



Waterberg Nature Conservancy Newsletter

Occasionally issued news of interest to WNC members and others in the Waterberg Number 4, November 2008

In This Issue:

- Next WNC Meeting
- Useful Contact Information
- Residential Developments
- What's the Difference between The Waterberg Nature Conservancy and The Waterberg Biosphere Reserve?

Contact the Waterberg Nature Conservancy through Carolyn Ingram
P.O. Box 415
Vaalwater 0530
Limpopo Province
South Africa
phone 014-721-9901
carolyn_ingram@telkomsa.net

Next WNC Meeting

- Thursday, 27th November 2008
- 2:00 for 2:30 – **please note that we are starting a little earlier**
- Waterberg Academy
- Presentation by Lee Gutteridge, author of recently published *The South African Bushveld, A Field Guide from the Waterberg*.

Useful Contact Information

Limpopo Roads and Transport: responsible for gravelling on Waterberg Roads, Marcel Rivombo, 082-827-8523.

Stock Theft Unit (SA Police): responsible for Waterberg, Inspector Els and Captain Lubbe, 082-319-9321, 014-718-1033.

Modimolle Municipality, Property Tax Policy Rates: Xavier Mokenda, 014-718-2023.

Telekishi Hiking Trail: Malesela Chokwe, 083-612-7845.

Cultural Tours in the Waterberg: Joe Nkhumane 073-580-8969.

Residential Developments

- The involvement of Gary Player (the golfer) and his brother Ian Player (the conservationist) in a golf estate was in the news recently. Located between Bela Bela and Modimolle, it was called The Jack Nicklaus - Ernie Els Golf and Game Reserve of South Africa. The entire development is now called The Waterberg and its golf course is called The Waterberg Biosphere Golf Course, an obvious abuse of the concept and name of the Waterberg Biosphere Reserve.
- Nieuw Gelderland, on Bakkers Pass Road, about five kilometres from the tar road, proposes to develop about 90 dwelling units on 1,750 hectares, and will include a boutique lodge, conference facilities, a spa, staff accommodation, a helipad and a wedding venue. The developers are preparing an Environmental Impact Assessment.
- The DFA for the Nyathi Eco and Wildlife Estate was approved by the Limpopo Development Tribunal. Nyathi has now applied for a Water Use License.
- The decision on Thaba Lesodi's application for DFA approval has not yet been made by the Limpopo Development Tribunal. The applicant has apparently increased the land area, reduced the number of units, and eliminated the smaller golf course. A final Tribunal decision should be made at their closed meeting on 13 November.
- Sabili Safari Lodge has applied for DFA approval. At a recent pre-hearing, the objectors and applicant apparently came to some agreements and the objections were withdrawn. A Tribunal hearing will be held on 14 November.

What is the Difference between the Waterberg Nature Conservancy and the Waterberg Biosphere Reserve?

As a founder member of the Waterberg Biosphere Reserve, the Waterberg Nature Conservancy shares virtually all the values and objectives as the Biosphere, but with a clearly different constituency, mandate, structure and operation.

	<i>Waterberg Nature Conservancy</i>	<i>Waterberg Biosphere Reserve</i>
<i>Objectives</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote • Support • Represent • Participate • Conserve • Implement • Create • Enhance • Provide • Collaborate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • fauna, flora and wilderness areas, historical sites, river systems and natural heritage sites; • awareness of environmental issues by way of education, research, sustainable utilisation and tourism; • upliftment, education and needs of Waterberg residents. • legislation or other measures affecting the Conservancy and its members; • dealing with government departments, other authorities and the public generally. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNESCO's Man and Biosphere programme; • environmental conservation; • fauna, flora, and cultural history; • strategies for the sustainable utilization of the natural and cultural resources of the area; • job opportunities, education and training programmes; • tourism potential and information network; • scientific and technical support service; • local, provincial, national, and international institutions; stakeholders.
<i>Association Type, Dues, and Membership</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Voluntary association. • Annual dues: R550 for land owners; R150 for other supporters. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 21 non-profit; • Forum of 30 stakeholder groups (one of which is WNC), 50% private sector, NGO, community, 50% government; • one of 531 biosphere reserves in 105 countries; • R300 dues for individual members.
<i>Boundaries</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No borders or boundaries, but encompasses what is commonly regarded as the Waterberg Mountain region. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demarcated region encompassing majority of what is commonly regarded as the Waterberg Mountains.
<i>Stakeholders and Constituency</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 54 members; • over 162,000 hectares; • over 900 employees; • private reserves and homes, tourism, game ranching, hunting, agriculture; research, education. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provincial government departments of environment, education, agriculture, and land development; district and local municipalities; communities living within and on the fringe of the Biosphere; NGOs and others.
<i>Structure</i>	Chairman, Executive Committee, and Secretary/Treasurer.	Chairman, Executive Committee, and four subcommittees.
<i>Activities and Operation</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • four meetings per year; • technical conservation issues (e.g., elephant contraception, invasive and exotic plants, groundwater in the Waterberg); • community issues (e.g., municipal rates, proposed developments, roads); • management of SMS Fire System; • support to Telekishi walking trail; • distribution of Newsletter and conservation news. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • four meetings per year; • stakeholder groups; • national and provincial Man and Biosphere programs; • Integrated Development Plans, Spatial Development Framework; • environmental, educational and development projects; • biosphere headquarters; • EIAs, land claimants, Waterberg Meander route, eco-tourism, community owned and operated tourism ventures.