

iSpot Launch
14 June 2012



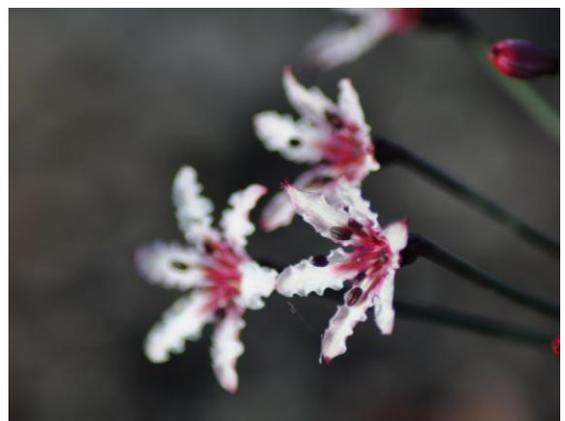
On 14 June 2012 the iSpot citizen science website (www.ispot.org.za) was launched at Kenilworth Racecourse Conservation Area (KRCA). Learners from Cedar House High School and Shiloah Christian School, together with delegates of the Biodiversity Information Management Forum, City of Cape Town Biodiversity Management staff, Friends group members, environmental specialists and members of the Kenilworth community; enjoyed a spectacular day out in KRCA, photographing and surveying the unbelievable biodiversity of the area.

The KRCA conservation team, SANBI and Friends of KRCA hosted a marvellous day of activities, including a Bioblitz in the conservation area, workshops on the website, a biodiversity exhibit, plant and book sales, and delicious pancakes. GoldCircle contributed towards the internet connectivity for the workshops; while SANBI generously sponsored over 100 books to the cause, enabling the team to give each and every learner a book about Proteas or Ericas.



Approximately 90 children from the ages of eleven to eighteen and well over 50 adults attended. Groups were taken on guided trips into the conservation area, accompanied by specialists and enthusiasts with a wealth of knowledge on the biodiversity of the Cape. After spending an hour or so in the field, groups were taken to the indoor venue, to enjoy the exhibit and attend workshops which delved into the details of the use and value of the website. It was an incredibly valuable once-in-a-lifetime learning opportunity that was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

Field trips explored three different areas of the reserve in order to maximise the ground covered in the Bioblitz, which is an event to explore the biodiversity of an area, by finding, photographing and recording as many species as possible in a 24 hour period. The groups were taken into the best areas for birding and plant observation, as well as being given the opportunity to visit the site of the KRCA 2012 ecological burn, where the *Hessea cinnamomea* was flowering. This flower was last recorded in the area over 70 years ago, and therefore this could be the longest known period between flowering for this species; and as such it drew significant attention and generated much excitement.



In addition to the clear favourite sighting of *H. cinnamomea*, a number of other plants, fungi, amphibians, reptiles and invertebrates were spotted, and we expect to be adding a few new species to our lists in the coming weeks.



Stands in the exhibit included those of KRCA, City of Cape Town nature reserves, the Zandvlei Trust, Friends of Rondebosch Common, the Botanical Society, the Cape Town Early Detection Rapid Response Programme and a Smart Living display by the City of Cape Town Environmental Resource Management Department. In addition KRCA hosted a plant and book sale, which raised R740.00 for their environmental education programmes; and the Friends of KRCA hosted a tea, coffee and pancake sale which gave the participants a much appreciated blood sugar boost and

raised approximately R300.00 for their conservation activities.

We would like to thank FKRC members; staff from the Expanded Public Works Programme; SANBI staff as well as the KRCA team (Cape Town Environmental Education Trust); and all other contributors for their efforts before and during the day.



This event was a splendid success that contributed greatly to the continued conservation of this conservation landmark.



For more pictures from the event, visit the KRCA Facebook page or website:
<http://www.krca.co.za/gallery-activities>

Or see some of the observations on the iSpot website:
<http://www.ispot.org.za/taxonomy/term/7638>
www.ispot.org.za