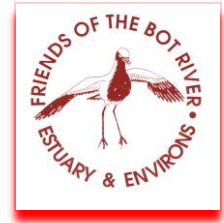


botfriends newsletter



june 2019

A CHALLENGE FROM OUR COMMUNITY LEADERS: working toward a cleaner environment

Botfriends can do clearing of invasive species economically and very effectively: clearing on plots we clear will therefore last longer than clearing done less effectively by others. **Please make a donation to help us do this.** Donations of R200 and above qualify for free membership of Botfriends. Bruce Bayer wrote the following letter to the inhabitants of the Bot estuary and its environs, via the FRA:

Daphne and I have derived enormous, immeasurable pleasure out of our environment in respect of the plants and wildlife in all its forms. We have spent at least R40 000 over the 4 years we have been here on the care of our green spaces that the municipality so neglects and even despoils. Small price to pay for our enjoyment and happiness.

We want to donate R2 000 to Botfriends to continue this care. But we challenge the inhabitants of the estuary and its environs to donate 1/10 of what we do to contribute towards effective clearing. There are also others in the village whose properties benefit from the state of the environment who could afford 10X what we can. So we challenge them to donate 1/10 of what they can afford, to protect and grow their investment too.

We see that the municipality does not have capacity of any kind to clear to the same standard that Daphne and I have done. We would like to see Botfriends empowered to continue this in the interest of everyone and every living thing that shares this precious space of ours.

If **you** feel the need to beautify your surroundings, here are the bank details: Friends of the Bot River Estuary and Environs Standard Bank 185565549 Branch 050312. PLEASE use your name and address as reference. Cash payments: Contact botvlei@gmail.com.

Thanks to Bruce and Daphne, Geoff Spires, F Stafford, Martin and Shontal Lottering, and Nina and Frank VD Velde for their contributions to the challenge so far and to the FRA for publicising it. Look around you and see your surrounds improving.

Additional areas cleared of aliens by Botfriends in June:
Erf 775 (from yacht club along Riverside to Seaway)
Part of Farm 0/556 adjacent to Seaway
Follow-up Farm 573 below Riverside
Erf 752 (Stormalong And Schooner)
Portion of Erf 749 alongside China Marais

BOTFRIENDS MEMBERSHIP 2019 – 2020

Just a reminder to pay your fees please- they are small enough! R75 for a member, R100 for a family and R25 for a bird card. Additional donations will be most welcome. Thanks so much to those who have already paid. New bird cards can be collected from 84 Broadway Fisherhaven.

If there are issues which you would like Botfriends to put on the agenda, or any views you need to air in the newsletter, let us know: botvlei@gmail.com.

Our new vice-chair, Wendy McFall Leach

I don't think my incomplete history and English degree or my background in computer-aided design and drafting in any way qualifies me to be here, any more than my current employment within the Real Estate Industry does. Having said that though, I don't like apathy, I believe in working towards the greater good, I care about the environment and will always volunteer if I think I can help in any way towards improving it for everyone. I have only lived in Fisherhaven for 18 months and am originally from KZN, I teach Yoga part-time, enjoy reading, writing, good food, Pina coladas and getting caught in the rain!

BACP

Botfriends is planning a much larger clearing endeavour in the Bot Estuary and environment, to take place over three years: the Botfriends Alien Clearing Project (BACP). The project spans the area of the immediate drainage area of the estuary which includes a section of the west bank, including Rooisand, the northern edge of the estuary and the eastern edge of the estuary, including Benguela Cove, Fisherhaven, Meerensee and then through Hawston to Hoek van die Berg.

This area is a mixture of public and privately-owned land. The south eastern edge, including Fisherhaven, Meerensee and Hawston, is particularly badly infested with alien vegetation. This also includes numerous wetland areas which are particularly sensitive areas supplying a great deal of service to the community.

All of the area falls within the Kogelberg Biosphere (an environmentally protected zone despite the fact that it has human habitation; the estuary and its environs have been declared an international RAMSAR site. There is no land use plan for the area in place and existing environmental assessments are based on incomplete and very sketchy data. The project includes the following:

- clearing all aliens in the region (mostly Port Jacksons, Rooikrans, Australian myrtles, invasive pines and eucalyptus species)
- re-establishing wetlands in the Paddavlei ecosystem and parts of the Afdaks ecosystem
- developing biodiversity corridors for flora and fauna from the mountains to the sea in the following areas: from the estuary up the Paddavlei to the proposed corridor on Hoek van die Berg from the sea to the mountains, a second between Fisherhaven and Hawston through the wetlands, across the R43 to the mountains, and a third corridor linking the estuary up a tributary of the Afdaks to the mountains
- delivering a database which is also applicable to the greater Overberg area and establishing a detailed potential land use plan to inform environmental assessments and developments required for the expansion of the Bot area.

If you are interested in getting involved in the project in some way, we'd love to hear from you. We will need funding, marketing and fundraising, person power and oversight from interested and knowledgeable experts in the field. Email us at botvlei@gmail.com.

Recycling - another challenge

Botfriends has expressed its concern to the Fisherhaven Ratepayers Association about the fact that there is no removal of recycling bags in Fisherhaven at present, due to the ill-considered destruction of the recycling plant in Hermanus during last year's protests. Our recycling is no longer being collected but it can be delivered to Walker Bay Recycling at 17 Argon Street Sandbaai (around the corner from the mall). So next time you go on a shopping spree, take along your recycling too and minimise landfill. Note: they prefer it separated but will sort it themselves too.



And on a litter note, please consider investing in a wheelie bin for rubbish to prevent horses and dogs opening your bags and distributing waste around our environment.

GREENHEART PROJECTS

For proper and effective *private plot clearing* and follow-up, phone Mike 0832610543 for a quote.



Editor: Renee Austin