

Club Night
15 November
7 for 7.30 pm
 See Advert

go hiking

MIDLANDS HIKING CLUB NEWS

Volume 2 No. 2

15 November 2011

*There's no such thing as bad weather,
 only unsuitable clothing.*

Alfred Wainwright (1907-1991)

A VERY MERRY HIKING CHRISTMAS

2011 Christmas Party

Hilton College Nature Reserve
16 December 2011

8.30 am: hike to Gwen Falls
and/or anytime
for the lunch braai
"Bring & Share"

Gift (to the value of R30)

Editor's Letter

Dear Hikers!

This letter starts in the same way as the first :What would you like to see in the newsletter? This is *your* newsletter. Write to us if you are happy, if you are unhappy, (brigittasimpson@gmail.com) advertise goods you want to sell, tell us about your hikes, send photographs, etc. Come on, as they say, don't be shy. Please take note of the advert on the left and join everyone for the 2011 Christmas Party on the banks of the Umgeni River. It promises to be a blast!

Brigitta

Club Night

15 November (Tuesday)
 7 for 7.30pm

*Mt Everest Base Camp

*Sven Jager: Hilton College
 Trek

*Leaders: Forthcoming events

CONTENTS

CHRISTMAS PARTY, EDITOR'S LETTER, CHAIRMAN'S CHATTER, CARTOON, 4 U TO READ, WE HIKE TO...

MIDLANDS HIKING CLUB COMMITTEE

Chairman: Brian Henwood (brian@hn.co.za) *Vice Chairman:* John Fourie (john4ie@gmail.com)

Treasurer: Kevin Knox-Davies (knoxdavies@lantic.net) *Secretary:* Carolee Thomson (caroleejoy@gmail.com)

Activities Organiser: Chris Simpson (simpson.sa13@gmail.com)

Newsletter Editor: Brigitta Simpson (brigittasimpson@gmail.com) *Website:* Rod Hart (rodhart@psyc.co.za)

Member: Mark Nellist (mnellist@telkomsa.net)

Chairman's Chatter

by Brian Henwood

New members - It is always a pleasant task to welcome new members to the Midlands Hiking family. On the recent Chase Valley hike we had no less than four new members. They were Dave Coward a horticulturalist from Pennington, Dr Kostya Zloschastiev a physicist from Ukraine who is on the research and lecturing staff at the University of KwaZulu-Natal, and Rob and Nellie Melis. Although they had not met before, Rob also works at the local university in the Agricultural Science Department where he specialises in research in the production of dry beans and green beans. Other new members are Natalie Way-Jones who is an environmental scientist working in Durban and Miriam De Kock who joined us in early August. Welcome to you all and may you all become prolific hikers.

Subscriptions – Please remember that it is the start of the new club year which means that subscriptions are now due. Preferably deposit your R70 for standard membership or R110 for family membership into our bank account, the details of which are: Nedbank account

1519007299, Hilton Branch Code 151925. Please don't forget to put your name as reference otherwise we may never know that you have paid your subs.

Club Night – Club night on Tuesday 15 November is worth noting in your diary. Sven Jager will be sharing his experiences, supported with photographs, of his climb to the Mt Everest Base Camp. He and Debbie did this climb last year, and although they did not attempt the Summit, they were close enough to appreciate the awesome challenge that requires loads of fitness and immense bravery. See you at 7:30.

Christmas Party – When you received your last fixture list you probably rushed off to your diary to make a note that this year's party would be at the Hilton College Nature Reserve on Friday 16 December. It is a truly tranquil picnic site on the banks of the Umgeni River and an ideal shady venue big enough for all of us. I hope everyone will attend to prove me wrong. Refer to your fixture list for more details but may I suggest we all take along a small

salad, place it at the salad bar and enjoy a 'bring and share'. The club will provide the fires and don't forget to bring along a small Christmas gift for someone else. Carolee Thompson is waiting for your call. She can be contacted on 033 330 6187 or 072 469 9712, or comehiking@gmail.com. Incidentally we have recently introduced this email address for club correspondence.

Whale Trail – 'The Whale Trail has sold like hot cakes'. We have 12 paid and committed members who will be starting the 54 km long trail on 28 March. We just need to book our flights and make final transport arrangements. Although we are 'sold out' we would like a few names on a standby list in case someone is forced to withdraw at the last moment. So if you are interested contact our leader, Teresa Whitfield on 082 374 1793 or tkc@hiltoncollege.com.

Until next time, happy hiking.

Brian

(082 655 6359 or 033 347 1126 evenings)

Dragon Peaks

28 August

by John Fourie

Indigenous forest walk

The weather was overcast, cool and dry. Ideal for hiking conditions. Shortly after departing and then passing the Drakensberg Sun we took the route to grotto pool and then entered a verdant indigenous forest. It was like fairie land. There was an abundance of moss and leichen. There was a large variety of trees. Lemon wood, wild peach and perdehout. Photos of these trees were taken, One with Christie posing by a wild peach

tree. We turned off the Grotto pool path and ascended an exceptionally steep path gaining an elevation of approximately 180 metres with some heavy breathing. Wisps of mist, in places, spiraled up out of the trees canopy, creating the illusion of numerous fires starting in different places.

Bridging a rise we observed a troop of baboons with a large alpha male in attendance making a gradual retreat. They were not far away from a vulture restaurant that had a flock of Cape vultures in attendance.

Further along we encountered an area of the path that showed signs

of foraging by bush pigs. The ground had been severely gouged in places.

At the turn off to Cleo's pool it was debated and then decided that as it would be too mudddy a route to pursue

Approaching another gave yard that had been reasonably well maintained, we entered it. This was the resting place of family members of the Tangay family.

Keith (leader) Rose and Roy, Christie, John and Apollo enjoyed the walk thoroughly.

We hiked to

EVERDON ESTATES Led by Cecil Hackney Of Everdon Estates 2 October 2011-10-10 By Dave Sclanders

The weekend weather was not the most appealing weather for a walk on very beautiful farming estate. Rain on Saturday, and Sunday morning was very overcast and wet. Nevertheless a good size party turned up to walk through Everdon Estate under the superb guidance of Cecil, who lives on and manages the estate.

At the start, it was "do I put on a raincoat or not ? , later it was " maybe I should have put it on earlier!" The views from the estate are great, stretching down to the large Albert Falls Dam, with numer-

ous farm dams scattered across the landscape. The estate has numerous wild animals on the property, and as with any wild life sanctuary, poachers and snares are a problem. We came across the freshly killed carcass of a Warthog that had been snared on the estate. The wire snare marks were evident on its snout.

It was then a long down hill walk to some rocks that overlooked the large valley below to have a rest, and a first lunch – for some The flowers had just started to come out , and no doubt in a few weeks time the entire area would be carpeted in a wonderland of flowers Back up the hill, some last views of the dam far below and we headed for our second lunch break. During lunch, the rain

came back, so we packed up and headed back to the cars.

A great day on a very beautiful estate.

The Club thanks Cecil very much for him giving us his time to lead us, and indeed to allow us onto the fine estate.



We hiked on

The Beach by Sven & Debbie Jager

After watching the rugby on Saturday morning, what were you doing for the rest of the day?

About 18 of us gathered at Wilson Wharf to cruise around the harbour on "The Jolly Roger" Amid comments such as "the last time I did this was when Johnny was on a school outing..etc" we boarded and started our informative cruise around the harbour, looking at the vessels, various area of loading and unloading, and buildings. We were also witnesses to a marriage proposal!! He presented his bride to be with a ring while there. As they say "SA is full of surprises.

We also went out the new extended entrance to the harbour and looked at Durban from the sea. We all enjoyed the large swells caused by an almost full moon and incoming tide.

We disembarked after about an hour and then headed to Eco Park in the middle of the CBD on the Bluff. Here we were warmly greeted by Chris. He enthusiastically showed us around the park, where they are busy building cabins out of old tyres and other waste. It's an amazing project and just shows how imaginative and resourceful you can be. They are also laying out trails and have special "Open Days " with competitions .

While this was going on B was braising our meat for us. We enjoyed our supper under the dying light before heading off to Treasure beach and the walk.

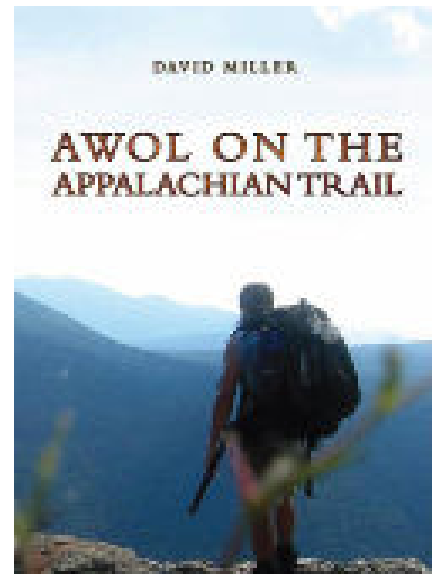
Walking along a deserted beach under the moonlight looking at the sea and shore life is a wonderful experience. Chris showed us some of the nocturnal animals starting off with the fast moving, nipping ghost crabs! Walking in the rock pools looking for sea slugs, urchins, anemones, starfish etc required being alert as it was very easy to slip or stand in a pool. It was very sad to see the amount of plastic litter left behind by those who use the beach during the day. After about 2 very enjoyable hours we climbed back up the 200plus steps to find Davie and our cars waiting for us. Then it was the drive home!

What an enjoyable outing it had been.! A big thank you to all who made it happen .

4 u to read

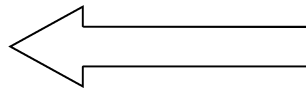
In 2003, software engineer David Miller left his job, family, and friends to hike 2,172 miles of the Appalachian Trail.

AWOL on the Appalachian Trail is Miller's account of this thru-hike from Georgia to Maine. On page after page, readers are treated to rich descriptions of the Appalachian Mountains, the isolation and reverie, the inspiration that fueled his quest, and the rewards of taking a less conventional path through life. While this book abounds with introspection and perseverance, it also provides useful passages about hiking gear and planning. This is not merely a travel guide, it is a beautifully written and highly personal view into one man's journey and insights gained by abandoning what is comfortable and routine.



We hiked to ...

Cumberland Estates



MEMBERSHIP

**Annual Subscriptions
(Now due)**

**Ordinary Member
R70**

**Family Member
R110**

BANKING DETAILS

**NEDBANK
BRANCH CODE**

151925

ACCOUNT NUMBER

1519007299

**Give your name as a reference
if you do an EFT or a
DEPOSIT**

***Pleasant
Places***

