is here - leaves are falling and early mornings one can feel that little bite in the air!

The Celtis this month is all just about a species of orchid Garfield discovered on our property. We have never seen this one before anywhere on the Estate and are really quite chuffed that he found it! This rather elegant and slender-looking orchid, the *Habenaria kraezliniana*, is quite rare. In the 1970's it was fairly common, but due to urbanization and neglectful town planning it is rarely seen. The flowers are whitish-green and it is easily identifiable by the long tendrils hanging from the lower lip of the petals. At a quick glance, one might confuse it with the *Bonatea antennifera*, but at closer look, its appearance is quite different.

On SANBI's red data list it is described as "near threatened" as **only 5-10 known** locations exist! According to our book on orchids it is seen as "rare" and "endangered". And now, we can say with confidence it is also found on our property! I would love to hear from others who may have spotted in on their property so we can record it as such – we need pictures folks, this data will be given over to the relevant people so don't try to cheat and say you have seen it! We actually recorded the co-ordinates so we know exactly where it was.

Not only is it great to have one of these rare species in our area, but also should we ever have another debacle such as we had with Escom some years ago; we have even more ammunition against development such as they had planned a the time.

Habenaria kraenzliniana (Photo Garfield Krige)

The leaves of the *Habenaria kraenzliniana* plant (Photo Garfield Krige)

The full plant, *Habenaria kraenzliliana* (photo Garfield Krige)

My camera took great photos when I needed to (especially of the eagles and some flowers and insects) and is easily carried around, but in saying that, it does not come close to Garfield's photos! Of course he has all the right lenses and stuff but carrying all that paraphernalia around is just not for me! Of course he has lots of patience too and he loves "clutching out" a bit during his lunchtime and taking pictures after a

long morning slogging away at his desk. Have a look at some of these photos of the most beautiful creatures found in our area.

Foxy Charaxes (*Charaxes jasius saturnus*) Koppie-dubbelstert (photo Garfield krige)

Hey, I'm a dragonfly! Check out my transparent wings. Also check out my pixels in the Afrikaans section (Photo Garfield Krige)

And just for a laugh:

During a recent password audit, it was found that a blonde was using the following password: MickeyMinniePlutoHueyLouieDeweyDonaldGoofyWashington.
When asked why she had such a long password, she replied she was told that it had to be at least 8 characters long and include at least one capital.

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A couple goes to an art gallery. In the gallery is a painting of a nude woman, leaves painted in strategic places to cover up the naughty bits.
The wife doesn't like it and moves on, but the husband keeps staring.
The wife asks: "What are you waiting for?"
The husband replies: "For autumn!"

Enjoy the season of falling leaves, and have a great month!

Goeie dag mense van my kontrei!

Weereens ‘n taamlike laat Celtis en ook sommer ‘n kort ene daarby! Mens kan vroegoggend voel daar is ‘n effense byt in die lug want herfs is hier –tyd vir rustiger raak en ‘n bietjie introspeksie te doen né!

Ons is baie opgewonde die maand, want Garfield ontdek toe ‘n pragtige orgidee een middag terwyl hy rondstap op ons plot. Ons het die spesie nog nooit voorheen hier gekry nie en ons is nie bietjie in ons noppies nie! Hierdie elegante orgidee, die *Habenaria kraezliniana*, is heel skaars as gevolg van verstedeliking en swak stadsbeplanning.

Die blomme is ‘n ligte groen met wit ondertone en is maklik identifiseerbaar met die lang “ranke” wat amper soos ‘n baard aan die onderlip van die blomblare hang. As mens vinnig kyk mag jy dit verwar met die *Bonatea antennifera* orgidee, maar eintlik lyk hul heel verskillend.

Habenaria kraenzliniana (foto Garfield Krige)

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Habenaria kraenzliniana (foto Garfield Krige)

Op SANBI se rooi data lys word dit as “amper bedreigd” beskryf want slegs **5-10 plekke waar dit voorkom, is bekend!** In ons boek oor die Suid afrikaanse orgideë word dit ook beskryf as “skaars en “bedreigd.” Wel, nou kan ons ook bewys dit kom op ons eiendom voor! Ek sou baie graag wou hoor van ander mense wat dit dalk op hul eiendom raakgeloop en afgeneem het, sodat dit mens so kan aanteken. Onthou ons het bewyse nodig in so geval, mens kan nie net vertel jy het dit “gesien” nie; Garfield het die ko-ordinate vasgelê sodat ons die presiese ligging van die plant kan weergee.

Dis nie net ‘n pluimpie dat so 'n skaars orgidee hier voorkom nie, maar onthou julle die debakel ‘n paar jaar gelede met Eskom? Wel, hierdie is natuurlik lekker ammunisie sou mens weer sulke ongemagtigde ontwikkeling moet vasvat en stopsit!

My kamera het al die mooiste foto’s geneem (veral van die arende, sekere plante en insekte), en was daar as ek iets snaaks of moois raakgeloop het en dis maklik om rond te dra, maar my foto’s kom nie naby Garfield s’n nie. Natuurlik het hy die regte lense en goed en dis ‘n hele lorrievol goed om rond te dra - so glad nie vir my nie dankie! Maar as hy bietjie wil ontspan in sy etensuur na ‘n lang oggend agter die lessenaar dan kry hy die heel mooiste foto’s van insekte wat hier voorkom – kyk net bietjie!

Foxy Charaxes (*Charaxes jasius saturnus*) Koppie-dubbelstert (photo Garfield krige)

Ek is 'n naaldekoker. Kyk die "pixels" in my saamgestelde oë! En het ek nie 'n vriendelike glimlag nie?

En, soos altyd, net vir die grap:

Onnie: “Waar is jou huiswerk?”
Jannie: “Meneer sal my nou nie glo nie, maar ons het in ons Ford Kuga skool toe gery, toe…
Onnie: “Ja, toemaar... Sit!”

Eksamenflaters:
Vraag: Wat beteken die idioom: Uit die veld geslaan?
Skolier se antwoord: ‘n 6.
Vraag: Wat is die ewenaar?
Skolier se antwoord: Wanneer meneer naar is en ek naar is, dan is ons ewenaar.

Tot volgende keer, geniet die seisoen van vallende blare!
References/Bronne: Field Guide to the Orchids of Northern South Africa and Swaziland – Douglas McMurtry; Lourens Grobler; Jolisa Grobler; Shane Burns
SANBI red list
Totsiens, goodbye, adios, ciao, yia sas en do svidaniya!