



Enviro-News

District 410E - August 2020

We serve to sustainably protect and restore our environment to improve the well-being of all communities



Nature is our life-support system. Healthy natural systems provide so many essentials like water, clean air, fertile soils and a stable climate. They also give us food, medicines and materials, and directly underpin our economies. Unfortunately, human activities are placing these natural systems under greater and greater stress, and in turn exposing our society and economies to growing nature-related risks.

Taking action to create a world which is both nature positive and carbon neutral may seem like a big ask, but it is essential to securing long-term human health and prosperity, and to helping prevent future global pandemics.



The first step in looking after our planet is to plant more trees, and our opportunity is now, with

Arbor Week - 31 August to 4 September

In South Africa, Arbor Day was first celebrated in 1983. The event captured the imagination of people who recognised the need for raising awareness of the value of trees in our society. As sources of building material, food, medicine, and simple scenic beauty, trees play a vital role in the health and well-being of our communities.

Collective enthusiasm for the importance of this issue in South Africa inspired the national government, in 1999, to extend the celebration of Arbor Day to National Arbor Week. From 1 to 7 September every year, schools, businesses and organisations are encouraged to participate in community "greening" events to improve the health and beauty of the local environment and propose a green future for South Africa.

Source: SA National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI)

Plan your club's Arbor Week projects now, keeping in mind that sustainability is key:

- Raising awareness of the value of trees in our society is just as important as the planting of trees
- Ensure that trees are suitable for the area - your local nursery or town council's Parks & Recreation department can assist, as will SANBI (<https://www.sanbi.org/contact/>)
- Provide detailed guidelines on how to look after the trees planted in any community, such as schools and parks
- Follow up regularly to ensure that trees planted are properly nurtured, and provide assistance where needed with pruning or treatment of diseases

Did you know: Trees can communicate!

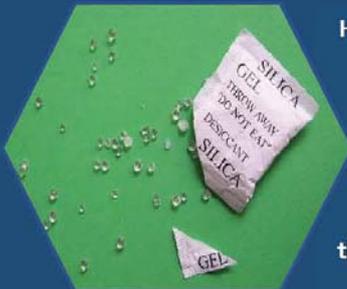


Research has shown that when trees are invaded by a herd of elephants or a tower of giraffes, nearby trees of the same species start pushing more tannin into their leaves & bark, which gives it a slightly more bitter taste to convince the animals to move on to other species

Source: Wild Earth

PROTECTING OUR PLANET STARTS WITH YOU!

Below are some helpful tips & tricks, shared by Lion Vanessa, heading the Benoni Lakes Club's Green Team, in their first environmental newsletter of the year - Well done with this great initiative!



Humidity, light and mildew are guaranteed to ruin documents, and printed photos.

Instead of throwing Silica Gel Packets away place them where you store your documents and photos to protect them from damage.



Time to retire that old game board?

Cut the board into squares to create cool and kitsch coasters.

Pests eating away at your pride and joy fruit bearing trees?

Hang old CD's in the trees to keep them away so you can enjoy those perfect plums.



Keep those used teabags to feed your garden and your zen.

Break open the tea bags and sprinkle the contents over the soil to rejuvenate your roses and ferns.

Add to your bath water for some free aromatherapy.



You can now also return your 2L plastic Coca Cola bottles!

Returning glass fizzy drink bottles for a small deposit for cash has been around for decades in South Africa and now - finally - you can do the same with plastic bottles, while helping to save the environment.

Coca-Cola Beverages South Africa (CCBSA) announced it's rolling out returnable 2-litre plastic bottles to more parts of the country after a successful pilot in the Eastern Cape last year.

Returnable bottles will now also be available in Northern Gauteng, Limpopo and Mpumalanga. More provinces will be added over a five-year period.

Each returnable bottle has the word 'RETURNABLE' printed on a small green strip on the front side of the bottle label. For each bottle you return, you get a R9 deposit, meaning if it costs R20, you'll ultimately only pay R11.

Once a bottle is returned to CCBSA, it goes on a looped journey to be cleaned as per Coca-Cola's stringent measures and requirements, then is refilled to start its next lifecycle. When the bottle reaches the end of its useable lifecycle, it joins the recycling value chain and is repurposed into another PET (polyethylene terephthalate) product.

"The consumer response to the new 2-litre returnable PET bottles has been overwhelmingly positive. We have seen customers in the Eastern Cape opting to switch over to purchasing the returnable bottles and returning them after consumption. After each bottle reaches the end of its useable lifecycle, it joins a regional manufacturing value chain which ultimately means less pollution in the environment," said CCBSA MD Velaphi Ratshefola.

"We're committed to increasing recycled material in our packaging and ensuring more packaging is collected and recycled. The roll-out of returnable PET plastic bottles is another way we can support a circular economy in South Africa."



National Trees of the Year

Ekebergia capensis (Cape ash, Essenhout)

Adansonia digitata (Baobab, Kremetart)

However, in this time of the pandemic when food shortage is top priority in caring for the community, rather consider planting fruit trees, that can provide sustenance within a year or two.

Lions Environmental Photo Competition
2020/21

Remember to start collecting your environment photos for this year's competition—more news in next edition! Why not try to portray the positive impact of the pandemic on your environment

