

# SAPTA NEWSLETTER

MAY 2013



## SUMMARY OF PREVIOUS COMMITTEE MEETINGS

During the last Committee meetings held in February and April 2013, the following was noted:

1. The committee emphasized the importance of the SAPTA Code of Ethics document. Each member should ensure that they have signed this document and that SAPTA has a signed copy thereof. The Secretary will send a communication out to members without a signed Code of Ethics.
2. SAPTA received a positive response from the previous Planted Tank Training course. The same Plant course will be scheduled in Durban for 20 May 2013.
3. We got hold of a Secret Project Report of the SPCA. See details in Newsletter.
4. The next Committee meeting will be on 23 May 2013.
5. SAPTA product stickers still available at the cost of R1 per sticker. Please join our SAPTA awareness campaign. Kindly place all orders with Daleen at 083 288 7574 or [info@sapettraders.co.za](mailto:info@sapettraders.co.za).
6. The SAPTA committee will arrange a possible meeting with the Anti-Pet Store Activists to protect our members right to trade.

### Special points of interest:

- Red-eared terrapins threaten our biodiversity
- SPCA Projects Report

### WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

- Bremel Pets
- Flower Pot and Pet Shop

### NEW TRAINING COURSE IN DURBAN

#### PLANT WORKSHOP

*Presented by Sean Jefferis*

The course comprises of the basics needed to keep plants alive while in store, as well as information on how to identify aquatic plant species commonly kept in South Africa. We will also give you information on how to better help customers with regards to planted aquariums.

**DATE:** 20 May 2013 from 17:00—19:00

**VENUE:** Marltons Pets & Products, Unit 6-10,  
cnr of Ninian and Lester Industrial Park, 33 Richmond Road,  
Alexander Park/Westmead, Pinetown, 3610

**COSTS:** R600 per person  
SAPTA member – R400 per person

#### **CONTENT:**

- The Basics: Fertilization, Co2, Lighting, Plant Nutrient Deficiencies
- Types of Algae and how to get rid of them.
- Different aquatic plant species.
- Proper Disposal Techniques.

Only 20 seats available. Please book in advance by phoning 083 288 7574 or [info@sapettraders.co.za](mailto:info@sapettraders.co.za) before 13 May 2013.



## REPTILE

## EXPO

4 & 5 May 2013

At

Emperors  
Palace

## RED-EARED TERRAPINS THREATEN OUR BIODIVERSITY

Banned by many provincial conservation departments, the highly invasive red-eared slider (or red-eared terrapin) (*Trachemys scripta elegans*) is once again gaining popularity in the pet trade, with several pet shops and breeders advertising these reptiles for sale in Durban and Johannesburg.

This terrapin is listed on the proposed NEMBA regulations as a Category 1a, meaning that it is an invasive species requiring compulsory control. (Published in the Government Gazette, 3 April 2009). It is also listed as a 'prohibited exotic animal' under Gauteng nature conservation legislation.

The Environmental Programmes' Nursery and Pet Trade Partnership is working closely with the pet trade to address issues of not only invasive plants, but invasive animals as well. A partnership has been formed with the South African Pet Traders Associ-

ation (SAPTA), which represents the interests and concerns of the pet trade in South Africa.



Adult red-eared terrapins (*Trachemys scripta elegans*).

At the recent Herpetological Association of Africa symposium hosted by the National Zoo in Pretoria, researchers from North West University presented a paper on the terrapin trade, which highlighted the threat terrapins pose in transmitting diseases and parasites to other indigenous terrapins and tortoises.

The exotic red-eared slider is very popular, as it is hardy and easy to keep in captivity. The young are beautifully marked with green, red and yellow. However, they soon outgrow their aquarium and the bright colours fade. Many are then released into the nearest river or dam.

They have been found in wetland systems around Johannesburg, Pretoria and Durban, and more recently a suspected population has been reported from a farm dam near Brits in North West Province. They have become serious invasive species in Europe, Australia and New Zealand.

Red-eared terrapins threaten our indigenous terrapins through competition for resources as well as introductions of parasites and diseases.

*Extract from Newsletter of Invasive Species South Africa, March edition*

## SECRET SPCA PROJECT REPORT

- The SPCA managed to stop the Pigeon Race at Sun City and have managed to stop Emperor's Palace to host the race for 2012/2013.
- The SPCA's main priority is to bring Welfare into the Farming of Fish in South Africa. The SABS has officially accepted their submission to have a National Aquaculture Welfare Code developed. Their next objective is to ban the use of Garra as the use of these fish could spread disease and/or affect patients with weak immune systems. They are waiting for an outcome of the Department of Health's report.
- The SPCA managed to stop the sale of "Magic Fish" (The Home-mark product). Due to their campaign not to keep fish in small bowls, they managed to stop the import of the product.
- Another issue of concern was the road transportation of fish. The transportation of fish via road was "banned".
- Dog racing is illegal
- All Pit Bull power pull competitions need to comply with the Performing Animals Protection Act no. 24 of 1935.

*"SAPTA was not consulted and do not agree with all these points"*

### BUSINESS MANAGEMENT TRAINING COURSE

Presented by: GAVIN FAULDS

Come along and listen to some ideas how you can improve the management and thus the profitability of your business. Gavin will share a few tips and ideas, and also engage in open discussion about how your business can be improved and made to operate better, more efficiently and thus more profitably than before.

#### TOPICS COVERED:

- Cash flow management
- Inventory management
- Budgeting and Gross profit
- Staffing issues
- Marketing and advertising
- Other regulatory issues

COSTS: R400.00 pp (SAPTA)  
R600.00 (Non-members)

**23 MAY 2013 IN ROODEPOORT**  
**RSVP: Daleen at 083 288 7574 or**  
**info@sapettraders.co.za**